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SENATE—Thursday, September 24, 2015

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source of all wisdom, thank You for the reminder at today's joint meeting of Congress that we should practice the Golden Rule. May this marvelous rule inspire our lawmakers to do unto others as they would have others do to them, bringing more civility and cooperation into our legislative process. May our Senators see their legislative vocation as an opportunity to do good for all people, defending and preserving the dignity of humanity as they learn to seek Your image, even for the most vulnerable in our world. May the Golden Rule motivate our lawmakers to reduce violence in our world, to give hope to those trapped in cycles of poverty, and to build bridges to overcome historic differences. Lord, help us all to seize this moment in history to serve Your purposes for our lives, leaving the world better than we found it.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Democratic leader is recognized.

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today Members of Congress from both Houses were honored to attend a joint meeting of Congress and receive an address from

His Holiness Pope Francis, the 266th Pope of the Catholic Church.

The Holy Father's visit to address a joint meeting was made possible by the foresight and efforts of Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, as well as the hard work and dedication of the House and the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the entire congressional community. Everything worked out just fine. Pope Francis captured the heart and consciousness of the world with his message of love, compassion, respect, and good will to all.

Sitting and listening to the speaker of the day, His Holiness Pope Francis, I am told this is the longest he has ever spoken at one time in English. He spoke slowly, and we had to listen very closely. So I went back and got a copy of the speech so I could read in my own slow way what he had said. A few things he said were really stunning. "You are called"—he is talking to us—"to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics." Gee, that is good.

He said that he wanted to enter into a dialogue with the many "elderly persons who are a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience."

He said:

A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of religion, an ideology or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom and individual freedoms. . . . We know that in the attempt to be freed of the enemy without, we can be tempted to feed the enemy within.

These are visionary words.

He said that "the voice of faith" needs to "continue to be heard, for it is a voice of fraternity and love," which brings out the best in each society. We need more people speaking out just as he did about the importance of faith.

He said:

If politics must truly be at the service of the human person, it follows that it cannot be a slave to the economy and finance. . . . We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners.

Now, I am not taking this line by line. I am just skipping through some things that stuck out in my mind.

If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. . . . Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society.

He said, "Fundamental relationships are being called into question, as is the very basis of . . . the family."

I was so impressed with the intent of his remarks. I thought he did an extremely good job, and I am very happy that I had the opportunity to be there and listen. I admire the conviction and heart of His Holiness because it brings every effort of what we do, I think, to the forefront of what we try to do, to live up to what he suggests we should do. He inspired me, I hope all of us, with his commitment to compassion and consideration for the less fortunate.

I am certain this should come as a shock to no one, given his humble beginnings. He was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to immigrant parents. Pope Francis worked as a janitor, a bouncer, a lab assistant for a chemist before he started his seminary education. Since the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has committed to addressing the needs of the poor, extending mercy to those in need, and restoring joy to the world.

Pope Francis was once asked about his view of the church. He said that he viewed the church as "a field hospital after battle." His unique approach to leading the world's 1.2 billion Catholics has captured the attention of billions, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, inspiring us all to live up to our highest values.

I was forced to remember today my mentor from my high school days to my time in Congress, who became the Governor of Nevada. We ran independent of one another. We wound up being Governor and Lieutenant Governor. He was a devout Catholic. The values he instilled in me stemmed from his faith. He was the most honest man I ever met. He was a devout Catholic, as I indicated. He went to mass virtually every day.

He died—every place he went, it was early. He got to morning mass, 7 o'clock mass, early. It had not started. The priest had not come out yet. He put his head on his shoulder and died. He was such a good man. Those of us who knew him—and so many people knew him—know that he would have enjoyed living in a time where His Holiness is known not just for his influence, knowledge, and righteousness but for his good deeds and kindness to those in need. My friend Mike O'Callaghan had a lot of those same traits.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in just 6 days, the government will shut down unless we figure out some way to fund it. We know how it should be funded. But instead of voting today on a bipartisan way forward, we will still have another failed vote, even though the Senate has already spoken on this issue. Instead of using the Senate's precious time to avoid a shutdown, Republicans are causing us to move forward on another squandered vote.

Republicans should abandon their commitment to fruitless votes and pass a clean funding bill to keep the government open. As reported in the press, there is a conversation going on now with the White House and with the House and Senate leaders to have funding until the end of the year, not for a few weeks, not for a few months. I think we have done our part over on this side of the aisle. We communicated our priorities and tried to sit down at the negotiating table, ready to keep the government open.

Inserting into this debate a meaningless, losing attack on women is just a waste of time, but they have decided—they the Republicans have decided—once again to place partisan, ideological agendas over the well-being of the Nation. To drag this partisan attack on any further when we are facing a government shutdown is not responsible. The Republicans should change their tactics. When Republicans gained control of the Senate, we were told that there would be no government shutdowns. But do we need the fear of a government shutdown? Shutting down is bad, the threat of a shutdown is not good, but here we stand, days before funding for the government expires, wasting time on publicity stunts.

Every moment Republicans squander on pointless votes brings us closer to an unfunded Federal Government. Wasting time also leads to a void for shutdown advocates. Just last night, all over the news, it was reported that the junior Senator from Texas is going to extreme lengths to undermine the complete funding of our government. He is circulating a letter seeking support for a failed strategy that can only have one outcome: a government shutdown.

I would hope my Republican colleagues will not join in that, not for a minute, not for any period of time. I say to my friends from the other side of the aisle: Stop this brinksmanship. Instead, work with Democrats to ensure we have an open, funded government serving the American people.

I see there are Senators on the floor. Would the Presiding Officer be good enough to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 61, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 2669, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

McConnell amendment No. 2670 (to amendment No. 2669), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 2671 (to amendment No. 2670), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 2672 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2669), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 2673 (to amendment No. 2672), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the joint resolution to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 2674, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 2675 (to the instructions) amendment No. 2674), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 2676 (to amendment No. 2675), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided between the leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Utah.

REMEMBERING ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Elder Richard G. Scott, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who passed away September 22, 2015, at the age of 86.

Richard G. Scott had the razor-sharp mind of an engineer, fused with the tender softness of a disciple's soul.

A graduate of George Washington University in mechanical engineering, who did post-graduate training in nuclear engineering, he had a brilliant

mind with an uncanny capacity for formulas, projections, and calculations. Yet he became known throughout the world for an enormous heart with an equally uncanny capacity to love and to have empathy for people from every walk of life.

Elder Scott's gentle voice invited all who had lost their way, who had given up hope or had wandered far to come home, home to the faith, family, and community that would bring them real peace and lasting, genuine joy.

Countless individuals around the world heard his invitation to come home and rightly felt that he was talking directly to them. Ever in search of the one who was lost—Elder Scott's words and witness of Jesus Christ served as the lower lights upon the shore to gently guide many a wanderer home.

Elder Scott had an extraordinary depth of empathy, particularly for those who silently suffered and anxiously sought for relief, redemption, and renewal in the midst of life's storms. He, himself, was a man acquainted with grief, having lost two young children and later his wife Jeanene to untimely deaths. He also seemed to intimately understand the feelings of deep discouragement, overwhelming uncertainty, as well as the crushing avalanche of personal inadequacy that can descend upon the human soul during difficult days and trying times. Yet he continually stood as a beacon of hope to those who struggled because he knew with an absolute certainty to what source we should look for strength and security during such days and at such times.

His complete love for and belief in the divine potential of each and every soul led him to speak plainly, powerfully, and often with tender, heartfelt, personal feelings. He urged the struggling as well as the faithful to cast aside any behavior, habit or belief that weighed them down or kept them from living up to their full potential. Members of the LDS Church all around the world often felt, as they watched him speak, that he was not only speaking specifically to them but also that he was looking straight into their souls. In truth, he was just speaking with such love, empathy, and genuine compassion that he empowered his listeners to look into their own hearts and see what their Savior saw in them.

Elder Scott saw people not for where they were currently positioned on the road of life but for the potential each person had to do, be, and become more. He once declared: "We become what we want to be by consistently being what we want to become each day."

Elder Scott's vision extended far beyond the struggles of mortality; he focused on raising our sights to higher things, grander places, and more noble thoughts.

The role of the family as the bulwark of society was paramount in his life

and teachings. Elder Scott often expressed his belief in the unparalleled power and influence that a man and a woman, equally yoked as husband and wife, could have on children and communities. He taught that in marriage oneness is not sameness and of the vital importance of valuing our differences. To illustrate, he once declared: "I may not know what it means to be a woman, but I do know what it means to be taught by one and to love one with all my heart and all my soul." His love for his wife Jeanene was legendary and was forever sprinkled into his sermons. I take comfort in knowing that after nearly 20 years, Elder Scott has gone to that Heavenly home he so often pointed to and is once again united with Jeanene.

One of Elder Scott's colleagues described him as a clever teacher. His formula for teaching was not of the engineering variety but rather followed a pattern described in a hymn by Lorin Wheelwright entitled "Help Me Teach with Inspiration," which says:

Help me teach with inspiration; Grant this blessing, Lord, I pray.

Help me lift a soul's ambition To a higher, nobler way.

Help me reach a friend in darkness; Help me guide him thru the night.

Help me show thy path to glory By the Spirit's holy light.

Help me find thy lambs who wander; Help me bring them to thy keep.

Teach me, Lord, to be a shepherd; Father, help me feed thy sheep.

Elder Richard G. Scott was indeed an inspired teacher, a leader, and lifter of people. His amazing mind and compassionate soul enabled him to help engineer a path for all of us to return home.

Mr. FLAKE. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LEE. I yield to the Senator.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I just wish to second what has been said about Elder Scott and appreciate the Senator from Arizona—or Utah, taking the time to say it.

One of my fondest memories of being in Congress was at one point showing Elder Scott around a bit of the Capitol. He knew it well. He had been here before, but it was my privilege and honor to be with him at that time. It has been my privilege and honor over many years to hear him at general conference and other venues exhorting people to follow the example of Christ and to love their families, love their wives. To see him pass now after such dedicated service for so long, it is truly wonderful for him to be reunited with his wife and for his family to reflect on a life of service.

I thank the Senator for his comments and wished to add my own.

I yield back.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague from Arizona for his kind remarks regarding Elder Scott. I would also remark, just briefly, that my late father, himself an Ari-

zonan, would be pleased to hear me referred to as a Senator from Arizona, given that I was born there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I think many of us today have been struck with a serious case of déjà vu because once again, with a government shutdown looming, some Republicans continue to pander to their base with a political show vote instead of working with Democrats to prevent a budget crisis. Once again, it is women's health that is being used as a tea party political football, with Republicans attempting to cut off women's access to care, and once again workers and families across our country are watching Congress and wondering whether their elected officials can do the absolute bare minimum.

The government shutdown that Republicans pushed us into in 2013 did nothing to help them repeal the Affordable Care Act, but it did have real consequences for families and communities we represent. Workers didn't know when they would get their next paycheck. Businesses felt the sting of fewer customers. Families across the country lost even more trust that elected officials in Washington, DC, could get anything done.

In my home State of Washington, thousands of employees at Joint Base Lewis-McChord were sent home with no return in sight. Startups couldn't get small business loans, national parks such as Mount Rainier shut down. It kept families away from true national treasures and customers away from small businesses that rely on their tourism.

After all of that, I had hoped Republicans would learn their lesson, especially because once that economy-rattling exercise in futility came to an end, I was proud to work with the Republican budget chairman, PAUL RYAN, to do what we shouldn't have needed a shutdown to get done—negotiate a 2-year bipartisan deal that prevented another government shutdown. It restored critical investments in priorities such as education, research, and defense jobs and showed our families that government can get something done when both sides are willing to come to the table and compromise.

That deal was an important reminder that governing by crisis simply does not work. Unfortunately, now it seems that some of my Republican colleagues have forgotten that, because instead of working across the aisle on another bipartisan budget deal, as Democrats have pushed them to do for months, some Republicans are once again using a looming fiscal deadline as an opportunity to pander to their base, no matter what that means for our workers and families who are wondering whether government will still be running in a few days.

Since they clearly need another reminder, attacking women's health does not keep the government open and these shutdown threats will not work. It didn't work in 2011, when House Republicans tried to defund Planned Parenthood in the budget at the very last minute. It didn't work in 2013, when extreme Members of the GOP were dead set on repealing ObamaCare, and they will not work today.

I am going to be proud to vote against this partisan attempt to defund Planned Parenthood and take critical health care services away from millions of people.

Then I hope that finally Republicans will remember what they should have learned last Congress: accept that enough is enough and make sure that women, workers, families, and our economy are protected from a completely unnecessary crisis.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, since February I have been coming to the Senate floor every week to talk about the waste of the week.

Back in 2010, when I made the decision to answer a call to run for the Senate again, one of the primary reasons for my decision to go forward was my alarm over the plunge into debt and rising deficit that was taking place. At the time, the national debt of this country was a little over \$10 trillion. It is alarming to note that as I stand here 5 years later, our debt has nearly doubled. It's over \$18 trillion in just the 5 years I have been here.

There were alarm bells ringing in 2010, and those alarm bells were saying that we cannot stay on this course, that it is going to come back to haunt us someday, that it will affect our economy, that it will affect our credit rating. Someday the bill collector will be at the door of the taxpayer saying: You have to pay up big time or we are going to go into default.

What took place going forward from that was a series of efforts—some of them very equally bipartisan by both Republicans and Democrats who were alarmed at where we were and wishing to come together to persuade the President to work with us and put us on a path toward fiscal responsibility. That work involved any number of proposals and iterations. We all remember the so-called Gang of 6, the Committee of 12, the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction, and various others who had plans. It was the dominating issue of our time

during the first couple of years of my return here in 2011 and 2012.

After the election of 2012, when the President was reelected, at his own initiative he reached out to a few Republicans—I was one of them—and said: I am willing to sit down and work together to deal with this. This is a major issue affecting the future of our country, affecting our economy.

I was encouraged that after the election and when no longer seeking any further office, the President would be willing to seriously work with us. We did serious work for several months. The President's top three appointees—the head of the Office of Management and Budget, his Chief of Staff, and his political director—met with eight of us on a regular basis, both here in the Capitol and at the White House. We had agreed we would not have any public meetings. We would not have staff. It would just be Members and the President's designated individuals. We did not broadcast what we were doing because we knew it would become public and then political and therefore perhaps end up with the same fate all the other efforts had resulted in.

We got to the end of that, and in the end, even though we made an extraordinary number of concessions to the President, even though we essentially had put together a package of items he himself had suggested in his budget plans that we could accomplish in slowing down the growth of government, the spending, and the deficits every year that were rolling out and plunging us into debt, we came up short.

At that point, it became very clear to me that we were not going to be able to achieve a long-term plan for putting us on the road to good fiscal health. So I thought: OK, I am hearing from a lot of colleagues here in the Senate but also from other outside sources saying that under sequester we just can't cut any more. We need more revenue to expand necessary spending projects in government. And while some essential functions that only government can do might need that type of attention, there is a range of things that you really have to question why they are on the books in the first place.

A number of my colleagues—particularly former Senator Coburn—took this floor often—as I did, as well as others—to point out areas where not the Republican Party had decided, where not individuals representing our party had decided, but where nonpartisan agencies of the government—the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget at the White House—had investigated and produced examples of spending that were either waste, fraud, or abuse, and had no legitimate qualification to stay on the books.

So we started looking into this. Thanks to Senator Coburn and others,

we have come up with a number of things we could easily take off the books, easily use to pay for essential things, easily use to reduce our deficit spending, keep from going into debt, return money to the taxpayers, or however we wanted to do it. So we started to accumulate that, and our goal was to reach \$100 billion to simply defy the myth going around that there is not a penny we can cut and that we have done all we can do.

So over the 20-some times I have been on this floor, we have come up with a number of issues which could save the taxpayer money and certainly need to be addressed. Our current total is now well over \$100 billion, and today we are adding \$10.5 billion to our \$100 billion total. We are now at \$116 billion. I said we would stop at \$100 billion, but the examples keep rolling in, and so we are going to keep going every week. As long as this cycle of the Senate is in session, I will come to the floor and label yet another example of waste.

Last month, when I was home in Indiana, coming down from northwest Indiana to our capital city of Indianapolis on Interstate 65 for the umpteenth time—as I drive from north to south or south to north on that road, I pass through wind farms of literally thousands of windmills. Interestingly enough, and as I observed even this time, many of them are not turning. There are windmills—a few of them turning—driven by the wind, but most of them are not turning. We have thousands of these, and it looks as if fewer than 100 or a comparable number are operating, and so I am wondering why and whether the taxpayer is getting a good deal on this.

I want to give a little bit of history of how all this came to be put in place. Back in the early 1990s—in fact, in 1992—the Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which included the renewable electricity production tax credit, called the PTC. The point was that as we looked at alternative ways to produce electricity to reduce our dependence on oil and fossil fuels, there was a tax credit created for those using windmills to create power. It was designed to be claimed if the wind farm was actually making the power.

Earlier I said that many times I have come down that road and I have seen windmills that were idle. But the blades had to be turning and the electricity had to be being produced in order to receive that tax credit.

At the time, because I thought we were overly dependent on Middle Eastern oil and that it was creating issues for us geopolitically and militarily and otherwise, I thought it would be good to have a stimulus here to support the creation of wind energy, to give us the ability to stand on our own and have less dependence on Middle Eastern oil. The main reason I supported it is be-

cause it was to start the process and incentivize diverse energy sources to get them off the ground. It was going to be a short-term boost to help these new energy sources become competitive.

The original credit was designed under the law to last only 5½ years and then there would no longer be this credit. Well, like any other credit, subsidy, or anything else passed here which provides taxpayer support for production of something, it never expires. Few if any of them expire on the expiration date. So once again, once you get a law on the books, once you get a credit on the books, once you get a subsidy on the books, you can't get it off.

Since the time the original bill passed, the wind industry and its supporters have repeatedly come to Congress and said: Just give us a few more years and then wind will be competitive, without taxpayer subsidies.

As a result, this 5½-year program, which started in 1992, has been extended multiple times. In 2013, nearly two decades after the time the subsidies expired, Congress changed the rules so the facilities only have to begin construction before the expiration date to automatically qualify for a future 10-year subsidy, even before those windmills become operational. So if someone is just in the business of building windmills, as some of our major companies are, they are going to qualify for the subsidy. They are going to get the tax credit—whether or not the windmills are needed. They can just pour some concrete and start the building process, and they are going to qualify for the credit. The result is that more and more wind facilities are being constructed irrespective of the needs of the electricity grid or market demand.

Just last year, Warren Buffett, who is a smart investor, noted that wind isn't profitable without subsidies. He said:

For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them. They don't make sense without the tax credit.

So regardless of the demand, regardless of whether or not those windmills need to be turning and generating electricity, regardless of whether or not that electricity can be put into the grid—and, by the way, the cost of wind energy is three to four times the cost of fossil fuel energy—regardless of any of that, the tax credit is there.

In 2014 Congress retroactively extended the wind tax credit at the end of the year, and the general assumption here in Congress is that the production tax credit will once again be extended at the end of this year. That is probably going to happen.

According to an estimate from the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, if we continue and extend this tax credit, this will add another \$10.5 billion to our budget.

Clearly, it is way past time to end this seemingly never-ending subsidy. It is time to give the hardworking taxpayers savings, and it is time to stop wasteful spending. If we can prevent Congress from just automatically extending this way beyond the original 5½ years, decades beyond, we can save the taxpayers \$10.5 billion.

So today I am adding to this chart and picture here \$10.5 billion, which now totals \$116 billion-plus in terms of money that falls under the category of waste, fraud, and abuse. My colleagues cannot come down to this floor and say we can't cut a penny more of any program and defend the numerous—now well more than 20—examples of what have been defined as waste, fraud, and abuse—not by me, not by the Republican Party, but by nonpartisan agencies of the Federal Government.

There it is. Stay tuned for next week's "Waste of the Week."

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is time to give it our best to move America forward and give Americans a fair shot. Let's show the American people that we can work across the aisle and across the dome to get the job done.

Instead, here we are facing another shutdown showdown. There is no reason for there to be a government shutdown. Republican leadership does not want a shutdown. Democrats don't want a shutdown. There may be some drama, but we intend to keep the government open and avoid shutdown, slamdown politics.

I hoped the Senate had learned its lesson in October 2013, when Republicans shut down government over the Affordable Care Act, or this February 2015, when Republicans threatened the Department of Homeland Security with shutdown over immigration policy.

Senate Democrats won't be threatened and bullied into accepting poison pill riders. Serious policy issues like family planning and reproductive health deserve serious debate rather than becoming an "add on" rider to a funding bill.

Shutdowns are bad for everyone, jeopardizing family checkbooks, business bottom lines, and the Federal checkbook. A shutdown makes it impossible for Federal agencies to meet missions that serve the American people. A shutdown means furloughed Federal employees and contractors; delayed tax returns; delayed small business loans; and delayed contracts.

Uncertainty slows economic growth and hurts the health and well-being of the entire Nation. When the government was closed for 16 days in 2013, the shutdown hurt our growing economy, sacrificing 120,000 private sector jobs. Billions of dollars of economic output was lost. We lost 6.6 million work days, about 850,000 Federal employees were sent home.

My home State was hit particularly hard. Maryland is home to many Fed-

eral agencies. It was not just the Federal workers that got hurt. The Baltimore Sun wrote about Jay Angle, the owner of Salsa Grill, a Peruvian restaurant in Woodlawn outside the Social Security Administration. Every day, 4,700 workers go to work at Social Security, but only 500 were on the job during the shutdown. Salsa Grill counts on the Social Security workers as customers, but they were not there. There were stories like Jay's all over the country.

Because of the 2013 shutdown, hundreds of patients could not enroll in clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, so their last chance for a miracle was delayed or denied. About 8,000 rural families had their home loan decisions delayed, pushing the American Dream down the road. Head Start grantees in seven States closed, leaving 7,200 children at home and families searching for high quality child care.

Avoiding a shutdown is just the first step. We also need a new budget deal to cancel sequester.

Right now our budget caps spending, but it does not cap tax breaks for billionaires and corporations that send jobs overseas. Americans are angry. They feel the rules are rigged against them and that those who write the rules don't care. But Democrats do care. We believe the people deserve a government on their side.

That is why we are fighting to make sure the American people have a government that works as hard as they do.

We have three steps to meet that goal. First, no government shutdown. We need to pass a clean, short-term continuing funding resolution with no poison pill riders to keep the government funded and open for business for as short a time as possible. After all, a yearlong CR just locks in sequester.

The CR will give us time to take the second step, negotiating a new budget agreement that cancels sequester and lifts the spending caps equally for defense and nondefense spending so we can protect our national security and give the American people a fair shot.

After the new budget agreement is reached, we will take the third step, writing and enacting an Omnibus spending bill. Remember, the Appropriations Committee needs 30 days to get the job done once we have our topline.

That is my plan to cancel sequester and put the American people first.

Why do we want to cancel sequester? Sequester requires draconian cuts to critical programs that will have consequences for American families for a generation. Sequester was supposed to be so arbitrary and unthinkable that it would drive Congress to a budget deal. But gridlock, hammerlock, and deadlock kept that from happening.

It was the reality of sequester that led Congress to negotiate the Murray-

Ryan budget deal that provided sequester relief for 2014 and 2015.

Now we have got déjà vu. We need a new agreement to cancel sequester-level spending in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The Republican budget for fiscal year 2016 calls for spending at the sequester level of \$1.017 trillion. The President's budget request asks for \$74 billion more. That may sound like a big number, but it is hardly expensive. It is equal to the 2010 level—6 years ago.

We must cancel sequester to give Americans a fair shot by investing in our country and our people.

Sequester hurts national security. According to Army Chief of Staff General Raymond Odierno, only 33 percent of our brigades are ready to fight. Without sequester relief, the Army will not be truly ready to fight until 2025.

Sequester keeps us from building and maintaining our physical infrastructure. Funding to build roads, bridges, and transit creates jobs while easing peoples commutes to their jobs.

Sequester deepens our innovation deficit. Funding for basic research is an investment in jobs today and jobs tomorrow. New ideas and discoveries lead to startups that rev up our economy and find new cures for deadly diseases.

Under spartan budgets, NIH funding has not kept up with inflation. Even the increases proposed under the Republican spending caps fund NIH by cutting education, college affordability, and labor protections. On the other hand, when we cancel sequester, we will invest in innovation and discovery without sacrificing other investments in our future. For example, the National Science Foundation would give 600 more grants supporting 7,500 scientists, students, teachers, and technicians.

Cancelling sequester means meeting compelling human needs. We can help make college affordable for families. Right now, under sequester-level budgeting, Republicans instead took \$300 million from Pell grants and eliminated First in the World grants to make college more affordable.

Under sequester-level appropriations bills, we can not keep our promises to our veterans. Both the Senate and the House Republican bills underfund medical care at the Veterans Administration—by more than \$600 million in the Senate. That is enough money to provide medical coverage for 61,000 veterans. The House also cuts \$580 million for building VA health care facilities when there is a \$10 billion maintenance backlog.

It is clear that we need to end sequester. It is also clear that the shutdown was a disaster for everyone, not to be repeated. Because without the resources to keep our government open, agencies can not serve the American people keeping us safe, healthy, educated, moving, and thriving.

The bottom line is we need a new topline. We need a new budget deal to invest in America's safety and future. We need a short-term CR, free of poison pill riders, to get there—not another shutdown.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise once again to speak against this callous, misguided effort to defund Planned Parenthood. This is a clear case of politics being put ahead of the country's best interests. This time the majority has tied this effort to the funding of the entire Federal Government—they are willing to shut down the government over this issue. That is preposterous.

Planned Parenthood serves some of the most vulnerable women in our society. It cares for 2.7 million patients in the U.S.—5 million patients worldwide. Ninety-seven percent of the services its 700 clinics provide are basic health care, including breast exams, cervical cancer screenings, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and contraception. One in five women will use Planned Parenthood as their primary health care provider at some point in their lives.

Nationwide, 80 percent of Planned Parenthood patients make less than \$18,000 per year.

Planned Parenthood is often the only health care option for low-income women and women in rural communities. And yet here we are, facing another effort by Republicans to block funding for this vital health care provider, an effort echoed and supported by Republicans who are running for President.

Since this latest attack on Planned Parenthood began in July, I've received more than 25,000 calls and emails from women and men in California who support Planned Parenthood. While the details of the stories vary, they share the same theme: Planned Parenthood was there for them at a critical time in their lives. It was the only place they could go for health care when they were in college, earning minimum wage, or struggling to provide for their children and families. It was the only place where they felt safe and respected. It provided essential tests and screenings and allowed them to plan their families, which is critical to women's economic security over the course of their lives.

Here is one example from a constituent in San Francisco.

She said "Thirty-two years ago, I was broke, and Planned Parenthood was the only place that would give me birth control. I am now retired, and my life would be so different if they hadn't been there. This is so necessary for those who can't afford it."

Another constituent from Alameda said, "I'm calling your office for the first time because I want you to support Planned Parenthood. When I was a young woman, their medical services

saved my life. I hope this phone call helps save them in return."

To me, that is why this organization is so important to women in this country. Not only does it provide health care, it gives women the ability to make a better future for themselves and their families.

I also want to address the false claim put forward by those who are pushing to defund Planned Parenthood: They claim that Planned Parenthood patients would easily find another community clinic to go to for their health care. This is just not true.

Community health centers and clinics do great work, but if 2.7 million Planned Parenthood patients were suddenly without a doctor, they simply could not handle the sudden influx of new patients. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that up to 650,000 Planned Parenthood patients would lose their access to health care. What's more, many community clinics don't provide the level of contraception care and other health care services provided by Planned Parenthood. In two-thirds of the counties where Planned Parenthood has a clinic, it serves half of the women eligible to receive family planning services under the Title X program.

In California, 13 of 58 counties would not have a single clinic to provide family planning services under the Title X program without Planned Parenthood. That tells us what will happen if this funding is stripped—huge numbers of women across the country will have no place to go for vital health services. This isn't a matter of speculation. We've seen what happens when Planned Parenthood is defunded because it has happened at the state level. In 2012, Texas defunded Planned Parenthood. To serve all the women who needed access to a doctor or nurse, the remaining community clinics would have had to increase the number of patients they saw by an average of 81 percent. In other words, they would have needed to accept almost a doubling of their existing number of patients. Unsurprisingly, those clinics lacked the ability to do so. As a result, nearly 20,000 fewer women were served by the Texas Women's Health Program the following year, a 10 percent decline. The number of prescriptions for birth control was cut in half, meaning 100,000 fewer women were able to access affordable birth control.

Louisiana is another State trying to defund Planned Parenthood, and recently defended its actions in court. As part of its rationale, the State actually claimed that dentists and eye doctors are capable of providing women's health care services. Let me repeat: Louisiana officials claimed that women who receive breast exams, contraceptive counseling and prescriptions, and other medical services at Planned Parenthood could go to dentists and eye

doctors instead. Any woman knows that is just unrealistic. So make no mistake about it: If Planned Parenthood is defunded, many American women simply will not get the health care they need.

The attacks on women's health don't stop at Planned Parenthood's door. The House of Representatives recently proposed completely eliminating the Title X program, which provides affordable family planning services to low-income women. Title X is proven to reduce abortions by preventing unplanned pregnancies. Let me repeat that: The House has proposed to eliminate a program that reduces abortions. Of course, we also know that the House voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act more than 50 times. Here in the Senate we've suffered through at least 30 similar votes. This law they want to repeal guarantees women basic preventive care like mammograms and cervical cancer screenings. It requires that prenatal care and labor and delivery are covered by insurance companies. It prevents women from being denied coverage or charged more because they're women. It's the greatest achievement for women's health in a generation; yet we wasted days and weeks on futile attempts to eliminate it.

These attempts to deny women and their families access to basic health care, to defund Planned Parenthood, to eliminate funding for family planning services that reduce abortions, and to deny women the right to make their own reproductive decisions are appalling. Planned Parenthood has been under constant attack since its founding in 1916. Its founder, Margaret Sanger, was thrown in jail for providing birth control to women. The proponents of defunding Planned Parenthood have been engaged in this assault for years. The group behind this latest effort, the Center for Medical Progress, has long-standing ties to the anti-choice movement. It is currently under investigation for possible criminal activity. The individuals who obtained the footage used false identification to represent a fake medical company. The videos, which are presented to the public as the full, unedited videos, have been analyzed by forensics experts at Fusion GPS. And the truth is, they are not the full, unedited videos. Content is missing, and numerous edits have been made even to the so-called full footage videos. Many members of Congress have requested the full videos. Those requests have gone unanswered. So the point is, this is part of a sustained assault on an essential health care provider for millions of American women.

I also want to reiterate the real-life consequences of the rhetoric that's been directed at Planned Parenthood and its staff. I talked about this when I spoke on this subject in July. I strongly believe that the rhetoric directed at Planned Parenthood sends a

message that it is “OK” to intimidate its staff and patients. It is not.

A few weeks ago, a Planned Parenthood health center in Washington State was severely damaged when an arsonist lit it on fire. Thankfully, no one was hurt. But I would hope that we’d learn from this event, and opponents of Planned Parenthood would think about the ramifications of their words. This is dangerous territory.

In closing, we must remember that the attacks on Planned Parenthood aren’t about improving women’s health. They are about taking away women’s rights, choices, and access to the doctors and nurses they know and trust. And quite frankly, their efforts will only jeopardize women’s health by removing the only source of health care many women have available.

I’ve seen great gains for women during my lifetime, including more education, greater workplace freedom, and the right to decide what happens to our own bodies. I simply will not stand by and watch our advances slip away. We are standing up for Planned Parenthood because we stand up for women. I urge a “no” vote.

Let’s defeat this bill and move on so we can fund the government and address many other critical issues.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am in strong opposition to the substitute amendment to H.J. Res. 61 imposing a moratorium on Federal funding for Planned Parenthood clinics and their affiliates unless they stop providing abortions.

Let’s be clear about one thing: the effort to defund Planned Parenthood is not about Federal funding for abortions. Since 1977, it has been well established under the Hyde amendment that Federal funding cannot be used for abortions, except in very narrow circumstances where the life of the mother is endangered or in cases of rape or incest.

The impetus for this amendment stems from the recent release of surreptitiously recorded and heavily edited videos that falsely portray Planned Parenthood’s participation in legal fetal tissue donation programs and the subsequent attempts to defund Planned Parenthood on the basis of that intrinsically dishonest campaign. It is not the first time anti-choice advocates have deliberately misrepresented Planned Parenthood. I remember when a Senator stood on the floor of the U.S. Senate 4 years ago and claimed that abortions are “well over 90 percent of what Planned Parenthood does”. And then his press spokesperson had to acknowledge that what he said “wasn’t intended as a factual statement”. How much of what we are hearing and seeing now isn’t “intended as a factual statement”? Senators certainly are entitled to their sincerely held positions on abortion and contraception, but I

think we ought to refrain from saying things we know aren’t true, especially on the floor of the United States Senate.

The attack on Planned Parenthood, if successful, would have a devastating impact on women and families across this country, especially lower income women and their families. Planned Parenthood health centers are an integral part of our safety net health care system, providing high quality, affordable health care services to 2.7 million patients per year. Every year, Planned Parenthood physicians and nurses provide family planning counseling and contraception to 2.1 million women, perform nearly 400,000 screenings for cervical cancer and nearly 500,000 breast exams, and provide nearly 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Banning Federal funding for Planned Parenthood would put millions of women at risk of having no place to go for basic, preventive health care. For many women, family planning clinics such as Planned Parenthood provide the only basic health care they receive. In fact, 6 in 10 women who access care through a family planning health center consider it their main source of health care. More than half of Planned Parenthood health centers are located in rural areas, health professional shortage areas, or medically underserved areas, putting women living in those areas at particular risk of losing access to health care services. It isn’t just Planned Parenthood that is under attack; it is also the one out of every five women in this country who has relied on Planned Parenthood for health care at some point in her lifetime.

Earlier this week, I also voted against invoking cloture on another assault on women’s reproductive health—H.R. 36, an unconstitutional attempt to impose a nationwide ban on abortions when the “postfertilization age” of the fetus is determined to 20 weeks or greater, with extremely limited exceptions. More than 40 years ago, in its landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, the Supreme Court made it clear that women in this country have a constitutional right to abortion services and that no legislature may ban abortion prior to viability, which is exactly what H.R. 36 attempts to do. Previous attempts to impose previability bans on abortion have been repeatedly struck down by the courts, and last year, the Supreme Court refused to review a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision permanently blocking Arizona’s 20-week ban. Nevertheless, anti-choice advocates continue their relentless efforts to undermine women’s reproductive rights and health in any and every way possible. The cloture votes on H.R. 36 and today’s amendment to defund Planned Parenthood are simply the latest attempts.

In addition to imposing an unconstitutional previability ban on abortion, H.R. 36 threatens doctors with criminal penalties, including up to 5 years in prison, for attempting or performing an abortion in violation of the bill’s onerous restrictions, which is clearly intended to intimidate and discourage doctors from providing abortion care. The bill also puts the health of pregnant women at risk by allowing an exception to the 20-week ban only in the very narrow circumstance where an abortion is necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman. Therefore, under H.R. 36, a pregnant woman who develops a serious medical condition or complication after 20 weeks would be barred from terminating her pregnancy, no matter how serious the risk to her health, unless the abortion is deemed necessary to prevent the woman’s death. In addition, H.R. 36 would not allow an exception in the heart-wrenching situation in which a severe fetal anomaly is discovered late in a woman’s pregnancy, despite the fact that these conditions are often only detectable around 20 weeks.

H.R. 36 also lacks a reasonable exception to the 20-week ban for victims of rape and incest. Adult women who have been raped would be required to report the assault to law enforcement or undergo compulsory medical treatment or counseling at least 48 hours prior to receiving an abortion, meaning that the rape survivor must have at least two appointments with two different providers in order to access the care she needs. H.R. 36’s treatment of minors who have survived rape or incest is even more extreme. For minors who have been the victim of rape or incest, H.R. 36 would require proof that the crime was reported to law enforcement or the appropriate government agency in order to qualify for an exception to the 20-week ban.

These extremely narrow exceptions completely ignore the fact that the majority of sexual assault survivors do not or are not able to report their assaults to law enforcement for a variety of compelling reasons. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—CDC—estimate that only 35 percent of sexual assaults or rapes were reported to the police in 2010. It is simply unconscionable to subject survivors of rape and incest to these burdensome and unnecessary requirements in order to receive the care they need.

We are 6 days away from a government shutdown; yet we have spent most of this week on misguided attempts to ban legal abortions and defund Planned Parenthood—and to link the Planned Parenthood issue to whether the Federal Government will remain open for business—even as it has been obvious to everyone that such attempts would fail. A government shutdown is a completely avoidable crisis, and using floor time this time to

attack women's health care and reproductive rights instead of negotiating a bipartisan plan to fund the government is both unacceptable and irresponsible. The American people deserve better. They deserve a budget that supports a strong national defense and growing economy, not the threat of another government shutdown. I urge my colleagues to join with me in opposing these latest attacks on women's reproductive rights and access to high quality, comprehensive health care services.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know I speak for the entire Senate when I say it was a privilege to welcome the Pope to the Capitol this morning. For the thousands who gathered on the Capitol lawn, it was an experience they are unlikely to ever forget.

A quiet nod, a soft smile, a simple wave—the gestures may have been small, but their meaning ran deep, captured forever in the hearts of the faithful and the hopeful.

As we turn back to the work of governing, many will interpret his words in many ways. The media certainly has. But we can also hear him as simply expressing his faith. And we all appreciate his closing remarks: God bless America.

Mr. President, it is no surprise that Members of the Senate have differences on issues. That is normal, healthy even. But even if our Democratic colleagues may not agree with us on every issue, let us agree that the scandal surrounding Planned Parenthood is deeply, deeply unsettling. Let us agree that it makes sense to at least place a scandal-plagued political organization on leave without pay and then use that money to fund women's health care as Congress investigates these serious allegations.

Let us also agree that it is time for our Democratic colleagues to finally allow the Senate to fund the government, just as we have worked hard to do all year long.

Here is the view the new Senate took from the beginning. The best way to fund the government is to pass a budget, and then to fund it. That may be a different approach from previous years, but it is the approach we chose to pursue when we came to office.

We didn't think it was right that the Senate hadn't passed a budget in 6 years or that the Senate's Appropriations Committee hadn't passed the 12 bills necessary to fund the government in 6 years. So we changed that.

The appropriations process got off to a great start. There was often a spirit of bipartisanship inside that committee. Consider that nearly all of the 12 funding bills passed with bipartisan

support. More than half attracted the support of over 70 percent of Democrats. We saw our Democratic colleagues use phrases such as "win-win-win" or declare the appropriations legislation would "do right by" their particular State as they issued press releases praising the bills that they voted for.

It was great to see that bipartisan action. I was hopeful that our Democratic colleagues would actually join with us on the Senate floor to debate and pass the legislation they had praised in committee. But no, they took a different path.

I regret that Democratic leadership determined a crisis would be necessary to advance a policy aim of growing the government, and that our colleagues decided accordingly to block every single funding bill—every single one—almost all of which had been supported by a significant number of Democrats in committee. So we have been forced to pursue a continuing resolution as a result.

It would be much better to simply finish the appropriations process we worked so hard to advance. But if our colleagues continue to block the Senate from doing so, the Senate is left with very few options. It may be regrettable, but that is the reality we now face.

The bill before us would help get things back on track. It would ensure the government remains funded and open. It would adhere to the bipartisan spending level already agreed to by both parties. It would also allow our Democratic colleagues to join us in standing up for women's health instead of a political organization mired in scandal. For 1 year, the legislation would redirect \$235 million in Planned Parenthood funding to women's health instead, strengthening health centers that provide critically needed community care.

I wish our colleagues hadn't pursued a strategy of blocking government funding. That strategy may have succeeded in bringing the country to this point, but there is no reason to continue blocking every attempt to fund the government or to protect political allies mired in scandal.

So I am calling on colleagues across the aisle to join us in standing against a shutdown. I am calling on them to join us in standing up for women's health instead.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time following the vote until 6 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, that all time during quorum calls until 6 p.m. be charged equally between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that

notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2669.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 2669 to H.J. Res. 61.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Tom Cotton, Orrin G. Hatch, Joni Ernst, Jeff Flake, Lindsey Graham, David Vitter, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, Bill Cassidy, David Perdue, John Boozman, James Lankford, Thad Cochran.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 2669, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, to H.J. Res. 61, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—52

Ayotte	Donnelly	Leahy
Baldwin	Durbin	Markey
Bennet	Feinstein	McCaskill
Blumenthal	Franken	Menendez
Booker	Gillibrand	Merkley
Brown	Heinrich	Mikulski
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Murkowski
Cardin	Heller	Murphy
Carper	Hirono	Murray
Casey	Kaine	Nelson
Collins	King	Paul
Coons	Kirk	Peters
Cotton	Klobuchar	Reed

Reid
Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer

Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Warner

Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Boxer

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 52.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table the motion to commit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2672

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 2672.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2669

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 2669.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2680

(Purpose: Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a substitute amendment at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. COCHRAN, proposes an amendment numbered 2680.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2681 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2680

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2681 to amendment No. 2680.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2682 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2681

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2682 to amendment No. 2681.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days"

AMENDMENT NO. 2683

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment to the text proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2683 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2680.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 4 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2684 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2683

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2684 to amendment No. 2683.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the read-

ing of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "4" and insert "5"

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2685

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit with instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to commit the joint resolution to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2685.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 6 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2686

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2686 to the instructions of the motion to commit.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "6" and insert "7"

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2687 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2686

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2687 to amendment No. 2686.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "7" and insert "8"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 6 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The majority whip is recognized.

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today has certainly been a historic day in

Washington, DC. With the arrival of His Holiness Pope Francis this week, Washington has been flooded with the faithful who were eager to mark his first visit to the United States. I know my colleagues and I are grateful we were able to host him at a joint meeting of Congress, and we were all in awe of his incredible stamina given his schedule—something we are not unfamiliar with.

As head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis leads a diverse community of believers. Catholics in the United States make up about one-fifth of the population in the United States and also in my home State of Texas. In fact, Catholic priests from Spain were some of our earliest settlers in Texas, and one of the dozens of missions established by the Catholic Church early in the 18th century in Texas was Mission San Antonio de Valero, what would later be called the Alamo.

It was a privilege to welcome Pope Francis this morning and to hear his remarks. I am told he was the first pontiff ever to address a joint meeting of Congress.

CARDINAL DANIEL DINARDO

It was also my honor to host a friend of mine, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, who accepted my invitation to join me today to hear Pope Francis. Cardinal DiNardo is the archbishop of Galveston-Houston, home to more than 1 million Catholics—the largest number of the 15 dioceses in Texas. I have had the honor of knowing Cardinal DiNardo for a number of years, and I am grateful to him for his unwavering commitment to life and for his extreme compassion in both a pastoral and spiritual sense as well as a practical one. We saw that in action recently when historic flooding devastated many of the communities in the Houston area. During that time, Cardinal DiNardo was quick to ensure that Catholic Charities would provide some relief to those in need. There is no doubt that his leadership will continue to serve not only the Catholic community in the Galveston-Houston area well but also all of us in Texas.

Mr. President, on another matter, earlier today Democrats blocked a measure that would fund the U.S. Government but redirect Federal money that currently goes to Planned Parenthood to go for women's health care at community health centers. Actually, there are many more community health centers in Texas than there are Planned Parenthood facilities.

Earlier this week I outlined how the Democrats, while earlier calling for regular order in this Chamber, have delivered on their promise to block legislation from moving forward that would fund vital parts of our government, such as the men and women in uniform who defend us. This is in spite of the fact that earlier this year, as I believe the majority leader mentioned, mem-

bers of the Appropriations Committee actually did the work we were elected to do. We passed a budget and then in a bipartisan way passed appropriations bills out of the Appropriations Committee. But because they have chosen to filibuster all of these appropriations bills, we find ourselves with unneeded and unnecessary drama when it comes to funding the Federal Government—hence the vote on Monday for closing off debate on a continuing resolution to fund the government through December 11, 2015. Unfortunately, even our uniformed military has been taken hostage to this strategy, which has created unnecessary drama, as I said, and created some real hardship. So as we approach the looming fiscal deadline of next Wednesday at midnight, it is important to remember how we got here.

While Democrats filibustered legislation that would have removed all Federal funding for Planned Parenthood, this fight—the fight for the sanctity of life Pope Francis talked about this morning—is far from over. We are going to continue the four different investigations of Planned Parenthood's practices and pursue legislation that would protect the fundamental right to life of the unborn. Protecting the sanctity of life is an ongoing mission, and it does not end with this one vote.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President here we are again: with just 6 days until the Federal Government has to close its doors, we find ourselves faced with another manufactured crisis. Two years ago, it was defunding the Affordable Care Act. Congress has voted nearly 60 times on that so far, all of which failed. In the meantime, more than 17 million Americans who had no health insurance have obtained health insurance.

Four years ago, it was the same issue Republicans are pushing today: defunding an organization that provides health care to millions of women across this country. With the vote to defund Planned Parenthood now behind us—for the second time in as many months—it is time to move forward to pass a clean, short-term continuing resolution and get to work addressing the real challenge before us: ending sequestration.

We've said it before, and it bears repeating: sequestration was never supposed to become the status quo. Its cuts are so extreme and so draconian that imposing it will hurt programs across the board, impacting every American. Sequestration neglects police and fire departments, national parks, highways and bridges, airports, public health and education; and abandons promises made to our veterans and men and women in uniform. Allowing sequester-level spending bills to become law for the next fiscal year, which the President has rightly said he will not do, would be an abdication of our sworn responsibilities as Members of Congress.

We must pass a clean, continuing resolution; we must negotiate a new deal to end sequestration, and we must pass appropriations bills that reflect the urgent needs of our country, not a political score card.

Last weekend, my wife, Marcelle, and I were fortunate to join hundreds of Vermont women at the 19th Annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference in Randolph, VT. I have sponsored this conference each year in an effort to help Vermont women of all ages and generations take advantage of the economic opportunities available to them.

From emerging entrepreneurs or those transitioning their careers, thousands of participants have been drawn to the conference over its nearly two decade history. Sequestration puts at risk the ability of small businesses to access loans and counseling from the Federal Government, which helps spur and strengthen our economy. Sequestration will cut critical workforce investment programs that help young workers, dislocated workers, and veterans find permanent employment. Sequestration reverses the progress we have made in recent years to restore our economy and create jobs.

The economic harm of sequestration is, of course, not all that is at stake. As Senators in both parties have pointed out, sequestration hurts our national security and the readiness of our Armed Forces. Sequestration hurts our roads, our infrastructure, and our public transit systems and will deeply impact our affordable housing supply. Sequestration makes maintaining our commitment to our veterans, including a generation of disabled veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, nearly impossible. What's more, to meet the requirements of sequestration, we are poised to rob from such vital needs as job training programs and preschool development grants.

The bottom line is this: sequestration was never intended to happen. But relying on budget gimmicks, as the Senate's defense spending bill does, while nearly zeroing out critical programs for low-income Americans, as the Senate's transportation and housing bill does, creates more problems. Republican leaders have waited too long to come to the table to negotiate relief from sequester-level spending caps.

By passing this clean, short-term continuing resolution, we can get to work now—immediately—to negotiate a new deal that builds on the 2013 Murray-Ryan deal and keep the doors of our government open.

We have now had the pointless debate over defunding Planned Parenthood. Let's move on. Let's not manufacture another crisis that puts millions of jobs on the line and hurts Americans in every state of this country. We were elected to represent our constituents.

The voice from Vermonters is clear: it is time to get our work done.

Mr. CORNYN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of a clean, short-term continuing resolution—or, as we say, a CR—to temporarily fund the government without controversial policy riders. After the vote we just had, I hope we can move to such a measure. Even some Republican leaders have acknowledged that this previous vote was a show vote designed to appease, but to fail. It is part of a troubling pattern that has been emerging over many months of avoiding meaningful, bipartisan talks to fix the budget and waiting until the last moment to deal with issues everyone knows must be addressed.

We have an obligation to the American people to keep their government working. It is one of the most basic responsibilities we have as Members of Congress. A clean CR at this juncture fulfills this obligation, keeping the government open for a few more weeks while we work on a plan to eliminate the sequester-level budget caps for defense and nondefense programs. I wish we could have begun work on an overall agreement earlier in the year, as Vice Chairwoman MIKULSKI and others strongly urged months ago, but at this late hour we should pass this short-term measure and move on to serious negotiations on budget caps for this year and beyond.

Shutting the government down now will not serve any useful purpose. What a shutdown will do is waste taxpayers' money and hurt the economy. Indeed, the 2-week Republican government shutdown in 2013 cost our economy billions of dollars. Based on that experience, here is some of what we can expect if there is another forced government shutdown this year:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will have to furlough more than 95 percent of its workforce, impacting services to more than 60 field and regional offices nationwide. Payments will be delayed to the roughly 3,000 local public housing authorities that manage the country's publicly assisted housing programs. In fact, this shifts the burden onto them, causing them to turn to local municipalities that are equally stressed in terms of their budgets. So there is no avoiding this pain—in fact, it will be multiplied if we shut down the government.

Thousands of home sales and mortgage-refinancing packages backed by

the Federal Housing Administration, the FHA, will be put on standby. People who are ready to close, people who are ready to make a commitment to a home, people who are ready to keep this economy moving will be told: Stand back; wait and see.

Cities, counties, and States will not be able to move forward with new community development block grant projects, preventing important local economic investment. This is a program which affects every community in this country, and it is something which is a very positive, constructive way to give local leaders the resources to fund the local initiatives the community desperately wants and needs. This is not Big Washington; this is local America getting a chance to see their projects put in place.

The Federal Aviation Administration will not be able to certify new aircraft, interrupting billions of dollars in sales.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration will be forced to stop investigations and emergency response training.

Classrooms will be shuttered for 700 midshipmen at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. These are young men and women who are committing themselves to serve the Nation either directly in the armed services of the United States or as members of our merchant fleet. They will basically be told to go home.

Financial support will stop for the Maritime Security Program, the MSP. This is an important public-private partnership that is critical to sustaining our troops serving overseas.

These are just a few examples from two of the Departments under my purview as the ranking member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. There are many other examples throughout the Federal Government that my colleagues are talking about today.

Knowing the results that shutdowns and these hardball tactics have brought before, it is hard to believe some still are willing to resort to budget brinksmanship again.

I know many of my colleagues on the other side share my concern. I particularly wish to commend Senator COLLINS, who has been an excellent leader in chairing the THUD subcommittee, for her support for a clean CR. She has done extraordinary work under very difficult and challenging circumstances. Her support for a clean CR so that we can negotiate a longer term budget solution is indicative of the kind of forthright, thoughtful, and in some cases very courageous service she has rendered to Maine and to the country.

While we focus on the immediate showdown threat, let's remember the bigger threats we face in 2016. We are here because of the Budget Control Act

and its attendant sequester-level caps on discretionary spending. Let's remember that these sequester-level caps were never intended to be implemented. At the time BCA was enacted, the cuts were considered to be extreme—in fact, so extreme that Congress would not ever let them happen, that they would embrace defense and nondefense, and that they would be an action-forcing mechanism—not an actuality of law but an action-forcing mechanism to cause us on a bipartisan basis to come up with long-term budget solutions. Unfortunately, that solution did not materialize.

Over time, we had the very good work of Senator MURRAY and Congressman PAUL RYAN to come up with a 2-year suspension, but we are right back where we were, and these sequester caps are staring us right in the face. But today, rather than working together to tackle the sequester, we are on the verge of orchestrating another fiscal crisis. And it is not a crisis that will help the American people; rather, it will hinder the American people. And, indeed, it is ironic because Members on both sides recognize the BCA cap should be raised for both defense and nondefense appropriations.

Indeed, both the Defense authorization and the Defense appropriations bills carry bipartisan sense-of-the-Senate language that says: "Sequestration relief must be accomplished for fiscal years 2016 and 2017." And, "Sequestration relief should include equal defense and nondefense relief." So you have a bipartisan consensus on these two committees that represent a significant number of our colleagues who are essentially saying: We have to end this. And they are saying it because they believe, as I do, that our national security rests not just upon adequate elements of the Department of Defense but adequate investment for all our Federal programs.

So beyond committing a clean, short-term funding bill, we must focus on eliminating these draconian spending caps imposed on us by the BCA. We know these caps will cause real harm to programs across the Federal Government that our States and constituents rely on.

These are not academic issues that could be dismissed as being some programs that are ineffective and less limiting. These are across-the-board cuts that hit all our constituents and hit them hard.

Indeed, months ago Chairman MCCAIN and I together wrote to urge the Committee on the Budget to include a higher baseline funding amount for the Department of Defense in the budget resolution. We were essentially asking them to ignore the BCA caps and produce a budget that realistically recognizes the base needs of the Department of Defense—not the one-time

spending of OCO contingency but routine spending that would be projected forth.

Senator MCCAIN in particular worked in extraordinarily good faith to try to get such a provision included in the budget resolution, but he did not succeed. And, in response, the use of OCO contingency funds was incorporated to skirt the budget caps. Essentially, what the committee has done—the defense authorization committee—is it has taken the President's budget numbers, but moved money out of the base budget into OCO, beyond the President's request. And what you are doing is creating this OCO funding mechanism—in a sense, a gimmick, really—to cover the real cost—the ongoing cost, the routine continuing cost—of the Department of Defense. That is not good budgeting, and it is not good for Defense either.

Because of this I was unable to support legislation on the floor for the Defense authorization bill that in many other respects—virtually every other respect—was extremely well done and extremely thought out. Again, I commend the chairman for all his efforts and those of my colleagues.

I clearly disagree that using this OCO funding arrangement—gimmick, sleight of hand, whatever you want to call it—is the way to proceed forward. Relying on it essentially preempts defense from the Budget Control Act and leaves everything else under those onerous caps. As I said, that not only does not adequately and realistically fund defense, but it seriously erodes national security because national security is something more than simply what the Department of Defense does. It is the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and it is a myriad of other functions that will not see funding. In fact, they will see their funding begin to shrink dramatically.

If we use this approach this year, with the argument that it is just a bridge to the day we finally get ourselves together, I think we are deluding ourselves. It would be much easier next year to put even more money into OCO, to take programs that are traditionally funded through the base budget of the Department of Defense and say: Well, we just don't have room. Let's put it in OCO. It becomes the gift that keeps on giving, and it will not provide the real resources and the certainty the Department of Defense needs over many years to plan for their operations.

To stick things in 1-year funding is not to tell the Department of Defense: You can be confident that 2 or 3 years from now, when you are developing that new weapons system platform, the money will be there. It may, but again, it may not. We can't give them that insecurity. We have to give them a sense of certainty.

Now, this is a view that is shared not just by myself and some colleagues

here on both sides of the aisle but by senior Defense Department officials. They have testified repeatedly before our committee that OCO funding does not provide long-term budget certainty. They need that. And the troops—the men and women they lead—need that.

In fact, it really just allows DOD to plan for 1 year. And there are very few programs in the Department of Defense that are 1-year programs. A major weapons system is a multiyear development and then there is the production process. The strategy is not year by year. It is over several years at least. So this is not an efficient and effective way to run the organization. Proper budgeting and planning in the Department of Defense requires at least 5 years. That is the standard. The standard measure is a 5-year program forecast, budget forecast, and we are telling them: Well, this year you can have a bonanza of OCO funds. Next year could be more, could be less, could be much less.

This is not the way to efficiently allocate resources for national security and to efficiently develop a strategy to counteract an increasing array of threats around the globe in many different dimensions in many different regions. If we go down this path, it will lead to instability for our troops, their families, and for our defense industrial base. They deserve certainty, not a year-to-year, perhaps-maybe, maybe-perhaps approach.

We also need to recognize, as I have repeated before, that national security is not just the Department of Defense. Other agencies are critical—the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and Department of Treasury, which does all the terrorist financing sanctions. They have to trace funds flowing around the world to ensure they do not aid and assist terrorist activities or other maligning activities. They need resources too.

Taking this approach as it stands now, using this OCO approach for defense and then letting everything else stay under BCA, will not give these agencies the resources they need.

I was struck a few days ago when General Petraeus was here testifying that one of the critical areas of effort against ISIL is information warfare. They have proven to be extraordinarily adept at using social media, at communicating through the Internet. One of the questions from my colleague—which was very thoughtful and fundamental—was this: Is the State Department doing enough to counteract—as one of our major foreign policy organizations—this information campaign by ISIL? The General sort of chuckled a bit, and then he said: Let me tell you that when I was commanding, on active service, the State Department had to come to me and essentially borrow

\$1 million from CENTCOM funds so they could get in the ball game—to just get in the game in terms of information warfare: counteracting measures, public campaigns of information in countries throughout the globe, particularly in the Middle East.

That will be much worse if we proceed down this path, and we will not be enhancing our national security. If the ISIL message is unanswered, if they are able to attract adherents from around the globe because all they can really hear is this grotesque discussion of ISIL and what they propose, and there are no counterarguments, there is no countervailing points, we lose that information war. And that is not just a DOD function.

Now, we have to make investments in both defense and nondefense. But as I said before, if we stick with these BCA caps, our non-DOD programs will suffer. In addition to that, the needs of the American people will suffer.

We will not be able to invest in adequate transportation and water infrastructure. We won't be able to do things that provide adequate and decent housing for our citizens. Under the budget caps we will lose jobs too. When the resources diminish, the need for workers diminishes, and that will happen.

Now, we have a situation, particularly where some of our most vulnerable Americans would suffer grievously. Here are a few examples. The elderly housing program has been cut in half since 2010, even when we know the United States population today is aging faster.

Every Member of this Senate has numerous elderly housing programs in their State. Their low-income seniors rely on them. I would suspect they take some pride in the fact there is adequate housing—in some cases not enough, but at least some adequate housing. They will suffer.

There are 7.7 million very low income renters in the United States. That means they pay more than 50 percent of their income in rent or live in substandard housing or both. If these budget caps go into effect, then the THUD bill will not include meaningful funding for the affordable housing production program available to local governments.

When we turn to Public Housing Authorities, they are facing more than \$3 billion in capital needs just to keep them repaired, just to make them places that are decent to live in, where people can have appropriate hallway lighting, they can have elevators that work, they can have plumbing systems that are adequate—the basics.

We are not talking about building whirlpools, spas, and Jacuzzi's. This is just meeting basic requirements in maintenance and capital repairs. The level of funding PHA's are faced with is the same level we provided in the late

1980s. That is going back about 30 years. Thirty years ago, relatively speaking, we would be spending as much as we are now on simply maintaining public housing. These are real-world consequences.

Again, BCA comes into play in terms of the impact on domestic programs. Funding for public transit continues to fall even while transit ridership goes up.

One of the success stories over the past few years is our public transit systems. Our buses, our subway systems, our light rail systems are enjoying increased ridership. That is good for people to get to work, and it is good for our environment because of reduces the use of individual automobiles. But if our ridership goes up and the resources go down, we are going to see a system that gets less and less dependable, reliable, and effective, and we will lose not only a number of those riders but have incidents—as we have seen across the country—where there are significant safety concerns and significant disruptions.

It has not been uncommon over the last several months here in Washington to hear on the radio that a whole subway line has gone down because of a maintenance problem or something else, and that day's workforce doesn't get to the office for 3 or 4 or 5 hours. Guess what. That costs a lot of private employers a great deal of money because the people aren't doing the work, and they probably would be paid. So essentially this impacts our economy, and it is multiplied. And it will be exponentially multiplied if we start cutting away the money, as suggested in the Budget Control Act.

It is now time to work together and to enact first a clean CR, which will give us the time to systematically and comprehensively address the issues that are staring us straight in the face because of the BCA—the budget caps on Defense and nondefense. It is time to be able to move—as I believe the vast majority of my colleagues want to—the excess OCO funding back into the regular budget of the Department of Defense as we raise the budget cap, and as we raise the budget cap for the Department of Defense, to recognize we have to raise the cap not only for other national security agencies to protect our country, but also for other agencies in order to invest in our economy, keep us productive, keep people employed, and also keep faith with the thousands and thousands of Americans who have worked and now may need help. There are seniors in need of rental assistance. They need the support of a good transit system to get to work or, if they are a senior citizen, to get to a doctor's appointment. They are counting on us.

So I hope all my colleagues can come together, forge an agreement, avoid a shutdown, and then do something more

than just keep the lights on—invest across the board in our people and watch those investments multiply to a productive, successful economy and a more secure America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 224

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, in 1975, Russian physicist Andrei Sakharov was awarded a Nobel Prize for his public opposition to the totalitarian communism of the Soviet Union. He knew what he was talking about as he had spent decades working on the Soviet nuclear weapons program, work he had originally thought was a patriotic duty that would ensure the balance of power with the United States but that he came to understand was in the service of a brutal, oppressive regime with aggressive intentions.

The Soviets prohibited Sakharov from accepting the award in person, although his wife Yelena Bonner was abroad at the time. She accepted on his behalf and delivered his seminal speech, "Peace, Progress, and Human Rights." In it, Sakharov declared:

I am convinced that international confidence, mutual understanding, disarmament, and international security are inconceivable without an open society with freedom of information, freedom of conscience, the right to publish, and the right to travel and choose the country in which one wishes to live. I am likewise convinced that freedom of conscience, together with other civil rights, provides the basis for scientific progress and constitutes a guarantee that scientific advances will not be used to despoil mankind, providing the basis for economic and social progress, which in turn is a political guarantee for the possibility of an effective defense of social rights.

He recited the names of his fellow dissidents who were being persecuted by the Soviets, but he called for peaceful reform, not a violent revolution, saying:

We must today fight for every individual person separately against injustice and the violation of human rights. Much of our future depends on this. In struggling to protect human rights we must, I am convinced, first and foremost act as protectors of the innocent victims of regimes installed in various countries, without demanding the destruction or total condemnation of these regimes. We need a pliant, pluralist, tolerant community, which selectively and tentatively can bring about a free undogmatic use of the experiences of all social systems.

Sakharov was relieved of all his scientific duties and, after denouncing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1980, was banished to Gorky, 250 miles east of Moscow on the Volga River, to re-

move him from the public eye. His wife joined him in 1984, charged with anti-Soviet slander, and was prohibited from traveling abroad for medical treatment. Sakharov began a hunger strike in protest. Soviet authorities detained and force-fed him.

In solidarity, President Ronald Reagan—who was then initiating his historic negotiations with the Soviets—proclaimed May 18, 1983, National Andrei Sakharov Day, and the following year the United States Congress passed a bipartisan measure renaming the mailing address of the Soviet Embassy from 1125 16th Street to No. 1 Andrei Sakharov Plaza. Every piece of mail delivered to or sent from the embassy would thus bear the name of the courageous dissident the Soviets were trying to silence.

The following year, the Soviet Union allowed Bonner to travel abroad for heart surgery, and the year after that, Gorbachev allowed Sakharov and his wife to return to Moscow, although Sakharov remained critical of the slow speed of Gorbachev's reforms until his death in 1989—just 1 month after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The bravery of Andrei Sakharov was instrumental in bringing down a great and oppressive empire. Armed only with the truth, he was able to expose to the world the reality of Soviet Communism, the futility of trying to placate or domesticate the regime, and the power of standing for human rights.

Today, we have a case before us that is eerily reminiscent of Sakharov's legacy. Dr. Liu Xiaobo, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, sits today in a Chinese jail for the crime of subversion.

A poet, author, and political scientist, Dr. Liu was in 1989 a visiting scholar at Columbia University, but when the pro-democracy protests broke out in Beijing in June of that year, he returned to China to aid the movement. He staged a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square in the midst of the historic student protests and insisted the protests would be nonviolent, even in the face of the violence threatened by the People's Republic of China. The PRC arrested Liu for his involvement in the Tiananmen Square demonstration and sentenced him to 2 years in prison. In 1996, the party subjected him to 3 years of "reeducation through labor" for questioning the single-party system. In 2004, the PRC cut Liu's phone lines and Internet connection after he published an essay criticizing the party's campaign to silence so-called subversive journalists and activists.

In 2008, Liu, along with over 350 Chinese intellectuals and human rights advocates, penned "Charter 08," a manifesto modeled after the Czech "Charter 77," an anti-Communist manifesto written in 1977 by Vaclav Havel and

others calling for human rights and political reforms in the Soviet Republics.

Dr. Liu's "Charter 08" made 19 specific demands of the PRC, including abandoning one-party rule in favor of instituting a separation of powers composed of a legislative democracy and independent judiciary; abolition of the Hukou housing system that has victimized poor and rural Chinese for decades; and securing freedom of association, assembly, expression, and religion. "Charter 08" was released on December 10, 2008. Although the Communist Party quickly censored it, over 10,000 journalists, scholars, businessmen, and teachers have signed the document since 2008.

Two days prior to the release of "Charter 08"—on the eve of the 100-year anniversary of China's first Constitution and the 30-year anniversary of Beijing's Democracy Wall movement—the PRC detained Liu for his involvement in this charter. In June 2009, he was officially arrested and charged with "inciting subversion of state power" for his coauthorship of "Charter 08."

After being detained for over a year, Liu pled not guilty to "inciting subversion of state power" before the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court on December 23, 2009. His defense was not allowed to present evidence, and on Christmas Day Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison with an additional 2 years' deprivation of all political rights. Beijing High Court rejected his appeal 2 months later.

On October 2010, Dr. Liu Xiaobo received the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in writing and publishing "Charter 08." Like Sakharov, he could not attend in person but accepted in absentia, boldly declaring in his acceptance speech:

Hatred can rot away at a person's intelligence and conscience. Enemy mentality will poison the spirit of a nation, incite cruel mortal struggles, destroy a society's tolerance and humanity, and hinder a nation's progress toward freedom and democracy. That is why I hope to be able to transcend my personal experiences as I look upon our nation's development and social change, to counter the regime's hostility with utmost goodwill, and to dispel hatred with love.

The very moment the Nobel Commission awarded the Peace Prize to Liu, his wife Liu Xia was taken into custody by the PRC. She penned an open letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping in June 2013 decrying her unjust arrest and detention:

I have been under house arrest and have lost all my personal freedoms since October 2010. No one has told me any reasons for detaining me. I have thought about it over and over. Perhaps in this country it's a "crime" for me to be "Liu Xiaobo's wife."

Both Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia remain in prison today. The opening paragraph of "Charter 08" captures the entirety of Liu Xiaobo's lifework:

Having experienced a prolonged period of human rights disasters and challenging and

tortuous struggles, the awakening Chinese citizens are becoming increasingly aware that freedom, equality and human rights are universal values shared by all humankind, and that democracy, republicanism, and constitutional government make up the basic institutional framework of modern politics. A 'modernization' bereft of these universal values and this basic political framework is a disastrous process that deprives people of their rights, rots away their humanity, and destroys their dignity. Where is China headed in the 21st century? Will it continue with this 'modernization' under authoritarian rule, or will it endorse universal values, join the mainstream civilization, and build a democratic form of government? This is an unavoidable decision.

Dr. Liu's enormous courage and willingness to voluntarily sacrifice not only his own freedom but also that of those most dear to him poses a challenge to the free world. Will we be silent, eager to enjoy the economic benefits of cooperation with the PRC? Or will we put President Xi on notice that for America, human rights are no longer off the table, and that we are listening to the truth about Communist China.

I believe that the freedom championed by Dr. Liu is possible for all the Chinese people. I believe that from Tiananmen Square to Taiwan, the evidence is clear that the Chinese desire—and are capable of—democracy. I believe that we have a moral responsibility to not marginalize Dr. Liu and his brave fellow dissidents but to make their plight central to all our dealings with the PRC.

For that reason, we should follow the example of Ronald Reagan. We should follow the example of standing up to oppression, standing up to the Soviet Union's oppression of Andrei Sakharov. For that reason, in solidarity with the Chinese people engaged in a long and nonviolent struggle for basic human rights, I am asking my colleagues to join me in creating a new version of Sakharov Plaza by naming the street in front of the People's Republic of China Embassy in Washington, DC, Liu Xiaobo Plaza. This would be the street sign that the Chinese Ambassador would look at each day. This would be the address that every piece of correspondence going into the embassy and coming out of the embassy would have written on it, just as with the Soviets when forced to recognize the bravery of Sakharov.

The PRC officials will be forced to recognize the bravery of Dr. Liu and to acknowledge it dozens of times a day, day after day. I realize that this is an expedited request, but given the ongoing repression not only of the Lius but of so many other voices for political and religious freedom in China and the imminent arrival of the Chinese leader who is directly responsible for it, I hope that my colleagues will join me. I intend to propound a unanimous consent request, and it is my hope that all 100 Senators will stand with me.

But for the moment, I yield the floor.

Mr. CRUZ addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, for reasons that I just detailed to this Chamber, reasons for which we should stand in bipartisan unanimity in support of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Liu Xiaobo and in support of human rights and dissidents across the world, that we should follow the successful pattern of Sakharov Plaza under Ronald Reagan, this should be an issue that brings us all together.

Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of and that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 224. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would like to make an observation. The notice for this went out less than an hour ago. The consultations with others haven't been made. It was precipitously brought to the floor, and I can only infer that it has political implications, because the President of China is due to arrive here tomorrow and, therefore, this would be passed today, moved out of committee without a vote in front of the Senate.

I don't think that is the way we should do business in this Senate. Maybe people don't believe diplomacy makes a difference, but I do. I think there will be ample time for the President to speak with the President of China and for some of us to speak as well. This is, of course—the human rights, of course—a subject. But in the absence of that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I note that this is a sad day for this body. When standing up to the Soviet Union, Democrats and Republicans were able to come together in support of Andrei Sakharov, and it worked. It made a difference speaking up for human rights. The senior Senator from California is correct that this was expedited, and she is correct as to why. As I said in this floor speech, the presence of President Xi in this country is precisely the reason that we should stand in unanimity in support of human rights. It is what makes it timely until a few minutes ago, when we had been informed that there were no objections on the Democratic side and Republican side. It saddens me. I know there are many Chinese Americans in the State of California, there are many Chinese

Americans in the State of Texas, and across the country there are millions of Americans who care for human rights.

Just this morning we sat on the floor of the House of Representatives and listened to Pope Francis talk about putting aside petty partisan differences and coming together with a voice of compassion.

Dr. Liu is in a Chinese prison, and the senior Senator from California is standing and objecting to recognizing this Nobel laureate's bravery, is standing and objecting because presumably it would embarrass his Communist captors. I, for one, think as Americans we should not be troubled by embarrassing Communist oppressors.

I note, as the senior Senator from California leaves the floor, that this is not an issue that is abstract to me. My family, like Dr. Liu, has been imprisoned by oppressive regimes. My father, as a teenager, was imprisoned and tortured in Cuba. He had his nose broken. He had his teeth shattered. He lay in the blood and grime of a prison cell in Cuba. My aunt, my Tia Sonia, was a few years later again imprisoned and tortured. This time by Castro. My father by Batista and my aunt by Castro was imprisoned and tortured by a Communist regime. It is a sad statement when the United States of America cannot stand up and say: You who are imprisoned unjustly, we stand with you.

If any of us listened to a word Pope Francis said this morning, that is a word we should have heard—that we should be a voice of freedom, a clarion voice of freedom across this globe. What we saw on this Senate floor saddens me greatly. I understand the Democrats feel partisan loyalty to the White House, and this White House's Secretary Clinton said at the beginning of the administration that human rights are off the table. America no longer stands for human rights. We will coddle up with oppressors if they make cheap calculators to sell in our stores. I think they are values that transcend the mighty dollar, and it is entirely possible to deal with foreign countries and yet maintain our principles and speak with unanimity.

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to visit with Natan Sharansky, the famed Soviet dissident. He and I visited in Jerusalem. He talked to me about how, when he was in the Soviet gulag, the prisoners would pass from cell to cell notes: Did you hear what President Reagan said—“evil empire,” “ash heap of history,” “tear down this wall”? The leadership of the United States of America—mind you, it wasn't partisan leadership; it was clear bipartisan leadership in America—shined a light to the dark of those prison cells.

I pray today that Dr. Liu, in his prison cell, does not hear word that the

Democratic Senators are unwilling to stand with him. That is heartbreaking at a level rarely seen. It is one thing for us to disagree on partisan matters. We can have disagreements over the appropriate rate of capital gains taxes. But for standing with an oppressed Nobel Peace Prize laureate, for standing up to Communist oppression, that should not be a partisan divide.

The objection raised by the senior Senator from California is deeply disappointing, and I intend to continue to press this issue because the voice of America, the voice for freedom that Pope Francis urged us to aspire to will not be extinguished. It is who we are that is essential to our character and to our integrity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, over the course of the summer we have watched with horror as thousands more have died in Syria and Iraq, and the debate over what we should do about it has been omnipresent here in the Senate and in the House. We have held hearings, appeared on television to tell our story of how we should respond, and talked about it on the floor of the Senate and the House. Similarly, we have watched the conflict continue to persist in eastern Ukraine. Although they have not had the same number of casualties as we have seen in Syria and Iraq, they have had similar death and destruction, and we have responded with a vigorous debate on the floor of the Senate—again, hearings in committees, letters to the President, bipartisan pieces of legislation that have been proposed—about how the United States should seek to reduce the amount of casualties in a place like eastern Ukraine, and we are also debating what our response should be in Syria and Iraq.

What if I told you that this summer 4,000 people died in another conflict in which there was absolutely no debate here in the Congress? What if I told you there were 4,000 people who died this summer in a conflict and not a single committee in the Congress held a hearing on it? What if I told you there was a conflict this summer in which 4,000 people perished and not a single Member of the majority party in the House or the Senate has proposed any comprehensive way to deal with it?

This chart shows the number of people on a daily, monthly, and annual basis who are killed by guns. On average, it is 86 a day, 26,000 a month, and 31,000 a year. This summer, while kids were out of school, over 4,000 people—just this summer—died across this country from gun violence. I come to the floor not as often as I would like but as often as I can to tell some of their stories because I kind of thought these numbers would be enough to per-

suaude Members of this body to do something—anything—to try to stem the scourge of gun violence in this body, but it hasn't, and so my hope is maybe by telling the stories of some of these individuals, it will hopefully make a difference. Every day we add dozens of stories of young men and women—mostly young men and women—whose lives were cut short, whose greatness we were never able to see, whose potential was never realized because they were killed by a gun.

This summer we have been gripped by mass shooting after mass shooting.

Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Sharonda Singleton, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, Daniel Simmons, and DePayne Doctor, and Clementa Pinckney—we don't know all of those names, but we know about many of them because they were killed at a mass shooting in a church in South Carolina.

Sgt Carson Holmquist, PO2 Randall Smith, GySgt Thomas Sullivan, LCpl “Skip” Wells, and SSgt David Wyatt—maybe you have heard their names because they were all killed at a shooting in Tennessee at a Chattanooga Armed Forces recruiting center.

Maybe you have heard of Jillian Johnson and Mayci Breau, who were killed in a movie theater in Lafayette, LA, in July of this year.

Most people have now heard of Allison Parker and Adam Ward, who were gunned down on live TV just a few weeks ago in Virginia.

On each one of those days—June 17, a shooting in South Carolina; July 16, a shooting in Tennessee; July 24, a shooting in Louisiana; and August 26, a shooting in Virginia—there were dozens more people who died from gunshot wounds whom we never heard of, but they meant something to their families. To this day their loss is experienced deeply by those who knew them well.

Some of them were people who were close to those of us who serve in public service. Matthew Shlonsky was killed this summer in Washington, DC. On August 15 he was heading to a going-away party, and he had just stepped out of a cab when he was shot outside of the Shaw-Howard Metro station. He was the sixth gunshot victim in the Shaw area in a little over a week.

Think about what it is like to live in a neighborhood in which there have been six shootings over the course of a week. Think of the fear that breeds in those communities.

We knew Matthew because he was an intern for one of our colleagues. He was working as a consultant at Deloitte, but he had served as a Senate intern. He was an amazing kid by all accounts. He traveled the world, spoke two languages, and was a star hockey player. His future was absolutely limitless. But because this city is awash in guns—many of them illegal, many of

them in the hands of criminals who get them because of giant, gaping holes in our background check system—Matthew Shlonsky is no longer with us. He is dead at the age of 23.

How about the heartbreaking story of Carey Gabay, who was 43 years old. He was serving as an assistant counsel to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, and before that he had been counsel of the Empire State Development Corporation. He died on September 16—just on the back end of the summer—after he was caught in the crossfire of a shooting in New York City. He was an innocent bystander when he was shot in the head while attending the pre-West Indian American Day Parade festival with friends and family.

He was the son of Jamaican immigrants and grew up in public housing in the Bronx. He had done amazingly well. He attended Harvard University and Harvard Law School. He was working for the Governor and trying to make a better life for others by trying to give opportunities to kids who grow up in the same circumstance as he did. A friend described him as “an amazing human being who melded public service, professionalism, personal integrity with warmth and caring for everyone he knew.” He was 43 years old when he was gunned down in broad daylight outside of a festival simply because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

This summer 4,000 people were killed by guns, and not a single public hearing has occurred in the U.S. Senate to discuss a solution. There is not even mention of a debate happening anytime soon on the floor of the Senate as to how we stop these episodes of mass slaughter. We are averaging more than one mass shooting in this country every single day this year. That is astounding. That is shocking. Yet there is total, utter, absolute silence from the world's greatest deliberative body on what we should do about it.

I am the last person to say there is any panacea coming from the Congress on how to stem gun violence. We are never going to be able to eliminate these epidemic rates of gun violence just by one law or set of laws that are passed. But what is an absolute indictment of this place is that we don't even try.

I have made this contention on the floor before, and I will make it again. I truly believe our silence on this has become complicity. We have become accomplices to these murders because by saying and doing nothing, we offer up a kind of quiet endorsement to people who exist in the fringes of their minds and who are thinking about contemplating violence, and the leaders of this country are doing absolutely nothing to seriously condemn or stop their destructive, malevolent behavior. Our silence has become complicit.

I hope that at some point over the course of the rest of this year, we can

begin a conversation as to how we can turn these numbers back in the right direction. There is no other country in the industrialized world that even comes close to these numbers.

I can offer a suggestion on where to start. If between now and December we can't come to a common understanding on our gun laws—I still don't understand why we can't just do that since 90 percent of Americans support expansive background checks—let's start by fixing the mental health care system.

I think there are a lot of reasons why Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed 20 kids over 2 years ago. The child advocate in Connecticut issued a damning report on his interactions with the mental health care system. His mother tried and tried and tried, but in the end she gave up and let him retreat into the isolation of his room, where he plotted these murders. That family and mother and young man ran into barrier after barrier and obstacle after obstacle trying to find a course of treatment for his very serious set of illnesses.

What we know is that people with mental illness are much more likely to be the victims of gun violence than the perpetrators of it. There is no inherent connection between being mentally ill and being violent. There is no greater incidence of mental illness in the United States than anywhere else in the world. Yet we have epidemic rates of gun violence. But I will certainly be the first to admit that if we fix our mental health care system, it will help lots of people who have no intersections with gun violence, and it will push these numbers downward because some of these people are committing these murders because they are not getting treatment for serious illnesses.

Senator CASSIDY and I—frankly, we don't agree on a lot because he is a conservative Republican from the Deep South, and I am a progressive Democrat from the Northeast—introduced a mental health reform measure which has broad bipartisan support and which would seek to break down these barriers in order to get care for the seriously mentally ill and try to get the parents more involved in the care, especially of young adults. It would increase the capacity in our mental health treatment system for both outpatient and inpatient care. Maybe over the course of the rest of this year, at the very least we can make a dent in the massive shortfalls in our behavioral health care system.

The families I have become so close with in Sandy Hook, CT, commanded me to come down to the floor every week or so and tell these stories, the voices of victims. They would like us to come together on a set of meaningful changes to our gun laws. They just don't understand why Adam Lanza was able to walk into the school with a gun that killed 20 little boys and girls in

less than 5 minutes because of how powerful it was with the 30-round cartridges he was able to use. They don't want our inability to get action on gun laws to stop us from making other progress that would make the next Adam Lanza less likely. Maybe we can do that. But we should do something.

Our silence is an embarrassment after this summer of mass shootings. These news reports should command us to action, but we, frankly, shouldn't have had to wait for the news reports of shootings in Virginia or Louisiana or South Carolina because these numbers were just as true last year as they are this year. Maybe there are more episodes of mass violence and mass shootings and headline-grabbing atrocities, but these numbers which reflect what is happening on the ground in New Haven, CT; Hartford, CT; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; and Los Angeles have been a reality for a long time, and we should have woken up long ago. But maybe over the course of this year we can make some progress so that moving forward there are a few less voices of victims to bring to the floor of the Senate.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOLKSWAGEN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise to speak about recent revelations that Volkswagen woefully deceived regulators and the general public to artificially lower emissions of its 2009 to 2015 Volkswagen and Audi diesel vehicles. These actions raise significant consumer, environmental, and public health concerns.

According to the EPA's Notice of Violation of the Clean Air Act, Volkswagen used a sophisticated software algorithm on certain vehicles that detected when vehicles were undergoing emissions testing. This software—referred to as a “defeat device”—allows vehicles to meet emissions standards during testing, but under normal driving situations, these same vehicles emit nitrogen oxides up to 40 times the allowable emissions standards.

This is unbelievable. I think we can imagine that such technology exists, but I don't think we ever thought that one of our major international car companies would be alleged to have used it. So far approximately 482,000 diesel vehicles sold in the United States and 11 million cars worldwide have been affected. A deliberate attempt like this by a company to mislead regulators and the general public is completely unacceptable.

This raises serious questions that need answers: Why did Volkswagen, for more than a year, claim that the discrepancies in the emissions tests and the levels on the road were a technical error? Who at Volkswagen signed off on the defeat device? Did executives at Volkswagen know these actions were put into place to deliberately deceive regulators and the general public? Does the EPA have the necessary testing systems in place to detect such devices that trick the software? Have other auto manufacturers of clean diesel vehicles been tampering with their software to get around emissions standards? How do we ensure that this never happens again?

This is a matter of public trust. Consumers were lied to and sold a product under false pretenses. Those consumers who brought certain Volkswagen Jetta's, Beetles, Passats, and certain Audis with 2-liter diesel engines believed they were purchasing a vehicle that would provide premium fuel economy and performance while also meeting strict emissions standards. Who wouldn't be enticed by these vehicles after they were named the "Green Car of the Year" and "Eco-Friendly Car of the Year" by national publications?

We now know these consumers were duped and that they will now have to bring their vehicles under compliance to meet Federal emissions standards. Volkswagen will likely pay for the repairs but what about the costs of reduced fuel economy and lower resale values?

Congress intentionally included strong enforceability elements into the Clean Air Act statute. Regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act aimed to protect human health and the environment by reducing nitrogen oxide and other pollutants. Motor vehicles are the primary source of nitrogen oxide pollution from transportation. These highly reactive gases play a major role in atmospheric reactions that produce smog.

That smog accelerates climate change and exacerbates respiratory diseases that harm human health, including asthma, which affects 23 million Americans, including 6 million children.

That is why we have emissions standards. It is not just some far-off number that is put into place; it is to protect children from getting asthma; it is to protect the world from heating up; it is to ensure that we protect our environment for generations to come.

The Clean Air Act requires automakers to certify to the EPA that their vehicles will meet applicable Federal emissions standards to control air pollution. Through this process, Volkswagen deceived regulators into believing these vehicles produced low emissions. Vehicles with the defeat device emit anywhere from 5 to 40 times more nitrogen oxide than allowed by law

while on the road. If we pick a number in the middle of the range—let's say 20 times as much—it would mean that Volkswagen's fleet in the U.S. produces 46,657 more tons of harmful smog.

Changes to the EPA's emissions standards testing process are needed as well. I have written to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to express that concern. The EPA needs to explain why their systems did not detect this deceptive software and what changes the Agency will be making with their testing processes. I strongly urge the EPA to establish robust safeguards to prevent automakers from gaming the system and prevent this from happening again.

There must also be a full investigation into Volkswagen's actions. The Department of Justice is conducting a criminal investigation into the company's actions, and I urge DOJ to leave no stone unturned in its investigation to determine how a company could have willfully deceived Federal regulators and the general public.

Volkswagen must conduct a thorough and comprehensive public education campaign to ensure that all owners of these vehicles are made aware of the defect and are informed about where and when they can go to get their vehicle fixed.

The Department of Transportation, which has expertise with vehicle recalls, should also play an active role. If we learned anything from the General Motors and Takata airbag recalls, it is that recalls need to be broad enough from the outset and cover affected vehicle models and years, the general public needs to know how and where to get their vehicle repaired, and automakers must have a system in place to make timely repairs with replacement parts that truly fix the problem.

Other agencies, such as the Federal Trade Commission, should also take a serious look at how they can help in this process.

As a member of both the Senate Commerce Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, I believe that consumers must be protected. I also believe Volkswagen's competitors that actually follow the law should be able to play on an even playing field. Other car companies that follow the law did the right thing. They put the right systems in place, and they should not be penalized because one car company did this. They should have been able to play on an even playing field. If there is an uneven playing field, it hurts American employees, it hurts American companies, and mostly it hurts American consumers.

The actions by Volkswagen to deliberately deceive consumers around the world about the emissions levels in their cars is fundamentally about a breach in trust. Consumers thought they were getting the same product that was being advertised, when what

they were getting was a product that met those standards only when it was tested, only for 1 day, and only for the time of the emissions testing.

As Federal agencies move forward with their investigation, it is critical that we get to the bottom of this to figure out how this happened, what the extent was, and if it is happening with any other automakers to ensure that what happened never happens again.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PILOT'S BILL OF RIGHTS 2

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to take advantage of an opportunity to bring up the subject that no one is talking about now. Of course, right now everyone has been in the middle of the Pope's visit and other things and what is happening with the Iran bill and the votes we have. I wish to mention there is something else very significant going on right now, that we are in the middle of, and that is the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2.

To put it into perspective, 3 years ago last month we had the Pilot's Bill of Rights 1, and it was one people were not aware of. There are only 617,000 pilots in America, so it is not one of these issues that gets an awful lot of attention. But the mere fact that those 617,000 people—many of them are single-issue people. A lot of people are not aware that prior to the passage of the Pilot's Bill of Rights 3 years ago, there was just one area left within our system whereupon you are guilty until proven innocent.

That is exactly what we corrected with that bill, just to refresh the memory of my colleagues. It gave the pilots who were accused of something the evidence that was used against them. I had a personal experience with it. It actually happened to me. I was never sensitive to that until such time as I experienced it myself.

What we have right now is we are up to 64 cosponsors of the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2. The major part of this bill is something that is out there that doesn't resolve anything. Ten years ago, as kind of an experiment, we put in a sport pilot-eligible exemption so that the pilots of small aircraft would not have to have what they call a third-class medical. The result of this was that after a 10-year period, the medical safety experience of these pilots has been identical to those with medical certificates. A joint study was made following that by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and by

the EAA, the Experimental Aircraft Association, of the 46,976 accidents over a 6-year period. Of those, only 99 had a medical cause as a factor. That is less than one-quarter of 1 percent. Of those 99, none would have been prevented by the current third-class medical. That shows that experiment worked and there is no reason to have a third-class medical.

So people are aware that some changes have been made, I want to briefly outline the modifications that have been made. The modifications require three things for pilots to qualify for an exemption. The exemption we are talking about is the exemption from having to take a third-class medical exemption process every 2 years—sometimes more extensive than that.

First, pilots will have to complete an online medical education course. Secondly, pilots have to maintain verification that they have been to a doctor at least once every 4 years and certify that they are receiving the care they need by a physician to treat any medical condition that warrants it. Third, a pilot would have to complete a comprehensive medical review by the FAA. That would be applied to a new pilot, so they establish a benchmark as to what a pilot's physical condition is.

The pilot would be required to take an online medical course every 2 years. This gives the pilot access to information on medical issues that may not be covered by a doctor in a medical examination but that would have an impact on their physical condition to fly. For example, this course would make sure pilots are aware of impacts on interactions of over-the-counter and prescription medications and how these interactions could impact their flying capabilities. Requiring pilots to take this course boosts aviation safety for the aviation community.

Secondly, pilots would need to complete an exam by their personal physician at least once every 4 years and include a proof of their doctor's visit in their logbooks. This resolves the problem most people are concerned about; that they would have to at least see a physician and be assured that they didn't have some condition they didn't have prior to that. Furthermore, the pilots would be required to certify that they are under the care and treatment of a doctor for any medical condition that would warrant treatment. Pilots would do this instead of visiting an aviation medical examiner every 2 years and sometimes even more frequently than that. With this modification, we are actually encouraging pilots to be honest about their health and seek treatment for it.

Right now pilots are incentivized to hide any medical condition from the FAA, including by not seeking treatment for it, out of the fear that the pilot might lose his wings. We don't want that to happen. People who are

not pilots do not realize how significant it is that you don't want to be taken out of the air, particularly for some reason that is not justified. Pilots, like any individual, maintain stronger relationships with their personal physician, and this is a good thing that fosters an honest dialogue between pilots and doctors, which is something we should all want and something that is not there today.

We want pilots to get the treatment they need. Any medically treated pilot is safer than one who is not being treated. So for many pilots the most burdensome aspects of the FAA controversy is simply the constant churn of submitting paperwork over and over, every 2 years or less, even when there has been no change in their medical status. This bill, as modified, gives pilots a break from the bureaucracy.

The third requirement for pilots to receive the third-class medical exemption is to complete one FAA medical review. So if a new pilot comes in, we need a benchmark—where is that pilot, what is his physical condition today—so as time goes by we can see how he might be changing. If someone does not have an existing medical certificate, such as new pilots who have never gone through an exam, they would have to do it before they fall into qualifying for the exemption. By the way, of the 617,000 pilots in America today, this is the one thing that concerns me more than anything else, which is to have to go back and go through the type of examination they are required to, now that we know the 10-year experiment of being exempt has worked.

There is one caveat. If a pilot flying under the third-class medical exemption is diagnosed with a severe condition—let's talk about maybe a heart attack—then they need to go through the FAA special issuance process to receive medical clearance to fly again. Again, this would only be needed to be done one time.

The ability of the FAA to maintain a stranglehold on pilots will be gone. I am confident the changes will result in a safer flying environment. I want to reiterate that the Pilot's Bill of Rights does not change the certification standard to obtain a pilot's certificate. All pilots still have to possess the pilot's certificate, pass the required practical tests and necessary check rides to demonstrate that they have the knowledge, skills, and ability to safely operate their plane.

Further, this bill does not change the fundamental responsibility of every pilot to self-certify their ability to fly each time they get into the cockpit of a plane. I am a pilot, and every time I get in a plane I make a conscious decision that I am fit to fly. Everyone I know who is a pilot does the same thing.

Again, all of this is not necessary. When you go back and realize that over

the 10 years of the experiment with a limited number of pilots there were no changes. There is no difference between those who have or have not had the pilot exams. With these changes, the third-class medical exemption and the Pilot's Bill of Rights is enjoying a greater level of support from Members of the Senate. Support from general aviation is strongly bipartisan. Sixty-four of my colleagues are cosponsors of this legislation. Half of those are Democrats and half are Republicans. Groups representing general aviation in the community and in the pilot unions have declared their support for the bill. General aviation organizations, such as the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Experimental Pilots Association, and the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, support the bill. The National Association of State Aviation Officials support the bill, the Allied Pilots Association and the Southwest Pilots Association, both unions which represent 23,000 pilots who fly for American Airlines, U.S. Airways, and Southwest Airlines, support the bill. Pilots for NetJets support the bill.

The bill has strong bipartisan support. I urge all the Members who support general aviation and all the economic activity of general aviation to be a part of this bill.

One of the reasons I am doing this today is one of the two organizations—and I am not sure which one it is, it is either the AOPA or the AA—is doing a major effort right now to encourage the pilot population out there to encourage their Members of the Senate to cosponsor this bill. Again, we currently have 64 sponsors of the bill. I can't think of any reason we can't get everyone else. The same individuals who supported it 3 years ago should be there to support it. So I encourage those few Members of the Senate who are not sponsors to look at it very carefully.

It may be 617,000 people are not a lot of people, but of the 617,000 people, most of them are single-issue people. So it would be very good to join in on this. This is something we now have demonstrated clearly is not going to incur any safety hazards and it is going to be a real godsend for pilots who don't want to go through this bureaucracy every 2 years or more frequently in some cases. The bill is out there, and it is one I feel very strongly that we ought to be able to work into our floor use probably in the next very short period of time.

With that, I do yield the floor because my very good friend from Delaware is here to say something profound.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I don't know that I will say anything

profound, but I appreciate the chairman of our committee saying that.

Madam President, and fellow native West Virginian, I will show a map of the United States in just a minute, and there are some States that are delaying and some States that are cutting back on transportation projects. One of them is West Virginia. One of them is Delaware. I want to talk a little bit about that.

Before I do, I would like to go back in time 10 months to the election of last year. I am reminded of the message I heard from the electorate that came out of that election. To simplify it, there were three things they were trying to tell us. No. 1, they want us to work together; No. 2, they want us to get things done; and, No. 3, they want us to get things done that will actually strengthen our economic recovery.

If you go back in time to the January—the week Barack Obama and JOE BIDEN were inaugurated as President and Vice President, 628,000 people filed for unemployment insurance in that 1 week in January of 2009. Any time that weekly number of people filing for unemployment insurance is over 400,000, we are losing jobs in this country and in the economy.

Last Thursday we got a number from the Department of Labor. Last week's number was about 265,000 who filed for unemployment. That was last week. There is a new number today—I am not sure what it was, but for the last 28 weeks that number of people filing for unemployment insurance has been under 300,000. I think that is the longest that we have been keeping track, where we had 28 consecutive weeks where fewer than 300,000 people in this country were applying for unemployment insurance. That number is way under 400,000, so we are adding jobs, and we are expecting to continue to add jobs in this country.

There are still people looking for jobs in my State, there are in West Virginia, and other States as well, but when you consider the unemployment rate was about 10 percent in the early part of 2009 and today it is a little over 5 percent, we are making progress, but we can make a lot more progress.

One of the ways we can make progress is by dealing with our fiscal plan and not hold the Nation's economy hostage with our inability to pass a spending plan. And God help us if we drop the ball on this again and have another shutdown. I sure hope we come to our senses and avoid doing that. My hope is that we will.

One of the other ways we can strengthen our economic recovery—and it is right out there for us to seize and do—is to make sure that in a nation where roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems are deteriorating, where we need to make improvements and we need to build, frankly, new projects—new highways, bridges, roads

and transit systems—at the very least we need to maintain the quality of what we have or improve the quality of road safety, surfaces, potholes, you name it. There is a lot of work to be done, and there are a lot of people who would like to do the work.

The McKinsey Global Institute, an arm of the national consulting firm McKinsey, looked at what we could do for our growing GDP in this country if we fully funded a 6-year transportation plan, what we could do for an employment opportunity if we funded a 6-year transportation plan, and the numbers are remarkable—I think amazing.

We were told that fully funding a 6-year transportation plan would grow our GDP by approximately 1.5 percent per year—not for 1 year but for the life of the transportation plan that we funded—probably 6 years at 1.5 percent a year. When you consider the GDP growth over the last couple years, even though it is better than it was, adding 1.5 percent of the GDP growth would help our economy grow in a robust way. We are told by McKinsey & Company's study that a 6-year transportation plan robustly funded would put about 1.8 million people to work. A lot of folks would like to be building roads, highways, and transportation systems, and they don't have employment opportunities because we are not funding them. We are not funding them.

Let's take a quick look at this map if we could. The States that are gray are States, as far as we know, that are not planning to delay or cancel projects. They are not even considering delaying projects, but the States that are in red, including Delaware over here, are States that have delayed or cancelled projects. The States that are in yellow, including West Virginia, are States that are considering project delays.

That is not good. I have not counted the number of States—it looks like seven—that are in red. Those are the States that have delayed projects. More than that, probably 10, are considering doing that. Why is it important for us to fully fund at the Federal level—do our share for roads, highways, bridges, transit funding? It is because about half of the money that our States spend through their departments of transportation, half their money comes from Federal user fees—largely Federal user fees—primarily, not entirely, but primarily user fees on the sale of gasoline. It has been unchanged in 23 years—not since 1993—22 years. The user fee on diesel has been unchanged for some 22 years, right where we were. The price of everything else goes up. Concrete goes up, asphalt goes up, steel goes up, and labor goes up.

We have more energy-efficient vehicles. They are not using as much gas or diesel. That is a good thing, but it is also a bad thing for having funding for transportation projects. So I want to

look at a map and would invite all of us to consider it. I don't anybody who says—any economist worth their salt—who does not say: Fully funding a multi-year transportation plan, not for 6 months or 3 months, something like that, but fully funding it—robustly funding it for 6 years—will do great things for our economy.

The reason we end up with job growth of something like 1.8 million people, according to McKinsey and Company, is because the economy works far more efficiently if roads, highways, bridges are operating and working well. So I just want to share that and start off my remarks today.

I have some numbers here that I would like to share. So far in 2015, this year, four States—Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Wyoming—have shelved some \$805 million in projects due to the uncertainty over Federal funds. Again, the uncertainty is over roughly half the money that they are going to spend on roads, highways, and bridges. It comes from Federal user fees, Federal taxes.

Our transportation system—at least the way we fund it—has been broken since 2008. Since that time, in the last 5 or 6 years, we have passed I think 12 short-term patches to the tune of nearly \$74 billion. How do we pay for them? We pay for them with budget gimmicks. That is how we do it. And we pay for them with debt. When we issue debt, we borrow money. We sell Treasury securities, and we sell them around the world. Among the countries that buy them are China and the Chinese people. We are then beholden to them as our creditors. It puts us in a situation that I do not find too comfortable. My guess is some of you don't either.

There are better alternatives to fund our Nation's transportation system. I only mentioned a couple of them. I feel as if I have not a magic wand but the ability to see into the future. Twenty years from now, I think there is a pretty good chance that we will have figured out how to pay for roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems by figuring out how to make sure those folks who use transportation pay for it. One of the ways we are trying to do that—they have been trying to do that in Oregon for almost 10 years. They have something called road user charge. Some people have heard of that term. More people have heard of something called vehicle miles traveled, and the ability to say your vehicle—I don't care what kind of vehicle it is, but we know how many miles that vehicle travels on a road, highway or bridge in the course of a year. There is fee that is attached to that. Some people are uncomfortable with that because it has implications on privacy. I can understand that.

In Oregon they are trying to figure it out. They have got about 5,000 vehicles—at least—in their system. They

are sort of—I like to say States are laboratories of democracy. In this case, Oregon is trying to be the laboratory. I believe California is looking at being another laboratory to figure out we make something like vehicle miles traveled work in a State. Oregon is good-sized state, and California is a very big State. If they can do that, then we will learn from them, not just at the State level but perhaps at the Federal level as well.

I think we will be funding projects—not just now but in the future, 20 years from now—through tooling. When I travel back to my native State of West Virginia, I go through West Virginia and I pay tolls. When I was a little kid and they first built the turnpike, we would have to stop and find change—whatever—stop every 5 or 10 miles. You don't do that anymore. We don't do that anymore in Delaware either, because we have—in Delaware and I think in West Virginia—highway-speed E-ZPass. It is an express E-ZPass. You go through, and it is charged to your credit card that you have already established when you establish your E-ZPass plan.

Also, we now have the technology that even if folks don't have an E-ZPass—in some tolling operations around the country, a person drives through in their vehicle, car, truck, van, whatever the system—when you go through the toll plaza, they don't collect a toll. They have a highly accurate camera with the ability to take pictures of the vehicle and great pictures of your license plates, and then they send a bill to the owner of that vehicle. So you don't even have to have high-speed E-ZPass. But a combination of those two, systems like E-ZPass and systems like the one I just described where people drive through with no E-ZPass or a similar system, but they actually get billed for it later on. They do not get billed and fined; they just get billed for it. If you don't pay it, then I am sure something will happen.

But I think 20 years from now we will have something that looks a lot like that. My guess is we will also have user fees, but not everybody likes tolling. As it turns out, Oregon has been working on road user charge, also known as vehicle miles traveled. They have been working on it for 10 years, and they have got 5,000 people in the plan. So this is not going to happen in 5 years or 10 years, but maybe 20 years for both a combination of tolling and vehicle miles traveled.

There is another idea out there that is used in some places around the country. It is called 3P or P3. When I first heard that, I thought they were talking about P-3 airplanes. I spent a lot of years of my life as a naval flight officer in P-3 aircraft. I used to command them, but they were not talking about airplanes when they were talking about P3. They were talking about pub-

lic-private partnerships. We have some pretty good examples of where that is working. We can learn from those in different States. I think that can be part of the future. It ought to be.

Put the three of them together, is that a comprehensive plan? Not entirely, but it is pretty good approach. It is a heck of a lot better than what we have been doing: pension smoothing, increasing fees for TSA. Instead of improving aviation safety, we put the money in the transportation trust fund. Raising Customs fees—instead of putting the money in ways to make our borders most robust and so forth, we put some of that money in the transportation trust fund.

We sell oil out of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve—I think probably at a bad time to sell it, when the price is really low. They say: Buy low, sell high. Well, if we are going to sell petroleum out of the petroleum reserve—the price of oil is about as low right now as it has been in a long, long time.

I am told that—I don't know if it was last week or the week before—there are 10,000 gasoline stations across the country where they are selling gasoline for less than \$2 a gallon. I don't know what they are charging in West Virginia, but I filled up my Chrysler Town and Country minivan, which has 403,000 miles on it, and I paid \$2.15 a gallon. There are some places in Delaware where people are paying less and in neighboring New Jersey where they are paying less. But right now, it does not make much sense to sell oil out of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. There are some people who want to and who want to use that money to go into the transportation trust fund. I think that is foolish. We have to be smarter than that.

I have another chart I want us to take a look at. I want to thank “Vanna White” here for putting up these charts. I will pay for that later. This chart talks about legislation—it is kind of ironic. That is S. 1994. I mentioned earlier how the last time we raised the Federal gasoline and diesel tax or fee was in 1993 when we raised it to 18 cents for gas and about 23, 24 cents for diesel. They have been there for 22 years.

One of the things I have done is introduce legislation, and I have done so with DICK DURBIN, who used to serve on the Bowles-Simpson Commission—remember the Bowles-Simpson Commission. I thought it was a great approach to figure out how to seriously address our Nation's deficit in a variety of ways. One of the ways that Bowles-Simpson said we should address our deficit situation—I will say our budget deficits are down—topped out, I think, in 2009 at \$1.4 trillion. This year we are down about \$400 billion. Is that an improvement? Yes, it is. Do we have some ways to go? We sure do.

What Bowles-Simpson suggested is that we raise the gas or diesel tax at

the Federal level by a penny each quarter, a penny every 3 months for 15 quarters. So effectively you would be raising the gas or diesel tax by 3 or 4 cents a year for 4 years and index it going forward.

What Senator DURBIN and I have introduced is actually something quite similar to that, which a majority of the Bowles-Simpson Commission voted for. It is called the Traffic Relief Act. What it calls for is an annual 4 cent gas increase in gas and diesel. That would be for a total of about 4 years—4 cents a year for 4 years. After that, we would index those user fees, those taxes, to the rate of inflation. The rate of inflation is pretty low lately, so they would not go up very much if the rate of inflation stays where it is. If the rate of inflation rears its head again, then that would be different.

A fellow who was a member of my staff back in Wilmington, DE—when we introduced this bill, the price for gas at a station in the neighborhood where his family buys gas—in the space of 2 days, the price of gas either went up or went down by 13 cents. It went up in 2 days, 13 cents. As we know, the price of oil moves up and down all of the time.

My own belief is—and I have heard this from a lot of people—there are a lot of days or a lot of weeks where the price of gas or diesel goes up a lot more than 4 cents. Right now our world is not literally awash in oil but certainly figuratively awash in oil. One of the reasons the price at the pump for gas and diesel is so low—as I said earlier, a couple of weeks ago there were 10,000 gas stations across the country selling gas for less than two bucks a gallon. One of the reasons it is so low is because the United States is producing a lot more than we have for some time, and so are a bunch of other countries, including the OPEC nations.

With the approval of the Iran agreement, as the Iranians comply with the agreement—my hope is that they will comply in spirit and in letter, and then as a result of that, they will be in a position to begin selling. They have only been selling some of their oil products to customers, including I think India, maybe Japan, China, but they will be able to sell more products. A world that is already awash in oil is going to find that Iran, which I think has the fourth greatest oil reserves in the world, is going to be back in the market and selling their own products. I believe that will keep the prices from rising anytime soon. And I think there is reason to believe that the price at the pump, which is already quite low, might even go down further. Time will tell.

I have one last poster board here I wish to look at for just a moment.

Our legislation—this is a typo here. It says that it restores \$240 billion for the highway trust fund. It is not \$240 billion, it is \$220 billion. Still, compared to what? Compared to nothing.

Compared to doing nothing, it is a whole lot. If we had a status quo, any kind of a status quo increase—a highway bill or a transportation bill—we would use maybe half of that. So what we are talking about is double, just getting by. And we have such a backlog of work to do, but it doesn't make sense just to push enough money to these projects to get by.

This would provide roughly twice that amount of money and would maybe not raise our GDP by 1.5 percent, but it would sure raise it. It may not put 1.8 million people to work over the next year, but it would put a lot of people to work and people who like to do these jobs.

The money would fully fund the Federal highway and transit programs in our country. It would increase investments in upgrades and in repairs as well. It would do it in a way that doesn't drop a huge burden on users of these products—gasoline and diesel—all in one fell swoop. It is like 4 cents a year over 4 years. After 4 years, there will be a 16-cent increase.

People say: Well, what is that in terms of practical impact? What does that actually mean for somebody?

I am told that it is actually—I don't drink a lot of coffee, but my friends who do get a small coffee over in the Dirksen Building across the street. They pay \$1.70, and if they get a medium-sized coffee, it is like \$2.50, and a really big one is maybe a little bit over \$3. This is not really fancy coffee but just a regular cup of coffee with cream and sugar, and the price is maybe \$2 or \$3. Literally for the price of a cup of coffee a week, for those of us who use roads, highways, bridges, who buy gas, who buy diesel, we could have a much better transportation system. This isn't \$10 a week or \$20 a week or \$30 a week. That increase over 4 years—4 cents a year for 4 years—without the data for the average driver, that is about a cup of coffee a week. Is that too much to pay for roads, highways, bridges, and a good transit system? I don't think so.

There is an interest in offsetting some of these increases with a regressive tax, but there is an interest in offsetting some of that by making some tweaks like Michigan is going to do with their State earned-income tax credit with a Republican Governor and Republican legislature. I think there is maybe a lesson or something we can do there to help address the regressive nature of this tax.

I close by saying I come to this floor from time to time and I mention one of the things I love to do. I don't know if you ever do this, Madam President, but I love to ask people who have been married a long time "What is the secret for being married for a long time?" I have done it for years. I have asked this question of hundreds of people who are older folks who have been

married 30 years, 40 years, 50 years, 60 years, 70 years. I ask them "What is the secret?" I get hilarious answers. I get some that are very poignant and others are just plain memorable for a lot of reasons. But the best answer I have ever gotten is there are two C's. What are the two C's? Communicate and compromise.

That is not only the secret for a vibrant marriage between two people, it is also the secret for a vibrant democracy, to communicate and compromise. I would add a third C, and that is to collaborate. What the American people said to us last November—whether they are Republicans, Democrats, or Independents—is that they want us to communicate, they want us to compromise, and they want us to collaborate, and we need to do that.

One idea I have not mentioned here bears mentioning. It was an idea that was endorsed last year by the administration and was endorsed last year by the immediate past chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, with whom our President served, Dave Camp. He retired earlier this year as a Congressman from Michigan, a very good person. What they proposed is international tax reform. What both Chairman Camp at the time and the administration said is that there are about \$2 trillion in overseas profits of American companies. They are just keeping it over there and they are not that anxious to bring it back because they don't want to have to pay—I don't know—35 percent, 33 percent, 32 percent, 29 percent. They are looking for a lower tax break and then to bring it back when it makes sense.

The administration and Dave Camp said: Let's deem it repatriated.

The Treasury said: All right. You have money over there, American companies. Bring it back. It is going to be taxed at about 10 percent.

That was the proposal.

The administration said: American companies that have money over there, we want you to bring it back. You won't be taxed at 35 percent or 25 percent, but you will be taxed at about 14 percent.

That is an idea, and it is an interesting idea. It doesn't solve the problem forever. It provides one-time money—quite a bit of it—for roads, bridges, rail, and for airports as well. It doesn't solve the problem permanently, but it surely gives us a lot of money. Not every company likes that idea, and not everybody who serves here likes that idea, but it is a serious idea, and it is one that deserves a lot of consideration, and I hope we will do that.

Let me just say this. At the end of the day, if we come to the end of this calendar year—when we run out of money yet again for roads, highways, and bridges and we say "Well, what are we going to do now?"—we will have not just the States I pointed out here in

yellow and red that are bailing on projects, delaying and stopping them in some cases, we will have a lot more yellow and a whole lot more red on the map I had up earlier. What do we do about it? Do we just do what we have done for 5 years and kick the can down the road yet again and look for cats and dogs and wherever we can find a few bucks and sort of throw them at the problem for a while, not make a real committed effort? Frankly, we are not giving the voters in this country any reason to feel encouraged about our courage. I hope we don't do that.

If at the end of the day we don't do some kind of international tax reform, good ideas such as expanding tolling, vehicle miles traveled, and public-private partnerships—those are all good ideas, and I hope we grow them all. We are not going to have them all in place in the kind of scope we need by the end of this year.

If we find ourselves at a time and place where we run out of money, where the States are looking to us and we are running out of money at the Federal level—and the price of gas is two bucks a gallon at gas stations across America—my hope is people will say: You know, for the price of a cup of coffee, I could have good roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems again. For the price of a cup of coffee a week, I could have that. Forty cents a week, maybe.

Maybe that is not a bad deal for their family or for our country. I want people to think about that.

In the weeks to come, I am going to be talking a lot about this proposal. My hope is that as time goes by, people will say—like my dad used to say in West Virginia when my sister and I were little kids growing up and they were in West Virginia—my dad used to say to my sister and me after we had done yet another boneheaded stunt: Just use some common sense. He said that a lot. He did not say it that nicely. But I think this may be an opportunity for us to use some of that common sense here, and I know he would approve, and at the end of the day, so would the voters of America.

There are a number of States that have actually done what I am talking about. They have raised their user fees, and in some cases they have phased them in over a couple of years. It is interesting what happened in the elections last year where the State legislators had voted to do that, where they raised the user fees in order to would pay for roads, highways, and bridges. Interestingly enough, the legislators who voted for that—Republicans—didn't get thrown out of office. Ninety-five percent of them were reelected. They won their primaries, they won their general elections, and they were reelected. The Democrats who voted for those modest user fees increases didn't get thrown out of office either.

In the States that raised the money locally to make the improvements that were needed in transportation, 90 percent of the Democrats won their primaries and they won their general elections. They were reelected.

People want us to make hard choices here. They don't want us to continue to kid them or fool them; they want us to do the real thing. They want us to work together. They want us to get things done. They want us to strengthen our economic recovery, and this is not a bad way to do that.

With that, I see a great American from New Mexico has joined us. He is somebody who has worked with the Senator from Louisiana and the Senator who was just here before, Mr. INHOFE, the chairman of the EPW Committee, to try to find a good way for us to strengthen the economic recovery and at the same time to further clean our air, promote public health, and do good things for our public environment. I wish to say to TOM UDALL how proud I am to be his colleague and how much I appreciate his leadership position on a very important issue, an environmental law that hasn't been updated in almost 40 years and, frankly, doesn't work. It has never worked, and we need to do something about it. Under his leadership, along with our other two colleagues, my hope is that we will. I look forward to what he has to say.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

TSCA

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, thank you very much for the recognition.

I wish to say to Senator CARPER about TSCA that we have been working on—you were one of the early Senators who really cared about this issue. You were involved with it, and you helped it develop. Over time, we did a marvelous thing in terms of improving what Senator Frank Lautenberg had put on the table, bipartisan—he developed a lot of Republican and Democratic support—and you were a key player all the way through.

So we know—we think at this point, you and I believe—and we do a lot of visiting around on both sides of the aisle—that this is ready to go. We now have I think 53 cosponsors. We are developing more cosponsors every day, and we don't think there is any real hostility toward the bill in terms of wanting amendments that aren't relevant. That is a key factor for us, and both sides need to focus on that.

I would like to express my appreciation to you for what you have done on TSCA to help blend it into and make it into a bipartisan product. We have been trying—you know, it has been very busy with the Pope in town, with the sequester facing us and the shut-down and things such as that. We have

been trying to get onto the floor to talk about this, and I think we are going to continue to do that in the future. But it is tremendously important that this gets some floor time now, and I know you have been working on that with me.

Do you see this as a product that is better than current law? I mean, my sense is it is much better than the current law.

Mr. CARPER. If I could respond to my friend, I have a friend who—when you ask him “How are you doing?” he says “Compared to what?” And when we talk about the legislation initially introduced by Senator Lautenberg, Senator VITTER, and now coauthored by you, Senator VITTER, and Senator INHOFE, with input from a number of us, I always say: Well, compared to what?

The idea here is to ensure that the EPA does its due diligence on toxic substances in this country. And there are thousands or tens of thousands of chemicals—you know better than I do—that exist in our environment—in our air, our ground, in water—tens of thousands. Are they all toxic? No. But my recollection—correct me if I am wrong in this, but I think that out of those thousands, tens of thousands, I believe the EPA in the last 38 years has actually done their due diligence on really fewer than 200, maybe even fewer than 10 when you get down to it, maybe even just 5.

And you say: How long has this bill been around, this law been around? Thirty-eight years. And they have now finished work on five highly toxic substances? If we can't do better than that, we ought to quit, and this is not the time to quit.

It is sort of like football. You take the kickoff, and you are in your own territory and you start marching down the field. You get into the other team's territory, get down to the 20-yard line, and you are in the red zone—not in the end zone, but you are in the red zone.

I think with your leadership and that of our colleagues, we are in the red zone. We need to bring this onto the floor with 53 cosponsors equally divided between Democrats and Republicans. There is a lot of interest in the House, and I think there is support from the administration. We ought to get this done.

Thank you.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, it bears repeating. Senator CARPER is very modest, and he is a humble man, but he has done a lot to help bring us to this point. I think he is one of the Senators here who work the best across the aisle, and that is what has happened. We have had a lot of Senators who have wanted to work across the aisle on this bill. As Senator CARPER knows, on the Environment and Public Works Committee, he was joined by Senator BOOKER, Senator WHITEHOUSE,

and Senator MERKLEY in terms of helping to mark up the bill and make it a better product.

When the Senator talks about going across the finish line, with 53 cosponsors about evenly divided between Democrat and Republican—I think it is almost exactly even—that sends a signal to our majority leader that this has tremendous support in both caucuses. I believe the Presiding Officer here is on the bill. So everybody standing on the Senate floor right now is on what is a good, bipartisan product.

So we are going to work very carefully in the next couple of days to see that attention is brought to this, and hopefully we will have an opportunity to have a debate with amendments and then meet with the House. The House, as Senator CARPER knows, has already passed a piece of legislation, I think 378 to 1—1 person in the House opposing it. So we have a bill that is alive and ready to go, and we need to get it out of the Senate so we can conference it with the House and get it to the President's desk for his signature.

I don't know if the Senator has any other thoughts on what is the best way to move forward. I mean, obviously we have to be bipartisan, but at this particular point, is it the Senator's sense we are ready to go, from everything he has seen from the Environment and Public Works Committee and these other Senators in various places? Is it ready to go?

Mr. CARPER. If I may respond to my colleague's question, I don't care if the majority leader is a Republican or a Democrat—they are always trying to figure out how do we have time on the calendar to get this stuff done. They are always looking at ways. And one of the best ways to ensure legislation actually fits into a reasonably small period of time is to line up bipartisan support.

I tell my colleague, I have been here in the Senate for a while, and this is almost a picture-book way to pass legislation: Work it up through the grassroots—Democratic Lautenberg and Republican VITTER and now with your role and others. There are not many bills in the Senate that have 26 or 27 Democrats and an equal number of Republicans.

Has everything been worked out? No. Is there a need for amendments? Yes. Is there a need for a filibuster? No. We should bring it to the floor.

I think we should go to the majority leader and visit with him early and often and continue to remind him. And those who believe in this, whether they happen to be on the environmental side or happen to be folks in the health care arena or maybe on the manufacturing side—and we thank those who have helped us draft this—we ask for them not to be silent about it but to urge not just us but the leadership to find time—a couple of days—to bring this bill to the floor and just get it done.

With that, I say to my colleague and the Presiding Officer, if I put down my microphone and pack up my bag, I can have dinner with my wife in the First State of Delaware, and that is my goal. So I will bid you adieu.

Mr. UDALL. I thank the Senator. I wish you Godspeed on that train headed to Wilmington because you have a wonderful wife.

Mr. CARPER. Well, it is not the last train to Clarksville, but it is the next train to Wilmington.

Mr. UDALL. And let me say again that not only on TSCA, as Senator CARPER held, we were going to have speeches earlier in the week, but we were unable, with some of the scheduling issues and everything, to get down here and talk as a group. We had Senator WHITEHOUSE, who was going to come down, and Senator MERKLEY was going to come down, as well as several of the key members of the Environment and Public Works Committee who played such a big role in terms of moving this bill forward.

The person who really kicked this off was Senator Frank Lautenberg. What a star in terms of bipartisanship. I remember working with him when I was on the Environment and Public Works Committee for a long period of time on a very substantive piece of legislation. It was so good, we couldn't find much bipartisanship on it, and he understood that. It got out of the committee. It wasn't ready for prime time here on the floor, and so what we ended up doing was saying we need to go back to square one. Senator Lautenberg took that very seriously. He met with Senator VITTER. Senator MANCHIN played a role in that, and Senator MANCHIN was one of the ones who were going to come to the floor to talk, and he played a role in getting them together. As a result, a bipartisan bill came out in the last Congress. That has continued now for almost 2½ years, and it is a very good product.

Madam President, the American people want a government that works, not one that shuts down to send a message. They want a Congress that moves the Nation forward, not one that grinds to a halt. They want a responsible budget that supports working families and strengthens our economy and creates jobs. These should be our priorities, not an attack on women's health care.

I understand some people have strong views about a woman's right to choose that are different from mine. There are strong differences of opinion on many important issues in this Senate and in the Congress—health care, energy, climate change, foreign policy. We could make a very long list.

I read an insightful quote the other day from my good friend Republican Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER. Senator ALEXANDER said: "If we had a shutdown every time we had a dispute over a contentious issue, the government would

never open." I think that is a very wise observation. We do have many differences, but, most importantly, we must have the broader national interest in mind.

The clock is ticking. Funding runs out in just a few days. We need a clean continuing resolution, and we need it now—a temporary funding bill just to keep the lights on.

Have we forgotten what happened 2 years ago? The people of my home State of New Mexico have not forgotten. We were badly hurt by the shutdown then, and we would be badly hurt by a shutdown now.

In Los Alamos and Sandia, our two DOE labs are working on modernizing aging nuclear weapons systems to keep them safe and secure. It is foolish to cause unnecessary disruption to projects of this significance where there is no margin for error. Each of these labs employs thousands of people, many of them scientists at the top of their field. Why would we threaten their paychecks and the important national security work they are doing?

We have three Air Force bases in New Mexico—Cannon, Kirtland, and Holloman—all serving a variety of unique national security missions for our country. White Sands Missile Range, unlike any facility in the country, provides critical research and testing for future technologies. Shutdowns and sequestration send a terrible message to the men and women at these facilities. It limits their effectiveness and harms the economies in nearby communities, such as Clovis, Albuquerque, Alamogordo, and Dona Ana County.

Shutdowns mean lost jobs and lost revenue, all in the face of a struggling economy. We cannot afford another government shutdown, and we cannot afford a return to sequester cuts. These are bad choices. These are self-inflicted wounds.

A clean CR will keep the government open, but we need a long-term cure. We need a bipartisan budget agreement—one that makes smart investments and meets the real needs of American families.

The people of my State work hard. Many are still struggling. The economy of New Mexico has not yet recovered completely from the recession. We know New Mexicans want us to come together and push for a stronger recovery. New Mexicans are eager for solutions, and they are tired of these political games that threaten jobs and weaken our economy. Yet here we are once again facing a manufactured crisis.

We all know that in fiscal year 2016, which begins next week, the Murray-Ryan budget deal will expire and we will be left with a return to sequestration.

As ranking member of the interior subcommittee on the Committee on

Appropriations, I would like to talk about that today because the impacts of the funding levels required by the Budget Control Act are clear and they are very destructive. Just look at the Senate Interior appropriations bill reported out of the committee in June. To stay within the spending limits we faced under sequestration, it slashes more than \$2 billion from the President's budget request. That means it doesn't provide enough funding for basic water infrastructure or to protect our public lands or to fulfill our trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

I know my chairman, Senator MURKOWSKI, did the very best she could with the allocation she was given, but here is the reality: The Budget Control Act caps don't meet the needs of our Nation. They fail critical programs. They fail our communities in New Mexico and nationwide.

Our Nation faces an infrastructure crisis. Yet the Senate bill cuts grants to States for water and sewer infrastructure by more than \$500 million below fiscal year 2015 levels.

Actions have consequences, and here are the consequences of the Senate bill: Some 230 communities will not have their water projects funded, 14,000 construction jobs will not be created, and \$1 billion in matching and leveraged funds from State partners will be lost.

The Senate bill also shortchanges the National Park Service with \$318 million less than the President requested. That means 1,000 fewer park rangers. That means \$150 million less to maintain our national parks even though the Service will celebrate its centennial in 2016 and will host a record number of visitors at national parks nationwide.

We have 15 national parks in New Mexico, including our newest national park, the Valles Caldera National Preserve. These parks and other public lands in my State are critical not only for conservation but for our economy. A shutdown would be a disaster; sequestration is just a slower moving disaster. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Bandelier National Monument, Tent Rocks National Monument, Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge, and many other sites are key economic assets. These sites help grow jobs, they help communities grow, and they are great conservation assets in communities across the country. We cannot keep asking them to do more and more on less. Yet, without a sensible budget, that is exactly where we are headed in New Mexico and across the Nation.

The Senate Interior appropriations bill also cuts more than \$300 million from the President's request for the Indian Health Service. We have a solemn trust responsibility to Native Americans, and we are failing. Again, these are not just numbers. The impact is very real and very painful. It means

the Indian Health Service will fund 20,000 fewer doctor visits in 2016 and nearly 1,000 fewer hospital stays. It means falling further behind. We need a responsible budget to meet our obligation to the Indian Health Service and other tribal programs, such as housing, school construction, Indian education. All of those are being hurt by this sequestration budget.

We cannot continue being short-sighted. We can't keep shortchanging programs that make a real difference in the lives of all Americans. This includes art and cultural programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and funding for our national forests and wildlife refuges. And the list goes on and on. The time is now, and we are running out of time. We are on the wrong train, on the wrong track, and going nowhere.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Let's pass a clean CR, and let's work together to pass a budget that actually meets the needs of our Nation, with sensible funding levels for defense and nondefense programs alike.

Before I wrap up my remarks, I wish to call attention to another deadline that is fast approaching. The authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund will expire on September 30 if this Congress doesn't act. Recently, I was one of 53 Members who called on the leadership of this Chamber to pass an extension of the law, and I want to reiterate that call today. The Land and Water Conservation Fund just celebrated its 50th birthday. It enjoys strong bipartisan support because the idea behind it is so simple and so powerful. When this Nation develops one natural resource—our oil and gas reserves—we invest some of the proceeds in other critical conservation priorities.

For five decades now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has protected our national parks, forests, and other public lands. It helps ensure hunting, fishing, and recreational access, and it improves and expands our local parks and recreation facilities. The program has been a tremendous success and has had a tremendous impact on my State, from urban refuges—such as the Valle de Oro—to wide open preserves such as the Valles Caldera. It provides crucial funding to preserve open spaces, strengthen the economy, and enhance our way of life.

LWCF allows us to leverage today's resources to protect vital lands and waters for future generations. Allowing the law to expire breaks that compact. It doesn't make any sense, and it doesn't have to happen. We shouldn't let the Land and Water Conservation Fund expire, even for a single day. I call on this Chamber to act swiftly to permanently authorize this important program and ensure that it is fully funded.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, those of us who believe in protecting innocent and precious life may have lost a vote today, but we are steadily winning a larger argument—a critical argument that goes to the heart of who we want to be as a society. We can feel momentum for life on the rise just as we see extremism on the other side increasing. By placing their allegiance with the far left instead of women, Democrats are making a losing bet they will come to regret over the long term.

Today, however, we must grapple with the challenges of the present. Democrats' insistence on blocking the strategy pursued today means we have to consider the options now before us. The reality is that the government will shut down next week if Congress does not act.

The president of Right to Life said to those of us who believe in protecting life:

There are two different roads we can take. One is to insist that no more money go to Planned Parenthood and cause a government shutdown (which won't result in actually defunding Planned Parenthood). The other is to take a slightly longer-term approach, taking advantage of the fact that we have the attention of the country as probably never before. . . . Every well-informed pro-lifer wants to defund Planned Parenthood. I want to defund Planned Parenthood. There are wonderful pro-life men and women in Congress who want to defund Planned Parenthood. And, certainly National Right to Life wants to defund Planned Parenthood. The difference here is in strategy.

This is not the end of this debate or this discussion.

I urge colleagues to join me in supporting the legislation I am about to file which would ensure that the government remains open.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House which was received earlier today.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 719) entitled "An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes," with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2689

(Purpose: Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 with an amendment numbered 2689.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2690 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2689

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2690 to amendment No. 2689.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2691

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to refer the House message on H.R. 719 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2691.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the House message on H.R. 719 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2691.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2692

Mr. McCONNELL. I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2692 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "2" and insert "3"

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2693 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2692

Mr. McCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2693 to amendment No. 2692.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3" and insert "4"

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I have a cloture motion at the desk for the motion to concur with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 with an amendment, No. 2689.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Orrin G. Hatch, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Michael B. Enzi, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Lamar Alexander, Thad Cochran, Chuck Grassley, Kelly Ayotte, Susan M. Collins, Deb Fischer, Richard Burr.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to expedite consideration of the continuing resolution, I have now offered the CR language as an amendment to the House message on H.R. 719. Using this bill as a vehicle means that we can get the CR over to the House more quickly with fewer steps in the process.

Members should expect a cloture vote to occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of Elder Richard G. Scott, a man whose humble example and unwavering conviction had a deep and meaningful impact on my spiritual life. For nearly three decades, Elder Scott served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On Tuesday, he passed away from causes incident to age. Although millions mourn his death, we find peace in the knowledge that he is reunited with his beloved wife, Jeanene.

As a missionary, a father, and an apostle, Elder Scott worked tirelessly and served selflessly. Many of us were inspired by his counsel, and even more were blessed by his kindness. He was a man of great faith and unbending principle, who in his own quiet way spent decades sharing the light of Christ with people throughout the world.

Elder Scott's beginnings were as humble as his demeanor. When he was just a boy, his father taught him the virtues of manual labor, instilling in him the desire to craft, toy, and tinker with anything he could get his hands on. It was evident from an early age that Elder Scott would be a talented engineer, and he pursued that field of study when he enrolled in The George Washington University. To support himself through school, Elder Scott took odd jobs that gave him the chance to work with his hands. He spent summers fishing on lobster boats, logging in the forests of Utah, and repairing railroads for Union Pacific.

While in college, he met Jeanene Watkins, the woman who would win his love and forever change his life. Quickly and effortlessly, Elder Scott fell for Jeanene, but before he could ask for her hand in marriage, she challenged him to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder Scott's decision to embark on an LDS mission to Uruguay was the opening chapter in a long life of dedicated service. He returned from Uruguay with his faith refined and his testimony fortified.

With this newfound conviction in Christ, Elder Scott married Jeanene in the Manti, UT, temple; and together they started a family. For Elder Scott, his family would be an anchor throughout a long and successful career as a nuclear engineer on the immediate staff of renowned U.S. Navy Admiral

Hyman Rickover. For over a decade, Elder Scott served his Nation, but he was again called to serve God when he returned to South America as the President of the Argentina North Mission. As a missionary president, he directed all proselytizing and service efforts for hundreds of young volunteers.

After returning from Argentina with his family, Elder Scott continued his ecclesiastical service, first, as a regional representative for the Church in both North and South America, and later, as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. In October 1988, he was ordained to be an apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Scott visited congregations of Latter-day Saints gathered throughout the world. He spoke fluent Portuguese and nearly impeccable Spanish. When possible, he took special care to address each congregation he visited in their native tongue. But there was always one language he spoke better than any other, the language of empathy.

Elder Scott was no stranger to heartbreak. In fact, he came to know it very well. Two of his children preceded him in death, and his beloved wife, Jeanene, passed away in 1995. But amid tragedy, he found peace and healing through faith in Christ. Sadness sowed the seeds of compassion, and his capacity for empathy was boundless.

When he spoke, he spoke as one who knew intimately well the sorrow that stems from suffering, but also the comfort that comes from healing. In all things, he communicated love. Whether through words of counsel or quiet acts of service, he radiated the goodness of God and shared it abundantly with others.

Mr. President, I will be forever grateful for Elder Richard G. Scott—his life, his love, and his example. I will miss Elder Scott dearly, as will all those who knew him. I send my deepest condolences to his family. May God comfort them in this time of grief, and may his love be with them always.

DETENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AZERBAIJAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last year I expressed my grave concern about the Government of Azerbaijan's harassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders, journalists, and other civil society activists. Since then, the state of human rights in Azerbaijan has further deteriorated amid condemnation from President Obama and officials of other governments, as well as the European Union and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. I, too, wish to reiterate my dismay at the mistreatment of these brave individuals, and call for the release of all political prisoners in Azerbaijan, including Leyla and Arif Yunus.

Imprisoned and denied access to justice for over a year, Leyla and Arif Yunus are examples of the many activists and critics of the government whom President Ilham Aliyev seeks to silence. Their arrest last year coincided with the release of their report on politically motivated detentions, and since then their health has reportedly suffered significantly. Recently they were sentenced to 8½ and 7 years in prison, respectively, and face further prosecution.

Leyla and Arif Yunus, and all other political prisoners in Azerbaijan including journalist Khadija Ismayilova, who on September 1 was sentenced to 7½ years, should be freed immediately. In addition, and in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights to which it is party, the Government of Azerbaijan, which recently chaired the Council of Europe, should uphold the provisions of its own constitution and end the persecution of civil society members, journalists, and political activists who are guilty of nothing more than peaceful expression.

ENDING THE SCOURGE OF LANDMINES IN MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week marked an important milestone in the campaign to rid the world of anti-personnel landmines. On September 17, Mozambique, where two decades ago an estimated 200,000 unexploded landmines were left over from a brutal 15-year civil war, became the first country with large-scale mine contamination to have all known minefields cleared. While accidents due to unknown mines and other unexploded ordnance in Mozambique will occasionally occur in the future as they still do in Europe 70 years after World War II, the number is a tiny fraction of what it once was, and it will continue to decline.

The State Department recognized this milestone in a statement, which included the following:

Since 1993, when Mozambique emerged from decades of conflict as one of the world's most landmine-affected nations, the United States has been proud to partner with the people of Mozambique, investing more than \$55 million toward improving the safety and security of local communities through the U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction program.

Through that partnership—which includes the international donor community and humanitarian demining organizations—we have worked diligently to safely clear landmines and unexploded ordnance, prevent injuries through community outreach and education, and provide medical and social services to survivors of accidents involving these legacies of past conflicts.

I have spoken many times in this Chamber about these indiscriminate weapons, which are triggered by the victim, whether a soldier or an unsuspecting child. They linger for days, weeks, years, and even decades

after armed conflicts end. They destroy lives as well as livelihoods, making fields unworkable and roads impassable, crippling the economies of already impoverished communities. In recent years the United States has made important contributions to the worldwide eradication of landmines, and I have long supported funding for the State Department's humanitarian demining programs and for assistance for mine victims through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Leahy War Victims Fund, but the job is far from done.

The painstaking work of HALO Trust and other dedicated organizations and individuals in Mozambique demonstrates what is possible. We used the Leahy War Victims Fund there, starting back in 1989, to provide artificial limbs, wheelchairs, and rehabilitation for victims of mines. Melissa Wells, our outstanding Ambassador to Mozambique at the time, was a strong supporter of that program. Thousands of people have regained their mobility as a result. My wife Marcelle, a registered nurse, traveled to Mozambique and visited some of them more than two decades ago. With this declaration, Mozambicans can live with far less fear of being maimed or killed while working in their fields, walking to school, or just stepping outside of their homes.

This is a time to commend the people and Government of Mozambique and the courageous deminers, as well as those who have helped the victims of mines rebuild their lives. But as one who has worked to stop the use of landmines ever since my legislation to halt U.S. exports of these weapons was first enacted back in 1992, I must emphasize that landmines continue to threaten innocent people in many other countries.

We have come a long way since 1994 when President Clinton, in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, called on all countries to rid the world of landmines. But we have not yet achieved that goal, and we should rededicate ourselves to eliminating this scourge from the Earth. The best way for the United States to do that is to join the 162 signatories to the Ottawa Treaty banning the production, use, export, and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, due to the Jewish holiday, I was unable to attend votes this week. Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 36, against the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2685, and against the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2669.

REQUIRING A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to praise Senate passage earlier this week of legislation I authored, S. 1632, to help combat the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group. I am hopeful that our colleagues in the House will pass the bill quickly so that it can go to the President's desk for signature.

Boko Haram is a notorious terrorist organization. Less well known, however, is what the name means: "Western education is forbidden." This descriptive moniker helps explain the organization's determination to terrorize young girls who seek an education—girls who seek nothing more than a better life and a path to independence.

Following the horrific kidnapping of 276 girls more than a year ago, Boko Haram has continued to commit barbaric acts of violence against civilians. According to the Congressional Research Service, Boko Haram may have killed more than 11,000 people, with more than 5,500 people killed in 2014 alone. Boko Haram has also pledged allegiance to ISIS, a fellow terrorist organization, in an attempt to further their reach and increase their ability to intimidate the citizens of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. We cannot sit idly by while Boko Haram continues to terrorize women, girls, and religious minorities in these African nations.

Last year, in response to the kidnapping of the schoolgirls, I worked with Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and garnered the support of all 20 women Senators in urging Secretary of State John Kerry to seek Boko Haram's addition to the United Nations al-Qaeda Sanctions List. Following this letter, the United Nations Security Council voted to subject Boko Haram to a complete asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo.

This year, I am again leading a bipartisan legislative effort to address the threats posed by Boko Haram. Specifically, my bipartisan bill, which now awaits consideration in the House of Representatives, calls on the U.S. Departments of State and Defense and their relevant partners to work together in creating a 5-year strategy to counter these increasing threats. Co-sponsored by 18 of my Senate colleagues, this bill also signals a renewed congressional commitment to combating Boko Haram and bolstering U.S. efforts throughout the region.

While I am pleased that this legislation and previous efforts continue to move us forward in the fight against Boko Haram, more must be done. I will continue to work with my colleagues to create and enact legislation aimed at countering the violence and terror spread by Boko Haram.

We have a window of opportunity to change the course of the fight against

this intensifying terrorist threat, and we must seize the opportunity. We must also ensure that the United States, as a world leader, is providing the assistance necessary to make this strategy successful.

We must never forget that the girls of Nigeria were targeted simply because they chose to pursue an education. We must send a message to women and girls around the world that their safety and well-being matters, that everyone deserves the opportunity to seek an education. We must also send a clear message to Boko Haram that their appalling acts of violence have no place in this world.

CHILD SUPPORT ASSISTANCE BILL

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the National Child Support Enforcement Association in support of the Child Support Assistance Act of 2015 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION,
September 17, 2015.

Hon. PATRICK TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR TOOMEY: The National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) is pleased to support your bill, the Child Support Assistance Act of 2015. Your bill will make even more efficient and effective the collection and distribution of child support payments to the custodial family. The targeted language of the measure strikes a provision of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) which requires a child support agency to provide 10-day notice by certified or registered mail to the non-custodial parent (NCP) to advise him or her that a consumer report will be requested to verify income and location of employment.

The custodial and non-custodial parent both continue to have a full range of opportunities throughout the legal process to contest and correct information, including information provided by a consumer report. This technical change affecting only child support will further streamline the administration of the program to ensure that payments are made to the family as quickly as possible.

As you know, the House Financial Services Committee passed a companion bill (H.R. 2091) earlier this year by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 56-2.

As your bill moves through the legislative process, we stand ready to work with you to ensure its enactment into law, including providing additional comments from our members if questions arise about the effect of the bill's language and impact.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tom Joseph, NCSEA Washington Representative at tj@wafed.com.

Sincerely,

ANN MARIE RUSKIN,
Interim Executive Director.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Conway, NH, a town in Carroll County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

Conway is located within the Mount Washington Valley and sits in the shadow of the 2,369 foot Black Cap Mountain. The town is encompassed by the Saco River watershed, including both the Swift and Saco Rivers, and holds portions of the White Mountain National Forest to the north and west.

Conway consists of the villages of Conway, North Conway, Center Conway, Redstone, Kearsarge, and Intervale and was first chartered in 1765 by Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth. The town was eventually settled by Joshua Heath, Benjamin Dolloff, and Ebenezer Burbank and is named for British Secretary of State for the Southern Department Henry Seymour Conway. Secretary Conway is often remembered for his opposition to the Stamp Act, thereby in favor of moderate taxation policies for the colonies.

Cathedral Ledge, Echo Lake State Park, and a portion of the Kancamagus Highway are all located in Conway, offering some of most scenic vistas in the State. From atop the ledge, you can look over the town and the surrounding mountains and rivers that make up the valley. "The Kanc," as many locals call it, has the honor of being the highest mountain pass in the Eastern United States with the crest of the road sitting high at 2,855 feet and stretching for 32 miles from Conway to the neighboring town of Lincoln.

Conway is one of the premier tourist destinations in New Hampshire. Every year, the town hosts thousands of visitors who travel north to enjoy the outdoor activities, dining, shopping, and culture of the Mount Washington Valley. Conway is home to hundreds of locally owned businesses, each with its own unique style and flavor. In a single day, a visitor could ride into the mountains aboard the historic Conway Scenic Railroad, canoe down the meandering Saco River, zip-line at the Cranmore Mountain Adventure Park, or virtually visit the home of the "world's worst weather" at the Mount Washington Observatory Museum. And during the winter months, Conway provides ample opportunity for downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and both ice skating and climbing.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Conway on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●

RECOGNIZING ANUPAM KHER

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Anupam Kher, an Indian actor who has inspired many through a legacy of theater and film spanning more than three decades. Anupam Kher is one of India's most prominent theatre and film personalities. His contributions to Hindi and English-language film and culture are tremendous, and his exceptional career as an actor, producer, teacher, and author will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

Born in 1955 in Himachal Pradesh, India, Anupam had a modest upbringing. After graduating from the D.A.V. School, in Shimla, Anupam attended the National School of Drama, to which he would later return as director. He was chair of Central Board of Film Certification from 2003-2004, after which the Government of India awarded him the prestigious Padma Shri for his contributions to Indian cinema. Anupam has appeared in over 100 plays and over 450 films, and he is considered one of the greatest actors of contemporary cinema.

In addition to his dramatic work, Anupam is an active voice for change, and he regularly speaks out against corruption and inequality. The United Nations recently recognized his efforts, honoring him as a "Champion of Gender Equality" for his work on their HeForShe campaign. In 2010, he was appointed as the goodwill ambassador of the Pratham Education Foundation, which strives to improve children's education in India. It is inspiring to see an actor dedicate his time and celebrity to promote social change.

It is an honor to serve a State with one of the largest Indian American diasporas in the country, and we were thrilled to host a talent such as Anupam Kher, whose career has made an indelible impression across the globe. Anupam's commitment to the arts is unwavering, and his myriad contributions to theatrical arts are a testament to his dedication to his craft. Anupam has touched countless lives and has changed the way the world views Bollywood and India. His work is worthy of the highest commendation.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Anupam Kher's continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSS FULLMER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Russ Fullmer, who has been the agricultural manager at Sidney Sugars for 30 years. Russ exemplifies a work ethic that defines Montana, and it is my great honor to honor his successes today.

Russ received his bachelor's of science in geology from the University of Wyoming and has since built a successful professional career. Russ worked for Holly Sugar for 7 years,

taking his skills across the country to California, Wyoming, and Montana.

When Holly Sugar changed ownership in 2002, he continued to loyally serve as the agricultural manager. With his leadership, Sidney Sugars has found much success and produced a record high of 30.4 tons per acre in 2014.

On behalf of all Montanans, we are sad to see him go but so thankful and inspired by his decades of loyal service and hard work.●

CONGRATULATING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 ROGER CAPPS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate CW2 Roger Capps on receiving the Defense of Freedom Medal, honoring his service and sacrifice while working in Afghanistan. It gives me great pleasure to see a member of the Nevada family being recognized with this prestigious medal.

In April of 2013, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps, then a traditional lieutenant colonel, was transporting military equipment across Afghanistan for Columbia Helicopters. During the trip, he was struck by an insurgent-shot bullet that had entered the helicopter by a rare opening in the bulletproof flooring, ultimately shattering his femur and pelvis. Though he will not receive a Purple Heart because he was working as a civilian that day, he will receive this unique Defense of Freedom Medal presented to civilian employees who are killed or wounded while working in support of the Department of Defense. His service remains invaluable to this great Nation.

Even after this difficult day, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps maintained a positive spirit. While recovering from his injuries, he reassessed his military future, ultimately opting to utilize his piloting skills. In May, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps resigned his commission and transferred to the warrant officer corps. He now serves our Nation flying Chinook helicopters for the Army Guard.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps for his bravery in serving the United States of America. His unwavering commitment to serving our Nation demonstrates his genuine selfless character and love for his country. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values, including dedication, courage, and a spirit to persevere in the most difficult times.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps' sacrifice warrants only the greatest respect and care in return.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps has demonstrated unparalleled bravery and positivity. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Warrant Officer 2 Capps on his much-deserved accolade and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING WALDO DE CASTROVERDE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Waldo De Castroverde, a prominent Nevadan whose legacy lives on through the work of his sons. I send my gratitude to Mr. De Castroverde's family as they continue to serve Las Vegas' Hispanic community.

Mr. De Castroverde was a true patriot of Cuba, fighting to bring his country some of our Nation's most important values—freedom and democracy. In 1961, he was a paratrooper and one of 1,400 Cuban exiles who participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion in an attempt to bring greater sovereignty to Cuba, which ultimately led to his imprisonment. After being captured, Mr. De Castroverde was selected on multiple occasions to serve on a commission sent to the United States to negotiate the release of those who participated in the invasion. Two years later, Mr. De Castroverde was freed and moved to the United States with his wife.

Upon arriving to the United States, Mr. De Castroverde and his wife moved to Miami where he taught history at a local high school. In 1978, he moved with his family to Reno, where he worked rigorously to shape a bright future for himself and his family of four children. He worked as a blackjack dealer during the day and he attended law school at night.

Fifteen years later, he moved to Las Vegas and started his own practice in immigration and criminal law. In 2005, he was joined by his two sons, Alex and Orlando, forming the De Castroverde Law Group, which has served as an incredible resource to Las Vegas's Hispanic community.

While we were saddened by the passing of this great Nevadan in 2014, he will always be remembered as an inspiring advocate of liberty and as a role model to Las Vegas's Hispanic community.

I am honored to commend him and his family for their work throughout Las Vegas. Today, I join citizens across our State in celebrating the life of an extraordinary Nevadan, Waldo De Castroverde. ●

RECOGNIZING ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASU PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to acknowledge and commend the leadership at Arizona State University, ASU, for the establishment of the ASU Public Service Academy, which this fall opened its doors to student leaders who aspire to effect a positive change within our country and around the globe through public service. I am pleased to see ASU's recognition of the importance of civilian and military national service in the development of a sense of citizenship among our country's future leaders. I also want to acknowledge the benevolence of ASU president Michael Crow and his wife Sybil Francis whose contributions will help transform the vision of the Public Service Academy into a reality.

In closing, Mr. President, I again want to commend the leadership at ASU for their commitment to public service and to the State of Arizona, and I look forward to witnessing the future contributions of the Public Service Academy. Thank you.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2959. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Agricultural Act of 2014 Nondiscretionary Provisions" (RIN0584-AE48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2960. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0033) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2961. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order; Expanding the Membership of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council and Other Changes" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0089) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2962. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2963. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification of Eligibility of Fleeing Felons" (RIN0584-AE01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2964. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0027) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2965. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern States; Suspension of Marketing Order Provisions" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2966. A communication from the Director of the Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eligibility of Lithuania To Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States" (RIN0583-AD57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2967. A communication from the Director, Budget and Program Management Staff, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Fees and Payment Methods" (RIN0583-AA05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President

of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2968. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluensulfone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9933-02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2969. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Halosulfuron-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9933-00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2970. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2971. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2972. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2973. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2974. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2975. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2976. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "On-Site Completion of Construction of Manufactured Homes" (RIN2502-AI83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2977. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining Administrative Regulations for Public Housing; Revisions to Public Housing Flat Rents" (RIN2577-AC94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2978. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Certain References to Credit Ratings and Amendment to the Issuer Diversification Requirement in the Money Market Fund Rule" (RIN3235-AL02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2979. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2980. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Water Quality Standards Regulatory Revisions; Correction" ((RIN2040-AF16) (FRL No. 9934-33-OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2981. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rule for Hexabromocyclododecane and 1,2,5,6,9,10-Hexabromocyclododecane" ((RIN2070-AJ88) (FRL No. 9927-44)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2982. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9933-22-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2983. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation for Planning Purposes; California; PM10; Technical Amendment" (FRL No. 9934-51-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2984. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Update to the Spokane Regional Clean Air Solid Fuel Burning Device Standards" (FRL No. 9934-61-Region 10) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2985. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9934-40-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2986. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; Removal of Clean Fuel Fleet Program" (FRL No. 9934-52-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2987. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS" (FRL No. 9934-41-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2988. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for the State of Alabama: Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (FRL No. 9934-50-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2989. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for the State of Alabama: Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (FRL No. 9934-49-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2990. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; GA; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program" (FRL No. 9934-53-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2991. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ocean Dumping; Modification of Final Site Designation" (FRL No. 9934-25-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2992. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Imple-

mentation Plans; Texas; Revision to Control Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Storage Tanks and Transport Vessels" (FRL No. 9932-51-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2993. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Sewage Sludge Incinerators" (FRL No. 9933-95-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2994. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration (CISWI) Units" (FRL No. 9933-97-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2995. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Formatting and Non-substantive Corrections to Authority Citations" ((RIN3150-AJ61) (NRC-2015-0122)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2996. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chilled Water System" (NUREG-0800, Chapter 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2997. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Liability for tax." (Rev. Proc. 2015-46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2998. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2999. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates—Passport and Citizenship Services Fee Changes" (RIN1400-AD71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3000. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-095); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3001. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3002. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-032); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3003. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0093-2015-0102); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3004. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority; Rehabilitation Training: Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center—Youth With Disabilities" (CFDA No. 84.264H.) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3005. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority and Definitions; Demonstration and Training Program: Career Pathways for Individuals With Disabilities" (Docket No. ED-2015-OSERS-00261) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3006. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority and Definitions—Rehabilitation Training: Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center-Targeted Communities" (Docket No. ED-2015-OSERS-0070) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3007. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority. Rehabilitation Training: Vocational Rehabilitation Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center" ((CFDA No. 84.264G.) (Docket No. ED-2015-OSERS-0069)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3008. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority—Technical Assistance Center for Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance" ((CFDA No. 84.263B.)

(Docket No. ED-2015-OSERS-0048)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3009. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Destruction of Certain Drugs Refused Admission to the United States" ((RIN0910-AH12) (Docket No. FDA-2014-N-0504)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3010. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3011. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged; Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities" (RIN1810-AB16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3012. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions; Revision of Departmental Component Designations" (RIN3209-AA14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3013. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hearing Process Concerning Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes" (RIN1094-AA54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3014. A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3015. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Giants Enterprises Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0221)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3016. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating Part 1 Competitive Bidding Rules; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunity of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions" ((FCC 15-80) (WT Doc. No. 14-170)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3017. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2015" ((FCC 15-108) (WT Doc. No. 15-121)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2078. An original bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2071. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2072. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program under which the Administrator shall defer the designation of an area as a nonattainment area for purposes of the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard if the area achieves and maintains certain standards under a voluntary early action compact plan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 2073. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 Post Road in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as the "Melvold J. Benson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2074. A bill to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2075. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage and to express the sense of the Senate that the resulting revenue loss should be offset; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2076. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote,

and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2077. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORKER:

S. 2078. An original bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2079. A bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2080. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance pipeline safety, to provide communities with access to improved information concerning the equipment and operations of pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 267. A resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 268. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Syrian refugee crisis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 269. A resolution designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as "National Estuaries Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 270. A resolution designating September 2015 as "Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 311

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to emphasize manufacturing in engineering programs by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and National

Science Foundation, to designate United States manufacturing universities.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 799, a bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 1059

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1059, a bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.

S. 1099

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1099, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide States with flexibility in determining the size of employers in the small group market.

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1099, *supra*.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1193

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1193, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 1493

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1493, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from

Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1711, a bill to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1878

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1878, a bill to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1919, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services, to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1966

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1966, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for program delivery.

S. 1977

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1977, a bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2035, a bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by a lapse in appropriations.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2066, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

S. RES. 116

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 116, a resolution providing for free and fair elections in Burma.

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, should be designated as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza".

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, *supra*.

S. RES. 251

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 251, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the congressional review provision of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 does not apply to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action announced on July 14, 2015, because the President failed to transmit the entire agreement as required by such Act, and that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action would only preempt existing Iran sanctions laws as “the supreme Law of the Land” if ratified by the Senate as a treaty with the concurrence of two thirds of the Senators present pursuant to Article II, section 2, clause 2, of the Constitution or if Congress were to enact new implementing legislation that supersedes the mandatory statutory sanctions that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action announced on July 14, 2015, purports to supersede.

S. RES. 262

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 262, a resolution to support the empowerment of women and urge countries to #FreeThe20.

S. RES. 266

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 266, a resolution designating September 2015 at “National Kinship Care Month”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 267—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 267

Whereas the Federal Perkins Loan program is the longest running Federal student loan program in the United States, created in 1958 as the National Defense Student Loan Program and later called the National Direct Loan Program;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans are efficient, need-based, low-interest loans that serve 500,000 low-income college students

with high need at approximately 1,500 colleges and universities each year;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans have favorable terms for students, including—

(1) interest is not charged while a student is in school;

(2) the interest rate is low and fixed; and

(3) a borrower may have all or part of a Federal Perkins loans cancelled if the borrower undertakes certain public service jobs for a period of 1 to 5 years;

Whereas participating colleges and universities share the risk of the Federal Perkins Loan Program because the colleges and universities provide a ½ match to Federal capital contributions and loans are made using funds repaid by previous borrowers;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans feature the human touch of campus-based servicing, which allows on-campus administrators to provide Federal Perkins borrowers with 1-on-1 service;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans have made higher education possible for millions of people of the United States; and

Whereas without Federal Perkins loans, thousands of people in the United States will lose the chance at a higher education and a better life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate strongly supports the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program in order to provide educational opportunities to future generations of students who need low-cost financing to make their dreams of higher education possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 268—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 268

Whereas the Syrian conflict has driven more than 7,500,000 Syrians to relocate within Syria, more than 4,000,000 Syrian to flee as refugees to neighboring countries, and hundreds of thousands of Syrians to seek asylum in Europe;

Whereas Syria's neighbors are on the front line of the crisis, and Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon in particular are currently hosting millions of refugees, resulting in tremendous social and economic impacts;

Whereas Europe is facing its worst refugee crisis since World War II;

Whereas members of the international community have a moral responsibility to provide assistance to Syrian refugees, as well as a national security interest in addressing both the insecurity that is driving Syrians from their homes and the spillover effects from that conflict;

Whereas all members of the international community, including regional powers, should contribute substantially to the humanitarian effort so as to avoid shortfalls like those experienced by the World Food Programme, which has been forced to reduce its assistance to refugees.

Whereas the European Union has agreed to resettle 120,000 of the refugees who have reached frontline European nations—an important first step in implementing a comprehensive European refugee policy;

Whereas the Governments of Germany and Sweden, among others, have shown great generosity towards Syrian refugees;

Whereas the United States Government remains the largest contributor to the humanitarian effort in Syria;

Whereas the United States Government will accept at least 10,000 Syrian refugees next year, marking a significant increase from the approximately 1,500 admitted since the conflict began; and

Whereas the United States Government should continue to rigorously employ its existing robust and thorough screening process for refugees to effectively mitigate any potential security threats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the scale and complexity of the Syrian refugee crisis and the need for the international community to work together to provide resources and capacity to aid refugees;

(2) recognizes the generosity and humanitarian commitment of Syria's neighbors who have worked to absorb the vast majority of refugees, as well as the European nations who have made commitments to share in the refugee resettlement effort;

(3) welcomes the President's decision to admit at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016, and to increase the overall number of refugees received by the United States to 85,000 in 2016 and 100,000 in 2017, as an important continuation of United States humanitarian efforts; and

(4) recognizes that the refugee crisis is a symptom of the broader conflict in Syria, the persecution of persons based on identity groups, including Christians, Yezidis, Turkmen, and Kurds, and instability in the Middle East and North Africa, and that efforts to resolve those challenges are a necessary component of any plan to address the refugee crisis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2015, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 269

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 42 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 1,900,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,681,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2012—

(1) commercial fish landings generated \$5,100,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers—

(A) took more than 70,000,000 fishing trips; and

(B) spent \$24,600,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 270—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2015 AS “PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 270

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and ultimately fatal condition that causes progressive scarring in the lungs and generally has no known definitive cause;

Whereas as many as 200,000 individuals in the United States are known to suffer from pulmonary fibrosis, the majority of whom are between the ages of 50 and 75;

Whereas the average survival rate for the idiopathic form of pulmonary fibrosis is just 2.8 years and up to 80 percent of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years of diagnosis;

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis takes the lives of 40,000 individuals in the United States each year, approximately 1 death every 13 minutes;

Whereas many patients with pulmonary fibrosis are misdiagnosed for 1 year or longer after the patients are presenting with pulmonary fibrosis symptoms;

Whereas as of September 2015, there are no biomarkers for screening and testing for pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas a cure or drug to extend life or improve symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis vary from person to person and include shortness of breath, a dry cough, fatigue, weight loss, and aching muscles and joints;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and providing access to quality care to individuals with pulmonary fibrosis requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2015 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support more robust and accelerated research to develop more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and to ultimately find a cure for the disease;

(4) recognizes the courage and contributions of individuals with pulmonary fibrosis who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States and abroad working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2678. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2679. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2680. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2681. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2680 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2682. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2681 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2680 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2683. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2684. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2683 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2685. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2686. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2685 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2687. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2686 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2685 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2688. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2689. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

SA 2690. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, supra.

SA 2691. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 719, supra.

SA 2692. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2691 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 719, supra.

SA 2693. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2692 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2691 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 719, supra.

SA 2694. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1020, to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2678. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61,

amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. NO BUDGET NO PAY.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “No Budget, No Pay Act”.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Member of Congress”—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

(c) **TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(d) **NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e).

(2) **NO RETROACTIVE PAY.**—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e), at any time after the end of that period.

(e) **DETERMINATIONS.**—

(1) **SENATE.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on February 1, 2017.

SA 2679. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to provide assistance under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) until the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture certifies that each State agency has instituted procedures to ensure that all able-bodied recipients of assistance under the program in that State who are between 18 and 49 years of age and without dependents are required to comply with the requirements of a work program for at least 20 hours each week during any period in which the recipients receive assistance under the program.

SA 2680. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds,

for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this joint resolution, that were conducted in fiscal year 2015, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division A of Public Law 113-235), except section 743 and title VIII.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-235).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113-235), except title X.

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division D of Public Law 113-235).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015 (division E of Public Law 113-235).

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division F of Public Law 113-235).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division G of Public Law 113-235), except title VI.

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015 (division H of Public Law 113-235).

(10) The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division I of Public Law 113-235).

(11) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), except title IX.

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division K of Public Law 113-235).

(13) Section 11 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235).

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.2108 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2015 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2015 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this joint resolution.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 11, 2015.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this joint resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2016 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this joint resolution that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This joint resolution shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the joint resolution shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or

about the first day of any month that begins after October 2015 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this joint resolution may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this joint resolution that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this joint resolution shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section; or

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division G of Public Law 113-235; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division G of Public Law 113-235.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 113-235 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this joint resolution, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2016 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$288,317,000, of which \$221,298,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 117. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Hous-

ing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485): *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive the prohibition in the second proviso under such heading in division A of Public Law 113-235 with respect to rental assistance contracts entered into or renewed during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 118. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules for the Joint Polar Satellite System.

SEC. 119. (a) The first proviso under the heading “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention” in title II of division B of Public Law 113-235 shall not apply during the period covered by this joint resolution.

(b) The limitation in section 217(c) of division B of Public Law 113-235 on the amount of excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall not apply under this joint resolution to the use of such funds for “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention”.

SEC. 120. (a) The authority regarding close-out of Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs provided by language under the heading “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Administrative Provisions” in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8) shall continue in effect through fiscal year 2021.

(b) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 121. (a) Notwithstanding section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, funds made available, including funds that have expired but have not been cancelled, and identified by Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 13-0910-0554 shall remain available for expenditure through fiscal year 2020 for the purpose of liquidating valid obligations of active grants.

(b) For the purpose of subsection (a), grants for which the period of performance has expired but are not finally closed out shall be considered active grants.

(c) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 122. The following provisions shall be applied by substituting “2016” for “2015” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense:

(1) Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1237 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

(2) Section 127b(c)(3)(C) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section

106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2015 (title IV of division E of Public Law 113-235) at the rate set forth under “District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request Act of 2015 (D.C. Act 21-99), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this joint resolution for “Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board—Salaries and Expenses”.

SEC. 126. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 127. Sections 1101(a) and 1104(a)(2)(A) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (title XI of division C of Public Law 105-277; 47 U.S.C. 151 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “October 1, 2015”.

SEC. 128. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 7 of Public Law 113-235 was enacted as part of title VII of division E of Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 129. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

SEC. 130. Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 131. Section 610(b) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 132. Subclauses 101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 133. Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 134. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking all that follows after “shall terminate” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 135. In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”, there is appropriated \$700,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activities: *Provided*, That such funds shall only become available if funds previously provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in writing of the need for these additional funds: *Provided further*, That such funds are also available for transfer to

other appropriations accounts to repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppression: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress.

SEC. 136. The authorities provided by sections 117 and 123 of division G of Public Law 113-76 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

SEC. 137. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106-79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution.

(b) For the period covered by this joint resolution, the authority provided by the provisions under the heading “Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital Construction” in division E of Public Law 112-74 shall not be in effect.

SEC. 138. Section 3096(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 is amended by inserting “for fiscal year 2015” after “\$37,000,000”.

SEC. 139. Funds made available in prior appropriations Acts for construction and renovation of facilities for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may also be used for construction on leased land.

SEC. 140. Subsection (b) of section 163 of Public Law 111-242, as amended, is further amended by striking “2015-2016” and inserting “2016-2017”.

SEC. 141. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 139 of Public Law 113-164 was enacted as part of division G of Public Law 113-235, and section 139 of Public Law 113-164 shall be applied by adding at the end the following: “and of the unobligated balance of amounts deposited or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act and the income derived from investment of those funds pursuant to 2104(n)(2)(C) of that Act, \$1,664,000,000 is rescinded”.

SEC. 142. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 143. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, there is appropriated for payment to Tori B. Nunnelee, widow of Alan Nunnelee, late a Representative from the State of Mississippi, \$174,000.

SEC. 144. Of the discretionary unobligated balances of the Department of Veterans Affairs from fiscal year 2015 or prior fiscal years, or discretionary amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer up to \$625,000,000 to “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, to be merged with the amounts available in such account: *Provided*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred until the Secretary submits to the

Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a request for, and receives from the Committees written approval of, such transfers: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall specify in such request the donor account and amount of each proposed transfer, the fiscal year of each appropriation to be transferred, the amount of unobligated balances remaining in the account after the transfer, and the project or program impact of the transfer.

SEC. 145. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” at a rate for operations of \$2,697,734,000.

SEC. 146. Notwithstanding section 101, section 226(a) of division I of Public Law 113-235 shall be applied to amounts made available by this joint resolution by substituting “division I of Public Law 113-235” for “division J of Public Law 113-76” and by substituting “2015” for “2014”.

SEC. 147. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 148. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Broadcasting Board of Governors—International Broadcasting Operations”, “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund”, “International Security Assistance—Department of State—International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, “International Security Assistance—Department of State—Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, and “International Security Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Foreign Military Financing Program” shall be obligated at a rate for operations as necessary to sustain assistance for Ukraine to counter external, regional aggression and influence, including for the costs of authorized loan guarantees.

SEC. 149. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “October 1, 2015”.

SEC. 150. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned schedule for the New Core Shared Services Project.

(b) Not later than 3 days before the first use of the apportionment authority in subsection (a), each 30 days thereafter, and 3 days after the authority expires under this joint resolution, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying each use of the authority through the date of the report.

SEC. 151. (a) Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, shall be applied: (1) by substituting the amount specified in such section with \$1,610,000,000; and (2) by substituting the fiscal year specified in such section with the period beginning October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016.

(b) Section 47104(c), 47107(r)(3), and 47115(j) of title 49, United States Code, shall each be applied by substituting “2016” for “2015”.

(c) Section 47141(f) of title 49, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting “March 31, 2016” for “September 30, 2015”.

(d) For purposes of calculating funding apportionments and meeting other requirements under sections 47114, 47115, 47116, and 47117 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(1) first calculate funding apportionments on an annualized basis as if the total amount available under section 48103 of such title for fiscal year 2016 were \$3,220,000,000; and

(2) then reduce by 50 percent—

(A) all funding apportionments calculated under paragraph (1); and

(B) amounts available pursuant to sections 47117(b) and 47117(f)(2) of such title.

(e) Section 409(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 41731 note) shall be applied by substituting “March 31, 2016” for “September 30, 2015”.

(f) Nothing in this section shall affect the availability of any balances of contract authority provided under section 48103 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2015 or any prior fiscal year.

(g) Section 186(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2518) is amended by inserting “and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016,” after “fiscal years 2012 through 2015”.

(h) This section shall be in effect through March 31, 2016.

SEC. 152. (a) Notwithstanding section 106, sections 4081(d)(2)(B), 4261(j), 4261(k)(1)(A)(ii), and 4271(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall each be applied by substituting “March 31, 2016” for “September 30, 2015”.

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, section 4083(b) and subsections (d)(1) and (e)(2) of section 9502 of such Code shall each be applied by substituting “April 1, 2016” for “October 1, 2015”.

(c) Subparagraph (A) of section 9502(d)(1) of such Code is amended by inserting “or any Act making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2016” before the semicolon at the end.

This joint resolution may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2016”.

SA 2681. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2680 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

SA 2682. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2681 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2680 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining

the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

SA 2683. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 4 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 2684. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2683 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”

SA 2685. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 6 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 2686. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2685 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike “6” and insert “7”

SA 2687. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2686 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2685 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of de-

termining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike “7” and insert “8”

SA 2688. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the amounts made available by section 101 for “International Security Assistance—Department of State—Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs” or in prior acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations and related programs may be made available for a voluntary contribution to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) until the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that any side agreements between the IAEA and the Government of Iran, including such agreements related to the Roadmap for Clarification of Past and Present Outstanding Issues between such entities, have been made available to Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, in classified form if necessary.

SA 2689. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2015, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division A of Public Law 113-235), except section 743 and title VIII.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-235).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113-235), except title X.

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division D of Public Law 113-235).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015 (division E of Public Law 113-235).

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division F of Public Law 113-235).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division G of Public Law 113-235), except title VI.

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015 (division H of Public Law 113-235).

(10) The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division I of Public Law 113-235).

(11) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), except title IX.

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division K of Public Law 113-235).

(13) Section 11 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235).

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.2108 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2015 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2015 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 11, 2015.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2016 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2015 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section; or

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division G of Public Law 113-235; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division G of Public Law 113-235.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 113-235 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2016 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$288,317,000, of which \$221,298,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 117. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485): *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive the prohibition in the second proviso under such heading in division A of Public Law 113-235 with respect to rental assistance contracts entered into or renewed during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 118. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules for the Joint Polar Satellite System.

SEC. 119. (a) The first proviso under the heading “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention” in title II of division B of Public Law 113-235 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

(b) The limitation in section 217(c) of division B of Public Law 113-235 on the amount of excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall not apply under this Act to the use of such funds for “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention”.

SEC. 120. (a) The authority regarding close-out of Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs provided by language under

the heading “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Administrative Provisions” in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8) shall continue in effect through fiscal year 2021.

(b) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 121. (a) Notwithstanding section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, funds made available, including funds that have expired but have not been cancelled, and identified by Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 13-09/10-0554 shall remain available for expenditure through fiscal year 2020 for the purpose of liquidating valid obligations of active grants.

(b) For the purpose of subsection (a), grants for which the period of performance has expired but are not finally closed out shall be considered active grants.

(c) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 122. The following provisions shall be applied by substituting “2016” for “2015” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense:

(1) Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1237 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

(2) Section 127b(c)(3)(C) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2015 (title IV of division E of Public Law 113-235) at the rate set forth under “District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request Act of 2015 (D.C. Act 21-99), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board—Salaries and Expenses”.

SEC. 126. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 127. Sections 1101(a) and 1104(a)(2)(A) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (title XI of division C of Public Law 105-277; 47 U.S.C. 151 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “October 1, 2015”.

SEC. 128. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 7 of Public Law 113-235

was enacted as part of title VII of division E of Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 129. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 130. Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 131. Section 610(b) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 132. Subclauses 101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 133. Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 134. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking all that follows after “shall terminate” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 135. In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”, there is appropriated \$700,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activities: *Provided*, That such funds shall only become available if funds previously provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in writing of the need for these additional funds: *Provided further*, That such funds are also available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppression: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress.

SEC. 136. The authorities provided by sections 117 and 123 of division G of Public Law 113-76 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 137. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106-79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) For the period covered by this Act, the authority provided by the provisos under the heading “Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital Construction” in division E of Public Law 112-74 shall not be in effect.

SEC. 138. Section 3096(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 is amended by inserting “for fiscal year 2015” after “\$37,000,000”.

SEC. 139. Funds made available in prior appropriations Acts for construction and ren-

ovation of facilities for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may also be used for construction on leased land.

SEC. 140. Subsection (b) of section 163 of Public Law 111-242, as amended, is further amended by striking “2015-2016” and inserting “2016-2017”.

SEC. 141. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 139 of Public Law 113-164 was enacted as part of division G of Public Law 113-235, and section 139 of Public Law 113-164 shall be applied by adding at the end the following: “and of the unobligated balance of amounts deposited or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act and the income derived from investment of those funds pursuant to 2104(n)(2)(C) of that Act, \$1,664,000,000 is rescinded”.

SEC. 142. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 143. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Tori B. Nunnelee, widow of Alan Nunnelee, late a Representative from the State of Mississippi, \$174,000.

SEC. 144. Of the discretionary unobligated balances of the Department of Veterans Affairs from fiscal year 2015 or prior fiscal years, or discretionary amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer up to \$625,000,000 to “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, to be merged with the amounts available in such account: *Provided*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a request for, and receives from the Committees written approval of, such transfers: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall specify in such request the donor account and amount of each proposed transfer, the fiscal year of each appropriation to be transferred, the amount of unobligated balances remaining in the account after the transfer, and the project or program impact of the transfer.

SEC. 145. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” at a rate for operations of \$2,697,734,000.

SEC. 146. Notwithstanding section 101, section 226(a) of division I of Public Law 113-235 shall be applied to amounts made available by this Act by substituting “division I of Public Law 113-235” for “division J of Public Law 113-76” and by substituting “2015” for “2014”.

SEC. 147. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 148. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Broadcasting Board of Governors—International Broadcasting Operations”, “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund”, “International Security Assistance—Department of State—

International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement", "International Security Assistance—Department of State—Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs", and "International Security Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Foreign Military Financing Program" shall be obligated at a rate for operations as necessary to sustain assistance for Ukraine to counter external, regional aggression and influence, including for the costs of authorized loan guarantees.

SEC. 149. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "October 1, 2015".

SEC. 150. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned schedule for the New Core Shared Services Project.

(b) Not later than 3 days before the first use of the apportionment authority in subsection (a), each 30 days thereafter, and 3 days after the authority expires under this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying each use of the authority through the date of the report.

This Act may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016".

SA 2690. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

SA 2691. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment."

SA 2692. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2691 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike "2" and insert "3"

SA 2693. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2692 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 2691 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing

Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike "3" and insert "4"

SA 2694. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1020, to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 24 through 25 and insert the following:

(3) in subsections (e) and (f), by striking "subsection (g)" each place it appears, and inserting "subsection (h)";

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 24, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STEM EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 195, H.R. 1020; further, that the Thune amendment be agreed to and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1020) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The amendment (No. 2694) was agreed to, as follows:

[Purpose: To make a conforming amendment]

On page 4, strike lines 24 through 25 and insert the following:

(3) in subsections (e) and (f), by striking "subsection (g)" each place it appears, and inserting "subsection (h)";

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1020), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 258 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 258) designating the week of September 20 through 26, 2015, as "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 258) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 17, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 269, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 269) designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as "National Estuaries Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 269) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 270.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 270) designating September 2015 as "Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 270) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER
25, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate

be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 25, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 24, 2015

The House met at 8:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 24, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

This day is a day of history. Send Your Spirit upon the Members of the people's House. May all be able to hear the words spoken here this day with discernment and goodwill, in the spirit in which they are to be delivered.

And bless our most special visitor, Pope Francis. We thank You for his vocation in the Church, the Pontiff, or bridge-builder, specially charged with bringing reconciliation where there is division. May his message of peace and healing, and his prophetic challenge wherever it may land, be a blessing of liberation and hope for all who have ears to hear.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TONKO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by Pope Francis of the Holy See, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege as prescribed by section 8 of House Resolution 380. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, this restriction regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, September 16, 2015, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0945

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY POPE FRANCIS OF THE HOLY SEE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort Pope Francis into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER);

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO); and

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort Pope Francis into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER);

The Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS);

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER);

The Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); and

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Kyoto, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced Pope Francis of the Holy See.

Pope Francis of the Holy See, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

THE SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you Pope Francis of the Holy See.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

POPE FRANCIS. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of Congress, dear friends, I am most grateful for your invitation to address this joint session of Congress in "the land of the free and the home of the brave." I would like to think that the reason for this is that I, too, am a son of this great continent from which we have all received so much and toward which we share a common responsibility.

Each son or daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility. Your own responsibility as Members of Congress is to enable this country, by your legislative activity, to grow as a nation. You are the face of its people, their representatives. You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics.

A political society endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk. Legislative activity is always based on care for the people. To this you have been invited, called, and convened by those who elected you.

Yours is a work which makes me reflect in two ways on the figure of Moses. On the one hand, the patriarch

and lawgiver of the people of Israel symbolizes the need of peoples to keep alive their sense of unity by means of just legislation. On the other, the figure of Moses leads us directly to God and thus to the transcendent dignity of the human being. Moses provides us with a good synthesis of your work: you are asked to protect, by means of the law, the image and likeness fashioned by God on every human life.

Today I would like not only to address you, but, through you, the entire people of the United States. Here, together with their representatives, I would like to take this opportunity to dialogue with the many thousands of men and women who strive each day to do an honest day's work, to bring home their daily bread, to save money, and—one step at a time—to build a better life for their families.

These are men and women who are not concerned simply with paying their taxes but, in their own quiet way, sustain the life of society. They generate solidarity by their actions, and they create organizations which offer a helping hand to those most in need.

I would also like to enter into a dialogue with the many elderly persons who are a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience and who seek in many ways, especially through volunteer work, to share their stories and their insights. I know that many of them are retired but still active; they keep working to build up this land.

I also want to dialogue with all those young people who are working to realize their great and noble aspirations, who are not led astray by facile proposals, and who face difficult situations, often as a result of immaturity on the part of many adults. I wish to dialogue with all of you, and I would like to do so through the historical memory of your people.

My visit takes place at a time when men and women of goodwill are marking the anniversaries of several great Americans. The complexities of history and the reality of human weakness notwithstanding, these men and women, for all their many differences and limitations, were able by hard work and self-sacrifice—some at the cost of their lives—to build a better future. They shaped fundamental values which will endure forever in the spirit of the American people.

A people with this spirit can live through many crises, tensions, and conflicts while always finding the resources to move forward and to do so with dignity. These men and women offer us a way of seeing and interpreting reality. In honoring their memory, we are inspired, even amid conflicts and in the here and now of each day, to draw upon our deepest cultural reserves.

I would like to mention four of these Americans: Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the guardian of liberty, who labored tirelessly that "this Nation, under God, might have a new birth of freedom." Building a future of freedom requires love of the common good and cooperation in a spirit of subsidiarity and solidarity.

All of us are quite aware of and deeply worried by the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred, and brutal atrocities committed even in the name of God and of religion. We know that no religion is immune from forms of individual delusion or ideological extremism.

This means that we must be especially attentive to every type of fundamentalism, whether religious or of any other kind. A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology, or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom, and individual freedoms.

But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners. The contemporary world, with its open wounds which affect so many of our brothers and sisters, demands that we confront every form of polarization which would divide it into these two camps.

We know that, in the attempt to be freed of the enemy without, we can be tempted to feed the enemy within. To imitate the hatred and violence of tyrants and murderers is the best way to take their place. That is something which you, as a people, reject.

Our response must, instead, be one of hope and healing, of peace and justice. We are asked to summon the courage and the intelligence to resolve today's many geopolitical and economic crises. Even in the developed world, the effects of unjust structures and actions are all too apparent.

Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples. We must move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good.

The challenges facing us today call for a renewal of that spirit of cooperation, which has accomplished so much good throughout the history of the United States. The complexity, the gravity, and the urgency of these challenges demand that we pool our resources and talents and resolve to support one another with respect for our differences and our convictions of conscience.

In this land, the various religious denominations have greatly contributed

to building and strengthening society. It is important that today, as in the past, the voice of faith continue to be heard, for it is a voice of fraternity and love, which tries to bring out the best in each person and in each society. Such cooperation is a powerful resource in the battle to eliminate new global forms of slavery, born of grave injustices which can be overcome only through new policies and new forms of social consensus.

Politics is, instead, an expression of our compelling need to live as one, in order to build as one the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life. I do not underestimate the difficulty that this involves, but I encourage you in this effort.

Here, too, I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery 50 years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his "dream" of full civil and political rights for African Americans. That dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many, a land of dreams: dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment; dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of the people.

In recent centuries, millions of people came to this land to pursue their dream of building a future in freedom. We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners because most of us were once foreigners. I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descendants of immigrants.

Tragically, the rights of those who were here long before us were not always respected. For those peoples and their nations, from the heart of American democracy, I wish to reaffirm my highest esteem and appreciation. Those first contacts were often turbulent and violent, but we know that it is very difficult to judge the past by the criteria of the present.

Nonetheless, when the stranger in our midst appeals to us, we must not repeat the sins and the errors of the past. We must resolve now to live as nobly and as justly as possible, as we educate new generations not to turn their back on our neighbors and everything around us. Building a nation calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity, in a constant effort to do our best. I am confident that we can do this.

Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. This presents us with great challenges and many hard decisions. On this continent, too, thousands of persons are led to travel north in search of a better life for themselves and for their loved ones, in search of

greater opportunities. Is this not what we want for our own children? We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation, to respond in a way which is always humane, just, and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

This rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves.

In a word, if we want security, let us give security. If we want life, let us give life. If we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.

The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes.

Recently, my brother bishops here in the United States renewed their call for the abolition of the death penalty. Not only do I support them, but I also offer encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.

In these times when social concerns are so important, I cannot fail to mention the servant of God, Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.

How much progress has been made in this area in so many parts of the world. How much has been done in these first years of the third millennium to raise people out of extreme poverty. I know that you share my conviction that much more still needs to be done, and in times of crisis and economic hardship, a spirit of global solidarity must not be lost.

At the same time, I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. They too need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and

on many fronts, especially in its causes. I know that many Americans today, as in the past, are working to deal with this problem.

It goes without saying that part of this great effort is the creation and distribution of wealth. The right use of natural resources, the proper application of technology, and the harnessing of the spirit of enterprise are essential elements of an economy which seeks to be modern, inclusive, and sustainable.

"Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving the world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity for the area in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good."

This common good also includes the Earth, a central theme of the encyclical which I recently wrote in order to "enter into dialogue with all people about our common home." "We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

In *Laudato Si'*, I call for a courageous and responsible effort to "redirect our steps" and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference. I am sure and I have no doubt that the United States and this Congress have an important role to play.

Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies aimed at implementing a "culture of care" and "an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." "We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology, to devise intelligent ways of . . . developing and limiting our power," and to put technology "at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral." In this regard, I am confident that America's outstanding academic and research institutions can make a vital contribution in the years ahead.

A century ago, at the beginning of the Great War, which Pope Benedict XV termed a "pointless slaughter," another notable American was born: the Cistercian monk Thomas Merton. He remains a source of spiritual inspiration and a guide for many people.

In his autobiography, Merton wrote: "I came into the world. Free by nature, in the image of God, I was nevertheless the prisoner of my own violence and my own selfishness, in the image of the world into which I was born. That world was the picture of Hell, full of men like myself, loving God, and yet hating him; born to love him, living instead in fear of hopeless self-contradictory hungers."

Merton was, above all, a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church. He

was also a man of dialogue, a promoter of peace between peoples and religions.

From this perspective of dialogue, I would like to recognize the efforts made in recent months to help overcome historic differences linked to painful episodes of the past.

It is my duty to build bridges and to help all men and women, in any way possible, to do the same. When countries which have been at odds resume the path of dialogue—a dialogue which may have been interrupted for the most legitimate of reasons—new opportunities open up for all.

This has required, and requires, courage and daring, which is not the same as irresponsibility. A good political leader is one who, with the interests of all in mind, seizes the moment in a spirit of openness and pragmatism. A good political leader always opts to initiate processes rather than possessing spaces.

Being at the service of dialogue and peace also means being truly determined to minimize and, in the long term, to end the many armed conflicts throughout our world. Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society?

Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money, money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.

Three sons and one daughter of this land, four individuals and four dreams: Lincoln, liberty; Martin Luther King, liberty in plurality and non-exclusion; Dorothy Day, social justice and the rights of persons; and Thomas Merton, the capacity for dialogue and openness to God. Four representatives of the American people.

I will end my visit to your country in Philadelphia, where I will take part in the World Meeting of Families. It is my wish that throughout my visit the family should be a recurrent theme. How essential the family has been to the building of this country, and how worthy it remains for our support and encouragement.

Yet I cannot hide my concern for the family, which is threatened, perhaps as never before, from within and without. Fundamental relationships are being called into question, as is the very basis of marriage and the family. I can only reiterate the importance and, above all, the richness and the beauty of family life.

In particular, I would like to call attention to those family members who are the most vulnerable: the young. For many of them, a future filled with countless possibilities beckons, yet so many others seem disoriented and aimless, trapped in a hopeless maze of violence, abuse, and despair.

Their problems are our problems. We cannot avoid them. We need to face them together, to talk about them, and to seek effective solutions rather than getting bogged down in discussions. At the risk of oversimplifying, we might say that we live in a culture which pressures young people not to start a family, because they lack possibilities for the future. Yet this same culture presents others with so many options that they, too, are dissuaded from starting a family.

A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty, as Lincoln did; when it fosters a culture which enables people to “dream” of full rights for all brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed, as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work; the fruit of a faith, which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton.

In these remarks, I have sought to present some of the richness of your cultural heritage, of the spirit of the American people. It is my desire that this spirit continue to develop and grow, so that as many young people as possible can inherit and dwell in a land which has inspired so many people to dream.

God bless America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m., Pope Francis of the Holy See, accompanied by the Speaker and the Vice President, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

All Members and Senators will remain in the Chamber while the official party departs.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members and Senators are now invited to depart the Chamber for two additional events. Those wishing to view the departure of Pope Francis should proceed to the House steps. Those wishing to view the appearance of Pope Francis on the west front should proceed to the upper west terrace.

The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1302

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1170. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

COMMUNICATION FROM MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Sean McLaughlin, Majority Staff Director, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, September 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, purporting to require that, in connection with a particular criminal case, I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined, pursuant to Rule VIII, that the subpoena (i) is not a “proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court,” (ii) seeks information that is not “material and relevant,” and/or (iii) is not “consistent with the privileges and rights” of the House, its Members, its officers, or its employees. Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena, or for other protective relief.

Sincerely,

SEAN McLAUGHLIN,
Staff Director, Majority Side.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, September 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, purporting to require that, in connection with a particular criminal case, I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined, pursuant to Rule VIII, that the subpoena (i) is not a "proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court," (ii) seeks information that is not "material and relevant," and/or (iii) is not "consistent with the privileges and rights" of the House, its Members, its officers, or its employees. Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena, or for other protective relief.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, September 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, purporting to require that, in connection with a particular criminal case, I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined, pursuant to Rule VIII, that the subpoena (i) is not a "proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court," (ii) seeks information that is not "material and relevant," and/or (iii) is not "consistent with the privileges and rights" of the House, its Members, its officers, or its employees. Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena, or for other protective relief.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Ranking Member.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 434) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 434

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the bill, H.R. 719, entitled "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015", with the Senate amendment thereto, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table to the end that the Senate amendment thereto be, and the same is hereby, agreed to with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Consistent with Federal law and regulations, for law enforcement officers to qualify for premium pay as criminal investigators, the officers must, in general, spend on average at least 50 percent of their time investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.

(2) According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS IG), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does not ensure that its cadre of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection are meeting this requirement, even though they are considered law enforcement officers under TSA policy and receive premium pay.

(3) Instead, TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection primarily monitor the results of criminal investigations conducted by other agencies, investigate administrative cases of TSA employee misconduct, and carry out inspections, covert tests, and internal reviews, which the DHS IG asserts could be performed by employees other than criminal investigators at a lower cost.

(4) The premium pay and other benefits afforded to TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection who are incorrectly classified as such will cost the taxpayer as much as \$17 million over 5 years if TSA fails to

make any changes to the number of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection, according to the DHS IG.

(5) This may be a conservative estimate, as it accounts for the cost of Law Enforcement Availability Pay, but not the costs of law enforcement training, statutory early retirement benefits, police vehicles, and weapons.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term "Inspector General" means the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.

(a) AUDIT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall analyze the data and methods that the Assistant Secretary uses to identify Office of Inspection employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, and provide the relevant findings to the Assistant Secretary, including a finding on whether the data and methods are adequate and valid.

(b) PROHIBITION ON HIRING.—If the Inspector General finds that such data and methods are inadequate or invalid, the Administration shall not hire any new employee to work in the Office of Inspection of the Administration until—

(1) the Assistant Secretary makes a certification described in section 5 to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Inspector General submits to such Committees a finding, not later than 30 days after the Assistant Secretary makes such certification, that the Assistant Secretary utilized adequate and valid data and methods to make such certification.

SEC. 5. TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION WORKFORCE CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall, by not later than 90 days after the date the Inspector General provides its findings to the Assistant Secretary under section 4(a), document and certify in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that only those Office of Inspection employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, are classified as criminal investigators and are receiving premium pay and other benefits associated with such classification.

(b) EMPLOYEE RECLASSIFICATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall reclassify criminal investigator positions in the Office of Inspection as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law enforcement positions if the individuals in those positions do not, or are not expected to, spend an average of at least 50 percent of their time performing criminal investigative duties.

(c) PROJECTED COST SAVINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall estimate the total long-term cost savings to the Federal Government resulting from the implementation of subsection (b), and provide such estimate to the Committee

on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Such estimate shall identify savings associated with the positions reclassified under subsection (b) and include, among other factors the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate, savings from—

- (A) law enforcement training;
- (B) early retirement benefits;
- (C) law enforcement availability and other premium pay; and
- (D) weapons, vehicles, and communications devices.

SEC. 6. INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE MISCONDUCT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, or as soon as practicable, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate—

(1) materials in the possession or control of the Department of Homeland Security associated with the Office of Inspection's review of instances in which Federal Air Marshal Service officials obtained discounted or free firearms for personal use;

(2) information on specific actions that will be taken to prevent Federal Air Marshal Service officials from using their official positions, or exploiting, in any way, the Service's relationships with private vendors to obtain discounted or free firearms for personal use; and

(3) information on specific actions that will be taken to prevent the Federal Air Marshal Service from misusing Government resources.

SEC. 7. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date that the Assistant Secretary submits the certification to Congress under section 5(a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a study—

(1) reviewing the employee requirements, responsibilities, and benefits of criminal investigators in the TSA Office of Inspection with criminal investigators employed at agencies adhering to the Office of Personnel Management employee classification system; and

(2) identifying any inconsistencies and costs implications for differences between the varying employee requirements, responsibilities, and benefits.

SEC. 8. INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE PERSONNEL ISSUES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a study that—

(1) reviews the Federal Air Marshal Service's existing personnel policies and procedures for identifying misuse of Government resources; and

(2) reviews the administration of the Federal Air Marshal Service's existing code of conduct or integrity policies with respect to instances of misconduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015.

This bipartisan legislation will increase operational efficiency within TSA's Office of Inspection and will translate into cost savings for the American taxpayer, as articulated in a report by the Department of Homeland Security inspector general.

I am here today because I have amended this legislation to build on the good work conducted by our colleagues in the Senate and provide increased oversight of the Federal Air Marshal Service in light of ongoing issues of sexual misconduct within the agency.

The amended bill requires the DHS inspector general to report to Congress on a review of TSA's existing policies for identifying misuse of government resources within the Federal Air Marshal Service as well as TSA's strategy for addressing instances of misconduct within the Federal Air Marshal Service.

This provision has, unfortunately, become necessary, as we have learned of recent egregious examples of both alleged sexual misconduct and misuse of government resources by air marshals.

In early September of this year, I was made aware of alleged sexual misconduct by three Federal air marshals in Chicago, Illinois, which came to light through an examination of a government-issued cellular telephone due to a workman's compensation claim investigation.

The Federal Air Marshal Service self-reported that the involved employees not only utilized government-issued cellular telephones for unauthorized purposes, but hotel rooms paid for with government funds were used to engage in sexual misconduct.

I understand that managing a workforce that operates worldwide is a monumental task. But, as leaders, it is imperative that we maintain discipline in order to accomplish the overall mission of keeping our skies safe.

These and other allegations of misconduct have plagued the agency and

are devastating to the public trust, employee morale, and the high degree of integrity that must be maintained by Federal law enforcement officers charged with securing aviation and protecting acts of terrorism.

Earlier this year my subcommittee held a hearing to examine the Federal Air Marshal Service, and we plan to continue to provide rigorous oversight as TSA works to address these disturbing examples of flagrant abuse of government resources and deplorable behavior.

I wish to thank the original sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), for his leadership on this issue as well as Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, and Ranking Member RICE for their support.

Also, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Senate, particularly Chairman THUNE and Ranking Member NELSON, for their work in contributing to the bill and passing it through that Chamber. I look forward to working with them and working towards final passage of this bill, as amended.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015.

In September 2013, the Department of Homeland Security inspector general released a report detailing the Transportation Security Administration's misclassification of certain employees in its Office of Inspection as criminal investigators.

Specifically, the inspector general found that the workload of these criminal investigators did not fit the Federal workload requirement to justify their title.

Because of this misclassification, these employees received enhanced benefits, such as premium pay, early retirement, and other benefits commensurate with the position, despite the fact that they perform little to no investigative duties.

Whereas the workload for a properly classified criminal investigator predominantly involves investigating criminal cases, the inspector general found that the workload for these employees consisted largely of investigating noncriminal cases, carrying out inspections, covert testing, and internal reviews, all tasks that could be performed by employees who do not receive the enhanced benefits.

As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I believe that it is important that agencies utilize their resources in a manner that is both effective and efficient.

According to the inspector general, the Office of Inspection did not use its

resources in a manner that would efficiently conduct internal reviews, inspections, and covert testing.

If no changes are made to these positions, the inspector general estimated that it would result in the wasting of as much as \$17.5 million over 5 years.

H.R. 719 directs TSA to certify that all persons designated as criminal investigators are working on criminal investigations at least 50 percent of their time.

This threshold is consistent with the Federal standard for the position and ensures that the TSA is providing enhanced pay and benefits to those who actually perform the duties of a criminal investigator.

This measure will not affect those with the proper classification of criminal investigator and will not impede efforts to thwart terror plots and other criminal enterprises that threaten our national security.

This legislation also incorporates changes meant to address instances in which Federal Air Marshal Service officials have used their official capacities to obtain benefits from private vendors and to also address recent allegations of misconduct involving the misuse of government resources and solicitation by reviewing existing personnel and code of conduct policies.

This legislation is common sense and reflects a commitment to good government.

Mr. Speaker, if enacted, H.R. 719 will bring greater accountability to TSA's Office of Inspection. This measure will also ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and that past abuses are not repeated.

I urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 719.

□ 1315

It is critical that we in Congress assert our oversight priorities to ensure that taxpayer dollars and government resources are being used in a responsible manner. We must make certain that our Federal employees, especially those in positions of law enforcement and significant public trust, are not misusing government resources to engage in sexual misconduct and are exhibiting the highest degree of moral fortitude.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.R. 434.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JACOB TRIEBER FEDERAL BUILDING, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, AND UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1707) to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1707

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JACOB TRIEBER FEDERAL BUILDING, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, AND UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1707.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1707 would designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House.

Judge Trieber, a Prussian immigrant, eventually became the first Jewish Federal judge in our Nation's history. Settling in Helena, Arkansas, Judge Trieber issued rulings to protect against racial discrimination more than six decades before the Supreme Court would. For his unmatched dedication to justice, a lifetime of service, and his many landmark rulings, we

seek support in renaming the Federal building in his honor.

Appointed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas by President McKinley in 1900, he served for 27 years and became one of the country's most distinguished jurists and renowned constitutional scholars. Working simultaneously on more than 1,000 cases each year, Judge Trieber issued nationally important rulings on controversies that included antitrust cases, railroad litigation, prohibition cases, and mail fraud. Several of his rulings, especially the ones regarding civil rights and wildlife conservation, still have implications today.

Judge Trieber took an early interest in civil rights, especially after seeing how discrimination against Jews consumed his home country of Prussia. After the move to his new home in the United States, Arkansas became very dear to him, but the blatant racism he saw firsthand affected his outlook on life and his work even more than what he had encountered in Prussia. Judge Trieber "sought to communicate—through his own life and deeds and his commitment to equal justice—that racism was detrimental to the people of Arkansas" and that only until the State's race relations problem was solved could the "State's great potential be achieved."

Since Arkansas' judicial system alone could not prevent the commonplace violence and racism, Judge Trieber took it upon himself to fight against injustice through several landmark rulings, two of which dealt with employment discrimination. He also fought against unfair election laws, which he correctly believed were unfair to women and Blacks.

Going against conventional thought and even at risk to himself, Judge Trieber ruled against local hate groups, writing that "the rights to lease lands and to accept employment for hire are fundamental rights, inherent in every free citizen."

Although he was overruled in 1906 by the Supreme Court, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 had finally granted the comprehensive protection against racial discrimination that Judge Trieber had long sought. In 1968, the Supreme Court overturned their original ruling against Judge Trieber's interpretation, saying that his interpretation of the law was at last vindicated.

In 1927, Judge Trieber departed this life and was buried in Little Rock at Oakland Cemetery. He would never live to see the changes he fought so hard for, but by renaming the Federal building in the town he loved, we preserve his memory and acknowledge his very early role in the most important civil rights movement our Nation has ever seen.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague's endorsement of Judge Trieber's legacy as a trailblazer and champion of civil rights for all Americans.

Judge Jacob Trieber was a highly respected Federal judge in the Eastern District of Arkansas who served with distinction for 27 years. Judge Trieber was one of the first Federal judges to embrace international treaties as a basis for Federal policy to trump State regulation with respect to pollution control, endangered species preservation, and wetlands conservation.

Judge Trieber also famously ruled that a local group of White citizens could not compel a sawmill to fire its Black workers. Judge Trieber's original decision was later cited as a foresighted ruling that had correctly interpreted the 13th Amendment.

Because of Judge Trieber's long history of public service and outstanding judicial service, it is appropriate to name the U.S. Federal building in Helena, Arkansas, as the Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her eloquent comments, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 1707.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1707.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLIAM J. HOLLOWAY, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 261) to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the "William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 261

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILLIAM J. HOLLOWAY, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, shall be known and

designated as the "William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 261.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 261 would designate the United States Courthouse located at 200 Northwest Fourth Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

A native of Oklahoma, Judge Holloway served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Judge Holloway was nominated by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Johnson in 1968. He served as chief judge from 1984 to 1991 and assumed senior status in 1992 until his death in 2014.

During his 45 years on the bench, he authored over 900 opinions and became the longest serving tenth circuit judge. I think it is more than fitting to name this courthouse after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Judge Holloway was well-respected and served for over 45 years as an appellate judge in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. During his tenure, Judge Holloway wrote more than 900 appellate opinions and continued to serve as a judge until his death in 2014.

Judge Holloway received many awards, including the President's Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and had a prestigious lecture series named after him.

Because of Judge Holloway's long Federal service and his universally revered work ethic, I support naming the U.S. Courthouse located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and no further comments. I support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her support, and I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 261.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 261.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3116) to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3116

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT PROGRAM.

Section 4(b) of the Act entitled "An Act to amend title 13, United States Code, to transfer responsibility for the quarterly financial report from the Federal Trade Commission to the Secretary of Commerce, and for other purposes", approved January 12, 1983 (Public Law 97-454; 13 U.S.C. 91 note), is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2030".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3116, the Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act, sponsored

by my colleague from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Congressman TED LIEU.

Mr. Speaker, since 1947, Quarterly Financial Report, often referred to as the QFR program, has collected and published key data on American corporate financial results. It is the primary source of data for GDP estimates and other top-line economic estimates. Ever since its first development, the QFR program has been one of our Nation's most important economic indicators.

Quite simply, this survey allows us to measure how large sectors of our economy are doing. Without the QFR, we would lose a seven-decade economic trendline. The QFR's loss would also have significant negative impacts on a wide variety of economic indicators.

Authorization for this important program expires next week at the end of the fiscal year. Today we consider a bill introduced by Congressman TED LIEU that will reauthorize this key program for an additional 15 years.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved this bill without objection on July 22. It is a good bill, and I would like to thank Congressman TED LIEU for his good work on this and his leadership on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to support and pass this bill.

Further, I would also urge my colleagues in the Senate to take quick action on the legislation as well. The QFR program is vital for understanding our economy, and we cannot and should not let it expire.

Again, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I introduced the Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act, a bill that would reauthorize a vital and common-sense program for 15 years. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill reported by voice vote in July of 2015.

I want to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for working to quickly move this bill forward prior to the program's expiration this year.

Since the end of World War II, the QFR has been a closely watched principal economic indicator used to determine our Nation's gross domestic product, the Federal Reserve's Flow of Funds account, and other vital economic estimates.

It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau based on a sample size of 12,500 companies across a variety of industry sectors, from mining, to manufacturing, to information and professional services. The end result is timely, accurate data on business financial conditions for over one-third of our econ-

omy that is widely used by both government and private sector actors.

□ 1330

The program plans to further expand coverage to over 60 percent of our economy, tracking additional sectors and industries, such as health care and real estate.

The Department of Commerce has called the reauthorization of this program a top priority, and the U.S. Census Bureau has received letters of validation from both the public and private sectors.

The Small Business Administration supports it as do companies such as ProQuest, a Michigan-based global information content and technology company, and companies such as Wells Fargo, whose chief economist wrote in support of this QFR and said: Good decisions require good information.

At a time when our country is not that far removed from the wake of the global financial crisis, we need all the tools at our disposal to measure the state of our economy and to chart our progress.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I appreciate the work of Mr. LIEU. This is a good example of our working together on both sides of the aisle. We passed it smoothly out of committee, and I urge its adoption here today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3116.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH D'AUGUSTINE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 994) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 994

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH D'AUGUSTINE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New

Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While this is a Senate bill, there is nobody who has been more passionate and excited and dedicated to getting this done than Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT. I thank the chairman for helping us to usher this legislation through today. I very much appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand before the House to honor the life and the legacy of one of New Jersey's sons, Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine of Waldwick, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant D'Augustine was killed more than 3 years ago—that was back on March 27, 2012—while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan. In the greatest possible act of self-sacrifice, he gave his life while protecting the lives of men and women in uniform. He was just 29 years old.

Today it is fitting that this House will honor him by passing legislation to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building.

While nothing will ever heal the loss left by Staff Sergeant D'Augustine to his family, to his friends, and to his community, today's vote will ensure that all of the residents of this town will have a permanent reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by one of their native sons.

To protect our freedom, to protect our liberty, to protect our way of life, a few brave men and women have answered that call of duty. They stand—and have stood—between us here in the United States and those who would do us harm. So I am privileged to come

here and stand before this House to honor one of those men today.

You see, it was just one day after graduating from Waldwick High School in 2001 that Staff Sergeant D'Augustine enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

He was assigned then to the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. He had served two full tours of duty in Iraq and was just 2 weeks away from completing his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

He worked as something called an explosive ordnance disposal tech, and he was going ahead of his fellow marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen. He was the one clearing the way for them. Although we will never know the number of lives that he saved, I think his numerous awards speak for his selfless heroism.

He was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the NATO-ISAF Medal. I think all of these speak of his selfless heroism.

Even now, after his passing, Staff Sergeant D'Augustine's legacy continues in his community. The Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Memorial Fund offers a scholarship to one male graduating senior and to one female graduating senior who exemplify the highest standards of citizenship through strong character and dedication to community service. Since October of 2012, the fund has donated more than \$94,000 to numerous charities as well as direct donations to veterans in need.

The tremendous outpouring of love and support for his family since his death has provided a glimpse into the numbers of lives that he has touched and to the number of lives his love continues to touch.

To those who knew him best—his parents, Anthony and Patricia; his three sisters, Nicole, Jennifer, Michele; and his brother-in-law, Len—he will be remembered as a loving son and brother.

To his fellow marines, he will be remembered as a faithful brother in arms. To this Nation, he will be remembered as a patriot who loved this country, who loved the Marine Corps, and who gave his life in defense of freedom.

The Marine Corps' motto is *Semper Fidelis*, always faithful. Staff Sergeant D'Augustine lived this motto, and his legacy embodies it. He was faithful to

his country; he was faithful to the mission; he was faithful to the Corps; and he was faithful to his fellow marines.

In times such as this, words do fail to provide adequate comfort to his family and to his friends; but it is my hope, as I think it is the hope of us all, to know that the prayers and gratitude of this Nation are with them.

I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation. Again, I thank the chairman for moving this legislation, for ensuring that the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office becomes an everlasting honor to his legacy and service to our Nation.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 994, a bill to designate the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office.

A native of New Jersey, Joseph D'Augustine attended Waldwick High School, where he wrestled and played football.

Following his graduation, Joseph joined the Marine Corps, serving two tours of duty as an infantryman in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 27, 2012, while serving his second tour in Afghanistan, Joseph was tragically killed while working to diffuse a bomb.

Having served on Active Duty myself—and still in the Reserves—I want to honor Joseph for his service and also his family for their sacrifice and their loss.

Joseph received a number of awards for his dedicated service, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

In addition to Joseph's courageous military service, he is remembered for giving back to his hometown through a youth wrestling program that he co-founded with his father.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor the years that Staff Sergeant D'Augustine dedicated to this country and the ultimate sacrifice he made on our behalf.

I urge the passage of S. 994.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in closing, you have heard today of the passionate, deep-felt belief of our colleague, Congressman GARRETT. It is very appropriate to pass this bill and name this post office after Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine.

I didn't know his family, but I hope his family will know today, tomorrow, and forever how grateful this Nation is. People like him step up; they serve; they answer the call of their country.

I hope we always remember that and give pause and thanks to those men and women who do sacrifice. So I find

it very appropriate that we would name this post office after this young man, Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine.

I urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 994.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT H. DIETZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1442) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1442

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT H. DIETZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1442, introduced by Congressman CHRIS GIBSON. We are honored that he is championing this bill through the House.

I think he has the best perspective from which to give an overview of why it is appropriate that we honor Staff Sergeant Robert Dietz for his sacrifice to this country and honor him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the Greatest Generation from my district in upstate New York. H.R. 1442 renames the post office in Kingston, New York, after Staff Sergeant Robert Dietz, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions during World War II.

Sergeant Dietz hailed from Kingston, New York, a proud and historical city in New York's 19th Congressional District.

In March of 1945, Sergeant Dietz led his squad on an attack of a heavily fortified German position while protecting a key bridge.

Under heavy machine gun fire, Sergeant Dietz advanced forward, clearing enemy obstacles, providing a path for the men of his squad and platoon.

This selfless act enabled the success of this attack, but in the process, Sergeant Dietz made the supreme sacrifice and was killed while valiantly leading his men.

Last year I had several local veterans' service organizations reach out to me to rename the post office in Kingston for Sergeant Dietz. I thank these organizations, including the Kingston Veterans Association, William Forte, and Dan Joyce, for their leadership and for their support of this bill.

I want to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and the entire Oversight and Government Reform Committee for passing this bill earlier this year.

I also want to thank the entire New York State delegation for its strong support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, today we pause to remember Sergeant Dietz and all of those men and women who have lost their lives in defense of our freedoms.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1442.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1442, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building."

A Kingston native, Sergeant Dietz served in the Army's 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division, during World War II. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor, and this is some of what he did.

He was leading a squad as they advanced, and a minefield and two well-defended bridges blocked their path. Despite heavy fire, Sergeant Dietz led his men through the minefield and forged on.

In a show of unmatched courage, Sergeant Dietz dodged bullets to independ-

ently advance to the first bridge, where he killed the bazooka team that was defending the structure.

He continued to advance, killing another bazooka team as well as other German soldiers who fired at him. In his final act of bravery, Sergeant Dietz dove into waist-deep water to disconnect the demolition charges on the second bridge, and he was struck and killed by German sniper fire when he stood to alert his men that their route was then clear.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill in order to honor Sergeant Dietz' valiant actions and to remember a man who truly put his country before himself.

I urge the passage of H.R. 1442.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Dietz, this is what made America great. People like this stepped up and answered the call. They find themselves in a most impossible situation, but they are fighting for their country. It embodies the American spirit.

I would urge the passage today of H.R. 1442.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1442.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 322) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 322

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 322 introduced by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, which designates the post office located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office.

I find this very appropriate. This is a young person who went to serve their country, and we honor that person.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the Congresswoman who has championed this through the House of Representatives.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a brave American hero, Sergeant Zachary M. Fisher, from my hometown of Ballwin, Missouri.

On July 14, 2010, Missouri's Second District lost a brave young man when United States Army Sergeant Zach Fisher was killed by an IED while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Fisher was assigned to the 27th Engineer Battalion of the 20th Engineer Brigade based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was 24 years old when he died at Forward Operating Base Lagman in Afghanistan.

Zach graduated in 2004 from Marquette High School in St. Louis, where his history teacher remembered him as a patriotic student with an interest in how the United States developed as a country.

Zach met his beautiful and loving wife, Jessica, just before his earlier deployment in Iraq. At the time of his death, they had been married for just 2 years.

Sergeant Fisher is survived by his parents, Sue and Jim Jacobs and Bob and Alicia Fisher; and three brothers, Andrew, Clayton, and Alexander; along with two sisters, Emily and Zoe.

Zach initially enlisted in the United States Army Reserves. When he told his parents that he wanted to report for Active Duty, they asked him to give them two good reasons why he would choose to put himself in harm's way in the service of his country. His reply said a lot about the character of the man Zach Fisher. He wanted to join the Army because he wanted the discipline that it would provide, and he wanted to be part of something bigger than himself.

Although the United States of America can never fully repay the priceless debt we owe to Sergeant Fisher, we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on. Therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 322, a bill that names the Chesterfield main post office after such a courageous young man, memorializing a hero who gave up his life in service to the Nation that he loved.

All of Zachary's friends would say that Zach was their best friend. He was a dedicated warrior whose commitment to family, friends, and country will be long remembered.

I am proud that this legislation will serve as a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of Sergeant Zachary Fisher, standing as a physical reminder of the bravery of one American from Missouri's Second District who chose to serve a cause greater than himself.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 322, a bill to designate the Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office.

Zachary Fisher was born in Missouri in 1986. A 2004 graduate of Marquette High School, Zachary was known for his passion for American history, patriotism, and academic excellence.

To those who knew him, it was no surprise that Zachary decided to serve his country by enlisting in the Army Reserves in 2006. In 2007, he was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and later, in December 2009, to Afghanistan.

Tragically, on July 14, 2010, Sergeant Fisher and seven of his fellow soldiers were killed in Afghanistan after insurgents attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device. For his honorable service, Sergeant Fisher received numerous military awards, including the NATO Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. Sergeant Fisher is survived by his wife, Jessica, his parents and five siblings.

Having myself served in Active Duty and still in the Reserves, I honor Sergeant Fisher's outstanding service and sacrifice to our Nation, and also the sacrifice of his family.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill and remember the brave leadership of Sergeant Zachary Fisher and honor the ultimate sacrifice he made for our Nation. I urge the passage of H.R. 322.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my deep honor to support something that would honor the life, the sacrifice, and the commitment of the patriotism of Sergeant Fisher.

I hope his family knows and internalizes how grateful his country is, how men and women across the country thank the young people who step up and serve their Nation.

So we recognize Army Sergeant Zachary M. Fisher, and I urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 322.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SGT. AMANDA N. PINSON POST OFFICE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 323) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SGT. AMANDA N. PINSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 323, which is introduced and championed by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, which designates this post office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office.

We love people like this who step up and serve their Nation and to be able to recognize this person, their family,

and their community. We are so grateful to be able to remember the great sacrifices that they have made. The person who is in the best position to discuss this is Congresswoman ANN WAGNER.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of an American hero. On March 16, 2006, Missouri's Second Congressional District lost a brave young soldier when United States Army Sergeant Amanda N. Pinson was killed in a mortar attack while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this courageous young woman.

Army Sergeant Amanda Pinson was a signals intelligence analyst assigned to the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment of the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The Screaming Eagles are personal to me. My oldest son, Raymond, is presently serving as a captain in the 101st Airborne.

Growing up in Lemay, Missouri, Amanda enlisted in the Army after graduating from Hancock Place High School, where she won several scholarships and was on the basketball and softball teams.

Amanda was always concerned with helping others. In high school, she started her own group called the Hancock Environmental Leadership Program, and she enlisted all of her friends to join her in making a difference.

Amanda and her group of dedicated volunteers planted trees at local parks and volunteered with local seniors. The group also planted and maintained flowers at the entrance of Jefferson Barracks Park. The park where she used to plant flowers is adjoined to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where Amanda was laid to rest. A pink willow tree was also planted in her honor at her alma mater, Hancock High School, in 2006.

Amanda clearly had the respect and the admiration of her fellow soldiers. She was described as a "model soldier" and "a breath of fresh air" by Lieutenant Colonel Lucinda Lane, who spoke at her service.

Following her death, Sergeant Pinson was awarded a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, and a Purple Heart. Her impact on the people privileged to know her is evidenced by the several memorials that honor her life.

In 2006, the U.S. Army honored Amanda by dedicating the building where she worked in Tikrit, Iraq, naming it Pinson Hall.

Amanda is survived by her mother, Chris; her father, Tony; and her younger brother, Bryan.

The Sgt. Amanda M. Pinson Post Office will join the other memorials in

her honor as a testament to the bravery, valor, and kindness of this American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for her country.

It is my honor to sponsor H.R. 323, a bill that names the Affton Branch, Grasso Plaza Post Office after such a courageous young woman, immortalizing a hero who gave up her life in service to the Nation that she loved. May it bring comfort to her family and their friends and give witness to Sergeant Pinson's bravery and sacrifice. To quote the face that adorns so many tributes and memorials to Amanda: "If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever."

So today on behalf of a grateful nation, I say: Thank you, Amanda. You are indeed loved.

□ 1400

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 323, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Sergeant Amanda N. Pinson Post Office.

As has been stated, she was a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and attended the high school there. Not only was Amanda one of the top students in her class, she enjoyed the opportunity to participate in sports and excelled in them, all while earning numerous academic scholarships.

She enlisted in the military, and she served her country. She was assigned to the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where she served as a signals intelligence analyst.

It has been stated that, while she was deployed to Iraq in 2006, Sergeant Pinson was tragically killed by a mortar round on March 16. She was the first female signals intelligence analyst to ever be killed in combat.

Sergeant Pinson was honored by having the Army's new cryptology center named in her honor and her memory. Additionally, Sergeant Pinson's parents accepted a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Medal and a Purple Heart for their daughter's commendable military service.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to remember Sergeant Amanda Pinson's unselfish dedication to bettering the lives of those around her and for her ultimate sacrifice she so bravely made.

I urge the passage of H.R. 323.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill. It is appropriate that the United States Congress honor Sergeant Pinson.

I hope that her family will always know how much this Nation is grateful

for this young woman's service and sacrifice to her country.

She was only 21 years old—21 years old. She answered the call, stepped up, served her Nation. While her life was taken, I think the inspiration and dedication that she gave her Nation should always be remembered.

I thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for bringing this to the attention of the Congress and championing it through.

I urge the passage of H.R. 323.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 323.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 324

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are here today to honor Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan with a post of-

fice naming in St. Louis, Missouri. This has been brought to our attention by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER.

I appreciate her championing this through the Congress. She is in the best position to give the background and the reasoning for the naming of this post office.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman very, very much for his indulgence in these three post office namings.

I thank the ranking member, also.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a brave young man from Missouri's Second Congressional District. On June 23, 2007, Missouri's Second Congressional District lost a true American hero when United States Army First Lieutenant Daniel Riordan made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this young patriot. Daniel Patrick Riordan was born to Rick and Jeanine Riordan on February 17, 1983.

He had a twin brother, Nick, and an older sister, Suzanne. After graduating from Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, Dan attended Southeast Missouri State, where he was in the Air Force's ROTC program.

After graduation, Dan decided to follow his father into the military and joined the U.S. Army, quickly becoming known as Lieutenant Dan.

Lieutenant Dan became a tank commander, and in 2006 he was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of Demon Company in the 1st Cavalry Division, Dan served with courage and determination.

Despite frequently being outnumbered in enemy territory, Dan was always out on point, leading his platoon into battle. Dan took his leadership responsibilities literally. As he put it: How can I order my men forward if I am not willing to go first?

To those who knew Dan, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was both a fierce and dedicated warrior in the service of our country and a caring and loving gentleman who felt a duty to help those in need.

From a very young age, Dan showed sensitivity beyond his years. At the age of 5 or 6, while attending a funeral, Dan's mom found him sitting with an elderly woman.

When she asked him why he was sitting with her, he said she looked sad and lonely. It was this kind of compassion that drew him to the United States military: his desire to serve, help, and protect those in need.

While at home on leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dan consistently reassured his family that our country's military efforts were truly bringing

empowerment and freedom to the people of Iraq. He believed in a cause greater than himself, that of freedom, democracy, and the dignity of all people.

While in the Army, Dan wrote his mother a letter in case he didn't return. One thing that he said was: Don't mourn for me, Mom. Celebrate my life.

Today we celebrate First Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan's life by designating the Sappington Branch Post Office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan Post Office.

The United States of America owes Dan a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay, but we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on.

Therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 324, a bill that names the Sappington Branch Post Office after such a courageous young man, immortalizing a hero who gave up his life in the service to the Nation that he loved.

This legislation will serve as a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of First Lieutenant Daniel Riordan, standing as a physical reminder of the bravery of one American from Missouri's Second Congressional District.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 324, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in St. Louis, Missouri, as Lieutenant Daniel Riordan Post Office.

Daniel Riordan was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and then later at the age of 5 moved to St. Louis, Missouri. There he attended the high school of St. John Vianney.

While attending college at Southeast Missouri State University, Daniel worked for the Department of Public Safety and the Jackson Sheriff's Department.

In pursuit of his childhood dream of becoming a fighter pilot, Daniel also joined the university's Air Force ROTC program.

Upon graduation, Daniel was commissioned in the U.S. Army, beginning his career in the infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

By 2006, he had become a tank commander of the Blue Platoon. In October of that year, his unit deployed for a 15-month tour to Iraq.

Lieutenant Riordan survived many attacks from explosive devices with only minor wounds, and he was proud of his unit's brave actions on behalf of the Iraqi citizens.

Sadly, in June of 2007, a massive IED explosion instantly took the lives of Lieutenant Riordan and four others in his unit. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 324 to remember the brave leadership of Lieutenant Daniel Riordan and to

honor the sacrifices he made for the love of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I urge the passage of H.R. 324. Lieutenant Riordan served with great courage and sacrifice for his Nation.

I hope his family, friends, and colleagues, those around him will look to him for inspiration, somebody who steps up and answers the call of their country.

I only hope and pray that his family knows how much we all care across the country for people like Lieutenant Riordan. I appreciate the help on both sides of the aisle to get this passed.

I really appreciate Congresswoman WAGNER, who brought this to everybody's attention and really pushed to get it done. I hope we find it in our hearts to pass this appropriate bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RICHARD "DICK" CHENAULT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 558) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the Richard "Dick" Chenault Post Office Building.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 558

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RICHARD "DICK" CHENAULT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

□ 1415

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 558, introduced by Mr. CHABOT. It is a very appropriate bill, recognizing someone in the community.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 558, which names the post office in Springboro, Ohio, after Richard Chenault.

Mr. Chenault was born in Xenia, Ohio, on December 26, 1925. He was married to his wife, Phyllis, for 63 years. They have four children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was a lifelong resident of Springboro and Clearcreek Township before passing away in November 2010.

Throughout his life, Richard Chenault dedicated himself to serving his community and his Nation. A World War II veteran, Mr. Chenault served in the United States Army's First Cavalry Division from 1944 to 1946, including a year in occupied Japan. Upon returning to Ohio after the war, he sought a career in which he could continue to serve, this time in his local community. He found that opportunity with the U.S. Postal Service, where he was one of the first letter carriers for the Springboro Post Office. He served his community as an employee of the post office for 22 years.

But Richard Chenault's dedication to his community and his neighbors didn't stop there. He was a member of the Clearcreek Township Volunteer Fire Department for 45 years, and he served as chief of the department for 23 of those years. Additionally, he was a part-time police officer during the fifties, sixties, and early 1970s, and was a charter member of the Springboro Lions Club, which was founded in 1953. He didn't miss a meeting for 57 years. Somehow he even found time to frequently mow lawns, shovel snow, and check on his elderly neighbors.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Chenault was adored and revered by the Springboro community. When he passed, his obituary in the Dayton Daily News was headlined, "Springboro Icon Dies," and he had one of the largest funerals in Springboro history.

Since his passing, members of the community have sought the best way

to honor a man who did so much for so many. Fittingly, the community has rallied to remember him by naming their local post office the Richard Chenault Post Office, as it was the post office that allowed Mr. Chenault to do what he loved best: serve his neighbors.

I ask for your support in honoring this extraordinary public servant by supporting this bill.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 558, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in Springboro, Ohio, as the Richard "Dick" Chenault Post Office Building.

We have heard the amazing career and service of Mr. Chenault. It includes service to his country in many ways. Serving during World War II, he returned back to his community and continued to serve. He was well-known as a friendly face in Springboro. He became the first letter carrier when the postal delivery started in 1965, and he continued to do so until his retirement in 1988.

I want to take the time to note that postal service employment is a form of service to our country and to our citizens. That is included in his resume of service, and it is deserving of recognition.

He served in the volunteer fire department as their chief. He served as a deputy policeman. He also was involved in community groups, such as being a charter member of the Lions Club. He had an unwavering commitment to service in his community. One thing that is notable is that Mr. Chenault had perfect attendance at the Lions Club for 57 years.

Mr. Chenault is survived by his family, but also by the community that he served. Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize Dick Chenault's devotion to public service and the impact that he made on his community and those fortunate enough to know him.

I would also note that this is an example of an individual who, at every level he was given an opportunity to serve, he did. It is with such honor that we should give him, his family, and those who knew him this recognition by naming the post office after him. I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

From what I know about Mr. Chenault, he was a great American. I am proud that Congressman STEVE CHABOT brought this up and moved this bill, because he did everything as an American. He served his country. He served his community. He served his family. He was a volunteer firefighter, fire chief, part-time police officer, and a charter member and president of the

Lions Club. For more than 50 years, he had a perfect attendance at the Lions Club. My goodness.

He was somebody who gave back to his community and somebody who I would hope young people will learn more about when they see the designation of this post office. We thank his family. We thank him for his service to his country, his family, and his community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 558.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OFFICER DARYL R. PIERSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1884) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1884

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OFFICER DARYL R. PIERSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are preparing and supporting the designation of a post office for a great

American. This is brought to our attention and introduced by Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER. It is probably most appropriate that she be the one to tell us more about this person's background, this person's life, and why we should name this post office after him. It is a great American story.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to honor a great young man whom the Rochester, New York, community continues to mourn and seeks to memorialize.

On September 3 of last year, Rochester Police Officer Daryl R. Pierson was killed in the line of duty. His job with the Rochester Police Department's tactical unit was important to all of us. He was recognized for working to remove illegal guns from the streets.

While securing our neighborhoods and ensuring that our children were safe, Officer Pierson paid the ultimate price at the young age of 32. He was the first Rochester Police Department officer killed by gunfire in the line of duty since 1959, and our community will not forget him.

He left behind a wife, Amy Pierson—a young widow now—and two young children, Christian and Charity. It brings me great sadness to know that he will not be able to see them grow up and that they will only know him now from memory.

Officer Pierson's death traumatized the entire community, which came together in mourning. Over a thousand police officers and citizens of our area attended his funeral at the War Memorial Building.

But he served far more than what he did in the police department. He served as a member of the National Guard. He was also an Army veteran of the war in Afghanistan. After all that, he came home to try to make his community safer. He died trying to do that. He was a devoted police officer who did his best every single day of his life.

The bill before us would rename the United States Post Office in his hometown community of East Rochester, New York, after him. It would be a wonderful tribute to his service. The most important thing is that every citizen of East Rochester and anyone else who uses that post office will never go into that door without remembering Daryl Pierson and who he was and what he did.

I think Daryl's mother-in-law summed it up better than anyone could. She said: "Daryl lived as a hero; he didn't have to die to be a hero."

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R.

1884, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located in East Rochester, New York, as the Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building.

A native of East Rochester, New York, Daryl Pierson graduated from East Rochester High School and attended Monroe Community College. He served our country in Afghanistan before he began his service in the Rochester Police Force.

It is said his calming demeanor and ability to deal with chaotic situations made him a perfect fit for the department's tactical unit. As a member of that unit, Officer Pierson received numerous awards, including the 2013 Good Conduct Award, and 11 letters of recognition from the police chief. In addition to his service in Afghanistan and his service as a police officer, he continued to serve as a member of the National Guard.

It was a sad night on September 3 when Officer Pierson was shot and killed in the line of duty while pursuing a suspect after a traffic stop. He leaves behind a family and a community and country that he served.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to remember Officer Pierson and honor his years of dedicated public service and his ultimate sacrifice in order to protect his community. I urge the passage of H.R. 1884.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great American. He was serving his country. He served his community. As Congresswoman SLAUGHTER brought up, this was a well-supported person within the community.

My heart goes out to his wife, Amy, and their two children, Christian and Charity. They are very young children, but I hope that they remember their father served this country nobly in the United States Army in Afghanistan and in the Army National Guard, putting his life on the line so that other young families could be safe and protected.

I hope that his legacy continues on and that, truly, this post office naming will serve as a reminder to all those in the community and our country that these great people step up, serve their country, serve their community, and they are loved by families and they do tough, difficult things that, quite frankly, a lot of other Americans wouldn't do. We honor him this day. We encourage the passage of Congresswoman SLAUGHTER's bill, H.R. 1884.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1884.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES ROBERT KALSU POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3059) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the "James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3059

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JAMES ROBERT KALSU POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the "James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support today of H.R. 3059. Congressman STEVE RUSSELL, who has served this country in a very noble way, has brought this to our attention, introduced this bill, and shepherded it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We would be honored, I think, all of us, to name this post office after such a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) to tell us more about this amazing person.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, this measure is to memorialize the service of Bob Kalsu by designating the post office in Del City, Oklahoma, to carry his name.

Bob was born as James Robert Kalsu and attended Del City High School in

Del City, Oklahoma, my alma mater and my hometown.

At 6'3" and 235 pounds, he was an All-American offensive tackle in 1967, playing for the University of Oklahoma as they won the Big Eight Conference Title.

The Buffalo Bills of New York selected him in the eighth round of the 1968 college draft, but he quickly proved himself by earning the team's Rookie of the Year award in his first American football league season as guard. It would also be his final season of professional football.

Bob had made an ROTC commitment, earning a commission in the field artillery in college. In late 1969, he was called to duty in the Republic of Vietnam.

He was told that, as a pro football player, arrangements could be made where he wouldn't have to serve, but Bob would have none of it.

He said: I gave my word to my country. Just because I play professional football doesn't make me any better of a man or any different of a man than the men already serving our country. I'm going to live up to that commitment and the word I gave.

Bob deployed to the 101st Airborne Division, leaving behind his beloved wife, Jan, who was pregnant, and a 10-month-old daughter named Jill.

On July 21, 1970, only 8 months into his tour of duty, First Lieutenant Bob Kalsu was killed in action at Fire Support Base Ripcord on an isolated jungle mountaintop near the Ashau Valley, Thua Thien, South Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Bob was survived by his wife, Jan, his daughter, Jill, and son, James Robert Kalsu, Jr., born 2 days after he was killed in action.

Bob Kalsu was the only active professional football player killed in the Vietnam War.

He has been further memorialized as the namesake of FOB or Camp Kalsu in Iraq, a base where thousands of Americans served from 2003 to 2011.

As long as we have breath we will remember him. This act allows others who live after us to do so as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of this fallen American hero.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3059, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

We have heard about this amazing individual who was blessed with such amazing athletic skills, who was selected to play football at the University of Oklahoma and received All-American honors in 1967, leading his

team to a 10–1 record and an Orange Bowl win.

The following year, after being drafted into the NFL, the Buffalo Bills, and starting in 9 of his 14 appearances, he was again recognized as Rookie of the Year.

It was more than his efforts on the football field that made Robert or Bob Kalsu a standout. He always put others first and chose to lead by example. He joined the ROTC at the University of Oklahoma and took to heart the pledge he made to serve his country in the Army.

While many athletes elected to serve in the Reserves, he insisted that he was no better than anyone else and choose to serve on Active Duty.

We know that, after 8 months of being stationed in Lawton, Oklahoma, Lieutenant Bob Kalsu received orders to go to Vietnam, and less than 1 year later, in 1970, he was killed by enemy fire.

It is significant to note he is the only active NFL player to give his life in Vietnam and one of only a handful of professional athletes to serve in Active Duty, Lieutenant Kalsu is survived by a family and, amazingly, a son, who was born just 2 days after his tragic death.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor this individual, Lieutenant Bob Kalsu, and recognize the last full measure of devotion he made on behalf of our great country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 3059.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, as this is our last post office naming that we have on the floor tonight, that so many of us go to postal facilities across the country.

I was a postal employee for 30 years, and I know the service that is given in a Postal Service.

But the ability to name a building in a community where so many of us go, I would like Americans to pause and recognize the names that are given to these facilities.

Do take the time to learn about these individuals. This is done so that their service will never be forgotten and that, as we go about our day, it is one of the things that we can do to give tribute to make sure that their service is not forgotten and to give some comfort to the families who lost someone in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Congressman STEVE RUSSELL for highlighting this person and his life because he truly was an All-American in every sense of the word.

He serves as an inspiration to a lot of people, and I do hope that his loved ones will remember him fondly for the great sacrifice that he gave and commitment that he gave to his country,

as did millions of other Americans. It is appropriate that we recognize them.

And, as was said, I do hope that, as Americans, when we go into these post offices, we recognize people like Mr. Kalsu, who put everything on the line to serve and sacrifice for their country to give us the freedoms that we have here today, that we don't take them for granted, that there are men and women who serve who step up and answer the call of their country. And certainly Mr. Kalsu did that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3059.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 322) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 507]

YEAS—405

Abraham	Brat	Cleaver	Jenkins (WV)	Pallone
Adams	Bridenstine	Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Palmer
Aderholt	Brooks (IN)	Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Pascarell
Aguilar	Brown (FL)	Cohen	Johnson, E. B.	Paulsen
Allen	Brownley (CA)	Cole	Johnson, Sam	Payne
Amash	Bucshon	Collins (GA)	Jordan	Pearce
Ashford	Burgess	Collins (NY)	Joyce	Pelosi
Babin	Bustos	Comstock	Kaptur	Perlmutter
Bass	Butterfield	Conaway	Katko	Perry
Beatty	Byrne	Connolly	Keating	Peters
Becerra	Calvert	Conyers	Kelly (IL)	Peterson
Benishek	Capps	Cook	Kelly (MS)	Pingree
Bera	Capuano	Cooper	Kelly (PA)	Pittenger
Beyer	Cardenas	Costa	Kennedy	Pitts
Bilirakis	Carney	Costello (PA)	Kildee	Pocan
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)	Courtney	Kilmer	Poe (TX)
Bishop (MI)	Carter (GA)	Cramer	Kind	Poliquin
Black	Carter (TX)	Crawford	King (IA)	Polis
Blackburn	Castor (FL)	Crenshaw	King (NY)	Pompeo
Blum	Castro (TX)	Crowley	Kinzinger (IL)	Posey
Blumenauer	Chabot	Cuellar	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)
Bonamici	Chaffetz	Culberson	Kline	Quigley
Bost	Chaffetz	Cummings	Knight	Rangel
Boustany	Chu, Judy	Curbelo (FL)	Kuster	Ratcliffe
Boyle, Brendan	Cicilline	Davis (CA)	Labrador	Reed
F.	Clark (MA)	Davis (CA)	LaHood	Reichert
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	Davis, Rodney	LaMalfa	Renacci
Brady (TX)	Clawson (FL)	DeFazio	Lamborn	Ribble
	Clay	DeGette	Lance	Rice (NY)
			Langevin	Rice (SC)
			Larsen (WA)	Richmond
			Larson (CT)	Rigell
			Latta	Roby
			Lawrence	Roe (TN)
			Lee	Rogers (AL)
			Levin	Rogers (KY)
			Lewis	Rohrabacher
			Lieu, Ted	Rokita
			Lipinski	Rooney (FL)
			LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen
			Loeb	Roskam
			Lofgren	Ross
			Loudermilk	Rothfus
			Love	Rouzer
			Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard
			Lowe	Royce
			Lucas	Ruiz
			Luetkemeyer	Ruppersberger
			Lujan Grisham	Rush
			(NM)	Russell
			Lujan, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)
			(NM)	Ryan (WI)
			Lummis	Salmon
			Lynch	Sanchez, Linda
			MacArthur	T.
			Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
			Marino	Sanford
			Massie	Sarbanes
			Matsui	Scalise
			McCarthy	Schakowsky
			McCaul	Schiff
			McClintock	Schrader
			McDermott	Schweikert
			McGovern	Scott (VA)
			McHenry	Scott, Austin
			McKinley	Sensenbrenner
			McMorris	Serrano
			Rodgers	Sessions
			McNerney	Sewell (AL)
			McSally	Sherman
			Meadows	Shimkus
			Meehan	Sinema
			Meeks	Sires
			Meng	Slaughter
			Messer	Smith (MO)
			Mica	Smith (NE)
			Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
			Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
			Mooney (WV)	Smith (WA)
			Moore	Speier
			Moulton	Stefanik
			Mullin	Stivers
			Mulvaney	Stutzman
			Murphy (PA)	Swalwell (CA)
			Napolitano	Takai
			Neal	Takano
			Neugebauer	Thompson (CA)
			Newhouse	Thompson (MS)
			Noem	Thompson (PA)
			Nolan	Thornberry
			Norcross	Tiberi
			Nugent	Tipton
			Nunes	Titus
			O'Rourke	Tonko
			Olson	Torres
			Palazzo	Trott

Turner	Walters, Mimi	Wilson (SC)
Upton	Walz	Wittman
Valadao	Wasserman	Womack
Van Hollen	Schultz	Woodall
Vargas	Waters, Maxine	Yarmuth
Veasey	Watson Coleman	Yoder
Vela	Weber (TX)	Yoho
Velázquez	Webster (FL)	Young (AK)
Visclosky	Welch	Young (IA)
Wagner	Wenstrup	Young (IN)
Walberg	Westerman	Zeldin
Walden	Westmoreland	Zinke
Walker	Whitfield	
Walorski	Wilson (FL)	

NOT VOTING—29

Amodei	Grijalva	Moolenaar
Barletta	Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)
Barr	Hudson	Nadler
Barton	Jolly	Price, Tom
Bishop (UT)	Jones	Scott, David
Brooks (AL)	Long	Shuster
Buchanan	Maloney	Simpson
Buck	Carolyn	Stewart
Cartwright	Marchant	Tsongas
Davis, Danny	McCollum	Williams

□ 1511

Mr. RANGEL changed his vote from “present” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESPONSIBLY AND PROFESSIONALLY INVIGORATING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 348.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 420 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 348.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1514

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1515

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

America's voters sent the 114th Congress to Washington to help turn around this Nation's struggling economy.

For more than 6½ long years, America's families and workers have been waiting for the Obama administration to join with Congress to pass measures that will adequately restore jobs and growth to our land. The job clearly has not been finished.

Throughout the Obama administration, America's growth rate has been historically anemic. The truest measure of unemployment—the rate that includes both discouraged workers and those who cannot find a full-time job—remains over 10 percent. Our labor force participation rate remains mired among historic lows.

Median real household income, meanwhile, is 5 percent lower than in June 2009, when the recession officially ended. Median incomes are supposed to rise during economic recoveries, not fall. The Obama administration has managed to buck the historical trend.

However, the President at least pays lip service to the need to unleash construction projects. If one thinks back to the start of the Obama administration, one can remember President Obama's plan to solve the Great Recession with the nearly \$1 trillion stimulus bill.

The stimulus was supposed to work, according to the President, because America had shovel-ready projects from which new, good-paying jobs would be created once the stimulus was enacted and the money was doled out.

While many, including myself, disagreed with the fundamental premise of the stimulus bill, the President blamed his stimulus bill's failure on the lack of shovel-ready projects. As he put it, “Shovel-ready was not as shovel-ready as we expected.”

Mr. Chairman, that is the problem that today's legislation—the RAPID Act—is intended to solve.

This legislation fulfills post-stimulus bill calls of leaders in Congress, the White House, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, and the private sector to streamline the review of Federal construction permit applications. It contains well-thought-out, balanced reforms that provide for more efficient and effective decision-making.

Stated succinctly, the RAPID Act gives lead Federal agencies more responsibility to conduct and conclude efficient interagency reviews of permit requests, demands that any entity challenging a final permitting decision in court first have presented the substance of its claims during the agency

review process, and requires that lawsuits challenging permitting decisions be filed within 6 months of the decisions, not 6 years, as the law currently allows.

These are simple, but powerful, reforms that will allow good projects to move forward more quickly, delivering high-quality jobs and improvements to Americans' daily lives.

Prior iterations of the RAPID Act passed the House three times during the 112th and 113th Congresses, each time with bipartisan support.

Once enacted, this legislation will help to create millions of high-paying jobs and make government decision-making more efficient and effective.

Importantly, it will also continue to ensure that the impacts of new projects on the environment can be considered responsibly before permitting decisions are made.

I thank Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee Chairman MARINO of Pennsylvania for introducing this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the RAPID Act.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleagues, I rise in rather strong opposition to the measure before us, H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015, or its nickname, the RAPID Act.

H.R. 348 has a number of flaws. I won't try to go into each and every one of them. Most critically, this measure would jeopardize public safety and health by prioritizing project approval over meaningful analysis that is currently required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

By giving the proponents of construction projects greater control over the environmental approval process, this bill is the equivalent of giving Wall Street the authority to write its own regulations for financial responsibility. The bill accomplishes this result in several respects.

To begin with, under the guise of streamlining the approval process, H.R. 348 forecloses potentially critical input from Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as from members of the public, to comment on environmentally sensitive construction projects that are federally funded or that require Federal approval.

The bill also imposes hard and fast deadlines that may be unrealistic under certain circumstances. Moreover, if an agency fails to meet these unrealistic deadlines, the bill simply declares that a project must be deemed approved regardless of whether the agency has thoroughly assessed the task. This is an embarrassment, my friends.

As a result, H.R. 348 could allow projects that put public health and

safety at risk to be approved before the safety review is completed.

This failing of the bill, along with some others, explains why the administration and the President's Council on Environmental Quality, along with more than 40 respected environmental groups, vigorously oppose this legislation before us today.

These organizations include Public Citizen, the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society. Likewise, the administration has appropriately issued a veto threat.

Stating that the bill will increase litigation, regulatory delays, and potentially force agencies to approve a project if the review and analysis cannot be completed before the proposed arbitrary deadlines, the administration warns that, if H.R. 348 ever became law, it would lead to more confusion and delay, limit public participation in the permitting process, and, ultimately, hamper economic growth.

Another concern, among many, that I have with this measure is that it is a flawed solution in search of an imaginary problem, and that is not just my opinion.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, for instance, states that highway construction project delays based on environmental requirements stem not from the National Environmental Policy Act, but from laws other than the National Environmental Policy Act.

In fact, the Congressional Research Service found that the primary source of approval delays for these projects are more often tied to local or State and project-specific factors, primarily local or State agency priorities, project funding levels, local opposition to a project, project complexity, or late changes in project scope.

Undoubtedly, the so-called RAPID Act will make the process less clear and less protective of public health and safety.

My final major concern with this bill is that, rather than streamlining the environmental review process, which we need to do, it will sow utter confusion.

H.R. 348 does this by creating a separate, but only partly parallel, environmental review process for construction projects, which will cause confusion, delay, and litigation.

As I have noted, the changes to the National Environmental Policy Act's review process, as contemplated by the measure before us today, apply only to certain construction projects.

The National Environmental Policy Act, on the other hand, applies to a broad panoply of Federal actions, including fishing, hunting, and grazing permits, land management plans, Base Realignment and Closure activities, and treaties.

As a result of the bill, there could potentially be two different environmental review processes for the same project.

For instance, the bill's requirements would apply to the construction of a nuclear reactor, but not to its decommissioning or to the transportation and storage of its spent fuel.

Rather than improving the environmental review process, the measure before us will complicate it and generate more litigation. More importantly, this bill is yet another effort by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to undermine regulatory protections.

As with all of the other regulatory bills, this measure is a thinly disguised effort to hobble the ability of Federal agencies to do the work the Congress requires that it does.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to strenuously oppose this seriously flawed bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), the chief sponsor of this legislation and the chairman of the Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MARINO. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, once again, my good friends on the other side think we need more government, more EPA overreach, more regulation, to continue the \$19 trillion of debt that we have and to continue the flawed job opportunities of this administration's over the past 6 years.

Once again, today we consider the RAPID Act. As the gentleman from Virginia stated, during the 112th and 113th Congresses, the House passed this bill on three separate occasions in a bipartisan fashion.

Once again, we are considering a number of important regulatory reforms that present the potential for immediately impactful economic growth across our Nation.

Our Federal permitting process is undeniably broken. Duplicative environmental reviews have clogged decision-making for years.

Although recent studies have shown that, on average, an environmental impact study will take 3 to 4 years, the permitting process for many projects takes years more or, sadly, even decades.

Even more disappointing are indications that average environmental review times are increasing by over a month per year.

Furthermore, final decision-making has been driven by political whims rather than by the merits of any particular project that would be borne through economic growth and job creation.

Political pressure should never impede projects of worth that would get

Americans back to work. One recent study found that 7 years of delay on the Keystone pipeline have kept us from realizing nearly \$175 billion in potential economic activity. At a time when true economic recovery lags and more Americans become disheartened and leave the workforce, such delays are unacceptable.

The RAPID Act reforms remove government obstructions from the equation by implementing hard deadlines for environmental review, and they shorten the window for judicial review. It doesn't take review away. It shortens it to a reasonable period of time.

We cannot delay while our infrastructure—from highways and bridges to transmission lines and waterways—crumbles around us in America's counties, towns, and cities.

I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to bring this bill to the President's desk, and I hope that we can get this country working again.

Federal agencies and departments and employees have to be held accountable just like we are in private industry. They cannot sit back and let these permits and these issues stack up on their desks while they play games on their computers.

I have hope that we can get this bill through and the country working again. Please support the RAPID Act.

□ 1530

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), the ranking subcommittee member.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act, or the RAPID Act. But if I had my druthers, I would change it to the "Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Diversion Act," or RAPID Act.

I would say that it is a diversion because we have got important work to do in this Chamber, Mr. Chair. Everybody knows that we are approaching the end of the fiscal year. It will be here in 6 short days.

During this whole month of September—we are at September 24 today—we have had a total of 8 legislative days during this month, knowing that we are coming up to the end of the fiscal year and we need to pass a spending bill to keep the government open and operating. We have been knowing this.

We spent 6 weeks in August, from July to September, a total of about 6 weeks at home lounging while the Nation's business in Washington, D.C., went undone. We have spent a total of 8 legislative days out of the 24 days in September doing everything other than addressing the looming issue, which is the coming, or impending, government shutdown.

Now, we are here today. We just took one vote. This is the first legislative day of this week. We have got one business day left. The first legislative day, after hearing from the Pope, we have just had our last vote for the day. It was our one and only vote for the day, and it was to rename a post office.

We are coming up on the government shutdown, and what are we dealing with? Instead of dealing with the Nation's finances, we are dealing with this RAPID Act, which, as I said, is a diversion from the real duty that we need to be taking care of today.

H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, is a misguided attempt to sow widespread confusion and delay in the review and permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

For over 40 years, the approval process for projects under NEPA has saved time, money, and protected the environment, which the Pope spoke of our need to protect today. In fact, since NEPA was enacted, the U.S. economy has not contracted. It has actually tripled in size from just over \$5 trillion to more than \$16 trillion.

Among other things, NEPA requires agencies to prepare a detailed environmental review for proposals relating to "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." NEPA's purpose is to provide a framework for wide-ranging input from all affected interests when a Federal agency conducts an environmental review of a proposed project.

H.R. 348, the so-called RAPID Act, upends this review process in three ways:

First, H.R. 348 carves out a separate environmental review process for construction projects. Currently, NEPA applies to a broad range of Federal projects, including hunting permits, land management plans, military base realignment and closure activities, and treaties. In contrast, H.R. 348 only applies to a subset of these Federal projects, creating more regulatory complexity in the permitting system, not less.

Second, section (c) of the RAPID Act allows any project sponsor to prepare an environmental document in lieu of such analysis by the lead agency. It is not difficult to imagine the shortcomings of allowing corporations, which seek to maximize shareholder value, to sit in the driver's seat on environmental policy. In fact, that is why we have such environmental degradation today.

During a legislative hearing on H.R. 348, Amit Narang, a regulatory policy advocate for Public Citizen, compared section (c) to "asking big banks to determine the costs and benefits of new Wall Street reform rules, or big energy companies to determine the costs and benefits of new climate change or air pollution measures."

The inherent conflict of interest built into this section reveals the bill's

clear design to allow project sponsors to manipulate the NEPA permit approval process to the greatest extent possible. It is clear that not only does this Republican bill task the fox with guarding the henhouse, it would also have him install the chicken wire as well.

Finally, under section (i) of H.R. 348, if an agency fails to meet the unrealistic deadlines mandated by H.R. 348, the bill would automatically greenlight a Federal construction project, regardless of whether or not the agency has thoroughly reviewed the project's risks.

Even if I were to set aside these concerns, it is difficult for me to look past the complete lack of empirical data supporting the premise of the RAPID Act, which is that agency compliance with NEPA is the cause of delays in approving permits.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service reported in 2012 that project approval delays based on environmental requirements are not caused by NEPA, but "are more often tied to local/State and project-specific factors, primarily local/State agency priorities, project funding levels, local opposition to a project, project complexity, or late changes in project scope."

Similarly, Dinah Bear, who served as the general counsel for the White House Council on Environmental Quality which oversees NEPA's implementation, for over 20 years under both Republican and Democratic administrations, testified in the 112th Congress that most delays in the environmental review process are not the result of NEPA, but due to other factors entirely unrelated to NEPA.

In other words, the RAPID Act does nothing to address the lack of adequate funds allocated to Federal construction projects or State-based barriers to the timely completion of construction projects, which are two of the most common delays and have nothing to do with regulatory permits under NEPA.

So, therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. SMITH for working on this important bill and bringing it to the House floor.

Speeding up the regulatory process in the United States is an important issue in keeping America competitive. The methodical, slow, snail-paced decision or lack of decision process of the EPA to make a decision on whether or not to approve a project is absurd.

The RAPID Act addresses the problem of extensive requirements and growing delays in Federal permitting and approvals for construction projects stemming from multiple agencies, ex-

cessive requirements, and unnecessary lawsuits.

According to an April 2014 report issued by the GAO, the average preparation time for the required environmental impact statement finalized in 2012 was over 4½ years. Now, the environmental impact statement is just the first requirement in getting a permit.

Four-and-a-half years—World War II took less time than it takes the EPA to make a decision on whether or not to approve a project. They just continue to study and study and study. Mr. Chair, it is about time for the EPA to pick a horse and ride it, make a decision about these projects.

I am not going to talk in theory. I am going to talk about an actual project down in my congressional district.

The Sabine-Neches Waterway, most Americans have never heard of it. The Sabine-Neches waterway is what some of us call "the other Texas international border." It is the waterway between Louisiana and Texas. We have been wanting, since 1997, to deepen that 40-foot waterway to 48 feet. That is just 8 feet. We just want to make it a little deeper so ships can come in and off-load their cargo and off-load their fuel.

What they are doing now, they can't come in with a full load of fuel on those tankers. They have to off-load it, sometimes 20 percent, in the Gulf of Mexico and then bring in the rest. That costs money. We just want 8 feet.

So in 1997, my predecessors asked the EPA for an environmental impact statement and finally got that impact statement. It took 20 years to get an impact statement. I have had 11 grandkids since I have been in Congress, and that impact statement has been pending all that time.

We just want 8 feet. Is it okay? The EPA finally made a decision, but yet we still haven't started moving dirt.

The original project was about \$600 million. Now, it is about \$1.3 billion, and we still don't have that extra 8 feet. Why? Because the bureaucrats can't make a decision. Delay, delay, delay.

That is the name of the EPA: Delay, Delay, Delay. All this bill does, it says to this bureaucracy, study the information, reach a conclusion, and approve the project if it ought to be approved so America can be competitive worldwide. But, no, the other side says: Well, we need more studies; we need more information.

Mr. Chair, if Teddy Roosevelt would have had to deal with the EPA in building the Panama Canal, it would have never been built because of all the regulatory requirements—some unnecessary, in my opinion.

So let's approve the RAPID Act. Let's get America working again. The Sabine-Neches Waterway has numerous refineries on it. It is the energy hub of

the United States. We just want 8 feet, Mr. Chair. That is all we want. Pick a horse and ride it. The EPA needs to get their act together.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU).

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 348, also known as the RAPID Act. This bill will rapidly cause environmental degradation.

Under this bill, if it became law, you could have projects that harm the environment that are deemed approved, even if the review process was not yet completed. That is crazy. Keep in mind, we have had over 60 straight months of job creation under the Obama administration. Those are the facts.

This bill is written in such a way that it will cause confusion. It will cause increased delays and limit public involvement in this important process. It is also unscientific.

There is a provision in this bill that says we cannot count the social cost of carbon. Now, I believe in a free market, and I believe that that has made America strong, but we can't have government artificially come in and say we are going to say things are costs and things are not costs when it is not scientifically based.

We know that carbon has done a lot to increase climate change and caused global warming. That is why I, along with Representatives PETERS, POLIS, and LOWENTHAL, have introduced an amendment to put that language back in. We can't just say stop talking and ignore carbon.

Keep in mind, just a few hours ago, Pope Francis came in to a joint session of Congress and told us to really revert and look at what we have done in terms of causing environmental degradation.

□ 1545

Now, just a few hours later, we are back to attacking the environment. This is not right.

I urge that we not support the RAPID Act.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to myself to say to the gentleman from California that we may have 60 straight months of increased job creation, but the average American worker is making 5 percent less than they were before those 60 months began. The reason is that we are overregulating our economy.

If we are really going to create jobs, we have got to have the infrastructure to do it. We have got to have the projects like were just described by Congressman POE of Texas.

Just 8 more feet of depth would bring a lot more jobs to east Texas and to Louisiana by being able to bring that product further up inland.

These kind of projects require careful environmental assessment, but it doesn't require assessment that takes 20 years to take place. It should take place in a much more limited period of time.

This bill helps to encourage focusing the mind on what needs to get done. That includes taking careful consideration of the environment, but it doesn't include delay, delay, delay.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY), a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Natural Resources, both of which understand the importance of these projects.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, before I had the privilege of being elected to the 114th Congress, I spent more than four decades in the construction industry.

After growing up as a fifth-generation son of a farmer and rancher, I set out to learn the trades and acquire the skills that would one day allow me to support myself and my family.

Over the course of those four decades in construction, I learned what it takes to start and run a successful business and how to create quality, good-paying jobs.

I also learned the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of our labor in the roads, bridges, and dams we built and how they define the communities we serve.

Mr. Chairman, small construction businesses like the one I used to own are struggling all across America from Federal bureaucracy that is rife with delays, duplication, and uncertainty.

I can speak from firsthand experience about construction projects that have ground to a halt as resources are redirected to navigate the onerous NEPA process.

On projects like the ones I used to manage, NEPA delays meant idled equipment, mass layoffs, and millions of dollars going towards compliance. These are sunk costs on the macro level and will continue to hold our economy back.

We need to get smart about environment protection and to ensure that we do it in ways that allow businesses to thrive. H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, will go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when our Nation's infrastructure is crumbling and far too many are in search of quality employment, we have the responsibility to give manufacturers, construction workers, and other engines of economic growth the certainty they desperately need to create high-paying jobs.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the RAPID Act.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my friend, Chairman GOODLATTE, bemoaned the fact that, over the last 64 straight months of job growth under the Obama administration, wages have remained stagnant.

That is true except for the wages of the top 10 percent, and specifically the top 1 percent, which have gone through the roof despite what he calls overregulation.

We continue to have the problem of income disparity that Pope Francis mentioned today. It is unrelated to this issue of regulations which are there to protect people. They, in fact, protect people and they protect our environment.

We have had a speaker today come in and talk about a dredging project that was delayed because of NEPA, but, actually, the truth of the matter is that that project was delayed due to lack of funding. Funding for the project was only authorized last year.

While the Republicans in Congress sit around and talk about how much the regulatory agencies study and study and study, what we do in Congress is simply ignore the funding needs for infrastructure in this country, which is what that dredging project was all about.

I have got a project down in Georgia, the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, which was estimated to cost \$652 million to complete.

But prior to the passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act last year, the Federal Government had only provided \$1.28 million—\$1.28 million—less than 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LAMALFA). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, let's take it back to the year 2011 with the Ryan Budget Control Act, which imposed sequestration on the Federal Government, cutting both defense and nondefense spending 10 percent across the board.

We can't have it both ways. If we are not going to fund, we have to admit that that is the reason these projects are not getting done. Don't blame it on NEPA.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Members of the committee, do not be misled by the title of this bill. Rather than effectuating real reforms to the process by which Federal agencies undertake environmental impact reviews, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, this measure before us will actually result in making the process less responsible, less professional, and less accountable.

These kinds of attempts are not new to this session of Congress. Accordingly, I urge that my colleagues carefully consider the discussion on this measure and oppose H.R. 348.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE H.R. 348, THE
RAPID ACT

Alaska Wilderness League, American Rivers, Center for Biological Diversity, Citizens for Global Solutions, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Air Council, Clean Water Action, Conservation Colorado, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, EDF Action, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Epic—Environmental Protection Information Center, Energy Action Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, Green Latinos, Kentucky Heartwood.

Klamath Forest Alliance, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, KyotoUSA, League of Conservation Voters, Los Padres ForestWatch, Marine Conservation Institute, Montana Environmental Information Center, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Energy Economy, New Jersey Sierra Club, Oceana, Ocean Conservation Research, Public Citizen, Rachel Carson Council, Safe Climate Campaign, Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, SustainUS.

Union of Concerned Scientists, Western Environmental Law Center, The Wilderness Society.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 348 the misleadingly named “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015.” Instead of improving the permitting process, the bill will severely undermine the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and, consequently, the quality and integrity of federal agency decisions.

The National Environmental Policy Act plays a critical role in ensuring that projects are carried out in a transparent, collaborative, and responsible manner. NEPA simply requires federal agencies to assess the environmental, economic, and public health impacts of proposals, solicit the input of all affected stakeholders, and disclose their findings publicly before undertaking projects that may significantly affect the environment. Critically, NEPA recognizes that the public—which includes industry, citizens, local and state governments, and business owners—can make important contributions by providing unique expertise. NEPA also gives a voice to the most impacted and underrepresented, especially to the most vulnerable communities who usually have to bear the most burden of where federal projects are proposed in the first place. However, H.R. 348 strikes at these core purposes of NEPA by systematically prioritizing speed of decisions and project approval over the public interest.

Studies on the causes of delay in the permitting process reveal that the primary cause of delay is not the NEPA process. Rather, as multiple studies by the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service have pointed out, the principal causes of delay in permitting rest outside the NEPA process entirely and are attributable to other factors such as lack of funding, project complexity, and local opposition to the project. The RAPID Act ignores the true causes of delay, and instead,

focuses on institutionalizing dangerous “reforms” that restrict public input, limit review of the environmental and economic impacts of projects, and that create more, not less, bureaucracy. Provisions in the RAPID Act, such as the following, will create more delays in permitting, result in less flexibility in the process, and tilt the entire permitting process towards shareholder interest, not the public interest. For example, the bill:

Places Arbitrary Limitations on Environmental Reviews—Section 560(i) of the bill threatens to undermine NEPA’s goal of informed decision-making and the agency’s role of acting in the public interest. It sets arbitrary deadlines on environmental reviews of permits, licenses, or other applications—regardless of the possible economic, health, or environmental impacts. Consequently, it puts communities at risk by promoting rushed and faulty decisions.

Limits Consideration of Alternatives—Section 560(g) strikes at what CEQ regulations describe as “the heart of the NEPA process” by restricting the range of reasonable alternatives to be considered by an agency.

Creates Serious Conflicts of Interests—Section 560(c) blurs the distinct roles of private entities and agencies in agency decisions by allowing private project sponsors with stakes in the decision to prepare environmental review documents which creates inherent conflicts of interest and thus jeopardizes the integrity of the decision-making process.

Leading to Unanticipated Delays—The bill forces stakeholders into court preemptively simply to preserve their right to judicial review. The bill also limits the public’s judicial access to challenge and address faulty environmental reviews which in turn is likely to increase the controversy and the amount of litigation derived from the permitting process which in turn could add to project delays.

Denies the Impacts of Climate Change—Section 560(k) of the bill prohibits any considerations of the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), which the EPA and other federal agencies use to estimate the economic damages associated with specific projects and their related carbon dioxide emissions. The tool is critical for the public to understand the true benefits and costs of a project. Ignoring climate change puts critical infrastructure, tax payer dollars, and local communities at risk.

Provisions such as these and many more in the RAPID Act will only serve to increase delay and confusion around the environmental review process. We believe compromising the quality of environmental review and limiting the role of the public is the wrong approach.

Far from being broken, the National Environmental Policy Act has proven its worth as an invaluable tool. It ensures that the public, developers, and agencies have a reliable template for consistent and fair proposal assessment for major projects that may impact federal resources. The RAPID Act contradicts and jeopardizes decades of experience gained from enacting this critical environmental law. Further, it tips the balance away from informed decisions and public oversight, jeopardizing the public’s ability to participate in how public resources will be managed. Please oppose this unnecessary and overreaching piece of legislation and vote “no” on the RAPID Act.

Although no amendment would remedy the problems with the underlying bill, we make the following vote recommendations on amendments offered to the RAPID Act.

Vote no on Goodlatte (R-VA) #1—This amendment would prompt ill-informed decisions by limiting the role of cooperating agencies in the environmental review process. It would also severely limit the public’s ability to use the courts their rights by requiring eventual plaintiffs to participate in drastically shortened comment periods and administrative proceedings that, in many cases, agencies do not provide.

Vote yes on Peters (D-CA) #2—This amendment ensures that the true impacts of climate change are considered by allowing agencies to consider the social costs of carbon when conducting environmental reviews. Agencies should be free to incorporate the social cost of carbon into the agency decision making process, which will result in better informed and responsible decisions that safely invest taxpayer dollars by taking into account climate change, the fundamental environmental issue of our time.

Vote yes on Jackson Lee (D-TX) #3—This amendment will undo one of the more pernicious provisions in the H.R. 348 which, in cases where an agency fails to meet arbitrary deadlines prescribed by the bill, projects are simply deemed approved regardless of their economic, health, or environmental impacts. The bill, without this amendment, puts communities at risk by green-lighting projects without fully considering environmental impacts or the opinions of those who will be impacted the most.

Vote yes on Jackson Lee (D-TX) #4—This amendment maintains national security by undoing hasty shortcuts in the permitting process and rightly ensuring a full review for projects that could be potential targets for terrorist attacks. This amendment wisely ensures that shortcutting critical federal review of projects does not apply those projects that most need informed decisions because of the tremendous impacts they may have on our national security.

Vote yes on Johnson (D-GA) #5—This amendment rightly ensures that nothing in the bill will limit input of affected stakeholders, local governments, private property owners, or business owners.

Vote yes on Dingell (D-MI) #6—This amendment would prevent project approvals under the arbitrary timelines set forth in the bill if the project under consideration would limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing or would impact threatened or endangered species. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wildlife related recreation contributes more than \$140 billion dollars to the U.S. economy and supports thousands of jobs connected to fishing, hunting, and the observance of wildlife.

Vote yes on Gallego (D-AZ) #8—This amendment preserves meaningful input by local governments and tribal officials on projects affecting their communities by allowing them to request extensions of the arbitrary deadlines in the bill.

Vote yes on Grijalva (D-AZ) #9—The shortcutting of meaningful public input and review of a project’s impacts under the RAPID Act could potentially lead to disproportionate impacts on low-income communities and communities of color. This amendment ensures such impacts are carefully addressed during the review of project alternatives.

Vote yes on Lowenthal (D-CA) #10—The truncated review procedures under the RAPID Act would potentially apply to construction projects of enormous size, scope, and complexity. Climate change poses severe threats to the health, safety, and economies of local communities through the increased

risks of floods, fire and severe weather. This amendment ensures federal agencies consider these impacts and construct projects that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Vote no on Gosar (R-AZ) #11—This amendment would broaden one of the most damaging provisions of the bill which prevents Federal agencies from considering the true costs of climate change, putting communities and tax-payer dollars at risk.

Whatever the outcome of these amendments, we urge a no vote on final passage.

Sincerely,

Leah Donahey, Senior Campaign Director, Alaska Wilderness League; Jim Bradley, Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, American Rivers; Bill Snape, Senior Counsel, Center for Biological Diversity; Tony Fleming, Campaigns Director, Citizens for Global Solutions; Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director & Chief Counsel, Clean Air Council; Conrad Schneider, Advocacy Director, Clean Air Task Force; Lynn Thorp, National Campaigns Director, Clean Water Action; Luke Schafer, West Slope Advocacy Director, Conservation Colorado; David Jenkins, President, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship; Raul Garcia, Associate Legislative Counsel, Earthjustice; Elizabeth B. Thompson, President, EDF Action; Lydia Avila, Executive Director, Energy Action Coalition; Karen E. Torrent, Esq., Federal Legislative Director, Environmental Law and Policy Center; Natalynne DeLapp, Executive Director, Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center; Marissa Knodel, Climate Campaigner, Friends of the Earth; Mark Magana, President, Green Latinos; Colette Pichon Battle, Esq., Executive Director, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy; Jim Scheff, Director, Kentucky Heartwood; Kimberly Baker, Executive Director, Klamath Forest Alliance; Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs, Defenders of Wildlife; George Sexton, Conservation Director, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center; Tom Kelly, Executive Director, KyotoUSA; Zach Drennen, Government Affairs Associate, League of Conservation Voters; Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director, Los Padres ForestWatch; Michael Gravitz, Director of Policy and Legislation, Marine Conservation Institute; Anne Hedges, Deputy Director, Montana Environmental Information Center; Craig D. Obey, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, National Parks Conservation Association; Sharon Buccino, Director, Lands & Wildlife Program, Natural Resources Defense Council; Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director, New Energy Economy; Jeff Tittel, Director, New Jersey Sierra Club; Jacqueline Savitz, Vice President, U.S. Oceans, Oceana; Michael Stocker, Director, Ocean Conservation Research; David J. Arkush, Managing Director, Climate Program, Public Citizen; Rober K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., President, Rachel Carson Council, Inc.; Daniel Becker, Director, Safe Climate Campaign; Liz Martin Perera, Climate Policy Director, Sierra Club; Navis A. Bermudez, Deputy Legislative Director, Southern Environmental Law Center; Alan Journet, Co-Facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now; Adam Hasz, Chair, SustainUS; Andrew

Rosenberg, Director, Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists; Katy Siddall, Director of Government Relations, Energy, The Wilderness Society; Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, Executive Director, Western Environmental Law Center.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, first, to the gentleman from Georgia, let me just say that the Water Resources Development Act, which passed this House, has in it the same streamlining provisions for the permitting processes for the projects that it would fund that are based on the ideas in this bill.

Why? Because we know that, just because we come up with the funds for something, those funds can be churned and churned and churned year after year after year in the permitting process and never ever get to a permit so the underlying construction can take place in Texas or Savannah, Georgia, or Virginia, or all of the other places where infrastructure projects are needed.

Part of the enormous cost of it is the enormous process that we go through and the length of that process and the review and review and review that never gets to a decision.

During the debate over this bill this term and last, we have heard several false alarms from my friends on the other side of the aisle. For example, we have heard that the bill does not allow enough time for environmental reviews to be completed.

But, with all due respect, the bill, when necessary, allows as much time for the completion of an environmental impact statement as it took our Nation to win World War II. Surely that is time enough.

We have heard that the bill will generate more litigation because there may be litigation over what its new terms mean, but that argument can be made against any reform legislation. If it were a valid and sufficient reason to defeat legislation, we would never pass another reform bill.

Furthermore, the bill for the first time requires litigants to present their claims to permit agencies before they sue in court and to file lawsuits no later than 180 days after the agency's final decisions. That will reduce litigation, not increase it.

We have also heard that the White House has threatened to veto the bill. Mr. Chairman, that is what is truly alarming. This legislation fulfills the calls of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness to streamline the review of Federal permit applications. We are doing that in this legislation.

It creates shovel-ready projects, which even President Obama claims would create jobs. In fact, it would generate millions of high-paying, good jobs for our Nation's workers and fami-

lies, who so desperately need them. It would raise the standard of living of Americans.

The White House should not be issuing threats to veto the legislation. The White House should be running to lend its support to this bill.

Ignore the false alarms and embrace the commonsense reforms in this bill. Pass the RAPID Act, call the President's bluff, give the Nation shovel-ready projects.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY), having assumed the chair, Mr. LAMALFA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RICE MONTH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 25th year of September being National Rice Month. Today I want to pay special tribute to the hard-working American farmers, millers, merchants, suppliers, and the consumers who make rice not only such a wholesome food, but an important part of our economy.

Rice farming in America actually predates our Nation's founding, beginning some 300 years ago in the Deep South. Today, America's rice industry creates 125,000 good-paying jobs and contributes an estimated \$34 billion to our Nation's economy.

America's rice farmers have also a longstanding commitment to protect and preserve natural resources. Today, U.S. rice farmers produce more rice, using less land, energy, and water, using cutting-edge technology in land-leveling, in yield, and in technology for using less chemicals.

The process is much more efficient than it was 20 years ago, while providing critical waterfowl habitat for hundreds of species. I know personally because I have leveled many of these fields myself.

America's rice farmers continue to serve as leaders in the farming community by producing a healthy, conservation-friendly rice crop that generates jobs and economic opportunity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Rice Month.

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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to serve here in the United States Congress, but we sully that honor when we waste the American people's time with misplaced priorities and manufactured crises.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has one fundamental responsibility: funding the Federal Government. But unfortunately, Republicans in Congress insist on undermining these responsibilities at virtually every turn.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans already insist on maintaining reckless sequester funding that chokes services for working and middle class Americans, seniors, veterans, and children. Instead of passing Republican budgets that meet the ever-changing needs of our Nation, Republicans choose to kick the can down the road through continuing resolutions that waste precious time and shortchange the American people.

But if sequestration and continuing resolutions weren't already bad enough, now we are facing a complete Federal shutdown because Republicans insist on holding Federal funds for women's health care hostage. Congress has just 4 legislative days remaining to pass a funding bill.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with this brinksmanship. It is time for us to run the country like adults.

Let's remember why this is happening: Republicans have pledged to shut down the entire Federal Government because of objections to abortion services by Planned Parenthood. Never mind that not a single cent of Federal money funds abortions by Planned Parenthood. Never mind that Planned Parenthood provides health care and education to more than 2.6 million Americans—both men and women—each year. Never mind that 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's health services are unrelated to abortions. Republicans would

rather ignore these truths and instead rely on a series of distorted videos secretly filmed by discredited and shady antiabortion activists.

So instead of using this time to talk about creating jobs, building infrastructure, reducing college debt, and reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, I am forced to stand here on the House floor to remind the American people about the dangers we face with yet another Republican shutdown.

Here are a few ways that this shutdown would harm the American people:

A shutdown would close more than 400 national parks and monuments. It would increase backlogs for veterans' pensions, compensation, and disability claims. It would delay tax refunds and Federal home loan applications; prohibit the National Institutes of Health from accepting new patients; shut down E-Verify screening for businesses to limit hiring undocumented workers; shutter Head Start programs for low-income families and children; and close Federal courts.

The impact of a 2015 shutdown is hard to quantify, but we don't have to look too far back to estimate the potential impact. In 2013, Republicans shut the government down for 16 days in a failed attempt to defund the Affordable Care Act. That shutdown furloughed 850,000 Federal workers for a total of 6.6 million days. The 2013 shutdown cost \$2 billion in lost productivity. Standard & Poor's estimated that the shutdown cost the U.S. economy \$24 billion and stalled the creation of more than 100,000 private sector jobs, and \$4.4 billion in tax returns were delayed. Small businesses and private lenders had to delay loans due to lack of access to Federal Social Security number and income verification tools.

Knowing what we know, Mr. Speaker, it is inconceivable that we could walk into this type of catastrophe by choice. That must be why the Speaker of the House, in 2013, called that shutdown a "very predictable disaster."

Mr. Speaker, I would much rather be predicting solutions than disasters. That is why I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to stave off this irresponsible and dangerous shutdown. Again, this is the one thing our constituents sent us to Washington for: to fund the government. This is our job.

I implore my anti-women's health colleagues to set aside their partisan bickering and work with us to keep this government open.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HISTORIC BROOKVILLE TOWN SQUARE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, early this month, I visited Brookville, Jefferson County, located in my district, to congratulate local officials and community leaders on securing funds for a long-awaited project. The Historic Brookville Town Square is one of the most important pieces of the community's long-term plan and is the product of a very successful fundraising effort by Historic Brookville, Incorporated.

The Historic Brookville Town Square will be located next to the Jefferson County Courthouse on land once occupied by a vacant, rundown building. The funding for the project includes more than \$300,000 raised by the community through the efforts of Historic Brookville, showing a real desire on behalf of the residents to beautify their community.

Mr. Speaker, this park represents a great public-private partnership, with the final \$150,000 in grant funding clearing the way for this project to enter the planning stages. I have been proud to work with the community leaders in Brookville to move this project one step closer to completion.

PREVENTING VETERAN SUICIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of preventing veteran suicide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month. I want to thank my colleague, KYRSTEN SINEMA, for joining me and putting together this Special Order hour. For the next hour, we will discuss an issue that is very important to me and should be unacceptable in a nation of our resources: veteran suicide.

A veteran in this country commits suicide every 65 minutes. That is 22 lives extinguished every day.

As the father of a veteran, a doctor who worked at a VA hospital in northern Michigan, and the chairman of the Health Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, I know that the challenges of military life do not end once our servicemembers retire from Active Duty. The mental wounds of war may be invisible, but they are no less real to the young men and women suffering from them.

Facing high unemployment rates, the stigma of post-traumatic stress disorder, and a loss of military fellowship, returning veterans often face a crisis of confidence at the very moment they should feel nothing but relief and rest.

Congress did make a real impact early this year when we passed the Clay Hunt SAV Act, which is helping the VA put the very best mental healthcare professionals to work for our veterans and creating peer support groups to help catch those transitioning servicemembers who may otherwise fall through the cracks. However, so much more needs to be done.

I am grateful to my colleagues for standing with me today for our most vulnerable veterans and their families. I look forward to hearing what they have to say and to working with them to end veteran suicide.

I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM).

Mr. ABRAHAM. Thank you, Dr. BENISHEK, for having this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to raise awareness of veteran suicide prevention. Let me underscore the word "prevention"—prevention because veteran suicide is a public health tragedy. As a doctor, I know it is a preventable tragedy. For far too long, PTSD has been stigmatized, and it is time to remove that stigma.

Twenty-two percent of Americans who commit suicide are veterans. That statistic is unacceptable to me, and it should be unacceptable to the American people. Our Nation's heroes should come home to readily available mental health care. They should not have to wait days, weeks, or even months to receive treatment. Veterans should not have to wait at all.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act, which was signed into law earlier this year, was an excellent first step in giving veterans options, but there is more work to be done.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a veteran myself, I will continue to fight for a more streamlined system to treat our veterans suffering from PTSD and continue to work to reform the VA system to be a system that puts the veteran first, not the bureaucrat.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman BENISHEK, for joining me today as a cosponsor of tonight's Special Order.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time for our Nation to raise awareness about the persistent scourge of suicide. Tens of thousands of Americans each year purposefully die by their own actions. They are our neighbors and our friends, our sons and our daughters; and too often, they are the men and women who have served our country honorably in the United States military.

An estimated 22 veterans lose their lives to suicide every single day in our

country. That is one life lost every 65 minutes.

Typically, time in the House Chamber is split. Republicans have 1 hour and Democrats have another hour, but Congressman BENISHEK and I believe that this issue is too important to be overshadowed by partisan politics. That is why we have joined together today, with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to show our commitment to solving this problem together and to finding real solutions for our country's veterans.

This is the third year we have assembled in this Chamber to raise awareness and to send a clear message that the epidemic of veteran suicide must end. We have so much work left to do. So today, we demonstrate our ongoing support for the individuals, organizations, and agencies devoted to preventing the epidemic of veteran suicide. Today, we challenge the VA, the Department of Defense, and our fellow lawmakers to do more. We are failing in our obligation to do right by those who have served so honorably.

Finally, we send a message to military families who have experienced this tragedy in their own families: Your family's loss is not forgotten. We work for the memory of your loved ones. We will not rest until every veteran in this country has access to the care that he or she needs.

□ 1615

I have often shared the story of a young veteran in my district, Sergeant Daniel Somers. Sergeant Somers was an Army veteran of two tours in Iraq.

Diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Sergeant Somers took his own life after struggling with the VA bureaucracy and not getting the help he needed in time.

Together with the Somers family, we worked to develop the Classified Veterans Access to Care Act to ensure that all veterans, including those who served with classified experiences, can get immediate access to the mental health care that they need in the appropriate care setting.

I recently testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on the need for this important legislation, and I am grateful for the committee's support for this legislation. I am grateful for my cosponsor, Congressman DAN BENISHEK.

I will continue working with the committee to ensure that no veteran feels trapped, like Sergeant Somers did, and that all of our veterans have access to appropriate mental health care.

My State, Arizona, is ground zero for the VA's failure to take care of our veterans. It has been over a year since we learned about the veterans at the Phoenix VA Hospital who were kept on secret waiting lists, forced to wait

months, even years, before seeing a doctor, unable to access the care they needed.

These revelations were shocking and sickening. Arizona veterans died while waiting for care. That is absolutely unacceptable and, frankly, it is un-American.

So in Arizona, we took immediate action when we learned from brave whistleblowers about this tragedy. Not waiting for the Phoenix VA to fix their problems, we came together as a community to make sure that Arizona veterans get the access to the care they needed.

Mr. Speaker, since last summer, we have held six veterans clinic, helping nearly 1,000 veterans and military families get access to the benefits they have earned. Our team helps veterans in getting access to benefits, to housing, to job placement, to education.

We established a Veterans Mental Health Working Group for community providers, veterans service organizations, and the local VA, to bring them all together to work to improve access to services. Our group meets bimonthly and has made important progress.

These are some examples of the good that can come when people set aside partisanship and put veterans first. That is what is needed from all of us in this Chamber and the agencies we work with: to put aside partisanship and solve the problem we face to end the scourge of veteran suicide in this country.

Mr. BENISHEK. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA). I really appreciate your comments and your concern for this significant problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to outline something that I have become aware of in my time here in office.

While this problem is very monumental, there are many small things that the VA can do right now to make a difference. One of these changes can be made by the VA immediately.

I would like to read a letter I received recently from an American Legion representative in my district that illustrates the problem better than I could.

Dear Dr. Benishek:

Here is the situation. Recently I encountered a suicidal veteran from the Sault area who had severe PTSD, 100 percent VA disabled. He called me on a Wednesday hysterical and said that he was contemplating suicide. He was traveling around with his wife in the car at the time. I thought this was a very dangerous situation.

After several back-and-forth conversations with him, I found out he was not taking any medicines and had not seen his VA psychiatrist in a long time because, as he put it, the psychiatrist was not helping him and it seemed that he didn't really care.

He insisted that he stay at Wilwin, the American Legion veterans facility, but I told him we needed his psychiatrist's okay.

As a veteran myself, I thought I should try to help him the best that I could. So I called

the VA Suicide Hotline to get answers on how I should handle the situation.

Here's the problem. I called the Iron Mountain VA. The call started out saying, if you are having a medical or mental health emergency, please hang up and dial 911.

If you are having thoughts of hurting yourself and want to talk to a mental health professional, please hang up and dial 1-800-273-8255.

If you are thinking of committing suicide, you are already frustrated to the point that you would be glad to talk to anyone, even if it is someone at the VA.

Can you imagine a veteran in this position even having a paper and pencil in hand to write the number down?

If he is unable to get the correct number the first time, he must redial the VA, go through the whole spiel again and, hopefully, write the number on a paper the second or third time before he can try dialing. Once dialed, the voice comes on the phone and says, if you are a veteran push 1 and so on.

When I called the hotline after I pushed 1, listened to music for several minutes before a voice came on the phone, she told me that she was not a veteran, nor did she know much about PTSD veterans. What I needed was advice on how to handle the veteran I was working with, which she did give me.

How many veterans have committed suicide because of the VA's red tape?

Here's a solution. When the VA is called and the veteran is contemplating suicide or hurting himself, you should be able to push 1 to get a direct line to the suicide hotline. It should automatically register that the call is coming through the VA system and, yes, it is a veteran calling.

This constituent was able to get the veteran he referred to the help that he needed, but he raised an incredibly good point that I brought up repeatedly with the VA.

The VA told me it would take 6 months to change from an 800 number to simply dial 1. This is unacceptable. I call on the VA again today to make this change immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD).

Mr. ASHFORD. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a subject many of our veterans and their families understandably find great difficulty in discussing.

Veteran suicide, as we have already heard, is a major problem in our country. We have all heard the numbers. An estimated 22 veterans commit suicide every day. That is one life every hour.

Please keep in mind those horrific numbers have names, the names of men and women who put themselves in harm's way in order to keep each and every one of us safe.

Earlier this year we passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention of American Veterans Act. It addresses the need for more mental healthcare experts inside the VA along with expanding the time available to veterans to seek mental health care through the VA.

The new law also calls for an evaluation of all VA mental health care and suicide prevention practices to determine what is working and make rec-

ommendations on what is not. This is a major step in the right direction, but we must continue to do more.

I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that, in Omaha, we are currently working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a center of excellence, a national model for veterans' care that will include top-flight mental health care and other services so much needed by our veterans in our community. That treatment would cover post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and problems relating to other people.

The debt we owe the men and women who serve this country is a debt that can never be repaid. But we must continue to ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans and support their very unique healthcare issues.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for hosting this Special Order to raise awareness for an issue that impacts constituents in all of our congressional districts.

We can all agree that, as Members of Congress, we need to prioritize our veterans. We also need to raise awareness about the invisible wounds many of them face. I am speaking about post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, which can and often does lead to thoughts of suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to make sure that the loved ones of these veterans have the support they need so that they may best help those who are suffering from these invisible wounds.

I have been here 9 months. The House has taken some very positive steps to help veterans since I have been here and improving suicide prevention programs.

It has been said by several Members already here on the floor today, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act, a commonsense bill that is going to increase access to mental health by creating a peer support and community outreach pilot program.

It is going to boost accountability with mental health care by requiring an annual evaluation of VA mental health and suicide prevention programs.

It is proof that, when we put party politics aside around here, we can get good things done. We should all be proud of that.

I would like to direct Members' attention to H.R. 2915, the Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act, which has been just passed out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is time to bring this bill to the floor.

It will direct the VA to identify mental healthcare prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating female veterans as part of the evaluative process required by the Clay

Hunt Act, and it would require the VA to accommodate a veteran's obligation to not properly disclose classified information.

Mr. Speaker, suicide prevention programs are key to maintaining continual engagement with veterans and communities, as well as to raise awareness and to help intervene, when necessary.

I would also add, let's keep in mind the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, which I serve on, with many other hard-working Members who are working in a consensus-oriented fashion.

We need to make sure that the Transition Assistance Program is working for our veterans. We need to make sure that, from a veterans' hiring preference program, that that is working.

We need to make sure that we are utilizing the best that the private sector has to offer for workforce development training for veterans returning to civilian life.

We know that there is an unfair stigma associated with those who may need to seek assistance with mental health.

Part of the value of why we are here today is to raise awareness and help reduce that stigma and say that we understand that there are challenges for veterans returning to civilian life and we are here to help.

We want to raise awareness. We want to make sure that the programs that we have in place are working. We are going to continue to do that.

I applaud those who helped organize this Special Order here today, and I am honored to participate in it.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) for convening this important discussion this afternoon.

As I am sure we agree, we need to continue shining a light on the epidemic of veteran suicide so we can push to improve the resources available to the brave men and women who have served our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a region of Illinois called the Quad Cities. For more than two decades, my seat was held by one of the strongest advocates for veterans who has ever worked in these Chambers. I am talking about the late and the great Congressman Lane Evans.

Congressman Evans was a veteran of the Marine Corps who served this body from 1983 all the way to 2007. I was proud to call him my friend.

As a veteran, he understood the challenges that many of our returning heroes confront after they come home. Congressman Evans was a tireless advocate for expanding resources to our

veterans and providing the mental health services that many of them need to make a successful transition back to civilian life.

Today, after more than a decade of war, this generation of veterans faces a new set of challenges. We have an obligation to those who have served our Nation.

As my friend, the gentlewoman from Arizona highlighted earlier in her remarks that an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide every single day. That is nearly one every hour.

And we all know the statistics driving this epidemic. Military suicides are at their highest rate in 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, veterans make up 20 percent of our suicides, despite making up only 10 percent of our population. Thirty percent of veterans have considered suicide. 37 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD.

And of the approximately 22 veterans who take their lives every day, roughly five actually get care through the VA health system.

□ 1630

It is easy to get lost in all those statistics. They are numbers. But behind each and every one of those is a real human being, a veteran with a real story that we must tell. We have a duty to help them.

We all know how hard the Department of Veterans Affairs is working to keep up with this ongoing and persistent challenge, but we have to do more. That is why I proudly supported the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which was signed into law earlier this year. Once this legislation is fully implemented, it will take critical steps toward curbing the epidemic of veteran suicide by improving the VA resources and increasing oversight of programs designed to help our veterans get the care that they deserve.

This is an important step toward stemming the ongoing crisis of veteran suicide, but it is not enough. This is why I have called on the Appropriations Committee to increase funding for veteran suicide prevention programs and outreach services. I hope all of you will join me in demanding more action for our veterans.

If Congressman Evans were alive today, he would not rest until all of our veterans get the care and the support they have earned for protecting our Nation, and neither should we.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an epidemic that is plaguing our servicemembers and our veterans, and that epidemic is suicide. Each day it is estimated, on average, 22 veterans commit suicide in the United States. That is more than double the

rate for the civilian population, and it is an extremely tragic statistic.

Earlier this year, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act was signed into law to help combat this very serious problem. I applaud this step forward, but our work is far from over. We must continue to ensure that those veterans who are suffering know that they are not alone; they have family, friends, and resources readily available to help them heal and move forward.

These men and women have given so much to this great Nation. It is our duty to walk with them during and after their service.

I remain committed to providing the highest quality medical care and resources for these brave men and women who were wounded in the course of defending our freedom.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve timely access to mental healthcare services to ensure our veterans in crisis receive the help that they need.

I thank Mr. BENISHEK and Ms. SINEMA for organizing this Special Order hour.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to my colleague from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my friends Congressman BENISHEK, Congresswoman SINEMA, and Congresswoman BUSTOS for their leadership and for hosting this Special Order this evening on an issue that we all care very deeply about: the high rate of suicide among our veteran population.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and it is important that we draw attention to this critical issue. The facts are stark. My other colleagues have already mentioned them. A veteran commits suicide every 65 minutes. That means that 22 veterans a day are dying.

Today we honor those that we have lost already and the families who have suffered so much and are left behind. These veterans were true American heroes who served their country and came home tormented. We can never forget the sacrifices that they have made.

It is great, on this evening, to see my colleagues from both sides of the aisle here to talk about this issue, because it is my sincere hope that we can come together and rededicate ourselves to doing what is right for our veterans and making sure that we are dedicating sufficient resources to veterans' care.

On Sunday night, in Michigan, I will gather with the family and friends of those veterans who have committed suicide in Michigan. They have built a cross for each of those lives to try to raise awareness in our community.

In addition, at a meeting that I hold with my mayors, where normally we

are talking about infrastructure or roads, two-thirds of that meeting was spent talking about veterans and the emotional issues we are dealing with in our communities as we see these veterans struggling.

The mayors and I have started a task force to address these issues. We have started a veterans' court that has been following the model of other places, trying to raise awareness so that in the community, we see when someone is struggling and are able to put out a helping hand.

My next-door neighbor's young son, when tormented, needed help; and when he called, he couldn't get it.

We all have got to come together. These brave young men and women have served our country. When they came home from World War II and Korea, we celebrated them. We thanked them for their service. We formed a community around them.

These young men and women are fighting for us. They are fighting for freedom. They are fighting for world security. We have an obligation to help them when they come home, to help get them the resources that they need. They have memories that haunt them. They have memories that torment them.

This Suicide Prevention Month, we have to take the stigma away from mental illness. We have to recognize that young people need help sometimes, and we have to be there for them.

Tonight I thank my colleagues for organizing this Special Order so that we remind people that those who have served us sometimes need that helping hand. If we can prevent it, we must, any young person from taking their life because of the service that they gave this country.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, nearly 10 million Americans have serious mental illness, and millions go without proper treatment or care because our Nation's mental health system is broken not only for our veterans, but for our nonveterans as well.

My next speaker is Dr. TIM MURPHY from Pennsylvania, the author of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. This will overhaul our Nation's mental healthcare system, adding grants for more psychiatrists, authorizing intervention programs, and fixing current nationwide shortages of crisis mental health beds.

I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for organizing this very important Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell the stories of three servicemembers that I have known in my time in the Navy, in my work at Walter Reed Hospital:

One is of a soldier who tried to kill himself. He put a gun to his head, pulled the trigger. The gun fired, but it

didn't kill him. It left him partially blind and with a significant head injury. He struggles through life. He continues to live, but the things that caused him to do that have not left.

The second is of a marine that I knew, the son of a friend, who died recently. I went to his funeral and saw him lying there, looking so peaceful.

The third, a soldier, I was called upon by the family to go visit him because he had been in his room for months. He covered the windows with camouflage. Bottles and bottles of medication littered his room, holes were punched in the walls, and he felt abandoned.

There was nothing more we could do for the soldier who had killed himself; there were some things we could do for the soldier who harmed himself; but there was a lot we could do for the soldier who hid himself.

When soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen look down the road to suicide, there are multiple reasons. Very often it is because they have faced those unspeakable horrors of war. Perhaps they have had multiple deployments, strain within the family, the lost social relationships, divorce, job complications, which whittled and chipped away at their strength. Perhaps they lost that sense of belonging that they had with their platoon or their company, that friendship with those who faced battles with them that somehow helped prop them back up.

In many cases, it is dealing with the traumatic brain injury, of the multiple blasts, explosions, the primary, secondary, or tertiary wounds that they had which affected their brain functioning and leaves them with symptoms oftentimes of psychological disorders. Sometimes that psychological disorder is that path to depression, that feeling of hopelessness, helplessness, and worthlessness that comes with clinical depression, when the person sometimes says: There is no treatment that can help me; I might as well give up.

First let me say to veterans, Mr. Speaker, that there is treatment that can help. There is reason to hope. It is important that veterans seek out a therapist; and if that therapist doesn't seem like a good mix, seek another one. If that one doesn't seem like a good mix, seek another one. Keep going until you find the right person.

It is important veterans understand their life is worth living. Yes, you are suffering in the moment, but you can't stop pursuing treatment. Don't seek the permanent solution to the temporary problem. There is always another way out besides suicide.

Now, we make this more complicated for veterans, as we do with the rest of the community of people who are suffering from mental illness, by we simply don't have enough professionals out there to help. We have family members who don't see the signs of isolation and

anger and drinking and drug abuse and irritability. But just because there is a healthcare provider out there, the family should not ever feel that they can't talk to that person.

The healthcare provider, even without permission of the soldier, can listen; and it is important that family members contact someone even when that soldier says, "I don't want to talk to anybody," because, very often, that is the disease speaking, that is the brain illness speaking. That is the part of the illness that says "I either want to give up" or "I don't recognize I have a problem."

Loved ones can call for help, but we need other things taking place here as well. We have to have families who can help that person get out of a crisis. We have to help the family understand they need to remove the means of a suicide—if it is a firearm, if it is weapons, if it is drugs.

But what we need to do and what my bill (H.R. 2646), the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, does is it changes the dynamics of what our country is doing, that has abusive policies and antifamily policies which actually prevent people from getting help.

What we have to do is make sure we have more access to treatment. We need more psychiatrists and psychologists—it is as plain as that—by the thousands and tens of thousands. We do not have enough. So even when someone tries to seek help, it is difficult.

We need more psychiatric hospital beds for those moments when a person needs a respite, someplace to go away from the crisis of everyday life. We don't have enough. We had 550,000 psychiatric hospital beds in the 1950s. We have less than 40,000 now. Part of that is because we have Medicaid rules out there and other rules that say, you know, we don't want hospital beds anymore.

Look, I don't want to see people go back to the old asylums, but sometimes a person with that sense of helplessness and worthlessness needs a place to go to recover, to get better.

We also have a VA system which has said: You are not going to continue some of these drugs. Your drug isn't on our formulary list. You are not going to take it anymore.

I have other legislation in which says that, if a Department of Defense doctor prescribes a person medication and it is working, the VA should automatically, without question, carry that medication and provide ease of access for it. One of the reasons we even have the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans bill is because he couldn't get the medication that worked.

It is our fault. We have met the enemy, and he is us, as one character famously said.

The General Accounting Office also tells us we have a disorganized system,

112 Federal agencies—112—that are supposed to deal with mental illness. The GAO tells us they don't keep track of data. There is not accountability. They don't meet. Many of these agencies haven't even gotten together since 2009 to coordinate services. Twenty homeless programs, programs scattered throughout the Federal Government—we make it the most difficult for those who have the most difficulty.

Sometimes what we do, though, is we reauthorize programs that work. But make no mistake, it is not enough. Anyone who thinks that Congress has been adequately addressing the needs of the mentally ill, the seriously mentally ill veterans, is naive. We are disillusioning ourselves into thinking that, because we did something, we did the right thing.

So let me speak honestly: Congress' lack of comprehensive action and its snail pace in dealing with this shares the blame. We are not passive in this. We are active and codependent in this crisis that is inflicted upon Americans.

When we are in this Chamber and we hear another tragic story of someone who has perhaps killed many people in the community and then killed themselves or they did suicide by cop, we have a moment of silence—and so we should—as we grieve over the loss of innocent life. But that moment of silence should not be accompanied with silent behavior. What we need are moments of action, and strong action at that.

Not only do we have the soldier suicides, we had 41,000 suicides in this country in this last year; 43,000 drug overdose deaths; homicides by those with serious mental illness; people with mental illness who are the victims of crime and homicide.

□ 1645

Then we have that slow-motion death of the homeless and the seriously mentally ill who, themselves, have come to so many other chronic illnesses that—do you know what? They are not even a statistic. We don't count them.

If people want to help, if Members want to do something, here is an action plan: become cosponsors of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. Don't sit idly by. Don't say, "Some other Member can do this; let it be someone else's problem." It is not. It is ours.

As a nation, wouldn't we do better to act instead of grieve, to turn a blind eye and to hope that someone else takes care of it, or, worse yet, to be caught up in the politics, the partisan politics and the games that plague this Chamber that says: "I am not going to let this party have a win or this party have a win"? In the meantime, people are dying, and we sit idly by.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is a plague on our Nation, on our veterans. It is a plague on, as was said in Samuel 16,

the last, the least, and the lonely. We must change this system that makes it difficult for those who have the most difficulty. We must remove abusive Federal policies that say that you can't see two doctors in the same day; you can't have more than 16 hospital beds; that say it is okay to have Federal programs and grants going out there for absurd concepts like making collages, making masks; telling people to get off their medication; a Web site to help people in Boston, when it is cold, deal with the anxiety of snow; a \$425,000 Web site for 3-year-olds with sing-along songs; and a \$22,000 painting which sits in the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to give them awareness. The only thing I am aware of, Mr. Speaker, is that it is a waste of money—a waste of taxpayers' money—and a waste of lives.

If this Congress gets its act together and admits it, and if our leadership says that we can run lots of bills—and we can run lots of bills real quick—and we can suspend the bills and bring bills to the floor in a moment's notice, I have had this bill sitting around 3 years. We revise it and revise it again. We have the support of multiple organizations across the country, whether they represent parents or consumers or professionals, and another day goes by; and every few seconds another person commits suicide or has a drug overdose death, and we go home at night and sleep snugly in our beds.

It doesn't have to be this way if we have more providers and if we have a Federal Government in Congress that says that we must be guided by wisdom, compassion, and faith, that says we will not wait anymore and that we will take the collective voice of every Member of Congress to do that.

A few hours ago, we had the Holy Father, Pope Francis, speak in this very Chamber. His words still echo in this community. But he called us to do things together, to be motivated by love, to be engaged in a dialogue and conversation, and that is a conversation we must be having about mental illness as well, to say that we can no longer put this off.

I hope Members, if they really are concerned about veteran suicide—as I believe we are—if they are really concerned about the problems of serious mental illness—as I know we are—if Members are tired of moments of silence in those times when we come together for a few minutes of compassion, we recognize that is not enough—and I know we are—then I hope every Member, every Democrat and Republican, talks to their leadership, talks to their committee members, talks to each other and says, "Move this bill. Make something happen."

By the way, Mr. Speaker, let me close with this. The story I told you has a good ending.

The soldier that I visited in his home with the windows covered with camouflage, with medications scattered throughout the house, and with holes punched in the wall because of his anger, we did get him help. He got stabilized. He took those barriers off the windows. He let the bright light of the world shine in again, and he engaged with people again. He has hope again.

That is a story that comes because people stepped forward and helped him. The people at hospitals and military hospitals can do that. Let's make sure that the others like him whom we have not discovered yet, who are still hiding in their rooms, we get to them before their lives are taken. This is what we should be doing as a nation. Failing to do this means we are culpable as this tragedy continues.

Mr. BENISHEK. I would like to thank my colleague for his passion on this issue.

I would now like to yield to my colleague from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank Congresswoman SINEMA and Congressman BENISHEK for their leadership on this issue, which is also of prime interest to me, this epidemic of suicide in our veteran community.

Mr. Speaker, San Diego has the third largest population of veterans in the country, more than 235,000. One of the most important jobs we have here in Congress is to honor their service by keeping our promises to them.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to focus on ending the scourge of veteran suicide that has hurt families and communities across the country. Combating suicide takes the full spectrum of services, including deployment, education, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, and ending the stigma around mental health.

In San Diego, I am pleased to say, the nonprofit sector has really stepped up. We have been at the forefront of finding innovative ways to approach veteran suicide by providing services and developing cohesion in the local veteran community that came together after the Vietnam war to increase collaboration among government, private groups, and community partners.

San Diego is the home of, in my district, 0800, which is an organization doing innovative work to assist easing the transition between Active Duty and civilian life. It is a community-based nonprofit that takes the existing service structure, works with the servicemembers before they leave the military to get them set, and provides the case management after they return to the civilian world to ensure that the benefits and services that veterans have earned are provided to them.

Another organization, the Three Wise Men Foundation, founded by combat veteran Nathan Fletcher, utilizes community engagement and workout

trainings to help veterans who were in combat and have struggled to reintegrate after coming home.

There is a powerful article by Dave Phillips that The New York Times highlighted this weekend about how many veterans are turning to each other to survive. To quote that article: "Feeling abandoned, members of the battalion have turned to a survival strategy they learned at war: depending on one another."

We have all heard the devastating statistics of veteran suicides in the country, but thus far, the response has failed to properly address the dire situation, and we have a responsibility here in Congress to do much more than we have. The statistics don't tell the heart-wrenching stories that so many of us have heard from parents, spouses, and the loved ones of the veteran who has taken his or her own life.

One such couple that Congresswoman SINEMA and I know, and I have been honored to work with, is Dr. Howard and Jean Somers, who, after losing their son, Daniel, to suicide, have become tireless advocates to fix and reform the broken healthcare system at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We know that bipartisan reforms to the VA can make a difference. The Clay Hunt Act showed us that and garnered a new generation of mental health and suicide prevention services at the VA, and the Veterans Choice Act will bring accountability to a system wrought with oversight and leadership challenges, allowing for faster service closer to the veteran in need.

But fixing an inefficient VA requires more than just increased funding. It requires real changes to get veterans care in new and flexible ways. We need to allow the VA to better use innovative technologies, like wireless medicine, that allow veterans access to care from the comfort of their homes, which can save lives and decrease costs to taxpayers.

We need to break the stigma around mental health, particularly post-traumatic stress. The service-connected injury needs to be treated with the same gravity and respect as the physical injury that so many of our valiant warfighters have battled.

So thank you again, Congresswoman SINEMA and Congressman BENISHEK, for your consistent advocacy on reforming the VA and on ending the tragedy of veteran suicide. We have much more work to do, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to work with you on it.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). The gentleman has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH).

Mr. YOH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues, Representatives SINEMA and

Dr. BENISHEK, for their leadership in arranging such a Special Order on such an important topic and for the invitation to speak this afternoon on suicide prevention awareness.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It is so important that we have an open and honest dialogue about the issue of suicide. The more we talk about it, we increase people's awareness, and they are there to help the people in need.

There are alternatives, and they do not have to suffer in silence. From comedian Robin Williams, to bullied young kids, to the brave men and women from our Nation's military returning from the battlefield, suicide does not discriminate. Emotional pain and despair can set in and take root in the minds and bodies of all ages across all demographics. Often, the signs of suicide go undetected, which leave those left behind asking: Why did this happen, and what could I have done to prevent this tragedy?

Today a disproportionate amount of our Nation's veterans are falling victim to suicide. After all they have given to this country, it is tragic and unacceptable that our Nation's veterans often suffer in silence until it is too late for those around them to help.

By shining a light on veteran suicide and all suicides, we as a nation can start to understand the urgency with which we need to solve and prevent this epidemic that our veterans, their families, and their friends struggle with. Not recognizing the signs early enough all too often leads to a loss of life. This is an important thing that we as a nation need to come together and have a strong support system in place so that those in need will reach out and not be stigmatized.

Again, I want to thank our colleagues.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank, particularly, Representatives SINEMA and BENISHEK for bringing up this Special Order hour.

For my own part, I speak for the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is home to nearly 1 million veterans. These are brave men and women who serve this Nation, a Nation that has, regrettably, not always served them.

Many of the veterans suffer from mental illness. A study, as you all know, has been released that found that 22 veterans commit suicide every day. This is unacceptable.

As someone who deeply cares about veterans' issues, I was proud to introduce legislation in the last Congress that would fast-track the hiring of psychiatrists who have completed a residency at a VA facility, and I was gratified that the President has incor-

porated many of those ideas in his policy.

Initially, in this Congress, I plan to reintroduce the Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act, an important piece of legislation that aims to provide for our brave servicemen and -women when they return from combat with both easily visible and difficult-to-detect wounds. While the physical wounds are evident immediately, the mental health ones may take longer to manifest themselves.

Here is the problem: as many as 30 percent of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom veterans face the possible diagnosis of a mental health disorder. But after 5 postservice years, if a condition is not diagnosed, veterans would go to the back of the line. They have missed their statute of limitations in 5 years and then experience an average wait time to receive benefits of more than 1 year. This could mean the difference between life and death.

Unfortunately, mental health disorders are harder to diagnose, may take much longer to manifest, and many veterans might delay seeking treatment. We are putting it on them to self-diagnose and report within that 5-year span.

We should not hold mental health disorders to the same timeline as a broken leg. The Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act would ensure that no veteran would be denied mental health treatment no matter when combat-related mental health disorders first appear.

I believe we owe a great debt to those warfighters who serve our country through military service, including those who stood ready at a moment's notice to fight for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as long as I am a Member of Congress, I will be working to increase knowledge on this subject, to correct the shortcomings of the VA system, and to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Forces who bravely serve this country receive all the benefits to which they are entitled.

Mr. BENISHEK. Nice comments, Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Thank you, Mr. BENISHEK.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan and the distinguished gentlewoman from Arizona for yielding.

In honor of Suicide Prevention Month, I rise today to increase awareness about some of our bravest and most at risk: our veterans. Many of our Nation's troops, both past and present, face struggles many of us can never imagine. Every day 22 veterans take their own lives.

I have experienced this same tragedy in my own district. In 2013, a con-

stituent in my district, a former marine who served in Vietnam, began experiencing severe pain over his entire body. After visiting four VA clinics and facilities, doctors could not diagnose his condition and instead prescribed morphine for ongoing and oftentimes excruciating pain.

To help manage his undiagnosed condition, doctors recommended he enter a nursing home. Unfortunately, he discovered he did not meet the eligibility requirements. Later that day, his wife was told that she had 1 hour to pick him up or they, the VA, would send him home in a cab without clothes since he did not have any at the hospital to wear. Two days later, just a week before Christmas, the pain proved too great for him to bear and he took his own life.

His story details the urgency our Nation's heroes deserve. Instead of ending in heartbreak, veterans and their families need to know their lives count, which is why we must improve veterans' access to physical and mental health care. Together, we can change this system to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again.

□ 1700

Mr. BENISHEK. Thank you very much, Mrs. WALORSKI. I really appreciate your comments.

I think Dr. MURPHY brought up a good point when he was speaking. We just recently in this House passed the 21st Century Cures Act, H.R. 6.

That has been endorsed by a wide variety of professional and medical organizations, such as the American Association for Cancer Research and The Cure Alliance. We passed this bill by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 344-77.

This is a piece of legislation that is going to change the way we do research at the NIH, that is going to change health care for all Americans. There is no reason that we shouldn't be able to pass a mental health care bill similar to that with a wide bipartisan effort.

Today Ms. SINEMA and I are leading a bipartisan group of Members of Congress to make mental health care an issue on which to move forward, and it has really been a great way to get this started.

I yield to Ms. SINEMA if she would like to add a few more thoughts in that regard.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you very much, Congressman BENISHEK.

I know we will be continuing this in the next Special Order so as to allow more of our colleagues to speak, and I am really looking forward to that time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the

gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to open the Special Order this evening with my colleague and friend, Congressman DAN BENISHEK of Michigan.

We have some colleagues who are joining us here this evening to continue the discussion we have been enjoying for the last hour of talking about the scourge of veteran suicides and how to stop this scourge.

We know that there are brave whistleblowers around this country who have told us and the Nation about the problems at the VA.

If it weren't for brave whistleblowers, we may not have learned about the tragedies at my VA, the Phoenix VA, and we could have lost even more lives than we have lost already.

In order for the VA to change, it has to put its veterans first and change the culture. We believe that VA employees must continue to speak up and speak out.

Brandon Coleman, a Marine Corps veteran, has seen firsthand the important role the VA can play in helping veterans. A decade ago he received help from a dedicated VA counselor, who helped him overcome substance abuse issues and get his life back on track.

Wanting to help his fellow veterans, Brandon began working as an addiction counselor with the Phoenix VA in 2009.

In January of this year, Brandon approached his supervisor after, over the course of a single week, five suicidal veterans walked out of the Phoenix VA hospital without getting the help they needed from the emergency room.

After coming forward with his concerns about how the VA handled suicidal patients, Brandon was placed on administrative leave for adverse behavior and his program was shut down.

Mr. Speaker, no one should fear the risk of losing his or her job for speaking out. That is why we introduced the VA Accountability Act, a bipartisan bill to hold poor-performing employees accountable and to increase protections for whistleblowers.

Empowering whistleblowers helps our veterans and their families get the answers they deserve. The VA must respond to this challenge with a culture of accountability that protects veterans, not its own bureaucracy.

Brandon testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee earlier this week on improving accountability within the VA. He is committed to fixing the VA to ensure that all veterans get the same help that he got.

I would like to take some time now to turn the podium over to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL).

Mr. RUSSELL. I thank the Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, it is a serious issue that our Nation faces when we imagine the

sacrifice that our veterans make only to see them become casualties in a battle with the mind.

Those of us who have borne the burden of battle carry the weight of that burden the rest of our lives. As a warrior, I have seen the worst things that human beings can do to one another. I have had to take human life. I have had to watch fellow warriors lose theirs. I have caressed wounded brothers as they have been bleeding.

We recall these things and carry these things, and, as warriors, we attempt to process it all when we come home. When we do come home, others attempt to interact with us not quite knowing how that interaction should play out or how to treat the Americans we really are.

So, as we address this issue of veteran suicide and as we stand here to speak in support of the many good measures that we have heard today, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to provide a couple of things worth noting with which we could reach out to the community at large, to our States, to all of America.

For the population that deals with returning battle veterans, purpose matters. We don't want to come home as victims. We don't want to be put in some special class.

We have maintained the stresses of battle, and we have fought our Nation's wars, but purpose matters as we come home.

If that purpose is somehow denied us because of fear of capacity or fear of being able to interact with other Americans in employment or in whatever it is that we put our hand to, then we will miss a great opportunity early on to engage returning veterans in things that will help them heal.

Secondly, we should treat our returning veterans as the Americans they really are. We somehow unintentionally imagine them as damaged goods, or maybe they have had something happen to them that does not make them quite like we are. That is a mistake.

Thirdly, when we look at the stresses of battle and how they shape our lives, we must remember this, that post-traumatic stress is treatable. As we deal with those who have faced battle as they struggle through this, it is important to note that the returning warrior has not lost his mind or her mind. It is treatable.

Mr. Speaker, one can easily relate when you think about, in my home State, maybe surviving a tornado or maybe, across America, being in a horrific car accident or losing a loved one in some capacity.

It creates stress on the human being, yet no one in that scenario would say, "Well, they have been through quite a lot, so I am not sure that they can engage with the public anymore and be employed" or, "I am not sure they will be able to handle the daily stresses."

Instead, we look at them, and we realize that these are life-altering experiences, whether it be through a car accident or a tornado, and we say, "Wow, that is terrible, but they have really bounced back, and they have done a good job of recovering." We need to look at it in the same capacity.

I am no physician, but I am a warrior who has come home. For the warrior, as he or she does come home, Mr. Speaker, we must urge all of our warriors, especially as they face insurmountable pressure about "Does life have a purpose?" to not live in isolation, and we must understand that the adrenalin of survival at our peak in battle, which is all around us—every sense alive to protect us as we survive—physiologically doesn't instantly change when we come home.

Those levels of adrenalin stay, and we crave them. That is why your returning veteran may ride his motorcycle at 120 miles an hour or pursue a dangerous activity. As the warrior processes it, he must understand as well that it takes time to abate that and to adjust.

I also want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that our returning veterans should band together with their fellow warriors. Above all, don't quit. Only we can take ourselves out of that fight.

To all of us, I think it is best to recall what Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes in that two are better than one because they have good reward for their labor, for, if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falls, for he does not have another to help him up.

Again, if two lie together, then they have heat. But how can one be warm alone? And if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

As we attempt here in government to bind up the wounds, we must also realize it is not the government's sole responsibility. As an American community, we need to bind together as those wounds are bound up to heal.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you so much, Representative RUSSELL, for your thoughts and your participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Thank you for being here this evening.

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to thank my colleagues Representative SINEMA and Representative BENISHEK for their leadership on this issue today and for organizing this time together.

I also want to thank Representative RUSSELL for his hard-earned insights that he has shared with us.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention. Unfortunately, this much-needed awareness comes too late for one of my Colorado Springs families.

I would like to tell you the story of Noah, a former marine, who served

with honor in Iraq in 2009 and in Afghanistan in 2011. I will not use his last name, but his parents have offered the use of his picture.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Noah began working on a business degree at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and started his own online business.

Now, Noah comes from a military family, his dad having honorably served for 23 years. He chose to put off college so that he could serve this great Nation.

Unfortunately, his parents are appalled by the care their son did not receive from the VA. They believe their son would still be alive had he received better care. Noah was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and received a 50 percent disability rating due to PTSD.

On April 2 of this year, he went to the Colorado Springs VA clinic, where medical notes from his visit state that he had had suicidal thoughts.

Noah was prescribed a psychotropic drug and was sent on his way. He was not referred for suicide prevention; he was not offered counseling; and there was no follow-up from the VA.

He was missing on May 4 and was found dead from an apparent suicide on May 12 of this year. As you can imagine, his family is devastated. They are asking a lot of serious questions.

I had the opportunity to ask some of their questions on their behalf during a June 10 hearing by the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations.

During the hearing, two top-level VA officials stated that they would personally look into the case and "make sure this family had been reached out to directly."

However, a month after the hearing, no contact had been made, and my office had to once again engage the VA on behalf of this grieving family.

The VA has since stated that Noah should have been seen within 2 weeks of his medical appointment and that they are modifying their procedures to, hopefully, make sure this doesn't happen in the future.

It should not take the death of a marine to get procedures right in regards to suicide prevention. We owe it to our veterans to get it right the first time.

Hopefully, this Special Order and the added awareness of veteran suicide will help prevent another tragedy like Noah's.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman LAMBORN, for your contribution this evening.

Mr. Speaker, before we close this evening, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), my friend, who has been gracious to cohost our Special Orders this evening.

Mr. BENISHEK. Yes. It was great. It was a wonderful Special Order this evening.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who took the time to come down and talk about this serious issue that faces our country.

Mr. LAMBORN discusses a case of suicide that he is very familiar with in his district. That story moves each and every one of us, and it is emblematic of the 22 suicides that occur every day amongst our veterans.

There are stories as moving as this one and as tragic as this one as Mr. LAMBORN brings up the fact that this patient was seen at the VA and was not helped at the VA.

□ 1715

We need to make sure that the Veterans Administration and this administration puts our veterans not on the back burner as something that is ongoing, but make this a crisis. This is an emergency.

This needs to be dealt with now not with reassurances from bureaucrats that it is all going to be better or "We are changing our policies." They have been changing their policies for a long time and nothing has happened. This needs to be an emergency response.

As friends and family members of our veterans and those serving our country, there are some things that we can do. We can work to recognize the symptoms that could indicate serious problems and identify where and how to get assistance when we may need it.

To all veterans struggling with whether to take your own life, know that there is no shame in asking for help. You are not broken, and God has not forgotten you.

You have volunteered to go to war for us, and we have failed to provide you adequate support when you have returned home. That is changing. I beg you to reach out to your local VA, your veterans center, your veterans service organization, or your Congressman to ask for help.

I mean, I had two calls today on my cell phone, which I give my number out freely, from veterans that did not get appropriate help at the VA, and I refer them to my staff to get the ball rolling, get moving.

Together we can begin to turn the tide on veterans' suicide. Everyone, though, can help fight this epidemic and be there for those that were there for us.

I thank my colleague from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for closing this Special Order hour for us.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you so much, Congressman BENISHEK.

Before we close, we have one more person who has joined us.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my unrelenting support for our Nation's veterans who are suffering, often silently, with depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and

profound emotional pain. It is absolutely vital that we, as a Nation, address the crisis of veteran suicide.

As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I can tell you firsthand that returning home to civilian life can be a difficult transition. Many troops used to the constant daily support of their comrades come home feeling isolated and alone. Many find themselves needing help that too often isn't there.

Some units are hit particularly hard, like the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, a group that saw intense combat in Afghanistan and has continued to suffer casualties to suicide years after they have returned. 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, has seen a suicide rate 14 times higher than that of all other Americans.

It is essential that, when our men and women in uniform return to the civilian world and need to reach out for help, somebody reaches back.

We need to ensure that veterans get the mental health care they need, when they need it, not after waiting weeks or months for an appointment.

We need to ensure that veterans who need medication get it and veterans who don't need medication aren't unnecessarily prescribed drugs with volatile side effects.

We need to ensure that, when a veteran calls the VA's Veterans Crisis Line, somebody is available on the other end to listen.

But I don't believe this is a problem that begins and ends with the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans are in all of our communities, our schools, our places of worship, and our social clubs. All Americans should be willing to lend a hand when a veteran may be suffering silently.

I share the sentiment expressed by VA Secretary McDonald earlier this year, and I know it is a statement in which my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would uniformly agree: "Losing just one veteran to suicide is one veteran too many."

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker and Members, before I close with the closing statements, I want to take a moment and honor and thank Congressman BENISHEK not just for the work he has done tonight or the work he has done on the Veterans Committee, but for the great work he has done in Congress for the last three terms.

We are sad that you are retiring. We will miss you. But we have one more chance to do this Special Order again next year, and I look forward to that time. So thank you for your help and for your service.

Congressman BENISHEK has not just been a partner to me in the work that we have been doing to help and support veterans, he has been a leader in the Veterans Committee and in his conference and in this House of Representatives.

I know, when he leaves this body, he will continue to be a shining light for veterans around this country. Thank you, Congressman.

I want to close with a story about a veteran in my district. We recently received a call from David, a constituent of mine who is an Army veteran and a survivor of two suicide attempts.

David told us: My mind was plagued with feelings that my parents and siblings would be better off without me because of who I had become as a person. I felt savage and inhuman. No matter what good I did, I couldn't face going back to a normal existence. I had never felt more alone in my life.

Through much time and assistance from organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project and mental and physical rehabilitation programs, David gained a new mission in life. He is helping his fellow veterans navigate a daunting system and reintegrate back into civilian life.

David wants his fellow warriors to understand that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

His mission of supporting veterans led David to Rally Point, a Phoenix nonprofit veteran service organization working to assist veterans in crisis.

Rally Point employs veterans like David who understand the unique needs of fellow veterans, servicemembers, and their families. These are the kinds of solutions we need to ensure that no veteran ever feels like he or she has nowhere to turn.

We have made some progress. In February of this year, the President signed the Clay Hunt SAV Act into law, an important step toward improving mental health services for veterans and their families.

This bipartisan legislation requires annual third-party evaluations of the VA's mental healthcare and suicide prevention programs to determine which programs are successful and to recommend improvements.

It also requires collaboration on suicide prevention efforts between the VA and nonprofit mental health organizations, and it establishes a pilot program using peer support and community outreach to assist veterans transitions from Active Duty.

We cannot leave our heroes to fight their toughest battles alone.

Thank you again to all of our colleagues who joined us this evening. Our thoughts are with all the families who have lost a loved one to suicide. Each of us can do something to raise awareness, to be that light for a struggling veteran in our community.

Businesses can display signs to let veterans know that help is always available. Mental health professionals can volunteer with organizations like Give an Hour to provide free counseling to veterans and their families. We can all learn to recognize the signs of crisis by visiting veteranscrisisline.net and reaching out to the vets in our life.

Here in Congress, we can do more. We need a VA that provides real and meaningful help to veterans in need that puts veterans first and works aggressively with community providers to improve the quality and accessibility of care.

We need a VA that is transparent and open to restore the trust and credibility it has lost. We, who enjoy freedom every day thanks to the sacrifices of our military servicemembers, must all step up to end the epidemic of veteran suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of family reasons.

Ms. MCCOLLUM (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family event.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,

The Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI, I hereby submit the Rules of the Committee on Small Business for publication in the Congressional Record. The Rules were adopted by the Committee in its organizational meeting.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Rules of the House of Representatives, in total (but especially with respect to the operations of committees Rule X, cl. 1(q), cl. 2, cl. 3(l), and Rule XI) are the rules of the Committee on Small Business to the extent applicable and are incorporated by reference. Each Subcommittee of the Committee on Small Business ("the Committee") is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee, and to the rules of the House and the rules adopted herein to the extent applicable.

2. REFERRAL OF BILLS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair will retain consideration of all legislation referred to the Committee by the Speaker. No action will be required of a Subcommittee before legislation is considered for report by the Committee. Subcommittee chairs, pursuant to the rules set out herein, may hold hearings on any bill referred to the Committee.

3. DATE OF MEETING

The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session.

The Chair may dispense with the meeting of the Committee, if in the sole discretion of the Chair, there is no need for such meeting. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair or at the request of the majority Members of the Committee pursuant to Rule XI, cl. 2(c) of the rules of the House.

At least 3 days notice of such an additional meeting shall be given unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to call the meeting on less notice or upon a vote by a majority of the Committee (a quorum being present). To the extent possible, the three days shall be counted from the 72 hours before the time of the meeting. Announcements of the meeting shall be published promptly in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form.

The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to limitations set forth in House Rule XI, cl. 2(c).

The Chair shall provide to each Member of the Committee, to the extent practicable, at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting, a copy of the bill, resolution, report or other item to be considered at the meeting, but no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Such material also shall be made available to the public at least 24 hours in advance in electronic form.

The rules for notice and meetings as set forth in Rule 3 of these Rules shall not apply to special and emergency meetings. Clause 2(c)(2) of Rule XI and clause 2(g)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, as applicable, shall apply to such meetings.

A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of any Member of the Committee. A record of the vote of each Member of the Committee on a matter before the Committee shall be available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote, and, with respect to any roll call vote on any motion to amend or report, shall be included in the report of the Committee showing the total number of votes cast for and against and the names of those Members voting for and against.

The Chair of the Committee shall, not later than 24 hours after consideration of a bill, resolution, report or other item cause the text of the reported item and any amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

Public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee shall be made no later than 7 calendar days before the commencement of the hearing. To the extent possible, the seven days shall be counted from 168 hours before the time of the Committee's hearing.

The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or upon a vote by the majority of the Committee (a quorum being present), may authorize a hearing to commence on less than 7 calendar days notice.

A. Witness Lists

Unless the Chair determines it is impracticable to do so, the Committee shall make a tentative witness list available at the time it makes the public announcement of the hearing. If a tentative witness list is not made available at the time of the announcement of the hearing, such witness list shall be made available as soon as practicable after such announcement is made. A final witness list

shall be issued by the Committee no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing.

B. Material for the Hearing

The Chair shall provide to all Members of the Committee, as soon as practicable after the announcement of the hearing, a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing and any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter of the hearing. Such material shall be made available to all Members of the Committee no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing unless the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines that certain reports from departments or agencies should not be made available prior to the commencement of the hearing. Material provided by the Chair to all Members, whether provided prior to or at the hearing, shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 48 hours after the commencement of the hearing unless such material contains sensitive or classified information in which case such material shall be handled pursuant to Rule 15 of the Committee's Rules.

5. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A. Meetings

Each meeting of the Committee or its Subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided by House Rule XI, cl. 4. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the meeting, determine by a recorded vote in open session that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *provided however*, that no person other than Members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such executive branch representatives they may authorize, shall be present in any meeting which has been closed to the public.

The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for the purpose of any meeting conducted by a Subcommittee.

B. Hearings

Each hearing conducted by the Committee or its Subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the hearing, determine by a recorded vote in open session, that all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *provided however*, that the Committee or Subcommittee may by the same procedure also vote to close one subsequent day of hearings. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present (if the requisite number of Members are present under Committee rules for the purpose of taking testimony) may vote: (i) to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether the testimony or evidence to be re-

ceived would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or violate Rule XI, cl. 2(k)(5) of the House or (ii) to close the hearing, as provided clause 2(k)(5) of Rule XI of the House.

The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for any hearing conducted by a Subcommittee. Members of the Committee who wish to participate in a hearing of the Subcommittee to which they are not Members shall make such request to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee at the commencement of the hearing. The Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, shall grant such request.

No Member of the House may be excluded from non-participatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or any Subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or Subcommittees, for purposes of a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearing to Members by the same procedures designated to close hearings to the public.

Members of Congress who are not Members of the Committee but would like to participate in a hearing shall notify the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member and submit a formal request no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting or hearing.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner easily accessible to the public.

6. WITNESSES

A. Statement of Witnesses

Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or Subcommittee shall file an electronic copy of the testimony with the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing. In addition, the witness shall provide 25 copies of the testimony by the commencement of the hearing. The Chair may waive the requirement by the witness providing 25 copies in which case the Committee or Subcommittee shall provide the 25 copies.

Each non-governmental witness shall provide to the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member, no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing, a curriculum vitae or other statement describing their education, employment, professional affiliation or other background information pertinent to their testimony.

As required by Rule XI, cl. 2(g) of the Rules of the House, each non-governmental witness before the commencement of the hearing shall file with the Chair a disclosure form detailing any contracts or grants that the witness has with the federal government. Such information shall be posted on the Committee website within 24 hours after the witness appeared at the hearing.

The failure to provide the materials set forth by the deadlines set forth in these rules may be grounds for excluding both the oral and written testimony of the witness unless waived by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee.

The Committee will provide public access to printed materials, including the testimony of witnesses in electronic form on the Committee's website no later than 24 hours after the hearing is adjourned. Supplemental

material provided after the hearing adjourns, shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 24 hours after receipt of such material.

B. Number of Witnesses and Witnesses Selected by the Minority

For any hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee there shall be no more than four non-governmental witnesses of which the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate) is entitled to select one witness for the hearing. Witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be invited to testify by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate). Rule 6(A) shall apply with equal force to witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee.

The limitations set forth in the preceding paragraph shall not apply if the Committee holds a hearing to honor the work of the small business community in conjunction with the annual celebration of Small Business Week. Witness limitations for such a hearing shall be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

C. Interrogation of Witnesses

Except when the Committee adopts a motion pursuant to subdivisions (B) and (C) of clause 2(i)(2) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, Committee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose. Members shall have the opportunity, as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2(j) of the Rules of the House, to question each witness on the panel for a period not to exceed five minutes. For any hearing, the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee may offer a motion to extend the questioning of a witness or witnesses by the Member identified in the motion for more than five minutes as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2(j)(B).

The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall commence questioning followed by the Ranking Minority Member. Thereafter, questioning shall alternate between the majority and minority Members in order of their arrival at the hearing after the gavel has been struck to commence the hearing with the first arriving having priority over Members of his or her party. If Members arrive simultaneously or are there prior to the gavel being struck to commence the hearing, order of questioning shall be based on seniority.

In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chair may take into consideration the ratio of majority and minority Members present in such a manner as to not disadvantage the Members of either party.

7. SUBPOENAS

A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities to require the attendance and testimony of such witness and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and document, as deemed necessary. Such subpoena shall be authorized by a majority of the full Committee. The requirement that the authorization of a subpoena require a majority vote may be waived by the Ranking Member of the Committee. The Chair may issue a subpoena, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, when the House is out for session for more than three legislative days.

8. QUORUM

A quorum, for purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation, shall be a majority of the Committee Members. For purposes of taking testimony or receiving evidence, a quorum shall be one Member from the Majority and one Member from the Minority. The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall exercise reasonable comity by waiting for the Ranking Minority Member even if a quorum is present before striking the gavel to commence the hearing. For hearings held by the Committee or a Subcommittee in a location other than the Committee's hearing room in Washington, DC, a quorum shall be deemed to present if the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee is present.

9. AMENDMENTS DURING MARK-UP

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form by any Member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair shall allow an appropriate period for the provision thereof and may adjourn the markup to provide sufficient time for the provision of such written amendment. Such period or adjournment shall not prejudice the offering of such amendment.

For amendments to be accepted during mark-up, there is no requirement that the amendments be filed prior to commencement of the mark-up or prepared with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel. Even though it is not necessary, Members seeking to amend legislation during mark-up should draft amendments with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel and consult with the Chair or Ranking Member's staff (as appropriate) in the preparation of such amendments.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume postponed proceedings, but no later than 24 hours after such postponement, unless the House is not in session or there are conflicts with Member schedules that make it unlikely a quorum will be present to conduct business on the postponed proceeding. In such cases, the Chair will consult with Members to set a time as early as possible to resume proceedings but in no event later than the next meeting date as set forth in Rule 3 of these Rules. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

11. NUMBER AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

There will be five Subcommittees as follows:

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will address policies that enhance rural economic growth, increasing America's energy independence and ensuring that America's small businesses can compete effectively in a global marketplace.

Oversight of agricultural policies.

Oversight of environmental issues and regulations (including agencies such as the En-

vironmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers).

Oversight of energy issues, including expansion of domestic resources whether they are renewable or non-renewable.

Oversight of international trade policy with particular emphasis on agencies that provide direct assistance to small businesses, such as: the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of International Trade, the Department of Commerce's United States Export Assistance Centers, the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Export-Import Bank.

Oversight of infringement of intellectual property rights by foreign competition.

The Subcommittee on Health and Technology

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will address how health care policies may inhibit or promote economic growth and job creation by small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine small business job growth through the creation and adoption of advanced technologies.

Oversight of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Oversight of availability and affordability of health care coverage for small businesses.

Oversight of general technology issues, including intellectual property policy in the United States.

Oversight of United States telecommunications policies including, but not limited to, the National Broadband Plan and allocation of electromagnetic spectrum

The Small Business Innovation Research Program.

Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

The Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will evaluate the operation of the financial markets in the United States and their ability to provide needed capital to small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will review federal programs, especially those overseen by the SBA, aimed at assisting entrepreneurs in obtaining needed capital. Since the tax policy plays an integral role in access to capital, this Committee also will examine the impact of federal tax policies on small businesses.

Oversight of capital access and financial markets.

Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

SBA financial assistance programs, including guaranteed loans, microloans, certified development company loans, and small business investment companies.

Oversight of the Department of Agriculture business and industry guaranteed loan program.

Oversight of general tax policy affecting small businesses.

The management of the SBA disaster loan program.

The Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will probe the efficient operation of government programs that affect small businesses, including the SBA, and develop proposals to make them operate in a more cost-effective manner. This Subcommittee also will review the regulatory burdens imposed on small businesses and how those burdens may be alleviated.

Oversight of general issues affecting small businesses and federal agencies.

Oversight of the management of the SBA. Oversight of the SBA Inspector General.

Implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Oversight of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget.

Use of the Congressional Review Act.

Transparency of the federal rulemaking process as required by the Administrative Procedure and Data Quality Acts.

Implementation of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and four (4) Democratic Members) will assess the federal procurement system, including those programs designed specifically to enhance participation by small businesses in providing goods and services to the federal government. The Subcommittee will examine various programs designed to provide technical assistance to small businesses, whether specifically aimed at federal contractors or small businesses in general. Finally, the Subcommittee will review the broad scope of workforce issues that affect the ability of small businesses to obtain and maintain qualified employees.

Oversight of government-wide procurement practices and programs affecting small businesses.

Oversight of federal procurement policies that inhibit or expand participation by small businesses in the federal contracting marketplace.

All contracting programs established by the Small Business Act, including HUBZone, 8(a), Women-, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Programs.

Technical assistance provided to federal contractors and perspective contractors through SBA personnel, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

The SBA Surety Bond guarantee program.

Oversight of all federal policies that affect the workforce including, but not limited to, the roles of the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board.

SBA entrepreneurial development and technical assistance programs unrelated to participation in the federal government contracting.

12. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on any matters referred to it. Prior to the scheduling of any meeting or hearing of a Subcommittee, the Chair of the Subcommittee shall obtain the approval of the Chair of the Committee.

No hearing or meeting of a Subcommittee shall take place at the same time as the meeting or hearing of the full Committee or another Subcommittee, *provided however*, that the Subcommittee Chairs may hold field hearings that conflict with those held by other Subcommittees of the Committee.

13. COMMITTEE STAFF

A. Majority Staff

The employees of the Committee, except those assigned to the Minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chair of the Committee. The Chair shall fix their remuneration and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

B. Minority Staff

The employees of the Committee assigned to the Minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall decide.

C. Subcommittee Staff

There shall be no separate staff assigned to Subcommittees. The Chair and Ranking Member shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient committee staff is made available in order that each Subcommittee may carry out the responsibilities set forth in Rule 11, *supra*.

14. RECORDS

The Committee shall keep a complete record of all actions, which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of any vote by the Committee, or if applicable by a Subcommittee, including a voice vote shall be posted on the Committee's website within 24 hours after the vote has been taken. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of the Member voting for and against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the names of Members present but not voting. For any amendment, motion, order, or other proposition decided by voice vote, the record shall include a description and whether the voice vote was in favor or against.

The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee activity which, in the case of a meeting or hearing transcript shall include a substantially verbatim account of the remarks actually made during the proceedings subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks.

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to Rule VII, cl. 3(b)(3) or cl. 4(b), to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination of the written request of any Member of the Committee.

The Committee Rules shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Chair of the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

15. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the Committee or Subcommittees and attendance at closed sessions of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be limited to Members and necessary Committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chair determines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the Committee or one of its Subcommittees.

The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the Committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:

(A) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated Committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.

(B) Members who desire to read materials that are in possession of the Committee shall

notify the Clerk of the Committee in writing.

(C) The Clerk of the Committee will maintain an accurate access log, which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.

(D) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such information, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet acknowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.

(E) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the Committee offices.

(F) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.

(G) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.

(H) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape, or manner and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in the manner authorized by the rules of the Committee.

(I) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets within the Committee offices.

(J) These procedures only address access to information the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.

(K) If a Member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the Member may petition the Committee or Subcommittee to so rule. With respect to information and materials provided to the Committee by the Executive Branch or an independent agency as that term is defined in 44 U.S.C. § 3502, the classification of information and materials as determined by the Executive Branch or independent agency shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the Committee or Subcommittee involved, after consultation with the Executive Branch or independent agency.

(L) Other materials in the possession of the Committee are to be handled in the accordance with normal practices and traditions of the Committee.

16. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

17. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change or changes has been provided to each Member of the Committee at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting of the Committee to consider such change or changes.

18. BUDGET AND TRAVEL

From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 113th Congress, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall designate one-third of the budget under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and Members, and minority office expenses.

The Chair may authorize travel in connection with activities or subject matters under the legislative or oversight jurisdiction of the Committee as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House.

The Ranking Minority Member may authorize travel for any Minority Member or staff of the minority in connection with activities or subject matters under the Committee's jurisdiction as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House. Before such travel, there shall be submitted to the Chair of the Committee in writing the following at least seven (7) calendar days prior specifying: a) the purpose of the travel; b) the dates during which the travel is to occur; c) the names of the states or countries to be visited and the length of time spent in each; and d) the names of Members and staff of the Committee participating in such travel. Prior approval shall not be required of Minority Staff traveling to participate in a deposition, authorized by the Chair in rule 16 of these Rules of an individual located outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

19. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the Minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

20. VICE CHAIR

Pursuant to the Rules of the House, the Chair shall designate a Member of the Majority to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee. The Vice Chair shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chair. The Chair also reserves the right to designate a Member of the Committee Majority to serve as the Chair at a hearing or meeting.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1170. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 25, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2921. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order; Expanding the Membership of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council and Other Changes [Document Number: AMS-FV-14-0089] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2922. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0027; FV15-958-1 IR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2923. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0033; FV15-922-1 IR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2924. A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Eligibility of Lithuania to Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States [Docket No.: FSIS-2014-0040] (RIN: 0583-AD57) received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2925. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern States; Suspension of Marketing Order Provisions [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0011; FV14-953-1 FIR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2926. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2927. A letter from the Acting PRAO Branch Chief, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Agricultural Act of 2014 Nondiscretionary Provisions (RIN: 0584-AE48) re-

ceived September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2928. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Benzovindiflupyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0141; FRL-9933-03] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2929. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acibenzolar-S-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0840; FRL-9933-27] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2930. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2015-0136, 0137, 0138, 0140, and 0141; FRL-9934-75-OSWER] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2931. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Nonattainment New Source Review and Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0796; EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0862; A-1-FRL-9933-92-Region 1] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2932. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Control of Mercury Emissions from Electric Generating Units [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0427; FRL-9934-68-Region 7] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2933. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Combs Oil Company Variance [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0133; FRL-9934-72-Region 4] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2934. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi: Miscellaneous Changes [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0163; FRL-9934-73-Region 4] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2935. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste [EPA-R07-RCRA-2014-0452; FRL-9934-78-Region 7] received Sep-

tember 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2936. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; CO; Revised format for Material Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R08-OAR-2015-0149; FRL-9931-73-Region 8] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2937. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown in defense articles and services of the Department of Defense, and military education and training, to support Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria in their efforts to counter Boko Haram, in accordance with Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2938. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2939. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula (Rev. Rul. 2015-20) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2940. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Per Capita Distributions of Funds Held in Trust by the Secretary of the Interior [Notice 2015-67] [IRB 2015-41] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2941. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Information Reporting on Minimum Essential Coverage [Notice 2015-68] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2942. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2015-2016 Special Per Diem Rates [Notice 2015-63] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2943. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — October 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-21) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2944. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only

rule — Investments Made for Charitable Purposes [Notice 2015-62] [IRB 2015-39] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2945. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 168(k)(2) and (4) and section 179(f) Extenders Guidance Pursuant to TIPA (Rev. Proc. 2015-48) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2946. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2015-61] received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2947. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Reorganizations Under Section 368(a)(1)(F); Section 367(a) and Certain Reorganizations Under Section 368(a)(1)(F) [TD 9739] (RIN: 1545-BF51; 1545-BM78) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2948. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and temporary regulations — Dividend Equivalents from Sources within the United States [TD 9734] (RIN: 1545-BJ56) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1613. A bill to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-266). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 3594. A bill to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 3595. A bill to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Com-

mittee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 3596. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 3597. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States to determine if providers are qualified under Medicaid State plans to perform services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 3598. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the National Network of Fusion Centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 3599. A bill to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 3600. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the instances in which official time may be granted to employees of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 3601. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 Post Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as the "Melvold J. Benson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 3602. A bill to provide compensation to injured persons relating to the Gold King Mine spill, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to address mining-related issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 3603. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3604. A bill to establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools

and public charter schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3605. A bill to establish humane practices for the repatriation of aliens at the border, establish effective standards for the treatment of certain aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3606. A bill to provide for enhanced protections for vulnerable unaccompanied alien children and female detainees; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SABLON (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 3607. A bill to increase from 10 to 15 years the term of office of the judges of the district courts of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 3608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt amounts paid for aircraft management services from the excise taxes imposed on transportation by air; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 3609. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify requirements for payment under the Medicare program for ambulance services furnished by critical access hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KATKO:

H. Res. 434. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with an amendment; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Res. 435. A resolution recognizing the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, especially Christians and Yezidis, by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as Daesh, and calling for the immediate prioritization of accepting refugees from such communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DELAUNO, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. WELCH):

H. Res. 436. A resolution honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took

place from April 1975 to January 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 437. A resolution designating September 2015 as "Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 438. A resolution supporting the designation of a week as National Federal Nurse Recognition Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H. Res. 439. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2, 2015, as "World MRSA Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TROTT (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. DOLD, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. DENHAM):

H. Res. 440. A resolution calling for urgent international action on behalf of Iraqi and Syrian civilians facing a dire humanitarian crisis and severe persecution because of their faith or ethnicity in the Nineveh Plain region of Iraq and Khabor, Kobane, and Aleppo regions of Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

138. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 82, urging the United States Congress to preserve full funding and support for the United States Department of Defense STARBASE youth science and technology program; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan:

H.R. 3594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 3595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 3596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 3597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to * * * provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 3598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 3599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2—The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HOLDING:

H.R. 3600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states: "The Congress shall have Power To [. . .] make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 3601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 3602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 3603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 3606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SABLÁN:

H.R. 3607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 3608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 3609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII Clause I

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 317: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 320: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 343: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 540: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 592: Mr. HARDY and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 676: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 814: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 822: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 842: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 865: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 879: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 918: Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 957: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 969: Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. BASS, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 985: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1076: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1101: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 1120: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 1130: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1139: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1142: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1174: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1188: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1192: Mr. DEFazio, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SENBRENNER, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ROSS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1221: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1258: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1286: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1288: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1301: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1312: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1321: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1343: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1384: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1398: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1439: Mr. O'ROURKE,

H.R. 1442: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 1475: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1478: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1503: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1516: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1522: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 1559: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Ms. GRAMHAM.

H.R. 1568: Ms. GABBARD, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1602: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1608: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1610: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 1624: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1635: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 1706: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 1737: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1752: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1856: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1887: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1942: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 2023: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. GRAHAM, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 2050: Mr. BERA and Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 2090: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2096: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2114: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2121: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 2123: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 2156: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 2205: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2254: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2278: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 2280: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2295: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 2328: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 2408: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 2430: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 2510: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2515: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2555: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2566: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2568: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 2646: Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 2726: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2759: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FARR, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2764: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2769: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2844: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 2848: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 2858: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 2876: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 2877: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2894: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 2903: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2918: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2923: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 2940: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 2991: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. BUCHSHON.
H.R. 3029: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3052: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3061: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3065: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. HAHN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3099: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 3119: Mr. KEATING, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3126: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 3135: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3150: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 3183: Mr. ROSS and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 3187: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3193: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3229: Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 3268: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 3294: Ms. MCSALLY and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3295: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3297: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3302: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 3309: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 3326: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3338: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 3340: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 3343: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3361: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3364: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3381: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3389: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 3396: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3421: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3423: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 3429: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 3457: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. BUCHSHON.
H.R. 3472: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 3487: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 3493: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3495: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 3512: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3516: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 3532: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 3537: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 3549: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3562: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 3564: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3566: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 3567: Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 3572: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 3584: Miss RICE of New York.
H.J. Res. 9: Mr. WALDEN.
H.J. Res. 55: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H. Con. Res. 50: Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. KING of New York.
H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. HAHN.
H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. PALMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JONES, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Ms. GABBARD.
H. Res. 54: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 218: Mr. YOHO.
H. Res. 268: Mr. ASHFORD.
H. Res. 290: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 378: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H. Res. 394: Mr. WALZ and Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 400: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Res. 417: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H. Res. 419: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. ESTY.
H. Res. 423: Mr. COOK, Mr. PEARCE, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H. Res. 431: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL LATINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIA- TION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Latino Behavioral Health Association Scholarship Recipients for their commitment to promoting the health and well-being of the members of their communities as they pursue a college degree in behavioral health.

The National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) was established to strengthen the national voice for Latinos in the behavioral health arena and to bring attention to the great disparities that exist in areas of access, utilization, practice based research, and adequately trained personnel. The NLBHA Scholarship provides financial resources and mentorships to students to achieve their goal of college graduation. This year, the NLBHA Scholarship Luncheon recognizes the scholastic achievements of eleven students working toward a degree in behavioral health with a commitment to serving the communities of New Mexico.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, it is an honor to support these young Hispanic students as they embark on their journey in higher education. I commend their dedication to addressing the great disparities that exist in the areas of funding, access, and quality of care for Hispanics needing professional mental health and substance abuse services. And while I applaud NLBHA's efforts to recruit and support Hispanics dedicated to behavioral health, and to the students pursuing higher education with the goal of supporting the behavioral needs of New Mexico, I congratulate them on receiving the NLBHA Scholarship and wish them luck in their college and future endeavors.

HONORING THE JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE OPERATIONS ENGI- NEERING AND TECHNICIAN PRO- GRAM

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joliet Junior College and the launch of their Operations Engineering and Technician (OET) Program.

In today's workforce and economic environment, being career ready is more important than ever. With the number of retirees increasing almost daily, companies and employers are searching for talented individuals who can

hit the ground running on day one in their new roles. The skills students will learn and develop in OET are first class and as a result, the Joliet Junior College OET program will ensure graduates from the program will spur competition, productivity, and ingenuity in the next generation of workers. Programs like OET and similar technical education programs are vital to leading our economy and our workforce into the future.

I have witnessed firsthand the quality education that Joliet Junior College provides my constituents and our surrounding communities, and I am proud to represent many of these wonderful individuals in Congress. On behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to the Joliet Junior College for their commendable service and constant dedication to higher education.

RECOGNIZING KENT STATE UNI- VERSITY'S LIQUID CRYSTAL IN- STITUTE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an Ohio institution that has made scientific and technological strides that have had an impact on every single one of our lives. The Glenn H. Brown Liquid Crystal Institute at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio celebrates its 50th anniversary this month after decades of scientific advancement in the development of liquid crystal technology that is used in devices like flat screen TVs and mobile devices.

The Kent State University Board of Trustees authorized the creation of the Liquid Crystal Institute in 1965, subsequently garnering grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and agencies of the U.S. defense sector. Glenn Brown, a Chemistry professor at the University since 1961, served as the Institute's director until his retirement in 1983. Under the direction of Director Dr. Hiroshi Yokoyama, the Institute continues its tradition of scientific excellence.

Innovations that grew from scientific endeavors at the Liquid Crystal Institute have fundamentally changed our modern life, like the invention of the twisted nematic cell, the heart of modern Liquid Crystal Displays. On Kent State University's campus, the Liquid Crystal and Materials Sciences building houses more than 25 individual labs and rooms for prototype development of new liquid crystal displays. There, the Institute is conducting groundbreaking research in advanced photonics, sensors, bio- and medical molecular devices, and materials for new energy applications. Recently, a team of scientists working with the Liquid Crystal Institute developed

a heat-sensitive fabric to help diabetics detect harmful inflammation and infections.

So this month we celebrate 50 years of innovation and research at the Liquid Crystal Institute of Kent State University and I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of this great Ohio institution.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF FIRST SERGEANT PETER ANDREW MCKENNA JR., UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On Friday, August 7, 2015, First Sergeant Peter Andrew McKenna Jr. of the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, located in Florida's First Congressional District, tragically lost his life during an attack on a NATO facility in Kabul, Afghanistan. First Sergeant McKenna, now laid to rest in Rhode Island, was only 35 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.

Born to Peter and Carol McKenna of Bristol, Rhode Island, 1SG McKenna graduated from Mt. Hope High School in 1998. Upon his graduation, he followed his family's example of service, began his career as an Army infantryman, and then passed the grueling Special Forces qualifying course and earned his Green Beret in 2002. Upon completion of the Q-Course, he was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group, now based at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, as communications sergeant. During his selfless service, 1SG McKenna participated in six combat deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan while serving our Nation with the utmost distinction throughout his 17-year career.

Among his many awards and accolades are the Bronze Star with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Master Free Fall Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

He, however, was not only a consummate leader and selfless warrior in his professional life, but his personal life as well. He was recently recognized for having traveled the furthest distance to be at the 2015 Bristol Fourth Of July Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a humble and grateful Nation, I thank Andrew's family, for the love, counsel, guidance, and support given

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to him, which helped make him the hero he became. His life stands as a testament that freedom is not free, and to that end, his legacy will echo in time as an example of the ultimate sacrifice. My wife, Vicki, joins me in praying that God be with his daughter Rebecca, parents Peter and Carol, and the rest of his family and friends during this time of great mourning, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF JOE KANFER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joe Kanfer, the recipient of the 48th Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award. Joe is the chairman and CEO of GOJO Industries. In addition to his position at GOJO Industries, Joe is a chairman for Startvest Partners, a firm that develops biotech startups in Israel. He is honored today for his continuous support in strengthening the Jewish community and his dedication to improving education and health care, and reducing poverty and hunger. Joe has accomplished this work along with his wife, Pam, his four children and their spouses through the Lippman Kanfer Family Philanthropies and GOJO.

His numerous accomplishments also include a three-year term as the chair of the Jewish Federations of North America, chairman of the Jewish Education Service of North America and a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel in Jerusalem. He currently serves as chair of the Honeymoon Israel Foundation. Joe Kanfer is not only known for his work on a national level, but also on a local level. He serves as chairman for countless organizations in the greater Akron Area including Akron Tomorrow, the Greater Akron Chamber Executive Committee, Bits and Atoms Innovation Center, and just recently, the Akron Children's Hospital's Building on a Promise Campaign. In addition, he is a trustee for the Jewish Community Board of Akron and the Lippman School. He is also the former vice president of University of Akron Board of Trustees and trustee of the Shaw Jewish Community center and Akron Roundtable.

It is my pleasure to recognize a man who has worked so hard to strengthen his community on a local and national level. I applaud Joe Kanfer and could not imagine a better recipient for this year's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award.

HONORING FELICIA GASTON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Felicia Gaston, who, since founding Performing Stars of Marin 25 years ago, has

endeavored to give low-income and at-risk children in the North Bay access to the arts. For two and a half decades, Ms. Gaston has worked tirelessly to help more than 1,300 young people in Marin City and San Rafael "reach for the stars" through performance, giving them an outlet for creativity and pushing them to develop discipline, self-reliance, and self-esteem in their early years and beyond.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Ms. Gaston moved to California with her family as a teenager, later relocating to the Bay Area in college. She founded Performing Stars in 1990 to give local children access to opportunities she never had. As a black child in the South, Ms. Gaston encountered segregation and discrimination, which prevented her from taking classes at her local ballet school. By providing opportunities for young people to dance, perform, and express themselves through art regardless of skin color or socioeconomic background, her leadership and tenacity has helped other children avoid the struggle she faced.

Performing Stars has impacted hundreds of students and thousands of family members, classmates, and friends. Participants receive access to scholarships for arts programs, opportunities for performance, group trips to local arts events, and life skills workshops. More than that, they become part of the outstanding Performing Stars community that Ms. Gaston has created.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor and thank Felicia Gaston for her many years of dedicated service in improving young lives in our community. On behalf of the many individuals whose lives she's changed, I am privileged to express deep gratitude to Ms. Felicia Gaston for her continuing leadership, thoughtfulness, and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTELLA
MAVIS KNOX

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to recognize the passing of one of East Palo Alto's guiding spirits. Estella Mavis Knox, known as Mavis, passed from this earth on August 11, 2015. She had a profound impact upon the community in which she lived for five decades.

Mavis Knox was born on January 15, 1939 in Durant, Mississippi. From this small town of 2,500 in America's segregated south, Mavis eventually settled in East Palo Alto, California, a remarkable community in my district, also a small town, set amidst the larger San Francisco Bay Area with all of its diversity, vibrancy and social activism.

Mavis raised her three children as a single mother and still found the time and energy, at the age of 31, to earn a bachelor's degree in sociology from San Jose State University. She would later complete her master's at San Jose State. Mr. Speaker and members, this single mother, through her personal example and standards, also inspired her children to attend two historically black colleges: Morehouse and Tuskegee.

Nairobi College opened in East Palo Alto in 1969. Mavis was an early administrator. A staunch, lifelong advocate of education, she was instrumental in founding this innovative and highly successful community college tailored to address the multiple academic, social and service needs of the East Palo Alto community. The college began with 120 students and grew to 200 within a few years. One year before its founding, Dr. Martin Luther King had been killed. As the war in Vietnam raged and several American cities went up in flames, Mavis Knox joined with visionary leaders to offer an alternative to fires burning within and without: the light and hope of a quality college education. Her love of education would distinguish Mavis Knox in years to come, and her community leadership was built upon this bedrock commitment.

Mavis began her career with San Mateo County in 1982 and retired in 2005 after spending much of her county career in Children and Family Services as a social worker and supervisor. When she supervised the Long Term Placement unit she was the driving force in enhancing the Independent Living Skills program and the Moving On ceremony.

Mavis was elected to the Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees and served the community from that position for 12 years during the 1970s and early 1980s. This was a time of tremendous change in the district, with historic segregation and its legacy being challenged regularly.

Newspaper reports of the time indicate that students and parents demanded equality of opportunity, and they demanded that the district overcome the impacts of decades of racial segregation. Mavis Knox was a vocal advocate for equality. This required hiring staff that would set high standards and be held accountable to the community. Press reports from that time indicate that such routine decisions as hiring a superintendent were sometimes contentious, but the stakes were also high. While she demanded accountability by the staff to the community, Mavis Knox also held herself accountable. She successfully advocated for better school financing, and strongly urged the community to unite in creating a first-rate system.

Mr. Speaker and members, Mavis Knox was a dedicated member, committee chair, and leader in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, earning the Bertha Pitts Campbell Award in 2011, the Chapter's highest honor for outstanding service to the sorority and community. Among other distinguished community service, she served as Foreman of the Grand Jury of San Mateo County and charter board member of the East Palo Alto Girls' Club of the Mid-Peninsula. She was a prolific fund raiser for at-risk youth. She is survived by her son Anthony D. Jones, daughter Brenda Destiny Knox, brother Ronald Knox, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A leading advocate for social justice has now passed from our midst. In our sorrow, it is important to note that the lessons she taught by example will offer guidance and comfort for years to come. Ultimately, this is the greatest gift to us all of Mavis Knox, a mother, educator, community advocate, and an outstanding American.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALFRED
D. COWARD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life of Alfred D. Coward, who passed away on July 10th, 2015 with his beloved wife, Verlene, by his side. Alfred was a community leader in Youngstown, Ohio of the utmost caliber and influence. Over 35 years of distinguished service to the Mt. Calvary Pentecostal Church, Alfred "The Rev" Coward served in multiple leadership positions. These included Superintendent of the Sunday school, Head of Pastoral Affairs and Bereavement, and Chairman of the Brotherhood Department to name a few.

Alfred's leadership skills were also employed outside of the walls of Mt. Calvary Church. Reverend Coward's civic involvement included four years as Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Violence Prevention, five years on the Steering Committee of the Youngstown Weed & Seed Initiative, as well as an appointment by Mayor Jay Williams to the Youngstown Civil Service Commission, where he served as Vice-President. Alfred was also the recipient of the Crisis Intervention Unit for Domestic Violence Award.

Alfred was preceded in death by his parents; an aunt and uncle, Naomi and John Carpenter, who reared him; and a sister Darlene Carter. He leaves behind the love of his life Verlene "Sweet Verl" Coward, his wife of nearly 46 years; the pride of his life, his three children, Alfred D. (Nicole) Coward II of Youngstown, OH; Teri J. Coward of Austintown, OH; and Aaron (Veronica) Coward, of Boardman, OH; the joy of his life, nine grandchildren, Kandace Coward, Kamille Coward, Ashley Joseph, Kayla Coward, Courtney Joseph, Gabrielle Joseph, Alfred Coward III, Aaron Coward and Addisyn Coward; a sister, Brenda Townsend of Tulsa, OK; and a host of loving family, church family, and friends.

I am deeply saddened by Alfred's passing, and extend my most heartfelt condolences to his entire family. Reverend Coward was an exemplary spiritual and civic leader who, through his unwavering dedication and service to his community, left Youngstown and Northeast Ohio a better place than when he found it.

IN HONOR OF SAINT JUNIPERO
SERRA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my California colleagues, Rep. ANNA ESHOO, Rep. JANICE HAHN, Rep. JARED HUFFMAN, Rep. NANCY PELOSI, Rep. MIKE THOMPSON and Rep. JUAN VARGAS, to welcome His Holiness Pope Francis to Washington and to celebrate his actions yesterday in canonizing Father Junipero Serra.

Yesterday we were all witness to a sacred ceremony validating the holiness of Father Serra as a leader of the Catholic faith in early California. But Father Serra is also a major historical figure in California's settlement and expansion. As important as his contribution to the faith is, his effort to unify and connect north and south California laid the groundwork for the state it came to be.

As most people know, Father Serra is responsible for establishing the first 9 of what would eventually be 21 missions up and down the coast of California all the way from San Diego in the south to north of San Francisco. In today's world, those 21 missions are tantamount to social media. They represented a network of community and connectedness that brought order to a wilderness and established common links between myriad towns and villages. Those missions were so important to the framework of community, commerce and government that eventually coalesced into a state, that every school child in California must construct a mission diorama in the 4th grade as part of his/her history lesson. The majority of those missions still stand today and are still vibrant centers of faith and community. They also serve as strong tourist attractions and bring to life the story of California's early settlers to millions of visitors every year. So pivotal was Father Serra to the rise and prosperity of California that the state elected to have his statue exhibited here in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

Father Serra's presence is especially felt strongly in Carmel, California where he established his headquarters and actively administered the expansion of the Catholic faith in California. From here he also helped manage relations between local peoples and Spanish government officials in Mexico as well as with the local military officers who commanded the nearby presidio in Monterey. Father Serra is buried at the mission in Carmel and neighbors of the mission, city residents and all who visit the mission venerate his beneficence to the people and the state.

During Pope Francis' visit to Washington this week my California colleagues and I were happy to welcome a good number of Californians to the city to celebrate the Pope's visit and Father Serra's canonization. In particular I was proud to have nearly 100 constituents from the Carmel area come to town to honor our "home-town saint." Among the distinguished visitors was Bishop Richard Garcia, Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey and his predecessor, Bishop Sylvester Ryan. I was pleased that they could be with us as for this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House was moved this week by the Pope's visit and his actions regarding Father Serra. I am sure the House joins me in thanking the Pope for his leadership, his holy presence and his blessing of Father Junipero Serra.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF LARSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeff

"Huck" Larson for his recognition as Citizen of the Year in Casey, Iowa.

Jeff was awarded Citizen of the Year at the Casey Fun Day celebration on July 11, 2015. He was recognized for his leadership at the Casey Fire Department, where he's served for 25 years—10 years as fire chief and 13 years as assistant chief. Jeff also led efforts to establish a food pantry in the area and helped organize the Adair-Casey Food Pantry, where he volunteers each month.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Jeff for his service to Casey and congratulating him for receiving this award. It is an honor to represent him in the United States House of Representatives, and I wish him nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SAMUEL IRVING
NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
COMMUNICATIONS AT SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Samuel Irving Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. The creation of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications began in 1964 with the support of Samuel Irving Newhouse, who had a vision to build a communications school where "the best and the brightest" would come to study.

The S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications is widely regarded as one of the nation's leading school of communications. The Newhouse School has gained this reputation over the past fifty years due to its wide embrace of virtually every known form of information dissemination—including print and broadcast journalism, social media and online communication, advertising and public relations, as well as photography and film.

The roots of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications are founded in Syracuse University's former School of Journalism. In 1934 the School of Journalism was founded at Syracuse University and has developed into a nationally renowned educational institution. In 1964 the first of three buildings, "Newhouse 1," was opened and dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1971 the School of Journalism merged with the Department of Television and Radio and was re-named the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

I am proud to recognize the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and congratulate the School on the achievement of its 50th anniversary. I am confident that the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University will continue to grow and educate talented, rising professionals in public communications and it is my honor to congratulate the Newhouse School on behalf of the entire Central New York Community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSEANN
M. SCHAEFFER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Roseann M. Schaeffer, daughter of Rosario and Rita Levero Frandanisa who passed away peacefully on July 28, 2015, in her home. Roseann was a 1958 graduate of Niles McKinley High School and a 1962 graduate of Youngstown College, with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She was employed for over 40 years as a teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School in Niles, retiring in 2005. Roseann was a steadfast fixture in the Mt. Carmel community as a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, taking on such roles as church lector, member of the Liturgy committee, Parish Anniversary committee, festival volunteer, Pep Club and Year Book advisor, and Monday Rosary group. She was also one of the original founders of S.I.G.N. (Service in God's Name), a preparatory program for confirmation students.

She will be deeply missed by two brothers, Anthony Frandanisa and his wife, Theresa, of Niles and Angelo Frandanisa and his wife, Rosemarie, of Kirkland, Wash.; her nieces and nephews, Ann Genovese and her husband, Robert, Tony Frandanisa, Rita Kanareff and her husband, Kevin, Joseph Frandanisa and his wife, Karen, Renee Charawell, Jimmy Frandanisa and his wife, Carrie, and Bobby Frandanisa and his wife, Kelley; and many great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The residents of Northeast Ohio are known to be compassionate, community oriented individuals. Whether it was engaging in her Mt. Carmel Parish community, or cooking and playing cards as she so loved, Roseann was certainly no exception.

HONORING LIESL SCHMIDT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Liesl Schmidt a community leader, and one of my district's 2015 Women of the Year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Liesl Schmidt was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, Liesl is a Northern California native and is the Regional President for US Bank's Northern California Community Bank. She is the wife of a rice farmer, mother of a son who serves in the US Coast Guard and a daughter who attends CSU-Sacramento.

Whereas, Liesl is an active Board member and Treasurer for the Yuba Sutter Chamber of Commerce, a Past President of the Yuba City-Marysville Soroptimists, and a Rotarian. She is active in many local organizations including

the American Red Cross, Cornerstone Church, and the Yuba Sutter United Way.

Whereas, a founding member of Girls on the Run in Sutter County, Liesl is committed to advocating for women at her place of work and throughout the banking industry by actively participating in women's leadership groups. Liesl's goal is to 'pay it forward' by mentoring, sponsoring, or advocating for women at US Bank and in the community for those who have a desire to be in more senior roles.

Whereas, Liesl's priorities are 'faith, family, friends'. She is a born leader who brings life, love, and enthusiasm to everything she does.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Liesl Schmidt.

PEARLAND SAINTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland Saints for being selected to represent Texas at the annual Special Olympics North America Softball Championship.

The Pearland Saints are a softball team through the Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) organization. SOTX uses the power of sports to empower people with intellectual challenges. Through SOTX children and adults can experience the joy of being part of a team and realize their full potential. This all-star team of thirteen players, led by Coach Raymond Rocha, will compete against 31 other teams from across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. We are excited to cheer the team on in Wichita this weekend.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, best of luck to the Pearland Saints at the Special Olympics North America Softball Championship and congratulations on being selected to represent our great state.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
C. "BILL" LUOMA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember and honor the life of William C. "Bill" Luoma, a native of Warren, Ohio, who passed away on the 17th of August, 2015 at his daughter's home, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Warren, Ohio on April 11, 1939, to Wilmar and Maxine Luoma Bill lived a full life of service in the United States military and as a Union leader in the steel industry.

After living in Tucson, Arizona as a child, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 18 and attended Amarillo AFB Jet Engine

School in Amarillo, Texas. Bill also served two years with the United States Marine Corps before starting a 30 year career with Republic Steel Corporation. Bill exemplified the life of a workman's ally by serving as a Worker's Compensation representative and later in retirement as President of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, Chapter 1-28-5. A leader in the Union community, he helped organize rallies in Washington, DC fighting for workers' rights, Medicare, and Social Security, and in 2004 spoke on senior health issues at the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts.

Bill is remembered by his loving family as a passionate story and joke teller with interests in bowling, painting, drawing, antiques, and furniture refinishing. His excellent memory for Geography and History was accompanied by a love and passion for his Finnish background. As a member of the Catholic Church, Bill attended the services of Father Gusper at St. Stephens Church in Niles, Ohio.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his sister, Judy Dennison, son, Timothy Luoma, and grandson, Isaiah Luoma. He is survived by his wife, Janice Macchia Luoma, whom he married on August 12, 1988. He is also survived by daughters, Jill Luoma, Lori Luoma, Elizabeth Luoma, step-daughter, Crystal Zimomra; sons, Raymond Luoma and William Luoma; he was Grandpa to Ryan Maki, Papiou to Zachary Brewer, and Landon Zimomra; Grandpa to Erica Maki, and Kristia Luoma. He is also survived by great-grandchildren, Emilee, Paisley, Trenton and Brailin Moore.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Bill Luoma, such a dedicated and strong servant of the American armed forces, his fellow workmen and women, and his family. He will be remembered and celebrated as a Warren, Ohio community leader and it is my honor to recognize his life here today.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE ANN
BROWNE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the long and distinguished career of Marjorie Ann Browne, a native Washingtonian and servant of Congress in the area of foreign affairs. On October 10, 2015, Ms. Browne will retire after a remarkable 55 years of faithful service to the legislative branch as an international relations specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Marjorie Browne graduated from the University of Rochester in 1960 with a B.A. in history. After working for a few summers as a typist at the State Department, Marjorie joined the Library of Congress on October 10, 1960, in the office of the deputy director of the Legislative Reference Service (LRS), as CRS was known prior to 1970. In 1962, she was promoted to a reference assistant and moved to the Foreign Affairs Division of LRS. After working closely with analysts who specialized

in international organizations and international law, Marjorie was converted to an analyst in 1971. She became increasingly involved in multiple issues related to the United Nations. Ms. Browne has served as a specialist on the United Nations and international organizations for Congress, producing numerous reports, committee prints, and individualized responses to congressional inquiries for several decades. Over the years, she has mentored scores of colleagues and has always sought to assist others in their work.

Highlights of Marjorie Browne's long career include her attendance intermittently from 1973 to 1982 at meetings of the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea in New York and her attendance in the 1980s at the National War College in Ft. McNair, D.C. More recently, during a congressional visit to the United Nations, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognized her service during his remarks to the visiting delegation. For a long stretch of her career at CRS, Ms. Browne worked actively in the Congressional Research Employees Association (CREA), including during the time period when CRS staff moved from the Jefferson Building to the then-new Madison Building in 1980, and on CREA's health and safety committee. In 2010, the Library of Congress honored Marjorie for 50 years of service.

Marjorie Browne leaves behind multiple legacies: distinguished public service over half a century, an indefatigable commitment to fulfilling the mission of CRS and the work of Congress, and an extraordinary career that has served as a role model for many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Marjorie Ann Browne on the occasion of her retirement for 55 years of service to Congress and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA WHEELER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda Wheeler of Lenox, Iowa for being selected as Taylor County's 2015 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Linda was a member of the Platte Peppy Pals 4-H group for 10 years while growing up. Her mother and father were both 4-H leaders in her county. She participated in 4-H camp and focused on home improvement projects like refinishing furniture for fair projects. Linda became a leader herself in 2002, and has since spent numerous hours working with members and her own children on 4-H projects as part of the Washington Winners.

Mr. Speaker, Linda's efforts are a true representation of the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Linda for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATING BISHOP URUNDI KNOX ON HIS 21ST ANNIVERSARY AND THE EBENEZER MINISTRIES ON THEIR 46TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ebenezer Ministries on the occasion of their 46th anniversary and Bishop Knox on his 21st pastoral anniversary.

Over the past 46 years, Ebenezer Ministries has gained a membership of over 1,000 members. Leading the Ministries today is the Bishop Urundi B. Knox. Pastor Knox became pastor on the third Sunday of September, 1994. Since Pastor Knox has been serving Ebenezer, the church has gained over 200 members.

In 1999, the congregation agreed to change the name from Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church to Ebenezer Ministries.

After taking on the new name, fresh outreach programs were implemented. These programs included the Elderly Ministries, Abused & Battered Women Ministry, Prison Ministry, Street Ministry, and the largest, the Take Back the City Crusade.

Other programs included the CK Travelers for senior citizens, Save Our Sons mentoring program, Daughters of Destiny mentoring program, a Motorcycle Ministry, a health Ministry, a Marriage Ministry, a Junior Deacon Board, and an outdoor concert series, "Gospel Under the Sun".

Under Pastor Knox, many leaders of the church have been cultivated. Thirty members received their calling in to the ministry, 21 deacons have been ordained, and seven licensed ministers have joined Ebenezer. Pastor Knox was one of the First African American Ministers in Flint to value women in a traditionally male dominated field, licensing 23 female ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the leadership of Bishop Urundi Knox, the accomplishments of Ebenezer Ministries and the positive effects both have had on the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACIFICA FOG FEST

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 30th anniversary of a California coastal tradition that now entertains 60,000 people over a weekend in September. The Pacifica Fog Fest is a community celebration filled with sun, fun, food, contests and music. In three decades it has grown from six community groups working booths to 49 community organizations working in food and beverage booths and behind the scenes to produce Fog Fest. Fog Fest perfectly reflects the personality of

Pacificans: a sense of humor with a healthy dose of whimsy, the appreciation of the outdoors, the joy of life, and the commitment to give back.

Locals know that fog in September is almost an oxymoron, but you don't have to go very far to hear the stereotypical "It's always foggy in Pacifica!" In fact, that is how the festival was christened. In 1986, a city council-appointed citizens committee was charged with creating a plan to increase commercial development in Pacifica. A subcommittee came up with the idea to attract tourists with a unique festival. Every time subcommittee member Jean Headley wore her "I Love Pacifica" pin in San Francisco, people would snidely say "Why do you love Pacifica? It's always so foggy!" It was time to dispel this myth, poke fun at Pacifica's weather and hold the festival on a weekend that was almost guaranteed to be sunny and hot.

A new committee consisting of representatives from the city council, the Pacifica Tribune, the Chamber of Commerce, city staff and volunteers developed the idea further and eventually took its recommendation to the full city council. Not without controversy, the council voted 3-2 to create the Pacifica Coast Fog Fest on the last full weekend in September.

The City of Pacifica, with the help of a professional festival planner, produced the first Fog Fest. The only fog to be found was fog made by a rented fog machine. Some 30,000 visitors walked Palmetto Avenue, watched the Discover Pacifica parade, shopped at 100 arts and craft booths, listened to live music, sampled clam chowder, jambalaya and Fog Dogs, and sipped wine, beer and Fog Cutters. They also participated in a surfcasting contest, a Family Fun Fest, a God and Goddess of the Fog contest, a 7K beach run, a fog photo contest, an ocean kayak race and the Councours D'Pacifica.

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of the original steering committee the first Fog Fest was a success and a new tradition was born.

The city continued to produce Fog Fest until 1993 when it authorized a newly founded non-profit to take over. Pacifica Festivals Inc. (PFI) produced the event for the next seven years and kept many of the existing traditions such as the Discover Pacifica Parade, the Friday night Fandango at the Sanchez Adobe, Family Fun Fest, Classic Car show, the Fog Jog on Sunday morning and the beautiful Pacifica Historical Society photo display. KRQR Radio began broadcasting from the event bringing it to the entire Bay Area. In 1992, the Human Fog Horn contest had its debut. And of course the food and arts and craft booths continued to offer local delicacies and treasures.

In 2000, the Fog Fest Organizing Group (FFOG), a group of community minded residents, took on the leadership of the festival. Through tireless fundraising efforts the board members have spurred remarkable growth of sponsorships of Fog Fest. Today it features over 200 arts and crafts booths, three stages with live music, the Discover Pacifica parade and marching band competition on Saturday morning, the Family Fun Fest, the Great Sand Sculpture, Surf Art Experience, Fog Jog and Stride and many contests and games for every age.

In addition to offering family entertainment, Fog Fest has a conscience and is socially responsible. FFOG instituted a "Go Green Campaign" and in partnership with Recology of the Coast recycles anything that's recyclable. It created a "Gift to Pacifica Fund" in 2001 and has given a special gift to the community every year since then. For example, it purchased the original painting featured on the 2004 Fog Fest poster and today it hangs in the Community Center. It donated a bench that sits in the Rotary plaza at the Center for the Performing Arts. For the last 30 years, almost \$900,000 in proceeds from Fog Fest were given back to the community.

While Pacifica's signature event keeps growing and evolving with the times, some things haven't changed: Fog Fest is a celebration of sun, sand, surf and the mythical mist. Fog Cutters will always be the cocktail of choice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the 30th anniversary of the Pacifica Coast Fog Fest that lasts only one sunny weekend in September, but benefits the community all year around.

HONORING MARGARET
FERNANDEZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Margaret Fernandez a Community Leader for Hispanic Advancement, Business Development, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Margaret Fernandez was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Margaret was born into a large family and raised in the Midwest. She came to Yuba-Sutter in 1985 where she studied business administration at Yuba Community College. A former Marketing Manager, Margaret currently works as Branch Operations manager for The Plus Group in Yuba City, a job placement agency. There are many moving pieces within the Marketing and Managing of the Human Resources industry today and it is a challenging job that Margaret has enjoyed for the past 10 years.

Whereas, Margaret is the President of the Alliance for Hispanic Advancement. As one of its founding members, Margaret has organized a project, 'Saber es Poder' (Knowledge is Power) to bring together residents with local, state, federal agencies to share and align need with services. She also serves on the Boards of the Yuba Sutter Economic Development Corporation and North Central Counties Consortium.

Whereas, what makes Margaret so special is that her passionate commitment is perfectly tempered by a kind heart and gentle and respectful demeanor combined with practical, progressive action.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Margaret Fernandez.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, 2015, I travelled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of John P. "Jack" Peiffer. For this reason, I missed rollcall vote numbers 274 through 287 the floor of the House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
U.S. CAPITOL POLICE DETECTIVE
WILLIAM J. ZIMMERMAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of U.S. Capitol Police Detective William J. Zimmerman, who is retiring in October after thirty-two years with the force.

Since 1987, Det. Zimmerman has served with the Threat Assessment Section, the division responsible for investigating threats made against Members of Congress, their families, or others who receive special protection under the law. Det. Zimmerman currently serves as the Senior Investigator, playing a lead role in identifying threats and keeping Members of Congress safe as they serve this nation.

When an individual or group contacts a Member's office in a suspicious way, it is up to Threat Assessment Section investigators like Det. Zimmerman to assess whether a danger is present. As a longtime veteran of the process, Det. Zimmerman has helped establish threat assessment and management programs for other law enforcement services across the United States and in the United Kingdom as well. He has conducted training for House and Senate staff on security awareness and spoken at conferences around the country to share best practices.

Det. Zimmerman served as the first President of the Washington D.C. chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals and holds that position today. In 2004, he became the inaugural recipient of the Association's distinguished Meritorious Service Award for his work and leadership in the field.

The U.S. Capitol Police play an extraordinarily important and often-overlooked role in the functioning of our nation's democracy. Without the safe and secure space they provide, lawmakers would be unable to conduct the American people's work and carry out our functions under the Constitution. All of us who serve in Congress hold the U.S. Capitol Police and its personnel in high esteem, and we are grateful for those who put on its uniform every day.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Det. William J. Zimmerman for his more than three decades of service to the U.S. Capitol Police, to the Congress of the United States, and to our nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING MARIE SPOONER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Marie Spooner for a lifetime of community giving, and as one of my district's 2015 Women of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Marie Spooner was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Marie Spooner is a homemaker from Williams. Having lived through the Great Depression and World War II, Marie was taught how to take care of and make do with what you have and to share with others, whether it be feast or famine. Marie has applied that life lesson throughout her entire life.

Whereas, whenever Marie has come across anyone in trouble, she has not turned her back but done what she could. She has fed countless children over the years and offered safe shelter to those who needed it. She has humbly and quietly opened her home and heart to strangers.

Whereas, as a skilled baker, Marie's locally renowned home baked pies have generated thousands of dollars for local charity in Glenn and Colusa counties. Marie's most famous pie sold at auction for \$4,000. The Buyer then sold the slices and collected an additional \$1,000 for a grand total of \$5,000 that a local family desperately needed for medical bills. When Marie discovered that the Buyer did not keep a piece of pie for himself, she baked him another.

Whereas, Marie, at 94 years old, is truly an amazing woman and has yet to decline a baking request for a worthy cause.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Marie Spooner.

PYXERA GLOBAL'S 25TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating PYXERA Global, headquartered in Washington, D.C., on its 25th anniversary, and for its work to improve lives and build capacity of individuals and institutions around the world.

On January 1, 1990, President George H.W. Bush announced the formation of the Citizens Democracy Corps (CDC), created by executive order after the fall of the Berlin Wall. A New Vision for Global Engagement was launched. Americans wanted to help in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to strengthen the foundations of free society. CDC sent American business professionals who volunteered their expertise to support the transition to a market economy and promote

international understanding. The Corporate Assistance Program established an innovative approach wherein United States corporations provided free technical and business assistance to enterprises and institutions. These programs had a lasting and positive impact in Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. In 1991, the Citizens Volunteer Program was launched. This program sent advisors to work with local municipal governments, nonprofits, and institutions of higher education. In 1995, CDC launched its first Local Content Development program in Russia, in which small and medium enterprises gained the capabilities to supply the rapidly expanding oil and gas industry, creating new jobs and mutually profitable, sustainable enterprises. The Enterprise and Economic Development Program was created, operating out of key cities to support local business development.

In 2000, the MBA Enterprise Corps joined the organization, and in 2002 the name changed to Citizens Development Corps, and later, CDC Development Solutions (CDS) with the inclusion of MBAs Without Borders. A landmark pro bono program for corporate employees was pioneered by IBM with CDS in 2008 with teams in Romania, Ghana, and Tanzania. The IBM Corporate Service Corps became a new model of global leadership development and corporate social responsibility. Following the publication of the Harvard Case Study, IBM: The Corporate Service Corps, CDS hosted the First International Corporate Volunteerism Conference, and IBM, USAID, and CDC Development Solutions formed the Center for Excellence in International Corporate Volunteerism. Today, more than 30 major companies send employees into underserved communities to build capability and capacity through skills-based volunteerism.

In 2012, the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy (USCCD) became part of CDS, and with their expanded mission, the organization adopted a new name in 2013, PYXERA Global.

Today, PYXERA Global takes pride in the solutions that have inspired, enriched, and endured for a quarter century in more than 90 countries. They continue to facilitate groundbreaking partnerships between the public, private, and social sectors in dozens of countries, reinventing international development through purposeful global engagement to address the world's most pressing challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of PYXERA Global and its work enriching lives and livelihoods inclusively and sustainably.

TRIBUTE TO RAY AND CHARLOTTE NEWBERG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ray and Charlotte Newberg of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Ray and Charlotte's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Kevin and Ken, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY INDIAN HEAD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2015, people throughout Maryland and the Fifth District will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Naval Support Facility Indian Head and the unique role it has played in strengthening our national security and growing the local community.

The facility traces its beginnings to Assistant Naval Constructor Robert Brooke Dashiell, a graduate of the Naval Academy in Annapolis who was dispatched by the Bureau of Ordnance to build a testing ground to support America's growing naval power at the turn of the century. Opened in 1890 as the Naval Proving Ground, NSF Indian Head was the Navy's first installation in Southern Maryland, beginning a long tradition in the region. Throughout its history, NSF Indian Head has been the site of development and testing for some of the most important weapons in the Navy's arsenal. Some of the world's most powerful rockets were created there, along with technologies used in pilots' ejection seats and life-saving armor.

Today, NSF Indian Head is home to several Navy tenants, including the Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center; the Marine Corps Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force; the Joint Interoperability Test Center; and the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division. The work these tenants carry out at NSF Indian Head is critical to helping our seamen and Marines conduct their missions around the world and to ensuring their safety as they do so. I've been proud to visit NSF Indian Head many times over the more than two decades I have represented the installation and meet with those who serve there—as well as to support robust funding in Congress for the Navy to continue doing great work at NSF Indian Head.

For 125 years, residents of the Town of Indian Head and of Charles County have been extraordinary in their support for the men and women stationed at NSF Indian Head. Since the early part of the twentieth century, the town has grown up around the base, and communities across Charles County have benefited from the economic activity that NSF Indian Head generates by employing some of our nation's top energetic scientists and engineers. NSF Indian Head continues to be important not only to our national security but as one of the largest employers in Charles County and Southern Maryland.

I join in congratulating the men and women of NSF Indian Head on the facility's 125th anniversary and look forward to continuing to work with the Indian Head community to make sure the base has every resource it needs to carry out its work, which is so critical to our national defense.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY LAMAR "SPARKY" REEVES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished educator and the bulwark of South Georgia Technical College, President Gary Lamar "Sparky" Reeves. A retirement celebration in honor of President Reeves was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the John M. Pope Industrial Technology Center on the campus in Americus, Georgia.

A native of Thomaston, Georgia, Mr. Reeves worked in the sales industry prior to his career at South Georgia Technical College. He arrived at the College in 1973 and worked in multiple capacities as an instructor, supervisor, and Vice President of Economic Development. While serving as an instructor, he taught accounting, business, and business psychology.

His loyalty and performance spoke volumes, resulting in Mr. Reeves' ultimately being appointed to serve as President of South Georgia Technical College in 2004. Under his leadership, the college has expanded to offer more than 150 associate degrees and increased enrollment exponentially, reaching the high mark of 4,000 students by 2011.

His ambitions extended beyond improving the academic credentials of the school. Accordingly, President Reeves strove to improve the facilities on campus as well, renovating the tennis courts, gymnasium, and the Diesel Technology and Automotive Transportation buildings. He also oversaw the planting of more than 500 stately live oak trees in order to beautify the campus.

Combining his educational background with his acute business savvy, President Reeves has cultivated business partnerships with industrial titans, including Georgia Power, John Deere, and Kauffman Tire. All this was done with an eye toward providing students with prime opportunities to delve into the corporate world. He has also played a vital role in arranging scholarships for students by partnering with other colleges such as Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia to form a scholarship foundation.

President Reeves has been recognized and commended time and time again for his service to his community. He was named as "Boy Scout Distinguished Leader of the Year" and "Americus and Sumter County Volunteer of the Year," among many other accolades. In addition, President Reeves will be the first sitting technical college president to be granted the distinction of "President Emeritus."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing an esteemed educator and

principled leader, President Gary Lamar "Sparky" Reeves. While many will lament President Reeves' retirement, it should be noted, however, that his long service to the College merits a much-deserved rest. Thanks to his tireless leadership, and high expectations for his beloved College, President Sparky Reeves will leave an unparalleled legacy at South Georgia Technical College from which countless generations will benefit. May God continue to bless Sparky Reeves and his family as he transitions to the next chapter of his remarkable life.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Voter Registration Day, which, since 2012, has been observed annually on September 22 and is intended to increase awareness of voter registration opportunities, promote civic engagement, and celebrate democracy.

National Voter Registration Day, which started in 2012 was designed to create an annual moment when the entire nation focuses on registering Americans to exercise their most basic right—the right to vote.

In his address to the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson said:

Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot.

But only the individual . . . , and others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment.

In other words, political empowerment—and the justice, opportunity, inclusion, and fulfillment it provides—comes not from the right to vote but in the exercise of that right.

And that means it is the civic obligation of every citizen to vote in every election, state and local as well as federal.

But before one can exercise the right to vote, he or she must first register.

Mr. Speaker, everyday approximately 12,000 Americans turn 18 and by 2016, more than 8 million young people will be eligible to vote.

This cohort, better known as the Millennial Generation, comprises approximately one-third of the voting age population.

The 93 million member Millennial Generation is the largest in the history of the United States, surpassing the post-World War II Baby Boomers.

The Millennial Generation also is the most diverse because nearly half of all Millennials (43%) come from communities of color.

Mr. Speaker, next year, in 2016, and for the first time ever, persons of color and young people have the potential of comprising more than half of the electorate, which means that we could have the most diverse national electorate in history.

Young people are the future of the nation so it is only right that they become more active and engaged in the process of electing the leaders who will make the decisions that shape the nation's future.

And that means taking the first step of registering to vote.

And that is why we observe National Voter Registration Day; to increase awareness among all Americans, but especially young people, of the importance and mechanics of registering to vote.

In every Presidential election since the 1964, the voter turnout rate for persons aged 18–29 has lagged behind all other age groups.

For example, in 2012 almost half (42%) of such persons were not registered to vote and 2014, a whopping 51% were unregistered.

And only 23% of eligible voters 18–29 actually voted in 2014.

Although these registration and turnout rates are low, we should not assume that the millennial generation is apathetic or disinterested in the public affairs of the nation.

It is significant that in 2014, 87 percent of Millennials made a local, national, or global difference by donating money or volunteering time with a charitable or social change organization.

But Millennials are facing challenges unknown to the Baby Boomers; they are the first generation in modern history to face higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of wealth and personal income at the same stage of their lives.

Yet, this generation has also observed that positive change can result from sound public policy and that it makes a difference which officials are elected to make those policy decisions.

For example, economic policy decisions made during the past six years has led to a reduction in unemployment rates from a high of 9.8% in 2009 to a low of 5.1%, and the creation of more than 8.3 million private sector jobs.

Additionally, during the last six years we have witnessed policies and actions promoting and enhancing equality, diversity, tolerance, and inclusion advocated, championed, and implemented by persons elected by voters.

But it must be remembered that progress and positive change happens by choice, not by chance.

In a democratic form of government, participation is rewarded in the form of responsiveness from elected representatives; conversely, the interests of non-participants sadly are all too often neglected or ignored.

And it is important that we observe National Voter Registration Day so that everyone is educated and empowered with the tools to make their preferences known, their interests considered, and their voices count.

As President Johnson said:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

In 2008, 6 million Americans did not exercise that power because they missed a registration deadline or did not know how to register to vote.

Mr. Speaker, our nation works best when all voices and all interests are fairly considered

and that can only happen if all, or nearly all, eligible persons register and vote in elections.

The purpose of National Voter Registration Day is help make that happen and that is why I urge my colleagues to join in commemorating National Voter Registration Day.

TRIBUTE TO NORMA THURMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Norma Thurman of Stuart, Iowa, on her retirement from the Stuart Herald on September 30, 2015, after more than 35 years at the local paper.

Norma has dedicated her life to keeping people informed on the important issues of the day in her town, in the state, and in our country. She has also worked tirelessly to promote her community through events like the Good Egg Days annual celebration. It is Iowans like Norma that make me proud to represent this great state filled with such hard working Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and congratulate Norma on this momentous occasion. I am proud to represent her, her family, and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Norma on this special day and wishing her nothing but continued success and happiness as she begins her retirement.

HONORING MARY JANE GRIEGO

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Mary Jane Griego, a county supervisor for Olivehurst and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Mary Jane Griego was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Mary Jane Griego is a Yuba County Supervisor and has served continuously since 2000. Following the devastating levee breaches of 1986 and 1997, securing flood and levee protection for her Olivehurst residents has been of paramount importance, and Mary Jane has been a tireless advocate. She created the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA), which received an Outstanding Engineering award for Flood Control in 2009 from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Mary Jane has also served on the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), First 5 Yuba Commission, Feather River Air Quality Management, Yuba County Local Agency Formation Commission, Yuba Sutter Transit Authority, and Yuba County Water Agency.

Whereas, Mary Jane is the owner of Duke's Diner, a popular eatery seated in the heart of Olivehurst known for its infamous chili and homemade biscuits. It is a family business started by Mary Jane's father Duke many years ago. Together, they worked side-by-side until his recent passing.

Whereas, the daughter of cotton farmers, Mary Jane's philosophy is that there is nothing that cannot be accomplished as long as you work hard and produce results. Mary Jane is no stranger to either. Her day begins at 4 am with the opening of the restaurant and food preparation and managerial duties. She then powers through the remainder of her day and on into the evening as County Supervisor. Mary Jane's hard work and results are evidence of her deep commitment to community and family. To quote her late father Duke, "The proof is in the pudding."

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Mary Jane Griego.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS W. LUCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Thomas W. Luce, who has been instrumental in education reform in Texas. Southern Methodist University will soon announce a \$1.75 million gift from Sarah Fullinwider Perot and Ross Perot, Jr. to inaugurate the Thomas W. Luce III Centennial Dedman Law Scholars Program. Mr. Luce, who earned undergraduate and law degrees from SMU, will team up with the dean of the Dedman School of Law to select one to two Luce Scholars annually.

Mr. Luce's role as the chief of staff for the Texas Select Committee of Public Education in 1984 set him up for a career dedicated to closing the achievement gap in education. As the founder and CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative, Mr. Luce shares my passion of STEM education. I have worked with Mr. Luce over the years on STEM projects and his leadership and resolve have moved STEM education issues to the forefront of our education policy discussions.

Aside from his presence in the education policy conversation, Mr. Luce is also the founding CEO of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, a charity that works to improve mental health services in Texas. As a non-practicing registered psychiatric nurse, I know firsthand that our mental health system is in crisis. I know that with the presence of Mr. Luce, many mental health patients will benefit and gain access to the treatment they deserve.

The state of Texas and our nation need more individuals like Mr. Luce who are passionate about issues and work to improve the education system. I personally admire Mr. Luce for his efforts and look forward to working with him in the future.

HONORING PETER VAN KLEEF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Peter Van Kleef. Known by many in the Bay Area as the owner of Café Van Kleef, located on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland's Uptown neighborhood, Peter has left an undeniable mark on the city of Oakland as a trailblazer in the resurgence of Oakland's downtown area. With his passing on September 8, 2015, we honor his life's work and lasting legacy.

The Van Kleef family immigrated to Oakland in 1956 from Rotterdam, Holland. A world traveler, Peter spent many years in countries such as France, Morocco, and Thailand. He also spent a few years teaching English in Japan. When he returned to California after his time overseas, Peter opened up the Rio Theatre in Rodeo, CA. He returned to Oakland in the early 2000's to open Café Van Kleef. This successful venture led many to call Peter a pioneer as he opened his café in Oakland's Uptown neighborhood despite many who doubted about the area's potential. Café Van Kleef has since become a captivating social hub in the downtown Oakland community.

Peter was known by his patrons and friends as a man with a story to tell, as much of the artwork he displayed at his establishment came partnered with a riveting account of its journey to Café Van Kleef. His innovative and welcoming spirit led him to make rooted friendships in Oakland and the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Peter was an adventurous spirit and pioneer businessman, but above all, he was a loving husband, brother and uncle. He is survived by his wife Cindy Reeves, his siblings Ron, Gerda, Marja, and Florence, and five nieces and nephews.

Peter will forever be remembered as an Uptown Oakland trailblazer, an art enthusiast, a world traveler and a man with many beautiful experiences to share.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the life of an outstanding individual and pioneer, Peter Van Kleef. His contributions have truly impacted the Oakland business community as well as the lives of his family, friends, and patrons. I join all of Mr. Van Kleef's loved ones in celebrating his incredible accomplishments and offer my most sincere condolences.

CELEBRATING TOLEDO'S MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PLAZA TRAIN TERMINAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th anniversary of Toledo's unique train station. Toledo's Union Terminal, now known as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, celebrated its 65th year serving America's rail system on September 22, 2015.

Toledo's station is the busiest rail station in Ohio. It opened with fanfare just south of downtown Toledo in 1950. Envisioned as the presentation of the city to the world, Toledo's train terminal was a modern design creatively utilizing the glass which put Toledo on the world stage.

As the 20th Century dawned, Toledoans clamored for a modern station with a look toward the future, even cheering when the city's train depot caught fire in 1930. However, it would be decades before the 1886 Victorian structure would be replaced. Following WWII railroads again turned toward infrastructure improvements, including the Toledo station.

As Amtrak describes in its Great American Stations, "Upon its opening in September 1950, Toledo Union Station was hailed in the New York Times as the '\$5,000,000 Dream of 40 Years,' and a week of events was planned to celebrate the new building. Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the combined American forces in the Pacific during World War II, was invited as the principal speaker. Events included a 'Youngster's Day,' a city-wide tea party, and 'Glass Day' during which the city's glass manufacturers unveiled a Vitrolite (an opaque, pigmented glass then manufactured by the local Libby Owens Ford Company) mural in the building. The highlight of the festivities was the opening day parade where a model of the old Union Depot was set on fire.

"The station which rose along Emerald Ave from 1947 to 1950 was unabashedly modern, incorporating restrained Art Deco lines and large expanses of glass block in reference to the city's main industry. Commentators expounded upon the variety of glass used in the building, including plate glass, glass block, double-glazed and tempered glass. Soon enough, the press referred to the station as the 'Palace of Glass.'"

In 1995 the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority purchased Union Terminal from Conrail, which has succeeded New York Central. With the help of significant federal investment augmented by a partnership from state and private sources, the station underwent a major renovation and was renamed Central Union Plaza. Amtrak's history notes that "The Port Authority worked with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Northwest Ohio Historic Preservation Council in order to maintain the building's essential historic design features remained intact." Because "City funding stipulated that one percent of project monies had to be used on public art, the Port Authority worked with the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo to add contemporary sculptures to the grounds to enhance its function as a vital piece of the public realm."

In 2001, the station was renamed in honor of eminent civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. It now serves as a modern train station through which more than 63,000 travelers pass each year. It will soon add bus service as it grows into a greater multimodal transportation hub linking rail and bus, as well as proximity to waterborne vessels.

Historically, the Toledo passenger rail center has anchored northwest Ohio along the well-established east-west Chicago-Cleveland freight and passenger rail route so vital to the economy of the region and northern Ohio.

Meeting the needs of the future for this region will require the recognition that modernization of this rail corridor is essential to future commerce including separation of freight and passenger service to make both more efficient.

I am honored this week to join with the community of Toledo, Ohio in celebrating the anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, a jewel in our city born of an era when trains were a modern marvel of transportation and traveling toward a future which meets the needs of travels in the 21st Century and beyond.

HONORING NORMA MONTNA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Norma Montna a lifetime advocate for persons with disabilities, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Norma Montna was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Norma Montna married her high school sweetheart Larry and in 1961, gave birth to their only child, Butchie. Butchie was born with Down's Syndrome and is the inspiration behind Norma's lifelong mission to help others with disabilities. Her work includes offering peer support to families of children with special needs and active board membership with many of the agencies that provide educational and support services such as Easter Seals, Special Olympics, Yuba Sutter Mercy Guild, Kiwanis Family House, Gateway Project, Sutter County Board of Education, CA State Area Board for Developmentally Disabled, and Yuba Sutter Association for the Retarded.

Whereas, in 1979, a community pool offering therapeutic warm water therapy for those with disabilities at no cost was established in memory of Butchie Montna. Butchie's Pool is unique and the only pool of its kind in the Yuba-Sutter area. The pool today serves a large number of area Seniors suffering from age-related disabling conditions at minimal cost and provides relief to over 1,500 individuals annually.

Whereas, Norma, who still serves on the pool's Board of Directors, has poured her heart and soul into keeping this haven of love, fun, and physical support open and alive for 40 years.

Whereas, "The pool was an idea we thought of after we lost Butchie, because he loved the water. He'd have been here every day," explains Norma, who fondly refers to former friends of Butchie's who still attend the pool as her 'kids'.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Norma Montna.

IN HONOR OF MR. RON SHANE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ron Shane, a career technical teacher at Central Union High School in El Centro, CA, for his commitment to the education and training of his students. I would like to congratulate him on receiving the ASE Industry Alliance Instructor Recognition Award for his long trajectory of commitment and excellence.

Since 1991, Mr. Shane has been teaching his students to the best of his abilities. Mr. Shane stands out as an exceptional teacher, always striving to push his students. He instills in them an attitude to never be complacent and always work towards improving themselves.

Mr. Shane is an inspiration for all educators who seek to improve not only themselves but also the instruction that they provide to their students. On behalf of California's 51st Congressional District, I would like to thank Mr. Shane for his determination to give his students the best education possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE OVERHOLTZER FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Overholtzer Family of Southwest Iowa, who celebrated their family's 92nd family reunion on August 2, 2015.

The Overholtzers will assemble in Tingley, Iowa in Ringgold County to celebrate the family tradition as they have continued to do for the past 92 years. Four Overholtzer brothers settled in the Grand River area of Decatur County, Iowa in the 1870s. David Overholtzer's daughter, Olivia, is the 6th generation of Overholtzers to live in Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Overholtzer Family for 92 years of tradition and commitment to their family. What a fantastic preservation of family history. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Overholtzer Family and wishing them nothing but continued success.

THE LASKER-DEBAKEY AWARD COMES HOME TO MD ANDERSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the nation's highest honor for clinical research, the Lasker-DeBakey Award, was recently awarded to Jim

Allison, Ph.D., chair of Immunology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Allison has invented a completely new way to strike cancer. He has found a way to unlock the shackles of an immune system, freeing T cells to fight tumor cells. This discovery opens up brand new and very effective ways to treat cancer.

A drug developed from this research was the first to increase survival of patients with late-stage melanoma and produced previously unheard of survival rates of up to 10 years.

The drug, marketed as Yervoy, was approved by the FDA in 2001 and has been used to treat 59,000 people.

In addition, during his time leading the immunology department at MD Anderson, Dr. Allison has established a cancer immunotherapy platform. This platform, a combination of expertise and infrastructure, brings together scientists and clinicians to better understand and advance cancer immunotherapy.

This prestigious award honoring major achievements in basic science, clinical research, and public service around the world is rightly bestowed on Dr. Allison, as he has paved the way to extend the survival of current cancer patients and ultimately cure some types of cancer.

Texas is proud to be home to such innovative and groundbreaking work happening at MD Anderson.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE DALLAS COALITION FOR HUNGER SOLUTIONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions for hosting their Fourth Annual Dallas Hunger Summit. As the Chair of the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions, I hold a strong passion for helping the families in my district overcome the obstacles and challenges they face. I'm very pleased to again be working with the Coalition to organize this important event. The theme of this year's Summit is Roots, Growth and Harvest.

First, we explore the roots of hunger and renew our commitment to tackling this urgent problem. Hunger and food insecurity are obstacles that no family, no child, and no senior should have to confront. More than 477,000 people in Dallas County are food insecure, including over 172,000 children. In Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of anti-hunger programs. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of preserving nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Often, I remind my colleagues that 95% of SNAP funding goes directly to families to purchase food. For many of these at-risk populations, SNAP is the sole form of income assistance they receive and is a powerful anecdote to extreme poverty. Tens of millions of

people rely on federal nutrition programs to feed their families and help make ends meet. When we know that nutrition programs not only help struggling families, but also generate economic activity, we must support these assistance programs.

At last year's Summit, we came together to learn, share about our successes and challenge ourselves to do more. This past year we have seen a fantastic growth in partnerships as many of you lent your time, passion and expertise to the work of the Coalition and its five Action Teams. I'm glad to share just a few of the great things that have been accomplished this year. First, the Child Hunger Action Team continued to partner with DISD to expand the number of schools that served suppers during afterschool programs—growing participation from 28 in 2013 to over 160 today. Second, the Faith Community Action Team organized 15 congregations and ministries to jointly provide vegetable gardens to 190 families across the County, many of them growing their own food for the very first time. Third, the Senior Hunger Action Team has begun implementing collaborative pilot initiatives to increase the number of seniors with access to SNAP benefits and to increase participation in senior congregate meal programs. This is vital as we owe it to our seniors to make sure they have the food they need to be healthy. Fourth, the Urban Agriculture Action Team achieved a great victory in spurring the City of Dallas to amend zoning ordinances to allow sales from urban gardens, which will both increase access to healthy food, and spur jobs and economic development. Lastly, the Neighborhood Organizing Action Team successfully launched a new, resident-led community organization called Empowering Oak Cliff, which is engaging community members in southern Oak Cliff in leading a holistic campaign for neighborhood revitalization, including ensuring that the many seniors in the community have access to healthy food.

Thanks so much to all of you that have been part of making these achievements possible. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we work together. Thank you to all of the participants and especially to the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions for your commitment to this cause.

WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS, TO THE UNITED STATES AND EMBRACING HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE, HEALING, AND RECONCILIATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District, I rise to express joy and appreciation on the occasion of the historic visit to the United States by His Holiness, Pope Francis.

I am deeply honored to have participated in the historic arrival ceremony at the White House welcoming His Holiness, the spiritual leader of 70 million Catholic Americans and 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide.

I wish to thank President Obama for his gracious welcoming remarks on behalf of the American people which conveyed to Pope Francis and the world what is best about our nation.

I especially appreciate Pope Francis's message of hope, healing, and reconciliation which inspires us all to do more "to care for the least of these," to be good stewards of the earth, and to work for peace.

Mr. Speaker, the messages of President Obama and Pope Francis affirm the value and good works performed daily by Catholic organizations and charities in the United States, including those in my congressional district represented by the many advocates for social justice who accepted by invitation and made the pilgrimage from Houston to Washington, D.C. to bear witness to this historic and joyful occasion.

I am pleased that my office was able to extend invitations to many organizations and Galveston-Houston Archdiocese churches from my congressional district to come to Washington, D.C. to salute His Holiness.

Among them are the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church, St. Monica Catholic Church, Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, and a number of Houston's Wounded Warriors.

I am also pleased that Deacon Sam Dunning, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's Director of the Office of Justice and Peace, was able to join me in celebrating the pontiff's visit, as were students and staff from St. Pius X High School, members of the Idbo Catholic Community, and World Harvest Outreach.

In his moving remarks today, Pope Francis reminded us that "the Creator does not abandon us" and that we "still have time to make the change needed to bring about a sustainable and integral development."

Mr. Speaker, every day in communities across America and around the world, Catholic organizations and agencies can be found doing the Lord's work of caring for the poor, the sick, the needy, the aged, the helpless, the lost and hopeless.

We see the fruits of this work in the sanctuary found by women fleeing from domestic violence, in the reunification of families separated by natural disasters, in the shelter found by a homeless wounded warrior suffering from PTSD, and the love and support given the child of undocumented immigrants who seek only the chance to make a better life for themselves and their family in a land that has always been the most welcoming nation on earth.

Mr. Speaker, the good works of the Catholic Church are on display daily in my congressional district where agencies and organizations supported by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston take to heart the biblical injunction that we are our brother's keeper.

Ten years ago, for example, Hurricane Katrina forced thousands of people to flee New Orleans and relocate to Houston.

Among these persons were an adoption specialist for Catholic Charities in New Orleans, one of the birthmothers she was working with, and the adoptive family the birthmothers had just chosen for her baby.

With phone lines down and no communication between them, the adoption was sure to fall through, but somehow they found each other in Houston and the adoption was put back on track.

The Lord works in mysterious ways indeed.

The day following the flood that struck the Houston area this past Memorial Day, staff members of Catholic Charities of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese were out in the field assessing the needs of their senior citizen clients, one of whom was 74-year old Minthia Terry.

Ms. Terry survived the flood but her house was severely damaged; thanks to Catholic Charities her damaged house was restored and she is able to live safe and secure in the home she worked so hard to acquire.

The Lotus Project is a program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that helps homeless female veterans rebuild their lives.

I am thankful for the Lotus Project, and so is a woman named Yolanda.

Yolanda served her country honorably in the Armed Forces but her three-year tour of duty left her with emotional scars that still affect her today.

She was a victim of verbal abuse by an officer, which escalated to physical violence, and then to sexual assault.

After reporting the abuse, violence and assault she had suffered, she underwent psychological counseling and was subsequently honorably discharged.

But the emotional and psychic scars resulting from her traumatic experience did not disappear after her separation from the military.

To combat them and cope with the pressure of caring for her two young sons, Yolanda turned to drugs and alcohol, and committed offenses that landed her in prison.

During her third stint in prison, Yolanda renewed her relationship with God and dedicated herself to a new life, but she needed help to get there.

When the Lotus Project helped her get an apartment under her own name, she cried; then with the help and support of the Lotus Project she went about the business of furthering her education so she can support her family and be a positive role model for her children.

Mr. Speaker, a woman named Esmerelda was living in a rapidly deteriorating situation.

When she became a victim of domestic violence, she knew she had to leave.

But because her immigration paperwork was not in order, she did not believe it would be safe to turn to law enforcement authorities for help.

Thankfully, she was able to turn to Catholic Charities who helped her secure safe housing, assisted her in applying for an adjustment of her immigration status, and helped her secure employment at a full-time job that support her and her daughter.

These are but a few of the countless miracles of hope and healing that Catholic organizations and agencies work every day and which demonstrate, as the Talmud teaches, that "whosoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world."

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that Members of Congress will receive the hopeful message of

the first pontiff to address a joint session of the Congress of the United States with open hearts and in a spirit of goodwill.

If we do this, I am confident we will be able to come together and find the common ground necessary to address the real problems and concerns of the American people such as fixing our broken immigration system, making college affordable, reducing the economic disparities, and reforming the criminal justice system.

In the hopeful message of Pope Francis, we are shown the way to grace.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans are honored by the visit to the United States of Pope Francis, an amazing servant of humanity and an inspiration to people the world over.

HONORING PAULA EMIGH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Paula Emigh a retired teacher, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Paula Emigh was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Paula Emigh was born and raised in Solano County, graduating from Dixon High School. As a student, Paula was very involved in school activities and believes that her experiences as a student led her to consider a career in teaching. When Paula was an undergraduate at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she had an internship at a special education center in the area, where she was first exposed to teaching children with special needs. This experience convinced her that her future was in special education.

Whereas, after graduating, Paula began a substitute position in Woodland which eventually led to over 30 years as a special education teacher. She was an integral team member in the development of the BEST program at Freeman Elementary School, helping to create a positive school climate for staff, students, and families. Because of the incredible work she has done with staff on disability awareness, Paula was named Woodland Joint Unified School District's 2014 Educator of the Year.

Whereas, in all ways imaginable, Paula credits her career as being a team effort. Throughout her years teaching, Paula worked cooperatively with many paraprofessionals, parents, and families. Together they were able to prioritize and strategize plans to allow the students to grow beyond previous expectations.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Paula Emigh.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAYOR REID

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy 90th birthday to Pearland, Texas Mayor Tom Reid.

Mayor Reid has seen a great deal over the last 90 years—during his lifetime he's seen humans walk on the moon and the invention of the Internet. In his nearly 30 years as mayor of Pearland, Mr. Reid has seen his city boom in both population and economic strength. Mayor Reid is a dedicated mayor who has guided Pearland through some tremendous growth. Thank you to Mayor Reid for his steadfast leadership of this great city in Texas 22. We all wish him many more years of health and happiness.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, happy birthday to Mayor Tom Reid.

TRIBUTE TO PAT MCGINN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lt. Pat McGinn of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on his recent retirement from the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department, where he completed 31 years of service.

Lt. McGinn has worked for the Sheriff's office since he was 24 years old, and during his tenure he has risen through the ranks within the Sheriff's department. Lt. McGinn has worked and supervised road patrol, civil and records divisions, technical accident investigations, K-9 patrol, and uniform patrol. He retired as a Deputy.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. McGinn has spent his career making a difference in his community by helping and serving others, and it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to Pottawattamie County and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHARLES ALLEN WATERS, JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Representative COSTA and Representative VALADAO, to recognize the life and valued service of Dr. Charles "Charlie" Allen Waters, Jr., a distinguished military veteran and community advocate who passed away on September 3, 2015 in Fresno, California.

Dr. Waters was born on September 17, 1932 in Norfolk, Virginia. He was the son of Naval Officer Charles Allen Waters, Sr. Charlie served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) from 1951 to 1958 and fought in the Korean War from 1951 to 1952. Charlie received many medals and awards for his honorable service in Korea, most recently the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

For the past few decades, Charlie made an immeasurable impact in Fresno and the greater San Joaquin Valley by serving on numerous boards, commissions, and foundations supporting veterans, and the community as a whole. The opening of the Fresno Veterans Home was due in large part to his invaluable and tireless efforts. Dr. Waters served as President of the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation (CCVHSF), was Past Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps League Detachment 14, and Commander of American Legion Post 4, in addition to his many unofficial contributions to other local organizations.

A diligent champion of Fresno veterans, Dr. Waters once said, "I have a great affinity for anyone who would go into service and volunteer their life. So, whatever I can do for my comrades, I do." These words speak to his deep commitment to service and his inexhaustible altruism.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor the life of Dr. Charlie Waters. He will always be remembered as a man of great service and dedication. It is our hope that his memory will live on through his family, the veterans groups he guided and supported and we trust that his legacy will live on for years to come.

HONORING PREET DIDBAL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Preet Didbal a city councilwoman for Yuba City, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Preet Didbal was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, against all odds, Preet Didbal made history when she took the oath of office December 2, 2014 to become the first Sikh American woman elected to the Yuba City Council. The daughter of farm laborers, Preet worked alongside her parents in the peach and prune orchards and on the graveyard shift at the local cannery during the summer months. She was the first in her family to attend and graduate college, earning her Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Health Services. She is a health care services manager with the California Department of Corrections.

Whereas, Preet's focus as a councilwoman is on education, children and public safety. Before her election to the City Council, Preet served as a Planning Commissioner for 10

years. She is an advocate for building a foundation for children of academic, economic and social opportunity so that they may thrive. She is particularly passionate about empowering young girls and women to reach their highest potentials. Preet spearheads quarterly Community Health and Safety forums in collaboration with local police, fire, schools and mental/public health agencies to educate the public.

Whereas, Preet is also actively involved with local Runs to support Girls on the Run, Run Drugs out of Town, Hands of Hope Run for the Homeless, and Breast Cancer and Alzheimer's Research. She also collects backpacks for Western Farm Workers families every fall and volunteers for Back to School shopping with the Sutter-Yuba Association of Realtors to support low-income families and children. Preet's personal devotion rests in a desire to give back to the community that has given her so much.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Preet Didbal.

HONOR THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, heartiest congratulations to my friends and neighbors on the 125th anniversary of Langhorne Manor Borough, which is notable for its role in the history of Bucks County, as well as the modern sense of community maintained one generation after another. A small group of investors, called the Langhorne Improvement Company, purchased 800 acres—drawn by the open, country setting and the nearby Boundbrook Railroad. The newly founded borough was named for the area's first landowners, the Langhornes'. Government and community leaders of this thriving, small borough cherish their history and remain dedicated to maintaining a quiet community nestled in the bustle of Lower Bucks County. The borough is home to the former Langhorne Manor School, a one-room schoolhouse listed, in 2008, on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1959, it was sold and converted to the borough hall, which is the present-day seat of government. Again, congratulations on this historic milestone and best wishes for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF
THE MOST HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral

in Toledo, Ohio. The parish and Toledo Diocese celebrated this milestone on August 28, 2015.

According to diocesan records, the Cathedral Chapel Parish was established on March 7, 1915, with the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Schrembs named as pastor. Previous to that date, from the time the Diocese was established in April of 1910, St. Francis de Sales Church served as the cathedral. Shortly thereafter, land was purchased nearby on Collingwood Avenue and a Chancery, residence and school were built on the property in the ensuing years with completion in early 1915. Originally sponsoring both grade school and high school, the parish school soon grew too big. In 1920, Central Catholic High School was established, with most of its students coming from the Cathedral School.

After a storm delivered substantial damage to the building in 1920, it was determined a new church would be built. The plans were developed in 1922. Its original architect and the man who would complete his design envisioned a cathedral such as those built in Europe's Middle Ages and mirrored aspects of the cathedral in Toledo, Ohio's sister city of Toledo, Spain. Thus, Toledo's Catholic Cathedral is unique: there is no other cathedral in the Plateresque style quite like Toledo's. Plateresque is a romantic style developed in 16th Century Spain and Toledo's cathedral combined the Plateresque style with Romanesque and Saracenic architecture for a structure that stands alone in style and beauty.

The Cathedral is truly an architectural wonder and treasure. Soaring above its Spanish style roof are twin towers Peter and Paul. Our Lady is carved out of a single block of limestone and is above the doorway. A window above the statue of Our Lady illustrates scenes from her life. The window was made possible by the pennies donated from the children in the Diocese. Other statuary depicting biblical scenes surround. The sanctuary features beautiful frescoes, murals and mosaics depicting stories and people from the Bible, the life of the Holy Family and the history of the church. The Cathedral is home to a grand pipe organ which was the culmination of the career of its creator, the famed Ernest Skinner. The pipe organ's sister resides in the Peristyle concert hall at the Toledo Museum of Art, home of the Toledo Symphony.

The Cathedral's cornerstone was laid on Sunday June 27, 1926. Sufficiently completed to begin services, the building was opened in 1931. Work on the structure continued until completion in 1940. A joyous two day celebration and consecration was finally held on October 1 and 2, 1940.

The Cathedral parish and school grew through the 1960s, but as Toledo's population moved to the suburbs and new parishes were established, the central city Cathedral parish and school saw a decline in families enrolled. Beginning in 1976, the Cathedral was to undergo extensive renovations to comply with the changes to the Mass brought by Vatican II. The renovations did not detract from the original design and the church was rededicated on September 18, 1979. In 2000, restoration was completed to remove the decades from the interior of the church and restore it to its early brilliance.

The spiritual home of Toledo area Catholics, the cathedral serves as the mother church of the Diocese's parishes. Though its home parish is smaller now, Catholics from throughout the city and its suburbs see the Cathedral as their own, celebrating Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages and Requiem Masses. Priests are ordained at the Cathedral and special Masses are celebrated through the year. In tradition harkening back to the days they were part of the original parish school, the students of Central Catholic High School walk in procession for a yearly Mass.

Though soaring vaulted ceilings, beautiful works of art, statuary, bell towers, giant wood doors and marble floors and ancient pews on which thousands have gathered over the years to celebrate Mass make the Cathedral a grand and glorious house of worship, at the same time it is intimate and peaceful. The faithful can always hear that "still, small voice" even among the grandeur. More important than the structure, though, are the people. We reflect on the early founders, those whose hopes, dreams and labors brought forth our stunning Cathedral, and in the present day we stand in solidarity with them. I was pleased to join in the celebration recognizing 100 years of faith in Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral. Through our cherished Cathedral, we are one.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 18, 2015, I was attending a family funeral and thus missed roll call votes Numbers 504, 505, and 506. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Number 504 and "yea" on Numbers 505 and 506.

HONORING SUSAN YOUNG

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Susan Young an Educator, Agriculture Advocate, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Susan Young was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Susan Young is and has been an Agriculture teacher at Sutter Union High School for the past 35 years. She and her husband live in Live Oak and farm in Meridian.

Whereas, during Susan's tenure at Sutter Union High School, she has served as a Future Farmers of America Advisor and has been involved in numerous activities promoting agriculture in the Yuba/Sutter area and at state, national, and international levels.

Whereas, Susan is actively involved in the American Boer Goat Association, Northern

California Meat Goat Association, and the Morgan Horse Association. Her participation on the Yuba-Sutter Livestock Committee and Youth in Ag has helped support and promote our region.

Whereas, Susan has positively impacted countless young people throughout her long career as an outstanding teacher, mentor, and role model. She has instilled the values of hard work, dedication, and love of agriculture to all who have surrounded her. Her gift is her ability to reach students from all walks of life and motivate them to do their best.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Susan Young.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, 2015 I was unavoidably detained during a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call number 504 the Motion to recommit H.R. 3134 with instructions. I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call number 505 Passage of H.R. 3134 the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, and Roll Call number 506 Passage of H.R. 3504 Passage of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protect Act.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leah Bolton for being awarded the Brazoria County Business Hall of Fame's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Leah Bolton, a Career and Technology teacher at Manvel High School, earned this recognition thanks to her efforts to further engage students in career preparation and technology courses. In her classes, she incorporates volunteers from the local Junior Achievement organization to help teach her students about working in the business sector and the community. Her students were even selected by Junior Achievement to teach financial literacy lessons to younger students at local elementary schools. Ms. Bolton gives her students great hands-on experience that prepares them to conquer the world. Thank you to Ms. Bolton for her leadership, dedication, and inspiration. Manvel High School is lucky to have you.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Leah Bolton for being named Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE PATTERSON FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marissa and Roy Patterson of Des Moines, Iowa for the birth of their new baby girl, Analisea Sophia.

In June of 2014 Marissa and Roy married and on June 18, 2015 they welcomed a healthy, beautiful baby girl into this world. The road ahead will not be easy, but it will be filled with more joy and happiness than they can possibly imagine.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marissa and Roy for their commitment to each other and for the birth of their new baby daughter. It is an honor to represent families like them in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for this momentous occasion and wish their family nothing but continued health and happiness.

NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA BAND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Lerma on his selection to play with the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Band.

Ricky Lerma, a senior at Needville High School, is one of only 13 students in Texas to be selected to join the Band. FFA is a national organization that advances and supports agricultural education. Next month, Ricky and his fellow band members will travel to Louisville, Kentucky to perform at the 2015 National FFA Convention & Expo. We are all proud of Ricky's accomplishment and look forward to hearing him perform.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Ricky on this fantastic achievement and best of luck in Louisville.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill similar to a bill I have introduced in four previous Congresses, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2015 (Universal Pre-K), to begin the process of providing universal prekindergarten education in public and public charter

schools in states that have or plan to phase in or are phasing in prekindergarten education for three- and four-year-old children. The Obama administration and the District of Columbia have made considerable strides since I first introduced this bill, but today's bill is still needed to fill a hole in the "No Child Left Behind Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education but ignores the prekindergarten years, the most critical years for children's brain development. My bill also seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing the initial funding for states to encourage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children at three or four years of age, as kindergarten programs were for five-year-olds, which are now routinely available in public schools. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available "day care" and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, it almost surely will continue to be unavailable to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of state funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those in other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, and save billions of dollars in its implementation.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. However, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to gradually move to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the great majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to later wonder why Johnny can't read. The bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education, and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-

olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve the D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and in decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime, and the like.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH
OGLE

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great American from my home state of Illinois, Captain Joseph Ogle.

Joseph Ogle was born in 1737, raised in Frederick County, Maryland and lived near what is now Wheeling, West Virginia by 1770. Later, he was one of the first to take up the standard and volunteer in the fight for our nation's freedom and independence in the Revolutionary War.

Captain Ogle's military career was long and proud. From the earliest days of the Revolution, he served, fighting in the Upper Ohio Valley. Most notably, Captain Ogle served as a Commander of Fort Henry, defending that Fort during two brutal attacks—one in 1777 and a second in 1782.

But the pioneer spirit burned strongly in Captain Ogle. After the Revolutionary War, he set out for the West, buoyed by the promise of independence and the opportunity for self-determination.

Captain Ogle arrived in Illinois in April, 1785, settling in what is now Monroe County. In 1802, he moved to Ridge Prairie near what is now O'Fallon, in St. Clair County, where he remained until his death in 1821—at 84 years of age.

From the First Methodist Church in Shiloh, which he founded in 1807 and which is still in use today—to the Palmier Cemetery, established on property donated by Captain Ogle as a cemetery for early pioneers—to Ogle County, Illinois, which bears his name, the mark Captain Ogle left on the region cannot be exaggerated.

But perhaps Captain Ogle's greatest legacy is that of his family. A father of nine children, Captain Ogle's descendants, many of whom still live in St. Clair and Monroe Counties, Illinois, number in the thousands and have carried on the patriotism and pioneer spirit as their birthright.

It is for these reasons, and more, that a new monument will be dedicated to Captain Ogle in Shiloh, Illinois. The dedication of this new monument is due to the ongoing efforts of his descendants in the Ogle & Ogles Family As-

sociation, along with the support of the Belleville Illinois Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Louis and the Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

We are all indebted to the service, the spirit, and the resilience of pioneers like Captain Ogle and his fellow New Americans. These men and women helped lay the foundation on which America was built. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognition of this great American and Illinoisan.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL AND JANIS
LUSTGRAAF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Phil and Janis Lustgraaf of Crescent, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Phil and Janis were married on June 3, 1955 in North Bend, Nebraska.

Phil and Janis' lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Cheryl, Mark, Kris, and the late Phil Lustgraaf, Jr., along with their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family all the best moving forward.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD COHEN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE DISABILITY
RIGHTS CENTER

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard "Dick" Cohen as he retires after more than four decades of professional service in the public interest. We are grateful for his dedication to protecting the rights of people with disabilities. By fighting to ensure equal opportunities for all, he improved countless lives across the Granite State and beyond.

I want to thank Dick for his leadership and great work as Executive Director of the Disability Rights Center since 2002. He has been an invaluable resource to individuals with disabilities and their families in our state. We are forever grateful for his extraordinary work to strengthen disability rights and our community health system.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Dick for everything he has done in advocating for the most vulnerable in our state. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Dick on his retirement and wish him the best of luck on his next steps.

HONORING TONI SCULLY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Toni Scully a leader in agriculture, an Advocate for Fair Farm Labor, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Toni Scully was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, a resident of Lake County for over 40 years, Toni shares in the ownership and management of Scully Packing Company which packs, stores, ships, and markets pears grown by Lake, Sacramento Delta, and Mendocino County families.

Whereas, Toni is a strong advocate for the pear industry and farm labor reform. In 1996 following a revision in the Child Labor Code that would have prevented local teens from working during the pear season, Toni was the driving force behind pulling local leaders and the state senate to pass a bill that allowed Lake County teens to continue to work the harvest. This bill continues to be renewed annually today.

Whereas, Toni cares deeply for her farm workers and their families as evidenced by her continuous efforts to educate and work with local, state, and federal policy makers. In 2006, Toni made the front page of the New York Times when Lake County and farming communities across California were experiencing severe labor shortages during harvest. A proponent of a reformed Guest Worker program to improve the health and safety of migrant workers, Toni worked with U.S. Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN in an attempt to pass the AgJobs bill.

Whereas, Toni continues to advocate for a fair farm labor law that will provide agricultural employers with the stable, legal labor force they need while providing farm workers with the health and safety they deserve.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Toni Scully.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, September 16th through September 18th I was absent due to activities in my District related to wildfires and was unable to cast my vote for Roll Calls 495 through 506. Had I been present I would have voted:

Roll Call No. 495—YES, H.R. 1214, National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015

Roll Call No. 496—YES, H.R. 1949, National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act of 2015

Roll Call No. 497—NO, Ordering the Previous Question

Roll Call No. 498—NO, Collins of GA Amdt

Roll Call No. 499—NO, Rule

Roll Call No. 500—YES, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions

Roll Call No. 501—NO, Passage H.R. 758, Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act

Roll Call No. 502—NO, Ordering the Previous Question

Roll Call No. 503—NO, Rule

Roll Call No. 504—YES, Motion to Recommit

Roll Call No. 505—NO, H.R. 3134, Defund Planned Parenthood

Roll Call No. 506—NO, H.R. 3504, Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

REMEMBERING MRS. EVA MARIE
SILVER JOHNSON

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Mrs. Eva Marie Silver Johnson, a lifelong resident of North Carolina and my constituent, who passed away on September 16, 2015, at the age of 94.

Mrs. Johnson was the matriarch of the Silver and Johnson families and is fondly remembered as a loving mother who was fully devoted to her family, church, and community.

Mrs. Johnson was born on June 5, 1921, in Hollister, North Carolina to Mr. Ben Silver and the former-Minnie Burgess. She attended Tabron School and Hawkins High School in Halifax and Warren Counties. At the age of 24, she married Mr. Edward Leonard Johnson, Jr. and the two raised four children, Mable, Alice, Edward, and Delores.

Mrs. Johnson worked at Eastman High School in Enfield, North Carolina for 20 years as part of the Halifax County school system's Food Services division. Mrs. Johnson also served on the Twin County Rural Health Association's board of directors and as a 30 year member of the American Legion Unit 425 Women's Auxiliary in Littleton, North Carolina.

As the years past, Mrs. Johnson remained active by working at the Littleton Senior Center in Littleton where she dedicated more than a decade of service and fellowship to seniors in Halifax and Warren Counties.

Faith was a cornerstone of Mrs. Johnson's life. She was a lifetime member of Lee's Chapel Baptist Church in Littleton where she served in many capacities including as President of the Missionary Circle for over 30 years, member of the Senior Choir, as well as a member of the Pastor's Aid Club.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in honoring the life, work, and memory of Mrs. Eva Marie Silver Johnson.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH HUNOLT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Hunolt of Griswold, Iowa. Ruth recently received a 2015 Governor's Volunteer Award. She was honored with an Individual Volunteer Award by the Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman for outstanding commitment and service.

Individuals selected for this honor have gone above and beyond to serve their community. Ruth sets a high standard for volunteers from all walks of life. She is a shining example of hard work and dedication. Ruth has demonstrated exceptional volunteerism and exemplary leadership, creativity and co-operation. With her service she has left a lasting impression on the State of Iowa and in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ruth for her many years of dedicated and devoted volunteer service to the Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman program. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ruth and wish her and her family nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING KATHY BAKER ON HER PASSING

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Katheryn Baker on her sudden and tragic passing on September 22, 2015, at the age of 49.

Kathy started her career in 1984 at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington. She later joined the Science Applications International Corporation as business manager for energy and the environment.

In 2001, Kathy commenced a career working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Working tirelessly with passion and drive, she quickly worked her way up the ranks, serving as business manager for a number of departments before being named Chief Financial Officer in 2012.

She was described by those who knew and worked with her as a very special person and a great friend. Her loss is grieved by her colleagues at LLNL, including principally by her husband, Jeff Baker, also an employee at the lab.

Kathy, a Washington State University graduate, met her husband, Jeff, when they were both attending the university. He sat behind her in calculus class, where their friendship quickly turned into a lifetime commitment towards one another.

In the words of her husband, Kathy was the most wonderful, caring person anyone had ever met. In the words of her colleagues, she was seen as a member of their family.

I want to acknowledge Kathy for her accomplishments, and her commitment to country and science. I also extend my condolences to her family, friends, and the entire lab community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,084,928,227.59. We've added \$7,524,207,879,314.51 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSE FLORES

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Flores, a civics teacher at Brawley Union High School in Brawley, CA, for guiding his students to become civic-minded citizens. I would like to congratulate him on receiving the 2015 American Civic Education Teacher Award for motivating students to learn about the Constitution, Congress and public policy.

For 23 years, Mr. Flores has been teaching students about their community by making them think critically about water, air, and soil quality issues. Jose Flores pushes his students to be active and engaged members of their communities. Mr. Flores embodies the dedication that Imperial Valley teachers possess to educate their students.

I would like to recognize Jose Flores for his outstanding work collaborating and forming partnerships with the local government for his students. On behalf of California's 51st Congressional District, I would like to thank Mr. Flores for his commitment to improving his students and the community.

HONORING JOANNE ELLIS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Joanne Ellis, a community leader, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Joanne Ellis was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Joanne Ellis is the Executive Director of the Yuba Sutter Gleaners Food Bank and Thrift Store. The Yuba Sutter Gleaners Food Bank is the only all-volunteer Food Bank in California. In addition to coordinating food distributions at 22 sites, scheduling volunteers and arranging for deliveries, Joanne manages the Emergency Drought Box program authorized by Governor Jerry Brown to distribute among individuals most affected by the drought such as agricultural workers.

Whereas, Joanne took the initiative to implement a successful pilot program called 'Food for Thought' at Park Avenue School in Yuba City. The program aims to minimize child hunger over the weekends when children and families do not have access to the National School Lunch program. It offers students the opportunity to take fresh local fruits and vegetables and whole grain breads home to prepare and eat over the weekend. With Park Avenue Elementary School containing the highest poverty levels in the district, the program has been very well-received.

Whereas, Joanne is a member of the Lions Club and Yuba-Sutter United Way. Joanne is dedicated to helping the neediest in her community through broad collaborative efforts with supporting agencies who conduct cooking demonstrations and taste testing for her food bank families on a regular basis. Joanne's work is truly a labor of love.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Joanne Ellis.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING
OF CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the California Northstate University College of Medicine (CNUCOM). CNUCOM was created by a group of doctors, academics and medical professionals in order to train a new generation of doctors. CNUCOM welcomed their first full class of 60 medical students on September 8, 2015 and this weekend the school is celebrating their opening.

CNUCOM is meeting a great need of both the Sacramento region and the State of California by increasing the number of medical students trained in the state. By training at least sixty new medical students each year, CNUCOM is helping address the drastic shortage of physicians that our nation is facing. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, our nation faces a shortfall of over 130,000 physicians by 2025. Almost half of Californians live in an area where primary care doctors are in short supply and far too many California counties have less than the recommended ratio of 60 to 80 primary care physicians per 100,000 residents.

CNUCOM will be training the next generation of medical students by utilizing an inte-

grated approach that focuses on basic science and an understanding of how the human body's systems work, what goes wrong and what patients need to do to stay healthy. Their rigorous curriculum will include two years of classroom study, which will then be followed by clinical rotations at local hospitals, doctors' offices and clinics. It is clear that CNUCOM is providing a cost effective, quality education while also building community partnerships to address clinical training needs and increasing access to high quality medical care in the Sacramento region.

Mr. Speaker, as the California Northstate University College of Medicine opens their doors and welcomes their first class, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their excellent work in the Sacramento region. I am confident that the CNUCOM will be producing the next generation of doctors and acting as a model for a quality medical education for many years to come.

UNCLE SAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am going to leave research to the researchers, and history to the historians and address myself to another, and even more basic aspect, of the issue before you. I am satisfied that when you review the historical data that is being presented here today, you will agree that there is no room for doubt where Uncle Sam Wilson lived and where he died and where he lies buried—in an all but forgotten grave. Troy's claim to Uncle Sam is beyond dispute.

But there is another and, as I said, an even more fundamental aspect to this issue. It might be expressed in the unspoken question which, I am sure, has suggested itself to some, if not all, of the members of this committee. You may well ask: With Congress laboring to resolve the most complex issues, which reflect the crises which face our nation at home and abroad, why all this fuss about Uncle Sam? I should like to try to answer that question.

There was a time when our country passed immeasurable advantages over the rising tide of world Communism. We had technology, we had the production know-how, we had the most advantageous tools of peace—yes, and the most advanced tools of war, including the atomic and hydrogen bombs. But our ascendancy in all these fields has, little by little, been erased or at best reduced.

And, as we pause from time to time, to assess the progress of the never-ending struggle for survival which we call the "Cold War", we would do well to ask ourselves, bluntly and realistically: What do we have today that Communism does not have?

It may be difficult to find a satisfying answer to this question in the areas of purely material progress. Nor is it surprising that Communism, the expression of materialistic philosophy, should be strong in material advantages. But there is a heartening answer to our question when we go a step beyond the purely material

aspects of the struggle, into the spiritual aspects which, after all, in the long run, will resolve and decide the issue.

What do we have that Communism does not have? We have our American heritage—a heritage that is reflected in our history, in our tradition, in every detail of the great success story that is the story of America. When Mr. Khrushchev shakes his fist and points to his rockets and his space ships and his legions parading in Red Square, we can stand before the world and point to our American heritage—to our history and our institutions and our principles. And it seems to me, that the nations of the world and the people of the world, faced with a choice, will know which way to go.

When Mr. Khrushchev shouts, "Look what we got," we can reply, "Look what we ARE." And since the Cold War is, in great measure, a struggle for men's minds—a war of propaganda, if you will—one of the most important responsibilities we have is to project the American image in every corner of the world. Gentleman, we have that image ready-made. It's Uncle Sam—that kindly, serious, honest old gentleman in his striped suit and tall hat. In the minds of millions here and abroad, he stands for all the virtues and qualities that are wrapped up in the American dream—honor, initiative, industry, opportunity, freedom, respect for the rights of others, and, above all, regard for the dignity of the individual. It's all there in that picture. And it's worth more in the world struggle than all Mr. Khrushchev's space ships and rockets and nuclear bombs.

But here is the point we must not overlook. What makes the image of Uncle Sam important and vital and compelling, is that Uncle Sam is real. And the world needs to know he is real. The world must be told that he is not a fictitious, shoddy trademark after the manner of an American advertising campaign. He is no cartoonist's whimsy. He is no Madison Avenue gimmick.

Uncle Sam really lived. And from what we know of him, he embodied many, if not all of the qualities and virtues, that make us proud of our American heritage. Not only is Uncle Sam a real, flesh-and-blood American, he is particularly representative of the things that have made America great—initiative, industry, business acumen, Yankee resourcefulness. Going even a step further, when you consider how the term "Uncle Sam" was coined, you find an eloquent representation of the partnership between private enterprise and military effort in one of the most critical moments of our history—the same sort of partnership that made America mighty and respected—yes, and in the councils of the ungodly, feared.

We, in America today, know something about how advertising and propaganda works. We know how difficult it is to sell an idea; any intangible idea or concept, until we clothe it in some image people can see and touch. Well, the people of the world know Uncle Sam. And the better they know him, the more they will respect and love him. And in accepting him, they will be embracing all the principles that go to make up the good life.

Our own people too, need to know Uncle Sam better. Every nation needs its heroes, needs the inspiration and pride that come from a healthy respect for its historical figures.

From Uncle Sam, we all can get a deeper appreciation of the American way.

I have just one more point to make and it goes to the heart of all that is being said here today. Never—I say it again, gentlemen—never forget that Uncle Sam is real. Let us not go off waving the picture and leaving the substance behind. Let us never forget that Uncle Sam had a last name too—and that name was Wilson. Let us never forget that Uncle Sam lived among us and worked among us and, when his time came, died among us.

And need I suggest, gentlemen, that his resting place should command the attention and respect of the nation he has come to symbolize. Too long has Uncle Sam Wilson slept, almost unknown and unnoticed, on that grassy hillside overlooking the Hudson River.

Of course we in Troy—whose forebears knew and worked with Samuel Wilson—we in Troy are proud of Uncle Sam. We have marked his grave modestly and have done what we could to make him better known. We feel that, in this effort, we have been doing what the American people would want to do, would insist upon doing, if they knew the story as we know it.

And now we come, gentlemen, to the halls of Congress to ask you as the representatives of the American people to discharge a debt that is long overdue.

Across the nation, we have federal installations of all kinds—among them, navy yards and arsenals and forts and missile bases and atomic testing sites—so many of them grim monuments to the unhappy aspects of our national existence. We have too few monuments to the more inspiring side.

We ask you to add another to the roll. We ask that you create, if you will, a Shrine of Americanism at the grave of the man who has become—after the Stars and Stripes—America's greatest symbol. The military installations are necessary indeed, if only to help us stay alive. But the final, inevitable victory in the great world struggle will be won by the ideals and principles—ideals and principles that are loftier than the highest space shot and more powerful than the most destructive bomb.

I feel sure, gentlemen, that we can say without fear of challenge, that America will always be the leader of all nations in armed might, indeed in any field of material or productive ingenuity. Communism, the greatest threat to mankind, leaves no room for sentiment of nostalgia. Sentiment and nostalgia breed individualism. Individualism is a quality of Freedom. Here is where we need our Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam is the breathtaking feeling of pride that goes with the beat of the military band and the marching men. Uncle Sam is the quiver in the lip as the picture of Surabachi flashes before our mind. Uncle Sam is the invisible resident of the tombs of the known and unknown dead in our wars.

Gentlemen, I can assure you, we have no selfish interest in our quest for recognition of

this great America. We ask only, that you accept from us, this treasure that lies buried in a modest grave in Troy, New York. Recognize it, as it so richly deserves, and give it to all our people.

That is the message Uncle Sam has for us today. That is the message that will be reflected at the shrine for Americanism over his grave in Troy, New York.

CELEBRATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILLER BREWING COMPANY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MillerCoors, which is celebrating the 160th anniversary of Miller Brewing Company throughout the month of September at its Milwaukee Brewery in Wisconsin.

Miller Brewing has been an important part of the Milwaukee community for 160 years. In honor of its 160th anniversary, the brewery is inviting members of the community to celebrate Miller memories and has been hosting special events throughout the month.

After settling in Milwaukee with a special brewer's yeast and an ambition to brew "confoundingly good beers," Frederick J. Miller founded the Miller Brewing Company in 1855. Miller Brewing continues that legacy today through MillerCoors, a family of breweries that includes many of the world's most talented brewmasters who brew beers with high-quality and often local ingredients while holding themselves to the industry's highest standards.

Today, MillerCoors and Miller Brewing are vital to Wisconsin's economy and to the U.S. economy as a whole, supporting more than 8,000 jobs nationwide. Frederick Miller knew firsthand the value of civic leadership and sustainable business practices, and these traditions continue today. Miller Brewing and MillerCoors remain deeply rooted in the communities in which they brew and sell beer by supporting local charities, remaining committed to responsible consumption, and working to reduce water and energy usage and waste in the brewing process.

I am proud of MillerCoors for their contributions to the economy in Wisconsin and throughout the U.S. Their 160th anniversary is worthy of our special recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST ORANGE TIMES & OBSERVER

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the West Orange Times & Observer as they celebrate 110 years of publication in Orange County, Florida.

From its roots, the West Orange Times has been committed to informing, educating, and entertaining their readers. Based in Winter Garden, the paper has grown and prospered with the city region into a bustling center of news, community, and growth.

I met George and Anne Bailey back in 1980, when I was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives. We didn't always see exactly alike, but we became very good friends for many years. Throughout my service in both Tallahassee and Washington, the West Orange Times has remained my hometown paper, and is still delivered to my home every week.

Newspapers bring a community together as a method for informing the public, sharing the highs and lows, and advertising events that knit us together. I am grateful for the leadership and involvement of the West Orange Times & Observer, their long history in our area, and their dedication to draw our community together. West Orange is stronger because of them.

TRIBUTE TO TODD ISLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Todd Isley of Carlisle, Iowa for winning top honors at this year's National Balloon Classic in Indianola.

Todd got his start with hot air ballooning when he was only seven years old. He began by crewing and later earned his pilot's license in 2004. Since that time, he has flown in contests across the United States and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Todd and recognize his achievement today. I am proud to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Todd for his achievements and wish him nothing but continued success.

SENATE—Friday, September 25, 2015

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our mighty fortress, the source of all that is good, hallowed be Your Name. Lord, empower Your Senators to accomplish Your good in our world, leading them on the path of humility. Give them courage to live their faith so that people will see their positive contributions and glorify Your Name. Enable our lawmakers to respect and love each other unconditionally, even as You have so loved us. May they set apart sacred time to be with You.

Thank You for the gifts of life, love, and laughter that You provide us throughout life's seasons. Lord, fill all our hearts to overflowing with Your transformative love.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOEHNER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, grace under pressure; country and institution before self. These are the things that come to mind when I think

of JOHN BOEHNER. He is an ally, he is a friend, and he took over as Republican leader at a very difficult time for his party.

When some said Republicans could never recover, he never gave up. When some gave into defeatism, he kept up the fight. And because he did, Speaker BOEHNER was able to transform a broken and dispirited Republican minority into the largest Republican majority since the 1920s. That is a legacy few can match.

He flew across the country more times than he can count to support Members of his conference and to recruit new Members to the cause. As the leader of a new majority, he turned the tide in Congress and brought conservative reform in many areas. He worked tirelessly to provide hope to those who dreamed of a better life and to middle-class families who struggled under the weight of this administration.

JOHN knows what it is like to struggle and to dream of something better. He has lived it. That a young man from Reading, OH, wielding a bar towel could one day wield the gavel of the U.S. House of Representatives reminds us of the continuing promise of this country.

We all know yesterday was an incredibly important event for the Speaker. It was his aim to bring the same spirit of grace to others that has always guided his life. One only had to look out onto the Capitol lawn to see what he achieved. And that he chose this moment to make this decision means he is willing to leave us in a similar spirit.

I know we will all have more to say then. But for now, thank you, my friend.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOEHNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I, like most of America, was stunned this morning to learn that JOHN BOEHNER is going to resign in the next few weeks. I have had a relationship with JOHN BOEHNER for a long time. His becoming Speaker, of course, made those relations much more close.

I have not always agreed, and I wasn't always happy with what JOHN told me, but he never ever misled me. He never told me something that wasn't true, and I accepted that. I got to where I understood JOHN BOEHNER very well. His word was always good.

JOHN and I had a lot of dealings—so-called back-channel meetings. Everyone knows that a lot of things we do are not in the public eye. And certainly some things we worked on together perhaps wouldn't have worked out very well in the public eye, but there were things we had to do to get things done.

I had a very good relationship with JOHN BOEHNER. My staff got along with his. He has had two chiefs of staff and they have both been terrific to work with. My staff has reached out to them on so many occasions in very difficult times, and they had a good relationship.

I have no doubt that everything JOHN BOEHNER has done has been done with the fact in mind that he was doing his best for the people of his district in Ohio and for our country. He had a very difficult job.

I know the Presiding Officer served under JOHN BOEHNER and so he knows what a tough job he had. He had this faction, that faction, another faction, and a couple more. But ousting a man like JOHN BOEHNER—a good man like JOHN BOEHNER. JOHN BOEHNER is a conservative Republican, but his problem is that JOHN BOEHNER has been pragmatic. He has realized there comes a time when you have to make a deal.

I say to the Presiding Officer and everyone within the sound of my voice, although I didn't know General Eisenhower, President Eisenhower—never met him, never saw him—but I was here when Ronald Reagan was President and he had conservative credentials. Ronald Reagan was somebody who understood the art of compromise. Who else could have worked out something with the Soviet Union? I am not sure there is anybody, but Ronald Reagan was able to do that.

I am so concerned. I am seeing the Republican Party—not the party of Dwight Eisenhower, as I have studied him, or the man Ronald Reagan as I knew him. I just think it is very, very sad the Tea Party Caucus the Republican leaders have embraced to win in 2010, I guess, now have taken over control of the party.

To say I will miss JOHN BOEHNER is a tremendous understatement. I looked out for him in ways I could, and he looked out for me in the ways he could. I will always consider JOHN BOEHNER my friend, and I look forward to working with him until he leaves. I understand it is going to be in late October, but I will continue to work with him, as I have in the past, to do what I think is the right thing for the country, as I am confident he will. Hopefully, we will continue someplace in

the middle to get things done. I have gotten things done with JOHN BOEHNER that I wasn't happy with, and he wasn't happy with what we had to come up with, but sometimes you do the best you can.

I wish JOHN BOEHNER the very best in the future. Whatever I can do to make his life more pleasant, I will be happy to do that. Whether it is setting up a golf game for him in Las Vegas or helping in some government matter, I will do whatever I can because JOHN BOEHNER, as far as I am concerned, is a good man, and it is a gross underestimate to say I will miss him. I will.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to say a few words about a critical challenge and opportunity facing the United States. For months many of us have been on the floor debating some of the important foreign policy and national security issues that our Nation faces—whether it is Islamic terrorism, ISIS, the President's flawed and dangerous Iran agreement or a resurgent Russia in Europe and the Arctic. The list of these issues is long, and it is growing. But one issue that has not really gotten much attention—I believe the attention that it deserves—and that I would like to speak about this afternoon is the long-term national security and foreign policy consequences of the rise of China.

China's President Xi Jinping is in town right now. He is visiting America. He is going to meet with President Obama on a state visit, and some of us in Congress will have an opportunity to meet with him later today. It is an opportunity to start seriously thinking about the challenges and opportunities that a rising China presents to the world and to the United States.

Perhaps we are not talking about this issue as much as we should on the floor because it doesn't seem to be an immediate issue. It is a bit of a longer term matter. But it is also something that in historical terms is happening so fast. I will give one statistic.

In 1980 China's economy was smaller than that of the Netherlands. Last

year, just the incremental growth of China's economy was as large as the Netherlands' economy. They have had incredible growth. But some of our country's most deep and strategic thinkers and historians agree that the rise of China is—over the next decade or two—the paramount issue for us to focus on in the United States.

As far back as 2005, 10 years ago almost to the day, then-Deputy Secretary of State Bob Zellick, who went on to be the president of the World Bank and a former U.S. Trade Representative for the United States, a very strategic thinker, gave what was called the "responsible stakeholders" speech, a very well-renowned speech that people are still reading on U.S.-China relations.

In that speech 10 years ago, he said: "How the United States deals with China's rising power is a central question in American foreign policy."

Just a few months ago in testimony before the Armed Services Committee, Harvard Professor Graham Allison gave testimony that in many ways is reflected in an article he just published in the Atlantic yesterday on the eve of the visit of the President of China. He states in that article and in his testimony from a couple of months ago:

The preeminent geostrategic challenge of this era is not violent Islamic extremists, or a resurgent Russia. It is the impact that China's ascendance will have on the U.S.-led national order.

More specifically, Professor Allison writes that "the defining question about global order for this generation is whether China and the United States can escape"—what he refers to as "the Thucydides trap."

He is referencing the renowned ancient Greek historian.

Professor Allison coined this term to describe the strategic dilemma and dangers that occur when a rising power rivals a ruling power, as when—an example he gives in ancient Greece—Athens challenged Sparta in ancient Greece which ultimately led to the Peloponnesian War.

Professor Allison has caught the attention of many, including President Xi Jinping of China, who in a speech just a few days ago in Seattle actually referenced this term—the "Thucydides trap"—when talking about U.S.-China relations. Now, both Professor Allison and President Xi, in his speech, make it clear that conflict between the United States and China is certainly not inevitable, regardless of what he says with regard to the Thucydides trap, and I certainly would agree with that. Professor Allison, however, does appear to draw some very sobering conclusions in his recent article that should make all of us take serious pause. He concludes in his article written yesterday: "War between the U.S. and China is more likely than recognized at the moment." These are his

words, not mine. This is one of the most distinguished professors of international relations in the United States.

I think these words underscore the need for those of us in the Senate to give due attention to the importance of the U.S.-China relationship and the attendant risks of Graham Allison's Thucydides trap.

Fortunately, I believe we are well-positioned as an institution in the Senate to do this. In the Federalist Papers, Madison talks about one of the roles of the U.S. Senate with its Members having 6-year terms to be able to ensure lasting relations between the United States and other nations through the institution of the Senate. Perhaps more than any other part of the Federal Government, this institution has the opportunity to think strategically and act for the long-term interests of our country.

Fortunately, we also have many experts, historians, professors, and practitioners, whether it is people such as Bob Zoellick or Graham Allison or Henry Kissinger or a new generation of scholars, such as Mike Green at CSIS, who have been thinking about these issues—the Asia-Pacific, the rise in China—for decades. Their articles, books, and speeches are critical to devising national strategies to advance America's interests in the region.

This is a long-term endeavor for all of us. It is imperative that it remains on our radar screens through the course of State visits, through the course of elections, through the course of changing administrations. Contrary to what some say, we as a country do have the capacity to think and act in our long-term strategic interests as a government.

Our successful bipartisan strategy dealing with the Soviet Union, started by Kennan's famous "X" telegram, which created the strategy of containment over the course of decades, over the course of several administrations and several different Congresses—it was a successful long-term strategy for the United States.

From my perspective, as we look at this issue—the Asia-Pacific—its importance—the rise of China—I think a few key touchstones are important to remember. First, America is an Asia-Pacific power. My State of Alaska is an Asia-Pacific State. The United States has strong networks of alliances throughout the Asia-Pacific, and our country has built the post-World War II architecture that has enabled this dynamic region of the world to thrive in terms of peace and in terms of prosperity. In fact, when we look at the last 70 years of history in that region, we have been the linchpin of that peace and prosperity for all countries in the region, whether our strongest allies such as Japan and Korea and Australia or other countries—countries even like China—and we have earned the trust of

our allies for our commitment. So we need to maintain that trust as we move forward and we need to listen to our allies in the region.

Second, we need to understand the history of the region and our involvement there better as we think through what the strategy is moving forward. I have had the opportunity to go to the National Archives a number of times already since I joined the Senate, and there is a statue outside the National Archives and it has a command on it. It says simply: "Study the past." Study the past. Again, I think that as we are looking at our strategy in that region, it is critical that we need to be doing that. Professor Allison's article, as well as books, is a good start, and I think all of us need to continue that focus.

Third, no matter what strategy we end up using vis-à-vis China and the Asia-Pacific region, we have to be strong again at home. My biggest surprise as a new freshman Senator—my biggest surprise in this body is how little we, or certainly for that matter the Obama administration, talk about our economy, talk about the strength or the lack thereof of our economy. Perhaps because the performance of our economy has been so lackluster, we have even doubled down expectations.

They have this term now in Washington called "the new normal." American growth rates have typically been at 3, 3.5, 4 percent GDP growth throughout most of our history. Over the last 6 years, we can barely break 2 percent GDP growth; 1.5, 2 percent. Two quarters ago, we went back into recession. They are now calling this the new normal and we need to accept this. We rarely hear the President or even the Treasury Secretary come out to the American people and say: No, we have to grow traditional levels of American growth—3.5, 5 percent, 4 percent GDP growth. The Presiding Officer knows this. He has focused on this issue. We are not doing that. We have to get back to strength at home because a continued weak U.S. economy—the new normal—growing at 1.5 percent for the next 5, 10 years will create all kinds of additional challenges for us and in my view will make the Thucydides trap that Professor Allison talks about more likely for the United States and China.

Yes, China has certain advantages, but in so many areas—in so many areas—the United States holds all the cards—in so many different areas. If we were in a global poker match and we were all at the table—all the big countries—we would look at our hand and we would see aces. Let me just name a few.

The high-tech sector, still the envy of the world; not just Silicon Valley, all over America.

Our agriculture sector. We feed the world.

Universities. We have the best universities in the world, by far—by far. Certain States in America have better top universities than all of China.

Finance and commercial aspects of our economy, the best entrepreneurs.

Energy. We have a renaissance in energy where we are now the largest producer of oil and gas in the world and the largest producer of renewables. This is a huge advantage. It is creating a rebirth of manufacturing in America.

Fisheries. We harvest some of the most amazing seafood, more than almost any other country in the world.

Foreign relations. We look at our allies in Asia, they are coming to the United States in terms of wanting to deepen their relationship with us.

And, of course, the U.S. military, the finest in the world right now. It is right now. I had the opportunity to go down to the World War II Memorial this morning and I saw a couple of Honor Flights coming in, seeing those veterans of ours who fought and defended this great Nation in World War II. We have had the best military for decades, and we are going to continue to do that.

The key is we have to unleash our economic might once again, which has been so dormant during the Obama administration. We have to do this. If we do this, we can view the rise of China from a standpoint of strength, confidence, and opportunity, not trepidation.

As Bob Zoellick mentioned 10 years ago in his "Responsible Stakeholders" speech: "You hear voices that perceive China solely through the lens of fear, but America succeeds when we look to the future as an opportunity, not when we fear what the future might bring."

I have had the opportunity to view the U.S.-China relationship from a variety of lenses, including economic, diplomatic, and even to some degree military. I previously served as the commissioner of natural resources and energy in Alaska and was able to take a trip over there with some Alaskans to look at ways to deepen our economic, trade, and energy relationship between my State and China and have them visit Alaska and participate in those meetings. I served in terms of diplomacy as an assistant secretary of state and have had numerous opportunities to travel to China with some of our top U.S. Government leaders—at the time Bob Zoellick, Secretary of the Treasury Paulson, and Secretary of State Rice—to discuss ways in which to deepen economic relationships and work on the U.S.-China relationship.

Even many years ago as a U.S. marine aboard an amphibious assault ship in the East and South China Sea during the third Taiwan Strait crisis, I was a very, very, very small player in an episode that once again demonstrated American resolve and commitment in the region.

There is a long tradition from Alaska Senators in keeping a focus on the importance of the Asia-Pacific, from both the Alaska and the U.S. perspective.

Former Senator Ted Stevens served in World War II as a Flying Tiger, flying the Hump in that part of the world, and his subsequent focus throughout his career was very much on the Asia-Pacific, as was Frank Murkowski's expertise and experience, particularly with regard to our relationship with Taiwan.

The focus on the Asia-Pacific and the rise of China is certainly one that in many ways we can view as an opportunity, certainly in my State. Last year, China became the No. 1 export market for Alaskan goods: \$1.4 billion of goods exported from Alaska to China—an 18-percent increase. So I believe maintaining this focus—and we have this visit today with the President of China—is critically important not only to my State, not only to our country but also to our allies in the region.

We should all try to put more focus and our best thinking on these critical foreign policy and national security issues which, although they are not always on the front page of the papers, I believe are some of the most important long-term strategic challenges and opportunities we face in this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JENNY DAVIS

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to COL Jenny W. Davis, legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for her service to our country. Her retirement later this year marks more than 26 years of devotion to our military and our Nation.

A Maryland native, COL Davis was commissioned into the Adjutant General's Corps in May 1989 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, and served her initial 4 years in the Army as a branch detailed officer in the Air Defense Artillery. Her military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course and Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course and the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

COL Davis has held assignments ranging from platoon leader, battery

executive officer, and battalion adjutant, 6th Battalion, 43d Air Defense Artillery, 32d AADCOM, and V Corps, Ansbach, Germany; detachment commander, B Detachment, 546th Personnel Services Battalion, 3d Personnel Group, and chief of officer management, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, TX; HHC commander, 8th Personnel Command, 8th U.S. Army, Camp Coiner, Korea; joint staff intern serving in the offices of the J1 and the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the Pentagon; company grade assignment officer, chief of officer management division and chief of personnel management division, I Corps, and battalion executive officer, 22d Personnel Services Battalion, 1st Personnel Group, Fort Lewis, WA; strategic planner, Army G-1, Headquarters Department of the Army, HQDA, the Pentagon; DoD Congressional Fellow, office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Washington, DC; legislative liaison—Personnel Policy Portfolio, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, OCLL, the Pentagon; Strategic Initiatives Group, I Corps/U.S. Forces—Iraq, OIF; legislative liaison—Arlington National Cemetery, OCLL.

COL Davis's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with four oakleaf clusters; Joint Service Commendation Medal, with one oakleaf cluster; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal, with two oakleaf clusters; Parachutist Badge; and Joint Chiefs of Staff and Army Staff Identification Badges.

Jenny is married to Grant Davis. They have two sons, Zach, 16, and Ben, 14.●

RECOGNIZING THE JUDGE PORTER HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians are committed to preserving the traditions that make us profoundly unique as a State and as a nation. This is especially true in the Louisiana Purchase's oldest city Natchitoches, LA, home to Small Business of the Week, the Judge Porter House Bed and Breakfast.

Nestled in the Cane River National Heritage Area, the Judge Porter House Bed and Breakfast offers a unique experience to its guests. Built in 1912, the establishment originally served as the home of "Judge" Thomas Fitzgerald Porter and his wife, Wilhelmina. While not an actual judge, Judge Porter was a prominent figure who worked at the parish courthouse, and during the course of his life, he enjoyed the honorary title. Over the next few decades, the home was sold to various families who contributed to the effort of restoring the property to its original state. By 1987, while in the care of Mark Rachal and his wife, Sharon, they remodeled the interior and revamped the landscaping for the home's grand re-

opening in 1996 as a part of the Natchitoches Historic Foundation's Annual Fall Pilgrimage.

Today, under the management and care of Charles LaCaze, Jr., the 3,000-square-foot property incorporates many turn-of-the-century architectural elements throughout its five guest rooms, two parlors, and the Queen Anne-style gallery that wraps around the house. Each year, the Judge Porter House Bed and Breakfast hosts guests from around the Nation. Located in downtown Natchitoches, LA, visitors can walk to various local restaurants and shops, as well as visit nearby national parks and fish hatcheries after enjoying a traditional southern-style breakfast.

Congratulations to Judge Porter Bed and Breakfast for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to the preservation of Louisiana's rich history.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:06 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 261. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 994. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1707. An act to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 322. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

H.R. 323. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

H.R. 324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

H.R. 558. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

H.R. 1442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

H.R. 1884. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3059. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

H.R. 3116. An act to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 322. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 323. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 558. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1884. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3059. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3116. An act to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2081. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand presumption of service connection for compensation for diseases the Secretary determines are associated with exposure to herbicide agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 370

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 788

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 788, a bill to require the termination of any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is found to have retaliated against a whistleblower.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1767, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to combination products, and for other purposes.

S. 1793

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 2060

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and services program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 267

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 267, a resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2695. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2696. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2697. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2698. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2699. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2700. Mr. GARDNER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2695. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.

SA 2696. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal

investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "5" and insert "6".

SA 2697. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 7 days after the date of enactment.

SA 2698. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "7" and insert "8".

SA 2699. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "8" and insert "9".

SA 2700. Mr. GARDNER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 18, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(c) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2082, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak about this Senate bill, which will complete the job in Denver and finish the Denver-Aurora veterans hospital. This has been a longtime process. It has been a struggle. But I want to thank Senator MCCONNELL, Senator ISAKSON, Senator KIRK, and Senator BLUMENTHAL for their incredible efforts to bring us to this point.

The hospital in Aurora will be a crown jewel in the VA system, and the veterans who have worked so hard to make this a reality deserve nothing but the best, and I believe we start the process of finally building this and finishing it and getting the job done here on the Senate floor today.

I ask unanimous consent that the Lee amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2700) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the transfer of amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund to fund the increase of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado)

On page 18, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(c) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

The bill (S. 2082), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.

Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.

Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.

Sec. 107. Extension of authority for DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

Sec. 108. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Sec. 109. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.

Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.

Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.

Sec. 303. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.

Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

Sec. 308. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department facilities.

Sec. 402. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

Sec. 403. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 407. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.

Sec. 408. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.

Sec. 409. Extension of authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.

Sec. 410. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.

Sec. 411. Extension of requirement for annual report on Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.

Sec. 412. Modification of authorization of fiscal year 2008 major medical facility project at Department medical center in Tampa, Florida.

Sec. 413. Authorization of major medical facility projects.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER

Sec. 501. Increase in authorization for Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility project previously authorized.

Sec. 502. Project management of super construction projects.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Technical and clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.

Section 1720G(e) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.”.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2016”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking “and 2015” and inserting “, 2015, and 2016”.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DODVA HEALTH CARE SHARING INCENTIVE FUND.

Section 8111(d)(3) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND.

Section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), as amended by section 722 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3417), is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus

Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking “and 2015” and inserting “2015, and 2016”.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Section 3692(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.

Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2016”.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2015,” and inserting “September 30, 2016.”.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2041(c) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Section 2044(e)(1)(E) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2013 through 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2016”.

SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

(b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 521A(g)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.

Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 407. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016”.

SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.

Subsection (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101

note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 410. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.

Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended by striking “one-year” and inserting “two-year”.

SEC. 411. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTERAGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.

Section 1635(h)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 412. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTER IN TAMPA, FLORIDA.

(a) **MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION.**—In chapter 3 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 122 Stat. 2326), in the matter under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, after “Five Year Capital Plan” insert the following: “and for constructing a new bed tower at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Tampa, Florida, in lieu of providing bed tower upgrades at such medical center”.

(b) **EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) **DESIGNATION IN SENATE.**—In the Senate, subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 413. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Construction of a community living center, outpatient clinic, renovated domiciliary, and renovation of existing buildings in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$158,980,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$126,100,000.

(3) Seismic correction of 12 buildings in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$70,500,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury building and seismic corrections in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$205,840,000.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, a total of \$561,420,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) **LIMITATION.**—The projects authorized under this section may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2015 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER

SEC. 501. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215), as amended by section 1 of Public Law 114-25, is further amended by striking “\$1,050,000,000” and inserting “\$1,675,000,000”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2016 authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transfer discretionary unobligated balances appropriated for fiscal year 2015 and discretionary advance appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(c) **PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

SEC. 502. PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF SUPER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 8103 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) In the case of any super construction project, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department Federal entity to provide full project management services for the super construction project, including management over the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes.

“(2) An agreement entered into under paragraph (1) with a Federal entity shall provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Federal entity for all costs associated with the provision of project management services under the agreement.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘super construction project’ means a project for the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a medical facility involving a total expenditure of more than \$100,000,000.”

(b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the following:

(1) The medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(2) Any super construction project (as defined in section 8103(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) that

is authorized on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (g)(2)(A)” and inserting “subsection (g)(2)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 1395(l))” and inserting “(42 U.S.C. 1395m(1))”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title, by striking the item relating to section 521A and inserting the following:

“521A. Adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.”;

(3) in section 1503(a)(5), by striking “subclause” and inserting “subparagraph” each place it appears;

(4) in section 1710(e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (F)(viii), by striking “Myelodysplastic” and inserting “Myelodysplastic”;

(5) in section 1710D(c)(1), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(6) in section 1720G(a)(7)(B)(iii), by striking “has” and inserting “have”;

(7) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking the semicolon and inserting a comma;

(8) in section 1832(b)(2), by striking “(b)(2)” and inserting “(b)(3)”; and

(9) in section 2044(b)(1)(D), by striking “federal” and inserting “Federal”;

(10) in section 2101(a), by moving the margins of paragraph (2), and of the subparagraphs, clauses, and subclauses therein, 2 ems to the left;

(11) in section 2101(a)(2)(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause (ii):

“(ii) The disability is due to—

“(I) blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus

“(II) loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.”.

(12) in section 2109(c) by striking “provisions of section” and inserting “provisions of sections”;

(13) in section 2303(c), by striking “internment” and inserting “interment”;

(14) in section 2411(e)(1), by striking “federal official” and inserting “Federal official”;

(15) in section 3108(b)(4), by inserting “the” before “rehabilitation program concerned”;

(16) in section 3313, by striking “1070a” each place it appears and inserting “1070a(b)”; and

(17) in section 3313(e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking the second period;

(18) in section 3313(g)(3)(A)(iii), by inserting a comma after “books”;

(19) in section 3319, by striking “armed forces” each place it appears and inserting “Armed Forces”;

(20) in section 4102A(c)(9)(A)(ii)(III), by striking the quotation mark at the end;

(21) in section 5302A—

(A) by amending the enumerator and section heading to read as follows:

“§ 5302A. Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “(as that term is defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”;

(22) in section 7309(c)(1), by inserting “the” before “Veterans Health Administration”;

(23) in section 7401(3)(A)(ii), by striking “that”;

(24) in section 7683(d), by inserting a period at the end; and

(25) in section 8162(a)(2), by inserting “if” after “housing and”.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DESIGNATING A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 213.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 213) designating October 30, 2015, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 213) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 24, 2015, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4:30 p.m., Monday, September 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 719, with the time until the cloture vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015, AT 4:30 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:42 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 28, 2015, at 4:30 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, September 25, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for the many blessings of yesterday, and the gracious reminder to us of our political history of democracy, deeply rooted in the mind of the American people. May all our efforts here, and throughout the country, be of service to and the promotion of the good of the human person—based on respect for each person's dignity.

We also thank You for the tremendous outpouring of goodwill, and the extraordinary efforts of so many yesterday, whose service made all that transpired seem effortless. May the memories of the day be an ongoing blessing to all whose day's labor made the day a great celebration for all people of goodwill.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ABRAHAM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CALVIN MORET

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Calvin

Moret, a true American hero and a Louisiana native. Dr. Moret was the last surviving Tuskegee Airman in Louisiana, and he passed away this month at the age of 90.

Dr. Moret's story is truly remarkable, and he stood up to hate and bigotry with courage and dignity. He fought for this country while overcoming an incredible amount of racial adversity. He broke barriers, and he dedicated his life to service.

I had the pleasure of meeting Calvin in Monroe, Louisiana, and as a pilot myself, I can tell you, he was the real deal. It was the highlight of my life to meet him, a true hero that had been ostracized by society but still believed so deeply in maintaining the freedoms of our country.

May we all have the courage Dr. Moret had to stand up for what is great in this Nation.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, reflecting on Pope Francis' historic engagement with us here in the House yesterday, he opened with gratefulness for our freedom. We know we have that freedom because of the brave that our respective homelands have blessed us with. He spoke of the responsibility that we, as leaders, are to help grow a nation and the freedom with it. Freedom is essential in that success.

Pope Francis said it is for all Americans—not just its representatives in this room and others like it—to help sustain society with action and the service attitude of organizations that are truly helpful for those truly in need.

Through faith, not its misuse or extremism, but with humility, with that attitude of service, we are a better people. But it requires religious freedom, a cornerstone of our Nation's founding, indeed, important enough to be articulated and underlined in the First Amendment of our Bill of Rights. With that amendment, it has brought us peace and prosperity and helped the USA to be a beacon of hope and service to the world.

Hand in hand with that religious freedom goes the respect of innocent life and preserving the family. As Pope Francis closed his remarks on the legacy for our youth, these ideals of life and family are the spirit we can all en-

deavor to pass to our youth, their future of a great land filled with freedoms and opportunity, that comes with all of us at that service. For all of us Americans, that is our job.

POPE'S MESSAGE OF CHANGE IN CUBA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1987, I was grateful to be present in Columbia, South Carolina, when Pope John Paul II, as the Polish-born Pope, promoted liberation from communism in Europe. Yesterday, I was grateful to be present with Pope Francis.

Prior to arriving in the United States, the Pope visited Cuba. An Associated Press article, as reprinted in The Post and Courier this week, said Pope Francis gave a message that Cubans should "overcome ideological preconceptions and be willing to change."

In the communist totalitarian dictatorship of Cuba, only the communist ideology is allowed to be changed. Hopefully, change will lead to freedom, as proven by Pope John Paul II.

Change must come to the economy which was stolen from its owners and is now held by the Cuban military, which controls over 70 percent of all businesses. This corrupt regime impoverishing its citizens has been propped up by the Soviet Union and then Chavez of Venezuela. Both have now failed, as Russians and Venezuelans see the failure of Big Government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism, and God bless a liberated Cuba.

THE GENERIC DRUG MARKET

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we all saw this past week as the press reported on a drug that was raised from \$13.50 a tablet to \$750 a tablet. If you spend about 60 seconds with a physician or a pharmacist, you will find this has been going on for a couple of years now.

Very common drugs, Narcan, that our first responders use, and digoxin and nitroglycerin that our heart patients use, nitroglycerin has gone from

8 cents a tablet to \$8 a tablet over the last couple of years. The same thing has happened with doxycycline, a generic antibiotic that has been on the market for years.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the FDA and the Federal Trade Commission to work together to help stop this fleecing of America and what is happening in the generic drug market.

AVIAN INFLUENZA AND GEORGIA'S EFFORTS

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the importance of the poultry industry to Georgia and the issue of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Georgia is the Nation's leading poultry-producing State, and my hometown of Gainesville proudly claims the title of "chicken capital of the world." The poultry industry is critical to the Ninth District of Georgia and the State as a whole. The jobs of 138,000 Georgians depend on the poultry industry, and poultry represents almost half of Georgia's entire agriculture sector.

Given the scale and importance of the industry to Georgia, it is critically important that adequate attention is paid to the potential threat of bird flu. We saw the devastating impact of a highly pathogenic AI outbreak earlier this year. It was the worst animal disease outbreak in U.S. history. Now, with birds migrating south for the winter, we have to face the prospect of a disease striking the poultry industry again.

Mr. Speaker, APHIS has released a fall plan, and I understand that USDA has been in touch with State governments. But we must do more than simply conceptualize a response. We need to take proactive steps to prevent the spread and severity of high-path AI.

I want to commend Commissioner Black and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for their dedication to preparing for a potential outbreak and the commitment of thousands of Georgians who depend on the poultry industry.

I am calling on all agencies to work closely with Georgia and implement meaningful measures in coordination with State needs and recommendations. We need to shorten response time, install biosecurity measures, and work to prevent or reduce future outbreaks. We simply cannot wait to act. Steps must be taken now to mitigate damages to this industry that is so vital to the economy in northeast Georgia.

RESPONSIBLY AND PROFESSIONALLY INVIGORATING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 348.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 420 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 348.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 0910

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, September 24, 2015, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-26. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 348

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015" or as the "RAPID Act".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS FOR EFFICIENT DECISIONMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of part 1 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subchapter II the following:

"SUBCHAPTER IIA—INTERAGENCY COORDINATION REGARDING PERMITTING
"§560. Coordination of agency administrative operations for efficient decisionmaking

"(a) CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subchapter is to establish a framework and procedures to streamline, increase the efficiency of, and enhance co-

ordination of agency administration of the regulatory review, environmental decisionmaking, and permitting process for projects undertaken, reviewed, or funded by Federal agencies. This subchapter will ensure that agencies administer the regulatory process in a manner that is efficient so that citizens are not burdened with regulatory excuses and time delays.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subchapter, the term—

"(1) 'agency' means any agency, department, or other unit of Federal, State, local, or Indian tribal government;

"(2) 'category of projects' means 2 or more projects related by project type, potential environmental impacts, geographic location, or another similar project feature or characteristic;

"(3) 'environmental assessment' means a concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible that serves to—

"(A) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact;

"(B) aid an agency's compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary; and

"(C) facilitate preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary;

"(4) 'environmental impact statement' means the detailed statement of significant environmental impacts required to be prepared under NEPA;

"(5) 'environmental review' means the Federal agency procedures for preparing an environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, categorical exclusion, or other document under NEPA;

"(6) 'environmental decisionmaking process' means the Federal agency procedures for undertaking and completion of any environmental permit, decision, approval, review, or study under any Federal law other than NEPA for a project subject to an environmental review;

"(7) 'environmental document' means an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, and includes any supplemental document or document prepared pursuant to a court order;

"(8) 'finding of no significant impact' means a document by a Federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why a project, not otherwise subject to a categorical exclusion, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement therefore will not be prepared;

"(9) 'lead agency' means the Federal agency preparing or responsible for preparing the environmental document;

"(10) 'NEPA' means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

"(11) 'project' means major Federal actions that are construction activities undertaken with Federal funds or that are construction activities that require approval by a permit or regulatory decision issued by a Federal agency;

"(12) 'project sponsor' means the agency or other entity, including any private or public-private entity, that seeks approval for a project or is otherwise responsible for undertaking a project; and

"(13) 'record of decision' means a document prepared by a lead agency under NEPA following an environmental impact statement that states the lead agency's decision, identifies the alternatives considered by the agency in reaching its decision and states whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted, and if not, why they were not adopted.

"(c) PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—Upon the request of the lead agency,

the project sponsor shall be authorized to prepare any document for purposes of an environmental review required in support of any project or approval by the lead agency if the lead agency furnishes oversight in such preparation and independently evaluates such document and the document is approved and adopted by the lead agency prior to taking any action or making any approval based on such document.

“(d) ADOPTION AND USE OF DOCUMENTS.—

“(1) DOCUMENTS PREPARED UNDER NEPA.—

“(A) Not more than 1 environmental impact statement and 1 environmental assessment shall be prepared under NEPA for a project (except for supplemental environmental documents prepared under NEPA or environmental documents prepared pursuant to a court order), and, except as otherwise provided by law, the lead agency shall prepare the environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. After the lead agency issues a record of decision, no Federal agency responsible for making any approval for that project may rely on a document other than the environmental document prepared by the lead agency.

“(B) Upon the request of a project sponsor, a lead agency may adopt, use, or rely upon secondary and cumulative impact analyses included in any environmental document prepared under NEPA for projects in the same geographic area where the secondary and cumulative impact analyses provide information and data that pertains to the NEPA decision for the project under review.

“(2) STATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS; SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—

“(A) Upon the request of a project sponsor, a lead agency may adopt a document that has been prepared for a project under State laws and procedures as the environmental impact statement or environmental assessment for the project, provided that the State laws and procedures under which the document was prepared provide environmental protection and opportunities for public involvement that are substantially equivalent to NEPA.

“(B) An environmental document adopted under subparagraph (A) is deemed to satisfy the lead agency's obligation under NEPA to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.

“(C) In the case of a document described in subparagraph (A), during the period after preparation of the document but before its adoption by the lead agency, the lead agency shall prepare and publish a supplement to that document if the lead agency determines that—

“(i) a significant change has been made to the project that is relevant for purposes of environmental review of the project; or

“(ii) there have been significant changes in circumstances or availability of information relevant to the environmental review for the project.

“(D) If the agency prepares and publishes a supplemental document under subparagraph (C), the lead agency may solicit comments from agencies and the public on the supplemental document for a period of not more than 45 days beginning on the date of the publication of the supplement.

“(E) A lead agency shall issue its record of decision or finding of no significant impact, as appropriate, based upon the document adopted under subparagraph (A), and any supplements thereto.

“(3) CONTEMPORANEOUS PROJECTS.—If the lead agency determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that the project will have similar environmental impacts as a similar project in geographical proximity to the project, and that similar project was subject to environmental review or similar State procedures within the 5-year period immediately preceding the date that

the lead agency makes that determination, the lead agency may adopt the environmental document that resulted from that environmental review or similar State procedure. The lead agency may adopt such an environmental document, if it is prepared under State laws and procedures only upon making a favorable determination on such environmental document pursuant to paragraph (2)(A).

“(e) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall be responsible for inviting and designating participating agencies in accordance with this subsection. The lead agency shall provide the invitation or notice of the designation in writing.

“(2) FEDERAL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—Any Federal agency that is required to adopt the environmental document of the lead agency for a project shall be designated as a participating agency and shall collaborate on the preparation of the environmental document, unless the Federal agency informs the lead agency, in writing, by a time specified by the lead agency in the designation of the Federal agency that the Federal agency—

“(A) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;

“(B) has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and

“(C) does not intend to submit comments on the project.

“(3) INVITATION.—The lead agency shall identify, as early as practicable in the environmental review for a project, any agencies other than an agency described in paragraph (2) that may have an interest in the project, including, where appropriate, Governors of affected States, and heads of appropriate tribal and local (including county) governments, and shall invite such identified agencies and officials to become participating agencies in the environmental review for the project. The invitation shall set a deadline of 30 days for responses to be submitted, which may only be extended by the lead agency for good cause shown. Any agency that fails to respond prior to the deadline shall be deemed to have declined the invitation.

“(4) EFFECT OF DECLINING PARTICIPATING AGENCY INVITATION.—Any agency that declines a designation or invitation by the lead agency to be a participating agency shall be precluded from submitting comments on any document prepared under NEPA for that project or taking any measures to oppose, based on the environmental review, any permit, license, or approval related to that project.

“(5) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—Designation as a participating agency under this subsection does not imply that the participating agency—

“(A) supports a proposed project; or

“(B) has any jurisdiction over, or special expertise with respect to evaluation of, the project.

“(6) COOPERATING AGENCY.—A participating agency may also be designated by a lead agency as a ‘cooperating agency’ under the regulations contained in part 1500 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2011. Designation as a cooperating agency shall have no effect on designation as participating agency. No agency that is not a participating agency may be designated as a cooperating agency.

“(7) CONCURRENT REVIEWS.—Each Federal agency shall—

“(A) carry out obligations of the Federal agency under other applicable law concurrently and in conjunction with the review required under NEPA; and

“(B) in accordance with the rules made by the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to subsection (n)(1), make and carry out such rules, policies, and procedures as may be reasonably necessary to enable the agency to ensure completion of the environmental review and environmental decisionmaking process in a

timely, coordinated, and environmentally responsible manner.

“(8) COMMENTS.—Each participating agency shall limit its comments on a project to areas that are within the authority and expertise of such participating agency. Each participating agency shall identify in such comments the statutory authority of the participating agency pertaining to the subject matter of its comments. The lead agency shall not act upon, respond to or include in any document prepared under NEPA, any comment submitted by a participating agency that concerns matters that are outside of the authority and expertise of the commenting participating agency.

“(f) PROJECT INITIATION REQUEST.—

“(1) NOTICE.—A project sponsor shall provide the Federal agency responsible for undertaking a project with notice of the initiation of the project by providing a description of the proposed project, the general location of the proposed project, and a statement of any Federal approvals anticipated to be necessary for the proposed project, for the purpose of informing the Federal agency that the environmental review should be initiated.

“(2) LEAD AGENCY INITIATION.—The agency receiving a project initiation notice under paragraph (1) shall promptly identify the lead agency for the project, and the lead agency shall initiate the environmental review within a period of 45 days after receiving the notice required by paragraph (1) by inviting or designating agencies to become participating agencies, or, where the lead agency determines that no participating agencies are required for the project, by taking such other actions that are reasonable and necessary to initiate the environmental review.

“(g) ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS.—

“(1) PARTICIPATION.—As early as practicable during the environmental review, but no later than during scoping for a project requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the lead agency shall provide an opportunity for involvement by cooperating agencies in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for a project.

“(2) RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.—Following participation under paragraph (1), the lead agency shall determine the range of alternatives for consideration in any document which the lead agency is responsible for preparing for the project, subject to the following limitations:

“(A) NO EVALUATION OF CERTAIN ALTERNATIVES.—No Federal agency shall evaluate any alternative that was identified but not carried forward for detailed evaluation in an environmental document or evaluated and not selected in any environmental document prepared under NEPA for the same project.

“(B) ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED.—Where a project is being constructed, managed, funded, or undertaken by a project sponsor that is not a Federal agency, Federal agencies shall only be required to evaluate alternatives that the project sponsor could feasibly undertake, consistent with the purpose of and the need for the project, including alternatives that can be undertaken by the project sponsor and that are technically and economically feasible.

“(3) METHODOLOGIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall determine, in collaboration with cooperating agencies at appropriate times during the environmental review, the methodologies to be used and the level of detail required in the analysis of each alternative for a project. The lead agency shall include in the environmental document a description of the methodologies used and how the methodologies were selected.

“(B) NO EVALUATION OF INAPPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVES.—When a lead agency determines

that an alternative does not meet the purpose and need for a project, that alternative is not required to be evaluated in detail in an environmental document.

“(4) **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.**—At the discretion of the lead agency, the preferred alternative for a project, after being identified, may be developed to a higher level of detail than other alternatives in order to facilitate the development of mitigation measures or concurrent compliance with other applicable laws if the lead agency determines that the development of such higher level of detail will not prevent the lead agency from making an impartial decision as to whether to accept another alternative which is being considered in the environmental review.

“(5) **EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS.**—The evaluation of each alternative in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment shall identify the potential effects of the alternative on employment, including potential short-term and long-term employment increases and reductions and shifts in employment.

“(h) **COORDINATION AND SCHEDULING.**—

“(I) **COORDINATION PLAN.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The lead agency shall establish and implement a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in and comment on the environmental review for a project or category of projects to facilitate the expeditious resolution of the environmental review.

“(B) **SCHEDULE.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The lead agency shall establish as part of the coordination plan for a project, after consultation with each participating agency and, where applicable, the project sponsor, a schedule for completion of the environmental review. The schedule shall include deadlines, consistent with subsection (i), for decisions under any other Federal laws (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license) relating to the project that is covered by the schedule.

“(ii) **FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.**—In establishing the schedule, the lead agency shall consider factors such as—

“(I) the responsibilities of participating agencies under applicable laws;

“(II) resources available to the participating agencies;

“(III) overall size and complexity of the project;

“(IV) overall schedule for and cost of the project;

“(V) the sensitivity of the natural and historic resources that could be affected by the project; and

“(VI) the extent to which similar projects in geographic proximity were recently subject to environmental review or similar State procedures.

“(iii) **COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE.**—

“(I) All participating agencies shall comply with the time periods established in the schedule or with any modified time periods, where the lead agency modifies the schedule pursuant to subparagraph (D).

“(II) The lead agency shall disregard and shall not respond to or include in any document prepared under NEPA, any comment or information submitted or any finding made by a participating agency that is outside of the time period established in the schedule or modification pursuant to subparagraph (D) for that agency's comment, submission or finding.

“(III) If a participating agency fails to object in writing to a lead agency decision, finding or request for concurrence within the time period established under law or by the lead agency, the agency shall be deemed to have concurred in the decision, finding or request.

“(C) **CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER TIME PERIODS.**—A schedule under subparagraph (B) shall

be consistent with any other relevant time periods established under Federal law.

“(D) **MODIFICATION.**—The lead agency may—

“(i) lengthen a schedule established under subparagraph (B) for good cause; and

“(ii) shorten a schedule only with the concurrence of the cooperating agencies.

“(E) **DISSEMINATION.**—A copy of a schedule under subparagraph (B), and of any modifications to the schedule, shall be—

“(i) provided within 15 days of completion or modification of such schedule to all participating agencies and to the project sponsor; and

“(ii) made available to the public.

“(F) **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LEAD AGENCY.**—With respect to the environmental review for any project, the lead agency shall have authority and responsibility to take such actions as are necessary and proper, within the authority of the lead agency, to facilitate the expeditious resolution of the environmental review for the project.

“(i) **DEADLINES.**—The following deadlines shall apply to any project subject to review under NEPA and any decision under any Federal law relating to such project (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license or any required finding):

“(1) **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DEADLINES.**—The lead agency shall complete the environmental review within the following deadlines:

“(A) **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROJECTS.**—For projects requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement—

“(i) the lead agency shall issue an environmental impact statement within 2 years after the earlier of the date the lead agency receives the project initiation request or a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement is published in the Federal Register; and

“(ii) in circumstances where the lead agency has prepared an environmental assessment and determined that an environmental impact statement will be required, the lead agency shall issue the environmental impact statement within 2 years after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register.

“(B) **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS.**—For projects requiring preparation of an environmental assessment, the lead agency shall issue a finding of no significant impact or publish a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register within 1 year after the earlier of the date the lead agency receives the project initiation request, makes a decision to prepare an environmental assessment, or sends out participating agency invitations.

“(2) **EXTENSIONS.**—

“(A) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The environmental review deadlines may be extended only if—

“(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

“(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause.

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—The environmental review shall not be extended by more than 1 year for a project requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement or by more than 180 days for a project requiring preparation of an environmental assessment.

“(3) **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMENTS.**—

“(A) **COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**—For comments by agencies and the public on a draft environmental impact statement, the lead agency shall establish a comment period of not more than 60 days after publication in the Federal Register of notice of the date of public availability of such document, unless—

“(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

“(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause.

“(B) **OTHER COMMENTS.**—For all other comment periods for agency or public comments in the environmental review process, the lead agency shall establish a comment period of no more than 30 days from availability of the materials on which comment is requested, unless—

“(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

“(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause.

“(4) **DEADLINES FOR DECISIONS UNDER OTHER LAWS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any case in which a decision under any other Federal law relating to the undertaking of a project being reviewed under NEPA (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license) is required to be made, the following deadlines shall apply:

“(A) **DECISIONS PRIOR TO RECORD OF DECISION OR FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.**—If a Federal agency is required to approve, or otherwise to act upon, a permit, license, or other similar application for approval related to a project prior to the record of decision or finding of no significant impact, such Federal agency shall approve or otherwise act not later than the end of a 90-day period beginning—

“(i) after all other relevant agency review related to the project is complete; and

“(ii) after the lead agency publishes a notice of the availability of the final environmental impact statement or issuance of other final environmental documents, or no later than such other date that is otherwise required by law, whichever event occurs first.

“(B) **OTHER DECISIONS.**—With regard to any approval or other action related to a project by a Federal agency that is not subject to subparagraph (A), each Federal agency shall approve or otherwise act not later than the end of a period of 180 days beginning—

“(i) after all other relevant agency review related to the project is complete; and

“(ii) after the lead agency issues the record of decision or finding of no significant impact, unless a different deadline is established by agreement of the Federal agency, lead agency, and the project sponsor, where applicable, or the deadline is extended by the Federal agency for good cause, provided that such extension shall not extend beyond a period that is 1 year after the lead agency issues the record of decision or finding of no significant impact.

“(C) **FAILURE TO ACT.**—In the event that any Federal agency fails to approve, or otherwise to act upon, a permit, license, or other similar application for approval related to a project within the applicable deadline described in subparagraph (A) or (B), the permit, license, or other similar application shall be deemed approved by such agency and the agency shall take action in accordance with such approval within 30 days of the applicable deadline described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

“(D) **FINAL AGENCY ACTION.**—Any approval under subparagraph (C) is deemed to be final agency action, and may not be reversed by any agency. In any action under chapter 7 seeking review of such a final agency action, the court may not set aside such agency action by reason of that agency action having occurred under this paragraph.

“(j) **ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION.**—

“(1) **COOPERATION.**—The lead agency and the participating agencies shall work cooperatively in accordance with this section to identify and resolve issues that could delay completion of the environmental review or could result in denial of any approvals required for the project under applicable laws.

“(2) **LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The lead agency shall make information available to

the participating agencies as early as practicable in the environmental review regarding the environmental, historic, and socioeconomic resources located within the project area and the general locations of the alternatives under consideration. Such information may be based on existing data sources, including geographic information systems mapping.

“(3) PARTICIPATING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—Based on information received from the lead agency, participating agencies shall identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, historic, or socioeconomic impacts. In this paragraph, issues of concern include any issues that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

“(4) ISSUE RESOLUTION.—

“(A) MEETING OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—At any time upon request of a project sponsor, the lead agency shall promptly convene a meeting with the relevant participating agencies and the project sponsor, to resolve issues that could delay completion of the environmental review or could result in denial of any approvals required for the project under applicable laws.

“(B) NOTICE THAT RESOLUTION CANNOT BE ACHIEVED.—If a resolution cannot be achieved within 30 days following such a meeting and a determination by the lead agency that all information necessary to resolve the issue has been obtained, the lead agency shall notify the heads of all participating agencies, the project sponsor, and the Council on Environmental Quality for further proceedings in accordance with section 204 of NEPA, and shall publish such notification in the Federal Register.

“(k) LIMITATION ON USE OF SOCIAL COST OF CARBON.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any environmental review or environmental decisionmaking process, a lead agency may not use the social cost of carbon.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘social cost of carbon’ means the social cost of carbon as described in the technical support document entitled ‘Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order No. 12866’, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in May 2013, revised in November 2013, or any successor thereto or substantially related document, or any other estimate of the monetized damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon dioxide emissions in a given year.

“(l) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of each Federal agency shall report annually to Congress—

“(1) the projects for which the agency initiated preparation of an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment;

“(2) the projects for which the agency issued a record of decision or finding of no significant impact and the length of time it took the agency to complete the environmental review for each such project;

“(3) the filing of any lawsuits against the agency seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by the agency for an action subject to NEPA, including the date the complaint was filed, the court in which the complaint was filed, and a summary of the claims for which judicial review was sought; and

“(4) the resolution of any lawsuits against the agency that sought judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by the agency for an action subject to NEPA.

“(m) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of a permit, license,

or approval issued by a Federal agency for an action subject to NEPA shall be barred unless—

“(A) in the case of a claim pertaining to a project for which an environmental review was conducted and an opportunity for comment was provided, the claim is filed by a party that submitted a comment during the environmental review on the issue on which the party seeks judicial review, and such comment was sufficiently detailed to put the lead agency on notice of the issue upon which the party seeks judicial review; and

“(B) filed within 180 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the permit, license, or approval is final pursuant to the law under which the agency action is taken, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is allowed.

“(2) NEW INFORMATION.—The preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement, when required, is deemed a separate final agency action and the deadline for filing a claim for judicial review of such action shall be 180 days after the date of publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing the record of decision for such action. Any claim challenging agency action on the basis of information in a supplemental environmental impact statement shall be limited to challenges on the basis of that information.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create a right to judicial review or place any limit on filing a claim that a person has violated the terms of a permit, license, or approval.

“(n) CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS.—The authorities granted under this subchapter may be exercised for an individual project or a category of projects.

“(o) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of this subchapter shall apply only to environmental reviews and environmental decisionmaking processes initiated after the date of enactment of this subchapter. In the case of a project for which an environmental review or environmental decisionmaking process was initiated prior to the date of enactment of this subchapter, the provisions of subsection (i) shall apply, except that, notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in determining a deadline under such subsection, any applicable period of time shall be calculated as beginning from the date of enactment of this subchapter.

“(p) APPLICABILITY.—Except as provided in subsection (p), this subchapter applies, according to the provisions thereof, to all projects for which a Federal agency is required to undertake an environmental review or make a decision under an environmental law for a project for which a Federal agency is undertaking an environmental review.

“(q) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede, amend, or modify sections 134, 135, 139, 325, 326, and 327 of title 23, sections 5303 and 5304 of title 49, or subtitle C of title I of division A of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and the amendments made by such subtitle (Public Law 112-141).”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the items relating to subchapter II the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IIA—INTERAGENCY COORDINATION REGARDING PERMITTING

“560. Coordination of agency administrative operations for efficient decision-making.”.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this division, the Council on Environmental Quality shall amend the regulations con-

tained in part 1500 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to implement the provisions of this division and the amendments made by this division, and shall by rule designate States with laws and procedures that satisfy the criteria under section 560(d)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date that the Council on Environmental Quality amends the regulations contained in part 1500 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to implement the provisions of this division and the amendments made by this division, each Federal agency with regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall amend such regulations to implement the provisions of this division.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-261. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MARINO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk as the designee of Chairman GOODLATTE.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, line 20, strike “PARTICIPATING” and insert “COOPERATING”.

Page 8, line 22, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 8, line 23, insert after “agencies” the following: “(as such term is defined in part 1500 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2011)”.

Page 9, line 1, strike “PARTICIPATING” and insert “COOPERATING”.

Page 9, line 4, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 9, line 24, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 10, line 6, strike “PARTICIPATING” and insert “COOPERATING”.

Page 10, line 9, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 10, line 15, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 10, line 16, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 10, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 11, line 4.

Page 11, line 5, strike “(7)” and insert “(6)”.

Page 11, line 20, strike “(8)” and insert “(7)”.

Page 11, line 20, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 11, beginning on line 22, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 11, line 23, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 11, line 25, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 12, line 4, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 12, line 6, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 12, strike line 7 and all that follows through line 16.

Page 12, strike line 17, and all that follows through “project, and the” on line 20, and insert the following:

“(f) LEAD AGENCY INITIATION.—The”.

Page 12, beginning on line 22, strike “the notice” and all that follows through line 3 on page 13, and insert the following: “an application for a project from a project sponsor.”.

Page 16, line 9, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 16, beginning on line 22, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 17, line 2, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 17, line 16, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 18, line 2, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 18, line 7, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 19, line 6, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 20, beginning on line 7, strike “the project initiation request”, and insert the following: “an application for a project from a project sponsor”.

Page 21, beginning on line 4, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 21, line 11, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 22, line 7, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 22, line 19, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 25, line 15, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 25, line 15, strike “cooperatively”.

Page 25, line 23, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 26, line 5, strike “PARTICIPATING” and insert “COOPERATING”.

Page 26, line 7, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 26, line 15, strike “PARTICIPATING” and insert “COOPERATING”.

Page 26, line 18, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 27, line 5, strike “participating” and insert “cooperating”.

Page 29, line 9, strike “a party that” and insert “a party to the administrative proceeding, and the party”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment makes numerous technical and other minor wording changes to the bill. Together, these revisions clarify that the bill does not authorize duplicative agency review proceedings, does not require duplicative project notification and initiation of agency review procedures, and does not allow permitting decisions to be challenged in court by parties who did not first present their arguments in the administrative proceedings that produced the challenged permit.

The amendment constitutes an agreement reached between the Judiciary Committee and the other committee of jurisdiction, the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, the manager’s amendment has been categorized as a technical amendment. We are told the amendment is designed to clarify the bill, which is being sold as the answer to our Nation’s economic woes.

The bill is supposed to streamline government environmental reviews, and this amendment is supposed to streamline the underlying bill. Unfortunately, the only thing that is being streamlined here are the facts about NEPA.

Mr. Chairman, the facts are not in the Republicans’ favor. For more than 40 years, NEPA has ensured that federally funded projects are carried out in a transparent and cost-effective manner, while fostering public participation in the decisionmaking process and minimizing impacts to the environment.

In fact, NEPA often provides the only forum for citizens to engage in major Federal actions that affect our health, well-being, and the environment. NEPA saves millions of dollars and is a tool for environmental justice. NEPA gave the confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal governments and citizen groups an opportunity to engage in the design of U.S. 93 in western Montana, resulting in a project that successfully addressed safety, environmental, family farming, and cultural concerns.

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NEPA’s success stories, where the process saves money and improves the quality of life for people impacted by Federal decisions, go on and on. My Republican colleagues tend to streamline these stories so we never get a chance to hear them.

Here are some facts my Republican colleagues might have missed during their streamlining:

95 percent of all NEPA analyses are completed through categorical exclusion, which generally requires only a few days.

Less than 5 percent of NEPA actions require an environmental assessment, and less than 1 percent require a full EIS. Those projects that do require an EIS tend to be the largest, most complex. The delays that do occur are more likely the result of local opposition, a lack of funding, or changes in the project’s scope.

Agency data, interviews with agency officials, and available studies show that most NEPA analyses do not result in litigation; yet, the underlying bill seeks to restrict judicial review, and the manager’s amendment would create a judicial bar to the courthouse doors before a party could seek judicial review.

Typically, there have been fewer than 100 cases per year nationwide in the last decade even though the NEPA review process is applied to tens of thousands of government actions each year and tens of thousands more that are classified as exempt from review based on categorical exclusions.

NEPA is not a barrier to development. It is a tool for better decision-making. The only reason to avoid NEPA or to weaken it is so that you can make decisions less carefully. This is the purpose of the legislation.

Apparently, the bill itself was not drafted very carefully; so, we have a manager’s amendment to fix all the errors. This manager’s amendment is just more proof that my Republican colleagues should leave NEPA alone because their understanding of how it works and what it does is, unfortunately, too streamlined.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 14, line 11, insert after the period at the end the following: “No alternative may be deemed feasible if the alternative does not adequately address risks associated with flooding, wildfire, and climate change.”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my fellow Californian Ronald Reagan once said, “There you go again.” Attacks on NEPA have become almost a common, weekly occurrence in this Congress, and H.R. 348 is just the latest iteration.

We should really call this bill the VAPID Act because it is tired, unimaginative, and a ploy to undermine one of our bedrock environmental laws: NEPA.

My amendment would not fix all of this bill's problems, but it certainly would inject some small sense of fiscal responsibility into this legislation that seemingly has been designed for wasting taxpayers' money.

Restricting the ability of the public to comment on proposed projects virtually guarantees more lawsuits and more hastily approved projects that could turn into embarrassing boondoggles.

Particularly in the face of climate change, we must take special care to ensure that the future value of projects is considered. This means thoroughly evaluating the risks associated with more frequent and intense wildfires as well as flooding caused by stronger storms and higher sea levels.

Doing these reviews will not delay projects. As was pointed out by the ranking member, it is a fact that 95 percent of all NEPA analyses are completed through categorical exclusions, which generally require only a few days to process.

Less than 5 percent require an environmental assessment, and less than 1 percent require a full environmental impact statement, or an EIS.

Those projects that do require an EIS tend to be the largest and most complex, and delays that do occur are more likely the result of local opposition, a lack of funding, or changes in the project's scope, not due to NEPA.

Making sure that roads aren't wiped out by a future storm surge or that activities in our national forests don't spark fires or that government-financed and -permitted actions are resilient to climate change is the least we can do to protect taxpayers and the environment.

To do this, we need to keep NEPA strong, not weaken it by making government actions less transparent. The current NEPA process allows for the full consideration of the costs and the benefits of proposed actions and leads to environmentally and economically sound outcomes.

I urge a "yea" vote on my amendment because the threats associated with climate change and related natural hazards are too great for this House to continue to ignore.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, by its terms, the amendment brands infeasible—and, thus, barred from further evaluation—project alternatives that do not appear at the outset of the review process to adequately address risks associated with flooding, wildfire, and climate change. With all due respect, that puts the cart before the horse.

The bill is intended to allow the review of alternatives that are technically and economically feasible. It is entirely possible that, during the course of review, a technically and economically feasible alternative that appears initially to be inadequate to address these risks could, on further review, be found to be adequate or to be improved to be adequate. It might even ultimately be found to be the best alternative under review.

Why should we prematurely end the evaluation of alternatives that could ultimately prove adequate with regard to these types of risks?

This does not prevent the review process. What it does prevent is someone waiting to get in at the last moment, which has been 5 or 6 years later, to jam the system up in court, therefore crushing jobs and letting regulation run rampant.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I just want to comment that risks due to flooding, to stronger storms, to climate change are not putting the cart before the horse. I am simply asking that we don't waste taxpayers' money by not considering these risks. This is a fiscally sound amendment, and I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, after line 21, insert the following: "(6) LOW-INCOME AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ANALYSIS.—The evaluation of each alternative in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment shall identify the potential effects of the alternative on low-income communities and communities of color."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, is a 45-year-old law which stands, basically, for two things: that the Federal Government should consider alternatives before taking action that can impact people's lives and that the public should have the opportunity to comment on those alternatives before a final decision is made.

House Republicans oppose both of these simple principles and so they attack NEPA time after time, year after year. The bill before us today is just a rerun of those attacks.

My amendment, unfortunately, cannot fix this bill. In fact, my amendment is really just proof of what is so dangerous about the RAPID Act. Among the critical issues that can be addressed through our existing NEPA process is ensuring environmental justice.

Bills like the one we are considering today seek to short-circuit that process; so, they seek to short-circuit environmental justice concerns. My amendment would put environmental justice considerations back in the process created by this legislation; but we would not even need this amendment if Republicans would just leave NEPA alone.

Twenty-one years ago President Bill Clinton issued his executive order on environmental justice. After decades of hard work, struggle, some victories along the way, the promise of environmental justice for all communities remains unfulfilled.

While environmental toxins and pollution know no class or race, low-income communities and communities of color bear a disproportionate share of adverse environmental consequences.

Low-income communities and communities of color are routinely targeted to host facilities that have negative environmental impacts, such as landfills, refineries, chemical plants, freeways, and ports.

Seventy-eight percent of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant. Nearly one out of every two Latinos lives in the country's top 25 most ozone-polluted cities.

For decades, these communities have been battling environmental injustices and have been seeking to build healthy, livable, and sustainable communities.

NEPA recognizes that, when the public and Federal experts work together, better decisions are made. We have not solved the problem yet, but the solution is a more inclusive, more rigorous use of the NEPA process, not these constant, industry-friendly attacks on the law.

Every person has the right to live, work, and play in a healthy and safe environment; yet, too often, the health of too many Americans is determined by their race, class, ZIP code, and street address.

It is unfortunate and inefficient to have to come down here to protect

these issues one by one for each and every Republican bill that is presented.

The adoption of my amendment would keep H.R. 348 from destroying the progress we have made on issues for communities of color, but it doesn't solve the problem.

A far better approach would be to drop H.R. 348 and to instead invest in making NEPA stronger and more inclusive than ever.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, among those who suffer most unfairly from poor government decision-making are the communities the gentleman's amendment addresses. For example, growing research shows that the costs of new regulations often have regressive effects on those with lower incomes. When poor government decision-making occurs in the permit review process, similar unfair effects may occur.

The gentleman's amendment guards against this by requiring agencies to identify and reveal the potential adverse effects of project alternatives on low-income communities and communities of color. Once identified and revealed, of course, any such effects may be avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

□ 0930

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 12, strike "or".

Page 21, line 14, strike the period at the end and insert "; or".

Page 21, after line 14, insert the following: "(iii) a deadline extension is requested by an elected official of a State or locality, or a local tribal official."

Page 22, line 8, strike "or".

Page 22, line 10, strike the period at the end and insert "; or".

Page 22, after line 10, insert the following: "(iii) a deadline extension is requested by an elected official of a State or locality, or a local tribal official."

Page 22, line 20, strike "or".

Page 22, line 22, strike the period at the end and insert "; or".

Page 22, after line 22, insert the following: "(iii) a deadline extension is requested by an elected official of a State or locality, or a local tribal official."

Page 24, line 12, strike "or".

Page 24, line 14, insert after "cause," the following: "; or the deadline was extended pursuant to the request of an elected official of a State or locality, or a local tribal official."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a commonsense amendment to the RAPID Act, a misguided bill that will disempower local leaders, including tribal leaders, and threaten the health and safety of our communities and their communities.

As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, time and time again I have witnessed the Republican majority siding with big business and gutting bedrock environmental safeguards that for decades have protected our families and our natural heritage.

My Republican friends claim that this bill is intended to protect the interest of our States and Native American tribes.

Mr. Chair, we already have a law on the books for that purpose. It is called the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, and it works. At its heart, NEPA ensures that our government is accountable to the people.

This critical law has protected the environment for more than 40 years without imposing arbitrary deadlines or limiting vital public input.

It guarantees the public an opportunity to review and comment on actions proposed by the government, enabling important perspectives that would otherwise go unnoticed. In this way, NEPA can actually serve as a check on Big Government.

Unfortunately, the RAPID Act promises the opposite, a deeply flawed process that would diminish the voice of State, local, and tribal communities.

The RAPID Act will also establish a new regulatory framework that purposely overrides the NEPA review process, limiting public input and consequently undermining the quality and integrity of Federal agency decisions.

Among its many dangerous provisions, the bill will also trigger the automatic approval of construction projects if agencies miss arbitrary deadlines, regardless of the complexity or hazard posed by such potential projects.

Though the bill includes some extremely limited and narrow exceptions for these deadlines, as it is currently written, it fails to extend those deadlines for our local communities.

My amendment would simply create a new good cause exception that would allow a deadline to be extended if a request is made from a local- or State-elected official or a local tribal leader.

While my amendment does not fix all the problems in the underlying bill, it ensures that, if this bill should pass, our local and tribal leaders will continue to be empowered, as they are currently under NEPA.

I support the goal of reducing red tape, but stripping away the ability of our local communities to have their voices heard is undemocratic and unacceptable. Mr. Chair, special interests don't need us to fight for them. Our communities do.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and to stand with our local and tribal leaders when it comes to projects in their own back yards that impact their homes, families, and business.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would allow agencies to escape the bill's streamlined permitting deadlines simply because an elected State or local official or a local tribal official asks for an extension.

The amendment contains no requirement that a Federal agency find the compelling basis for an extension or even a significant basis or even any substantive basis at all.

On the contrary, all that a recalcitrant Federal agency, a project opponent, or anyone else would need to defeat an efficient permitting decision is to find an elected State or local official or a local tribal official willing to put in an extension request for them.

The potential for abuse of this proposed provision by those who only seek delay for delay's sake or who seek to kill worthy projects outright is obvious.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-261.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 24, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 25, line 12.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I hope that we will find common ground on really responding to a great concern that I think all Americans should be concerned about.

Although this bill is called the RAPID Act, were it to become law, in the present form, a permit or license for a project would be deemed approved if the reviewing agency does not issue the requested permit or license within 90 to 120 days. That is a short period of time for complex regulatory structures that deal with complex industries.

An industry that I represent in Houston, Texas, the energy industry, has complex needs and, as well, complex impacts and consequences if we do not deal with the agencies responsible, if the DOE, for example, does not do its due diligence.

Now, let me say this, Mr. Chairman. These particular permits are done sooner than 90 to 120 days. But what this bill says is, if the agency is engaged in a very complex deliberative thought process, then, if they reach that deadline and they still have not finished, they are then, if you will, throwing to the side all of the safety issues and issues dealing with the protection of the American people under the bus.

My amendment strikes the provision, deeming approved any project for which an agency does not meet the deadlines contained in the bill.

I can appreciate some of the frustrations through the review process by the National Environmental Policy Act, but the cure is not this bill.

If a Federal agency has failed to approve or disapprove a project or make the required finding, we are in trouble. Babies are in trouble with formula. Senior citizens are in trouble with various pharmaceuticals. They are in trouble. And then, if we run up against the deadline, there is no response.

Second, frequently there are times when it is the case that the complexity of the issues, as I said, warrant us to do so. In other words, what this bill is saying is: To heck with reason and good judgment. We do not care. To heck with protecting the American people. We do not care.

As I listened intently and intensely to the Pope's words yesterday, I offer this quote: Moses provided us with a good synthesis of your work. You are asked to protect—and speaking to us—by means of the law, the image, and likeness fashioned by God on every human face.

This bill smacks in the face of that instruction. I believe that this amendment is worthy of passing.

Mr. Chair, if H.R. 348, the so-called RAPID Act, were to become law in its present form, a permit or license for project would be “deemed” approved if the reviewing agency does not issue the requested permit or license within 90–120 days.

My amendment strikes the provision deeming approved any project for which agency does not meet deadlines contained in the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate some of the frustrations expressed by many of our friends across the aisle when it comes to review process mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

But the cure they propose in H.R. 348 is an example of a medicine that is worse than the disease.

Under H.R. 348, if a federal agency fails to approve or disapprove the project or make the required finding of the termination within the applicable deadline, which is either 90 days or 120 days, depending on the situation, then the project is automatically deemed approved by such agency.

This creates a set of unintended consequences.

First, as an agency is up against that deadline and legitimate work is yet to be completed, it is likely to disapprove the project simply because the issues have not been vetted.

Second, frequently there are times when it is the case that the complexity of issues that need to be resolved necessitates a longer review period, rather than an arbitrary limit.

So if H.R. 348 were to become law the most likely outcome is that federal agencies would be required to make decisions based on incomplete information, or information that may not be available within the stringent deadlines, and to deny applications that otherwise would have been approved, but for lack of sufficient review time.

In other words, fewer projects would be approved, not more.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 348 ostensibly seeks to make a minor procedure adjustment to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

In reality, however, H.R. 348 would radically transform the NEPA review process, and not for the better either.

For more than 40 years, NEPA has been the law of the land and has provided a remarkably effective framework for all types of projects (not just construction projects) that require federal approval pursuant to a federal law, such as the Clean Air Act.

For these reasons, I urge all Members to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, the American people desperately need new jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, America's labor force participation rate remains mired among historic lows.

Almost 94 million Americans who could work are outside the workforce. That is more than the population of all but 12 of the world's countries and more than every other country in the Western Hemisphere, except for Brazil and Mexico.

We face this historically low rate not because Americans don't want to work, but because so many Americans have despaired of any hope of finding a new full-time job and have abandoned the workforce.

The RAPID Act offers strong help to reverse this tragedy, restore the hope, and produce millions of new jobs. We must pass the bill, not weaken it, to provide these new high-wage jobs.

The gentlewoman's amendment would weaken the bill in one of the worst possible ways. It would remove the clear consequences in the bill for agencies that refuse to follow the bill's deadlines. That consequence is to deem permits approved if agencies refuse to approve or deny them within those deadlines.

Mr. Chairman, the bill provides 4½ years for agencies to complete their environmental reviews for new permit applications and reasonable and additional time for agencies to wrap up final permit approvals or denials after that; 4½ years is more time than it took the United States to fight and win World War II.

If agencies can't wrap up their environmental reviews in that much time and then meet the bill's remaining deadlines, there is something terribly wrong with the agencies.

The prospect of facing a default approval at the end of the substantial time the bill grants is an eminently reasonable way to assure that agencies will conduct full reviews and wrap their work up in time to make up or down decisions on their own.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I am so glad my colleague mentioned the question of jobs.

Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I am very glad my colleague mentioned jobs because none of us here are fighting against jobs.

In fact, I happen to be supporting the full employment legislation that my good friend, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, has offered and I have joined.

We are not here speaking against jobs. We are speaking for the American people.

We are trying to explain the complexity of the permitting process. Whether it is for drilling, whether it is to deal with construction, whether it is to deal with complex environmental issues that have to be addressed impacting the American people or, for example, whether it is dealing with the Volkswagen company that saw fit to do the technology to undermine viable rules that the American automobile industry was complying with, definitely impacting jobs, I would have hoped that we would have had a process of permitting or a process of determining whether the Volkswagen company was violating these rules that were here to help the issue of pollution and other issues here, but also undermining the jobs of our own American companies.

Let me say that the Jackson Lee amendment, in essence, is to suggest that there is a lot of complexity that my friends on the other side of the aisle with the RAPID Act—the very name of it suggests that we are throwing judgment to the wind.

All we want to do is to move forward, even if they are ill. And we don't want the taxpayer dollars that have asked these workers in these agencies who have the expertise from the DOE, to the FDA and beyond—Food and Drug Administration, Department of Energy—to protect us.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that my amendment, by eliminating the 90 to 120, deeming it approved in the midst of a crisis when it is not fit to be approved, is an amendment that this body should pass.

I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment because I am here to protect the American people and to do justly, as has been given to us in a wonderful message yesterday by Pope Francis.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I want to just give a couple of examples of the timing factor that we are seeing that the agencies just are not executing properly.

Cape Wind Project: For more than 12 years—12 years—they were waiting for permits to build an operation that would create jobs and renewable energy. 12 years.

Orange County toll road in Orange County, California: There was a 12-year delay there as well. The project was extended tens of millions of dollars because of the delay there, and jobs were lost because of that.

Charleston Harbor, Savannah Port dredging project: Again, there was a decade of delays in permitting because agencies are just sitting around, not taking the job responsibly. They never would survive in private industry if they operated under those conditions.

So those are a few examples of the cost in dollars and cents and the jobs that are lost because of these agencies not performing their responsibilities.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

□ 0945

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 25, line 4, insert before the period at the end the following: “, unless the project would limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing, or impact a species listed as an endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA as we frequently shorthand it, is one of our bedrock conservation laws, and it has a simple premise: look before you leap. Its timelines are designed to provide transparency and public participation in government. H.R. 348 would move us in the opposite direction.

My amendment would not fix all of the problems with this bill, but it would allow hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts to continue to enjoy the benefits that NEPA provides.

Several recent stories help explain the benefits of NEPA, including the following:

Recently, a plan to improve U.S. 23 in my home State of Michigan was modified to avoid the largest loss of wetlands in our State's history. Not only will this help improve the biodiversity of the region, but it will also preserve that habitat for migratory waterfowl prized by hunters. This land could have been lost and hunters would have had their access reduced if not for the robust comment process that NEPA provides.

There are similar stories across the country. In 2013, changes to the Army

Corps of Engineers' plan to increase storage capacity at the John Redmond Reservoir in Kansas were needed to protect prime deer and turkey hunting areas, as well as avoid the destruction of a local boat ramp providing fishermen access to the lake.

In 2004, sportsmen's groups from across the country banded together during the NEPA review process and caused BLM to withdraw a proposal to allow oil and gas drilling along the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana.

The list goes on and on, but the point is that none of these positive outcomes would have been achieved without a strong NEPA process that encourages public participation instead of limiting it.

Furthermore, the habitats utilized by game and sports fishermen are the same as those utilized by endangered fish, wildlife, and plants. Destroying one destroys the other, which is why NEPA must allow for a thorough review of potential impacts to listed species.

My amendment would ensure these protections will be preserved so hunters, fishermen, and American wildlife will continue to benefit from them. There is absolutely no legitimate reason to limit public oversight of taxpayer-funded projects.

NEPA shines a light on proposed government actions and helps local citizens provide new information and ideas, improve projects, and ensure sustainable decisionmaking. It helps Federal authorities consider a range of alternatives, often resulting in lower costs to the public, something I am sure everyone here supports.

NEPA is a quintessentially American, quintessentially small-government law. It reinforces the rights of people to hold their government accountable. A host of environmental groups have endorsed my amendment, but I am particularly pleased to have the support of Trout Unlimited, because my amendment would help protect the rights of anglers. If you hunt, you fish or have constituents who do, you should support a strong NEPA and vote for my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, one of the linchpins of the RAPID Act is its set of provisions that: deem a permit approved if the permitting agency refuses to meet the bill's reasonable deadlines; and, prohibit a court from overturning a permit approval simply because the permit was deemed approved when deadlines expired before action was taken.

If we do not include consequences like these in the bill, how will we ever

ensure that recalcitrant, foot-dragging Federal agencies will achieve the bill's goal of streamlined permit decisions?

The amendment, however, removes all consequences for agencies' foot-dragging so long as the projects at issue would either limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing or impact an endangered or threatened species. That is in the bill. The amendment's sponsor offers no sound reason to do this.

The bill does not require projects with these kinds of impacts to be approved. It just requires that permitting decisions, up or down, be reached after, at most, 4½ years of environmental review. Surely that is enough time to review all kinds of projects, including those that limit access to or opportunities for hunting or fishing or impact endangered or threatened species.

To make matters worse, the bill would allow agencies to drag their feet without consequences even if a project had a beneficial impact on an endangered or threatened species. Why should we allow delay for that?

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I want to quickly respond to the comments made by my colleague on the other side of the aisle.

We often hear that NEPA is a scapegoat for projects being delayed, but as the GAO and others have found, outside issues, including the complexity of the project, local opposition and, most importantly, funding issues are almost always the cause of delays.

If we adequately funded highway and infrastructure projects, we wouldn't be seeing so many delays the majority is so concerned with. NEPA is a convenient excuse, but the facts simply don't support the claim that it is the root cause of projects being delayed.

We should not be limiting the public's ability to comment on government decisions; but, instead, we should be enhancing them. This bill does the opposite. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and oppose the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, my colleague forgets to mention the fact that the lead Federal agency in this is responsible for maintaining a schedule, just like we do in private industry, just like we do in our own homes. That agency is responsible for going to the States and to the locals and other Federal agencies to make sure things are being done. Unfortunately, here in D.C., and sometimes at the State level, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing, and this is making agencies responsible for that. It is just common sense.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 28, line 4, and redesignate provisions accordingly.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, before I entered public service, I practiced environmental law for 15 years in large firms, in a government office, and in my own firm. Through that experience, I learned firsthand of the frustration that many businesses and local governments face when they try to navigate overly complex and underly responsive permit processes.

I also know from experience that time is money, and often a business seeking a permit is paying dearly to hold a property or to service a loan while it waits for that permit to be issued. That is why I have often said that for applicants, "no" is the second best answer. Tell us "no" or tell us how, but don't string us along.

That is why I appreciate the spirit of the RAPID Act. I don't think it is the perfect answer. Frankly, I don't think it will become law. I am working on some other streamlining strategies that I think are superior and might have the bipartisan support that both would get them through this Chamber and the Senate and get them signed into law by President Obama.

As I told my colleagues on the Committee on the Judiciary, I will vote for the RAPID Act if Congress adopts my amendment and does not pass restrictions on considering the role of greenhouse gasses and climate change on our environment.

My amendment would simply eliminate subsection (k) of the bill, a section that explicitly prohibits any consideration of the social cost of carbon. For too long we have heard that we

have to choose between a prosperous economy and a clean environment. San Diegans and people around the country know that is a false choice.

We can and we must provide economic opportunity and clean air and clean water for future generations. That means providing businesses and communities with regulatory certainty to help them plan and invest in the future, and it also means that we use this streamlined process, with tight and reliable deadlines, to analyze the economic, environmental, and social costs of carbon dioxide emissions.

As highlighted in former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg's bipartisan Risky Business report, accounting for the social cost of carbon and preparing for climate change is just smart business practice. The costs of carbon include financial losses from sea level rise. If we continue on our current path of carbon emissions, by 2050, between 66 and 106 billion dollars worth of existing coastal property will likely be below sea level nationwide. Eighty-seven percent of all Californians live in coastal counties, and 80 percent of the State's GDP is derived from those counties.

Climate affects energy supply costs. Greenhouse gas-driven changes in temperature, catalyzed by burning fossil fuels, would require us to build new power generation facilities to help cool homes and businesses that Risky Business estimates will cost residential and commercial ratepayers as much as \$12 billion a year.

That is \$12 billion that could be used by families to put their kids through school or buy a home, or by businesses to hire more employees.

Climate affects the cost of national defense. In 2014, the Pentagon issued a report on the security risks associated with profound changes to global climate and the environment. The report found that climate change poses an immediate threat to national security. That will put additional upward pressure on our already-stressed defense budget.

Climate affects agriculture, water supply, fire preparedness. In California, the largest agriculture producing State in the country, we are in the fourth year of what has been one of the worst droughts in recorded history. Communities across the State are facing water shortages. Dry conditions have extended our fire season to be nearly a year-round concern.

Given the stakes associated with carbon emissions on coastal property, energy, defense, our food supply, fires, and our quality of life, shouldn't we at least understand the long-term costs associated with the project?

This bill could hold the line on responsiveness and provide long-term certainty to businesses without burying our collective heads in the sand on

the costs of carbon, one of the main environmental impacts this environmental law must confront. By stripping out subsection (k) and allowing us to consider the real costs of carbon on our economy, my amendment rejects the false choice between a prosperous economy and a healthy climate. We can and we must have both.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, the amendment seeks to strike the bill's prohibition against agency use in permitting reviews of the Obama administration's pronouncements on the social costs of carbon, but this prohibition was adopted last term for a very good reason.

The administration's social cost of carbon estimate is junk science. To be specific, multiple commentators on the administration's findings about the social cost of carbon argue that carbon's social cost is an unknown quantity, that social cost of carbon analysts can get just about any result they desire by fiddling with nonvalidated climate parameters, made-up damage functions, and below-market discount rates, and that social cost of carbon analysis is computer-aided sophistry, its political function being to make renewable energy look like a bargain at any price and fossil energy look unaffordable, no matter how cheap.

Junk science and sophistry has no place standing between hard-working Americans and new, high-paying jobs.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, I have two responses. One, this is not President Obama's agenda. This is the agenda of a bipartisan report, Risky Business, the Department of Defense, and a number of other people who have recognized this is a real problem we have to confront.

Second, I would say to the gentleman: Let the science work itself out through the process. There is plenty of science that is questioned in the NEPA process. There is no other point at which this body has prevented a discussion of any content except here.

Let the process work it out. I will be with you on your timelines. We will get businesses the certainty that they deserve.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. MARINO. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania and fellow member of the Judiciary Committee for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. The social cost of carbon is a flawed concept that should play no role in the environmental decisionmaking process.

It is based on speculative formulas and has no basis in reality. Formulas can easily be manipulated to support any costly regulation.

The social cost of carbon is a political tool the Obama administration uses to impose its extreme agenda on the American people.

It is also another way that the administration tries to use secret science and data to justify questionable rule-making. Speculating on the social cost of carbon should be restricted, not expanded.

For these reasons, an agency should not use the social cost of carbon in its environmental review or in its environmental decisionmaking process.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 28, line 1, insert after "substantially related document," the following: "the draft guidance entitled: 'Revised Draft Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews' (79 Fed. Reg. 77801), or any successor thereto or substantially related document,".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense amendment that will protect American jobs and our economy by prohibiting Fed-

eral agencies from being forced to follow job-killing and unlawful draft guidance that sneakily seeks to implement Federal policies that pave the way for cap-and-trade-like mandates.

Congress and the American people have repeatedly rejected cap-and-trade proposals pushed by this President and his Big Government allies.

Knowing he can't lawfully enact a carbon dioxide tax plan, President Obama has chosen to circumvent Congress and is now seeking to address climate change by playing loose and getting creative with the Clean Air Act as well as through an unlawful guidance issued in December 2014.

The underlying bill already prohibits Federal agencies from utilizing the social cost of carbon valuation. Furthermore, the social cost of carbon valuation was rejected four times by this very body last Congress.

My simple, clarifying amendment adds to the Obama administration's revised draft guidance for greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change that were issued by the White House in December 2014 to the definition for social cost of carbon in the bill.

This straightforward amendment is common sense, as this deeply flawed guidance instructs agencies to include a controversial measurement of the social cost of carbon into their analyses and is the Obama administration's latest tool for attempting to implement this terrible new model that has consistently been rejected by the House.

Roger Martella, a self-described lifelong environmentalist and career environmental lawyer, testified at the May 2015 House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the revised guidance and the flaws associated with the social cost of carbon model, stating:

The "social cost of carbon" estimates suffer from a number of significant flaws that should exclude them from the NEPA process.

"First, projected costs of carbon emissions can be manipulated by changing key parameters such as timeframes, discount rates, and other values that have no relation to a given project undergoing review. As a result, applying social cost of carbon estimates can be used to promote predetermined policy preferences rather than provide for a fair and objective evaluation of a specific proposed federal action.

"Second, OMB and the other federal agencies developed the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates without any known peer review or opportunity for public comment during the development process. This process is antithetical to NEPA's central premise that informed agency decision making must be based on transparency and open dialogue with the public.

"Third, OMB's draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates are based primarily

on global rather than domestic costs and benefits. This is particularly problematic for NEPA reviews because the Courts have established that agencies cannot consider transnational impacts in NEPA reviews.

“Fourth, there is still considerable uncertainty in many of the assumptions and data elements used to create the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates, such as the damage functions and modeled time horizons. In light of the lack of transparency in the OMB’s process, these concerns over accuracy are particularly problematic.”

Mr. Martella’s testimony was spot on. Congress, not Washington bureaucrats at the behest of the President, should dictate our country’s climate change policy.

These sweeping new changes that are seeking to be implemented by the White House did not go through the normal regulatory process, and there was no public comment.

Furthermore, the Obama administration has refused to answer pivotal questions about this guidance and even failed to send a witness to a May 2015 hearing on this matter.

While the Obama administration acknowledged the draft guidance is not legally enforceable, you best believe that Federal agencies that received the 31-page revised guidance will treat this document like it was signed into law by the President.

Unfortunately, this administration just doesn’t get it and continues to try to circumvent Congress to impose an extremist agenda that is not based on the best available science.

Worse yet, the model utilized to predict the social cost of carbon can easily be manipulated to arrive at any desired outcome.

The House has rejected the social cost of carbon numerous times. I ask all those to join me once again in rejecting this flawed proposal and protecting jobs right here in America.

I commend the chairman and the committee for their efforts on this legislation and for recognizing that the NEPA process is in desperate need of reform.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Gosar amendment because it would weaken a critical part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Council on Environmental Quality recently issued draft guidance under NEPA detailing how Federal agencies should consider the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

This NEPA guidance is a common-sense and perfectly legal step toward reducing the Federal Government’s contribution and vulnerability to glob-

al warming. It is smart planning that accounts for risk and will save taxpayers money, something I am sure that everyone here can support.

Furthermore, the guidance will only increase NEPA’s effectiveness as a tool for environmental justice, helping communities that cannot afford expensive lobbyists to protect their homes and values. Climate change is hitting low-income communities and communities of color the hardest.

Instead of blocking progress, we should congratulate President Obama and CEQ on issuing this incredibly important and long overdue draft guidance to Federal agencies and urge them to issue a final version as soon as possible.

And, for the record, my understanding is CEQ did have a witness at the hearing that was just referred to.

This guidance makes clear that Federal agencies must factor greenhouse gas emissions and climate change into their decisions and will produce better, more informed and more efficient outcomes.

Efforts to convince the American people we have nothing to do with climate change—or, as Pope Francis said in words the American people understood yesterday: air pollution—will not slow the pace of actual climate change, and it will harm our economy, public health, and national security. That is why this is a bad amendment.

We urge you to vote against it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Earth’s climate has been changing since the beginning of time, and that is something that we can all agree on.

MIT researchers recently reported that there was a massive extinction some 252 million years ago that coincided with a massive buildup of carbon dioxide. While the cause of the massive buildup is unknown, it is safe to say that man did not exist and he still can’t explain it.

You can take all the carbon-producing applications, whether it be oil, coal, or volcanic action, and they still can’t get the models to predict. So we are leading the blind with the blind.

I ask for all Members to vote for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to read an excerpt from Pope Francis’ address to us yesterday that really stood out to me: “I call for a courageous and responsible effort to redirect our steps, and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference, and I have no doubt that the United States—and this Congress—have an important role to play.”

I take that call by our Pope very seriously. There are even reports today that China is going to announce a cap-and-trade program.

By considering this bill and this amendment, Congress is not playing a constructive role.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote “no” on the Gosar amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chair, I support the amendment.

It is bad enough that agencies already take too much time to conclude construction permit reviews.

It is even worse for them to draw out the process on the basis of junk science.

And that is precisely what the Obama administration’s pronouncements on the “social cost of carbon” appear to be.

The Obama administration’s current “social cost of carbon” estimate is plagued by defects including the lack of full scientific peer review, robust public comment, and full compliance with federal requirements for influential scientific assessments.

Subsection (K) of the bill prohibits the use of the administration’s “technical update of the social cost of carbon for regulatory impact analysis under Executive Order No. 12866,” as well as successors to it.

The gentleman’s amendment makes crystal clear that agencies also may not rely on administration “guidance” documents intended to facilitate agencies’ use of the prohibited technical document.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 114-261.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 31, beginning on line 4, strike “subsection (p)” and insert “subsections (q) and (r)”.

Page 31, line 17, insert after “(141).” the following:

“(r) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.—This subchapter does not apply in the case of any project that could be a potential target for a terrorist attack or that involves chemical facilities and other critical infrastructure.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, although we have been debating for a long period of time, let me say to my colleagues to remind them—and I see my good friend, Chairman GOODLATTE, on the floor—that this legislation amends the National Environmental Policy Act with good intentions.

However, what this bill will do is actually strip out critical input from Federal, State, local agencies, and the public, jeopardizing both the environment and public safety—let me repeat that—jeopardizing the American people, environment, and public safety.

The bill sets new, tight deadlines for environmental review, permitting, and licensing decisions and simply, as I said earlier, throws wisdom and good judgment to the wind.

I serve as a senior member on the Homeland Security Committee. And so I rise today with my amendment that improves the bill and helps to protect the homeland by carving a limiting exception for construction projects that could be potential targets for terrorist acts, such as chemical facilities, nuclear power plants, and other critical infrastructure.

Let me offer the comments of the Congressional Budget Office. They have no basis for estimating the number of construction projects that could be expedited or the savings that would be realized in this bill.

Of course, those who support it use that as their main Rock of Gibraltar, if you will, their main point of argument that this is a good bill. A good bill in the face of terrorism?

Director Comey has indicated that he has determined that there are ongoing investigations of suspected terrorist cells operating in all 50 States. Yet, we want to expedite this process when it is determining issues dealing with our national security to a certain extent.

This issue deals with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which the Circuit Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit said shall account for the potential environmental impacts of acts of terrorism in its environmental review process.

□ 1015

Are you going to rush them along?

The NRC has also imposed stringent antiterrorism requirements on its licenses through 10 CFR section 73, which outlines security requirements for the physical protection of nuclear plants and materials.

The Jackson Lee amendment covers nuclear power plants and, as well, chemical facilities to not rush the process to protect the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. This amendment denies the benefit of the bill's permit streamlining provisions to any and all projects that could be terrorist targets or involve chemical facilities or other critical infrastructure. That includes projects that would help to protect those infrastructures and facilities from terrorist attacks or other adversities.

Why would we want to delay permitting decisions on projects that would help to protect us?

The bill, moreover, already provides up to 4½ years for agencies to complete their environmental reviews for new permit applications and reasonable additional time for agencies to wrap up final permit approvals or denials after that.

As I have said before, if agencies can't wrap up their environmental reviews in that much time and then meet the bill's remaining deadlines, there is something terribly wrong with those agencies.

Mr. Chairman, new projects, whether they be infrastructure projects that make a dam stronger or make a highway safer or make a nuclear facility less vulnerable to attack, are all important things to do, and we should do them with expedition, not take longer rather than shorter to get them done, because all the time that we are spinning our wheels with the permitting process that can take 20 years or more, we are more vulnerable during that time.

Almost all new infrastructure projects are better than what they are replacing, and that should be our guiding principle. Get these things done expeditiously. It will make us safer. It will make us a better economy. It will create more jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time do we have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 3 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, quite the contrary to my good friend from Virginia, what this amendment does is protects the process of the NRC to fully review the potential impacts of terrorism on Federal construction projects involving nuclear facilities and chemical facilities as well.

In addition, I think when we hear the names Chernobyl, Fukushima, and Three Mile Island, we understand the vast and devastating impact of such an incident that may be caused or driven by terrorism.

I would not want to limit the NRC, which has been given court authority

by law to investigate and provide an investigation, thorough investigation, on the impact on chemical and nuclear plants, and we have it restricted. It takes more than 4 years to build a nuclear facility.

So are you suggesting that the facility, then, can go on and be built for 10, 20 years, and we shut off the NEPA that has the responsibilities for the American people? I don't think that is appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, let me suggest that the American people from the Alaska Wilderness League, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Western Environmental Law Center are against this bill.

I will place this into the RECORD.

Mr. Chairman, the Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality is opposed to this bill, and I will insert this into the RECORD.

I just want to mention that, of course, the President has issued a veto threat. Where this bill is going, I do not know. But the main thing I would like to say to my colleagues is: Can't we stand together united around the question of national security?

My amendment specifically indicates that this issue of terrorism should be a simple carve-out, and I would ask you to do so.

Let me also bring in the comments of the Pope as indicated yesterday:

If politics must truly be at the service of the human person, it follows that it cannot be a slave to the economy and finance. Politics is, instead, an expression of our compelling need to live as one in order to build, as one, the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, and its social life.

The interest of the American people is to accept the Jackson Lee amendment—to carve out an exception in this bill that is opposed by the President and all other aspects of goodwill people here dealing with the environment—to deal with this issue.

Might I remind you, Mr. Chairman, of the Volkswagen scandal. If a more robust process had been in mind, 11 million owners of Volkswagens—and 400,000 in the United States—might be in a better place.

This is a good amendment dealing with the safety and security of the American people. I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk; it is listed in the Rule as Jackson Lee 9.

Many of us wear a number of hats with dual committee assignments; I am a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

This perspective and these responsibilities have given me a special appreciation for the difficult and challenging times we live in and

the importance of not taking precipitous actions that could put the security of our homeland at risk.

Mr. Chair, if H.R. 348, the so-called RAPID Act, were to become law in its present form, a permit or license for project would be “deemed” approved if the reviewing agency does not issue the requested permit or license within 90–120 days.

The Jackson Lee Amendment improves the bill and helps to protect the homeland by carving a limited exception for construction projects that could be potential targets for terrorist attacks such as chemical facilities, nuclear power plants, and other critical infrastructure.

In particular, I think it is important to note that the FBI Director Comey recently indicated that there are ongoing investigations of suspected terrorist cells operating in all of the 50 states.

All federal agencies are subject to the environmental decision making requirements under NEPA.

This includes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which the Circuit of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has held “shall account for the potential environmental impacts of acts of terrorism in its environmental review process.”

The NRC has also imposed stringent anti-terrorism requirements on its licenses pursuant to 10 C.F.R. Section 73, which outlines security requirements for the physical protection of nuclear plants and materials.

A nuclear power plant is, a chemical facility covered by the Jackson Lee Amendment.

Mr. Chair, we should not limit the ability of the NRC to fully review the potential impacts of terrorism on Federal construction projects involving nuclear facilities and chemical facilities, as would be the case were H.R. 348 to become law.

Worse still, H.R. 348 would automatically deem construction projects approved even where the NRC needs more time to complete its review of the environmental risk and/or the potential vulnerability of a critical infrastructure facility to terrorist attack.

The Jackson Lee Amendment ensures the rushed and dangerous approach to the NEPA approval process embodied in H.R. 348 does not adversely impact the security of the homeland from the risk of terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities or other critical infrastructure construction projects.

In short, the Jackson Lee Amendment provided added protection to keep Americans safe.

I urge support for the Jackson Lee Amendment.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 348, the misleadingly named “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015.” Instead of improving the permitting process, the bill will severely undermine the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and, consequently, the quality and integrity of federal agency decisions.

The National Environmental Policy Act plays a critical role in ensuring that projects are carried out in a transparent, collaborative, and responsible manner. NEPA simply requires federal agencies to assess the environmental, economic, and public health

impacts of proposals, solicit the input of all affected stakeholders, and disclose their findings publicly before undertaking projects that may significantly affect the environment. Critically, NEPA recognizes that the public—which includes industry, citizens, local and state governments, and business owners—can make important contributions by providing unique expertise. NEPA also gives a voice to the most impacted and underrepresented, especially to the most vulnerable communities who usually have to bear the most burden of where federal projects are proposed in the first place. However, H.R. 348 strikes at these core purposes of NEPA by systematically prioritizing speed of decisions and project approval over the public interest.

Studies on the causes of delay in the permitting process reveal that the primary cause of delay is not the NEPA process. Rather, as multiple studies by the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service have pointed out, the principal causes of delay in permitting rest outside the NEPA process entirely and are attributable to other factors such as lack of funding, project complexity, and local opposition to the project. The RAPID Act ignores the true causes of delay, and instead, focuses on institutionalizing dangerous “reforms” that restrict public input, limit review of the environmental and economic impacts of projects, and that create more, not less, bureaucracy. Provisions in the RAPID Act, such as the following, will create more delays in permitting, result in less flexibility in the process, and tilt the entire permitting process towards shareholder interest, not the public interest. For example, the bill:

Places Arbitrary Limitations on Environmental Reviews—Section 560(i) of the bill threatens to undermine NEPA’s goal of informed decision-making and the agency’s role of acting in the public interest. It sets arbitrary deadlines on environmental reviews of permits, licenses, or other applications—regardless of the possible economic, health, or environmental impacts. Consequently, it puts communities at risk by promoting rushed and faulty decisions.

Limits Consideration of Alternatives—Section 560(g) strikes at what CEQ regulations describe as “the heart of the NEPA process” by restricting the range of reasonable alternatives to be considered by an agency.

Creates Serious Conflicts of Interests—Section 560(c) blurs the distinct roles of private entities and agencies in agency decisions by allowing private project sponsors with stakes in the decision to prepare environmental review documents which creates inherent conflicts of interest and thus jeopardizes the integrity of the decision-making process.

Leading to Unanticipated Delays—The bill forces stakeholders into court preemptively simply to preserve their right to judicial review. The bill also limits the public’s judicial access to challenge and address faulty environmental reviews which in turn is likely to increase the controversy and the amount of litigation derived from the permitting process which in turn could add to project delays.

Denies the Impacts of Climate Change—Section 560(k) of the bill prohibits any considerations of the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), which the EPA and other federal agencies use to estimate the economic damages associated with specific projects and their related carbon dioxide emissions. The tool is critical for the public to understand the true benefits and costs of a project. Ig-

norning climate change puts critical infrastructure, tax payer dollars, and local communities at risk.

Provisions such as these and many more in the RAPID Act will only serve to increase delay and confusion around the environmental review process. We believe compromising the quality of environmental review and limiting the role of the public is the wrong approach.

Far from being broken, the National Environmental Policy Act has proven its worth as an invaluable tool. It ensures that the public, developers, and agencies have a reliable template for consistent and fair proposal assessment for major projects that may impact federal resources. The RAPID Act contradicts and jeopardizes decades of experience gained from enacting this critical environmental law. Further, it tips the balance away from informed decisions and public oversight, jeopardizing the public’s ability to participate in how public resources will be managed. Please oppose this unnecessary and overreaching piece of legislation and vote “no” on the RAPID Act.

Alaska Wilderness League, American Rivers, Center for Biological Diversity, Citizens for Global Solution, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Air Council, Clean Water Action, Conservation Colorado, Conservators for Responsible Stewardship, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, EDF Action, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Epic—Environmental Protection Information Center, Energy Action Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, Green Latinos, Kentucky Heartwood, Klamath Forest Alliance, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, League of Conservation Voters, Los Padres ForestWatch, Marine Conservation Institute, Montana Environmental Information Center, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Energy Economy, New Jersey Sierra Club, Oceana, Ocean Conservation Research, Public Citizen, Rachel Carson Council, Safe Climate Campaign, Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, SustainUS, Union of Concerned Scientists, Western Environmental Law Center, The Wilderness Society.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY,

Washington, DC, September 24, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman,
House Committee on the Judiciary.
Hon. JOHN CONYERS, JR.,
Ranking Member,
House Committee on the Judiciary.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE AND RANKING MEMBER CONYERS: I am writing to you to provide the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) views on H.R. 348, the “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015.” Although the bill purports to streamline environmental reviews, we believe the legislation is deeply flawed and will undermine the environmental review process. If enacted, these changes could lead to more confusion and delay, interfere with public participation and transparency, and hamper economic growth.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law by President

Richard Nixon after passing Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. NEPA ushered in a new era of citizen participation in government, and it required the government to elevate the consideration of the environmental effects of its proposed actions. It remains one of the cornerstones of our Nation's modern environmental protections.

NEPA is as relevant and critical today as it was in 1970. NEPA focuses and informs decision makers, policy makers, and the public on alternatives and the tradeoffs involved in making decisions. Today, we take for granted that governmental decision making should be open and transparent, that government actions should be carefully thought out and their consequences explained, and that government should be accountable. Prior to the enactment of NEPA, this was not always the case. H.R. 348 would undo more than four decades of transparent, open, and accountable government decision making.

The Administration believes that America's economic health and prosperity are tied to the productive and sustainable use of our environment, and the President has stressed these principles since his first day in office. NEPA remains a vital tool for the Nation as we work to protect our environment and public health and continue to grow our economy.

The President also takes seriously the need for efficient permitting and decision making by Federal agencies. American taxpayers, communities and businesses deserve nothing less. However, we reject the notion that NEPA and other Federal environmental laws and regulations hinder job creation.

For example, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has found that 96.5 percent of federally funded highway projects are approved under the least intensive, shortest and quickest layer of NEPA analysis, namely categorical exclusions (CEs). CEs can take as little as a few days to a few months to complete, not years, and are usually done concurrently with other aspects of the project review process so that the entire review process is completed quickly. Only 0.3 percent of FHWA projects require a full environmental impact statement (EIS), the most detailed study under NEPA. When there are project delays, they are typically caused by incomplete funding packages, project complexity, changes in project scope, local opposition, and low local priority, or compliance with other laws and requirements facilitated by the NEPA process, but rarely NEPA itself. An investigation by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the NEPA process in federally funded highway projects bore this same point out.

Within the Administration, we have prioritized improving the environmental review process and continue to make advancements in this space that will improve interagency coordination and synchronization of reviews to increase decision-making speed; improve project siting and project quality; expand innovative mitigation approaches; and drive accountability and transparency through the expanded use of an online permitting dashboard. For example, under Executive Order 13604, the interagency infrastructure permitting steering committee established the permitting dashboard, which makes project schedules transparent to the public and is designed to improve the timeliness and environmental outcomes of the permitting process. This was followed by a Presidential Memorandum to Federal Agencies on May 17, 2013 to modernize Federal infrastructure review, permitting regulations, policies and procedures to significantly re-

duce the time it takes to permit infrastructure projects. In addition, CEQ has taken several steps to improve and make more efficient Federal agency decision making.

This year, the Administration released an updated "how-to" handbook (also known as the Red Book), Synchronizing Environmental Reviews for Transportation and other Infrastructure Projects, to improve and modernize NEPA and other types of reviews, such as those required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), by providing information to facilitate more widespread adoption of concurrent reviews. More synchronized reviews by Federal permitting agencies will lead to more effective and efficient environmental reviews and projects with reduced impacts to the environment as well as savings of time and money.

CEQ also initiated a NEPA Pilot Program in March 2011 to solicit ideas from Federal agencies and the public about innovative time- and cost-saving approaches to NEPA implementation. Under this process, CEQ is working to identify additional innovative approaches that reduce the time and costs required for effective implementation of its NEPA regulations.

H.R. 348 would make a number of considerable changes to Federal agency regulatory review, permitting, and environmental analysis that undercut the core principles embodied in NEPA, including reasoned decision-making and public involvement. The legislation seeks to implement these changes to Federal agency decision making under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The passage of this legislation will lead to two sets of standards by which Federal agencies would be expected to comply, one for "construction projects" under the APA and one for all other Federal actions, such as rule-making or planning, under NEPA. This would lead to confusion, delay, and inefficiency.

Moreover, the legislation would direct agencies, upon the request of a project sponsor, to adopt State documents if the State laws and procedures provide environmental protection and opportunities for public involvement "that are substantially equivalent to NEPA." In our view, it is difficult to determine whether a State statute is substantially equivalent to NEPA and the legislation contains no requirement for agencies to determine if the State documents are adequate for NEPA purposes. More importantly, the State document may have looked at a different purpose and need for the project, a different set of alternatives than the Federal agency would have looked at, and relied on different standards for analysis. The State, for example, may not have looked at the same factors that Federal agencies are required to consider, such as environmental justice and wetlands protection. Finally, no two State processes are alike, compounding confusion for projects that cross State lines. Thus, a Federal agency's reliance on State documents may lead to inconsistencies between Federal projects and agencies, different environmental goals and protections, confusion among the public, and unclear results for businesses and project applicants.

The legislation also establishes arbitrary deadlines for the completion of NEPA analyses. Factors such as feasibility and engineering studies, non-Federal funding, conflicting priorities, local opposition, or appli-

cant responsiveness are just a few examples of delays outside of the control of an agency. Arbitrary deadlines and provisions that automatically approve a project if the agency is unable to make a decision due to one of the factors described above will lead to increased litigation, more delays, and denied projects as agencies will have no choice but to deny a project if the review and analysis cannot be completed before the proposed deadlines.

These comments illustrate a few of the many concerns we have with the legislation. The Administration would be happy to provide the Committee with a more thorough and exhaustive list of our substantive concerns with the legislation at the request of the Committee.

In closing, when properly implemented, NEPA improves collaboration, consensus, accountability, and transparency surrounding government decision-making and actions. Our Nation's long-term prosperity depends upon our faithful stewardship of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land that supports and sustains us. Our country has been strengthened by the open, accountable, informed, and citizen-involved decision-making structure created by NEPA, and our economy has prospered.

Sincerely,

CHRISTY GOLDFUSS,
Managing Director,
Council on Environmental Quality.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to say to my colleague from Texas that this bill is about national security.

The gentlewoman is right. We can all agree on the importance of national security and protecting our security, but making sure that when projects are planned they are implemented within a reasonable period of time. And we are talking about years—not days or weeks or even months—years for a permitting, years for examination to make sure that these are done carefully, but not decades, as happens now with a number of different projects that have been discussed over the last 2 days that, in their current state, without the kinds of repairs, without the kinds of increased improvements, without the kinds of additional safety and security protections that new projects bring online, we are more vulnerable, not less. I fear that the gentlewoman from Texas' amendment would do just that.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank my good friend for yielding to me.

Maybe we can work together on this amendment because it is a simple carve-out. It should be narrow. It clarifies that the bill's provision does not apply to environmental reviews or permitting on other agencies' decisions that could deal with potential terrorist attack targets, such as chemical facilities and other critical infrastructure. I don't think that that is something that

the gentleman and myself would disagree with and, particularly, the nuclear plants, which take a longer period of time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Reclaiming my time, I would say to the gentlewoman that the bill allows lots of time for each stage of the permitting process to cover and discover ways to make a project more secure, to make it safer, to improve it in a variety of different ways; and that the gentlewoman's amendment would harm the ability to do that, not help, because it would slow down the process under which we would have these new projects able to begin construction and then be completed.

With that, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON
OF GEORGIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 114-261.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add, at the end of the bill, the following:

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall have the effect of changing or limiting any law or regulation that requires or provides for public comment or public participation in an agency decision making process.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 420, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is simple. It protects the right of the public to comment.

This amendment reads: "Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall have the effect of changing or limiting any law or regulation that requires or provides for public comment or public participation in an agency decision making process."

Now, yesterday, Mr. Chairman, the Pope, right here in this very room, called on each of us to pursue a common good, which he told us requires a courageous and responsible effort. And certainly, if we are going to protect the common good, it requires that we pro-

tect the right of the public to comment on projects that have an adverse impact on our precious environment, right there where they live.

This amendment would restore the right of any member of the public to comment on construction projects that may have an environmental impact; and because of that, I don't expect any opposition to this amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Like a number of well-respected environmental groups, I oppose H.R. 348, the so-called RAPID Act, which threatens public health and safety by putting a thumb on the scales of justice in favor of private sector businesses in the project approval process.

It is yet another antiregulatory measure whose only design is to grease the wheels of the approval process of projects that are environmentally sensitive.

Aside from creating duplicative and costly requirements that pertain to certain types of projects, the RAPID Act would also limit the right of the public to comment on these projects.

This bill does that in two ways: first, by reducing opportunities for public input, and secondly, by fast-tracking the approval process through arbitrary deadlines.

Through an open, flexible, and timely process, NEPA empowers the public to weigh in on decisions. That means that the local farmer who owns land that would be affected by a Federal construction project—let's say a nasty pipeline like Keystone—it ensures that that local farmer would have the ability and would stand on local footing with the construction industry and with the Federal Government.

My amendment is vital to ensuring that the RAPID Act does not shut the public out of the process. I am sure that all minds agree that that is reasonable. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I do rise in opposition to this amendment.

I do share, however, the interest of the gentleman from Georgia in promoting the common good, as mentioned by Pope Francis when he spoke in this Chamber yesterday. But the common good is people coming together to improve their lives by creating improved infrastructure for transportation, whether that is highways or mass transit, for delivering energy resources to places where that energy needs to be delivered, to improving the shipping lanes so that goods can be shipped to and from this country and within this country in ways

that make it easier for consumers to receive the energy, the products, the transportation that they need and deserve.

The RAPID Act will create jobs by ensuring that the Federal environmental review and permitting process works like it should. It will also make sure that these infrastructure projects that deliver the common good will do so in a reasonable period of time, so people won't have to wait 20 years, like we heard yesterday from the gentleman from Texas, about simply lowering the draft, the 8 feet lower, for ships to get up the waterway in east Texas to deliver goods and pick up goods from ports in that part of the country. Why 20 years to make a decision about dredging 8 feet from a waterway?

The RAPID Act is drafted to make agencies operate efficiently and transparently. That is not happening in so many, many instances. But, it does not prevent citizens from participating in that process. In fact, the bill makes sure that agencies provide the public with reasonable public comment periods. It authorizes up to 60 days of public comment on Environmental Impact Statements, up to 30 days of comments on environmental assessments and other documents, and grants the lead agency authority to negotiate extensions or provide them on its own "for good cause."

□ 1030

This is more than fair. By comparison, the National Environmental Policy Act, which has been cited many times on the other side of the aisle, only requires agencies to allow 45 days for public comment—not the 60 days provided in the RAPID Act—on draft environmental impact statements and 30 days for public comments on final environmental impact statements.

The RAPID Act also reasonably requires that a person comment on an environmental document before challenging it in court and bring any suit within 6 months as opposed to 6 years. Opponents should not be able to delay a project indefinitely by playing "hide the ball" with agencies or by resting on their rights.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to respond. First, in the narrowed circumstances in which an agency may supplement an environmental impact statement under the bill, the lead agency "may" solicit comments from agencies and the public for not more than 30 days beginning on the date of the publication of the supplement.

CEQ regulations require an agency to provide for a 45-day public review and

comment period, although there is also a provision in the CEQ regulations that allows CEQ to approve alternative procedures for supplemental EISs if circumstances warrant a deviation from the normal process.

Secondly, under the bill, each participating agency is to limit its comments on a project to areas within the authority and expertise of the agency and identify statutory authority for their comments.

It specifically prohibits the lead agency from acting upon, responding to or including any document that is "outside of the authority and expertise of the commenting participating agency."

This is inconsistent with the CEQ regulations, which allow all agencies—whether local, tribal, State, or Federal—to comment on any substantive issue relative to the NEPA analysis, just as all members of the public should be able to do.

So, finally, I would just point out that, if we are talking about efficiency and if we are talking about the common good, it does the public no good to cut out public comment from this process. If we can agree on that, then we can agree that this amendment is a good one. With that, I ask for its approval.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1020. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

RESPONSIBLY AND PROFESSIONALLY INVIGORATING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2015

The Committee resumed its sitting.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 114-261 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. GALLEGOS of Arizona.

Amendment No. 5 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

Amendment No. 6 by Mrs. DINGELL of Michigan.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. PETERS of California.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

Amendment No. 9 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

Amendment No. 10 by Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 170, noes 228, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 508]

AYES—170

Adams	Conyers	Galleo
Aguilar	Cooper	Garamendi
Ashford	Courtney	Gibson
Beatty	Crowley	Graham
Bera	Cummings	Grayson
Beyer	Curbelo (FL)	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Green, Gene
Bonamici	Davis, Danny	Grijalva
Boyle, Brendan F.	DeFazio	Gutiérrez
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Hahn
Brown (FL)	Delaney	Hastings
Brownley (CA)	DeLauro	Heck (WA)
Bustos	DeBene	Himes
Butterfield	DeSaulnier	Hinojosa
Capps	Dingell	Honda
Capuano	Doggett	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Dold	Huffman
Carney	Doyle, Michael F.	Israel
Carson (IN)	Duckworth	Jackson Lee
Cartwright	Edwards	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Engel	Johnson, E. B.
Chu, Judy	Eshoo	Kaptur
Clark (MA)	Esty	Keating
Clarke (NY)	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Clay	Fattah	Kennedy
Cleaver	Foster	Kilmer
Clyburn	Frankel (FL)	Kind
Cohen	Fudge	Kirkpatrick
Connolly	Gabbard	Kuster
		Langevin

Larsen (WA)	Nolan	Serrano
Larson (CT)	Norcross	Sewell (AL)
Lawrence	O'Rourke	Sherman
Lee	Pallone	Sinema
Levin	Pascrell	Sires
Lieu, Ted	Payne	Slaughter
Lipinski	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
Loeb sack	Perlmuter	Swalwell (CA)
Lofgren	Peters	Takai
Lowenthal	Pingree	Takano
Lowe	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Price (NC)	Titus
Lynch	Quigley	Tonko
Maloney, Carolyn	Rangel	Van Hollen
Maloney, Sean	Rice (NY)	Vargas
Matsui	Richmond	Veasey
McDermott	Ros-Lehtinen	Vela
McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Velázquez
McNerney	Ruiz	Visclosky
Meeks	Ruppersberger	Walz
Meng	Rush	Wasserman
Moore	Ryan (OH)	Schultz
Moulton	Sánchez, Linda T.	Waters, Maxine
Nadler	Schakowsky	Watson Coleman
Napolitano	Schiff	Welch
Neal	Schrader	Wilson (FL)
	Scott (VA)	Yarmuth

NOES—228

Abraham	Gohmert	McSally
Aderholt	Goodlatte	Meadows
Allen	Gosar	Meehan
Amash	Gowdy	Messer
Babin	Granger	Mica
Barr	Graves (GA)	Miller (FL)
Benishek	Graves (LA)	Miller (MI)
Billakis	Graves (MO)	Mooney (WV)
Bishop (MI)	Griffith	Mullin
Black	Grothman	Mulvaney
Blackburn	Guinta	Murphy (PA)
Blum	Guthrie	Neugebauer
Bost	Hanna	Newhouse
Boustany	Hardy	Noem
Brat	Harper	Nugent
Bridenstine	Harris	Nunes
Brooks (AL)	Hartzler	Olson
Brooks (IN)	Hensarling	Palazzo
Bucshon	Herrera Beutler	Palmer
Burgess	Hice, Jody B.	Paulsen
Byrne	Hill	Pearce
Calvert	Holding	Perry
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Peterson
Chabot	Huelskamp	Pittenger
Chaffetz	Huizenga (MI)	Pitts
Clawson (FL)	Hultgren	Poe (TX)
Coffman	Hunter	Poliquin
Cole	Hurd (TX)	Pompeo
Collins (GA)	Hurt (VA)	Posey
Collins (NY)	Issa	Ratcliffe
Comstock	Jenkins (KS)	Reed
Conaway	Johnson (OH)	Reichert
Cook	Johnson, Sam	Renacci
Costa	Jolly	Ribble
Costello (PA)	Jordan	Rice (SC)
Cramer	Joyce	Rigell
Crawford	Katko	Roby
Crenshaw	Kelly (MS)	Roe (TN)
Cuellar	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Culberson	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Davis, Rodney	King (NY)	Rohrabacher
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rokita
Dent	Kline	Rooney (FL)
DeSantis	Knight	Roskam
DesJarlais	Labrador	Ross
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Rothenfus
Donovan	Lamborn	Rouzer
Duffy	Lance	Royce
Duncan (SC)	Latta	Russell
Duncan (TN)	LoBiondo	Ryan (WI)
Ellmers (NC)	Loudermilk	Salmon
Emmer (MN)	Love	Sanford
Farenthold	Lucas	Scalise
Fincher	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Fitzpatrick	Lummis	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	MacArthur	Sensenbrenner
Fleming	Marino	Sessions
Flores	Massie	Shimkus
Forbes	McCarthy	Shuster
Fortenberry	McCauley	Simpson
Fox	McClintock	Smith (MO)
Franks (AZ)	McHenry	Smith (NE)
Frelinghuysen	McKinley	Smith (NJ)
Garrett	McMorris	Smith (TX)
Gibbs	Rodgers	Stefanik

Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner

Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.

Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaHood
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence

Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Luetkemeyer
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin

Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Gibbs
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Harris
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hurt (VA)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Knight
Labrador
Lamborn

Loudermilk
Love
Lummis
Massie
McCauley
McClintock
Meadows
Mica
Mooney (WV)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Olson
Palazzo
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Ratcliffe
Rice (SC)

Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Salmon
Sanford
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Thornberry
Tipton
Walker
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Womack
Woodall
Yoho
Zinke

NOT VOTING—36

Amodei
Barletta
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Brady (TX)
Buchanan
Buck
Carter (TX)
Cicilline
Deutch

Heck (NV)
Higgins
Jenkins (WV)
Jones
Kildee
LaMalfa
Lewis
Long
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Marchant
McCollum
Moolenaar

Murphy (FL)
Polis
Price, Tom
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scott, David
Speier
Thompson (CA)
Torres
Tsongas
Williams

Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen

Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebbeck
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond

NOT VOTING—26

Amodei
Barletta
Barton
Bishop (UT)
Buchanan
Buck
Deutch
Heck (NV)
Jenkins (WV)

Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kildee
LaMalfa
Lewis
Long
Marchant
McCollum
Moolenaar

Murphy (FL)
Price, Tom
Roybal-Allard
Sanchez, Loretta
Scott, David
Speier
Tsongas
Williams

□ 1106

Messrs. CONAWAY, RENACCI, STEWART, and TURNER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. MOORE and Mr. CURBELO of Florida changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BYRNE). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 320, noes 88, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 509]

AYES—320

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (IN)

Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Clyburn

Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney

Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy

Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy

NOES—88

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Babin
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat

Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Coffman

□ 1114

Messrs. ADERHOLT and MULVANEY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. WITTMAN, BARR, ROYCE, COLE, GUTHRIE, and DOLD changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for one roll call vote on Friday, September 25, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Rollcall vote No. 509—Grijalva amendment—“yes.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, on rollcall Nos. 508 and 509 I was detained and missed the votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on both.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 230, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 510]

AYES—179

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Moulton
Aguilar	Fudge	Nadler
Ashford	Gabbard	Napolitano
Bass	Gallego	Neal
Beatty	Garamendi	Nolan
Becerra	Graham	Norcross
Bera	Grayson	O'Rourke
Beyer	Green, Al	Pallone
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Payne
Bonamici	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan F.	Hahn	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Higgins	Price (NC)
Bustos	Himes	Quigley
Butterfield	Hinojosa	Rangel
Byrne	Honda	Rice (NY)
Capps	Hoyer	Richmond
Capuano	Huffman	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Israel	Ruiz
Carney	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Rush
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda T.
Castro (TX)	Jolly	Sarbanes
Chu, Judy	Kaptur	Schakowsky
Ciçilline	Keating	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Scott (VA)
Clay	Kilmer	Serrano
Cleaver	Kind	Sewell (AL)
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Sherman
Cohen	Kuster	Sinema
Connolly	Lance	Sires
Conyers	Langevin	Slaughter
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Smith (WA)
Costa	Larson (CT)	Swalwell (CA)
Courtney	Lawrence	Takai
Crowley	Lee	Takano
Cummings	Levin	Thompson (CA)
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Thompson (MS)
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Titus
DeFazio	Loeb sack	Tonko
DeGette	Lofgren	Torres
Delaney	Lowenthal	Van Hollen
DeLauro	Lowe y	Vargas
DelBene	Lujan Grisham	Veasey
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Vela
Dingell	Luján, Ben Ray	Velázquez
Doggett	(NM)	Visclosky
Doyle, Michael F.	Lynch	Walz
Duckworth	Maloney, Carolyn	Wasserman
Edwards	Maloney, Sean	Schultz
Ellison	Matsui	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	McDermott	Watson Coleman
Esty	McGovern	Welch
Farr	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Fattah	Meeks	Yarmuth
Foster	Meng	
	Moore	

NOES—230

Abraham	Cole	Fincher
Aderholt	Collins (GA)	Fitzpatrick
Allen	Collins (NY)	Fleischmann
Amash	Comstock	Fleming
Babin	Conaway	Flores
Barr	Cook	Forbes
Benishek	Costello (PA)	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Cramer	Foxx
Bishop (MI)	Crawford	Franks (AZ)
Black	Crenshaw	Frelinghuysen
Blackburn	Cuellar	Garrett
Blum	Culberson	Gibbs
Bost	Curbelo (FL)	Gibson
Boustany	Davis, Rodney	Gohmert
Brady (TX)	Denham	Goodlatte
Brat	Dent	Gosar
Bridenstine	DeSantis	Gowdy
Brooks (AL)	DesJarlais	Granger
Brooks (IN)	Diaz-Balart	Graves (GA)
Bucshon	Dold	Graves (LA)
Burgess	Donovan	Graves (MO)
Calvert	Duffy	Griffith
Carter (GA)	Duncan (SC)	Grothman
Carter (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Guinta
Chabot	Ellmers (NC)	Guthrie
Chaffetz	Emmer (MN)	Hanna
Clawson (FL)	Engel	Hardy
Coffman	Farenthold	Harper

Harris	McSally	Royce
Hartzler	Meadows	Russell
Hensarling	Meehan	Ryan (WI)
Herrera Beutler	Messer	Salmon
Hice, Jody B.	Mica	Sanford
Hill	Miller (FL)	Scalise
Holding	Miller (MI)	Schweikert
Hudson	Mooney (WV)	Scott, Austin
Huelskamp	Mullin	Sensenbrenner
Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney	Sessions
Hultgren	Murphy (PA)	Shimkus
Hunter	Neugebauer	Shuster
Hurd (TX)	Newhouse	Simpson
Hurt (VA)	Noem	Smith (MO)
Issa	Nugent	Smith (NE)
Jenkins (KS)	Nunes	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (OH)	Olson	Smith (TX)
Johnson, Sam	Palazzo	Stefanik
Jordan	Palmer	Stewart
Joyce	Paulsen	Stivers
Katko	Pearce	Stutzman
Kelly (MS)	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Kelly (PA)	Peters	Thornberry
King (IA)	Peterson	Trott
King (NY)	Pittenger	Turner
Kinzing (IL)	Pitts	Upton
Kline	Poe (TX)	Valadao
Knight	Poliquin	Wagner
Labrador	Pompeo	Walberg
LaHood	Posey	Walden
LaMalfa	Ratcliffe	Walker
Lamborn	Reed	Walorski
Latta	Reichert	Walters, Mimi
LoBiondo	Renacci	Weber (TX)
Loudermilk	Ribble	Webster (FL)
Love	Rice (SC)	Wenstrup
Lucas	Rigell	Westerman
Luetkemeyer	Roby	Westmoreland
Lummis	Roe (TN)	Whitfield
MacArthur	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (SC)
Marino	Rogers (KY)	Wittman
Massie	Rohrabacher	Womack
McCarthy	Rokita	Woodall
McCaul	Rooney (FL)	Yoder
McClintock	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoho
McHenry	Roskam	Young (AK)
McKinley	Ross	Young (IA)
McMorris	Rothfus	Young (IN)
Rodgers	Rouzer	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—25

Amodei	Jones	Price, Tom
Barletta	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Barton	Lewis	Scott, David
Bishop (UT)	Long	Speier
Buchanan	Marchant	Tiberi
Buck	McCollum	Tsongas
Deutch	Moolenaar	Williams
Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)	
Jenkins (WV)	Pelosi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1119

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 237, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 511]

AYES—173

Adams	Foster	Moore
Aguilar	Frankel (FL)	Moulton
Ashford	Fudge	Nadler
Bass	Gabbard	Napolitano
Beatty	Gallego	Neal
Becerra	Garamendi	Norcross
Bera	Graham	O'Rourke
Beyer	Grayson	Pallone
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Payne
Bonamici	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan F.	Gutiérrez	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Hastings	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Price (NC)
Bustos	Higgins	Quigley
Butterfield	Himes	Rangel
Capps	Hinojosa	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Honda	Richmond
Cárdenas	Hoyer	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Huffman	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Israel	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Rush
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Chu, Judy	Johnson, E. B.	Sarbanes
Ciçilline	Kaptur	Schakowsky
Clark (MA)	Keating	Schiff
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Scott (VA)
Clay	Kennedy	Serrano
Cleaver	Kilmer	Sewell (AL)
Clyburn	Kind	Sherman
Cohen	Kirkpatrick	Sinema
Connolly	Kuster	Sires
Conyers	Langevin	Slaughter
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Swalwell (CA)
Crowley	Lawrence	Takai
Cummings	Lee	Takano
Davis (CA)	Levin	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lieu, Ted	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Lipinski	Titus
DeGette	Loeb sack	Tonko
Delaney	Lofgren	Torres
DeLauro	Lowenthal	Van Hollen
DelBene	Lowe y	Vargas
DeSaulnier	Lujan Grisham	Veasey
Dingell	(NM)	Vela
Doggett	Luján, Ben Ray	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael F.	(NM)	Visclosky
Duckworth	Lynch	Walz
Edwards	Maloney, Carolyn	Wasserman
Ellison	Maloney, Sean	Schultz
Engel	Matsui	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	McDermott	Watson Coleman
Esty	McGovern	Welch
Farr	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Fattah	Meeks	Yarmuth
	Meng	

NOES—237

Abraham	Chaffetz	Duncan (SC)
Aderholt	Clawson (FL)	Duncan (TN)
Allen	Coffman	Ellmers (NC)
Amash	Cole	Emmer (MN)
Babin	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Barr	Collins (NY)	Fincher
Benishek	Comstock	Fitzpatrick
Bilirakis	Conaway	Fleischmann
Bishop (MI)	Cook	Fleming
Black	Costa	Flores
Blackburn	Costello (PA)	Forbes
Blum	Cramer	Fortenberry
Bost	Crawford	Foxx
Boustany	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Brady (TX)	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Brat	Culberson	Garrett
Bridenstine	Curbelo (FL)	Gibbs
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Rodney	Gibson
Brooks (IN)	Dent	Gohmert
Bucshon	DeSantis	Goodlatte
Burgess	DesJarlais	Gosar
Byrne	Diaz-Balart	Gowdy
Calvert	Dold	Granger
Carter (GA)	Donovan	Graves (GA)
Carter (TX)	Duffy	Graves (LA)
Chabot		Graves (MO)

Griffith McHenry
Grothman McKinley
Guinta McMorris
Guthrie Rodgers
Hanna McSally
Hardy Meadows
Harper Meehan
Harris Messer
Hartzler Mica
Hensarling Miller (FL)
Herrera Beutler Miller (MI)
Hice, Jody B. Mooney (WV)
Hill Mullin
Holding Mulvaney
Hudson Murphy (PA)
Huelskamp Neugebauer
Huizenga (MI) Newhouse
Hultgren Noem
Hunter Nugent
Hurd (TX) Nunes
Hurt (VA) Olson
Issa Palazzo
Jenkins (KS) Palmer
Johnson (OH) Paulsen
Johnson, Sam Pearce
Jolly Perry
Jordan Peters
Joyce Peterson
Katko Pittenger
Kelly (MS) Pitts
Kelly (PA) Poe (TX)
King (IA) Poliquin
King (NY) Pompeo
Kinzinger (IL) Posey
Kline Ratcliffe
Knight Reed
Labrador Reichert
LaHood Renacci
LaMalfa Ribble
Lamborn Rice (SC)
Lance Rigell
Latta Roby
LoBiondo Roe (TN)
Loudermilk Rogers (AL)
Love Rogers (KY)
Lucas Rohrabacher
Luetkemeyer Rokita
Lummis Rooney (FL)
MacArthur Ros-Lehtinen
Marino Roskam
Massie Ross
McCarthy Rothfus
McCaul Rouzer
McClintock Royce

NOT VOTING—24

Amodei Jenkins (WV)
Barletta Jones
Barton Kildee
Bishop (UT) Lewis
Buchanan Long
Buck Marchant
Deutch McCollum
Heck (NV) Moolenaar

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1124

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DIN-
GELL) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 187, noes 223,
not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 512]

AYES—187

Adams Fitzpatrick
Aguilar Foster
Ashford Frankel (FL)
Bass Fudge
Beatty Gabbard
Becerra Gallego
Bera Garamendi
Beyer Graham
Bishop (GA) Grayson
Blumenauer Green, Al
Bonamici Green, Gene
Boyle, Brendan Grijalva
F. Gutierrez
Brady (PA) Hahn
Brown (FL) Hastings
Brownley (CA) Heck (WA)
Bustos Higgins
Butterfield Himes
Capps Hinojosa
Capuano Honda
Cárdenas Hoyer
Carney Huffman
Carlson (IN) Israel
Cartwright Jackson Lee
Castor (FL) Jeffries
Castro (TX) Johnson (GA)
Chu, Judy Johnson, E. B.
Cicilline Kaptur
Clark (MA) Keating
Clarke (NY) Kelly (IL)
Clay Kennedy
Cleaver Kilmer
Clyburn Kind
Cohen Kirkpatrick
Connolly Kuster
Conyers Langevin
Cooper Larsen (WA)
Costa Larson (CT)
Courtney Lawrence
Crowley Lee
Cuellar Levin
Cummings Lieu, Ted
Curbelo (FL) Lipinski
Davis (CA) Loebsack
Davis, Danny Lofgren
DeFazio Lowenthal
DeGette Lowey
Delaney Lujan Grisham
DeLauro (NM)
DeBene Luján, Ben Ray
Dent (NM)
DeSaulnier Lynch
Diaz-Balart MacArthur
Dingell Maloney
Doggett Carolyn
Doyle, Michael Maloney, Sean
F. Matsui
Duckworth McDermott
Edwards McGovern
Ellison McNerney
Engel Meeks
Eshoo Meng
Esty Miller (MI)
Farr Moore
Fattah Moulton

NOES—223

Abraham Crenshaw
Aderholt Culberson
Allen Burgess
Amash Calvert
Babin Carter (GA)
Barr Carter (TX)
Benishek Chabot
Bilirakis Chaffetz
Bishop (MI) Clawson (FL)
Black Coffman
Blackburn Cole
Blum Collins (GA)
Bost Collins (NY)
Boustany Comstock
Brady (TX) Conaway
Brat Cook
Bridenstine Costello (PA)
Brooks (AL) Cramer
Brooks (IN) Crawford

Fortenberry LoBiondo
Foxy Loudermilk
Franks (AZ) Love
Frelinghuysen Lucas
Garratt Luetkemeyer
Gibbs Lummis
Gibson Marino
Gohmert Massie
Goodlatte McCarthy
Gosar McCaul
Gowdy McClintock
Granger McHenry
Graves (GA) McKinley
Graves (LA) McMorris
Graves (MO) Rodgers
Griffith McSally
Grothman Meadows
Guinta Meehan
Guthrie Messer
Hanna Mica
Hardy Miller (FL)
Harper Mooney (WV)
Harris Mullin
Hartzler Mulvaney
Hensarling Murphy (PA)
Herrera Beutler Neugebauer
Hice, Jody B. Newhouse
Hill Noem
Holding Nugent
Hudson Nunes
Huelskamp Olson
Huizenga (MI) Palazzo
Hultgren Palmer
Hunter Paulsen
Hurd (TX) Pearce
Hurt (VA) Perry
Issa Pittenger
Jenkins (KS) Pitts
Johnson (OH) Poe (TX)
Johnson, Sam Poliquin
Jolly Pompeo
Jordan Posey
Katko Ratcliffe
Kelly (MS) Reed
Kelly (PA) Reichert
King (IA) Renacci
King (NY) Ribble
Kinzinger (IL) Rice (SC)
Kline Rigell
Knight Roby
Labrador Roe (TN)
LaHood Rogers (AL)
LaMalfa Rogers (KY)
Lamborn Rohrabacher
Lance Rokita
Latta Rooney (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Amodei Jenkins (WV)
Barletta Jones
Barton Joyce
Bishop (UT) Kildee
Buchanan Lewis
Buck Long
Deutch Marchant
Heck (NV) McCollum

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1128

Mr. SCHRADER changed his vote
from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from California (Mr.
PETERS) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 229, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 513]

AYES—179

Adams	Foster	Nadler
Aguilar	Frankel (FL)	Napolitano
Ashford	Fudge	Neal
Bass	Gabbard	Nolan
Beatty	Gallego	Norcross
Becerra	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Bera	Gibson	Pallone
Beyer	Graham	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Grayson	Payne
Bonamici	Green, Al	Pelosi
Boyle, Brendan F.	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	Peters
Brown (FL)	Hahn	Pingree
Brownley (CA)	Hanna	Pocan
Bustos	Hastings	Polis
Butterfield	Heck (WA)	Price (NC)
Capps	Higgins	Quigley
Capuano	Himes	Rangel
Cárdenas	Hinojosa	Rice (NY)
Carney	Honda	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Hoyer	Ros-Lehtinen
Cartwright	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Cicilline	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Sarbanes
Clay	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kennedy	Schiff
Clyburn	Kilmer	Schrader
Cohen	Kind	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Kirkpatrick	Serrano
Conyers	Kuster	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Langevin	Sherman
Costa	Larsen (WA)	Sinema
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Sires
Crowley	Lawrence	Slaughter
Cuellar	Lee	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Levin	Swalwell (CA)
Curbelo (FL)	Lieu, Ted	Takai
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Takano
Davis, Danny	Loebuck	Thompson (CA)
DeFazio	Lofgren	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	Lowenthal	Titus
Delaney	Lowe	Tonko
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham	Torres
DelBene	(NM)	Van Hollen
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray	Vargas
Dingell	(NM)	Veasey
Dogggett	Lynch	Vela
Dold	Maloney,	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael F.	Carolyn	Visclosky
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Walsh
Edwards	F.	Wasserman
Ellison	McDermott	Schultz
Engel	McGovern	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	McNerney	Watson Coleman
Esty	Meeks	Welch
Farr	Meng	Wilson (FL)
	Moore	Yarmuth
	Moulton	

NOES—229

Abraham	Bridenstine	Conaway
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Cook
Allen	Brooks (IN)	Costello (PA)
Amash	Bucshon	Cramer
Babin	Burgess	Crawford
Barr	Byrne	Crenshaw
Benishek	Calvert	Culberson
Billirakis	Carter (GA)	Davis, Rodney
Bishop (GA)	Carter (TX)	Denham
Bishop (MI)	Chabot	Dent
Black	Chaffetz	DeSantis
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	DesJarlais
Blum	Coffman	Diaz-Balart
Bost	Cole	Donovan
Boustany	Collins (GA)	Duffy
Brady (TX)	Collins (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Brat	Comstock	Duncan (TN)

Elmiers (NC)	LaHood	Rogers (KY)
Emmer (MN)	LaMalfa	Rohrabacher
Farenthold	Lamborn	Rokita
Fincher	Lance	Rooney (FL)
Fitzpatrick	Latta	Roskam
Fleischmann	LoBiondo	Ross
Fleming	Loudermilk	Rothfus
Flores	Love	Rouzer
Forbes	Lucas	Royce
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Russell
Fox	Lummis	Ryan (WI)
Franks (AZ)	MacArthur	Salmon
Frelinghuysen	Marino	Sanford
Garrett	Massie	Scalise
Gibbs	McCarthy	Schweikert
Gohmert	McCaul	Scott, Austin
Goodlatte	McClintock	Sensenbrenner
Gosar	McHenry	Sessions
Gowdy	McKinley	Shimkus
Granger	McMorris	Shuster
Graves (GA)	Rodgers	Simpson
Graves (LA)	McSally	Smith (MO)
Graves (MO)	Meadows	Smith (NE)
Green, Gene	Meehan	Smith (NJ)
Griffith	Messer	Smith (TX)
Grothman	Mica	Stefanik
Guinta	Miller (FL)	Stewart
Guthrie	Miller (MI)	Stivers
Hardy	Mooney (WV)	Stutzman
Harper	Mullin	Thompson (PA)
Harris	Mulvaney	Thornberry
Hartzler	Murphy (PA)	Tipton
Hensarling	Neugebauer	Trott
Herrera Beutler	Newhouse	Turner
Hice, Jody B.	Noem	Upton
Hill	Nugent	Valadao
Holding	Nunes	Wagner
Hudson	Olson	Walberg
Huelskamp	Palazzo	Walden
Huizenga (MI)	Palmer	Walker
Hultgren	Paulsen	Walorski
Hunter	Pearce	Walters, Mimi
Hurd (TX)	Perry	Weber (TX)
Hurt (VA)	Peterson	Webster (FL)
Issa	Pittenger	Wenstrup
Jenkins (KS)	Pitts	Westerman
Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland
Johnson, Sam	Poliquin	Whitfield
Jolly	Pompeo	Wilson (SC)
Jordan	Posey	Wittman
Joyce	Ratcliffe	Womack
Katko	Reed	Woodall
Kelly (MS)	Reichart	Yoder
Kelly (PA)	Renacci	Yoho
King (IA)	Ribble	Young (AK)
King (NY)	Rice (SC)	Young (IA)
Kinzinger (IL)	Rigell	Young (IN)
Kline	Rohr	Zeldin
Knight	Roe (TN)	Zinke
Labrador	Rogers (AL)	

NOT VOTING—26

Amodei	Huffman	Murphy (FL)
Barletta	Jenkins (WV)	Price, Tom
Barton	Jones	Sanchez, Loretta
Bishop (UT)	Kildee	Scott, David
Buchanan	Lewis	Speier
Buck	Long	Tiberi
Deutch	Marchant	Tsongas
Fattah	McCollum	Williams
Heck (NV)	Moolenaar	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1131

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 223, noes 186, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 514]

AYES—223

Abraham	Hardy	Poe (TX)
Aderholt	Harper	Poliquin
Allen	Harris	Pompeo
Amash	Hartzler	Posey
Babin	Hensarling	Ratcliffe
Barr	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Benishek	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Billirakis	Hill	Renacci
Bishop (GA)	Holding	Ribble
Bishop (MI)	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Rigell
Blum	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Bost	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Boustany	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX)	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Bridenstine	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rokita
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins (KS)	Rooney (FL)
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Byrne	Jolly	Rothfus
Calvert	Jordan	Rouzer
Carter (GA)	Joyce	Royce
Carter (TX)	Kaptur	Russell
Chabot	Katko	Ryan (WI)
Chaffetz	Kelly (MS)	Salmon
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Coffman	King (IA)	Scalise
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Schweikert
Collins (NY)	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Comstock	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Knight	Sessions
Cook	Labrador	Shimkus
Costello (PA)	LaHood	Shuster
Cramer	LaMalfa	Simpson
Crawford	Lamborn	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	Lance	Smith (NE)
Culberson	Latta	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Rodney	LoBiondo	Smith (TX)
Denham	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Dent	Love	Stewart
DeSantis	Lucas	Stivers
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
Diaz-Balart	Lummis	Thompson (PA)
Donovan	Marino	Thornberry
Duffy	Massie	Tiberi
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy	Tipton
Duncan (TN)	McCaul	Trott
Elmiers (NC)	McClintock	Turner
Emmer (MN)	McHenry	Upton
Farenthold	McKinley	Valadao
Fincher	McMorris	Wagner
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Walberg
Fleischmann	McSally	Walden
Fleming	Meadows	Walker
Flores	Messer	Walorski
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Walters, Mimi
Fortenberry	Mooney (WV)	Weber (TX)
Fox	Mullin	Webster (FL)
Franks (AZ)	Mulvaney	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Murphy (PA)	Westerman
Garrett	Neugebauer	Westmoreland
Gibbs	Newhouse	Whitfield
Gohmert	Noem	Wilson (SC)
Goodlatte	Nugent	Wittman
Gosar	Nunes	Womack
Gowdy	Olson	Woodall
Granger	Palazzo	Yoder
Graves (GA)	Palmer	Yoho
Graves (LA)	Paulsen	Young (AK)
Graves (MO)	Pearce	Young (IA)
Griffith	Perry	Young (IN)
Grothman	Peterson	Zeldin
Guinta	Pittenger	Zinke
Guthrie	Pitts	

NOES—186

Adams	Foster	Moulton
Aguilar	Frankel (FL)	Nadler
Ashford	Fudge	Napolitano
Bass	Gabbard	Neal
Beatty	Gallego	Nolan
Becerra	Garamendi	Norcross
Bera	Gibson	O'Rourke
Beyer	Graham	Pallone
Black	Grayson	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Payne
Bonamici	Green, Gene	Pelosi
Boyle, Brendan F.	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	Peters
Brown (FL)	Hahn	Pingree
Brownley (CA)	Hanna	Pocan
Bustos	Hastings	Polis
Butterfield	Heck (WA)	Price (NC)
Capps	Higgins	Quigley
Capuano	Himes	Rangel
Cárdenas	Hinojosa	Rice (NY)
Carney	Honda	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Hoyer	Ros-Lehtinen
Cartwright	Huffman	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Israel	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Jeffries	Rush
Cicilline	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Sarbanes
Clay	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kennedy	Schiff
Clyburn	Kilmer	Schrader
Cohen	Kind	Scott (VA)
Cole	Kirkpatrick	Serrano
Connolly	Kuster	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Langevin	Sherman
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Sinema
Costa	Lawrence	Sires
Courtney	Lee	Slaughter
Crowley	Levin	Smith (WA)
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Cummings	Lipinski	Takai
Curbelo (FL)	Loeb sack	Takano
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Lowe y	Titus
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Tonko
Delaney	(NM)	Torres
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Van Hollen
DeBene	(NM)	Vargas
DeSaulnier	Lynch	Veasey
Dingell	MacArthur	Vela
Doggett	Maloney,	Velázquez
Dold	Carolyn	Visclosky
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	Walz
Duckworth	Matsui	Wasserman
Edwards	McDermott	Schultz
Ellison	McGovern	Waters, Maxine
Engel	McNerney	Watson Coleman
Eshoo	Meehan	Welch
Esty	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
Farr	Meng	Yarmuth
Fattah	Mica	
	Miller (MI)	
	Moore	

NOT VOTING—25

Amodei	Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (FL)
Barletta	Jones	Price, Tom
Barton	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Bishop (UT)	Larson (CT)	Scott, David
Brat	Lewis	Speier
Buchanan	Long	Tsongas
Buck	Marchant	Williams
Deutch	McCollum	
Heck (NV)	Moolenaar	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1135

Mr. RANGEL changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. HILL changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 514 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON

LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 176, noes 232, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 515]

AYES—176

Adams	Eshoo	McDermott
Aguilar	Esty	McGovern
Ashford	Farr	McNerney
Bass	Fattah	Meeks
Beatty	Foster	Meng
Becerra	Frankel (FL)	Moore
Bera	Fudge	Moulton
Beyer	Gabbard	Nadler
Bishop (GA)	Gallego	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Garamendi	Neal
Bonamici	Graham	Nolan
Boyle, Brendan F.	Grayson	Norcross
Brady (PA)	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Brown (FL)	Green, Gene	Pallone
Brownley (CA)	Grijalva	Pascarell
Bustos	Gutiérrez	Payne
Butterfield	Hahn	Pelosi
Capps	Hastings	Perlmutter
Capuano	Heck (WA)	Peters
Cárdenas	Higgins	Pingree
Cárdenas	Himes	Pocan
Carney	Hinojosa	Polis
Carson (IN)	Honda	Price (NC)
Cartwright	Hoyer	Quigley
Castor (FL)	Huffman	Rangel
Castro (TX)	Israel	Rice (NY)
Cicilline	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Cleaver	Kaptur	Rush
Clyburn	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cohen	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Connolly	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Conyers	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Cooper	Kuster	Schiff
Courtney	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lawrence	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lee	Sinema
Davis, Danny	Levin	Sires
DeFazio	Lieu, Ted	Slaughter
DeGette	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Delaney	Loeb sack	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Lofgren	Takai
DeBene	Lowenthal	Takano
DeSaulnier	Lowe y	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Lujan Grisham	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	(NM)	Titus
Doyle, Michael F.	Luján, Ben Ray	Tonko
Duckworth	(NM)	Torres
Duncan (SC)	Lynch	Van Hollen
Edwards	Maloney,	Vargas
Ellison	Carolyn	Veasey
Engel	Maloney, Sean	Vela
	Matsui	Velázquez

Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz

Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

Yarmuth

NOES—232

Abraham	Guthrie	Pittenger
Aderholt	Hanna	Pitts
Allen	Hardy	Poe (TX)
Amash	Harper	Poliquin
Babin	Harris	Pompeo
Barr	Hartzler	Posey
Benishek	Hensarling	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Black	Hill	Renacci
Blackburn	Holding	Ribble
Blum	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Bost	Huelskamp	Rigell
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Brat	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rokita
Bucshon	Jenkins (KS)	Rooney (FL)
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Calvert	Jolly	Ross
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Rothfus
Carter (TX)	Joyce	Rouzer
Chabot	Katko	Royce
Chaffetz	Kelly (MS)	Russell
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)
Coffman	King (IA)	Salmon
Cole	King (NY)	Sanford
Collins (GA)	Kinzing (IL)	Scalise
Collins (NY)	Kline	Schweikert
Comstock	Knight	Scott, Austin
Conaway	Labrador	Sensenbrenner
Cook	LaHood	Sessions
Costa	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Costello (PA)	Lamborn	Shuster
Cramer	Lance	Simpson
Crawford	Latta	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Culberson	Loudermilk	Smith (NJ)
Curbelo (FL)	Love	Smith (TX)
Davis, Rodney	Lucas	Stefanik
Denham	Luetkemeyer	Stewart
Dent	Lummis	Stivers
DeSantis	MacArthur	Stutzman
DesJarlais	Marino	Thompson (PA)
Diaz-Balart	Massie	Thornberry
Dold	McCarthy	Tiberi
Donovan	McCaul	Tipton
Duffy	McClintock	Trott
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Turner
Ellmers (NC)	McKinley	Upton
Emmer (MN)	McMorris	Valadao
Farenthold	Rodgers	Wagner
Fincher	McSally	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	Meadows	Walden
Fleischmann	Meehan	Walker
Fleming	Messer	Walorski
Flores	Mica	Walters, Mimi
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Weber (TX)
Fox	Miller (MI)	Webster (FL)
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Westerman
Garrett	Mulvaney	Westmoreland
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Gibson	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gohmert	Newhouse	Wittman
Goodlatte	Noem	Womack
Gosar	Nugent	Woodall
Gowdy	Nunes	Yoder
Granger	Olson	Yoho
Graves (GA)	Palazzo	Young (AK)
Graves (LA)	Palmer	Young (IA)
Graves (MO)	Paulsen	Young (IN)
Griffith	Pearce	Zeldin
Grothman	Perry	Zinke
Guinta	Peterson	

NOT VOTING—26

Amodei	Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (FL)
Barletta	Jones	Price, Tom
Barton	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Bishop (UT)	Kind	Schrader
Buchanan	Lewis	Scott, David
Buck	Long	Speier
Deutch	Marchant	Tsongas
Fortenberry	McCollum	Williams
Heck (NV)	Moolenaar	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1139

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON
OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON)
on which further proceedings were
postponed and on which the noes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 176, noes 232,
not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

AYES—176

Adams	Ellison	Lowey
Aguilar	Emmer (MN)	Lujan Grisham
Ashford	Engel	(NM)
Beatty	Eshoo	Lujan, Ben Ray
Becerra	Esty	(NM)
Bera	Farr	Lynch
Beyer	Fattah	Maloney,
Bishop (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Carolyn
Blumenauer	Foster	Maloney, Sean
Bonamici	Frankel (FL)	Matsui
Boyle, Brendan	Fudge	McDermott
F.	Gabbard	McGovern
Brady (PA)	Gallego	McNerney
Brown (FL)	Garamendi	Meeks
Brownley (CA)	Graham	Meng
Bustos	Grayson	Moore
Butterfield	Green, Al	Moulton
Capps	Green, Gene	Nadler
Capuano	Grijalva	Napolitano
Cárdenas	Gutiérrez	Neal
Carney	Hahn	Nolan
Carson (IN)	Hanna	Norcross
Cartwright	Hastings	O'Rourke
Castor (FL)	Heck (WA)	Pallone
Castro (TX)	Higgins	Pascarella
Chu, Judy	Himes	Payne
Cicilline	Hinojosa	Pelosi
Clark (MA)	Honda	Perlmutter
Clarke (NY)	Hoyer	Peters
Cleaver	Huffman	Pingree
Clyburn	Israel	Pocan
Cohen	Jackson Lee	Polis
Connolly	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Conyers	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Rangel
Courtney	Kaptur	Rice (NY)
Crowley	Keating	Richmond
Cuellar	Kelly (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Cummings	Kennedy	Ruiz
Davis (CA)	Kilmer	Ruppersberger
Davis, Danny	Kirkpatrick	Rush
DeFazio	Kuster	Ryan (OH)
DeGette	Langevin	Sánchez, Linda
Delaney	Larsen (WA)	T.
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes
DeBene	Lawrence	Schakowsky
DeSaulnier	Lee	Schiff
Dingell	Levin	Scott (VA)
Doggett	Lieu, Ted	Serrano
Doyle, Michael	Lipinski	Sewell (AL)
F.	Loebach	Sherman
Duckworth	Lofgren	Sinema
Edwards	Lowenthal	Sires

Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swailwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus

NOES—232

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Babin
Barr
Bass
Benishak
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buchson
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta

NOT VOTING—26

Amodei
Barietta
Barletta
Barton
Bishop (UT)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Clay
Deutch
Heck (NV)
Jenkins (WV)
Jones
Kildee
Kind
Lewis

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Long
Marchant
McCollum
Moolenaar
Murphy (FL)
Price, Tom
Sanchez, Loretta
Scott, David
Speier
Tsongas
Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1142

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is
on the amendment in the nature of a
substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule,
the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose;
and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.
DENHAM) having assumed the chair, Mr.
BYRNE, Acting Chair of the Committee
of the Whole House on the state of the
Union, reported that that Committee,
having had under consideration the bill
(H.R. 348) to provide for improved co-
ordination of agency actions in the
preparation and adoption of environ-
mental documents for permitting de-
terminations, and for other purposes,
and, pursuant to House Resolution 420,
he reported the bill back to the House
with an amendment adopted in the
Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under
the rule, the previous question is or-
dered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any
amendment to the amendment re-
ported from the Committee of the
Whole?

If not, the question is on the amend-
ment in the nature of a substitute, as
amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the engrossment and
third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed
and read a third time, and was read the
third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have a
motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the
gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its
current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
Clerk will report the motion to recom-
mit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill
H.R. 348 to the Committee on the Judiciary
with instructions to report the same back to
the House forthwith, with the following
amendment:

Page 31, line 17, insert after "112-141)," the
following:

"(r) PROTECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRI-
VATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TRIBAL SOV-
EREIGNTY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
other provision of this section, the provi-
sions of this section shall not apply in the
case of a project described in paragraph (2),
or an environmental document pertaining to
such a project.

“(2) PROJECT DESCRIBED.—A project described in this paragraph is any project that—

“(A) affects the safe drinking water supply or air quality of local communities that are located near the project;

“(B) involves condemnation or infringing the private property rights of American citizens; or

“(C) affects the health, safety, or sovereignty of Native American tribes.

“(S) MAKING IT IN AMERICA AND PROVIDING JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS.—Any environmental document approved pursuant to this act shall assess whether a construction project—

“(1) will utilize equipment and materials manufactured in the United States; and

“(2) will result in the hiring of unemployed workers, including veterans, who are actively seeking work and for whom unemployment taxes were paid during prior employment.”.

Ms. KUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree on the need to ensure that construction projects are completed in a timely and effective manner without the need for unnecessary review or red tape.

No one can argue that our current permitting system is perfect. But the bill before us today is yet another misguided Republican attempt to undermine critical environmental protections that we all rely on.

This legislation will splinter and unnecessarily accelerate the permitting process in a way that impairs the ability of agencies to effectively evaluate the impacts of a given project.

Consequently, the bill will weaken the ability of our constituents to understand the impacts of proposed projects and effectively limit their voice in the permitting process.

This is particularly true for low-income and minority communities that too often are faced with a disproportionate share of pollution and environmental contaminants.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we are intimately familiar with the need for strong public input in permitting processes.

As the permitting moves forward on different energy infrastructure projects, I have been working aggressively to ensure that the views of my constituents are heard.

I am concerned that the permitting process under this legislation will make it more difficult for effective en-

vironmental review to move forward in New Hampshire.

That is why I am offering my amendment today to help provide some additional protections to safeguard human health, the environment, and property rights.

Specifically, this amendment would exempt from the requirements in the bill any project that would negatively affect the drinking water supply or air quality of nearby communities.

It also ensures that construction projects covered under the legislation cannot violate the sovereignty of Native American tribes.

These provisions would at least ensure that we are limiting the most dangerous consequences of this legislation.

Additionally, the amendment requires that any environmental documents produced pursuant to the legislation include information about whether a project will use equipment and materials manufactured in the United States and whether it will create jobs for U.S. workers, including our veterans.

Like so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I have been intently focused on what we can do to grow and expand U.S. manufacturing jobs and create good-paying middle-class jobs right here in America and, in particular, as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, how we can serve our veterans.

The reporting requirement in this amendment will help generate greater awareness for how we utilize American-made machinery and products in our construction processes.

I urge support for my amendment to make sure that this bill does not harm the health of our constituents and to take an important step toward job creation and hiring of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, after President Obama's ill-conceived stimulus bill failed, he blamed its failure on the lack of shovel-ready construction projects. President Obama was even quoted in the press to have joked about it. “Shovel-ready was not as shovel-ready as we expected,” he said.

Hard-working Americans desperate for jobs didn't think that was funny. They still don't. They are watching us right now, wanting to know if we can deliver meaningful reform that will create jobs. Let's send a message to them today that we can and we will.

For years now the President's Jobs Council's recommendation that we streamline the Federal permitting process has been staring the President in the face.

Just last term President Obama stood in this House and promised ac-

tion to “slash bureaucracy and streamline the permitting process . . . so we can get more construction workers on the job as fast as possible.”

Mr. Speaker, the RAPID Act is precisely the legislation to do that. It is exactly what our private and public sector leaders have called for. It is what millions of American workers yearning for new work and higher wages need.

True to form, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle support this motion to recommit in an attempt to stop this legislation. They can't yet bring themselves to say, “Yes, we can” to the cutting of bureaucratic red tape and obstruction.

But this motion to recommit is the exact mirror image of everything that is wrong with the Federal permitting process and keeps jobs from the American people.

It is nothing but a fabricated argument, a procedural device, a tried and true tactic of delay—an excuse for Members of Congress to duck a vote and not make a needed decision that will bring millions of good, high-paying jobs to the people of this country.

The bill does not require a project to be approved, only that an agency timely decide whether or not to approve it.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this motion and vote for the RAPID Act.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, all of us today are stunned by the dramatic and courageous decision of the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, to retire at the end of October.

We thank him for his tireless work, his conservative leadership of the Republican Conference for 9 years, his distinguished service as Speaker of the House for nearly 5 years, and for his long service to the people of this great country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 175, noes 229, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

AYES—175

Adams
Aguilar

Ashford
Bass

Beatty
Becerra

Bera	Garamendi	Norcross	Joyce	Newhouse	Sensenbrenner	Brooks (AL)	Hinojosa	Poliquin
Beyer	Graham	O'Rourke	Katko	Noem	Sessions	Brooks (IN)	Holding	Pompeo
Bishop (GA)	Grayson	Pallone	Kelly (MS)	Nugent	Shimkus	Bucshon	Hudson	Posey
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Pascarell	Kelly (PA)	Nunes	Shuster	Burgess	Huelskamp	Ratcliffe
Bonamici	Green, Gene	Payne	King (IA)	Olson	Simpson	Byrne	Huizenga (MI)	Reed
Boyle, Brendan F.	Grijalva	Pelosi	King (NY)	Palazzo	Smith (MO)	Calvert	Hultgren	Reichert
Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter	Kinzinger (IL)	Palmer	Smith (NE)	Carter (GA)	Hunter	Renacci
Brown (FL)	Hahn	Peters	Kline	Paulsen	Smith (NJ)	Carter (TX)	Hurd (TX)	Ribble
Brownley (CA)	Hastings	Peterson	Knight	Pearce	Smith (TX)	Chabot	Hurt (VA)	Rice (SC)
Bustos	Heck (WA)	Pingree	Labrador	Perry	Stefanik	Chaffetz	Issa	Rigell
Butterfield	Higgins	Pocan	LaHood	Pittenger	Stewart	Clawson (FL)	Jenkins (KS)	Roby
Capps	Himes	Polis	LaMalfa	Pitts	Stutzman	Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)
Capuano	Hinojosa	Price (NC)	Lamborn	Poe (TX)	Thompson (PA)	Collins (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)
Cárdenas	Honda	Quigley	Lance	Poliquin	Thornberry	Collins (NY)	Jolly	Rogers (KY)
Carney	Hoyer	Rangel	Latta	Pompeo	Tiberi	Comstock	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Carson (IN)	Huffman	Rice (NY)	LoBiondo	Posey	Tipton	Conaway	Joyce	Rokita
Cartwright	Israel	Richmond	Loudermilk	Ratcliffe	Trott	Cook	Katko	Rooney (FL)
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard	Love	Reed	Turner	Costa	Kelly (MS)	Ros-Lehtinen
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Ruiz	Lucas	Reichert	Upton	Costello (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Roskam
Cicilline	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger	Luetkemeyer	Renacci	Valadao	Cramer	King (IA)	Ross
Clark (MA)	Johnson, E. B.	Rush	Lummis	Ribble	Walberg	Crawford	King (NY)	Rothfus
Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)	MacArthur	Rice (SC)	Walden	Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Rouzer
Clay	Keating	Sánchez, Linda T.	Marino	Rigell	Walker	Cuellar	Kline	Royce
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	T. Sarbanes	Massie	Roby	Walorski	Culberson	Knight	Russell
Clyburn	Kennedy	Schakowsky	McCarthy	Roe (TN)	Walters, Mimi	Curbelo (FL)	Labrador	Ryan (WI)
Cohen	Kilmer	Schiff	McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Weber (TX)	Davis, Rodney	LaHood	Salmon
Connolly	Kirkpatrick	Schrader	McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Webster (FL)	Denham	LaMalfa	Sanford
Conyers	Kuster	Scott (VA)	McHenry	Rohrabacher	Wenstrup	Dent	Lamborn	Scalise
Cooper	Langevin	Serrano	McKinley	Rokita	Westerman	DeSantis	Lance	Schrader
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)	McMorris	Rooney (FL)	Westmoreland	DesJarlais	Latta	Schweikert
Crowley	Lawrence	Sherman	Rodgers	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield	Diaz-Balart	LoBiondo	Scott, Austin
Cuellar	Lee	Sinema	McSally	Roskam	Wilson (SC)	Dold	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner
Cummings	Levin	Sires	Meadows	Ross	Wittman	Donovan	Love	Sessions
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Slaughter	Meehan	Rothfus	Womack	Duffy	Lucas	Shimkus
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Mica	Messer	Rouzer	Woodall	Duncan (SC)	Luetkemeyer	Simpson
DeFazio	Loebsack	Miller (FL)	Mica	Royce	Yoder	Duncan (TN)	Lummis	Smith (MO)
DeGette	Lofgren	Miller (MI)	Mooney (WV)	Russell	Yoho	Ellmers (NC)	MacArthur	Smith (NE)
Delaney	Lowenthal	Mooney (WI)	Mullin	Ryan (WI)	Young (AK)	Emmer (MN)	Marino	Smith (NJ)
DeLauro	Lowe	Takano	Mulvaney	Salmon	Young (IA)	Farenthold	Massie	Smith (TX)
DelBene	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Thompson (CA)	Murphy (PA)	Sanford	Young (IN)	Fincher	McCarthy	Stefanik
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Thompson (MS)	Neugebauer	Scalise	Zeldin	Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Stewart
Dingell	Titus	Tonko	Amodei	Schweikert	Zinke	Fleischmann	McClintock	Stivers
Doggett	Lynch	Torres	Barletta	Scott, Austin		Fleming	McHenry	Stutzman
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Carolyn	Torres	Bartletta	Hultgren		Flores	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Torres	Barton	Jenkins (WV)		Forbes	McMorris	Thornberry
Edwards	Matsui	Torres	Bishop (UT)	Kildee		Fortenberry	Rodgers	Tiberi
Ellison	McDermott	Torres	Buchanan	Kind		Fox	McSally	Trott
Engel	McGovern	Torres	Buck	Larsen (WA)		Franks (AZ)	Meadows	Turner
Eshoo	McNerney	Torres	Chu, Judy	Lewis		Frelinghuysen	Meehan	Upton
Esty	Meeks	Torres	Deutch	Long		Garrett	Messer	Valadao
Farr	Meng	Torres	Heck (NV)	Marchant		Gibbs	Mica	Walberg
Fattah	Moore	Torres	Huelskamp	McCollum		Gibson	Miller (FL)	Walden
Foster	Moulton	Torres				Gohmert	Miller (MI)	Walker
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Torres				Goodlatte	Mooney (WV)	Walorski
Fudge	Napolitano	Torres				Gosar	Mullin	Walters, Mimi
Gabbard	Neal	Torres				Gowdy	Mulvaney	Weber (TX)
Gallego	Nolan	Torres				Granger	Murphy (PA)	Webster (FL)
		Torres				Graves (GA)	Neugebauer	Wenstrup
		Torres				Graves (LA)	Newhouse	Westerman
		Torres				Graves (MO)	Noem	Westmoreland
		Torres				Grothman	Nugent	Whitfield
		Torres				Guinta	Nunes	Wilson (SC)
		Torres				Guthrie	Olson	Wittman
		Torres				Hanna	Palazzo	Womack
		Torres				Hardy	Palmer	Woodall
		Torres				Harper	Paulsen	Yoder
		Torres				Harris	Pearce	Yoho
		Torres				Hartzler	Perry	Young (AK)
		Torres				Hensarling	Peterson	Young (IA)
		Torres				Herrera Beutler	Pittenger	Young (IN)
		Torres				Hice, Jody B.	Pitts	Zeldin
		Torres				Hill	Poe (TX)	Zinke

NOES—229

Abraham	Cook	Gibson
Aderholt	Costa	Gohmert
Allen	Costello (PA)	Goodlatte
Amash	Cramer	Gosar
Babin	Crawford	Gowdy
Barr	Crenshaw	Granger
Benishek	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Billirakis	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Bishop (MI)	Davis, Rodney	Graves (MO)
Black	Denham	Griffith
Blackburn	Dent	Grothman
Blum	DeSantis	Guinta
Bost	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Boustany	Diaz-Balart	Hanna
Brady (TX)	Dold	Hardy
Brat	Donovan	Harper
Bridenstine	Duffy	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (TN)	Hensarling
Bucshon	Ellmers (NC)	Herrera Beutler
Burgess	Emmer (MN)	Hice, Jody B.
Byrne	Farenthold	Hill
Calvert	Fincher	Holding
Carter (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Hudson
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Huizenga (MI)
Chabot	Fleming	Hunter
Chaffetz	Flores	Hurd (TX)
Clawson (FL)	Forbes	Hurt (VA)
Coffman	Fortenberry	Issa
Cole	Fox	Jenkins (KS)
Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)	Johnson (OH)
Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen	Johnson, Sam
Comstock	Garrett	Jolly
Conaway	Gibbs	Jordan

NOT VOTING—30

Hultgren	Moolenaar
Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (FL)
Jones	Price, Tom
Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Kind	Scott, David
Larsen (WA)	Speier
Lewis	Stivers
Long	Tsongas
Marchant	Wagner
McCollum	Williams

□ 1200

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 516 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 170, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

AYES—233

Abraham	Barr	Blackburn
Aderholt	Benishek	Blum
Allen	Billirakis	Bost
Amash	Bishop (GA)	Boustany
Ashford	Bishop (MI)	Brady (TX)
Babin	Black	Bridenstine

NOES—170

Adams	Cartwright	Delaney
Aguilar	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Bass	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Beatty	Chu, Judy	DeSaulnier
Becerra	Cicilline	Dingell
Bera	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Beyer	Clarke (NY)	Doyle, Michael F.
Blumenauer	Clay	Duckworth
Bonamici	Cleaver	Edwards
Boyle, Brendan F.	Clyburn	Ellison
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Engel
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Eshoo
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Esty
Bustos	Cooper	Farr
Butterfield	Courtney	Fattah
Capps	Crowley	Foster
Capuano	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
Cárdenas	Davis (CA)	Fudge
Carney	Davis, Danny	Gabbard
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Gallego
	DeGette	

Garamendi	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger
Graham	(NM)	Rush
Grayson	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)
Green, Al	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda
Green, Gene	Lynch	T.
Grijalva	Maloney,	Sarbanes
Gutiérrez	Carolyn	Schakowsky
Hahn	Maloney, Sean	Schiff
Hastings	Matsui	Scott (VA)
Heck (WA)	McDermott	Serrano
Higgins	McGovern	Sewell (AL)
Honda	McNerney	Sherman
Hoyer	Meeks	Sinema
Huffman	Meng	Sires
Israel	Moore	Slaughter
Jackson Lee	Moulton	Smith (WA)
Jeffries	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Johnson (GA)	Napolitano	Takai
Johnson, E. B.	Neal	Takano
Kaptur	Nolan	Thompson (CA)
Keating	Norcross	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (IL)	O'Rourke	Titus
Kennedy	Pallone	Tonko
Kilmer	Pascrell	Torres
Kirkpatrick	Payne	Van Hollen
Kuster	Pelosi	Vargas
Langevin	Perlmutter	Veasey
Larsen (WA)	Peters	Vela
Larson (CT)	Pingree	Velázquez
Lawrence	Pocan	Visclosky
Lee	Polis	Walz
Levin	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Lieu, Ted	Quigley	Schultz
Lipinski	Rangel	Waters, Maxine
Loeback	Rice (NY)	Watson Coleman
Lofgren	Richmond	Welch
Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
Lowey	Ruiz	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—31

Amodi	Himes	Price, Tom
Barletta	Jenkins (WV)	Sanchez, Loretta
Barton	Jones	Scott, David
Bishop (UT)	Kildee	Shuster
Brat	Kind	Speier
Buchanan	Lewis	Tipton
Buck	Long	Tsongas
Cole	Marchant	Wagner
Deutch	McCollum	Williams
Griffith	Moolenaar	
Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)	

□ 1206

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I write to request to resign my committee assignment on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Due to my appointment on the House Committee on Rules, and my assignment on the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources, I am unable to effectively serve on four committees. I am grateful for my time on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and look forward to continue to work with the committee during the 114th Congress.

I appreciate your attention to this request. Should you have any other questions please contact Carrie Meadows on my staff.

Sincerely,

DAN NEWHOUSE,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 442

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. LaHood.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. LaHood.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015, TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, September 28, 2015, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month. This month is especially important to think about what needs to be done to help our at-risk veterans.

From 1990 to 2010, a veteran committed suicide almost every hour of every day. This is completely unacceptable and signifies a clear need for action to prevent suicide and to treat those who are suffering.

Veterans have risked their lives and sacrificed tremendously for our Nation. But the disturbing reality is that far too many of our veterans who fought for our freedom are not free when they return. They are trapped in their own minds.

We cannot afford to be bystanders any longer. Mr. Speaker, it is past time we stand by our veterans and everyone else who is suffering. It is incumbent upon all of us to reach out to those who may need help and erase the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Together, with an increased focus on the very real, invisible wounds of war, we can better serve our returning heroes.

RECOGNIZING BILL LOCKYER

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Lockyer of Hayward, California, who, tomorrow, will have part of the San Francisco Bay Trail named for him.

Bill, who went to college and started his political career in the East Bay, is a dedicated public official who spent many years working for the people of California. This includes service in the State legislature as State attorney general and as State treasurer.

Among his many successes was his work to protect our environment, a highlight of which is championing the San Francisco Bay Trail. He came up with the idea for the trail, introduced the legislation, and got support from both Republicans and Democrats.

It has been 28 years since Bill's idea became law and, thanks to his efforts, we have 340 miles of trail around the bay. It provides opportunities for recreation, education, and transportation for area residents every day.

When finished, 500 miles of trails will surround and connect people around the San Francisco Bay Area. It is a wonderful gift to future generations.

At a ceremony tomorrow, a portion of the trail will be named for Bill. This is a fitting tribute to a tremendous public servant and one without whom we wouldn't have had this tremendous trail.

Congratulations, Bill, on this well-deserved honor.

CENTRE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I was proud to announce grant funding for the Centre County Youth Services Bureau, an organization in my district which operates an emergency shelter, assisting youth, ages 12-17, who are homeless, runaways, or at risk for either of these conditions due to difficult circumstances at home. This grant funding allowed the shelter to continue to operate 24 hours a day, providing a

safe haven for these young men and women.

The shelter is just one of my initiatives that the Centre County Youth Services Bureau is responsible for. The organization, which was founded in 1968, also is involved in a variety of community-based, family-based, and residential programs intended to improve the lives of families across Centre County and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Youth Services Bureau and all the staff in taking the initiative to apply for this grant funding, and I know that they are going to be able to see the results of this award for years to come.

SAVE UKRAINE NOW

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues and those who are listening of a very important conference that is occurring here in the Capitol today in the Capitol Visitor Center, a convening of nearly 500 Americans and those of Ukrainian American and Ukrainian heritage who are meeting to save Ukraine now.

They are mobilizing humanitarian endeavors across our country to ship medical equipment, to ship used clothing, used shoes, mattresses, tents, to deal with the 1.7 million children who have been left homeless, and over 5 million refugees who have been affected by the brutal Russian invasion on Russia's western side and Ukraine's eastern side, as Russia has killed over 6,000 innocent Ukrainians and thousands have been injured.

A cold winter is approaching in Ukraine. Many families are now eating more and more potatoes, lacking sufficient sustenance, and there are so many children that have been displaced.

I am here saying, for those who are listening, go to the Web site of the U.S. Ukraine Foundation. Learn what is being done. If you can help in your communities to ship goods through your National Guard, this is the time for freedom fighters across our country to lend humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

□ 1215

ANOTHER TERRORIST GETS A "GET OUT OF JAIL" FREE CARD

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, another GTMO terrorist has been released back into the world by this administration. Abdul Shalabi, a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden, is now a free man thanks to our government.

But this isn't the first time known terrorists have been freed. There is the

notorious Taliban Five; and at least one of these terrorist prisoners has allegedly started communicating with his old terrorist buddies in the Middle East. No surprise there; once a terrorist, always a terrorist.

Do we think that after years in prison these terrorists will somehow change their mind and not be a threat to America?

One report even claimed that Shalabi may have been considered one of the 9/11 attackers. Isn't that lovely.

The administration has its priorities backwards. The administration should be working just as hard to free the four Americans trapped in the jaws of terror in Iran as it is freeing known terrorists who will return to their old ways of mischief.

And that is just the way it is.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

More than 70 percent of students enrolled in HBCUs are low income, and more than half are first-generation college students. Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District is home to one of the Nation's premier HBCUs, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

While many students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities like UAPB are standout students, a select few have risen to the top. Among them is Sidney Smith, a student from UAPB who was recently named an HBCU All-Star by the White House.

I congratulate Sidney and tip my hat to all HBCUs for the work they are doing in communities across America. You are giving generations of young people a brighter future and are helping them to make America what they dream it to be.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FIDUCIARY RULE HURTS FAMILIES

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, having access to sound financial advice can make a big difference in the lives of Americans. It is about planning ahead and taking action to set money aside and invest so families can buy a home, send their children to college, and save up for retirement. However, a proposed rule by the Department of Labor threatens access for millions of hard-working Americans that seek financial advice.

While well-intentioned, in reality, the proposed fiduciary rule will present operational challenges and force those who give financial advice to work under conflicting rules from two separate regulatory agencies. Unfortunately, those that will be most harmed from this rule will be families of modest means.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked on this issue for years, and I continue to hear from Minnesotans sounding the alarm for what this will mean for those who are planning for their future.

I urge the Department of Labor to reconsider this rule or to delay it until we can find a more commonsense alternative.

YAKIMA UNION GOSPEL MISSION

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Yakima Union Gospel Mission for 79 years of unwavering support and dedication to those in need in the Yakima Valley.

The Union Gospel Mission ensures that individual needs are met, helping to provide between 400 and 600 meals a day, free clothing and household goods, free medical care, and dental care that can be paid for based on a sliding monetary scale or through hours worked at the mission.

The mission offers long-term residential addiction recovery treatment programs for men and women and focuses on skill development through the provision of job training opportunities at the mission's catering, retail, and recycling centers. In 2014 alone, the Union Gospel Mission helped over 1,200 of its 1,400 clients find work and permanent housing.

Additionally, the Union Gospel Mission operates the Madison House Youth Center, providing year-round tutoring, college preparation, meals, and activities for high-risk, inner-city youth.

Please join me in thanking the Yakima Union Gospel Mission for its unrelenting commitment to serving our community.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. HARDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, a time when all of us can take a moment and recognize the tremendous contributions of Hispanic Americans who have made our communities a great country.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country. Our diversity has always been our

strength, and Hispanic Americans are sewn into the very fabric of what makes our slice of Nevada special.

To honor the history, culture, and contributions of Latinos to the United States, I am pleased to join my colleague from California, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, as the original cosponsor of his resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

So, whether it is the innovative entrepreneurs who are starting businesses and creating jobs, the ambitious students studying to become tomorrow's leaders, or the brave men and women who serve our country in uniform, the story of Hispanic Americans is the story of all Americans.

GREATEST COMMON GOOD

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Members will leave this week behind physically but not mentally and not without a sense of joy and, certainly, questions. Many things have happened this week, and more will come in terms of further explanations about our leadership and about our direction, but one thing we know that occurred is a mighty statement of balanced injustice. I will paraphrase the words of Pope Francis, when he said to us that politics requires more than divisiveness; and he said "the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life"—an instruction on the goodness of our Members, no matter what their party.

So in these next couple of weeks, I would ask that we look collectively together about working to pass a budget that is fair and just and that helps the needy: comprehensive immigration reform, helping the homeless, and helping veterans who have suffered, Mr. Speaker, some hundreds of thousands who died waiting for hospital services.

I think we can do better. Get rid of sequester. Pass a budget for America.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL MARTIN DEMPSEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, after 41 years in uniform, General Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the highest-ranking military officer in the land, retires today.

More than once this year, we on the Armed Services Committee have ex-

pressed our gratitude for his service and bid General Dempsey farewell as he testified before our committee for what we expected would be his final hearing; but, time and time again, world events brought him back to us.

That underscores what a consequential job General Dempsey has had. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the senior military adviser to both the legislative and executive branches of government. I am personally very grateful for his willingness to spend time, formally and informally, with members of our committee discussing our country's security, providing his best military advice on an unprecedented spectrum of serious and diverse threats during an era of declining resources and when Congress and the President have very different views on national security policy. All of that has been a tremendous challenge.

In his four decades of dedicated service, General Dempsey has led our forces against threats far different from those we faced when he left his native New Jersey to become a West Point cadet. Instead of Soviets in the Fulda Gap, General Dempsey has had to confront a newly aggressive Russia, an expanding China, Iranian-backed instability in the Middle East, as well as ISIS and al Qaeda.

And those are just some of the threats we can see. General Dempsey has also had to face increasing cyber attacks on our military and our country, the threat posed by diseases like Ebola in an increasingly mobile world, and a tremendous amount of change within the military, itself.

In honoring him and his service, we also honor, through him, those who have served under him. To meet the challenges that the United States faces around the world and to meet our sacred obligations to our servicemembers and their families requires a commitment to service and sacrifice that separates America from the rest of the world and separates those who serve in the military from much of our own population. It takes something special.

For having that "something special" and for serving our Nation with honor and distinction for 41 years, I know I speak for my colleagues in thanking General Martin Dempsey and his wife, Deanie, for their service to our country as they move into the next phase of their life together.

General Dempsey's career has been a lesson in dedication to country and selfless service.

A career army officer, he has commanded at every level—from Platoon Leader to Combatant Commander—and his assignments have carried him and his family across the United States and around the world.

As a company grade officer, he served with the 2nd Cavalry in Europe and the 10th Cavalry at Fort Carson. Following troop command, he earned his Masters of Arts in English from Duke University and was assigned to the

English Department at West Point. He subsequently earned additional advanced degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

In 1991, General Dempsey deployed with the Third Armored Division in support of Operation Desert Storm. He later commanded a battalion in Germany and then served as the Army's "senior scout" as the 67th Colonel of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment—the Brave Rifles—before reporting to the Joint Staff as an assistant deputy director in the J-5 and later as a Special Assistant to the 14th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 2003, General Dempsey commanded the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad and returned to Iraq in 2005 as the Commanding General of the Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq. From 2007 to 2008, he was the Deputy Commander and then Acting Commander of U.S. Central Command, and from 2008 to 2011, he commanded U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Appointed to serve as the Army's 37th Chief of Staff, General Dempsey led his beloved Army a short 149 days before being tapped to serve as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that capacity, and as the Nation's highest-ranking military officer, he has served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and Congress.

General Dempsey's job has required him to coordinate and build consensus among the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the Services, and the Combatant Commands. He has also developed important relationships with military leaders in other nations.

He has guided the Joint Force in executing an extraordinary range of global responsibilities, from counter-terrorism and crisis response, to supporting our allies, building partner capacity, and humanitarian assistance. His efforts to strengthen key alliances, bolster new partnerships, and more closely integrate the military with other tools of national power and influence are commendable.

General Dempsey's tenure as Chairman has been marked by significant transitions in military operations and personnel in an increasingly dynamic and unpredictable security environment.

A firm believer in constantly learning and growing, General Dempsey guided the Joint Force to study, learn, and incorporate lessons learned over the past 14 years. In addition, recognizing the shifting nature of the security environment and our ability to respond to it, General Dempsey led a paradigm shift in how we posture and employ this Joint team around the world.

At the same time, the past few years have witnessed exponential growth of the cyber threat against our Nation, and General Dempsey has pushed the expansion of our cyber capabilities in response. He has championed the rapid development of our cyber forces, and implemented the Joint Information Environment to optimize and better defend our military's information technology infrastructure. These initiatives will be critical to the future security of our Nation.

As principal steward of the military profession, he renewed an internal commitment to

strengthen the Profession of Arms and reinvigorated education, training, and leader development. He managed historic decisions, including reforms to General and Flag Officer ethics, and Department-wide improvements in Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. His stewardship set conditions to preserve the strength of the all-volunteer force and to ensure service members departing the military successfully transition back into their communities.

As he retires, General Dempsey should take great pride in his role in ensuring our military remains the best supported, best trained, best equipped, and best led force on the planet.

With over four decades of dedicated service to our Nation, General Dempsey and his family deserve our most heartfelt gratitude and admiration. He and Deanie have our very best wishes for the next phase and the challenges and opportunities it will inevitably bring. Our Nation, our Joint Force, and our Army are all better for his leadership and distinguished service.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BARLETTA (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 28, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2949. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1C FIR] received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2950. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Streamlining Administrative Regulations for Public Housing: Revisions to Public Housing Flat Rents [Docket No.: FR 5743-I-02] (RIN: 2577-AC94) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2951. A letter from the Acting PRAO Branch Chief, Supplemental Nutrition As-

sistance Program, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarification of Eligibility of Fleeing Felons (RIN: 0584-AE01) received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2952. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical, Physical Readiness, Training, and Access Authorization Standards for Protective Force Personnel (RIN: 1992-AA40) received September 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2953. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Acute Uranium Exposure Standards for Workers (FSCE Interim Staff Guidance ISG-14, Revision 0) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2954. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-095; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2955. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-095; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2956. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Secs. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-022; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2957. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Secs. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-091; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2958. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Secs. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-051; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2959. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Self Plus One Enrollment Type (RIN: 3206-AN08) received September 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2960. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter and relevant documentation concerning the implementation of commitments in the Joint Plan of Action, pursuant to the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012, the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, and Sec. 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 702. A bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions; with an amendment (Rept. 114-267 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 702 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 3610. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate the exemption of companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MICA, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 3611. A bill to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 3612. A bill making emergency appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, to address needs of the Federal judiciary serving the border region between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 3613. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide certain purchasing authority for recipients or subrecipients of grants under chapter 53 of title 49 of such Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin):

H.R. 3614. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 3615. A bill to delay enforcement and establishment of certain water quality

standards within the Great Bay Estuary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 3616. A bill to appropriate such funds as may be necessary to ensure that members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, and supporting civilian and contractor personnel continue to receive pay and allowances for active service performed when a funding gap caused by the failure to enact interim or full-year appropriations for the Armed Forces occurs, which results in the furlough of non-emergency personnel and the curtailment of Government activities and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 3617. A bill to improve efficiency by consolidating some duplicative and overlapping Government programs; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 3618. A bill to clarify the exclusion of orphan drug sales from the calculation of the annual fee on branded prescription pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3619. A bill to redesignate Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as Rock Creek National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS:

H. Res. 441. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require Members to post on their official public websites information on official travel taken by the Member for which reimbursement was provided by a private source; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. FOXX:

H. Res. 442. A resolution electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California):

H. Res. 443. A resolution commending the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs for their joint campaign to raise awareness during September, Suicide Prevention Month, to reduce suicide among members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

139. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 1001, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 3611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 3612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States. . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 3614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 3615.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII Clause XVIII, The Necessary and Proper Clause: The Congress shall have power . . . to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 3616.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 3617.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 3618.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution

This states that "Congress shall have power to . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3619.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 213: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 304: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 379: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 556: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 600: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 616: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 619: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 676: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 756: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 771: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 816: Mr. YOHIO, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 836: Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 850: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 879: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 915: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1019: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1057: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1186: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1220: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1258: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1388: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 1537: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1550: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Mr. HURT of Virginia.

H.R. 1559: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1567: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1652: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1670: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1706: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1737: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1752: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1769: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 1786: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1902: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1941: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2026: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2061: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H.R. 2114: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2142: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2173: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 2197: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

York, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2217: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2293: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. CAPPS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2314: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2400: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 2405: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 2411: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2494: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2500: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2530: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2536: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2546: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2657: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 2728: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2732: Mr. HONDA and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2739: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. DELAULO.

H.R. 2747: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2775: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 2811: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2817: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 2847: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2901: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 2903: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 2962: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BASS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 3033: Ms. NORTON and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3119: Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 3187: Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 3190: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 3193: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3220: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3303: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3304: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3308: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3318: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 3370: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3381: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3410: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3455: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3457: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 3477: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 3490: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 3495: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3516: Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 3520: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 3531: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 3573: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 3578: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3596: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H. J. Res. 50: Mr. OLSON.

H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. YOHO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H. Res. 145: Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 294: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. ROKITA.

H. Res. 318: Mr. MOULTON.

H. Res. 343: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. MEEHAN.

H. Res. 346: Mr. OLSON.

H. Res. 413: Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 436: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 437: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 438: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MIDMARK CORPORATION ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Midmark Corporation, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, on their 100th anniversary.

Led by four generations of the Eiting family, Midmark has led the way in medical innovation and improving patient care. As this Ohio business celebrates this important milestone, I applaud all the men and women who have contributed to Midmark's success. This is truly the American Dream at its finest.

To Dr. Anne Eiting Klamar and the entire Midmark team, you have much to celebrate, and of course, much to look forward to. Here is to another 100 years.

HONORING MARK FOSTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mark Foster. Mark is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 378, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mark has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mark has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Mark earned his Eagle Scout at the age of 13, demonstrating his drive and commitment to the Boy Scouts of America. Mark has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Mark built picnic tables along the Line Creek Trail in Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mark Foster for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING EVELYNE ROMINGER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Evelyne Rominger a

community leader, mentor and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Evelyne Rominger was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Evelyne Rominger was raised south of Davis on a dairy farm. She met her husband Richard while they were both students at UC Davis and they have been married for 64 years. Evelyne has been a very active community member her entire life, starting with the Dixon 4-H Club and as the student body vice president of Davis High School and later as a member of the Commission of the Californias. She has also been active in several health associations, including as the founding board member of the Yolo County Mental Health Association.

Whereas, Evelyne has been an unabashed, lifelong advocate for gender equality and social justice issues. She clearly and persuasively articulates the critical elements of any topic while leaving no room for ambiguity. Evelyne has spent a lifetime perfecting the art of challenging the status quo and pushing the limits of conventional thinking while promoting change by skillfully applying her elements of unconventional wisdom.

Whereas, Evelyne has an enormous capacity to engage, mentor, and advocate for complex and sensitive issues, and to achieve the presumed unachievable, no matter the condition or concern. She also embodies a unique quality that demands intellectual clarity and a thoughtful approach to strategic planning, all while inspiring communities of people to move in a like direction. Evelyne is as dedicated to our California community as she is to her family and her friends and to traveling the world. She is a model for living a dedicated and productive life.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Evelyne Rominger.

TRIBUTE TO MARY OTTMAR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mary Ottmar of Atlantic, Iowa, for being inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Inductees to the Hall of Fame have demonstrated dedication, encouragement, commitment and guidance to Iowa's 4-H students through the years.

Mary began her career in 1972 as the Cass County Extension 4-H and Youth Leader. She has strived to increase 4-H membership by building strong relationships with the youth in

the county. Mary has built a foundation for success with the Cass County 4-H program, and developed the 4-H Youth Council in Cass County, which encourages youth to get involved and truly demonstrate citizenship, communication, and leadership skills.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Mary for earning this award. She is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can have a positive impact on our youth. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mary for her numerous accomplishments in the 4-H community. I wish her nothing but the very best moving forward.

CELEBRATING DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 104th national day of the Republic of China, or ROC, which most of my fellow Americans know as Taiwan.

Double Ten Day commemorates the Wuchang Uprising, the event that triggered a revolution that rippled from southern China and led to both the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the ROC on January 1, 1912.

With our country's entry into World War II, we joined forces with the ROC and the other Allies to defeat the Axis, and this year, our two countries have observed the 70th anniversary of the end of that war. In the decades that followed, our two countries stood together as we faced common enemies during the Cold War, and this unshakable relationship weathered the challenges posed by the change in our diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing.

In recent decades, Taiwan has created a democracy that, since 1996, has conducted direct presidential elections every four years and witnessed the peaceful passage of power from one political party to another on two occasions, transforming into an example to other nations in the region and beyond that aspire to democracy. It is a regional and global economic force, and makes global contributions culturally in fields from art to fashion. Through our shared security partnership, Taiwan also contributes to the security of the Asia-Pacific, and is a humanitarian force around the globe.

As a member of Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day, and in thanking Taiwan for its many contributions to the global community.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING TREVOR CLARK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Clark. Trevor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 378, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Trevor holds the troop record by earning 38 merit badges. Trevor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Trevor built a tennis backboard for players to practice with at a community tennis court.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Clark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ELVIA GARCIA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Elvia Garcia a community organizer and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Elvia Garcia was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, among many other areas of community involvement, Elvia Garcia was instrumental in the implementation of the Yolo County District Attorney's Neighborhood Court Program. The Neighborhood Court Program utilizes restorative justice concepts, which identify crime as acts that cause harm done to people and communities and emphasizes the offender repairing that harm done to the individual and to the community as a whole.

Whereas, Elvia has been a volunteer in this program since its inception in the Spring of 2013 and continues to be a driving force in the program. After observing San Francisco's model in an effort to better understand the program and how to best apply its practices in Yolo County, Elvia helped design the current facilitated conference model, panelist and facilitator training, and implement the Homeless Diversion Program model.

Whereas, Elvia is a true example of courage and selflessness and her volunteer efforts continue to have a positive impact in the County of Yolo.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Elvia Garcia.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRALYNN NESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ACTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerralynn Ness, the Executive Director of Community Action in Washington County, Oregon. After more than 40 years of dedicated service, Jerralynn is retiring.

Jerralynn will leave a remarkable legacy. Her work has made northwest Oregon a better place—a place where people can access the support they need to escape poverty. Under Jerralynn's leadership, Community Action has helped families find housing and afford basic utilities, provide quality early childhood education for their children, and access prenatal and child care services.

Connecting families and children with essential services improves their health and overall quality of life. Just as important, Jerralynn's work contributed to a sense of dignity for the families served through Community Action. Because of Jerralynn, more Oregon families have clean, comfortable homes; more Oregonians have control over their finances; and more children in Oregon are entering school healthy and prepared for academic success. The happy, productive lives of these families are an appropriate tribute to Jerralynn, who has been a selfless champion for those living in poverty.

During decades of change at Community Action, Jerralynn and the organization remained committed to President Johnson's promise of equal opportunity and his directive that we "pursue poverty, pursue it wherever it exists." Jerralynn spent her entire career helping people build better lives. The communities of northwest Oregon will miss Jerralynn's leadership, but her legacy will be carried forward through the families who are now enjoying lives full of opportunity and promise.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. SARVAI OF MANCHESTER, NH ON CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sarvai of Manchester, New Hampshire for recently celebrating their 50th anniversary. After 50 years of marriage and two children, I applaud their dedication and commitment to one another. It's clear they have both been exemplary members of our community, and I wish them the best in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SANDAU BROTHERS SIGN COMPANY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa company, Sandau Brothers Sign Company of Council Bluffs, as they celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. Roger Sandau, Sr. and Roger Sandau, Jr. work with each other every day to make the company a continued success.

For years the Sandau's have been honing their skills and putting in countless hours to create the highest quality products that their customers can be proud of. Their commitment to customer service and attention to detail has contributed to their company's success and longevity.

I applaud and congratulate Sandau Brothers Sign Company and their staff for their 30 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Roger, Sr. and Roger, Jr. and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING EVAN DANTZSCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Dantzschler. Evan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 378, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Evan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Evan has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader. Evan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Evan cleared approximately 100 yards of undergrowth to allow for easier mowing of the Line Creek Trail in Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Dantzschler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING JOANN G. CAMACHO FOR BEING CHOSEN AS THE 2015 GUAM BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joann G. Camacho for being chosen as the 2015 Guam Business Woman of the Year. Joann is a native daughter of Guam who has had a long career, spanning a collective 25 years in Guam's tourism industry. She is known throughout the island for spreading Guam's famous hospitality and hafa adai spirit.

Joann graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in 1974 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance Management in 1978 from the University of San Francisco. Her first job after college was working as a staff assistant for fiscal affairs in the office of the governor of Guam.

She began working with Duty Free Shoppers early on in her career as Divisional Merchandising Manager and helped opened 23 boutiques that appealed to the Asian tourist market on Guam while arrivals were climbing. She took a short break from her career in the tourism industry to support her husband, Felix, as he served as the Governor of Guam for two terms. During this time, she focused on protecting the environment and improving the island community. She launched the Simple Tasks Aimed at Reducing Trash (START) program.

Joann made her comeback to the industry as the General Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau. It was there that she was able to work with and support a team that helped increase visitor arrivals on Guam to the highest numbers seen in 15 years.

Joann then returned to DFS Group Ltd. in January 2013 where she serves as the Director of Market Development of the T-Galleria. As the Director of Market Development, she is responsible for identifying local trends in the private and public sectors and recognizing visitors' preference in local products. She plays a very instrumental role at the T-Galleria and has helped the organization develop the Guam Unique Merchandising Art program. This program allows local artisans the opportunity to showcase Guam's local art, history and culture through their work in a luxury retail setting.

Joann is passionate about all the work she does and is resourceful and determined to carry out every task she does with success. Her work in both the public and private sectors has helped various organizations to grow, and in turn has allowed the Guam tourism industry to prosper.

Additionally, Joann is heavily involved with non-profit agencies throughout the island of Guam. Joann continues a close relationship with the Guam Visitors Bureau and is involved with the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association, Make A Wish Foundation, Guam Museum Foundation, Japan Club of

Guam and Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association. She is also a board member of the Tourism Education Council, Guam Tourism Foundation, Latte of Freedom Foundation, Guam Red Cross and Guam Unique Merchandise and Art.

I extend my congratulations to Joann G. Camacho on being named the 2015 Guam Business Woman of the Year and thank her for her service and dedication to the island of Guam throughout the years. I also extend my congratulations to her husband, Governor Felix P. Camacho, their children, Jessica, Felix Jr. and Maria, and their grandchildren, Scotty, Colin, Raymond and Mason. I wish her the best on this important achievement.

TRIBUTE TO DICK AND MACYL REEVES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dick and Macyl Reeves of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Dick and Macyl were married in 1955.

Dick and Macyl's lifelong commitment to each other and their children Rick, Sue, and Amy truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING ALMA HICKEL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Alma Hickel, a community volunteer in Colusa County and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Alma Hickel was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, when Alma Hickel won the Grand Prize at the Colusa County Fair Cook-off last year for her famous Walnut pie, it was no surprise to hear her confess, "I love to bake. I even grew and shelled the walnuts." Alma has won multiple contest prizes for her baking skills over the years, but what Alma is most known for throughout Colusa is how generous she has been with her sharing her baking skills with the community. For many years, Alma has donated baked items to be sold or auctioned in support of local fundraising efforts.

Whereas, she has also provided inspirational leadership to 4-H, Catholic Ladies Relief Society, Our Lady of Lourdes and the Colusa Regional Medical Center.

Whereas, Alma, together with her late husband James, taught their five children the value of self-reliance, hard work, and giving back to their community through leading by example. Daughter and City Councilwoman Marilyn shares, "Our mother is amazingly kind. She operated a Daycare for over 35 years and cared for so many children. She watched them all grow up and has never forgotten them. Whenever there is a funeral in town, she will bake and take it to the family to comfort them."

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Alma Hickel.

RECOGNIZING DR. LANNY ROSS FOR RECEIVING THE 2015 ALTOONA KIWANIS CLUB CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Lanny Ross, a lifelong educator and public servant, for receiving the 2015 Altoona Kiwanis Club Citizen of the Year Award.

As a career educator and administrator, Dr. Ross has played a central role in developing countless lives and careers. Illustrating his dedication to education, Dr. Ross has worked in several school districts in multiple states as a Math Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Assistant High School Principal, High School Principal, Director of Secondary Education, Superintendent of Vocational Education, and Executive Director of Vocational Education. Additionally, he has taught at the university level for Penn State University, Lock Haven University, and St. Francis University.

Driven by a desire to give back, Dr. Ross has also been an active member of many community organizations, including: the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Blair County Airport Authority, Southern Alleghenies Workforce Investment Board, and several Professional Education Associations.

Despite a demanding career and extensive community responsibilities, Dr. Ross has also remained a dedicated family man to his wife of 50 years, his three children, and his six grandchildren.

On behalf of the Ninth District of Pennsylvania, I want to thank Dr. Ross for his service, and moreover highlight the sense of purpose with which he has served the community. He has exemplified the selfless drive that is a hallmark of our educators, and this award is a well-deserved acknowledgment of that spirit of giving.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. Lanny Ross and congratulate him for receiving the 2015 Altoona Kiwanis Club Citizen of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE DANCE
EXPLOSION CLOGGING QUINTET

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dance Explosion's clogging quintet for being chosen as one of the six finalists in the sprout division of the Bill Riley Talent Contest at the Iowa State Fair.

I would like to congratulate each member of the group:

Danika Schultes, Mikenna Cass, Kanyon Huntington, Hannah Wisniewski, and Page Hudson.

These young people are from the Afton and Creston area in southern Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their teachers demonstrates the rewards of hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating this quintet and the rest of the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING DOROTHY POOLEY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Dorothy Pooley an Ombudsman and advocate for seniors, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Dorothy Pooley was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, while Dorothy Pooley is officially retired, no one would know it. If you were to ask any of the Seniors at the Willows residential facility, they will tell you how ever-present and beloved she is there as their Ombudsman.

Whereas, Dorothy's long career began in 1954 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She worked for RCA in their Communications Engineering and Optics Engineering Departments and TRW in their Minuteman Program. In the 1970s, Dorothy moved to Glenn County and has worked for the County in numerous capacities including Public Guardian, Court Investigator and Ombudsman.

Whereas, as the Ombudsman for the Willows Center, Dorothy visits with the residents at least weekly. She is a liaison between the residents and their family members and the facility. Dorothy helps residents with problem solving when asked and always brings a friendly smile and a kind word of encouragement to all she comes in contact with.

Whereas, one Willows resident summed up Dorothy with these words, "Dorothy loves what she does. If she is needed, she comes right away to help us solve problems. If she

does not know the answer, she will find it for us. I can't think of a better person."

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Dorothy Pooley.

RECOGNIZING GRAPHICS UNIVERSAL INCORPORATED ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH YEAR OF BUSINESS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Graphics Universal Incorporated on the occasion of its 50th year of business.

Over the past half-century, Graphics Universal Inc. has grown into a successful, diversified printing business. As a family-owned small business, Graphics Universal Inc. has shown how successful a loyal approach to business can be. Fortunately for its clients and the Greencastle community, it has also shown what the grit and determination of entrepreneurs can create.

As a former small business owner, I truly appreciate how essential small businesses like Graphics Universal Inc. are to the prosperity of our country and local communities by creating jobs and economic opportunity.

In celebrating Graphics Universal Inc. for its 50-year anniversary, it is essential to also recognize the extraordinary employees that have made that milestone possible. I believe this achievement speaks to the value they have created for the company and the clients and communities they serve.

I am honored to recognize Graphics Universal Inc. for its 50 years of business, and for successfully participating in one of our country's proudest traditions: owning and operating a small business.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on September 24th and 25th to attend my daughter's wedding.

Had I been present, I would have voted against H.R. 348. Rather than improving the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this legislation would only create confusion, increase litigation, and undermine one of our nation's bedrock environmental statutes.

HONORING CHRIS WINKIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chris Winkie.

Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 378, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chris has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader. Chris has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Chris planted 75 willow trees at a low water crossing over Line Creek in Platte County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chris Winkie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ZENOBIA
BROKENBROUGH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Zenobia Brokenbrough a veteran advocate, peace activist, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Zenobia Brokenbrough was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Zee Brown Brokenbrough has been the Minister of Music at the historic Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Marysville, home to one of California's oldest choirs since 1978. For the past 10 years, Zee has been the Choir, Musical Theater and Piano teacher at the Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts, one of the highest performing schools in the Yuba-Sutter region. Previously and for many years, Zee taught 3rd grade and music at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Yuba City. Zee is an upstanding and inspiring educator who has given years of her time and talent to thousands of students.

Whereas, Zee and Bethel AME's Choir spread joy throughout the community bringing hope to patients in Senior homes and hospitals, during holiday and fundraising events, street fairs, weddings, funerals, health fairs and a myriad of other events. Annually, Zee helps charter school students fundraise to travel and perform at Chico State and Disneyland.

Whereas, through music and Zee's educational programs she is beloved by her students and peers. Zee broadens the minds of her students while challenging them to think critically, value diversity, and function competently, to become effective and confident leaders.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Zenobia Brokenbrough.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR "WOODY"
WOODMAN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today in Central Florida the life of Victor "Woody" Woodman will be celebrated as he is remembered and laid to rest. There are people in our lives who have made an important impact on each of us and Woody Woodman was a special mentor to me and a wonderful friend over the years.

Some forty-three years ago he placed his faith and confidence in me to aid him as Executive Director, as he chaired the Orange County Local Government Study Commission. Woody Woodman helped set the stage for reorganization of Orange County Florida Government. Born to Joseph and Ella Woodman in New York City he was raised in Jacksonville, Florida where he graduated from Lee High School. He was a Florida State Champion sprinter and received a scholarship to the University of Alabama. At Alabama he was a student leader and president of his Sigma Chi Fraternity on three separate occasions.

After earning his undergraduate Business Degree in 1951, he then received a Juris Doctorate at Alabama. Woody served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and in the Judge Advocate Division stationed in Scotland. In 1964 Woody moved to Winter Park and joined what was to become the Winderwee, Haines, Ward and Woodman law firm. He and his late wife, Louise, raised a son and daughter, Doug and Melissa.

In the legal community, Victor Woodman distinguished himself in both Orange County and Florida Bar Associations. He helped lead U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins' Federal Judicial Nominating Committee. For the past 26 years he has been a Trustee of the Elizabeth Morse Genius and Charles Hosmer Morse Foundations in Winter Park. Wood was a member of the Country Club of Orlando where he served as a Board Member and President. He was a long time member of Rotary and the First Presbyterian Church of Orlando.

Everyone who met or knew Woody Woodman was impressed with his demeanor, wit and wonderful personality. His wise counsel to me helped launch my successful professional, business and political career. Woody will truly be missed by all whose lives he touched. While a devoted Alabama fan, Woody's wife of 37 years, Susan, helped him better appreciate the Florida Gators.

Thank you again Victor "Woody" Woodman for wonderful memories of a wonderful life. To Susan, Doug, Melissa and family, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me as I pay tribute to this special friend, community leader and great American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 16, Thursday, September 17, and Friday, September 18, 2015, I was unable to be present for recorded votes for medical reasons related to my ongoing recovery from two hip surgeries. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Yes on roll call vote No. 495 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1214, as amended),

Yes on roll call vote No. 496 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1949, as amended),

No on roll call vote No. 497 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 420),

No on roll call vote No. 498 (on agreeing to the Collins Amendment to H. Res. 420 to waive clause 6(a) of Rule XIII of the House Rules with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of September 24, 2015 or September 25, 2015),

No on roll call vote No. 499 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 420, as amended),

Yes on roll call vote No. 500 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 758, with instructions),

No on roll call vote No. 501 (on passage of H.R. 758),

No on roll call vote No. 502 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 421),

No on roll call vote No. 503 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 421),

Yes on roll call vote No. 504 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3134, with instructions),

No on roll call vote No. 505 (on passage of H.R. 3134),

No on roll call vote No. 506 (on passage of H.R. 3504).

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
TURKEY IN THEIR FIGHT
AGAINST ISIS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the actions Turkey, a longstanding NATO ally, is taking in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which has proven to be one of the greatest security challenges of our lifetime.

In 2013, Turkey designated ISIS and all offshoots of al Qaeda as terrorist organizations, including the al Nusra Front. The dangers Turkey faces have most recently been exemplified by the attack on Suruc on July 20, 2015, in which 32 people tragically lost their lives. Just a few days later, ISIS assaulted a border military post in which a Turkish soldier was killed. It is disheartening to see that the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorist organization has taken ISIS attacks against Turkey as an opportunity to restart its terrorist campaign against civilians and officials.

Facing these threats, Turkey has become an even more active coalition partner against

ISIS. Recently, Turkey opened its military base in Incirlik for manned and unmanned coalition air operations, and has also deployed its own aircraft for air strikes against ISIS targets in Syria. This cooperation has allowed our countries to more effectively combat the threat of ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn the terrorist actions of ISIS and commend our ally for their furthered commitment in the fight against this terrorist organization. As a former President for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), I have worked closely with my Turkish counterparts, and know that the international effort has been bolstered by the steps Turkey has taken. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these tremendous efforts by our ally, as we both move forward to combat the threat of ISIS.

HONORING JENNIFER TERRA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Jennifer Terra a physical education and diversity advocate, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Jennifer Terra was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Jennifer Terra is a Physical Education instructor at Emerson Jr. High school in Davis who has been organizing Diversity training as part of the Peer Helping program for 24 years. Jennifer brings together junior high students and guest speakers who have suffered from discrimination, stereotyping, and bullying. The goal is to break down barriers between students and make them more aware of what they say and do and how their words and actions affect the people around them. The day-long trainings take place several times throughout the year and are open to any student who wishes to participate. Topics cover a wide range of disabling conditions, sexual orientation, race, religion, and culture.

Whereas, Jennifer's Peer Helping program pairs an older student with each incoming 7th grader who monitors them periodically throughout the year and serves as a mentor. Peer Helper's give Prevention presentations to the 7th graders on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and stress management. This builds trust and role modeling on how to treat themselves and one another with respect.

Whereas, in Jennifer's P.E. classes, she establishes a learning environment at the beginning of each year before any physical education takes place. Her emphasis is on the principles of teamwork as a critical life skill to be utilized well beyond the basketball court. Jennifer's commitment to the nurturing of caring, young people who will in turn grow into a caring community are a reflection of her deep character and hope for a strong bright future.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Jennifer Terra.

HONORING SHEILA ALLEN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheila Allen of Whitewater, Missouri for the selfless and caring attitude that she has shown through her volunteer work. A homecoming event will be held in her honor on September 26, 2015 in St. Louis to celebrate her new role as the State President for the Department of Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary for 2015–2016.

As State President, Sheila volunteers her time to aid the veterans of our nation and convey patriotic education to others. The Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars is an organization over 100 years old and works to better our community by serving active-duty military personnel and their families.

It is my pleasure to recognize Sheila for her efforts and service before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO ELAINE BOHLING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elaine Bohling, of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected as Iowan of the Day at the 2015 Iowa State Fair.

Since 1997, ten nominees each year are named Iowan of the Day, receiving a special day of recognition at the Fair. The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation looks for individuals across the state who personify the greatness of Iowa by displaying strong work ethic, loyalty to helping others, and an exceptional sense of Iowa pride, all things easily seen in Elaine.

Elaine Bohling is known as an advocate for youth and an eager volunteer. She volunteers with Living History Farms, Iowa Machine Shed Thanksgiving Dinner, Legion Auxiliary, Des Moines Playhouse, Friends of the Library, 4-H and many more organizations. One of her favorites, though, is the Iowa State Fair, where you can find her working with the Iowa 4-H Foundation, Iowa Egg Council, Iowa Tourism, and Keep Iowa Beautiful.

Mr. Speaker, Elaine's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Elaine for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO H.R.
3504 AND H.R. 3134**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to register my deep concerns with a pair of bills, H.R. 3504 and H.R. 3134, that were considered by the House last week. Although I was unable to be present to vote against these measures due to a medical appointment related to my recovery from two recent hip surgeries, I remain steadfastly opposed to both bills.

I am a strong supporter of increasing access to family planning and women's healthcare services. H.R. 3134, passed in the House last week by a vote of 241–187, prohibits the federal government from funding Planned Parenthood health centers for one year. This legislation is nothing more than a punitive and intrusive attack on the essential and wide-ranging healthcare services that Planned Parenthood provides. If this bill was signed into law, it would cut off essential health services for millions of women, men, and families across the United States.

Planned Parenthood serves a total of 2.7 million patients per year. It is a central provider of equitable access to healthcare for both men and women of underserved communities across the United States. One in five American women will use Planned Parenthood services at some time during her life. In Washington State, more than 103,000 women and men—nearly 65 percent of whom are at or below the poverty line—use Planned Parenthood for their family planning and basic health needs. If this legislation succeeds, millions of Americans will be stripped of this access.

Anti-choice rhetoric and controversy has surrounded federal funding for Planned Parenthood because about three percent of the services they provide include abortion services. Current law already denies Medicaid coverage for these services by almost completely barring federal funding, except in very limited circumstances. Ninety percent of the services Planned Parenthood provides are preventative health services, including lifesaving cancer screenings, blood pressure checks, birth control, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and educational efforts to avoid unwanted pregnancies and prevent abortions. Failing to fund Planned Parenthood will greatly diminish access to these services for low income women, men, and families in need of affordable healthcare and preventative screenings.

H.R. 3504 was also passed in the House last week. This bill legislation attempts to advance the anti-choice, anti-health agenda by interfering with important and difficult medical judgments that should be left up to health professionals. If enacted into law, this bill would apply scare tactics like onerous criminal penalties on doctors and clinicians. These penalties are punitive and will intimidate women away from seeking safe, legal, standardized, evidence-based care. This legislation is not a restatement of current “born-alive” law which contained language assuring no interference

in a women's right to terminate a pregnancy. Instead, this bill takes that assurance away from women. This effort signifies the latest attempt by extreme Republicans to limit women's access to safe, legal abortions. I strongly oppose this legislation that politicizes women's health and interferes in the doctor-patient relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with women across the United States to defend their access to comprehensive reproductive health options, and commend Planned Parenthood for leading in this effort.

SGT. ALVIN C. YORK—WWI
AMERICAN SOLDIER**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant York is one of the most decorated American heroes of the 20th century. A Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, he is best remembered for his role in a battalion to capture German positions during an attack in 1918 in the Chatel-Chehery region of France on the war's Western Front. A German machine gun fire attack resulted in the loss of numerous Americans, leaving York in charge of the seven remaining soldiers. Leaving his men under cover, Sergeant York ventured out to silence the enemy fire.

As he describes in his diary:

Those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. There were over thirty of them in continuous action, and all I could do was touch the Germans off just as fast as I could. I was sharp shooting . . . All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had.

York's courageous assault resulted in 20 enemy casualties and 132 captures. The young soldier was immediately promoted and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. The citation describes his deeds as “fearless”, “daring” and “heroic”.

But while the description is fair, in many ways York's story is not just one of the battlefield and it is worth reflecting on York the man, not the myth.

A person of deep Christian faith, Sergeant York was converted—or as he put it “saved”—in his late teens by the Reverend M. H. Russell, known in Tennessee as the “evangelist of the mountains”.

While in his youth he admits to being inclined to sin, since joining the Church of Christ in Christian Union, York found more righteous pursuits, teaching children scripture and singing in the choir.

“I am a good deal like Paul,” York wrote in his diary. “The things I loved, I now hate.”

When, in 1917, the United States heard the call of its allies and joined the war effort, the young churchgoer and singer received a note requiring him to report to his local board.

Despite rising to be a military hero, York was unsure whether the war was just, torn between the pacifism of his faith and patriotism for his country.

"I was bothered a plenty as to whether it was right or wrong," he wrote. "I knew that if it was right, everything would be all right."

"And I also knew that if it was wrong and we were only fighting for a bunch of foreigners, it would all be wrong. And I prayed and prayed. I prayed two whole days and a night out on the mountainside. And I received my assurance direct from God . . . that it was all right, and that I was coming back."

Well Sergeant York did come back and the people of Tennessee should be very pleased.

Following the war, York returned to the region of his boyhood in the Wolf River valley of Tennessee and committed himself to public service. A national figure upon his return, he turned down offers for endorsements, public appearances and even the movie rights to his life, instead turning attention to the needs of his local community.

He lobbied the Tennessee State Legislature for funds for education and infrastructure and in 1926 established a school in Fentress County, which still stands today.

When asked how he wanted to be remembered, Sergeant York responded simply: "For improving education in Tennessee".

We remember him for much more than that today—for his patriotic service of his nation and God.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JANE JOHNSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Jane Johnson a community organizer and mental health advocate, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Jane Johnson was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Jane Johnson has been working in the nonprofit field in Solana County for 30 years. Originally from San Mateo County, Jane was part of the team that moved Marine World Africa USA from Redwood City to Vallejo, CA in 1985. Her passion for educating children about our world's wildlife continues but has taken a bit of a back seat to providing services to at-risk children in Solano County.

Whereas, in 1989, Jane left Marine World to join the Girl Scouts. Under her tenure as CEO of the Girl Scout Council of Napa-Solano, the local organization was recognized nationally for its service to girls in underserved communities. Outreach programs focusing on self-esteem, empowerment, and job skills grew to include services in every low-income housing project in both Napa and Solano counties, juvenile hall sites in both counties, teen parenting programs, and a battered women's shelter.

Whereas, Jane currently provides leadership as the Executive Director to Solano County's largest children's mental health service provider, Child Haven. She brings to the organization a solid business background, with a

commitment to professionalism and a drive for excellence. Under her leadership, the agency has increased service contracts by 61%, diversified funding streams, and grown in cultural diversity, thus allowing local families greater access to mental health services. Collaboration and shared responsibility for our community is integral in Jane's management style. Jane is proud to have served on the leadership team bringing a Family Justice Center to Solano County, thus creating a single entrance to services for domestic violence victims, young and old.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Jane Johnson.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MCGARGILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate George McGargill of Imogene, Iowa for being inducted into the "America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame." The Hall of Fame is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and was established as part of the Pioneer Music Museum in Anita, Iowa.

George has performed country music for the past 30 years. He has written over 50 songs and has produced 4 CDs. George joins a host of other performers, including Patti Page, Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash, the Everly Brothers, Hank Williams, Sr., and the Carter Family as inductees into America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate George for his many years of providing and performing country music locally and throughout the State of Iowa. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating George and wishing him nothing but the best moving forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROCK CREEK NATIONAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, September 27, 2015 marks the 125th anniversary of Rock Creek Park, and to celebrate, today, I introduce a bill to redesignate the National Park Service-owned Rock Creek Park, in the District of Columbia, as "Rock Creek National Park." Renaming this park will highlight its significance to the nation, including visitors to the nation's capital, and encourage more daily use and involvement with the park's beautiful trails, waterways and features by residents of the District of Columbia.

Rock Creek Park is a historically rich park, established by Congress in 1890 "for the ben-

efit and enjoyment of the people of the United States," and is the oldest urban park and the third federal park ever created, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Rock Creek Park was designed to preserve animals, timber, forestry, and other interests in the park, and to ensure that its natural state is maintained as much as possible.

Over time, several structures have been established or donated to further preserve Rock Creek Park. In 1892, for example, the federal government acquired Peirce Mill in Rock Creek Park, one of the mills used by local farmers during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. In 1950, the Old Stone House, located at 3051 M Street NW, with its great pre-Revolutionary War architectural merit, was acquired. The building was restored, and programs explain the house's rich history from the colonial period to the present day. The Fort Circle Parks were also acquired to interpret and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington, which created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War.

Today, Rock Creek Park offers District of Columbia, Maryland, and Northern Virginia residents an escape from urban living. Residents and tourists alike also enjoy many activities in the park's 2,000 acres, including hiking and bike riding on the historical trails, horseback riding, picnicking, tennis, and other recreational activities in some of the open fields. Moreover, residents are involved in the clean-up and maintenance of the trails and waterways. The Rock Creek Conservancy works directly with the National Park Service and is dedicated to protecting and promoting the entirety of the Rock Creek watershed through conservation, recreation, and education programs.

Redesignating Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park will help the National Park Service, the Rock Creek Conservancy, area residents, and visitors to recognize the national status of the park and protect and revitalize this remarkable resource in our nation's capital. It is fitting that we recognize the historical significance of Rock Creek Park on its 125th birthday by using the occasion to rename it Rock Creek National Park.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING KEN FIEBELMAN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ken Fiebelman for his exemplary work with the Dent County Historical Society and service as a member of the Missouri State House of Representatives. On Sunday September 27, Mr. Fiebelman will be honored with a lifetime achievement award for his time at the Dent County Historical Society.

Mr. Fiebelman served as the Dent County Genealogist and Historian for nearly half a century. He also served for six terms as a member of the Missouri State House of Representatives where, among his many notable

accomplishments, he led the effort to designate the fiddle as Missouri's state musical instrument. During his time as a state representative, Ken succeeded in establishing Highway 19 as a scenic highway and securing the construction of Highway 72.

Ken is the epitome of a community leader and historian and it is my pleasure to recognize him for his accomplishments before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD AND
NADINE PECK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gerald and Nadine Peck of Avoca, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Gerald and Nadine were married in 1950.

Gerald and Nadine's lifelong commitment to each other, their children and grandchildren truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

LIFE OF WILLIAM C. WAGGONER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of William C. Waggoner.

William C. Waggoner is the first Vice President of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). He served as the Western States Director and Business Manager for Local 12. Organized labor in the state of California has benefited from Mr. Waggoner's leadership and influence.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) was founded in 1896. IUOE today has approximately 400,000 members in 123 local unions throughout the United States and Canada.

IUOE is the 10th largest union in the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

In 1970, Mr. Waggoner was elected to serve as President of Local 12. From 1976–2012, Mr. Waggoner served as the Business Manager of his chapter. As a District Representative, he was able to advocate on behalf of members.

Members of Local 12 recall Mr. Waggoner's influence on the union movement with gratitude and admiration.

Mr. Waggoner dedicated his life to advancing the principles of organized labor. Under his leadership Local 12 developed a nationally recognized apprenticeship training program.

Mr. Waggoner established a legacy in the realm of organized labor.

His commitment to protecting the rights, wages, and benefits of working people has bettered the lives of working men and women.

HONORING JAN MEYER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Jan Meyer a youth advocate, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Jan Meyer was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Jan Meyer is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Live Oak. For the past 15 years, city residents have been delighted to learn that there are no limits to Jan's imagination and determination to design and implement programs tailored especially for them.

Whereas, Jan works collaboratively with schools and service and civic clubs to provide athletic programs to children and adults. She coordinates with these same organizations, local businesses, Live Oak's Chamber of Commerce, the Arts Commission, and Police and Fire departments to provide annual events including the National Night Out, Small Town Christmas, and the Live Oak Fall Festival.

Whereas, ensuring the recreational needs of Live Oak's youth are met is where Jan really shines. During the summer months, the community pool is a beehive of activity with entertainment, games, treats, and themed events. Jan has created scholarship opportunities for all youth programs, including Pool Passes based on family income, so that no Live Oak child is turned away for the inability to pay. At the beginning of each school year, Jan works with service clubs to ensure that local students have the school supplies they need. If this or any other program falls short, she always finds a way to make up for the shortfall.

Whereas, every child of Live Oak is deserving of a safe community to play and grow in. What is special about Jan is that her heart holds each and every one of Live Oak's children within it.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Jan Meyer.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH JORGENSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hannah Jorgensen of Adair, Iowa for receiving a state 4-H citizenship project award. Hannah is the daughter of Paul and Jeanette Jorgensen.

A state 4-H project award is the highest achievement one can receive in the 4-H project work category. Project awards are given to youth who demonstrate leadership, communication, and volunteerism in certain project areas. A total of 152 youth from 55 counties competed for these project awards on the state level. Achieving this honor is a true testament to Hannah's dedication to serving others, and I commend her for her hard work.

Mr. Speaker, Hannah's actions embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Hannah on her achievement and I wish her and her family nothing but the best.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING CALVO'S SELECT CARE ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE ON GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Calve's Select Care as the company celebrates its 15th anniversary of business and service to the people of Guam. Calve's Select Care began operations in Guam in 2000 with the plan originally insured by Nichido Insurance. The plan is now insured by Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance (TMPI), a local company formed by the merger of Nichido Insurance and Tokio Marine.

Calvo's Select Care has its main office in Guam and has branches in the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and service offices in the Philippines. Calve's Select Care has experienced steady growth over the years. Significant expansion of Calve's Select Care was signified with the opening of its office in Koror, Palau in 2006 and its service office in Manila, Philippines in 2007. In 2008 Calve's Select Care became the sole provider of health insurance benefits for the government of Guam employees and in 2013 was approved to offer health insurance benefits to federal employees and annuitants. The company insures over 38,000 members from government of Guam employees and retirees, federal employees and annuitants, and commercial groups throughout Guam, CNMI and Palau.

Calvo's Select Care provides an extensive network of medical providers to its members in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, the mainland United States, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. The company is also innovative and offers unique plans to meet the variety of needs of its members. Calve's Select Care introduced the first web based application in Guam for its members to use. They also introduced wellness programs in partnership with clinics and fitness facilities. Calve's Select Care also offers free gym benefits to government of Guam employees and discounted gym memberships for its commercial groups. In addition to gym access, these wellness programs include smoking cessation and diabetes management. Calve's Select

Care introduced the Air Ambulance discount program to its members. The program has been a success and has saved over 10 lives on island since it started. Additionally, the company plans on launching a mobile application to provide better service and make things more consumer friendly.

I congratulate Calve's Select Care on its 15th anniversary and commend the company's leadership and all employees for their contributions to the community of Guam and throughout the region. I look forward to their future contributions and success.

HONORING GRACIELA ESPINDOLA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Graciela Espindola, a youth advocate and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Graciela Espindola was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, Graciela Espindola is the Program Coordinator of the Intervention and Prevention Programs that she founded and established for the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office in Yuba City, California. She has over 30 years of professional experience in educational systems and structures with an emphasis in social work.

Whereas, throughout her years of experience, Graciela has chaired several local and state organizations including President of the California Association of Child Welfare and Attendance organization, Chair of the Pupil Services Coalition, and California Delegate of the International Association for Truancy & Dropout Prevention. She has also served on the California Department of Education's K-12 Student Mental Health Initiative Advisory Board, School Attendance Review Board, and the Gang Risk Intervention Program.

Whereas, Graciela has a certification in Counseling Vocational Assessment & Career Counseling from Chapman College and Human Resources and Management from the California State University, Sacramento. She is currently a Masters in Social Work candidate at the University of Southern California's dual Social Work and Global Policy PhD program. In addition, Graciela is also a successful grant writer and project manager, securing more than \$7 million in grant funds during her career.

Resolved, that I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Graciela Espindola.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD AND JERE TIARKS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Harold and Jere Tiarks of Treynor, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Harold and Jere were married on September 10, 1955 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Harold and Jere's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion. I wish them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN GREGORY M. "MARK" BEAVERS, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Gregory M. "Mark" Beavers, for his nearly three decades of honorable service in the United States Navy Medical Service Corps and to our great Nation on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Energy, Installations, and Environment, U.S. Army Garrison Forest Glen, Silver Spring, Maryland, August 1, 2015.

Upon receiving his Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1980 from James Madison University and a Master of Science in Entomology from the University of Florida in 1983, Captain Beavers served the State of Florida as a Biological Technician at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. In 1985, he answered the call to serve our Nation and received his direct commission in the United States Navy.

As a naval officer and entomologist, his military duty stations spanned the globe and included the Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Alameda, California, and Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Number Five, San Diego, California. In 1990, he was transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital in Subic Bay, Philippines, where he served in a vital role as Head of the Preventive Medicine Department and the Entomology Division.

Following his tour of duty in the Philippines, which saw the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo, he was selected for the Navy's Duty Under Instruction program, and in 1996, received his Doctor of Philosophy in Entomology at the University of Kentucky. From there, Captain Beavers reported to Naval Medical Research Unit Number Three in Cairo, Egypt,

where he served for nearly four years as a research entomologist and then assumed the position of Officer in Charge, Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center in Jacksonville, Florida. In 2002, Captain Beavers was assigned to Pensacola, Florida, where he would establish his roots as a resident of the greater Gulf Coast, and served as the Executive Officer of Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory and as the Navy Surgeon General's Specialty Leader for Navy Entomology. In 2005, he reported to Maryland's Naval Medical Research Center where he was tasked as the Navy Medical Research and Development Liaison to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Due to his extensive experience and proven leadership, he was appointed by the Commanding General of U.S. Army Medical Materiel Research and Materiel Command as Director of the Department of Defense's Military Infectious Diseases Research Program. In 2009, Captain Beavers reported to the Armed Forces Pest Management Board as Chief of the Information Services Division, and in 2012, he was appointed the 16th Director of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board.

According to those who were fortunate to have served with him throughout his prestigious and impressive military career and as evidenced by his numerous awards and accolades, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4 awards), in addition to other individual and unit service awards, Captain Beavers served with honor and distinction, and as a grateful Nation, we owe him our gratitude.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I sincerely thank Captain Beavers, the proud son of William Julian and Betty Jean Beavers and brother to Stephen Michael and Paul David Beavers, for his admirable military service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing him continued success as he turns to the next chapter in his life. We also want to recognize and thank his wife Carol and sons, James and Michael for their many sacrifices and support as a dedicated and loving Navy Family. May God continue to bless the entire Beavers family and all of our men and women in uniform who have bravely answered the call to defend our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO KEN TYLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ken Tyler of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who recently retired from the Pottawattamie County Attorney's office after over 40 years of service.

Ken served as an assistant county attorney and was the longest-serving member in the County Attorney's office. He started his career in 1973 and helped prosecute cases during five different decades. Ken attended Abraham

Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs and Creighton University Law School in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, Ken made a difference by helping and serving others. It is truly an honor to represent Iowans like Ken who have dedicated their lives to improving our great state. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

HONORING GLORIA FLAHERTY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Gloria Flaherty, a child and family advocate, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Gloria Flaherty was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Gloria is the founding Director of the Lake Family Resource Center. Lake FRC is a family resource, referral, and support center that has grown to serve 1,400 families and 4,500 individuals annually. Under Gloria's leadership, it has acquired independent facilities and expanded programs.

Whereas, as a member of the Kelseyville School Board, Gloria helped establish the first Education Foundation in Lake County. She also assisted with the development and operation of a Domestic Violence Shelter in Lake County.

Whereas, Gloria has also served many years on First 5 and helped to secure funding for the Early Head Start program.

Whereas, two winters ago, Lake County experienced a severe drop in temperature that was adversely affecting the homeless population in Clearlake. Gloria responded without

delay and opened a "Warming Center" at one of the Lake FRC locations to provide shelter and respite. Gloria had no budget or supplies at the time, but she opened the doors of the center immediately, secured food donations, cots, and volunteer staff. She pulled it together, because it was the right thing to do. The Warming Center remained open for 2 months until the weather abated and homeless families were spared additional suffering because of her Can Do spirit and responsive action.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Gloria Flaherty.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DUNN LORING WOODS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dunn Loring Woods Civic Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Located in the heart of Fairfax County and the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, the Dunn Loring Woods neighborhood consists of approximately 550 homes situated on about 300 acres. By the summer of 1964, construction of the homes was complete. The next spring, residents formed the Dunn Loring Woods Civic Association (DLWCA) to enable the community to speak with one voice on local issues and seek improvements in the neighborhood. DLWCA also operates an active Neighborhood Watch program which helps to ensure the area remains safe and that neighbors stay connected. Neighbors can communicate with each other through DLWCA's website, blog, and social media platforms.

Dunn Loring Woods is known as an exceptionally warm, friendly, and welcoming neigh-

borhood. Many of the original owners still reside there, and those who have moved often return to attend community events such as block parties. Residents tell stories of young residents helping their elderly neighbors, and civic association meetings that more closely resemble friends stopping in to chat.

Each year, the DLWCA presents the Edward P. Day Citizenship Award to an individual in recognition of his or her service to Dunn Loring Woods and the surrounding community. I am pleased to congratulate Joe Murphy for receiving this honor for 2015. Joe is an original owner and for 38 years spearheaded the Syracuse Circle block party. While several blocks or cul-de-sacs have their own long standing traditions, nothing compared to the parties that Joe threw. Joe's enthusiasm, energy, and creativity epitomize the personality of Dunn Loring Woods.

Always looking to the future, 5 years ago the DLWCA established a scholarship program. This program provides a \$500 scholarship to a local high school senior who has demonstrated good citizenship and commitment to the community. I congratulate Emily Reinhart, a senior at Marshall High School, for being the winner of the 2015 scholarship. Emily is a scholar-athlete, has earned the Girl Scout Silver Award, is a member of the National Art Honor Society, and is active in Stop Hunger Now, which packages meals to be sent to more than 63 countries.

As the former president of my own civic association, I know firsthand that when residents invest their time, care, and energies in their communities, it benefits all. Fairfax County is considered one of the best places in the nation in which to work, live, and raise a family, largely because of the willingness of so many to become actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Dunn Loring Woods Civic Association on its 50th anniversary and in thanking all of the residents for their tireless efforts and dedication to the community and region.

SENATE—Monday, September 28, 2015

The Senate met at 4:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

From the depths of gratitude, O Lord, we lift our hearts in prayer. Hear our petitions and fill us with Your peace. Lord, still and quiet our hearts, bringing to us a serenity that comes from trusting the power of Your providential love.

Inspire our lawmakers to develop such a close relationship with You that they would strive to please You always. As You fill their hearts with Your life-transforming Spirit, may Your image in them be more clearly seen. Free them from any thoughts, words, and actions that are contrary to Your love, making them spiritually mature through the power of Your Spirit.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, a new Senate majority came to office this year with a new outlook on government funding from the previous majority. First, we passed a budget. Then we worked across the aisle to pass through the committee the dozen bills necessary to fund the government. That is the first time either of these things has happened in 6 long years.

Our commonsense approach represented real hope that with the necessary cooperation from across the aisle, a new and better way of funding the government was actually possible. Democrats initially gave Americans reason to believe they might be ready to offer that bipartisan cooperation. Democrats gave bipartisan committee backing to nearly all of the dozen government funding bills, and a majority

of these bills attracted support from at least 70 percent of Democratic Appropriations Committee members. Democrats even bragged about supporting these funding bills in press releases to their constituents.

But this was before Democrats hatched their filibuster summer plan—in other words, block all of the government funding bills in the hopes of provoking a crisis Democrats might exploit to grow the IRS and the DC bureaucracy. As a result, you actually saw Democratic leaders declare that they would use procedural moves to prevent the full Senate from even debating the same funding legislation members of their party had already praised in their press releases to the media.

Democrats even voted repeatedly to block the bill that funds our military. Think about that—funds for our military. It would have been cynical enough for our colleagues to block a bipartisan defense spending bill Democrats had hailed as a “win, win, win” and a “victory” for their States in their press releases, but we are all living in a time of unparalleled international crises. Threats seem to mount less by the day than by the hour. Yet last week Democrats voted again to block the bipartisan bill that funds pay raises and medical care for our troops. It was very extreme.

I wish I could say it was the only extreme position our Democratic friends took last week. On Thursday Senators were given a choice between funding women’s health or funding a scandal-racked organization called Planned Parenthood. Republicans stood up for women’s health; Democrats stood up for their political friends.

I think Democrats will come to regret their continued prioritization of the needs of the far left over women, over our military, and over seemingly everything else. The question before us now is how to keep the government open in the short term, given the realities we face.

This is what the president of National Right to Life had to say on the matter:

There are two different roads that we can take. One is to insist that no more money go to Planned Parenthood and cause a government shutdown (which [interestingly enough] won’t result in actually defunding Planned Parenthood). The other is to take a slightly longer-term approach, taking advantage of the fact that we have the attention of the country as probably never before. . . .

Had Democrats not prevented the Senate from passing the same appropriations bills they voted for and praised, we wouldn’t be having this dis-

cussion right now. But they did. They pursued a deliberate strategy to force our country into another of these unnecessary crises. This leaves the funding legislation before us as the only viable way forward in the short-term. It doesn’t represent my 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 23rd choice when it comes to funding the government, but it will keep the government open through the fall and funded at the bipartisan level already agreed to by both parties as we work on the way forward.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time during the quorum calls until 5:30 p.m. be charged equally between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNING BY CRISIS

Mr. REID. Madam President, a path to avert yet another Republican-manufactured shutdown is before us now. This evening the Senate will vote to invoke cloture on a clean continuing resolution that keeps the Federal Government open and funded. We believe debate should continue on this issue, and that is why we are voting the way we are going to vote. Following that vote, the Senate will then proceed to final passage of a clean funding measure—sometime tomorrow or Wednesday. That will take a simple majority. I am pleased that we are on the verge of avoiding another Republican-sponsored shutdown of the Federal Government. We are fortunate cooler heads are prevailing.

But I would be remiss if I didn’t remind everyone—especially my Republican colleagues—that this last-minute scramble to do our most basic job is as unnecessary as it is reckless. We are 2 days from a shutdown—only 2 days. And why? Because Republicans made it their No. 1 priority to undermine women’s health. Keeping the government open, funded, and serving the American people was a secondary concern for these extremists in the Republican Party. My friend the Republican leader, in talking about this choice a few days ago, the choice between—he said Planned Parenthood; I say the health of women—understand, the Republicans couldn’t even get a majority

vote on this. They couldn't get a majority vote; they were down in the forties. So even the Republicans think what is going on now is foolish. Keeping government open and funded and serving the American people was a secondary concern for those extremists. That is too bad.

So while I am pleased that we now have a path forward to avoid a shutdown, I am nonetheless concerned about the Republican *modus operandi* of always governing by crisis. Remember, this is the fifth time in 2 years the Republicans have manufactured an unnecessary shutdown crisis. Two years ago they actually shut down the government. For 17 days, Republicans shut down the government, and we were only able to get ourselves out of that morass because—for example, in the House of Representatives, two-thirds of the Republicans in the House voted to keep the government closed. That is unbelievable, but that is the way it was. Here it is now 2 years later, and we are on the verge of another shutdown.

Remember this: This is the fifth time in 2 years that Republicans have manufactured an unnecessary showdown crisis—and it is a shutdown. Too bad it is leading to a shutdown.

Exactly 2 years ago, as I indicated, of course, they shut down the Federal Government because of health care. Seven months ago, Republicans almost shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Why? Over an immigration issue. The Department of Homeland Security—they were going to shut it down. It was saved in the last minute. These are the agencies within this Department that protect us. They protect us from terrorists, and they protect us from those many things that happen in our country that we need protection from.

This past spring, it shut down key national security programs that were part of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Why? They were fighting among themselves. The Republican leader wanted a bill for a certain length of time. People within his caucus wanted one for another length of time. There was a fight among them, not among us, but they came close to wreaking havoc. They did wreak some havoc because the program was shut down for a while.

More recently, Republicans shut down the Export-Import Bank, endangering the hundreds of thousands of jobs this program supports. It is still closed.

Now we are just days from another shutdown—another kind of shutdown but a big one. And although it appears we will sidestep a Republican-manufactured crisis this week, the disaster is looming. We still have a long, difficult road ahead.

The continuing resolution will pass this week, but it is for a short term,

and it funds our government through December 11. The measure is very shortsighted—December 11. That means within the coming weeks, we will again be negotiating with Republicans to avoid another shutdown.

We will also have to find a way to pay our bills to avoid a catastrophic default on our debt. Republicans tried that once. We came within minutes of doing that. The Federal Government—this great country of ours—wouldn't be able to pay its bills.

But we see the press. We see all these stories about the Speaker, who is going to step down in 5 weeks, and we hear the Republicans over there. They are joyous. One Republican running for President announced this, and there was cheering. And the person running for President—who serves in the Senate—was part of the cheer. Another Republican Presidential candidate came to the same meeting, and the same thing happened. It is hard to comprehend that people are cheering for this government to be closed. That is what they are doing. We shouldn't pay our debt?

The Republican House is in a sad state. Last week the far right showed that it can depose a Speaker and has emerged more powerful than ever, more outspoken than ever. Members of the House will hold their leadership elections in the coming days, and I hope they elect some sensible leaders. I am deeply concerned.

I came to the floor on Friday and spoke as honestly as I could of my respect for JOHN BOEHNER. I think it is unfair that people are piling on. Did I always agree with him? No. But he never misled me and always told me the way it was.

I am deeply concerned that even those Republican leaders previously inclined toward compromise have already lost the courage to stand up to the far right when it matters the most, and they have said so in the press. That is too bad.

Come November 1, we have no way of knowing what House Republicans will do—this is after their elections to replace Congressman BOEHNER. We have no idea what they are going to do, whether they will try to again steer our government off a cliff, as numerous House Members have said in the last few days. Do they want to go off that cliff or do they want to recklessly hammer the global economy? Maybe both.

We need to get to work immediately to avoid being right back here on December 11 facing another Republican shutdown because if one thing is clear, it is that Republicans see impending catastrophe as a political tool that they need to exploit.

The American people don't want another 15 months of Republican brinkmanship. Our constituents don't want every simple legislative task to turn into a doomsday clock. So I invite my

Republican colleagues to quit governing by crisis. Let's put the threat of government shutdown to bed now, and then let's turn our attention to something that both sides agree on—getting rid of the dangerous sequester cuts.

I have heard speeches given by the senior Senator from Arizona—someone who knows a little bit about the military—and he says sequester cuts are terrible. I agree with him.

These devastating cuts were never supposed to happen. They were meant to drive bipartisan budget negotiations. Getting rid of sequestration has wide bipartisan support in both Chambers, I hope. We should start working right now on a bipartisan budget fix that helps the military, helps the middle class, and puts our country on a more sound economic footing. And let's do it without the threat of a government shutdown. We can do it, but only if Republicans don't divert us to yet another catastrophe.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 719, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 719, an act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 2689, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

McConnell amendment No. 2690 (to amendment No. 2689), to change the enactment date.

McConnell motion to refer the House message on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 2691, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 2692 (to the instructions) amendment No. 2691), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 2693 (to amendment No. 2692), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until the cloture vote on the motion to concur with an amendment in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Wednesday night is the deadline. On

Wednesday night, the authority of the government of the United States to do business ends. The funding for our government ends. It is a scary time. We don't want that to happen—most of us—because we know it will be catastrophic. There will be people who will suffer if we fail to do our job.

Now, this isn't the first time we have been up against a deadline. We have faced them before, and many times we have to buy a little extra time to negotiate the budget. That is understandable. In this circumstance, though, we actually have announced candidates for the Presidency of the United States who are calling for a government shutdown.

What happens when our government shuts down? Well, it is pretty obvious. Agencies stop doing business as usual. What we find, though, is that the impact goes far beyond just that simple statement.

I went back to Illinois this last weekend, and I went for a visit to Scott Air Force Base. It is the largest single employer in the State of Illinois and downstate.

In 2013—the last time we had a government shutdown—the junior Senator from Texas, Senator TED CRUZ, wanted to shut down our government to protest ObamaCare. So he successfully closed down the government and found other Republicans who would join him in that effort, and it went on for a long period of time.

In 2013, at Scott Air Force Base, one of the most important defense facilities in our country, in Belleville, IL, we saw two-thirds of the civilian workforce—that is about 3,400 people—sent home immediately without pay. Those who were required to report for duty, including all of the base's 5,000 military personnel, would have been given IOUs rather than paychecks. Scott Air Force Base families were forced to limit their spending and stretch their savings while the Senator from Texas gave speeches on the floor about Dr. Seuss. I am not making this up.

This had an impact on the entire region of Southwestern Illinois. Scott Air Force Base has a \$1.6 billion economic impact on the local area, including supporting thousands of indirect jobs. Every part of this regional economy felt the impact of this decision to shut down the government 2 years ago—gas stations, restaurants, small businesses, contractors, everybody.

Now, this brinkmanship goes far beyond flowery speeches on the floor and press attention. The last shutdown hurt the gross domestic product of the United States of America. Consumer confidence drops when the government shuts down. We saw \$2 billion in lost productivity from furloughed employees.

Federal Reserve Chairman Janet Yellen said:

We have a good recovery in place that's really making progress and to see Congress

take actions that would endanger that progress, I think that would be more than unfortunate. So to me that's Congress' job.

The CEO of JPMorgan Chase, a man named Jamie Dimon, speaking of the last Republican government shutdown, said, "Washington has really slowed American down." I agree. And if that were the only thing that was happening, it would be bad enough. But there is more.

Today I went to a neighborhood in Chicago, the All Saints Episcopal Church in Ravenswood. They are doing a restoration on this beautiful church built back in the 19th century. I met with the pastor there. We were at the food pantry of this church. This Episcopal Church tries to help neighborhood residents who are struggling to find enough to eat.

We had a little press conference with the local Congressman, MIKE QUIGLEY and JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and people who represented the food pantries of Chicago in that area. They are worried about a shutdown and what a shutdown means to them. How would it affect the All Saints Episcopal Church food pantry and the men and women who go in there on a regular basis to pick up some canned goods to get by? Here is what it means. Many of these people are on food stamps. We call it the SNAP program now. The SNAP program, on average, gives a person food worth \$7 a day, so the notion that people are going out for steak dinners on food stamps is not quite accurate.

Sara—and I won't use her full name—who is 81 years old, came up to talk about what life is like for her. She was a hard-working person, stricken with cancer in 2002, which recurred in 2004, and she had to quit working. She has a walker now and she gets around, but all she has is her Social Security check and food stamps. That is how she survives from week to week and month to month.

What happens when there is a government shutdown? They cut off food stamps. Did that happen last time? No. The last time the Senator from Texas shut down the government, it didn't happen because President Obama had a surplus in his recovery fund and he took the surplus and put it in the food stamps so there would be no interruption of service. You see, most of the recipients of food stamps are children. Single moms raising kids and not making enough money supplement their income with food stamps and buy food for their kids. Food stamps are also used by elderly people like Sara who are struggling on a fixed income.

This time is different. If these Presidential wannabes who are determined to shut down the government this time are successful, we are going to have problems right away. It turns out the only surplus left in the food stamp or SNAP benefit fund is about \$3 billion. That will keep the program going for 2

weeks. After 2 weeks, they cut off the food stamps. What does that mean? Well, for a lot of people it means a lot of suffering—primarily for the poorest people among us.

Did anyone notice last week what happened in Washington? The city was transformed by the visit of Pope Francis. Congress was in awe of this man who came and spoke to us in very human terms about what he thinks would be our obligation, not just as elected officials but as human beings. One of his highest priorities is that we have some caring and sensitivity for those who struggle—the poor, the people on food stamps.

So for all the applause and all of the posing for pictures that went on last week with the Pope, here we are this week discussing a government shutdown. Here we are this week discussing whether we are going to cut off food stamps for poor people in America.

It is a sad reality to think of what a government shutdown would do in human terms to those wonderful folks working at Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, IL, or to Sara who will go into the All Saints Episcopal Church food pantry and try to get by, as food stamps are cut off.

Why? Why would we do that? How can we possibly be serving this Nation—this great Nation—by stalling our economy and hurting innocent people and punishing those who are serving our country in uniform and otherwise?

Some think it is a grand strategy—a great political strategy. It may move them up from the smaller debate to the big-time debate when it comes to running for President. To me it is an indication we have lost our way.

In June, I joined with the other leaders on this side of the aisle in sending a letter to the Republican leader saying: Please, don't wait until the end of September to face this budget reality. Sit down now—back in June—with the President, with the leaders on the Republican side and the Democratic side. Let us compromise in good faith. Let us meet our responsibilities.

Well, that is what we face. As Senator REID said a few minutes earlier, there is a suggestion that maybe as a parting gift to Speaker BOEHNER we will extend the budget temporarily until December 11, 2 weeks before Christmas, just days before the Hanukkah season—that we would extend the budget until then and then, once again, be up against the deadline and the prospect of shutting down our government.

We can do better. We should do better. We need to make certain we keep faith with the people who send us here. We need to make certain we do our job—not just to send a continuing resolution to the President but to resolve this issue. We should not be threatening a government shutdown now or

in December when we know how devastating that can be.

I hope Congress gets busy taking care of the work we were sent here to do. I think it is time for those bipartisan budget negotiations. It is beyond time. Now is the time for Congress to act responsibly to develop a budget that allows America to thrive.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to talk about an amendment I plan to offer in a little while, once somebody comes from our side or the other side because they would like to be here to talk about it with me, as I understand it—maybe even to object to it, maybe to agree with it. But I wish to speak about the amendment, if I could, for a moment.

Right now, we are debating the continuing resolution. This would be to continue a level of spending from now until December 11. There are a bunch of changes in that from last year's spending, but it is basically a continuation of the previous year until we can work out our differences. It is not the way to govern around here. What we should be doing instead is having individual spending bills come up. There are 12 different appropriations bills.

The ideal way to handle this is the way it used to be done, which is that the Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees deal with these individual spending bills. For instance, one is for Commerce, the State Department, and the Justice Department. One is for the Department of Health and Human Services, and one is for the Department of Defense. When we do that, what happens is we have oversight hearings, and we have Congress playing its rightful role of saying: Are these agencies doing the right thing? Are these programs working or aren't they working? We might increase spending with a program that is actually working well, decrease spending from another program, and eliminate a third program that is not working well at all. That is what Congress is supposed to do. That is our job here.

Under the Constitution, Congress was given the power of the purse, meaning that every dime has to be appropriated by the Congress. What has happened over the years—particularly in the last several years—is that Congress has not moved forward on these appropriations bills because they have been blocked. In this case, this year we have been trying to bring up appropriations bills

and the other side, the Democrats, have been blocking even considering an appropriations bill.

We have had this debate here on the floor. Many of us have heard it. But the bottom line is the committees have actually done their work and reported out 12 different appropriations bills. So 12 bills are ready to come to the floor. By the way, most of these bills have been reported out with huge bipartisan majorities. I saw one the other day. It was 24 to 3, for instance. I know the Presiding Officer has been involved in some of these issues over the years. It is typical, actually, that appropriators do their jobs. Senator MIKULSKI, Senator COCHRAN, and others work out the differences, but we simply can't get them voted on on the floor.

People may say: Why can't you? Well, because it requires 60 votes. We have to overcome a 60-vote hurdle in order to even proceed to the legislation. So we haven't been able to vote on a single appropriations bill before September 30, which is the fiscal year-end and which is coming up this week. It is no way to run a railroad, much less a government—by the way, the government that has the biggest budget of any government in the world, the government of the greatest nation in the world. We can't even bring these individual spending bills up here for a debate and a vote. It is just wrong.

Again, when we don't do that, what we don't have is the oversight. I would think both sides would want to have oversight over these agencies and departments so we understand what is working and what is not working and so that those tax dollars are spent wisely. That is the kind of stewardship that we are responsible for. As taxpayers, as representatives of taxpayers, we should want to be sure those dollars are spent in a way that is most effective. Yet, without having these appropriations bills, it is just impossible to do. Instead, we are faced with this possibility of on September 30 not having any of what is called discretionary spending, which is not all of the spending of government, but it is the spending that Congress appropriates every year, and having the possibility of parts of government actually not being able to operate because September 30 is the fiscal year-end. It is just the wrong way to do business.

So the amendment I am going to offer later this afternoon is an amendment that simply says: Let's adopt a new bill, new legislation that says: Let's end government shutdowns.

How would we do it? We would say that as of September 30, if there is any bill that is not passed, any one of the 12—remember that this year none of the 12 were passed—none of them. But on any year, if any one of those were not passed, then we would simply continue the spending from the previous year, but there would be a reduction in

that spending over time. After 120 days there would be a 1-percent reduction, giving 120 days to work with the Appropriations Committee to say: OK, we know you don't want to see the spending cut, and we know you have priorities you would like to fund, but it is going to be cut 1 percent after 120 days, then 1 percent after the next 90 days, 1 percent after the next 90 days, and 1 percent after the next 90 days. So we get to a point where we have to see a reduction in spending every year, which is not necessarily a bad thing because Congress spends more than it takes in every year. But if appropriators and others here in Congress don't want to see that, they would have to get their act together and actually pass appropriations bills. Once an appropriations bill is passed, the End Government Shutdowns Act would not apply.

This seems to me to be a really logical bipartisan commonsense solution to the problem that we are facing here. Again, the problem is Congress is not doing its work. We are not getting these appropriations bills done. It is not for lack of work in the committees this year. Again, all 12 bills were reported out of committee. I believe the same is true in the House. Yet we cannot get here on the floor of the Senate the 60 votes needed to come up with the ability to proceed to these appropriations bills. It is called a filibuster. They are being filibustered. We are not even debating them. This is just wrong. I think, again, the way to get around that is to say: OK, if you want to try to block these bills, what is going to happen is we are going to have automatic spending from last year with no increases—in fact, decreases—and decreasing more over time, until Congress gets its act together and actually passes this legislation.

This idea is so commonsense that when we had a vote on it a couple of years ago, when I was able to bring it up for a vote—and we will see tonight whether I am permitted to do that—we actually had 46 Senators support it. Now, not everybody supported it on the Appropriations Committee. Some of them obviously had concerns about it. Not every Republican supported it. There were a few Republicans who didn't support it. By the way, one Republican who didn't support it last time is now a cosponsor of the legislation because she has looked at it, she has understood the system is not working, and she has been persuaded it is the right way to go. It was bipartisan last time. Senator TESTER and I were the two cosponsors of it.

So I hope I will have the opportunity to offer that amendment here this afternoon because I think it makes all the sense in the world. As we are debating a continuing resolution again, the so-called CR—which is the wrong way to govern—let's also pass as part of

that a new discipline, a new idea, a new approach that says: Let's not do this again. Let's not ever have the threat of a government shutdown hanging over us. Instead, come September 30, if an appropriations bill isn't done, fine, continue the spending from last year, with a slow ratcheting down of that spending. I think that makes all the sense in the world. It takes away this political football that is being thrown back and forth. It takes away the specter for our economy, for our businesses, and for our families of not knowing whether they are going to have this government operation continue after September 30 in whatever area is affecting our economy or those businesses or those families. I think it makes a lot of sense, and I think it provides an incentive for Congress to get its work done. And Congress should be doing every year all 12 appropriations bills—doing the oversight that goes into that, deciding what gets more money, what gets less money, what gets thrown out altogether. It doesn't make any sense.

In the huge bureaucracy of the vast Federal Government, not every program is perfect. Let's be honest; a lot of them need reform. If we don't have this process of the power of the purse—the leverage of the power of the purse to be able to say "Prove this program is working," and when it doesn't, "We are going to pull the funding away"—you lose the ability for Congress to be an effective partner with the executive branch and the judicial branch the way our Founders set it up.

Again, Congress alone has the power of the purse. Every dime has to be appropriated by this Congress, and Congress is not doing its job. This amendment, if we put in place this new practice, would be a tremendous help to get Congress back on track. It wasn't too long ago that this happened. I have been here almost 5 years now or 4½ years. We haven't had a single year where all the appropriations bills were done. In fact, very few appropriations bills have been voted on at all. This year not a single appropriations bill—zero—has come to the floor of the Senate because they have been blocked. They have all come out of committee now, but not a single one is allowed to get voted on here in the Senate.

I do hope that my own leadership on the Republican side will keep bringing these bills up. At least then we have an opportunity to talk about them—what is in the bills and why it is a good idea for us to have the oversight. Again, the reforms to these programs—the spending cuts, the spending increases for programs that are working well, the elimination altogether of programs that aren't working—we should at least have the opportunity to discuss them and talk about it.

I was hopeful we would see a colleague from the other side of the aisle show up or a member of the Appropria-

tions Committee. I was told I could give this little talk at 5, and I had the opportunity to offer this amendment. I will have to come back later and offer it again.

I don't know if my colleague from Iowa is planning to speak—

Mr. GRASSLEY. No.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, earlier I had the opportunity to talk a little about the amendment I am about to offer. This is an amendment to the underlying bill, which is a continuing resolution. The amendment has to do with a piece of legislation called the End Government Shutdowns Act.

Excuse me.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to speak for 5 minutes in order to finish the conversation that we started earlier this evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I talked about the fact that here we are, once again, without the appropriations bills done and forced to do a continuing resolution from now until December 11, and that is because later this week, on September 30, when the fiscal year ends and comes to a close, we will not have done the appropriations bills. It is not that we haven't done one or two or three; we haven't done any of them, and there are 12 of them.

I think it is time for us to take a new approach; that is, to have an end government shutdowns discipline put before this Congress which says: Any time you get to this point with any of the appropriations bills—including now where we have all of them—that we instead have a continuation of last year's spending but that it ratchets down over time to provide an incentive for all of us in Congress—Democrats and Republicans alike, the Appropriations Committee, and all of us—to get our work done and to do our job under the Constitution. The power of the purse is exclusively delegated to the Congress. It will help us to get our job done if we had this by having the end government shutdowns discipline in place.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 2702, the end government shutdowns amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COCHRAN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if I understand the Senator's suggestion correctly, his amendment would create an automatic continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government in the event an annual appropriations bill is not enacted by the time the fiscal year expires. That may sound harmless enough, but what we are saying is that not only is the power of the Senate suspended and put on hold but the obligations of the committee system are put under a threat—that unless you complete action on legislation that is referred to the committee of jurisdiction by a certain time, you are out of business, and whoever wants to offer an amendment as a substitute gets to offer that and pass it on a majority vote. We are already required to have three-fifths of the Members vote to cut off debate in order to be sure that all Senators—not just a bare majority—get to decide the decisions of the Senate and get to actively participate in the process by offering amendments.

My friend's amendment abolishes offering any other alternatives for a full debate—unlimited debate—which is why the Senate is here, to cool down the passions of the moment. A Senator might have a good idea and want to change a law, repeal a resolution, deny access to Federal funds for this, that or the other that goes to a State that is very important, and their interests are just as important.

This is a terrible amendment, and it ought to be rejected. I hope the Senator will withhold offering the amendment. We can have hearings on this and see what other Senators may think about it, but at first blush, this seems like this is an amendment whose time has not come. We are not ready to dismantle the rules of the Senate piece by piece. Well, we have the right of unlimited debate, and Senators can talk as long as they wish to. We don't have to go through a rules committee to get permission or get permission from any other Senator. These are direct responsibilities of individual Senators selected by their States to stand up for their interests, not to go to Washington and cave in on something that might be a good-sounding amendment or might have the passions of the moment behind it so that there appears to be a wave of support, but until you have a chance to seriously consider the individual issues involved, until three-fifths of the Senate decides to cut off debate—I strongly object to this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COCHRAN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my friend

and my colleague, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I look forward to talking to him more about this. As I said earlier, 46 Senators supported this in the past, including all but two or three Republicans, by the way, and one of them is now a cosponsor of the legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived with respect to today's cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I wish to have 1 minute in order to debate the matter that is before us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I stand with the Senator from Mississippi. We may be from opposite political parties, but I certainly agree with him that the suggestion by the Senator from Ohio does not serve the best interests of this country.

Imagine if his proposal went through and we were faced with inadequate funding for medical care for our veterans. I am sorry to say the Senator from Ohio has suggested that we would have last year's level of funding with potentially a 4-percent cut. It would be the same for fighting fires and the National Institutes of Health. There would be a 4-percent cut in medical research.

I think what we are doing, if we accept this approach, is giving up our responsibility that the taxpayers sent us to carry out; that is, to make careful choices when it comes to budgets.

I just want to be on the record supporting my colleague from Mississippi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I hadn't planned to have a debate on this, but I am happy to have one. Let me just be very clear. This is about putting the Appropriations Committee in business, not out of business. This is not about cutting spending; it is about forcing Congress to get its work done.

Here we sit about to pass a continuing resolution because none of the 12 appropriations bills has been voted on because each of them has been blocked in the Senate. The committee has done its work. Yet we can't get them to the floor. Yet we have the other side saying: Gosh, this would somehow hurt the process.

How can the process be hurt any worse? We want the process to work, and that is why 46 of us, on a bipartisan basis, have supported this idea. What it says is, if at the end of the day, on September 30, appropriations bills have not been passed, then we would simply continue the spending from last year, and, yes, over time we would ratchet it down, giving 120 days for the

committee to get its act together that it did not in the previous year when it was supposed to, to get these bills done, to do the oversight, and to make the decisions about NIH, as the Senator has said, and to make the decisions about our veterans.

If we truly want to help our veterans, a CR is not the way to do it. The way to do it is to let the VA bill come to the floor, have a debate, and take the committee's good ideas—and, by the way, it came out of committee with a large bipartisan vote. That is how we should be legislating. That is our job. The power of the purse resides exclusively with us. Yet once again this year we are not doing our job. It is not that we are just doing a couple of appropriations bills; we are not doing a single appropriations bill. I think it is time for us to change course and that is what this legislation is about. I am simply saying that in the process of passing the CR, which we now have to do, set up a discipline for the future that provides an incentive for us to get our work done so the good work being done by Senator COCHRAN and others—including Senator MIKULSKI—in the Appropriations Committee can come to the floor for a vote, and we can get back to governing.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request to waive the mandatory quorum?

Mr. DURBIN. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 with an amendment, No. 2689.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Orrin G. Hatch, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Michael B. Enzi, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Lamar Alexander, Thad Cochran, Chuck Grassley, Kelly Ayotte, Susan M. Collins, Deb Fischer, Richard Burr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 with amendment No. 2689, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Flake	Murphy
Ayotte	Franken	Murray
Baldwin	Gardner	Nelson
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reid
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeben	Rounds
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Capito	Johnson	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Kirk	Stabenow
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cochran	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Thune
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cornyn	McCain	Udall
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Ernst	Merkley	Wicker
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—19

Boozman	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Lankford	Sessions
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	Moran	Toomey
Cruz	Paul	Vitter
Daines	Risch	
Heller	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—4

Blunt	Graham
Corker	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 19.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer falls.

The Senator from Texas.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2690

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I move to table the McConnell amendment No. 2690 for the purpose of offering my own amendment No. 2701, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There does not appear to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, there is a reason the American people are fed up with Washington. There is a reason the American people are frustrated. The frustration is not simply mild or passing or ephemeral; it is volcanic. Over and over again, the American people go to the ballot box. Over and over again,

the American people rise and say: The direction we are going does not make sense; we want change. Over and over again, the American people win elections—in 2010, a tidal wave election; in 2014, a tidal wave election. Yet nothing changes in Washington.

I would like to share with the Presiding Officer and the American people the real story of what is happening in Washington, why it is that our leaders cannot stop bankrupting this country, cannot stop the assault on our constitutional rights, cannot stop America's retreat from leadership in the world. It is a very simple dynamic when you have two sides allegedly in a political battle, one side that is relentlessly, unshakably committed to its principles and the other side that reflectively surrenders at the outset. The outcome is foreordained.

I will give President Obama and the Senate Democrats credit. They believe in principles of Big Government. They believe in this relentless assault on our constitutional rights. They are willing to crawl over broken glass with a knife in between their teeth to fight for those principles. Unfortunately, leadership on my side of the aisle does not demonstrate the same commitment to principles.

How is it, you might wonder, that a preemptive surrender is put in place? Well, it all begins with a relatively innocuous statement: There shall be no shutdowns. That is a statement leadership in both Houses—Republican leadership in both Houses has said: We are not going to shut the government down.

You can understand—to folks in the private sector, folks at home, that sounds pretty reasonable, except here is the reality in Washington. In today's Washington, there are three kinds of votes. No. 1, there are show votes—votes that are brought up largely to placate the voters, where the outcome is foreordained, where most Republicans will vote one way and most Democrats will vote the other. Republicans will lose, and the conservatives who elected Republican majorities in both Houses are supposed to be thrilled that they have been patted on the head and given their show vote that was destined to lose.

We had a vote like that in recent weeks on Planned Parenthood. Leadership told us: You should be thrilled. We voted on it. What else do you want?

We voted on it in a context where it would never happen. Indeed, it did not.

The second kind of vote is a vote that simply grows government, dramatically expands spending, and expands corporate welfare. Those votes pass because you get a bipartisan coalition of Republican leadership and Democrats, both of whom are convinced that career politicians will get reelected if they keep growing and growing government and in particular handing out

corporate welfare to giant corporations. Oh boy. If you have the lobbyists on K Street pushing for something, you can get 60, 70, 80 in this Chamber because Republican leadership loves it and Democrats are always willing to grow government.

Then there is the third kind of vote—votes on must-pass legislation. In an era when one side—the Democratic Party—is adamantly committed to continuing down this path that is causing so many millions of Americans to hurt, must-pass votes are the only votes that have real consequence in this Chamber. They typically fall into one of three categories: either a continuing resolution, an omnibus appropriations bill, or a debt ceiling increase. All of those three are deemed must-pass votes. If you actually want to change law, those are the only hopes of doing so. But, as I mentioned before, you have one side who has preemptively surrendered.

Republican leadership has said they will never ever shut down the government, and suddenly President Obama understands the easy key to winning every battle: He simply has to utter the word “shutdown” and Republican leadership runs to the hills. So President Obama demands of Congress: Fund every bit of ObamaCare—100 percent of it—and do nothing, zero, for the millions of Americans who are hurting, millions of Americans who have lost their jobs, who have lost their health care, who have lost their doctors, who have been forced into part-time work, the millions of young people who have seen their premiums skyrocket.

President Obama: You can do nothing for the people who are hurting.

Senate Democrats say: We don't care about the people who are hurting. We will do nothing for them.

Here is the kicker. President Obama promises: If you try to do anything on ObamaCare, I, Barack Obama, will veto funding for the entire Federal Government and shut it down.

Republican leadership compliantly says: OK. Fine. We will fund ObamaCare.

President Obama then understands he has got a pretty good trump card here he can pull out at any time. So next he says: OK. Republicans, fund my unconstitutional Executive amnesty. It is contrary to law. It is flouting Federal immigration law. But you, Republicans, fund it anyway or else, I, Barack Obama, will veto funding for the entire Federal Government and shut it down.

Republican leadership says at the outset: OK. We will fund amnesty.

Now we turn to Planned Parenthood. Barack Obama—this will surprise no one—says: Fund 100 percent of Planned Parenthood with taxpayer money.

Mind you, Planned Parenthood is a private organization. It is not even part of the government. But it happens

to be politically favored by President Obama and the Democrats.

Planned Parenthood is also the subject of multiple criminal investigations for being caught on tape apparently carrying out a pattern of ongoing felonies. In ordinary times, the proposition that we should not be sending your or my Federal taxpayer money to fund a private organization that is under multiple criminal investigations—that ought to be a 100-to-0 vote. But, as I mentioned before, Barack Obama is absolutely committed to his partisan objectives. He is like the Terminator. He never stops. He never gives up. He moves forward and forward and forward.

So what does he say? If you don't fund this one private organization that is not part of the government, that is under multiple criminal investigations, I, Barack Obama, will veto funding for the entire Federal Government and shut it down.

What does Republican leadership say? Well, it will surprise no one. Republican leadership says: We surrender. We will fund Planned Parenthood.

You know, President Obama has negotiated a catastrophic nuclear deal with Iran. Republican leadership goes on television all the time and rightly says: This is a catastrophic deal. The consequences are that it is the single greatest national security threat to America. Millions of Americans could die.

I would suggest that if we actually believed the words that are coming out of our mouths, then we would be willing to use any and all constitutional authority given the Congress to stop a catastrophic deal that sends over \$100 billion to Ayatollah Khamenei. Yet President Obama says he will veto the entire budget if we do, and, to the surprise of nobody, Republican leadership surrenders.

You know, I will draw an analogy. It is as if at a football game, the beginning of the football game the two team captains go out to flip the coin. One team's coach walks out and says: We forfeit. They do it game after game after game right at the coin flip.

Leadership says: We forfeit. We surrender. We, Republicans, will fund every single Big Government liberal priority of the Democrats.

If an NFL team did that over 16 games, we know what their record would be; it would be 0 and 16. You know, I am pretty sure the fans who bought tickets and who went to the game would be pretty ticked off as they watched their coach forfeit over and over again.

You want to understand the volcanic frustration with Washington? It is that Republican leadership in both Houses will not fight for a single priority we promised the voters we would fight for when we were campaigning less than a year ago.

You know, this past week was a big news week in Washington. The Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, announced he was going to resign, and there was lots of speculation in the media as to why the Speaker of the House resigned. I am going to tell you why he resigned. It is actually a direct manifestation of this disconnect between the voters back home and Republican leadership. Speaker BOEHNER and Leader MCCONNELL promised there will be no shutdown. Therefore, they will fund every single priority of Barack Obama.

We are right now voting on what is called a clean CR. I would note it is clean only in the parlance of Washington, because what does it do? It funds 100 percent of ObamaCare, 100 percent of Executive amnesty. It funds all of Planned Parenthood, and it funds the Iranian nuclear deal. It is essentially a blank check to Barack Obama. That is not very clean to me. That actually sounds like a very dirty funding bill, funding priorities that are doing enormous damage.

In the Senate the votes were always there for a dirty CR, a CR that funded all of Barack Obama's priorities. The Democrats will all vote for it—heck, of course they will. They have the other side funding their priorities. Of course, every Democrat will vote for that over and over and over and twice on Sunday. The simple reality on the Republican side is when leadership joins with the Democrats, about half of the Republican caucus is happy to move over to that side of the aisle. So the votes were always preordained.

The motion I made just a moment ago was a motion to table the tree. You remember filling the tree. It is something we heard a lot about in the previous Congress. HARRY REID, the Democratic leader, did it all the time.

Senators on this side of the aisle stood over and over and said: It is abuse of process. In fact, we even campaigned with our leadership saying: We are going to have an open amendment process. Yet what has happened here is that Majority Leader MCCONNELL has taken a page out of Leader REID's playbook and filled the tree. I moved to table the tree, and what you then saw was leadership denying a second.

What does "denying a second" mean? Denying a recorded vote. Why is that important? When you are breaking the commitments you have made to the men and women who have elected you, the most painful thing in the world is accountability. When you are misleading the men and women who showed up to vote for you, you don't want sunshine making clear that you voted no. A recorded vote means each Senator's name is on it.

Now, why did I move to table the tree? Simply to add the amendment that I had, which, No. 1, would have said that not one penny goes to

Planned Parenthood, and No. 2, not one penny goes to implementing this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal unless and until they comply with Federal law—the administration complies with Federal law—and hands over the full deal, including the side agreements with Iran. What you saw was that Republican leadership desperately does not want a vote on that.

Tomorrow I intend to make that motion again. And when I make that motion again, I would encourage those watching to see which Senators are here to give a second or not and to vote yea or nay.

I would note that when you deny a second, which is truly an unprecedented procedural trick—it used to be that was a courtesy that was afforded to all Senators. Indeed, in the opposing party routinely over and over when a Democrat or Republican asked for a second, everyone raised their hand. But leadership has discovered: We can do this in the dark of the night.

But I would encourage those watching to see, No. 1, when this motion is offered again, who shows up to offer a second and who either doesn't raise his hand or just doesn't come to the floor.

One of the ways you avoid accountability is you are somehow somewhere else doing something very important instead of actually showing up for the battle that is waging right here and now.

But I would also encourage people to watch very carefully what happens after that. After that you have a voice vote. A voice vote is still a vote. Let's be clear. Standing on the floor, there were two Senators—Senator LEE and I—who voted aye, who voted to table the tree and take up the amendment barring funding for Planned Parenthood and barring funding for this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal.

The remaining Senators on the Republican side—Leader MCCONNELL, Whip CORNYN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator COTTON—those four Senators loudly voted no. It is still a vote, even though it is not a recorded vote. It is a vote on the Senate floor.

So why did Speaker BOEHNER resign? Well, I mentioned to you that the votes were always cooked here. The Democrats plus Republican leadership and the votes they bring with them ensure plenty of votes for a dirty CR, a CR that funds ObamaCare, that funds amnesty, that funds Planned Parenthood, that funds this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal. But the House was always the bulwark.

The Presiding Officer will remember in 2013 when we had a fight over ObamaCare. The Presiding Officer was serving in the House at the time. In that fight we never had the votes in the Senate. Actually, the Senate was under control of the Democrats. They were going to do everything they could to defend ObamaCare regardless of the millions of people who were hurt.

But the House was the bulwark in that fight, and in particular there was a core of 40 or 50 strong, principled conservatives who cared deeply about honoring the commitments they made to the men and women who elected them. That was always the strength we had in that fight.

You know, it has been interesting reading some of the press coverage, speculating that there would be some magic parliamentary trick that would somehow stop this corrupt deal. Well, in the Senate there are no magic parliamentary tricks. When you have the Democrats plus Republican leadership and a chunk of the Republicans, those votes can roll over any parliamentary trick you might use. Even with the Blood Moon we just had, there are no mystical powers that allow you to roll over them.

But in the House we still have those 30, 40, 50 strong conservatives. So how is it that Speaker BOEHNER and Leader MCCONNELL could promise there will never, ever be a shutdown? Because, I believe, Speaker BOEHNER has decided to cut a deal with Leader NANCY PELOSI, the leader of the Democrats, that this dirty CR is going to be passed out of the Senate and is going to go to the House. The Speaker is going to take it up on the floor and pass it with all the Democrats—just as Leader MCCONNELL did—and a handful of Republicans who will go with Republican leadership. A very significant percentage of Republicans will vote no. But here is the problem: Speaker BOEHNER has done that more than once. In this instance, there were too many Republicans who were tired of seeing their leadership lead the Democrats rather than lead the Republican Party.

I believe if Speaker BOEHNER had done that—had passed a dirty CR funding Planned Parenthood, funding this Iranian nuclear deal—he would have lost his speakership. A Member of the House had introduced a motion to vacate the Chair because House Republicans were fed up with their leader not leading—at least not leading their party, leading the Democratic Party.

So Speaker BOEHNER faced a conundrum. If he did what he and Leader MCCONNELL promised, which is to fund all of Barack Obama's priorities, he would have lost his job. And so what did he do? He announced that he is resigning as Speaker and resigning as a Member of Congress. That is unsurprising, but it also telegraphs the deal that he has just cut. It is a deal to surrender and join with the Democrats. Notice he said he is going to stay a month. He is going to stay a month in order to join with the Democrats and fund Barack Obama's priorities.

Now let's talk about some of the substantive issues that we ought to be talking about. Let's start with Planned Parenthood. In the past couple of months, a series of videos have come

out about Planned Parenthood. To some of the people watching this, you may never have seen the videos. Why is that? Because the mainstream media has engaged in a virtual media blackout on them: ABC, NBC, CBS, the last thing they want to do is show these videos.

If you watch FOX News, you can see the videos. But the mainstream media, in the great tradition of Pravda, wants to make sure the citizenry doesn't see what is in these videos. I would encourage every American—Republican or Democrat—regardless of where you fall on the right to life, even—and, in fact, especially—if you consider yourself pro-choice—to just watch these videos. Go online and watch them and ask yourself: Are these my values? Is this what I believe?

These videos show senior officials from Planned Parenthood laughing, sipping chardonnay and callously harvesting and selling the body parts of unborn children over and over and over. One senior official was caught on video laughing and saying she hopes she sells enough body parts of unborn children to buy herself a Lamborghini. Again, I would suggest to just ask yourself: Are these my values?

In another video a lab tech describes a little baby boy—unborn, aborted, about 2 pounds, his heart still beating. She was instructed to insert scissors under his chin to cut open the face of this little boy and harvest his brain because the brain was valuable. Planned Parenthood could sell the brain.

This is something out of "Brave New World." These are human beings. That little boy had a heart that was still beating, had a brain that was being harvested. He had a soul given to him by God Almighty. He was made in the image of God.

We are now a nation that harvests the body parts of little baby boys and girls. It is the very definition of inhumanity to treat children like agriculture, to be grown and killed for their body parts, to be sold for profit. There is a reason that the media and the Democrats don't want these videos shown, because anyone watching these videos will be horrified.

But they are not just horrific; they are also prima facie evidence of criminal activity. There are multiple Federal statutes—criminal statutes—that Planned Parenthood appears to be violating, perhaps on a daily basis. The first and most direct is a prohibition on selling the body parts of unborn children for a profit. Federal criminal law makes that a felony with up to 10 years of jail time.

Now these videos show them very clearly selling body parts. They also show them bartering a price. They will argue it wasn't for a profit. But you watch these videos. You watch the undercover buyer saying: How much will you give me for them? And you see the

Planned Parenthood official saying: Well, how much can I get? I don't want to bargain against myself.

On its face, that is evidence of bargaining for a profit. If you want the highest price you can get, it is not tied to your costs. It is tied to whatever dollars, whatever revenue you can bring in. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the country. As another one of these videos reflects, it is a volume business—Planned Parenthood—taking the lives of unborn children and then selling them—apparently for profit. It is also a Federal criminal offense to alter the means of an abortion for the purpose of harvesting the organs of the unborn child. That is a separate criminal offense. On video after video, you see Planned Parenthood officials saying: OK. What parts would you like? We can perform a different abortion depending on what parts you want us to harvest. On the videos they essentially admit to this crime. They are filmed in the act.

There is the third criminal offense that provides that you cannot harvest the organs of an unborn child without informed consent from the mother. Yet again these videos seem to indicate that Planned Parenthood treats informed consent as a technicality that is sometimes complied with and sometimes ignored.

Now, I will say as an aside that ordinarily, when a national organization is caught on film committing a pattern of felonies, the next steps are predictable: The Department of Justice opens an investigation; the FBI shows up and seizes their records. Everything on those videos suggests those felonies are still occurring today.

What does it say about the Obama Justice Department that no one on the face of the planet believes there is any chance the Justice Department would even begin to investigate Planned Parenthood? What does it say about the most lawless partisan Department of Justice that there is this group that is a political ally of the President, so that is apparently all that matters. If it is an ally of the President, it doesn't matter that they are videotaped committing a felony. The Department of Justice will not even look at it.

I am an alumnus of the U.S. Department of Justice. I was an Associate Deputy Attorney General. I spent much of my adult life working in law enforcement. The Department of Justice has a long, distinguished record of remaining outside of partisan politics, of staying above the partisan fray, of being blind to party or ideology and simply enforcing the law and the Constitution. I am sorry to say that under Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch, the Department of Justice has completely besmirched that tradition.

No one remotely believes the Obama Justice Department will even begin to investigate this pattern of felonies.

You don't see Democrats suggesting it. No one in the media suggests it. And by the way, if this were a Republican administration and the entity that admitted to a pattern of felonies was a private entity that supported Republicans, you would see on CBS, NBC, and ABC an indictment clock every night. You would see the anchors saying: When will this investigation be opened? When will they be indicted? Instead, the media pretends these videos don't exist.

In the face of what appears to be a national criminal enterprise, we are faced here with a much simpler question: Will we continue to pay for it? Will we continue to pay for it with your and my tax dollars? Will we send \$500 million a year to a private organization to use to fund this ongoing criminal organization?

What is the position of the Democrats? Hear no evil, see no evil. They do not care. What Democrat do you see calling for the enforcement of criminal laws against Planned Parenthood? What Democrat do you hear saying, at a minimum, let's not send taxpayer money to fund this? Not one. Not a single Democrat stood up and said that.

Let me ask you, Mr. President, what happens if Planned Parenthood gets indicted? Because even though the U.S. Department of Justice under President Obama has become little more than a partisan arm of the Democratic National Committee, there are State and local prosecutors who are investigating Planned Parenthood right now. If Planned Parenthood is indicted, will the Democrats maintain their wall of silence and say: We are going to continue to fund them under indictment. By all indications, that answer is yes. We haven't heard a single Democrat say: Well, if they are indicted, then we will stop.

The response from our leadership is that we can't win this fight. That is their response. They say: Well, we can't win the Planned Parenthood fight. Why? Because we don't have 60 votes; because we don't have 67 votes. If that is the standard, then the Republican leadership standard is that we will do only what HARRY REID and NANCY PELOSI approve of. That is what it means.

You want to understand why the American people are frustrated? We were told: If only we had a Republican House of Representatives, then things would be different. In 2010, millions of us rose up in incredible numbers and won an historic tidal wave election. The Presiding Officer was a youth pastor, called to minister, yet he stood up and said: My country is in crisis. I am going to step forward and serve. The 2010 election was historic, yet very little changed.

Then we were told: OK. We have a House of Representatives, but the problem is the Senate. As long as HARRY

REID is majority leader, we can't do anything. Over and over again Washington gray beards would go on television, and in gravelly tones they would say: You cannot govern with one-half of one-third of government. The House of Representatives is not enough, but if we had the Senate, then things would be different. The problem is HARRY REID.

The Presiding Officer will recall during the fight over ObamaCare a number of Members of this body—Republicans—said: No, no, no, no. We can't fight on ObamaCare. We have to wait until we have a Republican Senate to fight. So the American people obliged. In 2014, millions of us rose up for the second tidal wave election in a period of 4 years. We won nine Senate seats. We retired HARRY REID as majority leader. We won the largest majority in the House of Representatives since the 1920s.

It has been now over 9 months since we have had Republican majorities in both Houses, and I ask: What exactly have those Republican majorities accomplished?

I have asked that question all over the country in townhalls. I have never been at a townhall where the response, spontaneous, was not absolutely nothing. That is true in every State I visit.

And sadly, my response over and over again is: You know, it's worse than that. I wish the answer were absolutely nothing. It would have been better if the Republican majorities had done absolutely nothing because what, in fact, have they done? Well, the very first thing that happened, right after that election in November, is we came back to Washington, and Republican leadership joined up with HARRY REID and the Democrats and passed a trillion dollar CR omnibus bill that was filled with pork, corporate welfare, and grew government, grew the debt.

Then Republican leadership took the lead in funding ObamaCare. Then Republican leadership took the lead in funding Executive amnesty. Then Republican leadership took the lead in funding Planned Parenthood. And then, astonishingly, Republican leadership took the lead in confirming Loretta Lynch as Attorney General.

Now, I ask: Which one of those decisions is one iota different from what would have happened with HARRY REID and the Democrats in charge of this Chamber? Those decisions are identical.

And I would note, by the way, with Loretta Lynch, the Republican majority could have defeated that nomination. The Senate majority leader could have done so. She looked at the Senate Judiciary Committee, and she looked at the Senate, and when asked how she would differ from Eric Holder's Justice Department—the most lawless and partisan Justice Department we would ever see—and she said: No way whatso-

ever. When asked to point to a single instance in which she would be willing to stand up to President Obama to stop his lawlessness, to stop his abuse of power, she could not identify any circumstance in which she would ever stand up to the President who appointed her. Attorneys general from both parties have done that, for centuries.

Now, with Eric Holder, the Senate could be forgiven because his lawlessness manifested primarily after he was confirmed. With Loretta Lynch, she told us beforehand. She looked us in the eyes and said: Hey, I am going to do exactly what my predecessor has done. And Republican leadership confirmed her anyway.

Is it any wonder the American people are frustrated out of their minds? We keep winning elections, and the people we put in office don't do what they said they would do.

Now, some people across the country ask me: Is Republican leadership just not very capable? Are they not that competent or are they unwilling to fight? Mr. President, it is neither. They are actually quite competent, and they are willing to fight. The question becomes what they are fighting for.

There is a disconnect right now. If you or I go to our home State and to any gathering of citizens and we put up a white board and we ask the citizens in the room to give the top priorities they think Republican majorities in Congress should be focusing on, and we wrote the 20 priorities that came from the citizens of Oklahoma or the citizens of Texas or, for that matter, the citizens of any of the 50 States, those top 20 priorities—at least 18 of them—would appear nowhere on the leadership's priority list.

On the other hand, if you drive just down the street in Washington to K Street—K Street is the street in Washington where the lobbyists primarily reside, where their offices are—and you get a gathering of corporate lobbyists that represent giant corporations and ask them their top priorities, the list that comes out will not just bear passing similarity but will be identical to the priorities of the Republican leadership. That's the disconnect.

Do you know why we are not here fighting on this? Because not giving taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood is not among the priorities of the lobbyists on K Street, so leadership is not interested in doing it. That is the disconnect.

Leadership does know how to fight. Just a couple of months ago, in dealing with the Export-Import Bank, we saw leadership in both Chambers go to extraordinary lengths with Herculean procedural steps to reauthorize a classic example of corporate welfare—hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer-guaranteed loans to giant corporations. Now, for that, leadership is incentiv-

ized because those corporations hire lobbyists and those lobbyists distribute checks, typically by the wheelbarrow.

There is no incentive greater in this body than getting reelected, and the view of leadership is that you get reelected by raking in the cash. How do you think we have gotten an \$18 trillion national debt? Because the way you reach bipartisan compromise in this body today, in the broken world of Washington, is you grow and grow and grow government, and you sit around in a room and say: I will spend for your priority, your priority, your priority—another trillion dollars and we are done.

The only people to lose are your children and mine. The only people to lose are the next generations who find themselves mired deeper and deeper and deeper in debt. I think of my little girls Caroline and Catherine. They are 7 and 4. If we don't stop what we are doing, your children and my children will face a debt so crushing they will not be able to spend in the future for the priorities of the future—for their needs, for their wants, for whatever crises come up that the next generation confronts. They will spend their whole lives simply working to pay off the debts racked up by their deadbeat parents and grandparents. No generation in history has ever done this to their children and grandchildren. Our parents didn't do it to us. Their parents didn't do it to them. The reason is the corruption of this town, and it boils down to a simple proposition: The Democrats are willing to do anything to push their priorities, and the Republicans, the leadership, are not listening to the men and women who elected us.

But it is actually an even deeper problem than that. On the Democratic side, the major donors that fund the Democratic Party, they don't despise their base. The billionaires who write the giant checks that fund President Obama, Hillary Clinton, and the Democrats on that side of the aisle don't despise the radical gay rights movement or the radical environmentalist movement or all the people who knock on doors and get Democrats elected. The simple reality is a very large percentage of the Republican donors actively despise our base—actively despise the men and women who showed up and voted you and me into office. I can tell you, when you sit down and talk with a New York billionaire Republican donor—and I have talked with quite a few New York billionaire Republican donors, California Republican donors—their questions start out as follows. First of all, you have to come out for gay marriage, you need to be pro-choice, and you need to support amnesty. That is where the Republican donors are. You wonder why Republicans will not fight on any of these issues? Because the people writing the checks agree with the Democrats.

Now mind you, the people who show up at the polls who elected you and me and who elected this Republican majority—far too many of the Republican donors look down on those voters as a bunch of ignorant hicks and rubes. It is why leadership likes show votes.

It wasn't too long ago when the Washington cartel was able to mask it all with a show vote or two, and they told the rubes back home: See, we voted on it; we just don't have the votes.

When I was first elected to this body, many times I heard more senior Senators saying some variation of the following: Now, TED, that is what you tell folks back home. You don't actually do it.

Here is what has changed. The voters have gotten more informed. They now understand the difference between show votes and a real vote. They understand the vote we had 1 week ago on Planned Parenthood was designed to lose, to placate those silly folks who think we shouldn't be sending taxpayer funds to a criminal organization that is selling the body parts of unborn children. But on the actual vote that could change policy, leadership has no interest in fighting whatsoever.

In the past couple of weeks, one of my colleagues sent me a letter that really embodied the leadership message. This letter said: "Explain to me how you get 67 votes to defund Planned Parenthood. If you can't produce 67 votes, I won't support it." If that is our standard, then we should all be honest with the men and women who elected us: We do not have 67 Republican votes in this Chamber, and there is no realistic prospect of our getting 67 votes any time in the foreseeable future. If the standard is, unless we get 67 votes, Republican leadership will support no policy issue, then each of us when we run should tell the voters: If you vote for me, I will support whatever policy agenda HARRY REID and NANCY PELOSI decide because that is my standard. If I don't have 67 votes—do you ever recall HARRY REID and the Democrats saying: How can we get Republican votes? No. Their side is absolutely committed to their principles. You don't see them holding back at all.

If the standard is, how do we get 67 votes, name one thing that leadership will fight for. Well, the answer I mentioned, the three types of votes are they will fight for big government, they will fight to grow government, and they will fight to expand corporate welfare. Well, that can indeed get 67 votes. But I have never been to a town-hall once where citizens said to me: The problem is we don't have enough corporate welfare. I need more subsidies for Big Business. If 100 percent of the agenda of Republican leadership is more subsidies for Big Business, what the heck are we doing in the Senate in the first place? That certainly wasn't

why I ran, and I know it wasn't why you ran either. You don't have to win every fight, you don't have to fight every fight, but you do have to stand for something.

Let's look beyond Planned Parenthood for a minute. Let's look to Iran. Of all the decisions the Obama administration has made, there may be none more damaging than this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal. If this deal goes through, there will be three consequences: No. 1, the Obama administration will become, quite literally, the world's leading financier of radical Islamic terrorists. Now, when I said that a couple months ago, President Obama got very, very upset. He said it was ridiculous that I would say such a thing, but despite attacking me directly, President Obama didn't actually endeavor to refute the substance of what I said.

So let's review the facts: Fact No. 1, Iran is today the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. That fact is undisputed even by this administration. Fact No. 2, if this deal goes through, over \$100 billion will go directly to Iran to the Ayatollah Khamenei. Fact No. 3, if that happens, billions of those dollars will go to Hamas, to Hezbollah, to the Houthis, to radical Islamic terrorists across the globe who will use those billions to murder Americans, to murder Israelis, and to murder Europeans.

It is worth remembering, 14 years ago this month, the horrific terrorist attack that was carried out on September 11. Osama bin Laden hated America, but he never had billions of dollars. He never had \$100 billion. The Ayatollah Khamenei hates America every bit as much as Osama bin Laden did, and this administration is giving him control of over \$100 billion. Imagine what bin Laden could have done. Look at the damage he did with 19 terrorists carrying box cutters. Now imagine that same zealotry with billions of dollars behind it. The consequences of this deal could easily be another terrorist attack that dwarfs September 11 in scale, that kills far more than the roughly 3,000 lives that were snuffed out. Who in their right mind would send over \$100 billion to a theocratic zealot who chants "Death to America"?

A second consequence of his catastrophic deal is that we are abandoning four hostages—four American hostages—in Iranian jails: Pastor Saeed Abedini, an American citizen whose wife Naghmeah lives in Idaho. I have visited with Naghmeah many times. Pastor Saeed has two little kids who desperately want their daddy to come home. Pastor Saeed was sentenced to 8 years in prison for the crime of preaching the Gospel. Just last week was the 3-year anniversary of Pastor Saeed's imprisonment. Reports are that he is being horribly mistreated, that his health is failing, and yet President

Obama cannot bring himself to utter the words "Pastor Saeed Abedini"—\$100 billion to the Ayatollah Khamenei, and Pastor Saeed Abedini remains in prison.

Also in prison is Amir Hekmati, an American marine the President has abandoned. Also in prison is Jason Rezaian, a Washington Post reporter—I note to the reporters in the Gallery, a colleague of yours—abandoned by President Obama in an Iranian prison, thrown in jail for doing his job, reporting on the news—and Robert Levinson, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Why is the President refusing to even utter their names?

The third consequence of this deal is this deal will only accelerate Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.

The administration claims the deal will prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Why? Because they promised not to do it. We have learned from Iran, they break their promises over and over and over again. And what we do know is that they will have an extra \$100 billion to develop nuclear weapons. Now, I will say the administration laughingly suggested: Well, they will use that on infrastructure, to rebuild their roads, to rebuild their energy industry. Right now they are sending vast sums to Hamas and Hezbollah, funding terrorism across the world, and they have those same infrastructure needs. With another \$100 billion, you don't think they are going to funnel an awful lot of it to developing nuclear weapons?

I would point out, it is not by accident that the Ayatollah Khamenei refers to Israel as the Little Satan and America as the Great Satan. This is the one threat on the face of the Earth that poses a real possibility of millions of Americans being murdered in the flash of an eye.

Everything I am saying the Republican leadership has said over and over again. Yet Republican leadership refuses to enforce the terms of the Iran review legislation—Federal law that the administration is defying by not handing over the entire deal. I have laid out a clear path, a detailed path that leadership can follow to stop this deal, and leadership refuses to do so. Instead, we had a show vote that was designed to lose, and it did exactly what we expected. The Democrats, by and large, put party loyalty above the national security of this country, above standing with our friend and ally the nation of Israel, above protecting the lives of millions of Americans.

If we truly believed what so many of us have said, that this poses the risk of murdering millions of Americans, is there any higher priority? The most powerful constitutional tool Congress has is the power of the purse. If we had the ability to stop this deal—and we don't—and millions of Americans die, how do we explain that to the men and women who elected us?

I am not advocating that we fight willy-nilly. I am advocating that we fight on things that matter. Don't give \$500 million to Planned Parenthood, a corrupt organization that is taking the lives of vast numbers of unborn children and selling their body parts, in a criminal conspiracy, directly contrary to Federal law. Don't give \$100 billion to the Ayatollah Khamenei, who seeks to murder millions. In both instances, those are defending life. Yet Republican leadership is not willing to lift a finger. If only all the people who might be murdered by a nuclear weapon could create a PAC in Washington and hire some lobbyists, maybe leadership would listen to them. But the truck-driver at home, the waitress at home, the schoolteacher at home, the pastor, the police officer, the working men and women—the Washington cartel does not listen to them.

I will note where this deal is headed. In December, when this dirty continuing resolution expires, leadership is already foreshadowing that they plan to bust the budget caps. Why? We talked about it at the beginning. Barack Obama has discovered that when he says the word "shutdown," the Republican leadership screams, surrenders, and runs to the hills. Obama, understanding that quite well, says: If you don't bust the budget caps, I will shut the government down.

In this bizarre process, Republican leadership will blame whatever Obama does on other Republicans. You noticed how much energy leader McCONNELL devotes to attacking conservatives? You notice how much energy Speaker BOEHNER devotes to attacking conservatives? Just yesterday the Speaker of the House went on national television, and on national television he directed an obscene epithet at me personally. He is welcome to insult whomever he likes. I don't intend to reciprocate. But when has leadership ever shown that level of venom, that level of animosity to President Obama and the Democrats who are bankrupting this country, who are destroying the Constitution, who are endangering the future of our children and grandchildren, who are retreating from leadership and the world, and who have created an environment that has led to the rise of radical Islamic terrorists?

One of the dynamics we have seen in fight after fight is that HARRY REID and the Democrats sit back and laugh. Why? Because it is Republican leadership that leads the onslaught, attacking conservatives, saying: No, you can't, and we will not do anything to stop ObamaCare. No, you can't, and we will not do anything to stop amnesty. No, you can't, and we will not do anything to stop Planned Parenthood. No, you can't, and we will not do anything to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

If Republican leadership really believes we can accomplish nothing, then

why does it matter if you have a Republican House or Senate? Every 2 years come October, November, we tell the voters it matters intensely. To paraphrase the immortal words of Hillary Clinton, what difference does it make if the standard for Republican leadership is, anything that gets 67 votes we will support. That means HARRY REID and NANCY PELOSI remain the de facto leaders of the Senate and the House.

I would note, by the way, if leadership goes through with their suggestion to bust the budget caps, they will have done something astonishing. Historically, the three legs of the conservative stool have been fiscal conservatives, social conservatives, and national security conservatives. Between Planned Parenthood, Iran, and the budget caps, leadership will have managed to abandon all three. No wonder the American people are frustrated. No wonder the American people do not understand why leadership isn't listening to them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's postcloture time has expired.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my time be extended.

The Democrats are objecting to my speaking further, and both the Democrats and Republican leadership are objecting to the American people speaking further.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of calendar Nos. 196 and 197 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard as a member of the Coast Guard Permanent Commissioned Teaching Staff under title 14, U.S.C., section 188:

To be lieutenant commander

Brian J. Maggi

The following named officers of the United States Coast Guard for appointment as mem-

bers of the Permanent Commissioned Teaching Staff and appointment in the grades indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 188:

To be commander

Anna W. Hickey

To be lieutenant

Kimberly C. Young-McLear

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN783 AIR FORCE nomination of Kyle J. Weld, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN804 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning KATHLEEN E. AKERS, and ending SAIPRASAD M. ZEMSE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN806 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning PAUL R. BREZINSKI, and ending THOMAS E. WILLIFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN809 AIR FORCE nominations (30) beginning DWAYNE A. BACA, and ending LIANA LUCAS VOGEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN812 AIR FORCE nominations (45) beginning RENI B. ANGELOVA, and ending GRANT W. WISNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN813 AIR FORCE nominations (101) beginning DAVID R. ALANIZ, and ending DEVON L. WENTZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN814 AIR FORCE nomination of John M. Gooch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN815 AIR FORCE nomination of Herman W. Dykes, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

IN THE ARMY

PN785 ARMY nominations (259) beginning JONATHAN S. ACKISS, and ending D012659, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN786 ARMY nominations (357) beginning MICHAEL H. ADORJAN, and ending G010310, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN787 ARMY nominations (420) beginning MATTHEW T. ADAMCZYK, and ending D012593, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN788 ARMY nomination of Gregory I. Kelts, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN789 ARMY nominations (8) beginning STEPHEN H. COOPER, and ending DAVID G. WORTMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN790 ARMY nomination of Lesley A. Watts, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN818 ARMY nomination of Kirby R. Gross, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN819 ARMY nomination of Franchesca M. Desriviere, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN820 ARMY nomination of Jerry L. Tolbert, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN821 ARMY nomination of Christopher R. Forsythe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN822 ARMY nomination of Francis G. Maresco, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN851 ARMY nominations (258) beginning DAVID S. ABRAHAMS, and ending D012627, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN852 ARMY nominations (176) beginning STEPHANIE R. AHERN, and ending G010384, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN853 ARMY nominations (115) beginning CHRISTOPHER W. ABBOTT, and ending D011026, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN854 ARMY nomination of Neil I. Nelson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN855 ARMY nomination of Benjamin J. Bigelow, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

IN THE NAVY

PN791 NAVY nominations (7) beginning ENRIQUE R. ASUNCION, and ending TIMOTHY J. SAXON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN792 NAVY nominations (38) beginning CHRISTIAN J. AUGER, and ending CHESTER J. WYCKOFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN793 NAVY nominations (44) beginning CARA M. ADDISON, and ending JOEL A. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN794 NAVY nominations (59) beginning OLUWAFADEKEMI N. ADEWETAN, and ending JUSTIN I. WATSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN795 NAVY nominations (89) beginning FREDERIC ALBESA, and ending FRANZ J. YU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN796 NAVY nominations (92) beginning MARICAR S. ABERIN, and ending CARDIA M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN797 NAVY nominations (104) beginning JAMES P. ADWELL, and ending MARESA C. J. ZENNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN798 NAVY nominations (203) beginning RICHARD R. ABITRIA, and ending DAVID J. ZELINSKAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN799 NAVY nomination of Michelle D. Carter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN823 NAVY nomination of Regine Reimers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN824 NAVY nomination of Joel V. Finny, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN825 NAVY nomination of Ernest C. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN826 NAVY nomination of Natalia C. Henriquez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2015.

PN857 NAVY nominations (841) beginning WHITNEY A. ABRAHAM, and ending BETHANY R. ZMITROVICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN858 NAVY nominations (44) beginning REBECCA K. ADAMS, and ending MICHAEL L. ZUEHLKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN859 NAVY nominations (19) beginning CHRISTOPHER M. BADE, and ending CASANDRA M. SISTI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN860 NAVY nominations (15) beginning JAMIE P. DRAGE, and ending RICHARD M. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN861 NAVY nominations (15) beginning JASON M. BAUMAN, and ending MARK A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN862 NAVY nominations (12) beginning JOSHUA A. AISEN, and ending SCOTT M. THORNBURY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN863 NAVY nominations (11) beginning RICHARD S. CHERNITZER, and ending BETH A. TEACH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN864 NAVY nominations (3) beginning NICHOLAS A. DENISON, and ending THEODORE J. STOW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN865 NAVY nominations (168) beginning TRAVIS C. ADAMS, and ending ANTONIO ZUBIA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN866 NAVY nominations (57) beginning MICHAEL K. ALLEN, and ending JERRY W. WYRICK, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN867 NAVY nominations (52) beginning BRIELLE L. ADAMOVICH, and ending RICHARD S. ZIBA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN868 NAVY nominations (38) beginning GILBERT R. BAUGHN, and ending SERGIO B. WOODEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

PN869 NAVY nomination of Gregory A. Grubbs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 16, 2015.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club.

The Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club was established in 1965 and encompasses Clark, Lincoln, Nye, Esmerelda, and White Pine Counties. During that time, its membership has helped shape Nevada's future by honoring the pristine beauty of Nevada.

Today, Nevadans and visitors from around the country travel to southern Nevada to see the life, history, and culture of the Silver State. The Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club has worked tirelessly to protect places, such as the Great Basin National Park, the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, the Sloan Canyon and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Areas, and the recently designated Tule Springs Fossil Beds and Basin and Range National Monuments. These special places have inspired tens of millions of people and will continue to inspire our children and grandchildren. The Sierra Club has also been key to the protection of millions of acres of pristine landscapes as wilderness in southern and eastern Nevada. Today, the Sierra Club's dedication to Nevada continues in its efforts to protect treasured sites that highlight Nevada's unique geological and cultural history, including Gold Butte.

These wonderful parts of Nevada are owned by everyone, and their protection has helped solidify Nevada's status as a world class destination. The progress the Southern Nevada Group has made to protect these wonderful parts of Nevada continues through its work to fully realize Nevada's clean energy potential. These efforts notably began with opposition to the construction of new coal plants in White Pine County. More recently, the Southern Nevada Group teamed with the Moapa Band of Paiutes and others to support meaningful legislation that resulted in the closure of the Reid-Gardner coal plant and its replacement with clean energy.

I have been gratified to work with the Southern Nevada Group on so many of these efforts and was honored earlier this year to receive the Sierra Club's Edgar Wayburn Award. I commend the Southern Nevada Group of

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

the Sierra Club on their 50 years of success and wish the organization continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 160TH BIRTHDAY OF MILLER BREWING

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, as the son of a former general manager of a brewery and a loyal customer I wish to acknowledge the founding of a true American success story, Miller Brewing, and to congratulate it on the occasion of its historic 160th anniversary celebration.

In 1855, just a few years after Wisconsin joined the Union, 30-year old Frederick J. Miller brought his brewing passion from his native Germany to the United States, taking over what was then the Plank Road Brewery in Milwaukee. Now, 160 years later, Milwaukee is known worldwide as Brew City, and the company he founded is celebrating the accomplishments of this young, brash entrepreneurial brewmaster who turned a pocketful of yeast into a global beer brewing icon. From its founding, through its expansions and partnerships, Miller Brewing has become a quintessential success story, having forever woven itself into the fabric of American society and culture.

As Miller Brewing celebrates its 160th anniversary, guests from around the world have come to Milwaukee to hear and read stories of a young Frederick Miller. Each week the company is highlighting a different era from Miller's storied past, and visitors to the historic Miller Valley plant can even taste a sample of 1855 celebration Lager during brewery tours. Earlier this month, I toured Miller's Milwaukee brewery and enjoyed some of the same sights and smells I experienced as a young boy hanging around the small brewery managed by my father.

After decades of continued success, Miller joined with Colorado-based Coors in 2008, thus combining more than 300 years of brewing heritage. Operating out of eight breweries in eight States, the most talented and professional brewmasters in the world now provide beer drinkers in America with a portfolio of beers that are second to none. But, Miller Brewing and MillerCoors are more than the product they make; they are greater than the sum of their parts. They are economic engines in Wisconsin, Colorado, and throughout the country, providing family-supporting jobs to more than 8,000 employees nationwide. Because of their presence, over \$5 billion is injected in the economy each year, money that is spent on goods and services, and which helps support the businesses of thousands of suppliers. Miller

pays more than \$1 billion annually in State, local and Federal taxes.

As they celebrate the past 160 years, current employees are taking note of the efforts made by the earliest employees of Miller Brewing, who knew the importance of civic leadership and sustainable business practices. We see those traditions continue today, as Miller Brewing and MillerCoors remain a deeply rooted presence in the communities in which they brew and sell their beer. Support of local charities and responsible consumption programs, and efforts to reduce water and energy usage and waste are only a few examples of how the company proves itself to be a valuable corporate citizen.

Frederick J. Miller arrived in Milwaukee with a passion and ambition. He committed himself to brew "confoundingly good beers" with "uncompromising quality." After founding Miller Brewing Company in 1855, he worked hard to achieve that goal. For the past 160 years, millions of Americans have reaped the benefits of his efforts, one bottle, one can, or one glass at a time.●

REMEMBERING BEVERLY C. DAGGETT

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today we solemnly remember Senator Beverly Daggett. A dedicated public servant, Beverly died on September 6, 2015, 3 days before her 70th birthday, after a valiant, lifelong battle with kidney disease. Bev will be remembered for her dedication to her family, community, and State. The State of Maine has lost a woman of true integrity, and she will be greatly missed.

Bev was an exceptionally intelligent and hard-working woman who found countless successes in life. She began her tenure in the Maine House of Representatives in 1987 as a member of the 113th legislature. She served in the Maine House of Representatives from 1987 through 1996 and in the Maine Senate from 1997 through 2004. In the Senate, Bev rose to leadership as the Senate Democratic leader in 2000. She worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle to achieve the historic power-sharing deal that stemmed from the Senate's first ever partisan tie.

In 2002, in recognition of her strong leadership, her colleagues elected Beverly Daggett to serve as the first woman President of the Maine Senate.

Bev's dedication to community was obvious as she served in countless ways other than her political activities. Senator Daggett was also Kennebec County Commissioner for several terms. She served for 25 years on the Board of Crisis and Counseling, culminating in her role as board chair. She also sat on the school board and was a member of the Green Street United Methodist Church, where she was a substitute organist.

Above all else, Beverly was a devoted wife, mother, and friend.

I had the honor of working with Beverly during my time as the Governor of Maine and witnessed firsthand her strong leadership and commitment to the betterment of Maine. I am deeply saddened by her passing and would like to join her friends and family in reflecting on her many life accomplishments and honor her memory.

Beverly will be remembered for her deep and abiding faith, her leadership, encouragement of those around her, ceaseless advocacy for those without a voice, sense of humor, and wisdom. Her firm devotion to the betterment of Maine will never be forgotten. I, along with all the people of Maine, am thankful for her immeasurable contributions to our State and the Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 348. An act to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes.

At 6:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2051) to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 6:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 261. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 994. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1707. An act to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 348. An act to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2089. A bill to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure, to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 766. A bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-147).

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 627. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-148).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2083. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 2084. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2085. A bill to clarify that nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity may accept donated mortgage appraisals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2086. A bill to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2087. A bill to modify the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2088. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2089. A bill to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure, to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2090. A bill to ensure that Social Security contributions made by workers are available to pay all benefits which they have earned; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 271. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Dinosaur National Monument and designating October 4, 2015, as "Dinosaur National Monument Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 618

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 618, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General.

S. 628

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, *supra*.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend the

Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term "waters of the United States", and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1446

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1446, a bill to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

S. 1779

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to prevent conflicts of interest that stem from executive Government employees receiving bonuses or other compensation arrangements from nongovernment sources, from the revolving door that raises concerns about the independence of financial services regulators, and from the revolving door that casts aspersions over the awarding of Government contracts and other financial benefits.

S. 1818

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1818, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the rule making process of agencies.

S. 1820

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules.

S. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2009

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2009, a bill to prohibit the sale of arms to Bahrain.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2028

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2028, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2043

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2043, a bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. WARNER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. RES. 222

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 222, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federation Internationale de Football Association should immediately eliminate gender pay inequity and treat all athletes with the same respect and dignity.

S. RES. 267

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 267, a resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2090. A bill to ensure that Social Security contributions made by workers are available to pay all benefits which they have earned; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes today to discuss the enormous importance of America's most critical safety net program—Social Security. In particular, I want to talk about the Social Security Disability Insurance program and introduce a proposal to secure the financing of Social Security. Of all the strands woven together in America's safety net, disability insurance is one of the most successful at keeping vulnerable people in Oregon and across the country out of poverty. It is a vital lifeline for people who suffer from catastrophic

illnesses or disabilities, including a million veterans. The time has come for Congress to take an expected but important step to preserve Social Security's strength into the future.

The trust fund for the disability insurance portion of Social Security is set to be depleted in 2016. This doesn't mean the program will stop paying benefits but does mean that it will only have dedicated tax revenue to pay about 80 percent of benefits. This isn't a late-breaking crisis; this is something that Congress has anticipated for more than two decades. And it is a simple issue to resolve.

For a defined-benefit system like Social Security, it is not unusual to adjust the dials of funding between the retirement program and the disability program as needed. That way, the entire program remains as strong as possible. Benefits go out in full and on time. Nobody in Oregon or elsewhere is stuck in limbo, worrying about suddenly being unable to make rent or pay the bills.

Congress has adjusted resources within Social Security 11 times and has shifted funding both to and from the disability insurance program. The last time it did, in 1994, it set the disability insurance program on strong footing for about 20 years. That is the practical way to strengthen disability insurance for the future. I am introducing legislation today along with 27 colleagues that would do just that, and Ways and Means Ranking Member LEVIN is introducing a similar measure in the House of Representatives.

This is a straightforward, common-sense proposal supported by a number of prominent advocates for Americans with disabilities, including the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force, Social Security Works, and the Strengthen Social Security Coalition.

Despite that, there are some members of Congress who are ringing false alarm bells and insisting on changes to the program that may be harmful to workers and beneficiaries. They make the misguided case that disability insurance is plagued by fraud or that it is a big giveaway. That is not the case—as I will explain in a moment.

The reason I am introducing this legislation now is the House of Representatives has adopted a rule that prevents a clean reallocation of funding between the retirement and disability programs. I want to make sure that harmful changes to these programs are not included in end-of-year or other must-pass legislation.

In my view, there are opportunities to further strengthen Social Security, and I believe the Congress should be open to policies that would not harm workers and beneficiaries. However, it is important that Congress not take

any action that would reduce protections for those who desire to attempt work, add more complexity in benefits or administration, or rig up another trust fund depletion scenario. There have been some ideas thrown around that don't pass those tests.

As Congress debates the future of disability insurance, it is important to get the facts straight. First, the Social Security Administration makes stopping program fraud and abuse a top priority. Disability insurance payments are more than 99 percent accurate, due in no small part to the agency's robust efforts to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

For example, the agency uses a highly effective method of preventing improper payments called "continuing disability reviews," which returns \$9 in savings for every dollar invested. The agency has demonstrated that it can do this important work when we here in Congress provide it with sufficient resources.

In addition, let me be clear: nobody is getting rich off of disability insurance. The benefits average just over \$1,100 a month, which is slightly over the individual poverty level. If SSDI went away, half of the families receiving benefits would fall into poverty.

And it is important to recognize that the qualifications for disability insurance are strict, which means only those who are so impaired they can't perform substantial work receive benefits. The program is not a giveaway. Workers earn coverage by paying into the program. Less than 40 percent of applications for disability insurance are approved, even after appeals. The people who qualify suffer from severe medical conditions that have derailed their lives and left them extremely vulnerable. In my view, it is deeply unfair to delay the simple changes that will keep the disability insurance program running for years to come.

One year ago, the Finance Committee heard testimony from a woman named Stephanie Dempsey who suffered from debilitating chronic illnesses and received disability insurance benefits. Stephanie's long list of health problems began in her late twenties, when she was diagnosed with a hereditary heart disease. She had quadruple bypass surgery at age 30. Over the following years, she had 27 stents placed in her arteries over the course of several more operations. That enormous burden was compounded by Lupus, arthritis, and a seizure disorder. A mountain of prescription bottles was stacked on the witness table the day Stephanie came before the Finance Committee.

As Stephanie told us, she wanted to work, but her illnesses made it impossible. Rather than sliding backward into poverty or having to rely entirely on others to stay afloat, disability insurance benefits helped cover the bills.

I am sorry to say that Stephanie passed away in December. But there are vulnerable people across the country who rely on disability insurance in the same way Stephanie did. On the Social Security Administration's website is a page where many of these individuals have shared their stories.

Let me tell you about three other individuals who rely on disability insurance: Charlotte, Christine, and Carrie.

Charlotte was working three jobs and pursuing her degree in social work when she suffered two strokes in 2007. After the strokes, Charlotte now has trouble getting around and climbing steps. She gets help from her niece with day-to-day chores. She says disability insurance keeps her from becoming homeless and helps her pay her bills, afford her medications, and keep food on the table.

Christine has a disorder of the nervous system that has left her in a wheelchair. Her disability insurance benefits give her independence. She said that without Social Security, she would be stuck in a nursing home, but instead, she is able to be a productive citizen.

Carrie is a mother who suffers from multiple sclerosis, MS. She worked in the insurance industry and shrugged off the early symptoms of her MS. But the fatigue and forgetfulness grew, and she became unable to work. Carrie's Social Security benefits help her family pay for food, clothes, and school supplies.

Mr. President, these individuals and millions more across the country have earned their benefits, and they are relying on Congress to keep both parts of Social Security running at full strength. I urge my colleagues to work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that benefits continue in full and as promised, to guarantee that millions of vulnerable Americans remain protected.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 4, 2015, AS "DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT DAY"

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 271

Whereas in 1909, paleontologist Earl Douglass discovered the world-famous Carnegie Quarry, a remarkable window to the dinosaurs of the late Jurassic period;

Whereas on October 4, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson established Dinosaur National Monument by Presidential Proclamation Number 1313 (39 Stat. 1752), which preserved the deposits of extraordinary dinosaur fossils;

Whereas on July 14, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enlarged Dinosaur National

Monument by Presidential Proclamation Number 2290 (53 Stat. 2454), to include the Green and Yampa River canyon country in order to protect additional land of historical and scientific interest;

Whereas October 4, 2015, marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Dinosaur National Monument;

Whereas Dinosaur National Monument is a State and national treasure that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and benefits national, State, and local economies by generating millions of dollars in revenue;

Whereas Dinosaur National Monument has the most complete geological record of any unit of the National Park System;

Whereas Dinosaur National Monument protects more than 210,000 acres of exceptionally diverse communities of plants and animals, including bears, mountain lions, bighorn sheep, moose, elk, otters, and beavers;

Whereas Dinosaur National Monument contains the lower section of the Yampa River, and the confluence of the Yampa and Green Rivers within Dinosaur National Monument provides outstanding scientific opportunities to observe and study the effects of the Rivers;

Whereas Dinosaur National Monument preserves and protects significant archaeological evidence of the prehistoric Fremont Indians, providing an excellent opportunity for research and education;

Whereas the National Park Service will continue the long tradition of preserving and protecting Dinosaur National Monument for years to come, providing access to the wilderness and wildlife within Dinosaur National Monument for generations of Americans; and

Whereas on October 4, 2015, the National Park Service intends to celebrate the start of the next century of stewardship for Dinosaur National Monument: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and celebrates Dinosaur National Monument on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the monument;

(2) encourages all people of Colorado, Utah, and the United States to visit that unique national treasure; and

(3) designates October 4, 2015, as Dinosaur National Monument Day.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2701. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2702. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2703. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2701. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) For the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, no funds authorized or appropriated by Federal law may be made available for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, or to any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, or clinics.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) affect any limitation contained in an appropriations Act relating to abortion; or

(2) reduce overall Federal funding available in support of women's health.

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for—

(1) any activity to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that involves waiving, suspending, or terminating sanctions imposed with respect to Iran, or

(2) any assessed contribution of the United States to the United Nations,

until the President transmits to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, in accordance with section 135 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (22 U.S.C. 2160e) an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, any other agreement entered into or made between Iran and any other parties, and any additional materials related to either such agreement, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements, whether entered into or implemented prior to such agreements or to be entered into or implemented in the future.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” has the meaning given that term in section 135 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (22 U.S.C. 2160e).

(2) The term “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” means the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, signed at Vienna July 14, 2015, by Iran and by the People's Republic of China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

SA 2702. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS ACT.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “End Government Shutdowns Act”.

(b) **AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310 the following new section:

“**SEC. 1311. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.**

“(a)(1) If any appropriation measure for a fiscal year is not enacted before the beginning of such fiscal year or a joint resolution making continuing appropriations is not in effect, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary to continue any program, project, or activity for which funds were provided in the preceding fiscal year—

“(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year; or

“(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year did not become law, then in a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year.

“(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be at a rate of operations not in excess of the lower of—

“(i) 100 percent of the rate of operations provided for in the regular appropriation Act providing for such program, project, or activity for the preceding fiscal year;

“(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 100 percent of the rate of operations provided for such program, project, or activity pursuant to a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

“(iii) 100 percent of the annualized rate of operations provided for in the most recently enacted joint resolution making continuing appropriations for part of that fiscal year or any funding levels established under the provisions of this Act;

for the period of 120 days. After the first 120-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. For each subsequent 90-day period during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by 1 percentage point. The 90-day period reductions shall extend beyond the last day of that fiscal year.

“(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this section for the next fiscal year.

“(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in appropriations and ending with the date on which the applicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year becomes law (whether or not such law provides for such program, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution making appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

“(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

“(c) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or

a joint resolution making continuing appropriations until the end of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or activity for such period becomes law.

“(d) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

“(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

“(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the following new item:

“1311. Continuing appropriations.”.

SA 2703. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2689 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . NO BUDGET NO PAY.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “No Budget, No Pay Act”.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Member of Congress”—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

(c) **TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(d) **NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e).

(2) **NO RETROACTIVE PAY.**—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and

the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e), at any time after the end of that period.

(e) **DETERMINATIONS.**—

(1) **SENATE.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on February 1, 2017.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2015, at 5 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Migration Crisis in Middle East/Europe.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC CARE ACT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 180, S. 599.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 599) to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF MEDICAID EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (d) of section 2707 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **LENGTH OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the demonstration project established under this section shall be conducted for a period of 3 consecutive years.

“(2) **TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTED STATES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraph (4), a State selected as an eligible State to participate in the demonstration project on or prior to March 13, 2012, shall, upon the request of the State, be permitted to continue to participate in the demonstration project through September 30, 2016, if—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

“(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that such extension for that State is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(B) **NOTICE OF PROJECTIONS.**—The Secretary shall provide each State selected to participate in the demonstration project on or prior to March 13, 2012, with notice of the determination and certification made under subparagraph (A) for the State.

“(3) **EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—

“(A) **ADDITIONAL EXTENSION.**—Taking into account the recommendations submitted to Congress under subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may permit an eligible State participating in the demonstration project as of the date such recommendations are submitted to continue to participate in the project through December 31, 2019, if, with respect to the State—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

“(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that the continued participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(B) **OPTION FOR EXPANSION TO ADDITIONAL STATES.**—Taking into account the recommendations submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (f)(3), the Secretary may expand the number of eligible States participating in the demonstration project through December 31, 2019, if, with respect to any new eligible State—

“(i) the Secretary determines that the participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act; and

“(ii) the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certifies that the

participation of the State in the demonstration project is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(C) NOTICE OF PROJECTIONS.—The Secretary shall provide each State participating in the demonstration project as of the date the Secretary submits recommendations to Congress under subsection (f)(3), and any additional State that applies to be added to the demonstration project, with notice of the determination and certification made for the State under subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and the standards used to make such determination and certification—

“(i) in the case of a State participating in the demonstration project as of the date the Secretary submits recommendations to Congress under subsection (f)(3), not later than August 31, 2016; and

“(ii) in the case of an additional State that applies to be added to the demonstration project, prior to the State making a final election to participate in the project.

“(4) AUTHORITY TO ENSURE BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—The Secretary annually shall review each participating State’s demonstration project expenditures to ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(i), (2)(A)(ii), (3)(A)(i), (3)(A)(ii), (3)(B)(i), and (3)(B)(ii) (as applicable). If the Secretary determines with respect to a State’s participation in the demonstration project that the State’s net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act has increased as a result of the State’s participation in the project, the Secretary shall treat the demonstration project excess expenditures of the State as an overpayment under title XIX of the Social Security Act.”.

(b) FUNDING.—Subsection (e) of section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “5-YEAR”; and

(B) by striking “through December 31, 2015” and inserting “until expended”;

(3) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(5) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “and the availability of funds” and inserting “(other than States deemed to be eligible States through the application of subsection (c)(4))”; and

(6) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “(other than a State deemed to be an eligible State through the application of subsection (c)(4))” after “eligible State”; and

(ii) by striking “paragraph (4)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

(B) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “In addition to any payments made to an eligible State under the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall, during any period in effect under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d), or during any period in which a law described in subsection (f)(4)(C) is in effect, pay each eligible State (including any State deemed to be an eligible State through the application of subsection (c)(4)), an amount each quarter equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage of expenditures in the quarter during such period for medical assistance described in subsection (a). Payments made to a State for emergency psychiatric demonstration services under this section during the extension period shall be treated as medical assistance under the State plan for purposes of section 1903(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(1)).”.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Subsection (f) of section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C.

1396a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF PROJECT.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available to the public recommendations based on an evaluation of the demonstration project, including the use of appropriate quality measures, regarding—

“(A) whether the demonstration project should be continued after September 30, 2016; and

“(B) whether the demonstration project should be expanded to additional States.

“(4) RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT EXTENSION AND NATIONWIDE EXPANSION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available to the public recommendations based on an evaluation of the demonstration project, including the use of appropriate quality measures, regarding—

“(i) whether the demonstration project should be permanently continued after December 31, 2019, in 1 or more States; and

“(ii) whether the demonstration project should be expanded (including on a nationwide basis).

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any recommendation submitted under subparagraph (A) to permanently continue the project in a State, or to expand the project to 1 or more other States (including on a nationwide basis) shall include a certification from the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that permanently continuing the project in a particular State, or expanding the project to a particular State (or all States) is projected not to increase net program spending under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(C) CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall not permanently continue the demonstration project in any State after December 31, 2019, or expand the demonstration project to any additional State after December 31, 2019, unless Congress enacts a law approving either or both such actions and the law includes provisions that—

“(i) ensure that each State’s participation in the project complies with budget neutrality requirements; and

“(ii) require the Secretary to treat any expenditures of a State participating in the demonstration project that are excess of the expenditures projected under the budget neutrality standard for the State as an overpayment under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

“(5) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account to carry out this subsection, \$100,000 for fiscal year 2015, to remain available until expended.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2707 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting “publicly or” after “institution for mental diseases that is”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “An eligible State” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), an eligible State”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “A State shall” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (4), a State shall”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) NATIONWIDE AVAILABILITY.—In the event that the Secretary makes a recommendation pursuant to subsection (f)(4) that the demonstration project be expanded on a national basis, any State that has submitted or submits

an application pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be deemed to have been selected to be an eligible State to participate in the demonstration project.”; and

(3) in the heading for subsection (f), by striking “AND REPORT” and inserting “, REPORT, AND RECOMMENDATIONS”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 599), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 271, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 271) recognizing the 100th anniversary of Dinosaur National Monument and designating October 4, 2015, as “Dinosaur National Monument Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 271) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2089

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2089) to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure, to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes.

Mr. DAINES. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 719 postclosure; further, that all time during the recess or adjournment of the Senate count postclosure on the motion to concur with amendment No. 2689; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 28, 2015:

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. MAGGI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANNA W. HICKEY AND ENDING WITH KIMBERLY C. YOUNGMCLEAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2015.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KYLE J. WELD, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHLEEN E. AKERS AND ENDING WITH SAIPRASAD M. ZEMSE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL R. BREZINSKI AND ENDING WITH THOMAS E. WILLIFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DWAYNE A. BACA AND ENDING WITH LIANA LUCAS VOGEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RENI B. ANGELOVA AND ENDING WITH GRANT W. WISNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID R. ALANIZ AND ENDING WITH DEVON L. WENTZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN M. GOOCH, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF HERMAN W. DYKES, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN S. ACKISS AND ENDING WITH D012659, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL H. ADORJAN AND ENDING WITH G010310, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW T. ADAMCZYK AND ENDING WITH D012593, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GREGORY I. KELTS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN H. COOPER AND ENDING WITH DAVID G. WORTMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LESLEY A. WATTS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KIRBY R. GROSS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FRANCESCA M. DESRIVIERE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JERRY L. TOLBERT, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER R. FORSYTHE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FRANCIS G. MARESCO, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID S. ABRAHAMS AND ENDING WITH D012627, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHANIE R. AHERN AND ENDING WITH G010384, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER W. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH D011026, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NEIL I. NELSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN J. BIGELOW, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ENRIQUE R. ASUNCION AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY J. SAXON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTIAN J. AUGER AND ENDING WITH CHESTER J. WYCKOFF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CARA M. ADDISON AND ENDING WITH JOEL A. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH OLUWAFADEKEMI N. ADEWETAN AND ENDING WITH JUS-

TIN I. WATSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FREDERIC ALBESA AND ENDING WITH FRANZ J. YU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARICAR S. ABERIN AND ENDING WITH CARDIA M. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES P. ADWELL AND ENDING WITH MARESA C. J. ZENNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD R. ABITRIA AND ENDING WITH DAVID J. ZELINSKAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHELLE D. CARTER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF REGINE REIMERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOEL V. FINNY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ERNEST C. LEE, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NATALIA C. HENRIQUEZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WHITNEY A. ABRAHAM AND ENDING WITH BETHANY R. ZMITROVICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REBECCA K. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL L. ZUEHLKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER M. BADE AND ENDING WITH CASSANDRA M. SISTI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMIE P. DRAGE AND ENDING WITH RICHARD M. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON M. BAUMAN AND ENDING WITH MARK A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA A. AISEN AND ENDING WITH SCOTT M. THORNBURY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD S. CHERNITZER AND ENDING WITH BETH A. TEACH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICHOLAS A. DENISON AND ENDING WITH THEODORE J. STOW, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS C. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH ANTONIO ZUBLA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL K. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH JERRY W. WYRICK II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIELLE L. ADAMOVICH AND ENDING WITH RICHARD S. ZIBA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GILBERT R. BAUGHN AND ENDING WITH SERGIO B. WOODEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GREGORY A. GRUBBS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, September 28, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONDURAS MUST PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined a fact-finding delegation to Honduras led by WOLA, the Washington Office on Latin America. We looked at the problem of violence and the lack of opportunity in order to understand why families and young people continue to flee the country. We wanted to learn what the Honduran Government and people were doing in response to the problems that confront their country and how the United States might help. We met with families, young people, and community leaders in several marginal and violent communities, including those who benefit from programs at Casa Alianza.

The delegation also visited an innovative USAID-sponsored violence prevention program. It not only offers programs for young people in a poor and dangerous neighborhood, but brings together community leaders and local institutions to tackle local problems. By

strengthening local leaders and groups and working with trained and vetted local police, crime levels have dropped and new opportunities for youth have been created. These are hopeful results for a community that 1 year ago was under siege by violent criminal actors.

We also met with many NGOs, human rights defenders, and international organizations to understand the intertwined problems of human rights, Democratic governance, and corruption. We had substantial conversations with Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and met with our Ambassador, James Nealon, and his team, and I am grateful for how generous they were with their time.

I would like to share with my colleagues a few thoughts and conclusions from this trip.

First, I have no doubt that violence or lack of opportunity are driving families and young people to flee Honduras. I saw the marginal communities and heard the stories from families about the problems young people face. The best thing we can do is support efforts that break the cycle of violence and help build opportunities for youth in Honduras and elsewhere in Central America. At Casa Alianza and the USAID project, we saw the kind of programs that actually make a difference. That is where we should be directing our assistance.

Additionally, I also heard how long-term drought is exacerbating hunger, malnutrition, and the loss of livelihoods in rural central Honduras and igniting a new wave of migration.

Second, I heard from returned migrants and the families of migrants, including those whose loved ones have disappeared and never been heard from again. Migrants face abuse as they travel. They are extorted by authorities in Mexico and sometimes Guatemala and robbed or kidnapped and held for ransom by criminal groups. Young women run the risk of being trafficked and forced into prostitution.

We heard from returned migrants, especially those who had been stopped in Mexico, about the return journey and the lack of services at the El Corinto border crossing. We met migrants who had fled gang violence only to be forced to return to the same dangers.

I was moved by many of these stories. Migrants, even those traveling without legal documents, have basic rights, and we should be working with the Governments of Mexico and Honduras to ensure that they get decent treatment, access to needed services, and the protection they deserve.

Third, human rights abuses continue to be a serious problem in Honduras. Longtime human rights defenders, journalists, and gay, lesbian, and transgender activists described ongoing threats, attacks, and even assassinations, and the response by the police and the attorney general has not improved. In fact, a U.S.-supported special investigative unit that was supposed to focus on attacks on the LGBT community, journalists, and others has investigated even fewer cases this year than last.

I am troubled by the government's focus on special military police units, whose human rights record isn't good. I support the U.S. decision not to provide aid to the military police. Instead, the Honduran Government needs to clean up and strengthen civilian police and the Attorney General's Office.

My trip to Honduras was both challenging and inspiring. I saw troubling problems of poverty and violence, heard painful stories about migrant abuses and disappearances, and saw major problems in the area of human rights and the protection of human rights defenders and activists.

But I also saw hope. I met with young people who dream of bright futures for themselves in Honduras, with student and youth leaders who are campaigning selflessly and courageously to build mechanisms to tackle corruption, and with LGBT activists, human rights defenders, and journalists who are standing up to threats. I saw community-led projects to combat violence and poverty that are making a real difference.

Mr. Speaker, last week our Nation was graced by the presence of Pope Francis. I was deeply moved by his call for us to welcome the stranger, to help the most vulnerable among us, and to work together for the common good. I believe each of those calls to action apply to the case of Honduras, both in how we respond to Hondurans fleeing to the United States to find safe haven and a new life and how we help Hondurans respond to their own problems inside their country.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to working with my colleagues to help the Honduran people deal successfully with these challenges.

DKI APCSS 20TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI) for 5 minutes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, located in Waikiki, Hawaii. I want to extend my congratulations to the Center on reaching this important milestone.

For the last 20 years, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies has made significant strides in educating, connecting, and empowering security practitioners. I would like to thank the Center for their leadership. I am pleased to see the APCSS renamed as the Daniel K. Inouye Center, honoring the legacy of the late Senator who advocated strongly for peace and stability around the world.

As the United States shifts its focus to the Asia-Pacific region, the Daniel K. Inouye Center will be uniquely situated to play a critical role in driving our Nation's security policy.

The U.S. rebalance to Asia will rely heavily on Hawaii's location and relationship with our partner nations in the region.

I can think of no better venue than the Inouye Center for bringing together representatives from different countries to discuss joint cooperation on important issues.

As I have witnessed firsthand, the Center is focused on producing results. This will be crucial as we continue to move forward with the rebalance and begin to tackle some of the most pressing security-related issues.

Once again, I want to extend my congratulations on 20 years of service and my warmest thanks—mahalo—for the tremendous work being done there.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to You as a Nation in the midst of significant imminent transition, even as important disagreements on policy promise vigorous debate in the days and weeks to come. As people look for causes and solutions, the temptation is great to seek ideological position.

We ask that You might send Your spirit of peace and reconciliation; that

instead of ascendancy over opponents, the Members of this people's House and all elected to represent our Nation might work together humbly, recognizing the best in each other's hopes, to bring stability and direction toward a strong future.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CYBER WEEK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week the House Armed Services Committee, led by Chairman MAC THORBERRY, marks Cyber Week, a week that highlights the importance of cyber to our families and to our military. This week of hearings, with witnesses from private corporations and the Department of Defense, is a fitting start as we also recognize Cyber Security Awareness Month during October.

Recent cyber attacks, like the devastating attack on the Office of Personnel Management, have made it clear that cyber is the new domain of attacks on American families. Personal data, such as Social Security numbers, financial information, and security clearance documents, were stolen, putting the personal and financial security of our citizens at risk. The attack underscores the increased reports of cyber attacks against our military Web sites, government data, and businesses.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, with dedicated staff members like Pete Villano, Kevin Gates, and Nevada Schadler, I look forward to Cyber Week's focus to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GOP GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, almost unbelievably here we are just 2 days away from another GOP government shutdown. Republicans, who control both Houses of Congress, have yet to bring a budget agreement, just a couple of days before the government shuts down, that would keep government open. Democrats stand ready to negotiate, to talk, to come up with an agreement that can move this country forward, that can keep government open, at the very least.

We just can't afford another government shutdown. The last time this happened, it cost the economy billions of dollars and people lost their jobs. Shutting this government down, allowing the government to be shut down over a partisan ideological point, is reckless, and it ought to be avoided at all costs.

You don't have to look very far in the headlines to see that the Republican Conference is in some disarray. I understand that. The politics of that are just going to have to work themselves out.

Meanwhile, the business of the American people has to be attended to. We have got to get this country back to work. If we don't do that, we will not be doing the jobs that people sent us here to do.

THE CITY OF CARPINTERIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the city of Carpinteria.

Incorporated on September 28, 1965, the city of Carpinteria is home to over 13,000 residents on the central coast of California. It is known as one of America's finest small towns, and Carpinteria has also been recognized as one of the American cities with the highest quality of life.

The city of Carpinteria is a leader in environmental stewardship, working to protect California's precious coastline. In fact, Carpinteria City Beach has been recognized as the world's safest beach. Their local economy has thrived with its vibrant cultural history, and this unique agricultural region is home to California's famed avocado festival.

I am proud to honor the city of Carpinteria on their 50th anniversary. It is a key treasure on the central coast.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 25, 2015 at 5:12 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2082.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PROTECTING AFFORDABLE
COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES ACT

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1624) to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1624

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act".

SEC. 2. REVISION OF DEFINITION OF SMALL EMPLOYER UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET PROVISIONS.

(a) PPACA AMENDMENTS.—Section 1304(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18024(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "101" and inserting "51";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "100" and inserting "50"; and

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) STATE OPTION TO EXTEND DEFINITION OF SMALL EMPLOYER.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), nothing in this section shall prevent a State from applying this subsection by treating as a small employer, with respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least 1 but not more than 100 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the plan year."

(b) PHSA AMENDMENTS.—Section 2791(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "101" and inserting "51";

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking "100" and inserting "50"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) STATE OPTION TO EXTEND DEFINITION OF SMALL EMPLOYER.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (4), nothing in this section shall prevent a State from applying this subsection by treating as a small employer, with respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least 1 but not more than 100 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the plan year."

(c) DEPOSIT OF SAVINGS INTO MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.—Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking "\$0" and inserting "\$205,000,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on H.R. 1624.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bipartisan bill before us today is a much-needed fix for small-business owners and employees struggling to comply with the healthcare law. H.R. 1624 is a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer. The bill would allow the States to continue defining the small group health insurance market as employers with 1 to 50 employees.

Section 1304 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act changed the Federal definition of the small group market to include employers with 1 to 100 employees. The States,

however, have been allowed to continue defining the small group market as employers with 1 to 50 employees until January 1, 2016.

But beginning on or after January 1, 2016, plans sold or renewed for employers with 51 to 100 employees will be subject to the various small group health plan regulations established by PPACA. These more restrictive rating rules will increase health insurance premiums for these employers and reduce flexibility in benefit design.

The new requirements could also lead some employers with 51 to 100 employees to self-insure to avoid higher premiums. If that happens, this could result in adverse selection in the small group pool and higher premiums for employers with 1 to 50 employees.

Unless this current law is reversed, the disruption in the marketplace will be significant. For example, it is estimated that, under current law, more than 3 million employees will experience a double-digit percent increase in their healthcare premiums.

Ultimately, cost increases for small employers will change their choices regarding offering coverage, could change their business model, and will ultimately be felt by millions of workers.

Because the impact of current law will vary by State, defining the small group market should be left to the States, which is a policy envisioned in H.R. 1624.

I am pleased to say there is considerable support for this legislation in the House and the Senate.

The flexibility that would be given to States with immediate passage of H.R. 1624 would help ensure stable, small group health insurance markets that reflect the unique characteristics in each of the States.

If Congress passes H.R. 1624, premiums will be lower and allow millions of employees and employers to keep the plan they have and like. This is a commonsense policy that deserves our bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1624.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I reserve the balance of my time so that Congressman GUTHRIE can speak first.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), the vice chair of the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here.

I rise in support of H.R. 1624, the Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act. This bill, which I introduced along with my friend from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), Congressman MARKWAYNE MULLIN of Oklahoma, and KYRSTEN SINEMA of Arizona will protect smaller employers from increased

healthcare costs and will prevent their employees from being forced out of their current healthcare plans.

The small group market is currently defined as 1 to 50 employees, but a provision in the healthcare law will expand the group's size from 1 to 100 on January 1. With this expansion comes more onerous regulations and the expectation of dramatic rate hikes.

One estimate by Oliver Wyman predicts that those in the 51 to 100 group will see an average of an 18 percent premium increase in 2016 based on the new rating rules alone. H.R. 1624 stops the mandated expansion of the small group market that will occur on January 1 and allows States to define their own market.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many Kentuckians who would be impacted by this change, and their concerns are real. Small businesses are afraid to expand, and mid-sized businesses have no idea what the costs would be or how they can plan for this new change.

This issue has widespread support, with over half the House as cosponsors and nearly a third of the Senate as cosponsors. Members on both sides of the aisle agree that we must act now to stop this new mandate.

It has been a great pleasure working with the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS). It is an issue that we see is happening in Washington, that is happening out in our districts, out across to the businesses.

Both sides of the aisle have come together to say: Let's change the law. Let's make sure that the small businesses and medium-sized businesses are not affected, and let's move forward.

It wasn't just that we signed our names as cosponsors. There was a lot of hard work that I know the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) did to bring more and more cosponsors to this bill. This is a significant change. It is significant for the people who live in our districts. I encourage support.

I appreciate Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. MULLIN.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank my colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE). It has been a pleasure and honor to serve with him on this bill.

It is really important for us to understand how monumental this moment is. This isn't the biggest bill in the world. But, yet, at the same time, if you are a small business in the United States of America and you have 1 to 50 employees or now even 1 to 100 employees, this bill hopefully will help affect your business and your employees in a way that is better.

I rise in support of H.R. 1624. I truly appreciate the willingness to work on a bipartisan bill, as demonstrated today, which is going to positively impact so many communities across the country

through the small businesses it will affect.

H.R. 1624, the Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act, introduced by my colleagues, once again, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SINEMA, and myself—two Republicans and two Democrats is a true bipartisan effort—would stop a potential health insurance rate shock by allowing States to determine the appropriate size of their small group market.

As a former small-business owner myself, I recognize the struggle there is to live out the American Dream. I know how difficult it can be when a specific sector of small business is affected by regulations and laws created by local, State, or Federal governments.

I have seen the impact in neighborhoods throughout my district when a small local business opens their doors or closes their doors. Their supply chain is local. Their employees have a vested interest in their success. Their customers treasure the connection a small hometown business brings.

I know I echo the view of the entire U.S. House of Representatives when I applaud these small businesses, the risks that they have taken, and the celebration of their successes.

The Affordable Care Act isn't perfect. By no means is the Affordable Care Act perfect. But I am grateful for all the benefits that the law has provided since its enactment.

Today more than 16 million Americans have gained access to affordable health insurance that did not have it before enacting the act. My district is one of only two districts in the United States to see a double-digit increase in insured residents since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act is the biggest change to American health care in the past 70 years. It brings down costs, covering more Americans and making dozens of other crucial changes to how our Nation views health care. However, no law is perfect.

When it was first created, Social Security didn't cover agricultural and domestic workers. Medicaid didn't begin to cover mammograms until 1991. Even with these fundamental programs of our Nation's safety net, improvement and compromise was necessary to lead to more perfect laws.

While certain States, like California, have decided to move forward with the expansion, this bill still provides States the flexibility to ensure market stability for small businesses across the country.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort to bring this bill to the floor. I look forward to advancing the PACE Act and continuing to build on a record of working together in a bipartisan fashion.

I was just sharing a moment with my colleague from Kentucky, Congress-

man GUTHRIE, in talking about how proud I am of this moment and how much I appreciate his willingness to reach across the aisle and work with us to make sure that we bring a fix—not the biggest fix, but a fix—that will help American businesses and American workers across this country.

It is an opportunity for us to work together. But, more importantly, it is an opportunity for us to do the job that we were elected to do: to put aside partisan bickering, to make sure that we look at what is best for America, try our best to bring a bill to the floor through both houses, and, hopefully, get the signature of the President of the United States.

Again, it was due to this bipartisan effort that I think that what I just described is going to happen. Come January of 2016, it is going to be a better place for all of us—for our businesses and our workers—because we were willing to work together.

Once again, it is not the easiest thing to do, but it is something that, unfortunately, is far too rare. I hope that this is the beginning, the beginning of many of us working together and making good things happen for America and its Territories.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1624.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It is an important bill. It is a bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1624.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, 17.6 million Americans have gained health insurance coverage and are no longer one accident, injury, or diagnosis away from financial ruin. This is the largest reduction in the uninsured in four decades.

The ACA has increased access and reduced financial barriers to important preventive services, such as cancer screenings and well-woman visits by requiring their coverage with no cost sharing. The law also stopped insurers from discriminating based on pre-existing conditions or placing annual limits on how much health care they will cover.

Though the ACA is already helping millions nationwide, no law is perfect, and there are certainly ways we can improve the ACA and build upon its successes. Given the political theatre that tends to surround the ACA, I am pleased to see that my Republican colleagues are ready to work together on bipartisan proposals such as H.R. 1624 with the goal of strengthening the law. Unfortunately, though, I do not agree with the approach this bill takes.

H.R. 1624 would permanently change the law to make the small group expansion currently required under the ACA optional for states and allow states to "opt in" if they choose. Research tells us that some states simply are not ready to expand their small group market and that expansion in these states could result in higher costs for certain consumers. However, the small group expansion was included in the ACA for good reason.

The benefits of expansion such as added consumer protections and increased stability for small employers are important and achievable goals. States like Washington are already experiencing the benefits of an expanded small group market.

I am concerned that H.R. 1624 is premature, and I would instead prefer a few year transitional delay of the small group expansion or an "opt out" option for states instead. I believe these alternatives would ensure that states continue to work towards the goal of expansion, rather than disregarding the provision altogether.

Mr. Speaker, I am also disappointed that this bill was not considered under regular order. Such an important issue deserves thoughtful discussion and opportunities for amendments. I had hoped to offer an amendment that would allow states to "opt out" of the expansion. Since I was unable to discuss this amendment and other potential changes to the bill with my colleagues in a committee markup, I remain uncertain that this legislation is the best course of action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1624, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

GOLD STAR FATHERS ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 136) to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 136

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE TREATMENT FOR FATHERS OF CERTAIN PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR DECEASED VETERANS.

Section 2108(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (F) and (G) and inserting the following:

"(F) the parent of an individual who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving in the armed forces during a period named by paragraph (1)(A) of this section, if—

"(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

"(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse;

"(G) the parent of a service-connected permanently and totally disabled veteran, if—

"(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

"(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse; and".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 136, the Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015. This important piece of legislation supports fathers of permanently disabled or deceased veterans in their search for employment with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, under current law, mothers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans receive preference in hiring for civil service positions in recognition of their sacrifice. That preference applies when the mother is widowed, divorced, or separated, or if their husband is totally or permanently disabled.

The Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015 extends this same benefit to fathers. The bill also grants preference in hiring to parents who never married along with those that are widowed, divorced, or legally separated.

I thank Senators WYDEN, BROWN, and COLLINS for their work over several Congresses on this important issue, and Congresswoman ESTY for sponsoring the House companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans and to the mothers and fathers of our veterans. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 136, the Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015, bipartisan legislation introduced by my colleague, Senator RON WYDEN of Oregon, last January and cosponsored by Senators SHERROD BROWN of Rhode Island and SUSAN COLLINS of Maine. This bill passed the United States Senate by unanimous consent in

May of this year and was favorably reported out of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in July.

This legislation also has bipartisan support in the House in the form of identical legislation, H.R. 1222, introduced by my colleague, Representative ELIZABETH ESTY, of Connecticut.

In appreciation of the sacrifices that Gold Star families have made on behalf of our grateful Nation, the Gold Star Fathers Act would extend the 10-point hiring preference for Federal civilian jobs to the fathers of servicemembers who have been permanently disabled or who lost their lives while serving on Active Duty. This would be identical to the Federal hiring preference that has been available to our Gold Star Mothers since 1948.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is reflective of the immense gratitude that we hold as a nation for the parents of our fallen and disabled heroes. It also recognizes the profound sacrifice that our Gold Star families continue to endure every day. It is a burden that is shouldered by the very few on behalf of the entire Nation.

Back in South Boston, my mother-in-law, Helen Shaughnessy, originally Helen Bailey, is a Gold Star sister. She lost her brother, Arnie Bailey, in April of 1944 on his first jump over the Rhine close to the end of the Second World War in Europe. I know that their family continues to carry that pain and that burden each and every day.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Ms. ESTY in her efforts, along with Senator WYDEN and others in the Senate, to support S. 136.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY). I would like to introduce and welcome her remarks. She is the lead sponsor of this bill in the House and has been a true champion on behalf of veterans all over this country.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 136, the Senate companion to my bill in the House, the Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015.

I want to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for their support of our Gold Star families and for prioritizing this bipartisan bill that would bring equity to the treatment of all Gold Star families, and I want to thank my friends Mr. WALBERG and Mr. LYNCH for their support today.

Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day last year, I met with Gold Star families in Waterbury, Connecticut, and I heard the stories of how deeply they feel the loss of their loved ones, whether that loss was a year ago, 20 years ago, or 40 years ago. I heard from mothers and I heard from fathers about the difficulty of continuing on without a member of their family that they held so dear.

Those willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country deserve to

know that we will support and care for their loved ones they leave behind. After talking with these families, I knew that we needed to do more for these grieving families and we needed to do more to recognize the sacrifice of their loved ones. That is why I introduced the House bill companion of the Gold Star Fathers Act.

Mr. Speaker, our country has long recognized that mothers who have lost a child in military service or are caring for their son or daughter who was permanently disabled in the military deserve a hand when seeking Federal employment. Currently, qualifying mothers of certain disabled or deceased veterans are eligible to receive the veterans hiring preference that will no longer be used by their loved one when applying for certain Federal service jobs.

However, mothers are not the only ones who grieve. The loss of a child is felt just as strongly by our veterans' fathers as by their mothers. It is time to ensure equal treatment of and respect for all parents of deceased or disabled veterans. That is why the Gold Star Fathers Act would extend this hiring preference to fathers as well.

In many cases, not only have the parents undergone significant trauma emotionally, but they have lost a working-age member of their family; and in the case of a permanently disabled child, they may have mounting medical bills to deal with as well. It is time to establish equality in our Nation's treatment of the parents of deceased and disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senators WYDEN, COLLINS, and BROWN for their leadership on the Gold Star Fathers Act in the Senate, and I want to thank my former colleague Representative Tim Bishop for his past leadership on this issue as well.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to join us in honoring our Gold Star families. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this bipartisan, unanimously supported Gold Star Fathers Act.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this commonsense bill. It is more than common sense. We talk about family values a lot. These are family values. These are highest family values of parents that have raised young people who are willing to step forward for our country without consideration of their own lives or their futures in most cases. So I applaud my colleagues' efforts on this behalf, and I support and ask that this bill be supported fully by this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 136.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WOUNDED WARRIORS FEDERAL LEAVE ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 313) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 313

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL LEAVE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DISABLED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 6329. Disabled veteran leave

"(a) During the 12-month period beginning on the first day of employment, any employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more is entitled to leave, without loss or reduction in pay, for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability for which sick leave could regularly be used.

"(b)(1) The leave credited to an employee under subsection (a) may not exceed 104 hours.

"(2) Any leave credited to an employee pursuant to subsection (a) that is not used during the 12-month period described in such subsection may not be carried over and shall be forfeited.

"(c) In order to verify that leave credited to an employee pursuant to subsection (a) is used for treating a service-connected disability, such employee shall submit to the head of the employing agency certification, in such form and manner as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may prescribe, that such employee used such leave for purposes of being furnished treatment for such disability by a health care provider.

"(d) In this section—

"(1) the term 'employee' has the meaning given such term in section 2105, and includes an officer or employee of the United States Postal Service or of the Postal Regulatory Commission;

"(2) the term 'service-connected' has the meaning given such term in section 101(16) of title 38; and

"(3) the term 'veteran' has the meaning given such term in section 101(2) of such title."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 5, United

States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 6328 the following:

"6329. Disabled veteran leave."

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any employee (as that term is defined in section 6329(d)(1) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) hired on or after the date that is one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations with respect to the leave provided by the amendment in subsection (a) for employees, but not including employees of the United States Postal Service or the Postal Regulatory Commission; and

(2) the Postmaster General shall prescribe regulations for such leave with respect to officers and employees of the United States Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 313, the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015, sponsored by my colleague, Congressman STEPHEN LYNCH. This important piece of legislation supports wounded warriors newly hired in the Federal Government.

The Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 supports our disabled veterans transitioning to civilian careers by providing sick leave for medical treatments and appointments that are related to their service-connected disability.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation provides immediate access to sick leave for any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for the purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability.

Because Federal employees begin with a zero sick leave balance and accrue sick leave over time, disabled veterans beginning civilian jobs often have insufficient sick leave to attend medical appointments required for treatment of their service-connected disabilities. This bill provides our newly hired disabled veterans with immediate access of up to 13 days for sick leave so that our disabled veterans do not have to take unpaid leave to care for their service-connected injuries.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 313 is supported by a number of veterans and employee organizations, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Federal Managers Association.

I commend Mr. LYNCH for his leadership on this issue and for working with Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. NORTON to bring this bipartisan legislation before the committee. I also want to acknowledge Senators TESTER, MORAN, and TOOMEY for their work on the Senate companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 313, the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015.

I introduced this bipartisan legislation in January of this year, and I am proud that it has now gained the support of over 30 Democratic and Republican Members of Congress.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), for his remarks and his support of this bill. At the outset, I would also like to thank Chairman JASON CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for their leadership in bringing H.R. 313 to the floor. I would also like to thank many of the veterans groups and Federal unions and workforce organizations that have joined together to endorse this legislation. They include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the 31 unions and member organizations that make up the Federal Postal Coalition.

Let me also commend Jennifer Hemingway of the majority staff for the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and Lena Chang of the Democratic staff for our committee for their great work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act will address a problem faced by many wounded warriors who are transitioning to civilian life through new careers in the Federal workforce. Currently, a first-year Federal employee will begin his or her career with zero sick leave in the event of a medical event. That is because under current law, full-time Federal employees only earn 4 hours of paid sick leave for each pay period that they work.

Obviously, starting from the beginning, they will have zero balance in their sick leave bank—with a maximum of 104 hours of paid sick leave that is available per year. Nevertheless, new employees start with zero. While Federal workers are able to

carry over unused annual sick leave from year to year, they begin their first year on the job with no sick leave whatsoever.

Now, this lack of initial leave for newly hired Federal workers is particularly burdensome on those employees who are also wounded warriors. These employees need to make regular visits to the VA to seek medical treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other service-connected disabilities, and they are quickly forced to burn up any sick leave that they do accrue during their first year at a Federal agency.

□ 1530

Several wounded warriors who have transitioned to the Federal workforce following their tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and other assignments have highlighted this difficulty during discussions with me and my staff.

These workers reported that, without sufficient leave during their first year on the job, they were routinely faced with the difficult choice between having to take a day off work without pay or simply skipping their scheduled VA appointments altogether. Some wounded warriors reported that the closest VA facility to their job was located a 2- or 3-hour drive away.

As additionally noted by the Federal Managers Association: “Young men and women struggle with available leave as they attempt to keep service-related, medically-necessary appointments, which puts undue stress on both managers and their Federal employees as they try to meet their Congressionally-mandated missions and goals.”

Mr. Speaker, we must afford our wounded warriors the flexibility to receive medical care as they transition to serving our Nation in a new capacity, through a Federal civilian job. The Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act would do just that.

This bill will provide first-year Federal employees who have a VA disability rating of 30 percent or greater with 104 hours of wounded warrior leave from the moment they begin their Federal workforce careers. This includes eligible new hires at our Nation's largest employer of veterans—the Defense Department—as well as the United States Postal Service.

H.R. 313 also recognizes that these dedicated Federal workers will have accumulated up to 104 hours of traditional sick leave by the end of their first year on the job. That is why the bill also provides that any unused wounded warrior leave would not carry over beyond the second year.

The Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act will also provide critical importance, given that the most recent Federal data on veterans employment indicates that Federal agencies are hiring a growing number of veterans each year. In fiscal year 2014, nearly 60,000,

or 33.2 percent, of new hires at Federal agencies were veterans. That is an increase of 9.2 percent over fiscal year 2009.

With the number of our young people who have served multiple tours of duty—three, four, five tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan—this is especially important. Approximately 16,000 of newly Federal employees were wounded warriors with a disability rating of 30 percent or greater.

Again, I am thankful to Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. CONNOLLY. And, also, I want to thank Mr. TESTER. When we sent this bill over to the Senate looking for a cosponsor in the Senate, Senator TESTER was quick to step up and take on this fight in the Senate. I want to thank him for his work on this bill in the Senate side.

In closing, I urge all our Members to vote in favor of H.R. 313.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I truly thank Congressman LYNCH for his leadership on this issue. It is an issue not only whose time has come, but probably should have come long before this. It is a great idea that deals with the reality of what we face in dealing with wounded warriors and their ongoing success that this country—a grateful country—ought to be involved with encouraging.

I urge the adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 313.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL VEHICLE REPAIR COST SAVINGS ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 565) to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 565

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that, in March 2013, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that confirmed that—

(1) there are approximately 588,000 vehicles in the civilian Federal fleet;

(2) Federal agencies spent approximately \$975,000,000 on repair and maintenance of the Federal fleet in 2011;

(3) remanufactured vehicle components, such as engines, starters, alternators, steering racks, and clutches, tend to be less expensive than comparable new replacement parts; and

(4) the United States Postal Service and the Department of the Interior both informed the Government Accountability Office that the respective agencies rely on the use of remanufactured vehicle components to reduce costs.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Federal agency” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of title 40, United States Code; and

(2) the term “remanufactured vehicle component” means a vehicle component (including an engine, transmission, alternator, starter, turbocharger, steering, or suspension component) that has been returned to same-as-new, or better, condition and performance by a standardized industrial process that incorporates technical specifications (including engineering, quality, and testing standards) to yield fully warranted products.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO USE REMANUFACTURED VEHICLE COMPONENTS.

The head of each Federal agency—

(1) shall encourage the use of remanufactured vehicle components to maintain Federal vehicles, if using such components reduces the cost of maintaining the Federal vehicles while maintaining quality; and

(2) shall not encourage the use of remanufactured vehicle components to maintain Federal vehicles, if using such components—

(A) does not reduce the cost of maintaining Federal vehicles;

(B) lowers the quality of vehicle performance, as determined by the employee of the Federal agency responsible for the repair decision; or

(C) delays the return to service of a vehicle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 565, the Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act of 2015. This bill is a bipartisan and bicameral effort designed to reduce the costs of maintenance for the Federal vehicle fleet.

The Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act encourages agencies to use remanufactured vehicle components when doing so will reduce maintenance costs while also maintain quality.

The term “remanufactured vehicle components” refers to components that have been returned to same-as-new or better condition and performance by a standardized industrial process that incorporates technical specifications.

In 2013, a Government Accountability Office report found that remanufactured vehicle components, such as engines, starters, alternators, steering racks, and clutches, tend to be less expensive than comparable new parts.

In fact, a 2012 study by the U.S. International Trade Commission found that remanufacturing parts can result in savings of 85 percent of the energy and material used to manufacture equivalent new parts. Further, this study found that remanufactured parts are, on average, 20 to 50 percent less expensive.

Requiring agency heads under this bill to encourage their Federal vehicle maintenance staff to use remanufactured components will reduce maintenance costs, which totaled \$975 million in 2011, for 588,000 vehicles.

This bill is also supported by the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, which directly employs over 734,000 people in U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressmen HUIZENGA and ASHFORD for their work on the House companion bill. I also want to thank Senators PETERS and LANKFORD for their work on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan cost savings legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 565, the Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act, introduced by Senator PETERS of Michigan.

I would also like to recognize Representative BILL HUIZENGA of Michigan for his good work on this legislation.

S. 565 passed the United States Senate by unanimous consent last month. With today's House passage, it can go straight to the President's desk for his signature.

The Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act would require the head of each Federal agency to encourage the use of remanufactured vehicle components if doing so would reduce costs while maintaining high quality. The intent behind this bill is to raise awareness of the option of using remanufactured parts and inform agency fleet managers of this cost-saving option.

I would note that the bill encourages the heads of Federal agencies to use remanufactured parts, but the decision ultimately to do so would remain at the discretion of fleet managers.

According to a March 2013 Government Accountability Office report, Federal agencies spent about \$1 billion on vehicle repair and maintenance in 2011. The report also found that re-

manufactured vehicle components tend to be much less expensive. For example, the Postal Service and the Department of Interior informed GAO that they rely on remanufactured vehicle components to reduce costs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense piece of legislation that seeks to save taxpayer dollars and better ensure that the Federal Government is purchasing high-quality products.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to vote for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, especially my friend, Chairman CHAFFETZ, and my friend, Mr. WALBERG, here from Michigan, as well as Ranking Member CUMMINGS, for bringing this bipartisan, bicameral bill to the floor to save taxpayer dollars and create jobs.

I often hear, like most of us do, from our constituents: Why can't Congress work together and get something done and eliminate wasteful spending and create jobs? Well, we have got it, folks. Here we go.

With the Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act, I teamed up with Senator GARY PETERS, also of Michigan. We are going to save literally millions of taxpayer dollars by reducing spending on Federal vehicle maintenance and create good manufacturing jobs.

Our commonsense bill calls on Federal agencies to use remanufactured components to repair and maintain the Federal vehicle fleet when using those parts would lower costs, achieve higher safety standards, and maintain quality and performance.

Remanufactured parts are less expensive than brand-new parts and have been returned to same-as-new condition. I know this from firsthand experience, owning a small sand and gravel operation where we oftentimes use remanufactured parts on our own trucks. The component may be an engine, may be a transmission, may be a drivetrain, may be a rear end or an alternator. Each of those repairs presents an opportunity to be more fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars.

In 2013, a GAO report found that the Federal Government owns a fleet of approximately 588,000 vehicles. The cost of maintaining that fleet has ballooned to nearly \$1 billion.

While it is clear there needs to be a fleet of these Federal vehicles to have access to a reliable motor pool, it is important that these vehicles be maintained efficiently and effectively to ensure that those tax dollars—our precious tax dollars—are used in the most effective way possible.

In addition to eliminating wasteful spending, this legislation serves as an important boost to good-paying jobs and remanufacturing suppliers.

According to the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, remanufacturing of motor vehicle parts is responsible for over 30,000 full-time jobs across the United States. For example, in my district, Valley Truck Parts, headquartered in Wyoming, employs 250 Michiganders. In Kentwood, Michigan, North America Fuel Systems Remanufacturing employs more than 150 people.

These companies, among so many others across Michigan and so many other States, demonstrate how remanufacturing supports good-paying middle class jobs in States like Michigan and Ohio and North Carolina and Pennsylvania and so many others. It is going to play an expanded role, I believe, in making this Federal Government even more efficient.

I encourage my colleagues to join us in this effort to save millions of taxpayer dollars, support good jobs, and make the Federal Government run more efficiently.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, having heard the comments on this, I urge the adoption of this commonsense bill that encourages also us doing an environmental thing as well in using resources that we have.

I ask that my colleagues support this commonsense bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 565.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GRANTS OVERSIGHT AND NEW EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3089) to close out expired grants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3089

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grants Oversight and New Efficiency Act” or the “GONE Act”.

SEC. 2. IDENTIFYING AND CLOSING OUT EXPIRED GRANTS.

(a) EXPIRED GRANT REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct the head of each

agency, in coordination with the Secretary, to submit to Congress and the Secretary a report, not later than December 31 of the first calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, that—

(A) lists each covered grant held by such agency;

(B) provides the total number of covered grants, including the number of grants—

(i) by time period of expiration;

(ii) with zero dollar balances; and

(iii) with undisbursed balances;

(C) for an agency with covered grants, describes the challenges leading to delays in grant closeout; and

(D) for the 30 oldest covered grants of an agency, explains why each covered grant has not been closed out.

(2) USE OF DATA SYSTEMS.—An agency may use existing multiagency data systems in order to submit the report required under paragraph (1).

(3) EXPLANATION OF MISSING INFORMATION.—If the head of an agency is unable to submit all of the information required to be included in the report under paragraph (1), the report shall include an explanation of why the information was not available, including any shortcomings with and plans to improve existing grant systems, including data systems.

(b) NOTICE FROM AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date on which the head of an agency submits the report required under subsection (a), the head of the agency shall provide notice to the Secretary specifying whether the head of the agency has closed out grant awards associated with all of the covered grants in the report and which covered grants in the report have not been closed out.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which all of the notices required pursuant to paragraph (1) have been provided or March 31 of the calendar year following the calendar year described in subsection (a)(1), whichever is sooner, the Secretary shall compile the notices submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) and submit to Congress a report on such notices.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the date on which the head of an agency provides notice to Congress under subsection (b)(2), the Inspector General of such agency with more than \$500,000,000 in grant funding shall conduct a risk assessment to determine if an audit or review of the agency’s grant closeout process is warranted.

(d) REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the second report is submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(2), the Director of Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to Congress a report on recommendations for legislation to improve accountability and oversight in grants management, including the timely closeout of a covered grant.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) CLOSEOUT.—The term “closeout” means a closeout of a grant account conducted in accordance with part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including sections 200.16 and 200.343 of such title, or any successor thereto.

(3) COVERED GRANT.—The term “covered grant” means a grant in an agency cash payment management system held by the United States Government for which—

(A) the grant award period of performance, including any extensions, has been expired for not less than 2 years; and

(B) closeout has not yet occurred in accordance with section 200.343 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I introduced H.R. 3089, the Grants Oversight and New Efficiency, or GONE, Act, to bring much-needed accountability to the Federal grant-making process.

This bipartisan bill requires each agency to report to Congress on the amount of expired and empty grant accounts that remain open on the government’s books.

Under the bill, the agencies must examine the 30 grants that have been expired for the longest period of time and explain why these grants have not been closed.

One year after this initial report, these agencies will update Congress, reporting on which accounts previously identified have been closed and which remain open. These reports will help Congress better understand why expired grant accounts remain open at taxpayer expense.

Mr. Speaker, in fiscal year 2014, Federal grant expenditures exceeded \$529 billion, and that is real money. This enormous amount of money demands strong financial management to protect taxpayer dollars from waste.

In 2012, GAO released a report on the timeliness of grant closeouts by Federal agencies. The report found nearly \$1 billion remaining in undisbursed funds within expired grant accounts.

Within one of the grant management systems GAO examined, there were almost 1,000 accounts that had been expired for 5 years or more and still had not been closed out.

□ 1545

GAO found out that this same management system contained 28,000 expired grant accounts with no funds in them. Mr. Speaker, expired grant accounts create multiple levels of waste.

First, the undisbursed funds remaining in expired accounts could be better used for their appropriated purpose or returned to the Treasury to help bring down the deficit and mounting debt.

Second, agencies pay a monthly fee for each account that remains open within the Federal payment management system. As a result, agencies could be spending roughly \$2 million per year to maintain these 28,000 accounts with no funds in them, assuming they have not been closed. Surely we can find a better use for these taxpayer dollars rather than wasting funds maintaining expired accounts.

Finally, grants that are not properly closed out slow the grant-making agency from conducting the necessary oversight to ensure that funds were properly spent and that taxpayer money is not being wasted. The GONE Act is a response to these issues.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3089 utilizes the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate with agencies to provide these reports to Congress. HHS was chosen for this role because of some of its successful closeout efforts implemented in 2011. HHS's commendable work on grant closeout is exactly why we added a provision to this bill requiring HHS to coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget in reporting to Congress on legislative changes needed to improve the process of grants administration.

H.R. 3089 strengthens oversight by asking the inspectors general of the largest grant-making agencies to conduct a risk assessment of their agency's grant closeout processes.

I thank Senators FISCHER and MANCHIN for their work on the Senate companion bill, S. 1115, including their work on the bill before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to bring some commonsense steps to the Federal grant-making process by supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation under consideration, H.R. 3089, the Grant Oversight and New Efficiency Act, was introduced by my friend Mr. WALBERG of Michigan in July of this year; and it was reported out of the House Oversight Committee with the support of Mrs. BRENDA LAWRENCE, also of Michigan, this month. This bill would require one-time reports from Federal agencies on expired grants.

As noted earlier by Mr. WALBERG, in a report by the Government Accountability Office, Federal agencies do not always close out expired grants properly. In fact, GAO has found that in 2011, nearly \$800 million in undisbursed balances remained in expired grant accounts. That money could be returned to the Treasury and spent on any number of pressing priorities here in the House and Senate.

In particular, Mr. WALBERG's bill, H.R. 3089, would require agencies to report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Congress on grants that have expired and whether they have undisbursed balances. The bill would also require agencies to make recommendations on which grants should be closed out immediately as well as explain why certain grants were not properly closed out to begin with.

I commend the Representatives from Michigan, both Mr. WALBERG, our lead sponsor on this bill, and Mrs. LAWRENCE, for their work on this bipartisan bill. This is a commonsense, good government measure that every Member should support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support and leadership on the floor. I thank the chairman and ranking member of our committee. Most importantly, I thank my good friend and colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, for her support and helpful additions to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this commonsense bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3089, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3614) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3614

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Extension of airport improvement program.

Sec. 102. Extension of expiring authorities.
Sec. 103. Federal Aviation Administration operations.
Sec. 104. Air navigation facilities and equipment.
Sec. 105. Research, engineering, and development.
Sec. 106. Funding for aviation programs.
Sec. 107. Essential air service.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Expenditure authority from Airport and Airway Trust Fund.
Sec. 202. Extension of taxes funding Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

TITLE I—AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting "and \$1,675,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016."

(2) OBLIGATION OF AMOUNTS.—Subject to limitations specified in advance in appropriation Acts, sums made available pursuant to the amendment made by paragraph (1) may be obligated at any time through September 30, 2016, and shall remain available until expended.

(3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of calculating funding apportionments and meeting other requirements under sections 47114, 47115, 47116, and 47117 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(A) first calculate such funding apportionments on an annualized basis as if the total amount available under section 48103 of such title for fiscal year 2016 were \$3,350,000,000; and

(B) then reduce by 50 percent—

(i) all funding apportionments calculated under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) amounts available pursuant to sections 47117(b) and 47117(f)(2) of such title.

(b) PROJECT GRANT AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "September 30, 2015," and inserting "March 31, 2016."

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

(a) Section 47107(r)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "October 1, 2015" and inserting "April 1, 2016".

(b) Section 47115(j) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016" after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

(c) Section 47124(b)(3)(E) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and not more than \$5,175,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016," after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

(d) Section 47141(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "March 31, 2016".

(e) Section 50905(c)(3) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "October 1, 2015," and inserting "April 1, 2016,".

(f) Section 186(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2518) is amended by inserting "and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016," after "fiscal years 2012 through 2015".

(g) Section 409(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 41731 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

(h) Section 140(c)(1) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47113 note) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2013 through 2015,” and inserting “fiscal years 2013 through 2016.”.

(i) Section 411(h) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 42301 prec. note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

(j) Section 822(k) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47141 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

SEC. 103. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) \$4,870,350,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by inserting “and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016” after “fiscal years 2012 through 2015”.

SEC. 104. AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) \$1,300,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016.”.

SEC. 105. RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) \$78,375,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016.”.

SEC. 106. FUNDING FOR AVIATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2) by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2) by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—The budget authority authorized in this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of subsections (a)(1)(B) and (a)(2) of section 48114 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016.

SEC. 107. ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE.

Section 41742(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$93,000,000 for fiscal year 2015” and inserting “\$93,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$77,500,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2016.”.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FROM AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9502(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “October 1, 2015” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting “April 1, 2016”; and

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting “or the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9502(e)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “April 1, 2016”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF TAXES FUNDING AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—Section 4081(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

(b) TICKET TAXES.—

(1) PERSONS.—Section 4261(k)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

(2) PROPERTY.—Section 4271(d)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

(c) FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS.—

(1) TREATMENT AS NON-COMMERCIAL AVIATION.—Section 4083(b) of such Code is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” and inserting “April 1, 2016”.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM TICKET TAXES.—Section 4261(j) of such Code is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3614.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2015, the authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration programs and taxes that fund those programs will expire. H.R. 3614 is a clean, 6-month extension of all necessary authorizations through March 31 of 2016.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I believe it is critical for Congress to come together in a bipartisan, long-term FAA reauthorization bill.

On the Aviation Subcommittee, Chairman SHUSTER and I have had great working partnerships with Congressman DEFazio and Congressman LARSEN. I want to thank Congressman DEFazio and Congressman LARSEN for their bipartisan cooperation in this very important area.

Without an extension, the FAA will not be able to spend funds from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. Therefore, airport construction projects across the country will be halted, con-

tractors that support FAA will not be paid, construction jobs will be lost, and thousands of FAA employees could be furloughed.

In my district in New Jersey, I have the privilege of representing approximately 4,000 FAA employees and contractors who work at the FAA's premier technical center in the Nation. They contribute an extraordinary amount of energy and dedication to making sure that aviation continues to move forward. Without them, the state of aviation in our country would suffer, and we cannot afford them to be at home for failing because we failed to do our work and pass an extension bill.

A lapse in the authorization will also result in the halt of certification and registration of new aviation products, greatly disrupting the aviation manufacturing industry and jeopardizing more good paying jobs. The FAA's aircraft registry would close, delaying deliveries of new aircraft. As many as 10,000 aircraft a month could be grounded if registration cannot be renewed.

H.R. 3614 will allow us to continue developing a bipartisan, long-term reauthorization bill which will improve, rebuild, and modernize our Nation's safe, yet highly antiquated, aviation system.

I urge support of H.R. 3614.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFazio. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, that it is essential that we pass H.R. 3614—the Senate passed it expeditiously—and it be signed by the President. We cannot afford even, you know, the thought of a shutdown of the FAA. We have actually gone down that road in the past.

Chairman MICA, in July of 2011, put some provisions into an FAA reauthorization that were objectionable to two very powerful Senators, and we actually went through a shutdown. What we lost was \$400 million of revenue because the excise tax expired.

Now, one airline, to give them credit, did pass the savings through, the excise tax, Alaska Airlines. All the other airlines kept the money, and we lost \$400 million from the trust fund.

Capital programs ground to a halt. Airport construction ground to a halt, threatening tens of thousands of jobs. Airport inspectors had to work. They were essential employees. They weren't paid, and they couldn't get government vouchers, so they had to use their personal credit cards to purchase tickets to go to work to do their job, which they weren't being paid for.

I mean, this was the ultimate of absurdity. I only go into some detail on that because that is relevant to this extension.

This is a 6-month extension. That should give us more than ample time

to agree upon a long-term FAA authorization. Much work has already been done on major portions of the bill, but some disagreements remain over the future of the air traffic organization.

My preference would be to insulate the entire FAA from future vicissitudes of Congress going off the rails with a shutdown and furloughs and provisions that are unacceptable to the Senate that cause a temporary lapse in authorization. You know, we can get there. We are very close now. This year, all but 7 percent of the FAA's budget will be paid for by user fees, excise taxes, and others, so we are quite close.

We would like to reform procurement, to streamline it and make it work better at the FAA. When I was a very young Member of Congress, I got to witness the airport air traffic controller's workstation of the future. That was 1987. Well, it is 2015, and they don't have them yet.

The FAA is the only agency of government worse at procurement than the Pentagon. Congress has tried to reform it; it didn't stick. We have got to try something different to get it to be more agile to give us the 21st century equipment and software that we need.

Then there are issues of the actual sort of shape of the FAA bureaucracy, a little bit like that in the middle. Congress, also back in 1986, gave the FAA license to reform personnel practices to deal with some of that mid-level management bulge and streamline the agency and decisionmaking process, but that didn't take either.

So the three problems are the predictability of funding and the agency being able to look into the future without having to worry about shutdowns, furloughs—I don't know how much time they spent over the last couple of weeks getting ready for this shutdown that everyone thought would come this week before Speaker BOEHNER announced his retirement; that has got to be dealt with—and then also the procurement reform and the personnel.

The chairman's solution is to separate only the air traffic organization from the FAA and insulate that from Congress and those sorts of problems and make it, you know, free of the procurement rules and a lot of the personnel rules. I would prefer to do that with the entire agency, because there are functions—we do have the best air traffic control system in the world. We are busier in the U.S. with more planes under instrument flight rules on a daily basis, about 20 percent more on an IFR average, than Canada, U.K., France, and Germany combined.

So we know we have a safe system. We move massive amounts of air traffic. We don't want to mess that up. And I understand, but I also don't think we can isolate it from other decision-makers in the agency and leave them subject to the vicissitudes of Congress.

The people who do the certifications, who do the inspections, who do the safety, it seems to me it should all be moved; and I propose a 21st century constitutionally chartered corporation in order to accomplish those goals and make it self-funding, self-sufficient, and not subject to appropriations or shutdowns or anything else that a future Congress might imagine. So that is the hangup. We haven't agreed on that part yet, but I think we can.

We share common objectives, and 6 months should be more than ample time. I am hopeful that early this fall the chairman and I can resolve those issues with other members of the committee, and then we can go forward with our colleagues in the Senate and hopefully have, you know, a bill on the President's desk early, early next year, if not by the end of this year, although December promises to be perhaps a bit chaotic around here.

□ 1600

In any case, 6 months should be ample time. I do not anticipate multiple short-term extensions. I don't want them, nor does the chairman, nor do, I believe, any other thoughtful members of the committee.

I see the gentleman from New Jersey shaking his head. We couldn't agree more. We have been down that road before, down that runway before. We don't want to go down that runway again.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the temporary measure to extend the authorization of the FAA today, but I do so with great disappointment. We could be on the floor today to enact a longer term FAA reauthorization bill.

In the last 2 years, the Subcommittee on Aviation, led by my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO, has held 16 hearings on a variety of topics. We have heard from stakeholders that there is a long list of things that we need to do to stay competitive with our economic rivals and keep our airspace the safest and most efficient in the world:

We need to reform aircraft certification so that manufacturers can get the newest, safest equipment to market.

We need to set clear rules for unmanned aerial vehicles and accelerate efforts for their safe use.

We need to advance NextGen programs to move air traffic faster and more efficiently.

Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman LOBIONDO, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and I

have achieved a bipartisan agreement on most of these major key issues that we need to address. That bill is ready to go.

We didn't hear during these hearings that we needed to privatize air traffic control. Now, some people want to privatize air traffic control. I know that they want to do this in good faith. But we don't need to do it, and it is preventing the things that we need to do from getting done.

An entire bipartisan bill is being held up because we can't agree yet on the details of what would be a very complex proposal. I fail to understand why at this juncture such a proposal is necessary, particularly when it prevents significant and much-needed reform from taking place.

There is no dispute that today we safely operate the most complex and congested airspace in the world. Last year the Government Accountability Office asked 76 aviation stakeholders whether the FAA is capable of operating an efficient air traffic control system. The overwhelming majority, 64 of those, said the FAA is, in fact, capable of doing so. Privatizing the current system is clearly not a pressing need. It is a want.

I wish I could say today I am surprised that we find ourselves here today, but many people have been saying for a long time that this was the situation that we would be facing on September 30. In fact, when we held a hearing on air traffic privatization back in March, I predicted we were headed down this road of multiple short-term reauthorizations.

The bipartisan portions of the bill that Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman LOBIONDO, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and I have agreed to would have immediate benefits all over the country.

In my home State of Washington, it would protect and create American jobs through airport construction and aerospace manufacturing; it would improve aviation safety; it would improve the way the aircraft and parts are certified to get newer and safer technology to market; it would build on the safety improvements that this body has made following the tragic Colgan flight 3407 in 2009; it would improve the regulation and the development of unmanned aerial systems, which continue to proliferate in our airspace.

We need a strong regulatory system in place to safely grow the unmanned aircraft industry, and until we act, that system cannot be in place. For every day of this extension, travelers and the aerospace industry will not receive the improvements and protections that we have crafted in the bipartisan portions of the bill that we are close to agreeing on. We will continue to fall behind other countries that are making similar improvements.

As many lawmakers and aviation stakeholders recall, the last FAA reauthorization bill came after a period of 5

years and 23 short-term extensions. I had hoped we would avoid serial extensions this time around, but today we start down that path.

Yes, it is with disappointment that I am here to support a temporary extension and strongly urge all my colleagues to make sure this is the only temporary extension before enactment of a long-term bill.

We have a long list of things that we need to do today to improve our airspace. We should focus on those things instead of the things only that we want to do.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, here we are with a short-term extension for 6 months. I believe it is critical that we do this, obviously, as it is about to expire. There are things that not only do we want to do, but we need to do, to make sure that we have the safest airspace in the world.

We also need to make sure it is the most efficient airspace in the world. We can do that if we deploy the technology and the things we have been talking about for almost 2 years now to transform the FAA into something that can move quicker, that can deploy the technology that is available to us.

When we look around the world, there are over 50 countries that have taken the air traffic control organization out of government and have been able to maintain the highest levels of safety, but deploy technology that makes their airspace more efficient. That is the kind of thing we are looking at.

I think we are at a critical time. What we have been talking about is not anything new. It is something that we have been talking about for 20 years. In fact, the Clinton administration had a similar proposal, the Bush administration had a similar proposal, and here we are today talking about it. But I think that we have different groups that are looking positively at this.

We are very close to putting something together that, as I said, will transform the air traffic control system while keeping back in government the safety and regulatory oversight to this agency to make sure that we are streamlining the certification process for our aviation industry that is manufacturing everything from Boeings to Gulfstreams, to the avionics, to the parts that go into these flying systems.

We have got to maintain our lead in the world. The way we do that is to streamline the certification process. The gentleman from Washington, who has Boeing in his district, agrees with me on that issue. There is a lot more in this that we need to do to move forward.

I think, as we get through September and into October, we are going to be

able to see the bill that we have put forth that is going to have, I believe, bipartisan support not only from Congress, but around the country, around Washington, D.C., and, as I said, here in the House. In talking to the Senate, I am encouraged by what they have said about what we are looking at proposing.

Again, I would encourage all Members to support this 6-month extension to give us the time to get our bill on and off the floor and let the Senate work on it so we can truly do something that is bold, do something that is transformational, and do something that will be very, very positive for aviation, not only travel, but for the manufacturing industry in this country.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have requests to speak from Members who aren't here.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. LARSEN. I urge all my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, with passage of H.R. 3614 today, the House will "kick the can down the road" on a long-term FAA reauthorization for another six months. I certainly recognize the dire need to keep our airports and air travel system functioning in the face of an expiration of the FAA's authorization in less than 72 hours. However, I'm very disappointed that this bill does not contain any changes to current policy regarding aircraft noise impacts on communities surrounding airports.

Over the last several months, constituents throughout my Congressional District have experienced an alarming increase in aircraft noise due to the implementation of new flight paths under the FAA's Next Gen program. The new flight paths have caused certain communities to be hit especially hard by airplane noise, and other rural communities that have never experienced it are now being bombarded by noise. Many of these communities received little or no advance notice or opportunity to comment on the flight path changes before they were implemented, and they were blindsided when the changes went into effect earlier this year.

In July, I joined the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus so that together we could make recommendations for the Transportation Committee to include in an FAA reauthorization bill. These recommendations include: ensuring that FAA completes a robust community engagement process before flight paths are changed; requiring the FAA to use a new method of measuring noise that captures the true levels of noise on the ground; removing the categorical exclusion from full environmental reviews for flight path changes; and mandating independent research on the health impacts of aviation noise. These important reforms would substantially improve the FAA's process of addressing and avoiding noise impacts.

Once again, I wish to express my disappointment that the bill before us today simply reauthorizes the FAA for another six

months with none of these important changes included. As the debate over a long-term FAA reauthorization continues, I hope these recommendations will be carefully considered and ultimately included in the final legislation. The ability to get a good night's sleep for thousands of my constituents depends on it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3614.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE AND HEALTH ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2061) to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2061

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Equitable Access to Care and Health Act" or the "EACH Act".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM HEALTH COVERAGE RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5000A(d)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(A) RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE EXEMPTIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Such term shall not include any individual for any month if such individual has in effect an exemption under section 1311(d)(4)(H) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which certifies that—

"(I) such individual is a member of a recognized religious sect or division thereof which is described in section 1402(g)(1), and is adherent of established tenets or teachings of such sect or division as described in such section, or

"(II) such individual is a member of a religious sect or division thereof which is not described in section 1402(g)(1), who relies solely on a religious method of healing, and for whom the acceptance of medical health services would be inconsistent with the religious beliefs of the individual.

"(ii) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(I) MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'medical health services' does not include routine dental, vision, and hearing services, midwifery services, vaccinations, necessary medical services provided to children, services required by law or by a third party, and such other services as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may provide in implementing section 1311(d)(4)(H) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

"(II) ATTESTATION REQUIRED.—Clause (i)(II) shall apply to an individual for months in a taxable year only if the information provided by

the individual under section 1411(b)(5)(A) of such Act includes an attestation that the individual has not received medical health services during the preceding taxable year.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(c) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) shall preempt any State law requiring the provision of medical treatment for children, especially those who are seriously ill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2061 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to speak in favor of the EACH Act. This bill would expand the religious liberty exemption to the individual mandate. Right now the exemption is minuscule. To qualify, you have to believe as a matter of faith in giving up any private or public insurance, including Social Security. That includes the Amish, the Order of Mennonites, and that is about it. That is way too strict.

Let's remember the reason for this mandate in the first place. The other side said that, if you get sick and you don't have insurance, the rest of us will have to pay for your health care. Well, we are talking about people who do not use health care. So why should they have to be forced to buy insurance for health care that they don't use?

I don't think we should force anybody to buy health insurance against their will, for that matter, but I think it is especially wrong to force people to buy insurance against their faith. This bill simply says: If you, as a matter of faith, don't use health care, then you are exempt from the individual mandate.

I am glad we are working on this long overdue change today. I would note that this came out of committee on a voice vote. I encourage Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The current religious exemption from ACA mirrors other religious exemptions used in the Internal Revenue Code. The EACH Act provides that any-

one who “is a member of a religious sect that relies solely on religious methods of healing and for whom medical care is inconsistent with religious beliefs” can claim a religious exemption from the individual mandate requirement.

As a step to maintain a narrowly defined religious exemption and meet concerns, this legislation is written more precisely than the previous bill that passed unanimously in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the author of the EACH Act.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman RYAN for his leadership on this issue. I really appreciate the Committee on Ways and Means allowing me, a noncommittee member, to be able to take this important piece of legislation to the floor today.

Today this Congress has an opportunity to work in a bipartisan way to promote religious liberty and, frankly, Mr. Speaker, fairness. H.R. 2061, the EACH Act, does this by modestly expanding the religious conscience exemption under the Affordable Care Act to include individuals like Christian Scientists, who rely solely on religious methods of healing.

The existing religious conscience exemption under the Affordable Care Act exclusively applies, as Chairman RYAN said, to a few certain sects of faith. As a result, many Americans—as I mentioned before, the Christian Scientists—are required to purchase medical health insurance that does not cover the health care of their religious practice or choice. Alternatively, they are forced to pay tax penalties for not purchasing such insurance.

A similar version of the EACH Act passed this House unanimously under the suspension of the rules during the last Congress. In order to improve the bill, as Mr. LEVIN, my colleague stated, modest changes to this bill's language were made, with input from the Department of Treasury, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other key stakeholders.

Under this bill's new language, applicants must annually attest to the exchange that they are a member of a religious group, that they rely solely on a religious method of healing, and that they have not received medical health services during the preceding taxable year.

Additionally, with the help of input from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the bill now makes it clear that the legislation does not preempt any State laws requiring the provision of medical treatment for children. Further, if a parent needs to provide necessary medical services to a child, doing so would not invalidate the individual's exemption.

The EACH Act is truly an example of bipartisan legislation with input from stakeholders to make it better. As of today, it has more than 100 Republican and more than 60 Democratic cosponsors.

I am particularly proud to have worked with my friend and colleague, Mr. KEATING, on moving this legislation forward. He knows this issue well. His home State of Massachusetts established a similar religious conscience exemption in State law, and it is working just as planned.

Mr. Speaker, I also represent Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. It is a college for Christian Scientists. I am proud to stand up and promote their religious liberty and that of many others in this great Nation.

I urge a “yes” vote.

□ 1615

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. DAVIS captured it quite well.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2061, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 139) to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 139

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF SUNSET PROVISION.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-255, 124 Stat. 2640), section 3 of that Act is amended by striking subsection (e).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 139, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 139, the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act.

The National Institutes of Health says that there are 7,000 rare diseases affecting people in the United States, and if we are going to find cures for those diseases, the first thing we need to do is to get people to participate in clinical trials. All too often, researchers cannot find enough participants because so few people have these diseases in the first place.

Now—no surprise here—the government used to make it more difficult for researchers to find people. Say you had a rare disease and you were on public assistance, like SSI or Medicaid. If you got compensated for participating in one of these trials, you got smaller benefits. That is why, in 2010, we passed the Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act.

For the past 5 years, this law has allowed people to collect up to \$2,000 per year by participating in rare-disease clinical trials without threat of losing their SSI or Medicaid benefits. The GAO says the law is working. Ever since we passed this law, more people on SSI have been participating in clinical trials as a result of it.

The problem is this law expires next week, on October 5, so this bill would simply extend current law. That way, more people can participate in clinical trials without any reason to worry or without any threat to a loss of their benefits, and that way, we will continue to make strides in fighting these diseases. CBO tells us this bill will cost virtually nothing.

My friends, Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN, introduced this bill in the Senate. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent. In the House, my colleagues Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. MARINO from Pennsylvania have introduced it along with 50 other cosponsors.

I will include in the RECORD a letter listing the many supporters of this legislation. It is a list of over 70 organizations, including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and the Huntington's Disease Society of America, just to name a few.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. SANDER M. LEVIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES BOUSTANY, Jr.,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN RYAN AND BOUSTANY AND RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND DOGGETT: The undersigned organizations, representing millions of Americans with rare and genetic diseases, advocates, industry, and academic institutions, write to express strong support for H.R. 209/S. 139, the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015. This legislation will permanently remove a barrier to clinical research and allow Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid recipients to participate in and benefit from clinical trials without fear of losing vital benefits.

The Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015 eliminates the sunset clause from the Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2009 (IACT), legislation signed into law in 2010, making the IACT a permanent law. This will allow patients with rare diseases to continue to receive up to \$2,000 in compensation for participating in clinical trials without that compensation counting towards their income eligibility limits for SSI and Medicaid.

Removing barriers to drug trial participation is particularly important as recent advances in medical research and technology allow for the development of new and promising medications. Securing an adequate number of clinical trial participants is vital for therapies that treat rare conditions, but rare disease researchers in particular often have difficulty recruiting drug trial participants, simply because they have a smaller pool of patients.

Further, with the advent of precision medicine, therapies are being customized to treat a patient's specific genetic makeup. These types of trials often require clinical trial participants bearing specific genetic mutations, which necessarily creates an even more complex and exclusive clinical trial recruitment process. Ensuring that all patients with rare diseases are able to participate in clinical trials can help open the door for the advancement of new targeted therapies in many important areas of medicine, including cancer and rare diseases like cystic fibrosis.

Now is the time to ensure that all patients have access to clinical trials for potentially life-saving treatments. We look forward to working with you to secure passage of this bill to enable Social Security beneficiaries to participate in clinical trials so that research into life-saving treatments may continue to advance.

Sincerely,

Actavis

Adult CF Program—Northwestern University

Adult Polyglucosan Body Disease Research Foundation APBDRF

Alpha-1 Foundation

ALS Association

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA)

Amyloidosis Support Groups Inc.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Antonio J. and Janet Palumbo Cystic Fibrosis Center, Pediatric and Adult Program, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh UPMC

Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO)

Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc. (AGMD)

Batten Disease Support and Research Association

Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

CADASIL Association Inc.

Cardio-Facio-Cutaneous International

CARES Foundation, Inc. (Congenital Adrenal hyperplasia Research, Education and Support Foundation)

CF Care Center at Dayton Children's Hospital

Congenital Hyperinsulinism International (CHI)

COPD Foundation

Cure CMD

Cure SMA

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Cystinosis Foundation

Debra of America

FasterCures

First Focus

Foundation Fighting Blindness

Foundation for Prader-Willi Research

Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne

Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)

Genetic Alliance

Hide & Seek Foundation for Lysosomal Disease Research

Huntington's Disease Society of America

International Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Association (IFOPA)

Indiana University School of Medicine, CF Care Center

International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG)

Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance

Lymphedema Advocacy Group

Maine Medical Center CF Program

M-CM Network

MEBO Research, Inc.

Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Cystic Fibrosis Care Center

MitoAction

MLD Foundation

Moebius Syndrome Foundation

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation

National Gaucher Foundation, Inc.

National MPS Society

National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH)

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

National PKU Alliance

National Spasmodic Torticollis Association

Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD)

Parents and Researchers Interested in Smith-Magenis Syndrome (PRISMS)

Progeria Research Foundation

ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital

PXE International

Research! America

Rett Syndrome Research Trust

Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute

Tarlov Cyst Disease Foundation

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

The Detroit Medical Reserve Corps

The Massachusetts Medical Society

The National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF)

The State University of New York School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Trimethylaminuria Foundation

Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
University of Michigan Health System, Cystic Fibrosis Center
University of Pennsylvania Health System, Cystic Fibrosis Center
University of Washington, Cystic Fibrosis Care Center
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program
Wilson Disease Association

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. This is common sense, and I urge my colleagues to adopt this.

There is one more point I would like to make. Nick Gwyn, the minority staff director of the Human Resources Subcommittee on Ways and Means, is retiring.

I would like to take a minute to recognize Nick Gwyn for his work on this issue. He is leaving the staff of Ways and Means after serving on the committee since 1998. This should be the last of many bills that he has helped our colleagues manage on the floor.

During his time staffing the committee, Nick has worked on numerous laws related to welfare, disability, and unemployment policy. He also worked closely with our staff to create bipartisan child welfare laws that found more loving families for children in need.

We wish Nick well in the next stage of his career, and we thank him for his service to the committee, the House, and the country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to honor Mr. Gwyn, and this is a good opportunity for us to do that.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking Democrat on the committee.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. DOGGETT and I will say a few words, when many, many are in order.

Nick Gwyn has been, as our chairman said, a more than valuable member of this staff and a more than dedicated member of this staff. He has been invaluable. His dedication has been endless.

Nick is leaving to pursue family and other needs. He knows he is going to leave us in need, in terms of his immense talents. His dedication to the subject matter that is, by definition, so directly involved with people is really beyond estimation.

The subcommittee's work deals, as I said, with the everyday challenges that so many of the citizens in this country face day in and day out. It was only a few days ago that we heard from Pope Francis how important it is for this institution to focus on the individual needs of people, including those who are poor, some with handicaps, but everybody who is in need of a hand up, really, as much, if not more than, a helping hand. And Nick has devoted over a dozen years to this very purpose.

So, if I might say so, we have worked together with Nick, and we just want to thank him for more than a job well done. We have been very proud to serve with him.

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will just add, Nick, that I know you have spent some 25 years here on the Hill, 17 with our committee. Though I benefited from your good counsel before becoming the ranking Democrat on the Human Resources Subcommittee, I particularly appreciated your good counsel during the last 3 years, whether it was working on child abuse and our successful work with former Chair Dave Camp and getting a national commission or dealing with problems of the unemployed.

Just overall, the jurisdiction of our subcommittee is about children, children in need. Whether they are under this SSI program or child abuse or child care, they are children who should be able to rely on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Family program for their needs.

Nick has been an able advocate for children and someone who did work well, as Chairman RYAN said, with all members of our committee to advance these purposes. We wish him well in his new endeavors, and we thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, if I might talk just a little bit about the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act, it is about getting new treatments quickly into the lives of patients that are suffering from dread diseases across America, reauthorizing existing law.

Senator RON WYDEN led this effort successfully in the Senate with Senator HATCH. And here, my colleagues, Mr. MARINO and Mr. JIM MCGOVERN, co-chairs of the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus, joined with me in the introduction of this legislation in the House.

The National Organization for Rare Disorders, and over 75 other organizations, has been a strong supporter of this legislation, and I thank them for their work on behalf of the legislation.

This bill makes permanent a law that is due to expire that will allow for individuals with certain debilitating conditions to exempt a small amount of their income gained from participating in medical trials from Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, and for Medicaid eligibility determination.

This exemption removes an important barrier to participating in clinical trials. If it is allowed to expire, patients contributing to vital research could face the difficult decision of either dropping out of the trials altogether or losing their benefits.

If you have ever met with someone with cystic fibrosis or someone in your family has it, you recognize how small the daily challenges that you face are compared to theirs.

I think of Nicole Flores in Austin, who has two children battling with

rare diseases. She explained that patients shouldn't have to worry about losing assistance when they are just working hard to stay alive.

Over the past several months, I have heard from a number of families affected by rare diseases. These are parents who shared with me how far-reaching the modest relief this bill provides can provide for a number of people.

One couple recently sent me a picture of their 15-year-old son Mac Rung, who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at birth. Every morning and every evening, Mac undergoes chest therapy in order to clear his lungs and to avoid serious damage to help him get through the day. He takes medications with every meal to help him absorb his food and gain weight. He is battling a disease that many Americans have never heard of at an age where he shouldn't have to worry about anything other than school. And because this disease is progressive, they are really working against the clock.

Because of the approval of two new drugs, they told me that they never have had as much hope for Mac and his future as they do today. And while they are not a family that themselves rely on the bill that we have today before us, as Chairman RYAN indicated, they, and anyone with these rare diseases, stand to benefit if we have widespread participation in clinical trials on the approval of other new promising drugs like the ones that are already helping Mac.

Financially penalizing vulnerable people for participating in research does nothing to advance that research. The National Institutes of Health—NIH, as we know it—estimates that 25 million Americans are suffering because of rare disease.

I hope now that today, the House will join the Senate in approving the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act and that we continue this important effort to support patients across the country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 209, the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act, legislation that I have cosponsored.

We must continue to ensure barriers do not stall patients from participating in rare disease clinical trials. This bill will continue to encourage rare disease patients, even those receiving Social Security Income or Medicaid benefits, to participate in clinical trials without jeopardizing their eligibility for those benefits. All patients should have access to these important and often lifesaving trials that will advance medical research and work towards improving their health.

The Senate has taken the important step to pass this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to advance this

commonsense, bipartisan initiative and send it to the President's desk for his signature. I thank the chairman and all those involved in the House for their work on this.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman RYAN as well as Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE, who marked up this bill, and urge bipartisan approval of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I also urge our colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support S. 139, the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015. This bill will ensure current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid recipients can maintain those benefits while participating in clinical trials. Keeping their benefits will help them, but as a doctor I know that their participation in such trials stands to benefit countless others as well who suffer from rare conditions, both in the U.S. and abroad. We should ensure that public policy encourages that whenever we can, and that's what this bill does.

Under current law, the Social Security Administration excludes up to \$2,000 annually in compensation received by individuals participating in rare disease clinical trials when determining their SSI and Medicaid eligibility and benefits. But this provision, put in place by bipartisan legislation in 2010, is set to expire on October 5, 2015. After that date, all payments for participating in such clinical trials would be counted as income for SSI and Medicaid recipients, reducing or even ending their eligibility for those benefits.

A number of people with rare diseases like Cystic Fibrosis receive SSI benefits. If this policy is not made permanent, an individual participating in a clinical trial for a new treatment for Cystic Fibrosis could see a reduction or even the complete elimination of those important benefits.

The reality is, most simply won't take that risk, and will avoid participating in such trials. As GAO found in a 2014 report, "some stakeholders noted that compensation decreased participation in clinical trials in the past because individuals were concerned about its impact on their SSI eligibility and benefits." On the other hand, "financial incentives to participate in clinical trials have generally been found to encourage participation in trials. This is likely because of the time, inconvenience, and expense that may be involved."

Ultimately, not continuing this policy could actually prevent clinical trials from occurring, since it would restrict the already small number of people able to participate in the trial in the first place.

That's why the passage of S. 139 is so important, as it will remove the sunset date for current law—October 5, 2015. Failing to do so would force individuals to once again choose between maintaining their current health and disability benefits and the chance to participate in a clinical trial that could improve or even cure their condition, as well as help others like them in the future.

This bill is simple and consistent with current SSI program exemptions. S. 139 strikes the October 5, 2015 sunset date on current

policy, permitting SSI and Medicaid recipients with rare diseases to participate in such trials that help to advance research into finding cures. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that S. 139 will result in insignificant costs to the Federal government over the next 10 years, meaning no offset for this legislation is required.

But its true value to people with rare diseases—and those who in the future might benefit by their participation in clinical trials permitted under this legislation—could be enormous. Let's pass this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 139.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3594) to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3594

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Higher Education Extension Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY.

Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2016".

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS.**—Section 461 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087aa) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to any student who is not described in paragraph (2), an institution of higher education may make loans under this part to such a student until September 30, 2016, from the student loan fund established under this part by the institution.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL LOANS FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.**—With respect to any student who has received a loan made under this part for an academic year ending prior to October 1, 2016, an institution of higher education that has most recently made such a loan to the student for an academic program at such institution may continue making loans under this part through March 31, 2018, from the student loan fund established under this part by the institution to enable the student to continue or complete such academic program, but only if the institution has awarded

all Federal Direct Stafford Loans for which such student is eligible.

“(3) **PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated under this Act or any other Act to carry out the functions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) for any fiscal year following fiscal year 2015.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

(b) **DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS FROM STUDENT LOAN FUNDS.**—Section 466 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ff) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “After September 30, 2003, and not later than March 31, 2004” and inserting “Beginning October 1, 2016”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “2003” and inserting “2016”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “After October 1, 2012” and inserting “Beginning October 1, 2016”.

(c) **ADDITIONAL EXTENSIONS NOT PERMITTED.**—Section 422 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1226a) shall not apply to further extend the duration of—

(1) the authority under paragraph (1) of section 461(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087aa(b)), as amended by subsection (a)(1) of this section, beyond September 30, 2016, on the basis of the extension under such subsection; or

(2) the authority under paragraph (2) of section 461(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087aa(b)), as amended by subsection (a)(1) of this section, beyond March 31, 2018, on the basis of the extension under such subsection.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 491(k) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098(k)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 3594.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and rise in support of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, this week, several provisions of the Higher Education Extension Act are set to expire, including the Perkins Loan Program.

For several decades, the Perkins Loan Program has provided low-interest-rate loans to college students with severe financial need. If we allow this program to expire, it would be at a time when our Nation's higher education system is failing many students

trying to earn a college degree and a lifetime of opportunity and success.

College costs continue to soar, new rules and regulations discourage innovation and deny access, and students are struggling to complete their education, not to mention find good-paying jobs.

This is a very bleak reality facing students from my home State of Michigan and across the country. The American people deserve better. Students and families in my district and across the country deserve better, and my three children, who will one day in the not-so-distant future begin their college careers, deserve better. The reauthorization of the Higher Education Extension Act presents Congress an opportunity to strengthen higher education for students, families, and taxpayers.

My colleagues and I have already proposed a number of responsible reforms that promise to promote innovation, strengthen transparency, and help students complete their education. Members are also working to streamline the confusing maze of financial programs so that students can get the support they need.

As we continue our efforts to reauthorize the law, now is not the time to turn our backs on the students who rely on the Perkins Loan Program for their college education. Now is the time to help meet the immediate need of students in Michigan and across our country, and the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015 will do just exactly that.

This bipartisan proposal will extend for 1 year the Perkins Loan Program, allowing participating colleges and universities to continue to service their borrowers. It will also allow current Perkins recipients who remain in the same academic program to be eligible to receive those funds through March 2018. The legislation will also extend other provisions in the Higher Education Extension Act that aim to support students, institutions, and policymakers.

Finally, let me note for my colleagues and the American people, by reforming the Perkins Loan Program, we ensure that this legislation is fully paid for, at no additional cost to taxpayers.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan effort with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), who shares my commitment to helping other students achieve their dream of a college education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3594, the Higher Education Extension Act, and I would like to thank my col-

league, Mr. BISHOP, as well as my colleagues, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MESSER, and Ranking Member SCOTT, for their leadership on this issue.

This bill would extend the Perkins Loan Program for 1 year. Perkins loans are need-based loans which foster access to higher education for low-income students by providing low-interest loans to students in need. Colleges and universities tailor the program to best fit borrowers' and educational institutions' situations.

Perkins is a risk-sharing program, with institutions contributing one-third of their students' awards. This "ownership interest" also contributes to the successful management of this vital program.

We have only 2 days before the Perkins Loan Program is set to expire, so we must act immediately.

Since its inception in 1958, over \$28 billion in loans have been made to students through almost 26 million aid awards. Perkins Loan borrowers are predominantly from lower income families and are often the first in their family to attend college.

Perkins loans have a set interest rate of 5 percent, which begins to accrue 9 months after the borrower ceases to be a student. However, this program has not been reauthorized since the 2009 fiscal year.

Besides making higher education accessible for lower income students, this program serves as an incentive for people who wish to go into a public service by offering targeted loan cancellations for specific progression in areas of national need, including teaching, nursing, and law enforcement.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bipartisan resolution in support of the Perkins loans with Congressman MESSER of Indiana, H. Res. 294, with 56 cosponsors. My colleague Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER, a leader on this issue, offered a letter with more than 90 bipartisan signatures in support of this important program. Over 33 groups and higher educational institutions have supported this bill's reauthorization.

Bottom line, the Perkins Loan Program has helped millions of students and families struggling to find a way to pay for college. I applaud my colleague across the aisle, specifically, a thank-you to Mr. BISHOP, for helping to ensure students have access to Federal financial aid that they need to make college affordable and accessible.

I urge support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BISHOP and Congressman POCAN for in-

troducing H.R. 3594, the Higher Education Extension Act.

I would also like to thank Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT for supporting a bipartisan effort to avoid the expiration of the Federal Perkins Loan Program, a program that helps make college affordable for low-income students across the country.

In my district in Oregon, across the State, and across the country, colleges and universities use the Perkins Loan Program to expand access to higher education. For example, Linfield College and Pacific University, in my district, award Perkins loans to hundreds of students; and University of Oregon and Oregon State University distribute Perkins loans to thousands, providing a clear benefit to students who have significant financial need.

As Congress works to reauthorize the Higher Education Extension Act, it is important that we continue to increase access to affordable higher education.

I commend my colleague for introducing the Higher Education Extension Act, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for this bipartisan effort, and I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today also in support of the Higher Education Extension Act.

The Perkins Loan Program provides low-interest loans to economically disadvantaged students to help finance their postsecondary educations.

The Perkins Loan Program assisted nearly 540,000 American students nationwide in the 2013-2014 academic year by providing \$1.2 billion in loans. More than 1,500 colleges and universities across the United States participate in this popular program.

While the Perkins Loan Program is sometimes viewed as benefiting students predominately in the Northeast, California is the second largest recipient. In California, more than 46,000 students received these loans last year. These loans resulted in more than \$105 million in the last year to California students.

Students from across the country who attend California schools, like Saint Mary's College in my district, are able to receive a top-notch education through assistance programs like the Perkins Loan Program. Increasing access and improving affordability translates to increased opportunities for students and improves the Nation's economy by ensuring that today's students are tomorrow's highly trained workforce.

This bill is a necessary step to ensuring that our students continue to receive the assistance they need and deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), who has been a leader on this issue.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I am very grateful to Mr. BISHOP and to Mr. MESSER and Mr. POCAN and all others who worked on this really important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Perkins Loan Program is 57 years old. It is the Nation's longest running Federal student loan program. It is unlike any other Federal student aid program because this critical program is specifically directed at helping low-income students afford the cost of higher education. It helps the deserving students who would not be able to afford a college education otherwise, students that save up and work hard for every credit that they earn.

Without Perkins, 500,000 low-income students across the country, nearly 50,000 from the State of New York and over 6,000 in my district alone, would not have access to a critical safety net.

The Perkins Loan fills the gaps in student aid, and acts as a lifeline when unforeseen disruptions jeopardize a student's ability to pay for college. They offer an affordable alternative to private student loans and, furthermore, they are self-sustaining, meaning that as graduated students pay back their loans, they fund the current students' loans.

This summer, 94 bipartisan colleagues joined me in a letter urging Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT to ensure that the Perkins Loan Program was not allowed to expire, and I am grateful for their help here on this today.

I stood with students and the presidents of colleges and universities in my district, two of whom have received Perkins loans themselves, to voice support for the continuation of the program. Among the people attending were three medical students from the University of Rochester. Heaven knows, we cannot afford to lose the services of three medical students.

I was also privileged to stand with my good friend Congressman POCAN and to hear from advocates and students who see and experience the benefits of the Perkins loans every day.

While I strongly prefer a long-term reauthorization and look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming months to secure one, I am pleased that the Higher Education Extension Act succeeds in keeping the program alive, ensures that next year's incoming class will be able to access

Perkins loans, and buys us some time to secure a lasting extension.

I urge passage of this bill for all those students whose education dreams depend on having the Perkins loans.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to again thank Representative BISHOP for all your work on this—thank you very much—and Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member SCOTT. This is, I think, a good example of how we can work together in a committee to make sure that higher educational needs are met.

I represent about 75,000 higher education students. With UW Madison as the flagship, about 45,000 students, we have other campuses for the UW system, Beloit College and other smaller private colleges, Madison College and others.

This is a really important program, not just back home in Wisconsin, but across the country; and the fact that we are able to get this done in a bipartisan manner shows how I think Congress can work its very best. So I urge my colleagues to support this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Mr. POCAN as well and all those that have come to support the bill.

Helping more individuals access and complete higher education is a goal we all share. Research shows that students who earn a degree or credential are more likely to succeed in today's global economy.

For example, those with an Associate Degree are expected to earn 27 percent more than those with a high school diploma over the course of a lifetime, underscoring the value of higher education.

□ 1645

Unfortunately, less than 60 percent of students complete their studies within 6 years often because they can't afford to. Failure to pass the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015 will only make it more difficult for some students to access and complete their education.

Students across the country—including in my home State of Michigan—count on the Perkins Loan Program to help afford a college education. By supporting this responsible bipartisan legislation, we will deliver certainty to students and institutions as we continue to work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3594.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, as we pass the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015, I

would like to emphasize the importance of higher education in assisting our young people in building the knowledge and skills that will allow them to succeed in the workforce and, ultimately, help U.S. businesses and industry to compete in the global market.

Michigan is home to many outstanding colleges and universities and I often speak with families throughout the 14th District and the state about the financial burden created by the increasing cost of higher education. Like many Americans, I firmly believe that making higher education more affordable and accessible should be among our foremost priorities. During a recent trip to my District, I spoke with a student who held a full-time job while in school because her family could not afford her tuition. Although work can be extremely rewarding and helps to build a strong work-ethic, students who are forced to work long hours and attend school full-time often suffer diminished academic success.

Since 1986, the Federal Perkins Loan Program has been an essential part of college financial aid packages because it provides a long-term and low-interest alternative to expensive private loans for students. Extending the Perkins Loan Program will provide lower income students with the funding they need to attend college with their full focus on their education. Additionally, the cost of this extension is not borne by taxpayers. Rather, the Perkins Loan Program fully funds itself when past loan recipients pay-off the balance of their loan.

I am proud that our Chamber has taken this important step toward ensuring all young people have the opportunity to benefit from a world class education. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting the fight to make higher education affordable and accessible for all Americans.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would extend the Perkins Loan program for one year, so that students who have demonstrated exceptional financial need can complete their undergraduate or graduate education in order to become academically qualified to join our workforce.

Historically, Perkins loans have served our students well by offering low-cost loans with flexible repayment terms and generous forgiveness options. They are often the difference between whether or not our students can afford to attend college, including 12,000 students in Texas.

For the academic year 2013–2014, nearly 500,000 students who needed financial assistance were awarded nearly \$1 billion in Perkins loans. And throughout its 57-year history, more than 30 million students with need have benefited from this program.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the federal government will reclaim nearly \$5 billion in revenue from Perkins loans over the next ten years. That is \$5 billion that should be returned to students to help keep college affordable for the most financially challenged students. And that is \$5 billion that would have been lost if the program is not extended.

Without Perkins loans, schools would lose the necessary flexibility to help students cover

their expenses after federal grants and Stafford loans are applied or unforeseen circumstances jeopardize a student's ability to pay for college.

If we want the United States of America to remain a global leader with the competitive edge necessary to sustain economic growth and job creation, we need the best, most highly trained workforce to sustain our advantages. The Perkins Loan program is a major part of helping our students develop, reach for and join that workforce.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to extend the federal Perkins Loan program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3594.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN SAMOA MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE POSTPONEMENT

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2617

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MINIMUM WAGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) MINIMUM WAGE.—Paragraph (2) of section 8103(b) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

“(A) the applicable wage rate in effect for each industry and classification as of September 29, 2015; and

“(B) increased by \$0.50 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning on December 31, 2016, and on December 31 of every third year thereafter, until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.”.

(b) GAO REPORTS.—Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “September 1, 2011” and inserting “April 1, 2017”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Government Accountability Office shall submit a subsection report not later than April 1, 2020.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “the study under subsection (a)” and inserting “any report under subsection (a)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Government Accountability Office shall transmit to Congress a report on alternative ways of increasing the minimum wage in American Samoa to keep pace with the cost of living in American Samoa and to eventually equal the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 2617.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2617. This legislation is simple and straightforward. It would delay for 15 months a minimum wage increase that will take effect in American Samoa in just 2 days. If this increase takes effect, it will harm the very people it was intended to help, the hard-working men and women of American Samoa.

The reason we are here today is also quite simple. We are here because the local government in American Samoa is urging us to do this. We are here because the employers in American Samoa, who are few and far between, are urging us to do this. And, most importantly, we are here because the workers in American Samoa are urging us to do this.

You don't have to take my word for it. Those are the facts that have been reported by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office. For years, the territory has been plagued by a weak economy, fewer jobs, and higher inflation.

The tuna canning industry, an essential part of the American Samoa economy, has been hit especially hard. According to our own independent government watchdog, previous wage increases have forced employers to delay expansion, limit overtime, and cut labor costs, which means that they have ultimately had to lay off workers. Many fear these tough challenges will only get worse if we fail to act now.

It should be noted that this isn't the first time we have had to take this step. When our Democratic colleagues were in control a few years back, they passed legislation delaying the arbi-

trary wage increase they set in motion. That effort passed with strong bipartisan support, and I expect today's legislation will as well.

I also want to note that the legislation will help us end a dangerous pattern of uncertainty and last-minute delays. Under the bill, the Government Accountability Office is required to report on alternatives to setting the minimum wage in American Samoa.

No doubt there are a number of alternatives Congress could consider. For example, local leaders have proposed bestowing upon them the responsibility for setting wages in their local communities. While this is certainly an interesting idea, it is a debate for another day.

Today let's do the right thing by passing this important legislation.

In closing, I wish to thank my colleague from American Samoa, Delegate AMATA RADEWAGEN, for authoring this legislative proposal and for her tireless leadership on behalf of her constituents.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand with the people of American Samoa and support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, reducing the income inequality between the people I represent in the Northern Mariana Islands and Americans in the rest of our Nation is one of my key goals as a Member of Congress.

Household median income in the Marianas was just \$20,000 in the last census compared to \$53,000 nationwide. For that reason, I have always supported the decision made in the 110th Congress to raise the minimum wage in the Marianas to the U.S. level in a series of graduated steps.

When that decision was enacted in Public Law 110-28, the locally set minimum wage in the Mariana Islands was just \$3.05 per hour and the minimum wage had been stuck at that level since the 1990s. Today the minimum wage has effectively doubled to \$6.05 and will increase to \$6.55 a year from now.

That doubling of the minimum wage has occurred during a period of economic difficulty for the Mariana Islands. Gross domestic product was dropping by 8 percent, 12 percent, 19 percent in the first 3 years of minimum wage increase.

I should say, however, that these drops had nothing to do with the wage and everything to do with the loss of manufacturing because of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade and because of a loss of tourism.

In the most recent year for which GDP data is available for our islands, we had economic growth of 4.4 percent, even as the minimum wage continued to rise.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis says that this economic growth reflects a growth in tourism, especially

an increase in tourism from China. But it also reflects a growth in consumption because workers who are paid more can spend more, and that is good for the economy.

So I look forward to next year's increase of another 50 cents in the minimum wage in the Mariana Islands. I look forward to reaching the national minimum wage in 2019, and I support legislation raising the national minimum wage because I have now seen in my district that increasing wages can have a positive impact on economic activity and improve people's lives.

At the same time, I recognize that there is such a thing as economic reality. Raising the minimum wage too quickly could have a detrimental effect, could cause employment to shrink. For that reason, over the last 7 years that I have been in Congress, I worked with Members on both sides of the aisle to tailor the minimum wage increases to the specific economic realities in my district.

Instead of raising it by 50 cents every year, as the original law required, we skipped the increases in 2011, 2013, and this year, 2015. We arrived at the decision to stretch out the time of the increases by listening to employers on the island and to workers because workers also understand that increasing wages too quickly could jeopardize their jobs. We also listened carefully to the Government Accountability Office experts who look at the effect of these minimum wage increases periodically and report back to Congress.

I think that, so far, at least, we have successfully walked the fine line. We have kept the minimum wage increasing—faster than prices, GAO tells us—without disrupting the economy.

I am very grateful to both Democrats here in Congress, who agreed to slow down the increases, and to Republicans, who agreed to let the minimum wage keep going up. They did so, I think, because of a recognition that a relatively isolated island economy might need special consideration and because, when it comes to a decision that only affects a Member's own district, there is a tradition of deference here in Congress to the views of that Member.

This is a very long way around to saying that I support H.R. 2617, the bill now under consideration.

The gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) has made the determination that what is best for her constituents is to delay further increases in the minimum wage. She too represents a relatively isolated island economy. Her constituents too have incomes much below the U.S. average. The specific economic factors in American Samoa are not the same as in the Northern Mariana Islands.

So while a delay for American Samoa may be appropriate, I would not want to imply a further delay for the North-

ern Marianas is called for at this time. But I do think that the same courtesy that the House has provided to me, when it comes to making a judgment about the well-being of the people I represent, should be given to the Delegate from American Samoa with respect to her own district.

For that reason, I urge Members to support passage of H.R. 2617.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN).

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to serve the people of American Samoa in the U.S. House of Representatives. My home district of American Samoa, an isolated group of islands, is 6 hours by plane south of Hawaii.

Sometimes we jokingly refer to our three main exports as canned tuna, military personnel, and NFL players.

Today I would like to talk about the canned tuna, though. Due to an oversight, the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which became law in 2007, contained language that stipulated that American Samoa must raise its minimum wage by 50 cents every 3 years starting in 2009 until it meets the Federal standard.

Since that time, Congress has graciously granted two waivers to American Samoa which prevents them from having to institute the increase, and wisely so. Had Congress not granted the waivers, the effects would have been absolutely devastating to our local economy, of which the tuna canneries comprise 80 percent.

When the Fair Minimum Wage Act was passed in 2007, American Samoa had two canneries on the island. As a direct result of the law and concern with future wage increases, in 2009, the day after a deadly tsunami struck our island, the cannery operated by Chicken of the Sea relocated to Thailand, causing thousands to instantly lose their jobs and hundreds shortly followed.

In Thailand, Chicken of the Sea now pays their workers a mere \$1.25 an hour and are rumored to be cutting wages further in 2016, while the workers in American Samoa are paid \$4.76 an hour. While \$4.76 may not seem like a large amount here in the States, one must realize that, in American Samoa, the cost of living is drastically different.

Due to how the lands are owned and managed in American Samoa, there is actually no such thing as rent or a mortgage, items that often comprise up to one-half of a person's monthly expenses. Because our people do not have an expense for housing, \$4.76 an hour goes much further than it would here in the States.

While well-intended, the Fair Minimum Wage Act has placed the eco-

nomic well-being of American Samoa in great jeopardy. No one would like to see the people of American Samoa prosper and have their wages increased more than I.

However, this is neither the time nor mechanism for such a drastic increase, as it would surely be the proverbial nail in the coffin for the local economy, as the two canneries that are currently operating out of American Samoa have stated the strong possibility of having to leave our island because they simply would not be able to compete financially against their foreign competitors. One of these canneries just opened this year and is trying to establish a toehold in the region. Without the extension, this will be very difficult for them.

Currently, due to many factors, the long-term continuity of the Pago Pago-based canneries is now threatened by reduced tuna deliveries and supply, which will negatively affect cannery production, impact cannery employment and support services, and could possibly destroy American Samoa's economy altogether.

□ 1700

Past decisions by the United States Government have led to the current dire situation.

In 2005, the U.S. Government agreed to reduce fishing opportunities by U.S. purse seine vessels on the high seas and within the U.S. EEZ. At the same time, the U.S. purse seine fleet contracted from 49 vessels in 1994 to 11 in 2007.

This major shift in the management of the purse seine fishery should have been recognized by the United States Government as significant in terms of fleet operations and the impact it would have on American Samoa. Unfortunately, it seems that the territory was not considered.

That same year, the U.S. allowed Taiwanese-built vessels to become U.S. flagged, thereby receiving the same benefits afforded under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. These new vessels fish farther away from American Samoa and predominantly offload their catch in Thailand.

In 2013, the U.S. Government agreed to pay a combined amount, from both government and industry, of approximately \$90 million, while agreeing to further reduce the United States fishing effort on the high seas.

After that, in 2014, the United States agreed to an inexcusable deal, to the detriment of American Samoa, reducing the amount of fishing days available in Kiribati waters to the United States fleet from 4,313 to just 300 days in just 1 year. Kiribati waters are typically the most productive purse seine fishing grounds in close proximity to Pago Pago. However, the American Samoa-based purse seine vessels are now forced to travel great distances, making Pago Pago canneries less desirable and increasing transshipping to foreign ports.

In addition, the expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument and the high seas effort limit have further reduce the fishing grounds available to the American Samoa-based purse seine fleet, lending to the dire situation facing American Samoa's local canneries. These are waters that have been fished by our people for many centuries.

Like other small island developing states and territories in the Pacific, American Samoa and the fishing industry it supports should be afforded special recognition, not crushed by the worst aspects of capitalism—and I say this as a devout capitalist.

Until we begin to safeguard our fishery interests in the region, American Samoa's tuna fisheries will continue to wither, creating economic ruin in American Samoa, the other Pacific territories, and even Hawaii, leaving the United States as a passive observer in the world's largest tuna fishery, leaving other nations such as China to run roughshod over fisheries to the detriment of not only the people, but the environment as well.

We must reverse some of the missteps the United States has taken over the years which have left the American Samoa economy in this highly vulnerable position. The closing off of large swaths of ocean, under the guise of national monuments, which cover thousands of square miles of traditional fishing grounds that our people have used for centuries, to the reduction in allotted fishing days that have gone from over 4,000 to under 500 in just 1 year, this is certainly not the time to put further pressure on an industry that is seemingly under attack from all sides, a local industry that operates at a loss in comparison to its competitors when it comes to labor, due to their longstanding relationship with the people of American Samoa, for which we are very grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard some concern about Congress continuing to kick the can down the road on this issue. To those, I extend willing and eager hands for cooperation and assistance in fixing the mechanism by which the wages are set in American Samoa. The playing fields between the United States and American Samoa are too drastically different to place on the same wage scale, and to keep American Samoa tied to the current standard is dangerous and irresponsible. It is my plan to use the time granted in the extension to work on a new mechanism for setting the minimum wage rate in American Samoa, and I happily encourage fellow Members to join me in this mission.

If there is ever any bill that I introduce that I wish I could vote against, this would be it. However, while it is difficult, I also know that it must be done. Oftentimes, the things that are the most difficult are also the most im-

portant, and currently, there is no issue more important to the economic well-being of American Samoa than this.

I respectfully and wholeheartedly ask my colleagues in both the House and Senate to support this legislation that is so absolutely critical to the economic stability of American Samoa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 3 minutes.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Without it, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid we will be back here in just a few months trying to figure out a way to subsidize what is already the most economically challenged territory or State in our Nation.

The tuna canning industry is all we have. There is no Coca-Cola or IBM. We have no Silicon Valley there to provide massive revenue and employment opportunity to the territory. There aren't numerous military and government facilities that provide sources of economic growth. We are not surrounded by fellow States that enable us to expand to other markets. All we have is the tuna industry, and we are grateful for them.

So again, I graciously ask my fellow colleagues to support this unfortunate, yet essential, piece of legislation. If you cannot support it, all I ask is that you do not block it, because it would be absolutely devastating to our people.

I want to thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, and the committee staff for their assistance in getting this measure to the floor, as well as the numerous other staff and Members who put in many hours of hard work to get us here today.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I do urge my colleagues to please support H.R. 2617.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, this effort is supported by local leaders in American Samoa. It is supported by employers in American Samoa, and, most importantly, it is supported by the working men and women of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2617, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CROSS-BORDER RAIL SECURITY ACT OF 2015

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2786) to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to submit a report on cross-border rail security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2786

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cross-Border Rail Security Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. CROSS-BORDER RAIL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the following:

(1) The number of shipments entering the United States by rail annually that are determined to be high-risk by the Commissioner.

(2) Specific details on the status of radiation detection units, by type, at each rail crossing on the northern and southern land borders as of such date of enactment.

(3) An assessment of whether additional radiation detection equipment is necessary to ensure that all such high-risk cross-border rail shipments are examined with appropriate equipment.

(4) A plan for ensuring that all relevant CBP personnel receive adequate training and guidance on the proper use of CBP's Automated Targeting System for such high-risk cross-border rail shipments, the use of appropriate radiation detection equipment for examination of such high-risk cross-border rail shipments, and requirements for recording examination results.

(b) GAO AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall periodically audit U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations at rail crossings on the northern and southern international borders to ensure rail shipments are targeted, examined, and the results of such examinations properly documented.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2786, the Cross-Border Rail Security Act of 2015.

First, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, for introducing this thoughtful bill and working in a collaborative manner as this legislation moved through the committee process.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation requires the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection to submit a report to Congress that outlines how and when high-risk rail shipments entering the United States are scanned for potential risks.

The impetus for this legislation was a recent inspector general report that found CBP was inadequately targeting high-risk rail shipments arriving in the U.S. from Canada and Mexico. This bill will help Congress better understand the frequency and location of such high-risk shipments and detail the current state of radiation detection equipment on our international railways.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues who also live along the border know, each year approximately 2.7 million containers enter the United States by rail. While most of the commodities transferred by rail do not pose significant homeland security threats, we must ensure that we are properly identifying and targeting those shipments which are high risk and conduct physical scanning when necessary.

To ensure proper oversight, it is very important to understand the capabilities of CBP, including the number, location, and type of detection equipment used at each cross-border rail crossing. We also need to understand what additional equipment and training is necessary to ensure our rail cargo system is secure.

As we know, proper training is an important force multiplier which will help maximize effectiveness of our Customs and Border Protection Officers, reducing wait times and increasing security.

Finally, H.R. 2786 requires the Government Accountability Office to perform a series of audits over CBP's targeting of cross-border rail shipments.

Mr. Speaker, rail cargo is expected to increase over the next 10 years. This bill will ensure CBP adequately addresses this vulnerability and implements proper standards of screening and targeting for rail cargo. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2786.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2786, the Cross-Border Rail Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general released a report on high-risk cross-border rail cargo. The report concluded that U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or

CBP, did not always use the required radiation detection equipment to examine shipments it determined to be high risk. Additionally, some ports of entry lacked the appropriate equipment to conduct these screenings, and training and oversight of targeting and examining such shipments was lacking.

In response to these troubling findings, my bill would require the CBP Commissioner to submit to the relevant congressional committees within 180 days of enactment a report regarding high-risk cross-border rail cargo shipments entering the United States.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would require the report to include information on the number of high-risk shipments crossing the border by rail, details on the radiation detection units at rail crossings, an assessment of whether additional equipment is necessary, and a plan for ensuring that all relevant CBP personnel receive appropriate training to appropriately target, examine, and record the disposition of such shipments. The bill requires the Government Accountability Office to audit periodically CBP operations at rail crossings to ensure rail shipments are being appropriately targeted, examined, and documented.

The community I represent has a vested interest in securing cross-border rail cargo. This past August, I was proud to be a part of the opening of the West Rail Bypass International Bridge located in Brownsville, Texas, the first international new rail crossing between the U.S. and Mexico in over a century.

Both of our land borders are dotted with these crossings, and, in fact, the majority of them are located on the northern border. The cargo that crosses by rail is destined for locations all over the United States, making the effective targeting and examining of high-risk shipments a national concern.

Mr. Speaker, my committee colleagues unanimously supported this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to help strengthen the cross-border rail security by supporting H.R. 2786.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2786.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 2786, the "Cross-Border Rail Security Act of 2015," which directs U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to report to Congress on its inspection of high-risk shipments entering the United States by rail.

Specifically, H.R. 2786 requires the CBP to report on the following matters related to homeland security:

the number of high-risk rail shipments annually entering the country;

the status of radiation detection units at each border rail crossing; and
an assessment of whether additional radiation detection equipment is necessary.

The bill also requires CBP to develop a plan for ensuring that all relevant CBP personnel receive adequate training and guidance on the proper use of CBP's Automated Targeting System for such shipments, and in the use of appropriate radiation detection equipment for shipment examination, and requirements for recording examination results.

H.R. 2786 bill also requires the General Accountability Office to periodically audit CBP operations at rail crossings on borders to ensure rail shipments are targeted, examined, and the examination results are well documented.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is good for our nation and for my congressional district, which is centered in Houston, Texas.

Houston has been the hub of railroad hub of Texas since the 1880s and is known as the place "where 17 railroads meet the sea."

It is also the "the energy capital of the world."

Freight from the Houston area goes by railroad to destinations all over the United States, including Los Angeles, Long Beach, New York City, Charleston, and Savannah.

Over 1 billion tons of freight travels through Houston area each year; no other state comes close to the level of trade the metropolitan Houston region experiences.

One billion tons of freight leaves the Houston area each year, nearly two-thirds of which (645 million tons) involve goods come from foreign sources.

The top foreign freight origination point for the City of Houston is Mexico.

Mexico supplies over 50% of all international freight in the Houston area.

Europe and Canada are Houston's second largest foreign freight trading partners, accounting for over 27% of international freight in the Houston area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting H.R. 2786 because the safety of rail transit is critical to the security of the homeland and strength of our economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2786.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BORDER JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2015

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2835) to actively recruit members

of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2835

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Customs and Border Protection officers at United States ports of entry carry out critical law enforcement duties associated with screening foreign visitors, returning United States citizens, and imported cargo entering the United States.

(2) It is in the national interest for United States ports of entry to be adequately staffed with Customs and Border Protection officers in a timely fashion, including meeting the congressionally funded staffing target of 23,775 officers for fiscal year 2015.

(3) An estimated 250,000 to 300,000 members of the Armed Forces separate from military service every year.

(4) Recruiting efforts and expedited hiring procedures must be enhanced to ensure that individuals separating from military service are aware of, and partake in, opportunities to fill vacant Customs and Border Protection officer positions.

SEC. 3. EXPEDITED HIRING OF APPROPRIATE SEPARATING SERVICE MEMBERS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider the expedited hiring of qualified candidates who have the ability to perform the essential functions of the position of a Customs and Border Protection officer and who are eligible for a veterans recruitment appointment authorized under section 4214 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 4. ENHANCEMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS TO RECRUIT SERVICE MEMBERS SEPARATING FROM MILITARY SERVICE FOR CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER VACANCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, and acting through existing programs, authorities, and agreements, where applicable, shall enhance the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The enhanced recruiting efforts under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include Customs and Border Protection officer opportunities in relevant job assistance efforts under the Transition Assistance Program;

(2) place U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials or other relevant Department of Homeland Security officials at recruiting events and jobs fairs involving members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service;

(3) provide opportunities for local U.S. Customs and Border Protection field offices to partner with military bases in the region;

(4) include outreach efforts to educate members of the Armed Forces with Military Occupational Specialty Codes and Officer Branches, Air Force Specialty Codes, Naval Enlisted Classifications and Officer Designators, and Coast Guard competencies that are transferable to the requirements, qualifica-

tions, and duties assigned to Customs and Border Protection officers of available hiring opportunities to become Customs and Border Protection officers;

(5) identify shared activities and opportunities for reciprocity related to steps in hiring Customs and Border Protection officers with the goal of minimizing the time required to hire qualified applicants;

(6) ensure the streamlined interagency transfer of relevant background investigations and security clearances; and

(7) include such other elements as may be necessary to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service are aware of opportunities to fill vacant Customs and Border Protection officer positions.

SEC. 5. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and by December 31 of each of the next three years thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that includes a description and assessment of the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to hire members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service as Customs and Border Protection officers under section 4.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a detailed description of the efforts to implement section 4, including—

(A) elements of the enhanced recruiting efforts and the goals associated with such elements; and

(B) a description of how the elements and goals referred to in subparagraph (A) will assist in meeting statutorily mandated staffing levels and agency hiring benchmarks;

(2) a detailed description of the efforts that have been undertaken under section 4;

(3) the estimated number of separating service members made aware of Customs and Border Protection officer vacancies;

(4) the number of Customs and Border Protection officer vacancies filled with separating service members; and

(5) the number of Customs and Border Protection officer vacancies filled with separating service members under Veterans Recruitment Appointment authorized under section 4214 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 6. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed—

(1) as superseding, altering, or amending existing Federal veterans’ hiring preferences or Federal hiring authorities; or

(2) to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2835, the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015. This bill, which I introduced in June, seeks to increase the hiring of military veterans for Customs and Border Protection officer positions vital to our security here at home.

The Border Jobs for Veterans Act addresses two critical priorities: ensuring full staffing at our ports of entry and helping separating servicemembers transition to civilian life.

My district includes over 80 miles of the U.S. border as well as several ports of entry. I visited our ports in Nogales and Douglas numerous times to hear about their operations firsthand and have seen the critical law enforcement duties carried out by CBP officers at these ports, such as screening visitors, returning U.S. citizens, and cargo entering the United States.

In June, the Port Authority chair for the Mariposa port of entry in Nogales, just outside my district, reported that, while staffing numbers have grown nationally, “staffing numbers at Nogales and the Tucson Sector have remained essentially stagnant in recent memory while demand continues to grow.”

The port also estimates that CBP’s Tucson field office is currently operating at a 20-percent staffing deficit. While new hires have occurred since then, CBP estimates the Tucson field office still needs to fill roughly 200 officer positions.

In my conversations with CBP officers, they have repeatedly told me that inadequate staffing levels hamper their ability to do their jobs. They cite problems with recruiting and retention of new officers as well as lengthy and cumbersome hiring process, including delays due to backlogs of the necessary background checks. After a recent reduction in that process by roughly 50 percent, it still takes 180 days to hire a new officer at ports where there is a strong need now.

These hurdles to hiring acts as an impediment to cross-border trade that powers both Arizona and the Nation’s economy. According to the Arizona-Mexico Commission, more than 41.6 billion dollars’ worth of trade flows through Arizona’s ports of entry, \$16 billion of which is attributed to bilateral trade with Mexico.

But inadequate staffing at these ports of entry slows the flow of trade coming across the border, costing businesses millions of dollars, and ultimately hurts our attractiveness as a transportation and trade hub, something we simply cannot afford.

Each year approximately 250,000 to 300,000 members of the Armed Forces separate from military service. I recently visited the Veterans One-Stop

Center in Pima County in my district, which helps veterans find employment after they leave the military, and I listened to their challenges and their stories firsthand.

Who better to address this shortfall and help to secure our ports than the highly trained patriotic Americans who just recently separated from the Armed Forces?

That is why H.R. 2835 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with the Department of Defense to enhance our efforts to recruit members of the military who are separating to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

These efforts must include participation in relevant job fairs, transition programs, partnerships between CBP field offices and local military bases, and the identification of ways to streamline the transfer of background checks and security clearances.

This bill offers the men and women of our military another opportunity to serve the Nation. All DHS has to do is make sure that they are aware of the opportunities available at our Nation's 329 ports of entry.

I want to thank my colleagues, Senators FLAKE, MCCAIN, JOHNSON, and SCHUMER, and their staffs for working on the Senate companion legislation and their help on the text of this bill.

I also want to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and his staff for working with us to move this bill forward.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015.

I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 2835, the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, which has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services. In order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the committee will forgo action on this bill.

The committee's waiver is conditional on our mutual understanding that you will amend H.R. 2835 to reflect the changes agreed to by our staffs. Forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the provisions contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to appoint members of the committee to any conference committee convened to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 2835 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2015.

Hon. MAC THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2835, the "Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the House Armed Services Committee will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that the language in the bill reflects the negotiations between our staffs and that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the House Armed Services Committee does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the House Armed Services Committee represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2835, the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015.

First of all, I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman MCSALLY, for introducing this wonderful piece of legislation. It not only helps us expedite the flow of traffic in trade at our borders, but it also helps and assists with our veterans we all represent.

H.R. 2835, the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to consider expediting the hiring of qualified veterans to serve as U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

The bill also authorizes DHS to enhance its efforts to recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as CBP officers and requires DHS to report to Congress on its efforts.

Through their service, our Nation's veterans have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to our country and its security. CBP would benefit greatly from their service within the agency's ranks.

At the same time, expediting the hiring of qualified veterans could help alleviate the continued shortage of CBP officers at our ports of entry, helping to better secure our borders while facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2835, to facilitate the recruitment and hiring of America's military veterans for new careers serving our country as U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2835.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2835, "Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015," which would guarantee more jobs for our many deserving veterans.

This bill requires the Homeland Security Department to prioritize the hiring of U.S. veterans as Custom and Border Protection (CBP) officers.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate for our veterans is 7.2%, which is roughly 573,000 unemployed veterans nationally.

A study commissioned by the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration found that in 2008, delays at POEs at the U.S.-Mexico border cost the U.S. economy 26,000 jobs, \$600 million in lost tax revenue, and \$5.8 billion in lost economic output.

According to CBP, 2,000 additional CBPOs will lead to the creation of approximately 66,000 new jobs and increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the U.S. by up to \$4 billion.

The bill will ensure that:

CBP officials will be at recruiting events and jobs fairs for armed service members;

Partnerships are fostered between military bases in regions where CBP Officers work;

Opportunities for the expedited hiring of certain service members with qualifications needed by CBP are prioritized; and

Transfers of relevant background investigations and security clearances are streamlined to facilitate transitions from military life to employment at the CBP.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 76, the "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2015," the HEROS Act, which is very similar in spirit to the bill before the House.

Studies have shown that more than 80% of veterans transitioning from military service to the civilian sector regard employer-provided Veterans support programs as "critical" or "important" to their success.

The "HERO Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014" addressed these problems by providing strong incentives for employers to hire, retain, and employ veterans in positions that take maximum advantage of their skills and experience.

Nearly 90% of veterans believe they have the general skills needed to land their ideal job such as problem solving, leadership, ethics, and time management and most believe they possess specific marketable skills, such as information technology, health care, mechanical, and aviation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2835, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING ACT OF 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2051) to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING

Sec. 101. Extension of livestock mandatory reporting.

Sec. 102. Swine reporting.

Sec. 103. Lamb reporting.

Sec. 104. Study on livestock mandatory reporting.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Sec. 201. National Forest Foundation Act reauthorization.

TITLE III—UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Sec. 301. Reauthorization of United States Grain Standards Act.

Sec. 302. Report on disruption in Federal inspection of grain exports.

Sec. 303. Report on policy barriers to grain producers.

TITLE I—MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106–78) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

SEC. 102. SWINE REPORTING.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 231 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635i) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through (22) as paragraphs (10) through (23), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

“(9) **NEGOTIATED FORMULA PURCHASE.**—The term ‘negotiated formula purchase’ means a swine or pork market formula purchase under which—

“(A) the formula is determined by negotiation on a lot-by-lot basis; and

“(B) the swine are scheduled for delivery to the packer not later than 14 days after the date on which the formula is negotiated and swine are committed to the packer.”;

(3) in paragraph (12)(A) (as so redesignated), by inserting “negotiated formula purchase,” after “pork market formula purchase,”; and

(4) in paragraph (23) (as so redesignated)—
(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) a negotiated formula purchase; and”.

(b) **DAILY REPORTING.**—Section 232(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635j(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) **PRICE DISTRIBUTIONS.**—The information published by the Secretary under clause (i) shall include—

“(I) a distribution of net prices in the range between and including the lowest net price and the highest net price reported;

“(II) a delineation of the number of barrows and gilts at each reported price level or, at the option of the Secretary, the number of barrows and gilts within each of a series of reasonable price bands within the range of prices; and

“(III) the total number and weighted average price of barrows and gilts purchased through negotiated purchases and negotiated formula purchases.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **LATE IN THE DAY REPORT INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall include in the morning report and the afternoon report for the following day any information required to be reported under subparagraph (A) that is obtained after the time of the reporting day specified in that subparagraph.”.

SEC. 103. LAMB REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall revise section 59.300 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, so that—

(1) the definition of the term “importer”—

(A) includes only those importers that imported an average of 1,000 metric tons of lamb meat products per year during the immediately preceding 4 calendar years; and

(B) may include any person that does not meet the requirement referred to in subparagraph (A), if the Secretary determines that the person should be considered an importer based on their volume of lamb imports; and

(2) the definition of the term “packer”—

(A) applies to any entity with 50 percent or more ownership in a facility;

(B) includes a federally inspected lamb processing plant which slaughtered or processed the equivalent of an average of 35,000 head of lambs per year during the immediately preceding 5 calendar years; and

(C) may include any other lamb processing plant that does not meet the requirement referred to in subparagraph (B), if the Secretary determines that the processing plant should be considered a packer after considering the capacity of the processing plant.

SEC. 104. STUDY ON LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING.

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Marketing Service in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Economist and in consultation with cattle, swine, and lamb producers, packers, and other market participants, shall conduct a study

on the program of information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock under subtitle B of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635 et seq.).

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The study shall—

(A) analyze current marketing practices in the cattle, swine, and lamb markets;

(B) identify legislative or regulatory recommendations made by cattle, swine, and lamb producers, packers, and other market participants to ensure that information provided under the program—

(i) can be readily understood by producers, packers, and other market participants;

(ii) reflects current marketing practices; and

(iii) is relevant and useful to producers, packers, and other market participants;

(C) analyze the price and supply information reporting services of the Department of Agriculture related to cattle, swine, and lamb; and

(D) address any other issues that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 1, 2018, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

TITLE II—NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 201. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROJECT EXPENSES.**—Section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is amended by striking “for a period of five years beginning October 1, 1992” and inserting “during fiscal years 2016 through 2018”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–8(b)) is amended by striking “during the five-year period” and all that follows through “\$1,000,000 annually” and inserting “there are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018”.

(c) **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**—

(1) **AGENT.**—Section 404 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–2) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “notice or” after “authorized to accept”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “under this paragraph” and inserting “by subsection (a)(4)”.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Section 407(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–5(b)) is amended by striking the comma after “The Foundation shall”.

TITLE III—UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 301. REAUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT.

(a) **OFFICIAL INSPECTION AND WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **DISCRETIONARY WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—Section 5(a)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 77(a)(1)) is amended in the first proviso by striking “may waive the foregoing requirement in emergency or other circumstances which would not impair the objectives of this Act” and inserting “shall waive the foregoing requirement in emergency or other circumstances that would not impair the objectives of this Act whenever the parties to a contract for such shipment mutually agree to the waiver and documentation of such agreement is provided to the Secretary prior to shipment”.

(2) **WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS AT EXPORT ELEMENTS.**—Section 5(a)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 77(a)(2)) is

amended in the proviso by striking “intracompany shipments of grain into an export elevator by any mode of transportation, grain transferred into an export elevator by transportation modes other than barge,” and inserting “shipments of grain into an export elevator by any mode of transportation”.

(3) **DISRUPTION IN GRAIN INSPECTION OR WEIGHING.**—Section 5 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 77) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **DISRUPTION IN GRAIN INSPECTION OR WEIGHING.**—In the case of a disruption in official grain inspections or weighings, including if the Secretary waives the requirement for official inspection due to an emergency under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall—

“(1) immediately take such actions as are necessary to address the disruption and resume inspections or weighings;

“(2) not later than 24 hours after the start of the disruption in inspection or weighing, submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

“(A) the disruption; and

“(B) any actions necessary to address the concerns of the Secretary relating to the disruption so that inspections or weighings may resume; and

“(3) once the initial report in paragraph (2) has been made, provide daily updates until official inspection or weighing services at the site of disruption have resumed.”.

(b) **OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY AND FUNDING.**—

(1) **DELEGATION OF OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY.**—Section 7(e)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(e)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(2) If the Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(2) **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO STATE AGENCIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary”;

(B) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “and (A)” and inserting “and (i)”;

(ii) by striking “or (B)(i)” and inserting “or (ii)(1)”;

(iii) by striking “(ii)” and inserting “(II)”;

and

(iv) by striking “(iii)” and inserting “(III)”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **CERTIFICATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Every 5 years, the Secretary shall certify that each State agency with a delegation of authority is meeting the criteria described in subsection (f)(1)(A).

“(ii) **PROCESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015, the Secretary shall establish a process for certification under which the Secretary shall—

“(I) publish in the Federal Register notice of intent to certify a State agency and provide a 30-day period for public comment;

“(II) evaluate the public comments received and, in accordance with paragraph (3), conduct an investigation to determine whether the State agency is qualified;

“(III) make findings based on the public comments received and investigation conducted; and

“(IV) publish in the Federal Register a notice announcing whether the certification has been granted and describing the basis on which the Secretary made the decision.

“(C) **STATE AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If a State agency that has been delegated authority under this paragraph intends to temporarily discontinue official inspection or weighing services for any reason, ex-

cept in the case of a major disaster, the State agency shall notify the Secretary in writing of the intention of the State agency to do so at least 72 hours in advance of the discontinuation date.

“(ii) **SECRETARIAL CONSIDERATION.**—The Secretary shall consider receipt of a notice described in clause (i) as a factor in administering the delegation of authority under this paragraph.”.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—Section 7(f)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(xi), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the Secretary—

“(i) periodically conducts a consultation with the customers of the applicant, in a manner that provides opportunity for protection of the identity of the customer if desired by the customer, to review the performance of the applicant with regard to the provision of official inspection services and other requirements of this Act; and

“(ii) works with the applicant to address any concerns identified during the consultation process.”.

(3) **GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES FOR OFFICIAL AGENCIES.**—

(A) **OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY.**—Section 7(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)) is amended by striking “the Secretary may” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following: “the Secretary shall allow a designated official agency to cross boundary lines to carry out inspections in another geographic area if—

“(A) the current designated official agency for that geographic area is unable to provide inspection services in a timely manner;

“(B) a person requesting inspection services in that geographic area requests a probe inspection on a barge-lot basis; or

“(C) the current official agency for that geographic area agrees in writing with the adjacent official agency to waive the current geographic area restriction at the request of the applicant for service.”.

(B) **WEIGHING AUTHORITY.**—Section 7A(i)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(i)(2)) is amended by striking “the Secretary may” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following: “the Secretary shall allow a designated official agency to cross boundary lines to carry out weighing in another geographic area if—

“(A) the current designated official agency for that geographic area is unable to provide weighing services in a timely manner; or

“(B) the current official agency for that geographic area agrees in writing with the adjacent official agency to waive the current geographic area restriction at the request of the applicant for service.”.

(4) **DURATION OF DESIGNATION AUTHORITY.**—Section 7(g)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(g)(1)) is amended by striking “triennially” and inserting “every 5 years”.

(5) **FEEES.**—Section 7(j) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(j)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(j)(1) The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(j) **FEEES.**—

“(1) **INSPECTION FEEES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) the second sentence, by striking “The fees” and inserting the following:

“(B) **AMOUNT OF FEEES.**—The fees”;

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking “Such fees” and inserting the following:

“(C) **USE OF FEEES.**—Fees described in this paragraph”;

and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) **EXPORT TONNAGE FEEES.**—For an official inspection at an export facility performed by the Secretary, the portion of the fees based on export tonnage shall be based on the rolling 5-year average of export tonnage volumes.”;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **ADJUSTMENT OF FEEES.**—In order to maintain an operating reserve of not less than 3 and not more than 6 months, the Secretary shall adjust the fees described in paragraphs (1) and (2) not less frequently than annually.”;

(E) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), in the first sentence, by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(c) **WEIGHING AUTHORITY.**—Section 7A of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), in the last sentence, by striking “subsection (g) of section 7” and inserting “subsections (e) and (g) of section 7”;

(2) in subsection (1)—

(A) by striking “(1)(1) The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) **FEEES.**—

“(1) **WEIGHING FEEES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) the second sentence, by striking “The fees” and inserting the following:

“(B) **AMOUNT OF FEEES.**—The fees”;

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking “Such fees” and inserting the following:

“(C) **USE OF FEEES.**—Fees described in this paragraph”;

and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) **EXPORT TONNAGE FEEES.**—For an official weighing at an export facility performed by the Secretary, the portion of the fees based on export tonnage shall be based on the rolling 5-year average of export tonnage volumes.”;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) **ADJUSTMENT OF FEEES.**—In order to maintain an operating reserve of not less than 3 and not more than 6 months, the Secretary shall adjust the fees described in paragraphs (1) and (2) not less frequently than annually.”;

(E) in paragraph (4) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), in the first sentence, by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(d) **LIMITATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY COSTS.**—Section 7D of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79d) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(e) **ISSUANCE OF AUTHORIZATION.**—Section 8(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 84(b)) is amended by striking “triennially” and inserting “every 5 years”.

(f) **APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 19 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87h) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(g) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—Section 21(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87j(e)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

SEC. 302. REPORT ON DISRUPTION IN FEDERAL INSPECTION OF GRAIN EXPORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,

and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the specific factors that led to disruption in Federal inspection of grain exports at the Port of Vancouver in the summer of 2014;

(2) any factors that contributed to the disruption referred to in paragraph (1) that were unique to the Port of Vancouver, including a description of the port facility, security needs and available resources for that purpose, and any other significant factors as determined by the Secretary; and

(3) any changes in policy that the Secretary has implemented to ensure that a similar disruption in Federal inspection of grain exports at the Port of Vancouver or any other location does not occur in the future.

SEC. 303. REPORT ON POLICY BARRIERS TO GRAIN PRODUCERS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the policy barriers to United States grain producers in countries the grain of which receives official grading in the United States but which do not offer official grading for United States grain or provide only the lowest designation for United States grain, including an analysis of possible inconsistencies with trade obligations; and

(2) any actions the Executive Branch is taking to remedy the policy barriers so as to put United States grain producers on equal footing with grain producers in countries imposing the barriers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2051, the Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, on June 9, the House passed three individual bills: the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015; the United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2015; and the National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015. For each of these, the Committee on Agriculture held hearings and business meetings, and the House acted in a timely manner to ensure the continuation of these critical programs.

I am proud of the fact that the House worked its will in a bipartisan manner

following regular order throughout. Just last week the other body worked its will, combining these three bills into a single bill before us.

Though modifications were made that I do not agree with, it is imperative that the House pass this legislation in advance of the authority for price reporting and grain inspection expiring on Wednesday evening. Failure to enact this legislation today will have devastating impacts on our Nation's meat industries and grain exporters.

I urge the House to adopt this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2051, a bill to reauthorize the Mandatory Price Reporting Act, the United States Grain Standards Act, and the National Forest Foundation Act. Legislative language to reauthorize each of these was introduced, reported by the House Agriculture Committee, and passed by the House on voice vote as standalone measures on June 10th of this year. The first two, the Mandatory Price Reporting Act and the Grain Standards Act authorities are set to expire in just a few days.

As passed by the House, each of these measures enjoyed wide bipartisan support from Members as well as support from each of the impacted industries. Unfortunately, after passing through the other chamber, we are left with bill language that is somewhat less than ideal, but at least maintains these critical program authorities for 5 more years.

In the development of the Mandatory Price Reporting Act and with each of its subsequent reauthorizations, we have asked the impacted industries to work together in a cooperative spirit to develop their legislative proposals and submit only those that are unanimously supported. The meat and livestock industries did just that this past spring. Those proposals were reviewed in a hearing in the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture on April 22nd, bill language was introduced in the House, a business meeting was held, and the House unanimously passed the bill. Unfortunately, a demand was made in the other body that the bill be modified to remove language of critical importance to our constituents. Thus, we have before us today a bill that is less than what our constituents requested. Yet if we fail to act, a program of critical importance to the meat and livestock industries would expire leaving these industries in a quandary. It is a shame that politics must interfere with policy on even the simplest measures, but we must move forward.

The United States Grain Standards Act reauthorization faced similar challenges in the other body. As my colleagues will recall, last summer amid an ongoing labor dispute, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) discontinued mandatory grain weighing and grading services.

In statements issued at the time, WSDA acknowledged that they withheld inspection services because of their belief that the "continued provision of inspections services appears to have been unhelpful in leading to any foreseeable resolution" of the labor dispute.

Instead of fulfilling their statutory obligation, the leadership of the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture politicized this situation when the agency declined to fulfill its statutory responsibility to resume inspection and weighing services. Services were eventually restored, but not before significant costs accrued to all parties involved.

We have worked hard to gain access to overseas markets. We are shooting ourselves in the foot when we cannot ship our products to these markets because State and Federal agencies are unable or unwilling to comply with their obligations. To not be able to ship our grain because there are no inspectors at a facility does a disservice to our farmers, and it harms our economy.

To address this situation, the House could have been punitive. In fact, there were some in the industry that would have preferred that. But that is not what we were interested in doing. We simply wanted to develop a safeguard mechanism to avoid this situation being repeated. To do that, we worked with the Washington State delegation, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, labor unions, industry and even the USDA. What we developed was bipartisan consensus on a workable safeguard provision. Nevertheless, the bill as adopted in the other body provides little safeguard against future abuses of discretion. I cannot emphasize this enough—it is imperative that these inspection and weighing services are provided in a reliable, uninterrupted, consistent and cost-effective manner. To ensure that we fulfill this obligation, we must learn the lessons of history or it is doomed to repeat itself.

To this end, the Secretary of Agriculture is instructed to take prompt action to provide for restoration of official grain inspection service as soon as he receives notice or otherwise learns about the impending disruption from a delegated State agency. In this regard, as a way of not allowing the Secretary to sit on his hands after learning that a disruption in official service was imminent, the Secretary is required to:

1. Immediately take such actions as are necessary to address the disruption and resume inspection and weighing services; and

2. Not later than 24 hours after receiving notice or otherwise learning of the impending disruption of such inspection or weighing, or after the start of such disruption in official service, whichever is earlier, submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the disruptions and any actions necessary to address the concerns of the Secretary relating to the disruption so that inspections or weighings may resume.

On a positive note, another critical element of the House bill was retained wherein the Secretary will be obligated to waive official weighing and inspection requirements in both cases of emergency as well as other circumstances as long as the waiver does not impair the underlying objectives of the statute and the buyers and sellers agree and provide documentation of the agreement to the Secretary. This waiver requirement is intended to provide certainty to trading partners as well as U.S. suppliers.

Since its charter in 1993, the National Forest Foundation provides the ability to leverage

private and federal dollars to support our Nation's great forests in a variety of ways. In recent years, the Foundation has leveraged funds at over a 4 to 1 ratio and plans to continue on this success to raise at least \$125 million for forest restoration activities. Simply put, the National Forest Foundation works, and this is a common-sense reauthorization.

While I recognize that concessions were made resulting in less than ideal bill text, at the end of the day, H.R. 2051 provides certainty to American agriculture, and I would urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2051. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the Mandatory Price Reporting Act, the National Forest Foundation Act, and the U.S. Grain Standards Act. This bill continues the tradition of bipartisan, bicameral work done by the Agriculture Committees.

Important livestock price reporting programs will be continued under the bill's mandatory price reporting provisions. Producers rely on access to transparent, accurate, and timely market information, and H.R. 2051 will provide that certainty.

The National Forest Foundation Act is the type of public-private collaboration we should all be able to support, giving private groups and stakeholders a chance to help in the stewardship and management of our national forests and grasslands. H.R. 2051 will ensure that this partnership can continue.

Finally, the U.S. Grain Standards Reauthorization Act will allow the Federal Grain Inspection Service to continue official weighing and inspection services. Both grain buyers and sellers rely on a gold standard quality assurance, backed by the Federal Government, when conducting business.

Again, this is good, commonsense legislation, a bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my colleague, my ranking member, COLLIN PETERSON. Throughout this work, he and all the Members on both sides of the aisle of the committee worked well together. It is a tribute to the way bipartisan work ought to be done in the House, and I am proud of the work the Agriculture Committee has done.

I urge Members to join me in support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2051.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3495, WOMEN'S PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-269) on the resolution (H. Res. 444) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3495) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions, and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2835, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2786, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

BORDER JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2835) to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 519]

YEAS—410

Abraham	Cuellar	Hensarling
Adams	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Aderholt	Cummings	Hice, Jody B.
Aguiar	Curbelo (FL)	Higgins
Allen	Davis (CA)	Hill
Amash	Davis, Danny	Himes
Amodel	Davis, Rodney	Hinojosa
Ashford	DeFazio	Holding
Babin	DeGette	Honda
Barletta	Delaney	Hoyer
Barr	DeLauro	Huelskamp
Barton	DelBene	Huffman
Bass	Denham	Huizenga (MI)
Beatty	Dent	Hultgren
Becerra	DeSantis	Hunter
Benishek	DeSaulnier	Hurd (TX)
Bera	DesJarlais	Hurt (VA)
Beyer	Diaz-Balart	Israel
Bilirakis	Dingell	Issa
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Jackson Lee
Bishop (MI)	Dold	Jeffries
Bishop (UT)	Donovan	Jenkins (KS)
Black	Doyle, Michael	Jenkins (WV)
Blackburn	F.	Johnson (GA)
Blum	Duckworth	Johnson (OH)
Bonamici	Duffy	Johnson, E. B.
Bost	Duncan (SC)	Johnson, Sam
Boustany	Duncan (TN)	Jolly
Boyle, Brendan	Edwards	Jones
F.	Ellison	Jordan
Brady (PA)	Ellmers (NC)	Joyce
Brady (TX)	Emmer (MN)	Kaptur
Brat	Engel	Katko
Brooks (AL)	Eshoo	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (IN)	Esty	Kelly (PA)
Brown (FL)	Farenthold	Kennedy
Brownley (CA)	Farr	Kildee
Buchanan	Fattah	Kilmer
Buck	Fincher	Kind
Bucshon	Fitzpatrick	King (IA)
Burgess	Fleischmann	King (NY)
Bustos	Fleming	Kinzinger (IL)
Butterfield	Flores	Kline
Byrne	Forbes	Knight
Calvert	Fortenberry	Kuster
Capps	Foster	Labrador
Capuano	Fox	LaHood
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	LaMalfa
Carney	Franks (AZ)	Lamborn
Carson (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Lance
Carter (GA)	Fudge	Langevin
Carter (TX)	Gabbard	Larsen (WA)
Cartwright	Gallego	Larson (CT)
Castor (FL)	Garamendi	Latta
Castro (TX)	Garrett	Lawrence
Chabot	Gibbs	Levin
Chaffetz	Gibson	Lewis
Chu, Judy	Gohmert	Lieu, Ted
Cicilline	Goodlatte	Lipinski
Clark (MA)	Gosar	LoBiondo
Clarke (NY)	Gowdy	Loeb
Clawson (FL)	Graham	Loeb
Clay	Granger	Lofgren
Clyburn	Graves (GA)	Long
Coffman	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Cohen	Graves (MO)	Love
Cole	Grayson	Lowenthal
Collins (GA)	Green, Gene	Lowe
Collins (NY)	Griffith	Lucas
Comstock	Grijalva	Luetkemeyer
Conaway	Grothman	Lujan Grisham
Connolly	Guinta	(NM)
Cook	Guthrie	Luján, Ben Ray
Cooper	Hahn	(NM)
Costa	Hanna	Lummis
Costello (PA)	Hardy	Lynch
Courtney	Harper	MacArthur
Cramer	Harris	Maloney,
Crawford	Hastings	Carolyn
Crenshaw	Heck (NV)	Maloney, Sean
Crowley	Heck (WA)	Marchant
		Marino

Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)

Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik

Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—24

Blumenauer
Bridenstine
Cleaver
Conyers
Deutch
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hartzler

Hudson
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lee
Meng
Miller (FL)
Olson

Payne
Perlmutter
Reichert
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Yarmuth

□ 1855

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CROSS-BORDER RAIL SECURITY
ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2786) to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to submit a report on cross-border rail security, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

YEAS—412

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Agullar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barr
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney

Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaunier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy

Harper
Harris
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis

Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan

Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—22

Blumenauer
Cleaver
Deutch
Frankel (FL)
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hartzler
Hudson

Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lee
Meng
Miller (FL)
Olson
Payne

Reichert
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Yarmuth

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed the following votes: H.R. 2835—Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill. H.R. 2786—Cross Border Rail Security Act of 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I attended the funeral of Deputy William B. "Bill" Myers, a law enforcement officer in my district who was killed in the line of duty, and I missed the following rollcall votes: Nos. 519 and 520, today, September 28, 2015. If present I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 519—H.R. 2835—Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015, as amended, "aye"; and rollcall vote No. 520—H.R. 2786—Cross-Border Rail Security Act of 2015, "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, September 28, 2015. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 519 and 520.

RICKY'S WHEELS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a nonprofit organization in my district that is providing a valuable service to the region.

The organization, Ricky's Wheels, is dedicated to providing electric wheelchairs to those in need.

Rick Worthy and his wife, Diane, created Ricky's Wheels after the death of their son Ricky in 2009, following a brief battle with melanoma.

After donating Ricky's wheelchair to a local couple, Rick and Diane noticed a need across their community, especially since Medicare will not pay for a chair once someone is accepted into hospice.

Since its founding 6 years ago, Ricky's Wheels has grown from a few donated electric wheelchairs in the Worthys' garage to a warehouse filled with mobility assistance devices, along with push chairs, walkers, and baby strollers.

Mr. Speaker, Ricky's Wheels recently was named a local Jefferson Award recipient, after being nominated by the local television station, WJAC. This award, which was created by the American Institute for Public Service, honors ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Rick and Diane are more than worthy of recognition for their efforts.

JEB BUSH SHOULD CONSIDER THE POPE'S CALL TO PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues on the other side of the

aisle have continually reminded us that they are not scientists. We have also heard this from several of the Republican candidates seeking our Nation's highest office.

As a scientist myself, I appreciate their candor. But what I don't as much appreciate is when they use this mantra of "I am not a scientist" to preface statements that are factually wrong. Facts are stubborn things, and they don't only apply to those in the scientific community.

Last week Pope Francis challenged us to take courageous steps to combat climate change, a call to action that made many Republicans uncomfortable. When asked about the Pope's statement, Governor Jeb Bush dismissed it, saying that Pope Francis is "not a scientist, he's a religious leader." In fact, Pope Francis is a former chemist, and, as such, he has more scientific training than many of our elected officials.

I was hoping that, when the Pope addressed Congress in his remarks, he would have explained to my Republican colleagues the effect of the infrared absorption spectrum of carbon dioxide on the radiation balance and equilibrium temperature of the Earth, but time did not permit.

I encourage Jeb and my colleagues in Congress to consider the Pope's call to preserve our environment.

HONORING OUR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's firefighters sign up for the job knowing the dangers they will often face in order to keep their communities safe. Tragically, we have seen these first responders give their lives in service to others.

This past Sunday the 2015 Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service took place on the State Capitol grounds to honor the 9 Minnesota firefighters—and 216 nationwide—that have passed away in the line of duty this year.

The event honors the sacrifice that these firefighters have made and also provides support for their families who are coping with a profound loss.

As policymakers, it is important that we recognize what our first responders go through on a daily basis and support them. Earlier this year Congress passed my legislation, which is now law, that ensures that survivor benefits for families of those killed in the line of duty are not taxed.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed that so many men and women sign up to put themselves in harm's way to keep others safe. For those that give their life, we must not forget their sacrifice.

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and as a proud cosponsor of the National Prostate Cancer Plan Act, H.R. 2730.

As the most common cancer in men, prostate cancer is a national epidemic. This year alone one in seven men will be diagnosed and 28,000 men will die from prostate cancer.

Last week, while hosting a community conversation in my district in Whitehall, Ohio, I met with two constituents, Linda and Ray Hoetger, an inspiring husband and wife team who tirelessly dedicate themselves to raising awareness about prostate cancer.

Linda and Ray are members of the national organization ZERO, the End of Prostate Cancer, and are spearheading a campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer throughout Ohio.

I stand here today to commend their work. As Ray and Linda remind us, many of us have either been personally affected by this disease or have lost a loved one.

So during this Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to increase the quality of care in order to eliminate the pain and suffering once and for all.

HONORING SPEAKER BOEHNER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise out of respect and admiration for our tremendous Speaker, the incredible leader of our Republican Conference and my friend, JOHN BOEHNER.

He has stayed true to his home State of Ohio for well over 20 years, serving his constituents with pride and integrity. His distinguished career was marked by an honest pursuit of what is best for the American people as well as the inclusion of more folks under the big tent of our GOP.

He has worked in a bipartisan manner to help create jobs and restore America's leadership, all the while maintaining a hard line on the Castros' despotic rule in Cuba, being supportive of our strong relations with Israel, as well as remaining a tough opponent of the weak and dangerous Iran nuclear deal.

JOHN's decorum, grace, and patience are his hallmarks, and they will be greatly missed in our Nation's Capitol. Only in America can the son of a barkeep rise to make a lasting positive contribution to our history as Speaker of the people's House.

I wish JOHN, Debbie, the entire Boehner family, including his new granddaughter Alistair, all the best. Godspeed, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1915

PUGET SOS ACT

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, to explain the significance of the Puget Sound in 1 minute is impossible. But I will tell you this: With every 60 seconds that goes by, the Puget Sound is being damaged more than it is being fixed. With every minute that goes by that we fail to collectively do something, we are all losing money.

Puget Sound is a resource, but it is more than that. It is an American treasure. Puget Sound is a body of water that deserves national recognition.

Congressman KILMER and I have brought together numerous stakeholders that agree on very few things to agree on this: We need to do more. The Federal Government needs to step up to the plate to get recovery moving.

The Puget SOS Act is that plan. We do it for the Great Lakes. We do it for the Chesapeake Bay. Now is the time to bring forth this effort for our Puget Sound, the largest estuary in America. Let's clean the Puget Sound up.

Join us in cosponsoring this bill, along with Mr. REICHERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RICK LARSEN, Mr. ADAM SMITH, and Ms. DELBENE. Clean up the Puget Sound.

AMERICAN HERO DR. SIDNEY PHILLIPS, JR.

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember an American hero, Dr. Sidney Phillips, Jr., who passed away in Mobile over the weekend at the age of 91.

Dr. Phillips was a veteran of World War II, where he served in the Marine Corps. At the young age of 18, Sid Phillips took part in the famous battle of Guadalcanal in the Pacific.

Dr. Phillips was one of the most well-known and respected veterans in Alabama. His career was profiled in Ken Burns' PBS documentary "The War" and Steven Spielberg's HBO series "The Pacific."

To many of us from the Mobile area, we remember Sid Phillips as a local family doctor, a patriotic family man, and a strong advocate for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of my constituents in Southwest Alabama, I want to share my condolences with Sid

Phillips' family and friends. He embodied the American spirit, and he will be sorely missed.

PUGET SOS ACT

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and cofounder of the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus, Representative HECK, for his partnership on the Puget SOS Act.

As you heard from him, the Puget Sound is truly a gift that we need to restore and protect. Generations have enjoyed the ability to swim, fish, and dig for clams in this iconic body of water. They have built lives and made livelihoods on the Puget Sound.

But for the millions of residents that call Puget Sound home and for future generations, we absolutely have to take action to fight for the Sound.

That is why I invite my colleagues to sponsor the Puget SOS Act. This bill raises the profile of Puget Sound by naming it a nationally significant body of water. It enhances the Federal Government's coordination in addressing these issues. It respects tribal treaty rights. This bill is an important step.

I look forward to continued work for Puget Sound. Our kids, including my two little girls, are counting on us.

CONGRATULATING TROOPER J.D. BERRONG

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Trooper J.D. Berrong, who recently won the Jimmy K. Ammons North American Inspectors Grand Champion Award.

This is the first time a North Carolina trooper has ever won this competition, which recognizes the Nation's top roadside inspector. Berrong, who resides in the community of Mulberry, competed against 51 other roadside inspectors representing jurisdictions across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Trooper Berrong is stationed in Wilkes County and is a 14-year veteran of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. He is currently assigned to the motor carrier enforcement section, troop F, district 9.

Troopers who perform motor carrier enforcement duties ensure that all modes of travel, including commercial motor vehicles, are consistently monitored in order to improve highway safety.

Congratulations, Trooper Berrong, and thank you for serving the public good and helping maintain the safety of the highways of North Carolina.

A TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON, CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES, AND JULIAN BOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I am very privileged tonight to lead the Special Order of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Let me thank our chairman, Chairman G. K. BUTTERFIELD, for continuing this tradition and for his continued leadership, encouragement, and avocation for Members and for the stories of those who have been such leaders in our Nation and such major issues that we have been able to contribute to for the understanding of our colleagues.

Let me also make mention of my colleagues, Congresswoman KELLY and Congressman PAYNE, who have led us on this Special Order for the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank them for their leadership and service.

A very special thanks to those of you who are watching at home and have often watched at home and have followed the Congressional Black Caucus through social media, social network, and also know that our major issues of criminal justice reform, civil rights, the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and many others have been to speak to the vulnerable. Tonight we again speak to you, but we speak of those heroes that we have lost over the last couple of months.

Tonight we pay tribute to Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and, of course, Julian Bond. Our Nation was built on the values of dealing with the issues of freedom, justice and equality, values and principles that were perfectly embodied by the service and sacrifices of these three leaders.

Mr. Speaker, over the last week we have watched the Pope make his way through a number of American cities and use words that are music to the ears of Members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me take just one of many citations that I will utilize to characterize these three individuals:

"The complexities of history," said Pope Francis, "and the reality of human weakness notwithstanding, these men and women, for all their many differences and limitations, were able, by hard work and self-sacrifice, some at the cost of their lives, to build a better future."

I would offer to say that Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and Julian Bond, through the sacrifice of their individual families and their lives, were able to make a better future for us.

We know the civil rights activist Amelia Boynton Robinson, 1965, was a

leader of the Bloody Sunday march and personified the optimism, determination, and courage that are at the heart of the American spirit. She truly made our lives better.

Known as the matriarch of our Nation's civil rights movement, Ms. Boynton Robinson fought courageously to ensure that every American citizen had the right to vote. Her drive to secure universal voting rights was amazing, and certainly she risked her life when she crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In her words, her son said civil rights was her entire life.

We now understand that Congressman Lou Stokes made an amazing and impactful statement legislatively and throughout his life. He was a consummate public servant, a trailblazer who broke down barriers for generations of African Americans.

He was the first African American Congressman from Ohio who served 30 years. Representing a portion of Cleveland, he prioritized the advancement of our Nation's most vulnerable populations.

He advocated for more funding of education, housing, development projects, access to health care. He was one of the fiercest advocates for public housing.

Mr. Stokes was a major proponent and leader that asked the Housing and Urban Development to assess the poor, deleterious, horrible conditions that children were living in as housing impacted their health.

In fact, just recently I presented my housing authority a lead poisoning grant which was instigated, was encouraged, was advocated for by Congressman Lou Stokes. He has saved thousands upon thousands of lives.

I thank him for organizing the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, and I want to thank him personally for allowing me work for him as a staff member of the Select Committee on Assassinations, which he ultimately chaired. We thank him for his amazing service.

He once said, "I am going to keep on denouncing the inequities of this system, but I am going to work within it. To go outside the system would be to deny myself, to deny my own existence. I have beaten the system. I have proved it can be done. So have a lot of others." This is, of course, the kind of leader that Lou Stokes was.

Our friend, Julian Bond, was a civil rights icon. He was a leader in the fight for equality, freedom, and equal justice and opportunity. He inspired generations of Americans to build a better future for all people.

Julian Bond was considered the young one in the movement with Dr. Martin Luther King. He stood as not only an original, but a fierce advocate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the founding president of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Elected to office, of course, he himself fought against discrimination. He was discriminated himself. When he was refused a seat in the Georgia State Legislature, it did not in any way demean or undermine his courage or inspiration. He went on to be seated and to do great things.

Tonight we are privileged to be able to honor and pay tribute to these three heroes. We are called to follow the example they set, to fight to ensure that all Americans have access to equal opportunity so they will have a fair shot at economic prosperity, have the right to vote, be free from mass incarceration, and do the things that America bestows upon them.

Again, these individuals, at the cost of their lives or their own futures, built a better future for us.

With that, I am delighted to yield to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. G. K. BUTTERFIELD, a former high superior court judge—I am calling him all kinds of names—but, in any event, a dynamic leader of the Congressional Black Caucus. Again, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her friendship, for her leadership, and I certainly thank her for yielding time tonight.

Let me also thank the other Members who are on the floor this evening to help in honoring the lives of Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond.

These three are icons, absolute icons, of the civil rights movement, who in their own way paved the way for so many. I had the high honor of calling Lou Stokes and Julian Bond personal friends.

As the first African American to represent Ohio in Congress, Representative Lou Stokes was a pioneer in public service. He broke down numerous barriers for African Americans during his extraordinary career as an elected official on the local, State, and Federal levels.

First elected to Congress in 1969 and serving for 30 long years in the U.S. House, he was a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African American to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. He was the founder of the CBC Health Braintrust, which remains active today in protecting health, equity, and reducing health disparities.

Congressman Stokes was the embodiment of a public servant. He selflessly used his elected positions to increase opportunities for millions of African Americans.

We will miss our dear friend Lou Stokes. But the impact of his legacy of service and commitment to his constituents and to the African American community will be remembered for generations.

Often referred to as the matriarch of the movement, Amelia Boynton Robinson's role in Bloody Sunday, as you have already heard, and the march from Selma to Montgomery is immortalized in the Oscar-nominated film "Selma."

She also made history in 1964 by becoming the first African American woman from Alabama to run for Congress. In her congressional election that year, Mrs. Boynton Robinson garnered 10 percent of the vote despite the fact that African Americans only made up 1 percent of the voting population in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District.

Forty-six years later the CBC's very own representative, TERRI SEWELL, whom we will hear from in just a few moments, now holds that seat here in Congress.

This year, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we remember the selfless actions of individuals like Amelia Boynton Robinson who fought against systems of injustice so that future generations would have opportunities that were not possible to generations past. Tonight we honor Mrs. Boynton Robinson for her legacy which continues in each of us.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, tonight we honor Julian Bond, a forefather of America's civil rights movement and one of our country's greatest advocates for freedom and equality and equitable treatment for all people.

From his work as a student leader during the 1960s to his service in the Georgia House of Representatives and the State Senate, Julian Bond was a leader in the fight against racism and segregation.

□ 1930

I first met Julian Bond at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. As the founding president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and chairman of the board of the NAACP, Julian Bond continued his work educating citizens around the world of the struggles of African Americans and the history of civil rights here in America.

Julian Bond spent his lifetime in public service, calling for equal civil and human rights not only for African Americans, but for every American. Until his untimely death, he was an advocate, activist, and dedicated champion who fought for the most vulnerable individuals and communities among us. We celebrate his life and his lasting legacy.

I want to thank Ms. JACKSON LEE for her leadership and thank her for yielding. I thank the Members for coming to the floor this evening.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his very thoughtful statement and for leading us off today and setting the tone for the Congressional Black Caucus that

we will never forget our icons, but we also know that to pay tribute is the highest honor for all of us because we are here because of all of them. I thank Mr. BUTTERFIELD for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege now to yield to Representative CHARLES RANGEL, who does not need a long introduction. It is important to note that he has led on so many issues. He was not only the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, but also a dear friend of Congressman Lou Stokes and one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. If Congressman RANGEL had not done what he did, we would not be here today. I am delighted to yield to him at this time.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for pulling together this tribute. It is moving and emotional that we do this after the visit to these Chambers by the Pope, who made it abundantly clear how all of us, no matter how ordinary we are, can do extraordinary things when we make a commitment to do the right thing.

As some of the older Members know, it is almost unbelievable how people that you know on an everyday basis that go through life with their own problems still can find the time to try to improve the quality of life for so many people.

I feel almost awkward looking at the Representative from Selma, Alabama, this evening because, after Bloody Sunday, there was a call all over the world for people to come to Selma. I was one of those called, and I was one of those that did not think that me going to Selma with my bad feet could make a contribution to anything, and this is especially so after seeing what happened on Bloody Sunday.

But I did go down because of JOHN LEWIS and Andrew Young and Martin Luther King and Ralph Bunche, because they said that if I could just come down for the press conference, it would be appreciated. So I dressed up and I went down for the press conference. I had a round trip ticket back to New York. I was dressed pretty well, not ever thinking that I would be going any further than Selma.

It started to rain, and I felt that this would be the appropriate time for me to get a cab and to go to the airport. When I saw these older people like Amelia Robinson putting plastic on their shoes and starting to sing and starting to march, I said, well, maybe I could go a couple of blocks. I did that, except I found out in Selma there weren't any couple of blocks.

There were no television cameras. There was no one that recognized me down there. I marched 54 miles, cussing every step of the way, trying to figure out what the devil I was doing in Selma.

Congresswoman SEWELL, it just proves that if you attempt just to do

the right thing, God can push you to do the rest.

I never did believe, like JOHN LEWIS, that that Supreme Court would give us the voting rights and the civil rights. I never thought that President Johnson would ever support these things. Today I tell this very embarrassing story because you don't have to be a hero to be counted on if you just try to start to do the right thing, and just maybe God will push you to go further.

Certainly when a woman like Amelia Boynton Robinson is beaten unconscious and someone like JOHN LEWIS, who constantly put his life on the line, and of course the late Dr. Martin Luther King, who gave up his life, and God doesn't ask us to do these extraordinary things, but I do believe that the courage that these people have, that each of us have just a grain of it that would allow us to contribute, as the Pope said, to show our respect for God, allowing us to inherit this great Earth to try to make the quality of life better.

Of course, when it comes to a young guy going to Morehouse, as Julian Bond did, dropping out of school, coming from a professional family where education had a higher standard than some of us from the inner cities, it must have broken their heart to know that he was joining a group that would then provide the leadership for our country for people Black and White.

There is nothing that my heart would allow me to say about Lou Stokes. I came to Congress not knowing that in the Congress was a giant of a man from Cleveland, Lou Stokes, who motivated the 13 of us, who led us to form the Congressional Black Caucus. I have walked in the shadows of his giant footsteps since I have been privileged to serve in this House.

Ms. JACKSON LEE and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is really extraordinary how God has given us the opportunity to say thank you for the blessings that we have, and I do hope that maybe on both sides of the aisle people can talk about those who allowed this country to be so great, the sacrifices that so many people have made, and you just don't have to be a giant to appreciate the fact that God has blessed us all.

I thank her for her effort at bringing us together, not just tonight, but on every committee, on every bill, and this floor. SHEILA JACKSON LEE is here to continue to inspire all of us. I thank her for that.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we are so grateful for the special wisdom and insight that Mr. RANGEL brings to all of what we do. I know that the late Lou Stokes, the late Amelia Boynton Robinson, and the late Julian Bond are grateful that they knew him and that he is here to tell his story. Even if he considers it embarrassing, I think it is a wonderful testimony for anybody

who has said, "I can't do it." We want him to keep telling us that wonderful statement over and over again. I thank him so very much for what he provides to the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank him for the kind words he mentioned of Representative TERRI SEWELL.

I just say to Ms. SEWELL, I don't know what kind of phone message that she had to the Vatican, but I repeat now the words of Pope Francis, as I yield to her. This is Pope Francis, as he spoke just a few days ago at that very podium:

Here, too, I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery 50 years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his dream of full civil rights and political rights for African Americans.

Representative SEWELL, let me thank you for bringing and infusing life into the wonderful city of Selma, all the wonderful people there, including your dearly beloved mother and father, and having us walk with you every step of the way.

As I yield to her, let me say that we should make a commitment right here today, as we make changes in leadership, that we commit ourselves to the restoration of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which she is leading on. It is my delight to yield to her at this time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank our leader of the CBC, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, so much for his exemplary leadership and the courage that he exemplifies every day in fighting for the causes that we all hold so dear.

I want to thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for those wonderful words. SHEILA JACKSON LEE has not only been an amazing Member of Congress, but she has been a great mentor to me. I want to thank her for all she does for so many of us and the mentoring she continues to provide the younger generation.

What can I say to CHARLIE RANGEL? To even have him know my name is an honor. I know that, but for the remarkable lives of the three people that we celebrate their lives and their legacies today, I would not be in this auspicious Chamber, and but for his leadership and his courage, I would not know how to behave in this Chamber. I thank him for doing such a great job and continuing to serve the great people of Harlem and New York, but also the great people of America—black, white, green, yellow, all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my CBC colleagues in paying tribute to the life and legacy of three great giants in American history: Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond. Our Nation collectively mourns the loss of each of these trailblazing figures who departed from us way too soon this summer. Their journeys paved the way for myself and so many others serving in this

august body. While our hearts are heavy today, we honor them for their historic and notable contributions to this Nation.

Congressman Louis Stokes was the first African American to represent the State of Ohio in Congress, where he served for more than 30 years. He rose to prominence by breaking numerous barriers as the first in so many areas. This included being named the first African American to serve as chairman of the prestigious House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. As an African American who now sits on that committee, I am deeply honored to follow in Louis Stokes' footsteps.

During his tenure on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, he stepped into the national spotlight as a vocal critic of the Reagan administration's foreign policy. He spoke boldly on issues of national security and created a legacy of being a fierce advocate for the homeland. In honoring his memory, we must also commit ourselves collectively to continue the fight to promote diversity within the intelligence community. We must also be committed to supporting policies that promote our national security in the face of growing threats. It was Congressman Lou Stokes who taught us that our Nation deserves nothing less.

Today we also honor an American treasure and one of my personal heroes, the courageous Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson. Mrs. Robinson passed away on August 26, 2015, at the age of 110—yes, 110, Mr. Speaker. Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson was a key figure in the voting rights movement in Selma, Alabama. She is often remembered for her critical role in Bloody Sunday.

On that solemn day on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Robinson was savagely beaten. A photo taken of her shortly after she was attacked and posted in *The New York Times* became a powerful symbol of the injustices suffered by those who were attempting simply to vote. Yet this tireless, fearless foot soldier continued her work as a leader on the front lines of securing the right to vote for all Americans.

Amelia is best known as the matriarch of the voting rights movement, and it was her courage, along with JOHN LEWIS and so many other known and unknown foot soldiers which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Amelia was such an integral part of the process that the contents of the bill, the voting rights bill, were drafted on her kitchen table in Selma, Alabama, in 1965.

Ms. Boynton not only trailblazed as a voting rights advocate, she put her money where her mouth was and she, herself, ran for Congress. On May 5, 1964, Amelia Boynton broke yet another barrier, when she became the first woman in the State of Alabama and the first African American woman

in the State of Alabama to run for Congress. In 1964, she garnered 10.7 percent of the vote during a time when very few Blacks were registered to vote. Actually, only 1 percent of the registered voters were African Americans at that time.

Her historic run further solidified her impact on the movement for human rights and voting rights in Alabama and in this Nation. Without her courageous campaign for the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama in 1964, I know that my election to this seat in 2010, some 50 years later, would not have been possible.

□ 1945

Her sacrifices paved the way for me to walk the Halls of Congress, and I will carry my love and admiration for her in my heart each and every day, for I get to do what she could not, and that is vote on behalf of the members of the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama. For that, I am eternally grateful.

In fact, one of my most memorable moments in this Chamber is the night that she served as my special guest at the State of the Union on January 20, 2015, this past year. I am grateful for the memories of her greeting President Obama that night. I am so blessed to not only have called her my constituent, but a beloved mentor and friend. As she is remembered, and she reminds us every day by her life, there is still much work to be done.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remember the shining legacy of yet another giant figure in the fight for civil and human rights: Mr. Julian Bond. This courageous voice held several titles over the course of his impactful life, but he is most remembered for his service as the NAACP chairman and the cofounder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He was also one of the original leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, SNCC, while he was a student at Morehouse College. He later served in the Georgia General Assembly for more than 20 years.

He was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965. However, because of his longstanding legacy of fighting White supremacy, White statehouse members tried unsuccessfully to block him from taking his seat. This brave spirit was undeterred. He spearheaded efforts to draft landmark legislation that spoke to the need of Blacks in the State of Georgia.

In addition to his time as an eloquent speaker, he was a celebrated writer, poet, television commentator, community advocate, as well as a communication specialist. He did so much for the Southern Poverty Law Center to set it on its course and so much for the lives of so many.

All three of these wonderful giants tell a story, a story of how ordinary

people can do extraordinary things. Working collectively, we as a nation can achieve amazing heights, even if we don't think so. As Congressman RANGEL's story best exemplified, if we just take one step, hopefully the Lord will give us the strength to take many, many more towards that fight for justice and equality.

In closing, I am reminded of what Amelia Boynton would often say when I and others would come up to her and say: "We stand on your shoulders. We stand on your shoulders." Well, Ms. Amelia Boynton was so infamously known for saying, after hearing it over and over again: "Get off my shoulders. There is plenty of work to be done." "Do your own work," is what she said.

And so I say to my colleagues gathered here tonight, my colleagues in this wonderful body called the House of Representatives: We have plenty of work to do. We have plenty of work to do. And while we walk in the footsteps of giants such as Amelia Boynton and Louis Stokes and Julian Bond, let us never forget that they, too, had to take a first step. And as we follow in their footsteps, let us all take many steps towards providing justice and liberty for all Americans, especially those that are most vulnerable.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I think we can leave this evening with the words that Congresswoman SEWELL has just said, and we thank her so very much, "do our own work." That message should carry for whether we are Republicans or Democrats or Independents.

Congresswoman SEWELL, we look forward to doing our own work on the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, section 5, which you are leading and all of us have signed onto. We thank you so much for that eloquent statement and that statement of passion.

Speaking of passion, it is my privilege to introduce a Member who has her own storied civil rights history, someone who has served as the Commissioner on the EEOC, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and someone who has been in the trenches in civil rights, dealing with voting rights cases, dealing with the right to vote in her own District of Columbia. I think she will be the Florence Nightingale, she will be the champion battler; because I believe that this Delegate, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, will be successful as we fight for the voting rights of the District through her leadership.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, first, for her kind and generous words, but especially today for her leadership of this Special Order, which is characteristic of her leadership in this Congress. I am so pleased that our chair Rep. G. K. BUTTERFIELD has been here and spoken and that we have heard from several other Members.

I just want to say a few words about this troika of African Americans who have written their signatures across our time. You have heard their biographies. I don't want to recount their extraordinary bios, because that is not the only reason we are honoring them with this Special Order. I just want to say something about what they meant to me.

Two of them I knew personally: Representative Louis Stokes, whose many years in the Congress happened to overlap with my first years here; and, of course, Julian Bond, whom I knew best.

I was not fortunate to know Amelia Boynton. She may have been the most courageous woman in the movement of the 1960s, who insisted upon facing death, if necessary, in that march from Selma to Montgomery, and nearly lost her life. I was privileged to be in her presence, as so many Members of Congress were, when we went to Selma this past summer. That was a privilege in and of itself.

I was fortunate to know Congressman Louis Stokes, who was a founder of the Congressional Black Caucus long before I served. This was a man of great accomplishment. Yes, he can speak about his firsts, and much more.

He is the first African American to serve in Congress from his hometown of Cleveland, as one of the two famous Stokes brothers—his brother, Carl, the first African American mayor. There is something about the way those men were raised and showed themselves in public life. But it is Rep. Stokes' career in Congress that stands out for me.

I am not certain there has ever been a more distinguished Member of this body. It looks as if when they were trying to ask somebody to do something hard, they looked to Louis Stokes.

He was the first African American to serve on the Appropriations Committee. My heavens. And then look at the committees he has chaired—hard ones—the Ethics Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Then they needed someone to do something else that was difficult, and that was to serve on the Iran Contra Committee, and House Select Committee on Assassinations, nothing was more difficult than that.

If you were looking for a Member whom the public would trust and who this body would trust, who do you go to? They went to Louis Stokes. So if you are trying to find out how to serve, recall the life of Representative Louis Stokes.

In the District, we recall his life and his work. Much of his work was done in the field of health. The Howard University Louis Stokes Health Science Library is named for him here in the District of Columbia at Howard University. So we will never forget him.

Of the three, the one I knew best, of course, was my colleague and friend in

the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, later a client of sorts, and then finally—for 25 years, a constituent.

I met Julian several years after he founded, along with a handful of other students, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. You have got to understand that that group was as different from any student group since. They were not an offshoot of the civil rights movement. They were a group that stood on its own.

I would go down in the summers. I was in law school. SNCC was the equivalent of major civil rights organizations, every single one, right alongside them. That is why JOHN LEWIS got to speak on the March on Washington.

The reason that SNCC stood out is the quality of its leadership in those early years. Julian became the spokesman. The reason he was the spokesman was his way with words. He was a poet and a writer, and he could explain what we were doing.

He served a most valuable role in these early years. So no one should be surprised that he went after the zenith of the civil rights movement to serve in the Georgia House of Representatives. What you may be surprised to learn is that when he moved on to the senate, the Georgia Senate, they refused to seat him because he had endorsed a SNCC statement opposing the Vietnam war. Imagine denying a seat to a member duly elected because of a statement he had made on an issue of great moment.

This case was taken all the way to the Supreme Court. At that point, I was a constitutional lawyer working for the American Civil Liberties Union in New York. I got to write the amicus brief. We took very few amicus briefs to the Supreme Court, but this one seemed to have the makings of a landmark case. Indeed, it did become a landmark case. You do not see anybody denying anyone else the right to sit in his seat—or her seat, today—because of that person's views. The Julian Bond case settled the matter.

What was Julian Bond to do with the rest of his life? First of all, SNCC broke a fair number of people. And though they gave much to the movement, you may not have heard about many of them since. What Julian did was to give the rest of his life to the movement. For every single day of his life as a man, after he left public service in the Georgia Legislature, he was devoted to the civil rights movement he had entered as a very young man.

He moved to the District of Columbia with his wife, taught at American University and the University of Virginia, and became—and this is a matter that makes me chuckle—became the chairman of the NAACP.

At SNCC we thought the NAACP was way too conservative for us, the young and foolish. It tells you how Julian

grew. He grew to be the long-time and devoted chairman of the NAACP.

He carried out his devotion to civil rights magnificently. Throughout his entire life, he remained a major spokesman for the civil rights movement and for progressive causes, his entire life speaking all around the country, carrying the message.

When he moved here, I had a Black Caucus event with Julian and with JOHN LEWIS simply discussing their lives as young men in the civil rights movement. That was to be one of the most memorable moments since I have been in Congress.

Just last February, during Black History Month, I asked Julian to come to Howard University, where he and I engaged in an intergenerational conversation with Howard students about the police shootings in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City and what they meant to this generation and how this generation had to have its own issues and move in its own direction.

One of the things we indicated was that for all of the work of the youth of the civil rights movement of our day, we never touched racial profiling. It remained alive and kicking for a new generation, which has taken it on.

I am, finally, particularly grateful that when Julian moved to the District of Columbia, he really became a part of this city, lending his civil rights celebrity to the great cause of this city for full citizenship, for D.C. voting rights, yes, and for statehood for the District of Columbia.

If you came into the District by taxis a few years ago, there was an advertisement. Julian was speaking in a cab, informing you that you were coming to the District of Columbia, where the residents were trying to get their full citizenship.

Wherever he was, he had a way of touching upon the issue of freedom of the day and of the people around him. I will always miss him. This country will always miss him. We are grateful for the life he led. We are grateful, especially, for this Congressional Black Caucus evening devoted to his life and to the lives of two others, very divergent lives but, in other ways, very similar.

I thank my good friend, Representative JACKSON LEE, again, for her leadership here.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank my good friend, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for giving these three legends the vitality and vibrance of a personal story.

And to just add to his coming to students at Howard University, I want you to know that, at the University of Virginia, where he was, he was the most popular professor with people standing in line because the students sensed his passion and commitment, but they sensed his realness.

Thank you so very much for that very vibrant and informative presentation.

Mr. Speaker, as I introduce this next gentleman, who has his own history, let me quote, again, as I indicated, Pope Francis from last week, which captures all of what we are saying tonight: to respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays to disregard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The gentleman that I am going to yield to, Mr. BOBBY SCOTT, is a former chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, now the ranking member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and has led his professional, at least his Congressional life, as I have known it, to be a champion for criminal justice reform, but, more importantly, has been one who has said to us over and over again that: We must do unto others as we would like them to do unto us. We must change this criminal justice system to have it be a fair monitoring of how we inspire and restore people's lives.

I yield now to the gentleman from Virginia, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of the lives of three civil rights luminaries. I thank the gentlewoman from Houston for giving us this opportunity to honor their lives: Congressman Louis Stokes, statesman and educator Julian Bond, both of whom I knew personally, and activist Amelia Robinson.

These champions of social and economic justice lived their lives just as Pope Francis challenged Members of Congress to do.

Specifically, the Pope reminded us of the Golden Rule—do unto others as you would have them do unto you—and that that rule points us in the right direction. He specifically reminded Congress that, if we want opportunities, then let us provide opportunities. The lives we honor today are the personification of the Pope's call.

Congressman Stokes, the beloved son of the State of Ohio, was affectionately called "Lou" when I served with him in the House. His motto was to aim high, which he did even before he was a Member of Congress when he argued the Supreme Court case challenging the abusive stop-and-frisk policies and practices in the *Terry v. Ohio* case.

Lou's integrity was why he was selected to serve on the House Select Committee on Assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the House investigation of the illegal arm sales during the Iran-contra affair and, of course, his service on the Ethics Committee.

His strive for social and economic justice was on full display when he be-

came the first African American to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. There he directed Federal dollars to eradicate injustice and inequities by funding programs such as healthcare facilities for veterans, supporting the National Science Foundation, and creating the first office of minority health at the National Institutes of Health.

Statesman and educator Julian Bond dedicated his entire life to this cause of social justice and equity. As a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, he led protests against segregation.

In 1965, Julian Bond was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, but was denied a seat at the State House because of his opposition to the Vietnam war. In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that the Georgia House's refusal to seat Julian Bond violated the United States Constitution.

He was subsequently elected for several terms, including service in the Georgia Senate, despite efforts to redraw his district.

He was also the first African American nominated at a major-party convention as a candidate for Vice President of the United States.

Beginning in the 1980s, Julian Bond taught at several universities, including Harvard, Drexel, University of Virginia, and American University.

For more than 20 years at UVA and American University, he taught thousands of students about the role of the civil rights movement as a seminal part of America's history.

He stated that the "humanity of all Americans is diminished when any group is denied rights granted to others."

He served as chairman of the NAACP from 1998 to 2009. At the 2009 commencement at Virginia State University, he told the graduates that, "We all hope that you do well, but I also hope that you do good."

Activist Amelia Robinson was among the many foot soldiers who fought for civil rights. As a girl, she championed the right to vote for women. As an adult, she opened her home to Martin Luther King and James Bevel and members of SNCC and others to help organize and strategize for civil rights and the right to vote.

Despite the brutal beating she endured during the march for voting rights in Selma, Alabama, 50 years ago, she was unwavering in her fight to end segregation and achieve full voting rights for all.

Reflecting on her life as an activist, she stated that, "I have been called rabble-rouser, agitator. But because of my fighting, I was able to hand to the entire country the right for people to vote."

These three American giants—the legislator, the educator, the activist—

were all driven to push towards a more just and equal society. I am honored to recognize their lives and the gifts they gave to our Nation.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Houston for organizing this Special Order so that we could pay appropriate tribute to these fine Americans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for citing, in particular, the case law that Julian Bond particularly generated from the horrific denial of his right to be seated.

Let me also indicate the importance of members of the Congressional Black Caucus sharing the history of these icons, which I hope my colleagues will appreciate these giants, for many times the history is not remembered or it is not understood.

Certainly, it is my privilege to now yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio, who has firsthand knowledge because she can say that she comes from the State of which Lou Stokes and Carl Stokes were native sons.

She is, of course, an inspirational leader for her district in Columbus, but, more importantly, someone who brings a wealth of experience from her previous service in the Ohio State Legislature and someone who has a passion for the improvement of lives of all people. I believe, as Lou Stokes has said, she understands the value and importance of improving the health of African Americans and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Columbus, Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Mr. Speaker, tonight the Congressional Black Caucus honors the life and legacy of three civil rights leaders, Congressman Lou Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond, who dedicated their lives to making our Nation a better place.

Countless more follow in their footsteps and continue to push for civil rights and voting rights today.

We have come to these chambers tonight, Mr. Speaker, to continue their work as members of the Congressional Black Caucus. We call on Congress to immediately pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. The American people deserve to have real voting rights.

Thank you, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, not only for your leadership tonight, but for being a leader, for walking in their shoes, and for hosting the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order honoring three giants.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Leaders espoused words in 1965 that still hold true today, words because of the work of these three giants, works like:

We have proved that great progress is possible. We know how much still remains to be done. And if our efforts continue, if our will

is strong, if our hearts are right, and if courage remains our constant companion, then my fellow Americans, I am confident we shall overcome. Our objective must be to assure that all Americans play by the same rules, and all Americans play against the same odds. Who amongst us would claim that that is true today?

Just last week His Holiness, Pope Francis, delivered a historic, profound, provocative address to the Joint Session of Congress. This address reminded us that the nation is "considered great" when "it fosters a culture which enables people to dream of full rights for all their brothers and sisters."

At the White House, he quoted from Martin Luther King, to use a telling phrase of the Reverend Martin Luther King: "We can say that we have defaulted on a promissory note, and now is the time to honor it."

These three individuals we honor tonight tirelessly contributed to this culture of full rights and equality we are committed to achieving.

Tonight's roll call: Congressman Lou Stokes.

I am honored to be the third African American from Ohio to follow in his footsteps, following my mentor and dear friend, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, my colleague, mentor and friend, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, who said at his footsteps: I don't salute or get excited about a one hit wonder because Lou Stokes was far from that.

Lou Stokes loved people. He loved the law. He loved the legislative process. He loved his family. And he loved Cleveland, Ohio.

You have heard so much about him, I won't repeat it. I will submit it for the RECORD, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, if that is okay.

But I will forever be grateful for his encouragement, his friendship, his wisdom, and his leadership. I can't think of a time or a decision in my life that I didn't pick up the phone and call Lou Stokes.

Love you, Lou Stokes.

Let me just briefly say we also salute Amelia Boynton Robinson, and much has been said about her. I stand on her shoulders.

And then Julian Bond, another great civil rights icon, whose passion and dedication to equality and justice propelled him to the Georgia Legislature, the NAACP, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, which he co-founded.

His commitment to ending discrimination and injustice continues to inspire us, and his legacy will guide us and the next generation of civil rights leaders and activists to greatness.

He, like the other individuals we pay tribute to tonight, helped change this country for the better.

Thank you, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Thank you to all my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus for capturing and reflecting on the lives of three great civil warriors

as we took a walk in their footsteps of greatness.

Tonight the Congressional Black Caucus honors the life and legacy of three Civil Rights leaders—Congressman Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson and Julian Bond who dedicated their lives to making our nation a better place.

Countless more follow in their footsteps and continue to push for civil rights and voting rights today.

We have come to these chambers to continue their work as Members of the Congressional Black Caucus; we call on Congress to immediately pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015.

The American people deserve to have real voting rights now.

Thank you Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for hosting the CBC's Special Order Hour paying tribute to Congressman Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act. Leaders . . . espoused words in 1965 that still hold true today. Words like:

We have proved that great progress is possible. We know how much still remains to be done. And if our efforts continue, and if our will is strong, and if our hearts are right, and if courage remains our constant companion, then my fellow Americans, I am confident, we shall overcome. Our objective must be to assure that all Americans play by the same rules, and all Americans play against the same odds. Who among us would claim that that is true today?

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At the White House, he quoted words from MLK . . . to use a telling phrase of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. . . . we can say that we have defaulted on a promissory note and now is the time to honor it.

The three individuals we honor tonight tirelessly contributed to this culture of full rights and equality we are committed to achieving.

CONGRESSMAN STOKES

I am honored to be the third African American from Ohio to follow Congressman Louis Stokes who served for 30 years in Congress. I am forever grateful for his encouragement, friendship, wisdom, and leadership.

He earned a seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, the first person of color to ever do so, and focused on improving housing and urban development for veterans, seniors, and the poor.

In 1971, along with our esteemed Dean of the House, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Congressman Stokes helped found the Congressional Black Caucus to promote economic, educational, and social issues important to African Americans: this is a purpose the CBC continues to fulfill to this day, and a purpose I am honored to advance.

His indelible mark in history will continue to live on.

AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON

It is also an honor to pay tribute to Amelia Boynton Robinson—the matriarch of the voting rights movement.

As an African-American female serving in the U.S. Congress, I stand on the shoulders of Mrs. Boynton Robinson.

Mrs. Boynton Robinson helped organize the Selma-to-Montgomery marches, and walked at the front of the line that fateful day on March 7, 1965, which we now know as "Bloody Sunday".

On August 6, 1965, she was the guest of honor at the White House when President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law.

I had the privilege to join Mrs. Boynton Robinson this past March, as thousands of Americans marched once again over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, remembering the struggles and recommitting ourselves to restoring voting rights protections, equality, and justice.

JULIAN BOND

Julian Bond was a civil rights icon whose passion and dedication to equality and justice propelled him to the Georgia legislature, the NAACP, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, which he co-founded.

His commitment to ending discrimination and injustice continues to inspire us and his legacy will guide the next generation of civil rights leaders and activists to greatness.

He, like the other individuals we pay tribute to tonight, helped changed this country for the better.

Thank you CBC for capturing and reflecting on the lives of three great civil rights warriors as we took a walk in their footsteps of greatness.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Congresswoman BEATTY, thank you for letting us know whose footsteps we walk in and for that celebratory statement.

Mr. Speaker, it is certainly my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), who has come with the expertise of a renowned and trained lawyer, one who is a collaborator.

Ms. PLASKETT. Thank you so much to my colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE. I want to thank you and the Congressional Black Caucus for this Special Order Hour, a special tribute to the lives and legacy of Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond.

Thank you, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for your work here in Congress, your tireless efforts to raise awareness to issues which many Americans may have forgotten or not given thought to.

Thank you for your mentorship to us younger members here and your tireless efforts to support not only the people of Houston, but the people of America.

Thank you for allowing us this most important opportunity to pay tribute to these remarkable individuals.

Mr. Speaker, today we gather in reverence and in solemn reflection to honor the lives and legacies of some exceptional people, some exceptional Americans, who we have lost in these recent months.

These were civil rights activists, statesmen and women, trailblazers, members of a great generation of individuals who gave so much of themselves to the Civil Rights Movement

and to the advancement of minorities in our country.

They are former Congressman Louis Stokes, former chairman of the NAACP and Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, and civil rights icon Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson.

A centenarian—Mrs. Robinson's 110 years of life, that in itself is a great honor—she was dedicated to education, fighting state-sanctioned discriminatory practices against African Americans, and voter disenfranchisement.

□ 2015

One can make the argument that her role in Selma's civil rights demonstrations, including the infamous march on Bloody Sunday where she was beaten unconscious by State police, paved the way, through the subsequent passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, for both Congressman Stokes and State Representative Bond to serve in elected office.

As the first African American elected to Congress from the State of Ohio, Congressman Stokes was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and spent his 30-year career in Congress advocating issues of importance to Ohioans and to African Americans across the country.

Julian Bond, that great statesman from Georgia, was one of 11 African Americans elected to the Georgia House of Representatives after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Bond served 20 years in both legislative chambers in the State of Georgia and served as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He also served as chairman of the NAACP.

These individuals have impacted the lives of so many African Americans and have undoubtedly advanced the rights and interests of minorities in both our States' and our Nation's governments.

Similarly, I would like to just take a moment to recognize two individuals from my own home district of the Virgin Islands who, like Congressman Stokes, Julian Bond, and Amelia Robinson, have changed the landscape of the Virgin Islands through their advocacy and education.

I would like to recognize a former judge and Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, the late Julio A. Brady, who, like Julian Bond and Congressman Stokes, used his training as an attorney to contribute to his community outside of the courtroom. As a U.S. attorney, judge, and attorney general, Judge Brady fought to remove barriers of injustice. He was laid to rest this week. Like Congressman Stokes and Amelia Robinson, Judge Brady's legacy of service will carry on.

Ursula Krigger was also a centenarian, like Amelia Robinson, and, at age 113 was the oldest living Virgin Islander until her passing this month.

She was a griot, an educator whose longevity afforded a unique perspective of witnessing the modern advancement of our territory.

The lives and legacies of these individuals are etched in the annals of our history and their impact forever ingrained in the minds and hearts of the many lives they touched. I am a better person; and, indeed, we are a better nation through the work of these individuals.

I have listened to my colleagues tonight speak about Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond and the personal impact these individuals had on the work of my colleagues with whom they served and have known personally.

Understand, that while many like myself may not have had the great honor and pleasure of toiling and working with them shoulder to shoulder in the struggle for civil rights and the advancement of minorities in our country, Americans like myself understand and appreciate their sacrifice, and we understand the work that must still be done. We will continue their legacy here today and in Congress in the future.

Thank you so much, Congressional Black Caucus, for this time. And thank you again to my colleague from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for the time that I have been afforded to speak on behalf of these great Americans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Congresswoman PLASKETT, thank you so very much for laying the groundwork for those who now step into those footsteps, and you have done so with such leadership and certainly such passion. Thank you so very much.

Mr. Speaker, what is my time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUSSELL). The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me conclude by thanking the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and my colleagues. It is so important for the Congressional Black Caucus to be able to talk to America—Representative BUTTERFIELD, Representative RANGEL, Representative SEWELL, Delegate HOLMES NORTON, Representative BOBBY SCOTT, Representative JOYCE BEATTY, and, of course, Congresswoman PLASKETT—to be able to give life to why we are here representing all of America. We have those special people that, without our voices, would not be able to be heard.

I simply want to add these words of the Pope, again, to be able to remind everyone why these icons that we are speaking of tonight in the Congressional Black Caucus—46 of us, along with Senator BOOKER—have a vital role in this place. As the Pope indicated, I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in the cycle of poverty. They,

too, need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly on many fronts, especially in its causes.

I know that Americans today, as in the past, are working to deal with this problem. That is the essence of Julian Bond, who never stopped giving; that is the essence of Amelia Boynton Robinson, who continued to fight for civil rights up until her death at the age of 104 on August 6, 2015; that is the essence of Congressman Lou Stokes, a legislative giant, the chairman of an appropriations subcommittee, a person who went to public housing and places where children were and told America that your children are dying because they are living in substandard housing, lead poisoning was killing them, which gave me the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, to give a grant to my public housing just this past week on helping with lead poisoning.

I worked for Lou Stokes, and I am very glad to note that, working for him, I can say, truly a gentleman, truly a leader.

To this Congress, I beg of you, let us look at these icons and celebrate not only their lives, but commit to the passion and justice of their lives, and, as well, the words of Pope Francis that tell us to do unto others as we would like them to do unto us.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to again thank the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak in praise of Louis Stokes, one of the greatest and most respected Members ever to serve in this body, who died on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at his home near Cleveland, Ohio at the age of 90.

It is not unusual in these days for commentators and politicians to talk of something called "American Exceptionalism."

But what is meant by the term?

Mr. Speaker, one way to understand the term: America is exceptional because it produces and finds persons like Louis Stokes and affords them the opportunity to utilize their talents to the fullest in the service of their community and their country.

Think about it: in what other nation does a little African American boy born in 1925 on the east side of Cleveland and raised in the Outhwaite Homes housing project by a mother who worked as a domestic go on to become a lawyer who argues and wins a landmark criminal justice reform case (Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968)) in the United States Supreme Court; become the first African American elected to Congress; is selected to chair the powerful Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Select Committee on Assassinations, and an Appropriations Subcommittee responsible for more than \$90 billion annually in federal outlays?

Yes, America is an exceptional nation and Louis Stokes was an exceptional human being.

Mr. Speaker, Louis Stokes was born on February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, to

Charles and Louise Cinthy (nee Stone) Stokes.

When he was three years old, his father, who worked in a laundromat, died leaving young Louis and his younger brother, Carl, to be raised by their mother, who worked as a domestic for affluent families in the wealthy Cleveland suburbs.

Louis Stokes' maternal grandmother played a critical role in his life because she took care of the Stokes boys while their mother was at work and instilled in them "the idea that work with your hands is the hard way of doing things" and encouraged them over and over "to learn to use their heads."

Louis Stokes took the advice to heart so after attending Cleveland's Central High School and serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he returned home to attend what is now Case Western Reserve University on the G.I. Bill at night while working during the day for the Veterans Administration and the Department of the Treasury.

After graduating from college in two years where he excelled as a student, Louis Stokes was accepted for admission to Cleveland Marshall School of Law, from which he graduated in 1953; three years later, his brother Carl would also graduate from Cleveland Marshall School of Law and the two of them would go on to form the law firm of Stokes & Stokes specializing in the areas of civil rights and criminal law.

In 1964, the Supreme Court decided the landmark case of *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964), which established the principle of "one person, one vote" governing the reapportionment of legislative boundaries.

The following year, working on behalf of the local branch of the NAACP, Louis Stokes led the legal challenge to the Ohio legislature's congressional redistricting, which had the effect of diluting African American voting strength in Cleveland.

The challenge was unsuccessful in the federal district court but undeterred, Louis Stokes, joined by Charles Lucas, an African American Republican, successfully appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in an order handed down in 1967 ruled the redistricting plan unconstitutional and ordered it redrawn, resulting in the creation of Ohio's first majority-black district, the 21st Congressional District of Ohio.

Ironically, Louis Stokes would defeat his one-time ally Charles Lucas to win that seat in November 1968, capturing 75% of the vote, the closest of his 15 successful elections to the U.S. House of Representatives.

For the next 30 years, from 1969 to 1999, Congressman Stokes tirelessly fought for his constituents in Cleveland and for the best interests of the people of Ohio and the United States.

Louis Stokes, a founding member and Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus from 1972–74, was the epitome of a public servant.

In his second term in Congress, he won appointment to the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he served for 28 years, later becoming the second African American "Cardinal" in history when he was selected to chair the VA, HUD, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Because of the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues and the leadership,

Louis Stokes would also later be selected to Chair the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Select Committee charged with investigating the assassinations of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As Chairman of the House Ethics Committee and a person of unquestioned integrity, Louis Stokes oversaw the committee's investigation of the corruption scandal known as ABSCAM in 1979–80, which eventually led to convictions of a senator and six House members.

Mr. Speaker, Louis Stokes perhaps is best known for the national attention he attracted in 1987 as a member of the House Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran/("Iran-Contra"), the scandal involving the illegal sale of military weapons to the Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran to generate money to fund the illegal contra war in Nicaragua.

In response to the claim by Colonel Oliver North that he acted out of patriotism in engineering the illegal weapons sales and diverting the proceeds to fund the contras, a stern Louis Stokes lectured the misguided Colonel North on the rule of law, the true meaning of patriotism, and, in the process American exceptionalism:

"I suppose that what has been most disturbing to me about your testimony is the ugly part. In fact, it has been more than ugly. It has been chilling, and, in fact, frightening. I'm not just talking about your part in this, but the entire scenario, about government officials who plotted and conspired, who set up a straw man, a fall guy. Officials who lied, misrepresented and deceived. Officials who planned to superimpose upon our government a layer outside of our government, shrouded in secrecy and only accountable to the conspirators.

"Colonel, as I sit here this morning looking at you in your uniform, I cannot help but remember that I wore the uniform of this country in World War II in a segregated Army. I wore it as proudly as you do, even though our government required black and white soldiers in the same Army to live, sleep, eat and travel separate and apart, while fighting and dying for our country. But because of the rule of law, today's servicemen in America suffer no such indignity.

"My mother, a widow, raised two boys. She had an eighth-grade education. She was a domestic worker who scrubbed floors. One son became the first black mayor of a major American city. The other sits today as chairman of a House intelligence committee. Only in America, Col. North. Only in America. And while I admire your love for America, I hope that you will never forget that others too love America just as much as you do and that others will die for America, just as quick as you will."

Louis Stokes never wavered in his belief that America could fulfill the promise of its Founders or his dedication to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, stating:

"I'm going to keep on denouncing the inequities of this system, but I'm going to work within it. To go outside the system would be to deny myself—to deny my own existence. I've beaten the system. I've proved it can be done—so have a lot of others.

"But the problem is that a black man has to be extra special to win in this system. Why should you have to be a super black to get someplace? That's what's wrong in the society. The ordinary black man doesn't have the same chance as the ordinary white man does."

Mr. Speaker, Louis Stokes' commitment to fairness and equal treatment started long before he was elected to Congress.

As a lawyer for the NAACP, he brought anti-discrimination lawsuits, represented demonstrators arrested in antidiscrimination marches and sit-ins, and took the cases of poor persons charged with crimes.

One of those criminal cases he took is known to every lawyer in America and appreciated by every person who cherishes the protections guaranteed by the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

I am speaking of the famous case of *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1 (1968) won by Louis Stokes in which the Supreme Court held that a police officer could "stop and frisk" an individual only where he could articulate a reasonable basis that the person was, or was about to be, engaged in criminal activity.

As a result of *Terry v. Ohio*, a police officer has the right to stop, frisk, and question an individual he reasonably suspects to be engaged in criminal activity, but cannot seize items from that person if the pat down of the suspect's outer clothing does not reveal any weapons posing a threat to the officer's safety.

Because of Louis Stokes' exceptional advocacy in *Terry v. Ohio*, the right of every individual to secure from unreasonable searches and seizures was preserved while at the same not impeding the ability of law enforcement officers to perform their duties safely.

Mr. Speaker, every citizen benefits from this ruling and communities that have a history of being harassed by law enforcement protected by the Constitution from arbitrary and abusive treatment by law enforcement.

But the fight for a criminal justice system that respects the rights of all persons is not over.

That is why I am proud to be the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations and a leader in the effort to reform the criminal justice system so that all persons receive fair and equal treatment regardless of their race, gender, religion, or national origin.

Louis Stokes fought tirelessly to fulfill the promise of the 14th Amendment that "no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

It is a fight I am proud to continue today.

Mr. Speaker, Louis Stokes will be mourned by friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle who had the privilege to serve alongside him.

He was a mentor to me and I will always remember his commanding presence and cherish the assistance he provided me and the example he set for new Members to follow.

My thoughts and prayers are with his Jay, Louis' beloved wife of 55 years; to his children, Shelly, Louis, Angela, and Lorene; his

grandchildren; and the untold thousands of persons who touched and whose lives were touched by one of Cleveland's greatest sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Louis Stokes, an exceptional American, and the gentleman from Ohio who served in this chamber for three decades with honor, integrity, and distinction.

[From cleveland.com]

LOU STOKES PUT HEALTH IMPACTS OF SUBSTANDARD HOUSING ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA, AND IN CLEVELAND: TERRY ALLAN, DORR DEARBORN AND DAVE JACOBS (OPINION)

In this file photo from 2012, Timothy Benner, then 8, looks outside from his Maurice Avenue home in Cleveland. After Timothy and some of his siblings tested positive for lead poisoning, traced to the soil around their home, their mother restricted their outdoor play time. U.S. Rep. Lou Stokes, who died earlier this month, championed national attention and funding to address the problem of lead poisoning in inner-city children.

Recent stories and opinion pieces have eulogized the many accomplishments of the late U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes, from civil-rights champion to accomplished litigator, statesman and lawmaker. We believe that Louis Stokes should also be recognized as a national leader who clearly understood the connection between substandard housing and health, and acted to address the problem, at a time when very few did.

Back in the 1980s, the scope and magnitude of the childhood lead-poisoning problem and its impact on our nation's children was not fully recognized or well understood.

Subsequent efforts to increase blood screening in early childhood revealed that Greater Cleveland had among the highest rates of lead poisoning in the country, adding to the compounding disadvantages of children living in poverty in our community and across the United States.

Some of us have vivid memories from 1991, when Congressman Stokes held up a Newsweek magazine cover story on threats posed to children by lead paint, passionately advocating for the voiceless in our society while educating the community about this silent epidemic. He wanted all of us to understand the debilitating consequences of childhood lead exposure in the home environment and its impact on the life trajectory of these vulnerable kids.

Congressman Stokes turned that message into action, by using his formidable legislative acumen to establish the first Healthy Homes program in the country within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

When he recognized in 1998 that young infants in his district were suffering from sometimes fatal lung bleeding associated with water-damaged, moldy homes, he asked HUD to address the impact of inner-city homes on children's health. He understood that houses are systems, and that independently addressing lead paint problems, moisture intrusion and mold, injury risks and other housing hazards was inefficient and costly. He also had the vision to recognize that treating children at the hospital, only to release them back into the same substandard home that made them sick, created a vicious circle with major public health consequences. He knew these homes needed to be fixed.

The HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control had shown interest in applying the experience of lead-poisoning prevention to include

other health hazards in the home, such as plumbing problems and leaky basements, but lacked the authority.

Through his vision, the Congressman invited us and others to testify at the House Subcommittee on HUD appropriations to see what could be done. Lou Stokes convinced his fellow committee members to provide the very first appropriation of \$10 million to HUD for 'Healthy Homes' prevention programs in low-income housing. His legacy has resulted in millions of homes that are safer and healthier as a direct result of that investment in our children. Since that time, the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has provided more than \$175 million in competitively awarded grants to communities across the nation to investigate and address health hazards in homes.

The asthma home-visit program in Cleveland that decreases the hospitalization rate of children with asthma, highlighted in The Plain Dealer in June, is a direct outgrowth of Congressman Stokes' work.

In 2012, HUD created the Louis Stokes Healthy Homes Award and presented the first one to him at the City Club of Cleveland. When he received the award, he pointed out that much has been achieved and that much more remains to be done. He also said that he really didn't know what all the fuss was about, as he was just a kid who grew up in public housing, who wanted to do the right thing for our children.

He was an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak in praise of Julian Bond, one of the leading lights of the Civil Rights Movement, who died on Saturday, August 15, 2015, at the age of 75.

While Julian lost his battle to the illness that claimed his life, it is the struggle for civil rights and human dignity he helped to win that he will forever remembered and revered.

Horace Julian Bond was born January 14, 1940 in Nashville, Tennessee to Julia Agnes and Horace Mann Bond.

Julian's father was the first African-American President of Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, the same institution attended by Thurgood Marshall and Langston Hughes who would both go on to make substantial contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and the advancement of African-Americans.

Julian's father later became president of Atlanta University and Julian decided to attend Morehouse College, one of the leading black colleges in the nation.

Julian Bond, who came from a long line of educators, determined at an early age to put his journalistic and organizing talents in service of the cause of civil rights and racial equality.

While a student at Morehouse College, Julian helped found The Pegasus, a literary magazine, and led nonviolent student protests against segregation in Atlanta parks, restaurants, and movie theaters.

Mr. Speaker, today it is difficult to imagine there once was a time in our country when blacks and whites could not eat together in public restaurants, use the same public restrooms, stay at the same hotels, or attend the same schools.

Julian Bond answered the call to action and put his studies on hold to devote all of his energies and efforts to ending segregation and racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual these days for us to think of a champion as someone who receives the highest accolades in sports.

Julian Bond was a champion of the people.

His success is measured not in the numbers of trophies, medals, ribbons, and championship banners, but in the number of doors and opportunities he helped to open for those who had been neglected, marginalized, and disenfranchised.

Julian Bond knew that to bring about non-violent social change it was necessary to organize so he co-founded the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

SNCC, which organized and mobilized the participation of students and young people in the Civil Rights Movement, conceived the Freedom Rides that challenged the practice of racial segregation in interstate transportation and the Mississippi Freedom Summer project that undertook the dangerous work of helping African Americans register to vote in the state most committed to maintaining White supremacy by any means necessary.

SNCC was not the first leadership role history and circumstance would call upon Julian Bond to assume; nor would it be the last.

In 1965, after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Julian Bond was elected to represent the residents of the 32nd district in Georgia House of Representatives.

But on January 10, 1966, his white colleagues in the Georgia House voted 184-12 not to seat him because he had publicly expressed his opposition to the Vietnam War.

Julian Bond challenged the refusal of the Georgia House to seat him and took his case all the way to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled in the unanimous decision of *Bond v. Floyd*, 385 U.S. 116 (1966), that expressing opposition to the Vietnam War was speech protected by the First Amendment and directed that he be seated as a duly elected member of the state legislature.

Julian Bond would go on to serve three more terms in the Georgia House, where he co-founded the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, and six terms in the Georgia State Senate.

In 1971, Julian Bond co-founded and served as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center that tracks the actions of hate groups to better inform and prepare communities about the dangers these groups pose.

Julian Bond consistently identified issues of civil inequality and provided solutions by gathering groups of community leaders, professionals, and educators to protect what the laws and policies would not, our basic civil rights.

In 1998, Julian Bond's commitment to justice and equality led him to answer the call to serve and accept the position of Chairman of the NAACP, a post he held until 2010.

Julian Bond was able to bring the earnest fight to achieve equality into the modern era as he watched African-Americans achieve the highest awards in their professions and continued to break down barriers.

In November 2008, Julian Bond witnessed the election of the first African American President of the United States, a feat thought impossible just a decade earlier.

Mr. Speaker, because of trailblazers like Julian Bond millions of Americans gained access to opportunities previously denied to members of their communities.

Julian Bond spent 5 years with SNCC, 8 years as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, 12 years as the president of NAACP, 20 years as a state representative, and 75 years an unwavering champion of civil rights for all people, including the LGBT community.

My thoughts and prayers are with Julian's beloved wife Pamela, his children and grandchildren; and the untold millions of persons whose lives were touched by one of America's greatest sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Julian Bond, a tireless and eloquent voice for justice, equality, and human dignity who did so much to close the gap between the promise of America's founding ideals and the reality of people's lives.

CIVIL RIGHTS GIANT JULIAN BOND NEVER STOPPED GIVING

(Posted By Edna Kane-Williams on August 31, 2015)

President Obama described him as a "hero" who "helped changed this country for the better." The Rev. Jesse Jackson called him a "leader with strength, character." NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock said he "inspired a generation of civil rights leaders." Teresa Sullivan, president of the University of Virginia, where he taught history for many years, called him a beloved retired professor who "shaped the course of history through his life and work."

How ever you choose to describe Julian Bond, one thing is for sure: He taught us all how to stand for what we believe. And he believed in freedom, justice and equality.

For me, one of the most remarkable attributes of this civil rights giant is the fact that he never stopped giving. Even at the time of his brief illness and death on Aug. 15 at the age of 75, he was still serving faithfully as chairman emeritus on the NAACP board. Even after he retired from the professorship at the University of Virginia, he continued to mentor and remained a role model for students and others.

A writer, poet, television commentator, lecturer and college teacher—and as a former politician—Julian Bond was one of those rare people whose work became legendary while he was still doing it. In fact, the Library of Congress once called him a "living legend."

And because of the magnitude of his work, he leaves many treasures that will simply keep on giving. UVA, where his papers are housed, has announced its goal to establish a Julian Bond Professorship in Civil Rights and Social Justice, which "will continue Bond's scholarly legacy." There will certainly be many more designations in honor of his life's work.

And surely some will rise, seeking to follow in his footsteps. Mr. Bond believed in young people's ability to take the civil rights and social justice baton and run with it. Earlier this year, he told a group of Howard University students, "I think you know what the problems are. You know what the solutions are, and I'm sure we will be glad to help. But don't depend on us to tell you what to do. Just go out and do it."

Well, he left an amazing road map. From his pioneering civil rights work as a co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to all of his work and contributions thereafter, Julian Bond was a model for anyone who aims to make an impact and leave the world a better place.

In that regard, he was a role model for us all. What a life. What a legacy.

Amelia Boynton was born on August 18, 1911, in Savannah, Georgia. Her early activism included holding black voter registration drives in Selma. Boynton spent her first two years of college at Georgia State College (now Savannah State University), then transferred to the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. She graduated from Tuskegee with a home economics degree before further pursuing her education at Tennessee State University, Virginia State University and Temple University.

In the 1930s, Boynton Robinson began her activist career by registering African Americans to vote. In 1964, she ran for Congress to represent Alabama. She was the first woman to have run for this Democratic seat, and although she did not win, she received 10% of votes. As the civil rights movement picked up, Boynton asked Martin Luther King Jr., who had witnessed her arrest in January 1965 for seeking to register Black voters, to visit Selma and empower the community. King accepted, and joined Boynton Robinson and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in planning the march from Selma to Montgomery on March 17th, 1965.

As approximately 600 marchers walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were confronted by 200 state troopers and Alabama policemen, who shot teargas and beat the non-violent protesters. This horrific event came to be known as Bloody Sunday.

At least 17 protesters were sent to the hospital, including Boynton Robinson. A picture of her unconscious body lying on the ground after an officer shot tear gas into her throat spread through every news media outlet across the globe, and quickly became a symbol for race relations in the United States at the time.

The Selma to Montgomery march was a pivotal demonstration in the civil rights movement, leading to future victories such as the Voting Rights Acts of 1965 signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Amelia Boynton Robinson was an incredible activist, leader, and woman, and is remembered for her courage and strength throughout the civil rights movement. She worked for equality for all until her last day on this earth.

[From the Two-Way, Aug. 26, 2015]

(By Bill Chappell)

AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON, SURVIVOR OF 'BLOODY SUNDAY,' DIES AT 104

Amelia Boynton Robinson, who went from being beaten on a bridge in Selma, Ala., in 1965 to being pushed across the bridge in a wheelchair alongside the president of the United States, has died at age 104.

Her daughter, Germaine Bowser, confirmed to Troy Public Radio's Kyle Gassiot that Boynton Robinson died early Wednesday morning. She had been hospitalized after suffering several strokes this summer.

Born in Savannah, Ga., Boynton Robinson was a pioneer in the voting rights movement who took part in the event that came to be known as "Bloody Sunday," when she and other activists were attacked by state troopers as they tried to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Along with Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., Boynton Robinson held hands with President Obama as the men walked across the bridge

this past March, marking the 50th anniversary of the march in Selma.

The Montgomery Advertiser reports:

"Boynton Robinson asked Martin Luther King Jr. to come to Selma to mobilize the local community in the civil rights movement. She worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and helped plan the Selma to Montgomery march. Her role in the event was recaptured in the movie 'Selma,' where she was portrayed by actress Lorraine Toussaint. She was invited as a guest of honor to attend the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson."

Boynton Robinson also "made history in 1964 as the first African-American to run for Congress in Alabama," Alabama Public Radio reported earlier this year, when the civil rights legend attended Obama's 2015 State of the Union address in Washington, DC. She was the guest of Rep. Terri Sewell, Alabama's first elected African-American congresswoman.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order. What a grand opportunity to cite these great Americans: Amelia Boynton Robinson, Congressman Lou Stokes, and Julian Bond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Amelia Boynton Robinson was an American hero who devoted her entire life to the fight for equal rights for all. She was a child suffragette, who alongside her mother, advocated for the women's vote and then as a young woman fought for the right of blacks to have their say at the ballot box. After bold run to represent Alabama in Congress, Mrs. Robinson helped organize the Bloody Sunday March from Selma to Montgomery. She was hospitalized after being knocked unconscious by a white officer on that perilous day, which left her undaunted and even more determined to fight for the African-American vote. It was my honor to nominate her for a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Phoenix Award earlier this year, but sadly, she died before I could present it to her. Thankfully, however, Mrs. Robinson was able to share enough stories about her courageous experiences to fill a history book and resonate for generations to come.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor three civil rights legends: Ms. Amelia Boynton Robinson, Mr. Julian Bond, and my dear friend and mentor, Congressman Louis Stokes. Each a leader in his or her own right, these trailblazers laid the foundation we stand upon today.

They paved the way for us and have inspired us to continue fighting for equality and justice. Because of them, we must do more.

Ms. Boynton Robinson's legacy moves us to never stop fighting for voting rights. All Americans should have full access to the ballot box. The strength of our democracy rests upon the participation of every citizen.

Mr. Bond's life's work commits us to striving for equality and full protection under the law for all Americans. Our country will never fulfill the promise of the land of the free and the home of the brave, if any citizen is denied justice and legal fairness.

In honor of my dear friend Congressman Stokes, we will never stop advocating for our nation's most vulnerable. We must continue to give voice to the voiceless and work to ensure all Americans have access to the American Dream. It is our obligation to serve the best interests of the people of this country, whether a pauper or the populace.

Mr. Speaker, we stand on the shoulders of giants. This great woman and these great men remind us why we stand here today and who we are here to represent. We thank them for their service and sacrifice, and pledge to continue to fight in honor of their legacies.

In closing, I'd like to take a moment of personal privilege and thank my colleagues in the Ohio Delegation and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for signing on to H.R. 427, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Congressman Stokes. We currently have 57 cosponsors on the bill.

It is so important that the world knows who Congressman Stokes was and what he did. Congressman Stokes is etched in Ohio's history, and with this resolution will be firmly woven into the fabric of this great nation forever.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of three very special leaders from the African American community who have passed away this year. Through their personal sacrifices and steadfast leadership, Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond have impacted the lives of countless Americans and I would like to join my colleagues in honoring their legacies.

I have had the distinct honor of working alongside Representative Stokes before he retired from the United States Congress in 1999. Before being elected to Congress, Representative Stokes was a tireless advocate for promoting civil rights as a lawyer. In 1968, Representative Stokes was elected as Ohio's first African American congressman, where he would go on to become a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. After serving for 30 years in Congress, Representative Stokes is remembered by his commitment to public service and his insatiable desire to help the most disadvantaged segments of the population.

Amelia Boynton Robinson was a prominent figure from the Civil Rights Movement, most well-known for her strong efforts to encourage voter participation among African Americans. Ms. Boynton was key to organizing civil and voting rights demonstrations in Alabama, including a march to the state capital of Montgomery. It was during this march on Bloody Sunday when Ms. Boynton was beaten unconscious in the defense of basic voting rights for African Americans. Ms. Boynton would live to the age of 110 before passing away in Montgomery, Alabama.

Julian Bond was another Civil Rights leader whose life we honor this year. Mr. Bond helped to co-found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which served

as a platform to drive the success behind organizing African American voters during a critical time in our nation's history. Mr. Bond also co-founded and was named the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a legal organization dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable while advocating for basic rights for all. He also served in the Georgia House of Representatives despite a bitter vote by his colleagues not to seat him. Later in his life, Mr. Bond served as chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1998 to 2010.

Representative Louis Stokes, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and Julian Bond were model citizens whose legacies will be idolized long into the future. These three leaders have left lasting impressions that will set examples for new generations. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me and countless others to have to honor these individuals after their passing. However, we are forever grateful for their contributions and countless lives have been improved as a direct result of their sacrifices.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three heroes of the Civil Rights Movement: Julian Bond, Amelia Boynton Robinson and Former Congressman Louis Stokes.

My thoughts and prayers are with their families during this very difficult time.

First let me thank Rep. DONALD PAYNE, JR., and Rep. ROBIN KELLY for organizing this Special Order and for their leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus. I have known Julian since the 1970s and most recently stood with him to remember the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam Peace Movement at the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial in Washington, DC. As a cofounder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Julian galvanized young people to fight against segregation, march in the Civil Rights movement, and better the lives of all Americans.

Julian dedicated his career to public service. After his work with SNCC, he served in the Georgia Legislature and as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I know his legacy of tireless advocacy for equality and social justice will live on. It inspires me every day as we work to address inequality and reform our broken criminal justice system.

I also rise to remember Amelia Boynton Robinson, a true hero of the Civil Rights Movement. Ms. Boynton Robinson was a trailblazer who championed civil rights and worked tirelessly for justice and equality. As one of the brave protestors at Selma, Amelia Boynton Robinson was brutally beaten in what would become known all around the world as "Bloody Sunday." Ms. Boynton Robinson, along with her fellow protestors, drew nationwide attention to the plight of African Americans and led us to the Voting Rights Act.

Last but not least, I want to commemorate the life of Former Congressman Louis Stokes. Congressman Stokes was a wonderful mentor to me as a member of Congressman Ron Delums' staff and later as a Member of Congress. Congressman Stokes grew up in Cleveland public housing and his childhood informed the policies he championed.

He was the first African American Congressman to represent Ohio, one of the Founders of the Congressional Black Caucus and also the

first African American to win a seat on the Appropriations committee, a committee on which I now sit. Congressman Stokes spent his congressional career fighting for the poor and the voiceless; he is a true American Hero.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of the tireless advocacy of these leaders that we saw an end to legal segregation, the enactment of the voting rights act, and the election of so many African Americans to Congress.

It was a great honor to count myself among the lives they touched. May the work they started continue until all forms of inequality are addressed.

And may their spirits soar as their memories live on in our hearts.

CHRISTIANS UNDER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I come before this honorable House with an issue that has been rather heart-breaking for so many of us for so long now:

In The Middle East, the cradle of Christianity, where it started 2,000 years ago based on the Judeo principles from thousands of years before that, there has been a massive onslaught. Against Jews, it has been going on for some time; but especially in the last several years, it has become untenable for Christians.

In an article by Debra Heine, September 20, my sister's birthday, she wrote about "2,000 Years of Christian Civilization Destroyed on Obama's Watch."

It says this in the article: "The Islamic State has managed to destroy two thousand years of Christian civilizations in the Middle East in just a couple of years. Lt. Col. Ralph Peters noted on 'The O'Reilly Factor' last week. And he placed the blame squarely on President Obama's . . . policy."

"ISIS has been spreading across the Middle East like a plague of locusts, and as they have spread, they have targeted religious minorities, particularly Christians, for destruction. In Syria, tens of thousands of Assyrian Christians have been attacked and displaced. 'They are forgotten refugees.'"

Mr. Speaker, I have met with Christians and Christian leaders from Syria, and the stories they tell and the horrors they talk about, the inhumanity to man that is being inflicted upon Christians in that area is just untenable. It is unconscionable. Women—talk about a war on women. If they are Christian women, it is absolutely horrendous.

I ran into the same problem in meeting with family members in Nigeria of girls that were kidnapped by radical Islamists, Boko Haram. That was in Nigeria.

I would be interested to talk to the President of Togo tomorrow. I have

been to his country before. I have seen the poverty, and I have seen the affliction.

But in the Middle East, Christians are not even allowed to be in the area where the Apostle Paul walked. The Apostle Paul planted churches where Christian missionaries were, along the times right after Jesus resurrected. Right in the early days of the church, churches were planted. And now, while the United States is said to be the sole superpower, Christians are being persecuted in greater numbers around the world than ever in history.

If there is a God who loves Christians, loves all people but has an affinity for Jews and Christians, then there would have to be a price for any nation that allows this to go on.

This article goes on: A Catholic priest who visited Kurdish Iraq last fall described the wounded souls of the Christians who had taken refuge there. They had been forced from their homes in northern Iraq in the summer of 2014.

“Without question, we are talking about genocide here. Genocide is not only when the people are killed, but also when the soul of a people is destroyed. And that is what is happening in Iraq now,” said Fr. Andrzej Halemba, head of Aid to the Church in Need’s Middle East section, said October 28. “It is the most tragic thing that I have ever experienced.”

This is from the priest. The priest goes on: “I have seen people who have been deeply wounded in their soul. In the various crises in this world, I have often seen people who have lost everything. But in Iraq, there are Christians who have had to leave everything and take flight three or four times. They can see no light at the end of the tunnel.”

“Last spring, hundreds of Assyrian Christians fled to Lebanon after ISIS jihadists stormed their villages in Syria’s northeastern province of Hasakeh.

“Members of Lebanon’s Assyrian community did their best to welcome the new refugees, but the displacement had left them traumatized.

“The villages of Khabur are empty now, there is no one left except some fighters,” lamented Chorbishop Yatron Koliana, as he oversaw the distribution at his diocese.”

Mr. Speaker, this is tragic. Christian villages 2,000 years old, destroyed. Nothing left but some people trying to fight for just the ground that they are fighting on that once was their home.

“Our people have experienced a great tragedy in Syria” . . . “They are depressed. Some of them have chronic illnesses. Their lives are difficult.”

“How can we be comfortable living on aid?” asked 50-year-old Simaan, who fled his village Tal Hormuz.

“He railed against what he called international indifference to the plight of Assyrians under attack by ISIS in Syria and neighboring Iraq.

“The whole world, from the U.N. to the United States and Russia, is responsible” . . . “They” —talking about ISIS—“have destroyed our whole civilization . . . and the world is watching.”

□ 2030

We hear so many sad stories. Christians are being persecuted on our watch, and we are not talking enough about it. The President certainly isn’t. He tells us that we need to take tens or hundreds of thousands of more Muslim refugees. What about the Christians and the massive extermination of churches in the Middle East under this administration? We get it. The Constitution gives the President wide authority and wide latitude on foreign policy. Congress has some say because we can appropriate or defund what the President is doing—if we have leadership with courage to do that.

This article goes on: “In July, 4,000 more Assyrian Christian families were among the 120,000 people who fled Hasakah to escape ISIS forces who had entered the city looking to carry out a mass ethno-religious slaughter.

“Fleeing Muslim persecution, Christian refugees are often targeted and persecuted anew by fleeing Muslim refugees.”

The International Business Times reported: “Italian police have arrested 15 Muslim immigrants in Palermo, for allegedly having thrown Christian refugees off the rubber boat that was taking them to Italy after a fight for ‘religious reasons,’ according to media reports.

“Those arrested—from Mali, Guinea and Ivory Coast—were part of a group of 100 that were rescued off the Libyan coast by the Italian coast guard.

“The Archbishop of Canterbury, recently warned British Prime Minister David Cameron that his government’s refugee policy was discriminating against Christians because Christians are not among the refugees being helped in U.N. camps. They are not in the U.N. camps because they fear persecution from radicalized Muslim refugees.

“The Most Reverend Justin Welby reportedly met the Prime Minister earlier this month with concerns that Christians in Syria will be largely excluded from the 20,000 refugees due to come to the U.K. over the next 5 years.

“The government, in line with European Union policy, is committed to taking in refugees from U.N. camps in Syria and neighboring countries. It cannot discriminate in favor of any one religious group. But the Archbishop has raised concerns that Christians have avoided refugee camps because of fears of persecution from rogue Islamist groups operating inside refugee camps.

“In a speech in the House of Lords last Monday, Archbishop Welby said

that, ‘within the camps there is significant intimidation and radicalization, and many particularly of the Christian population who have been forced to flee are unable to be in the camps.’

“He went on: ‘What is the government’s policy of reaching out to those who are not actually in the camps?’”

Lord Carey, who wrote in the Telegraph about his concern of the plight of Christians, wrote:

“The frustration for those of us who have been calling for compassion for Syrian victims for many months is that the Christian community is yet again left at the bottom of the heap.”

“Mr. Cameron’s policy inadvertently discriminates against the very Christian communities most victimized by the inhuman butchers of the so-called Islamic State.”

“Christians are not to be found in the U.N. camps, because they have been attacked and targeted by Islamists and driven from them. They are seeking refuge in private homes, church buildings, and with neighbors and family.”

“Refugees who want to come to the United States will also be required to apply through the U.N.

“A combination of European cowardice and awful American foreign policy has led to a mass Muslim migration that will affect the whole world.”

“Lt. Col. Ralph Peters disagreed somewhat with that assessment.”

He said, “I think you were much, much too soft on President Obama and a bit too hard on the E.U.” . . . “If America doesn’t lead, it doesn’t happen.”

He went on to say: “Just look at a map of the Middle East . . . on George W. Bush’s last day in office. There is broad peace across the Middle East and North Africa, Iraq was finally convalescing, and . . . Obama promptly, to please his America-hating base, abandons Iraq, backs the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, gets rid of Qaddafi without a plan for what goes after, threatens Assad . . . then does nothing, doesn’t listen to the intelligence community when for years they are telling him about the Islamic State coming—then tries to blame the intelligence community, and launches feckless airstrikes. The combination of his fecklessness and cowardice, his rhetorical bravado and utter incompetence are responsible.”

He goes on: “No. Listen to this. Two thousand years of Christian civilization destroyed on his watch . . . That’s on Obama. When America doesn’t lead, nothing happens.”

Well, it is not just on President Obama. I am sure he is mainly responsible for our foreign policy, but we need to stand up to the President. When Iran is out there saying, as they have in the last couple of weeks, that with the \$100 billion, \$150 billion that President Obama is going to see to Iran getting quickly, and the hundreds of billions of

dollars that will flow in subsequent years, they were already announcing they are going to increase their support for Hamas and Hezbollah as they kill Americans, continue to kill Christians, and continue to kill moderate Muslims who are not radicalized, at what point is Congress responsible for not standing up to the President?

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that one very important point has come, and right now it is up to the United States Senate to have a backbone on behalf of the millions that stand to be persecuted and killed by the money that they are going to allow to go to Iran by failing to do what they could to stop this world atrocity.

There is no question in reasonable, intelligent minds that the Iran deal is a treaty. It is a treaty as anticipated by the Founders. It is a treaty as referred to in the Constitution, article II, section 2, second paragraph, and it requires a vote of two-thirds of the Senate present to go along with it in order for it to be effective.

Yes, the Corker bill tried to amend the Constitution. Legislation can't amend the Constitution. Once it is clear—as it is—that the Iran deal is a treaty, then we need desperately to have people in the Senate stand up—some of them have—make clear this is a treaty; it requires two-thirds in order to approve it or it is not ratified, it is not effective, and the President is not allowed to release the 100-plus billion, \$150 billion to Iran that will be used for atrocities, especially toward America, toward Christians, toward moderate nonradicalized Muslims, toward Jews, and toward Israel. There is a real responsibility here. It may take courage—I am sure it will—for the Senate to stand up and the Senate majority leader to stand up and say: Sorry, Mr. President, the Iran deal is a treaty. We have listed in our letter to the majority leader in the Senate some of the bases, it is spelled out in our resolution that we filed and talked about here on the floor, it is clearly a treaty.

The end of John Quincy Adams' oral argument that capped a couple of days of oral argument in the case can be found online. He was afraid that if he did not do an adequate job as a lawyer, those Africans that he was representing that had been captured by other Africans and sold into slavery, sent to the Caribbean, and then put on the Spanish ship the *Amistad*, they were able to overtake and overpower the Spanish and take charge of the ship. They landed in America. The lawsuit was over whether or not they were free Africans or whether they were property of the Spanish.

I can understand the fear that John Quincy Adams must have had as he stood downstairs in the Old Supreme Court Chamber. One of the Justices had died one night during oral argument, not while he was actually argu-

ing. That final day he knew if he didn't do an adequate job, his clients would wear chains and their children would wear chains all because he didn't do an adequate job as their lawyer.

So he finished his oral argument by calling the names of Justices of the Supreme Court who had been on the Supreme Court but had passed away. Chief Justice, Justices, he knew them. He called their names: The Justice that started this case, where is he? Where are all these Justices? Where is the Solicitor General that argued before me?

This is around 1821. This is in the late 1830s. He is now arguing in the Supreme Court in their Chamber downstairs.

After going through all the Supreme Court Justices that had passed away, he finishes basically by saying they have gone to meet their Judge, and the biggest question is when they met their Maker, their Judge, did they hear the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

It is very clear, send a message to the Supreme Court. Think about it, Justices. If you died tonight like the other Judge just died in the last couple of nights and you go to meet your Maker, do you want the last thing you did to be having sent wonderful African people out in chains that they would wear and their children would wear—possibly their children and their children—all because you didn't do the right thing as a judge? He won the case, as well he should.

I can't help but wonder if John Quincy Adams were here today arguing on behalf of Christian communities all over the Middle East that have been destroyed, refugees that have been sent running, Jews that can no longer populate the area because of threats and violence upon them, and he saw that the United States that he had been President of and was in the House of Representatives after having been President, if he would not be mortified, if he would not challenge us today: Do we want to meet our Maker, our Judge, and we saw and heard about the plight of Christians, Jews, and moderate Muslims around the Middle East and North Africa just being slaughtered, women being raped and torn apart, brutalized in unthinkable ways, and we turned a blind eye to that and said that we are going to bring in massive numbers of refugees who are Muslim, 72 percent of which are male, and we have been told by radicals that they are going to make sure that there are people that want to kill and destroy more Christians, more Jews, more of America, and we are going to bring them in without proper vetting—because you can't vet them properly—all while Christians, Jews, and moderate Muslims are being slaughtered and overrun all through the Middle East as we are credited with being the superpower in the world?

□ 2045

Yet, also, these last few days, the U.N.—where we pay far more than anybody even comes close to in order to keep it going as they continue to become more and more anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli, and anti-American—they entertain the largest supporter of terrorism in the world, the leader of Iran. And he says this in part, the leader of Iran, the President Rouhani:

If we did not have U.S. military invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq and the United States' unwarranted support for the inhumane actions of the Zionist regime against the oppressed nation of Palestine, today the terrorists would not have an excuse for the justification of their crimes.

I am taking this from an article by Julian Hattam, 9-28-15, which is interesting. We have heard that throughout the United States, if we just hadn't gone into Iraq, if we hadn't gone into Afghanistan, if we hadn't gone into Afghanistan with the 300 Americans that we embedded—about 300—we embedded and let the Afghans destroy the Taliban by February of 2002, then we became an overwhelming occupying force in Afghanistan—but at least by February of 2002, if we hadn't gone in and helped them, the Taliban would still be completely controlling Afghanistan. That is the way it is.

Now, we went astray when we became occupiers, and this President has only tripled the number of deaths in Afghanistan, even though the war is supposedly over. Over tripled the number of American deaths, even though the real war was during President Bush, because of this President's rules of engagement and disastrous foreign policy.

But think about it. This is the head, the President of Iran. He is telling the U.N. and the world that, if it weren't for the United States' invasion in Afghanistan and in Iraq, there wouldn't be any American terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, why in the world should the U.N. listen to a man that is this big a liar or is this stupid? Because you don't have to be all that bright to understand September 11 of 2001 happened before we sent 300 or so into Afghanistan to help them destroy the Taliban and before we went in and took out a brutal dictator in Iraq.

In fact, the planning of 9-11-2001 happened during the Clinton administration on President Clinton's watch. And for people that are fools or liars like Rouhani and they don't know or are just lying about it, during the Clinton administration, President Clinton's policies were to run and help persecuted Muslims whenever we found them around the world.

And while we were busy helping Muslims, Western Asia, Eastern Europe, wherever we could help them, they were planning the attack on New York City and Washington, D.C., and hoping

to wipe out the entire American government here in Washington, D.C. And but for the heroic act of people on a plane that took it down in Pennsylvania, they may well have.

We don't need to hear any of these lies about, oh, if America just hadn't invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, regardless of whether you agree with what President Bush ordered with Iraq, the fact is 9/11 was a terrorist attack before and so was the attack on the USS Cole and so were the attacks on our embassies around the world during the 1990s and so was the first World Trade Center attack in 1993 that apparently had some planning back during the former President Bush's administration.

And that was an administration that stopped a brutal dictator, Saddam Hussein, who had raided another Muslim country, and we went in and helped Kuwait get their country back. We went to help the Muslims. And how do they reward us? To plan an attack to try to take down the World Trade Centers in '93.

It is very clear Christianity, Judaism, Israel, all were under attack and so was America. And our enemies can't believe how stupid Americans are because we are going to reward the biggest supporter of terrorism in the world—Iran—with \$100 to \$150 billion that they are already saying they are going to use to help Hamas and Hezbollah kill more Christians, more Jews, help wipe out Israel, help the attack against the Great Satan, the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for people in the United States Government to stand up and help correct the wayward policies of this administration. We start by having the United States Senate in one voice say the Iranian deal is a treaty and we are taking a vote on it and closure is set aside with 51 votes.

And they won't get the two-thirds to ratify it. It will not become effective against the United States. And thank God we will then have stopped the continued persecution of Christians, moderate Muslims, Jews, Israelis, and the United States, instead of rewarding them and helping them take us out.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to avoid engaging in personalities toward the President.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of family reasons.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through October 1 on account of a family emergency.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of unforeseen circumstances.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 261. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 994. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1707. An act to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2061. A bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 114-268). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 444. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3495) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions, and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 114-269). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MARINO (for himself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 3620. A bill to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NEAL, Mr.

PASCARELL, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California):

H.R. 3621. A bill to ensure that Social Security contributions made by workers are available to pay all benefits which they have earned; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 3622. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the expansion of manufacturing in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MARCHANT (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3623. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount allowed as a deduction for interest on education loans paid by married couples; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 3624. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 3625. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to better protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as "black lung disease"), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 3626. A bill to prohibit funding for the Environmental Protection Agency to be used to implement or enforce a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 3627. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to exclude from eligibility for the generalized system of preferences any country that fails to effectively enforce its environmental laws or meet its international environmental obligations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Ms. STEFANK, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 3628. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. COFFMAN):

H.R. 3629. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide that Federal law shall not preempt State law; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by

the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 3630. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 3631. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to repeal the sunset of the special immigrant nonminister religious worker program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 3632. A bill to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3633. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to make local funds of the District of Columbia available for use by the District during any portion of a fiscal year in which no Federal law appropriating local funds for the fiscal year is in effect, at the rates of operation provided under the local budget act for the fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3634. A bill to establish student loan borrowers' rights to basic consumer protections, reasonable and flexible repayment options, access to earned credentials, and effective loan cancellation in exchange for public service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Miss RICE of New York):

H. Res. 445. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that corporations should commit to utilizing the benefits of gender diversity in boards of directors and other senior management positions; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan):

H. Res. 446. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2 as "National Manufacturing Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.R. 3620.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 3621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 3622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 3623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 1, under the "Power To lay and collect Taxes";

Amd. 16, under the "power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration"; and

Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 18, under the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 3624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause I; and article III section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over the federal courts.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 7, Article 1 and Clause 7, Section 9, Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution that grants Congress the authority, "To regulate Commerce with Foreign Na-

tions, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 3628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 3629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment X to the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 3630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 3631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the US Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 3632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause)

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (the Necessary and Proper Clause)

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 169: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 225: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 292: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 482: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 539: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ROUZER, and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 592: Mr. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

H.R. 699: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 711: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 775: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 799: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 829: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 865: Mr. OLSON and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 902: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER.
H.R. 920: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 932: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 940: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 957: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 985: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 1031: Ms. VELAZQUEZ.
H.R. 1062: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1188: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1218: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 1221: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1270: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1288: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1309: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1312: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1356: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1422: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1423: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 1459: Mr. BEYER and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 1475: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1594: Mr. LANCE, Mr. BOST, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 1603: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1610: Mr. BEYER and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 1624: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1660: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 1737: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1769: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1786: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1814: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1843: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 1858: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1859: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1873: Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 2016: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2017: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2050: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 2061: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2096: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2260: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 2405: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2429: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2446: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2449: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2458: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 2460: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2603: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 2631: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2646: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 2712: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 2726: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2738: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2739: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2759: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2764: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 2769: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2799: Mr. CUELLAR and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 2835: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2853: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2858: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2903: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2911: Mrs. TORRES, Mr. DOLD, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 2944: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 2956: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2987: Mr. MESSER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. KATKO, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. DOLD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2992: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2999: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3024: Miss Rice of New York and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 3126: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3137: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3144: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3151: Mr. OLSON and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3187: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3197: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 3198: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3225: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 3229: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3250: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3299: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 3309: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 3316: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3326: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 3338: Mr. BLUM and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3381: Mr. BARTON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOLD, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3412: Mr. AGUILAR and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3423: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3442: Mr. OLSON and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3457: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 3459: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. YODER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 3495: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 3502: Ms. MOORE and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3510: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 3513: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3514: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 3516: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3518: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3521: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3522: Mr. COHEN and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 3532: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3535: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3556: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 3569: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 3573: Mr. OLSON and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 3594: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. FOXX, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MESSER, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BARLETTA, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 3611: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LONG, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. COLE, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. REED, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 59: Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. WALKER.
H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. RANGEL.
H. Con. Res. 78: Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. ROHRBACHER.
H. Res. 28: Mr. KILDEE.
H. Res. 286: Mr. KILDEE.
H. Res. 309: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 416: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H. Res. 426: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VELA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. MATSUI.
H. Res. 428: Mr. CICILLINE.
H. Res. 429: Ms. ESTY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ASHFORD, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H. Res. 431: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H. Res. 443: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

The provisions of H.R. 3457 (Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act) that warranted a referral to the Committee on Foreign Affairs do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 3495 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

H.R. 3614 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED
COMMUNITY SERVICE OF PATTY
ROSE TO TACOMA, WA, AND THE
GREATER PUGET SOUND REGION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Patty Rose of the Pierce County Central Labor Council, who is receiving the distinguished Star of Destiny Award at the 9th Annual Destiny Dinner hosted by the Tacoma Historical Society.

Patty has provided unmatched leadership and commitment to the organized labor community and the greater citizenry of Tacoma-Pierce County in her 13 years guiding the Pierce County Labor Council with a firm commitment to improving the lives of working families in our region. She has provided sound advice and mentorship to fellow labor leaders, local elected officials, and rank-and-file union members throughout Pierce County.

In addition to her day job, Patty serves her community on the Board for the United Way of Pierce County, which provides opportunity and resources to families in need. Even in the face of personal struggles, Patty has continued to serve in this capacity for the betterment of those less fortunate.

Her contributions to our region's history included spearheading the recent 125th anniversary celebration of the Pierce County Labor Council, which highlighted the many ways that this organization has helped to shape our community. Patty uses her leadership position to remind the public why basic protections and workers' rights exist today—due to the advocacy and sacrifice of labor leaders before her.

Mr. Speaker, her influence on our region's proud organized labor history is exemplified by her receipt of the Tacoma Historical Society's Star of Destiny Award. This very special designation is reserved for those who show an "unwavering commitment to the dignity and welfare of the working men and women of Tacoma and Pierce County."

Patty Rose is certainly deserving of this award and will be in good company. She joins my predecessor Rep. Norm Dicks in receiving this important recognition on behalf of the citizens of Tacoma. I join their voices in thanks for her continued leadership and perseverance in helping to better the lives of working families in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Patty Rose my friend and I am privileged to stand on the floor of the United States Congress today in recognition of her many accomplishments and leadership that will continue into the future.

FULL LEGAL RECOGNITION OF
ALL RELIGIONS IN INDIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, India has been a land of religious diversity for thousands of years. Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity, among others, are all important religions with centuries of history in India. Today, I would like to recognize their rich contributions to the Indian state. I hope that each one be afforded full legal dignified recognition by the Indian government.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution upon its one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a non-profit, non-political women's volunteer service organization dedicated to patriotism, education and historic preservation, was founded in 1890 by Mary Smith Lockwood, Ellen Walworth, Mary Desha and Eugenia Washington. At their first meeting held on October 11, 1890, several women attended, as well as four members of the Sons of the American Revolution who served as an advisory board to the organization for its first few years. In 1896 the NSDAR, also known as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was incorporated by an Act of Congress.

A lineage society, NSDAR members have the common bond of having ancestors who were patriots of the American Revolution. Members have included many noteworthy women, including women's rights pioneer Susan B. Anthony, American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, First Lady Rosalynn Carter, retired NASA astronaut Margaret Rhea Seddon and former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. With 177,000 members and 3,000 chapters in the United States and internationally, members have volunteered millions of service hours for various projects and programs. Projects include supporting active duty military personnel and assisting veterans, supporting schools for underserved children, awarding scholarships and providing financial aid to students, and restoring American Revolution War sites and memorials.

Most of NSDAR's volunteer work is accomplished by the grassroots efforts of chapters

on the local level, which focus on the mission areas of DAR: historic preservation, patriotism and education. There are several chapters in my 28th Congressional District. The Don José Verdugo Chapter, located in La Cañada Flintridge, has been serving the community for sixty-two years, focusing their efforts on veterans and education. Additionally, the Martin Severance Chapter in Pasadena, founded in 1914 and the Hollywood Chapter founded in 1910; both have a strong focus on helping veterans.

For 125 years, the NSDAR has exemplified their motto: "God, Home, Country." I am honored to recognize this excellent organization, and ask all Members to join me in commending the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution upon their anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FISHERIES
SURVIVAL FUND AND THE
46TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE
FLEET IN NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fisheries Survival Fund for receiving the Friend of the Fishing Industry Award at the annual Blessing of the Fleet, held in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Established in New Bedford in 1969, the Blessing of the Fleet is a time-honored tradition that has been celebrated by fishing communities since the Archaic period. Legend speaks of Greek fishermen asking clergy to bless their boats and crews, providing well wishes for safe sailing and heavy nets while out to sea. Fittingly, the top fishing port of New Bedford has continued this practice for nearly fifty years.

This year's recipient of the Offshore Mariners' Wives Association's Friend of the Fishing Industry award is the Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF). Established to ensure the long-term sustainability of the sea scallop fishery, FSF plays an incredibly important role in preserving and advocating for an industry that provides more than 50 million pounds of sea scallops each year and helping the port retain its status as the most profitable port on the East Coast and within the continental United States.

The Fisheries Survival Fund is intrinsically imbedded in the South Coast's fishing community. From working with academic institutions and independent experts to conduct research on sustainability, partnering with the federal government to ensure responsible management of the fishery, and by pioneering a management system and improving practices, FSF has helped to preserve and grow the scallop industry.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize the Fisheries Survival Fund's receipt of the Friend of the Fishing Industry award and the role FSF has played in the greater New Bedford fishing community.

HONORING DON AND PATTY JACKSON DOCTOR FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Don and Patty Jackson Doctor for their tireless commitment to community service. Their volunteer efforts and investments in various worthwhile causes is a brilliant example of men and women in Western New York giving back to the region. Don Doctor has served as a committee member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Men's Golf Committee and the Notre Dame Golf Committee for fourteen years. He has been instrumental in organizing golf tournaments that have raised thousands of dollars for both programs. He also served as Director of the Board for the West Seneca Youth Baseball Association for six years and was the Assignor of the Umpires for the league. Mr. Doctor was active in the West Seneca Youth Hockey Booster Club, and he is also a scheduler and a team representative for the Cheektowaga Old Timers League. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Doctor participate in the "Fill the Boot" drive for the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Research Team and are active in local politics.

Mrs. Jackson Doctor is a Buffalo Public School Teacher and Coach—she currently coaches the Discovery School Swim Team along with Jenny Fitzpatrick Hart. Mrs. Jackson Doctor, with her committee, started the St. Thomas Aquinas Women's Golf Tournament which was successfully held for eight years. This fundraiser benefitted the St. Thomas Aquinas Sports Program until the school closed. The tournament was then renamed the Marie Jackson Women's Golf Tournament, which provides scholarships to four South Buffalo eighth graders from Notre Dame Academy and Discovery School in support of their attendance at the Catholic school of their choice. Mrs. Jackson Doctor was honored as a member of the "Race Day Ladies" at the 2012 Mt. Mercy 5k run. She continues to volunteer in road races throughout the year, and is also active in local politics.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Doctor will be honored at the upcoming 4th annual Ryan Purcell Memorial Run, a race held in Lackawanna, NY which celebrates the life of the young man whose life was tragically cut short. The couple will be awarded the 3rd annual Michael J. Diggins Community Service Award at the event, which takes place on October 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Mr. and Mrs. Don and Patty Jackson Doctor. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them on their accomplished careers and to com-

mend them for their admirable service in the community.

RECOGNIZING DR. JUDY GENSHAFT'S LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article that appeared in the Tampa Tribune recognizing Dr. Judy Genshaft for her leadership as President of the University of South Florida. For the past 15 years, Dr. Genshaft has worked tirelessly to improve USF's academic successes, as well as expand USF's role in our local economy. It is my honor to recognize her achievements at the helm of USF, and we are fortunate to have her as a part of our Tampa Bay community.

EDITORIAL: GENSHAFT'S EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC SUCCESSES

[From the Tampa Tribune, Sept. 12, 2015]

Judy Genshaft has enjoyed the longest tenure of any University of South Florida president, and by most measures the university has flourished under her direction.

But often overlooked is how her 15-year leadership also has boosted the local economy.

Improving USF's academic standing, to be sure, has been the priority, and results have been impressive. The graduation rate, a persistent trouble area, has jumped from 48 percent in 2008 to 67 percent, thanks to university initiatives. The average SAT test scores of incoming freshmen have increased by 159 points, reflecting USF's growing status.

The Tampa campus, once a barren collection of far-flung buildings, has been transformed into a beautifully landscaped and bustling community.

Also impressive is how Genshaft has tapped USF's potential as an economic engine. She strengthened its ties to the business community and made it a catalyst for innovation and investment. Former USF President Betty Castor, who served from 1994 to 1999, also deserves credit for highlighting the university's economic importance. Genshaft expanded that effort.

Genshaft, who has served as chair of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Bay Partnership, actively sought to recruit companies to the area, particularly those that needed the resource of a research university.

Indeed, the university has excelled at winning research grants. As the Tribune's Anastasia Dawson reports, when Genshaft came to USF it brought in about \$171.3 million in research funds. Last year that number was \$440.5 million—43rd in the nation among public and private universities.

These dollars have an impact far beyond campus. According to the National Institutes of Health, every \$1 in research funding brings in \$2.21 in local economic growth. So USF's research funds alone are calculated to be responsible for \$974 million in new economic activity and account for 5,900 jobs with an average salary of \$75,000.

The emphasis on innovation has helped USF become the No. 1 university in the state for patents, and 10th in the nation and 13th worldwide.

With USF badly in need of renovating its 40-year-old medical school facilities,

Genshaft seized the opportunity to partner with Lightning owner Jeff Vinik in the redevelopment of downtown's Channelside District. Now, with the backing of the Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott, the USF Morsani College of Medicine and the new USF Health Heart Institute will be the centerpiece of Vinik's downtown project, which will include residences, offices, hotels and retail shops. The school is expected to create 1,500 jobs and undoubtedly will attract other health-care enterprises.

Genshaft also is pushing to redevelop the challenged neighborhoods near USF into an innovation district that will attract and nurture new enterprises. Former Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe is heading the Tampa Innovation Alliance.

Thanks to such diverse efforts, USF is widely recognized as a university on the move and is attracting widespread attention and support. It's nearing its goal of raising \$1 billion in donations.

Genshaft has had the occasional tussle with the Legislature, mostly stemming from lawmakers wanting more for USF branch campuses in their communities. The USF system includes St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses. The Legislature, in an act of fiscal lunacy, transformed USF's Polk County branch into a separate university, Florida Polytechnic, in 2012.

Such dustups underscore the pitfalls of a branch campus system that invites meddling by lawmakers focused on bringing goodies to their districts.

Granted, USF's football and basketball programs have languished in recent years. But those rough spots pale in comparison to USF's progress during Genshaft's 15 years.

Her contract runs out next year, but she says she would like to remain. That decision will be up to the USF Board of Trustees.

But there is a good reason Genshaft has managed to stay at USF's helm for 15 years. She is getting the job done.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHWEST CENTER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AND ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of Northwest Center. The Northwest Center is a leader in advancing equal opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Their unique social enterprise model provides services such as inclusive early childhood education, after school programs, job training and placement.

Founded in 1965, Northwest Center was initiated by parents who refused to accept that institutionalizing their children with special needs was the only option for their education and enrichment. Washington State is a place of pioneers and it was in that spirit that these parents effected positive change for children everywhere.

Fifty years later in 2015, Northwest Center continues to revolutionize the ways we think about people with abilities different than our own. Where Northwest Center's founding parents were once viewed as audacious for their

advocacy, today there is a generation of people living rich, productive lives because they were given the opportunity to thrive as a part of a community that nurtured them as part of its whole, instead of isolating them as separate and distinct.

Northwest Center's 50th Anniversary celebrates the promise the organization made a half century ago, "to promote the growth, development, and economic independence of persons with developmental disabilities through programs of education, rehabilitation, and work opportunity." Its revolutionary approach recognizes that inclusion, not segregation, is a fundamental tenet of a strong community—at school, at work and in the world around us. In Northwest Center classrooms, children with and without disabilities share high expectations. Innovative companies like Amazon, Microsoft, and Starbucks have embraced the advantages of workforce inclusion.

Against this backdrop of revolutionary achievement, I salute Northwest Center and its founders for their leadership—not only in their programs, but in launching a groundbreaking attitudinal shift that impacts people across the state of Washington and across this country.

HONORING MICHAEL AND KELLY DIAMOND ANDERSON FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Michael and Kelly Anderson for their dedicated commitment to bettering the community. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have supported various civic initiatives throughout Western New York in the last 15 years.

Mrs. Anderson, a Peer Review Coordinator at Catholic Health Systems, has demonstrated her passion for service through her involvement with the WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network, which provides support for families dealing with the loss of children at birth. She has chaired the WNYPNB's Walk to Remember and Elegant Evening to Remember events, and is also a coordinator for the WNY Perinatal Parent telephone support group. Mrs. Anderson has been a generous donor to the Sister's hospital foundation, and the Steven's Bereavement Fund. Like his wife, Mr. Anderson has been deeply involved in service efforts for the community. Mr. Anderson, an Area Sales Manager for First Niagara Financial Group, volunteers on several nonprofit boards in WNY; he currently serves as president elect for the University at Buffalo Alumni Association, in addition to being on the Board of Directors for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Anderson is also a volunteer Youth mentor for Leadership Buffalo, where he is an alumnus of the Leadership Buffalo Class of 2010.

Since 2011, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have helped organize a local fundraiser called RTG for a Cure, which raises money each year to

help support pediatric cancer initiatives. Mrs. Anderson is also an ardent supporter of the Red Cross, and donates her time to the City Mission and St. Vincent DePaul Society. Kelly and Michael will be honored at the upcoming 4th annual Ryan Purcell Memorial Run, a race held in Lackawanna, NY which celebrates the life of the young man whose life was tragically cut short. The couple will be awarded the 3rd annual Tim O'Neil Good Samaritan Award at the event, which takes place on October 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them on their accomplished careers and to commend them for their admirable service in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEECH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 160th Homecoming and Anniversary of the Beech Creek Baptist Church, in Spurger, Texas.

Charter members were James G. Collier, his wife Elizabeth Collier, his half-sister Mary Caswell, his stepmother Mary Keith, his daughter Lucy Ratcliff, his brother Thomas Collier and his nieces Volumnia Freeman and Mary Baker.

With no Baptist church in this area at the time, eight community members came together on September 24, 1855 to organize a church by the name of Beech Creek.

As the oldest Baptist Church in Tyler County with complete records of its existence, Beech Creek is an important and treasured place of worship for our area.

As we pause to celebrate another important milestone, let us remember those who faithfully and humbly came before us in service to God at Beech Creek Baptist Church.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. WILLIE MAE SEATON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Mae Seaton, longtime owner of Willie Mae's Scotch House in New Orleans. Ms. Seaton passed away on September 18, 2015, at the age of 99.

Ms. Seaton was born in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, and moved to New Orleans during World War II with her husband who worked at the Higgins Shipyard. For several years she drove a taxi, worked at a dry cleaner, and was a licensed beautician. Ms. Seaton's true ambition, however, was to own a bar.

In 1957, Ms. Seaton turned her corner beauty shop into Willie Mae's Scotch House where it quickly became a neighborhood fa-

vorite. While cooking out of the bar's kitchen, patrons encouraged her to open a restaurant. Famous for its fried chicken, Ms. Seaton ran her business for decades.

Ms. Seaton represented everything that is great about New Orleans. She had a wonderful spirit and always greeted everyone who came to visit her restaurant with warmth and love. To this day, Willie Mae's is among the best fried chicken you will ever find. In fact, when President Obama visited New Orleans for the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we ate at Willie Mae's.

Ms. Seaton was named an America's Classic by the James Beard Foundation in May 2005. Later that year, the floods that followed post-Katrina levee failure destroyed Willie Mae's Scotch House and Ms. Seaton's home next door. A testament to her impact on the New Orleans community, waves of volunteers helped to rebuild her neighborhood restaurant.

New Orleans will not be the same without her, but her legacy will forever be a part of the city. Her story of turning her small beauty shop into a world-renowned establishment exemplifies the spirit of New Orleans. Stories like hers will show generations of Americans that if we work hard, our dreams can become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Seaton, a beloved mother, grandmother, and example to African-American entrepreneurs everywhere.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL SHELTON KEM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Shelton Kem. Lieutenant Colonel Kem has served our country for 26 years with the United States Air Force and New York Air National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Kem has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions and will retire from military service on October 1st. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem began his military career in 1989 when he received his commission after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Factors Engineering. Lieutenant Colonel Kem served active duty from May 1989 through September 2000. Lieutenant Colonel Kem had a very successful active duty career; after commissioning he attended pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas and remained there after graduating as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot (FAIP) in the T-38. During his time at Laughlin Air Force Base, he flew as a check pilot, was an assistant Flight Commander, and the Runway Supervisory Unit Training and Standardization Officer-In-Charge.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem then flew the C-141 at Travis Air Force Base, California, working as a training officer and flying missions to

all points of the world. His final active duty assignment was at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as a Pilot Instructor Training (PIT) instructor in the T-1A. While stationed at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, he served as the assistant Chief of the Standardization and Evaluations division.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem joined the New York Air National Guard in 2002 and served with the 152nd Air Operations Group as an Air Mobility Liaison officer. While in that unit he was deployed overseas for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2003. After returning from that deployment, Lieutenant Colonel Kem joined the RC-26 program at Hancock Field, supporting law enforcement throughout the Northeast, performing airborne counter drug surveillance operations.

Shortly after joining the RC-26 program, its mission expanded to include missions outside the United States to locations such as Colombia, South America, various locations within Iraq and Afghanistan, and more recently to Lima, Peru. Lieutenant Colonel Kem courageously deployed ten times with the RC-26 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom. Five of those deployments were to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem has dedicated 26 years of service to the United States of America. Lieutenant Colonel Kem earned his pilot wings at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, and throughout his career he has earned the rating of Command Pilot, while logging 7,600 military flight hours, 1,115 combat hours, and 277 combat sorties. Lieutenant Colonel Kem worked his way through the ranks to earn the title of Lieutenant Colonel in September 2007. His effective dates of promotion are: Second Lieutenant—May 1989; First Lieutenant—May 1991; Captain—May 1993; Major—September 2000; Lieutenant Colonel—September 2007.

Lieutenant Colonel Kem's major military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal with ten devices, Aerial Achievement Medal with two devices, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two devices, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with ten devices, Combat Readiness Medal with two devices, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one device, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two devices, Iraq Campaign Medal with two devices, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Kem on his retirement and to thank him for his selfless service to our country.

CONGRATULATING COACH JOHN CALIPARI, NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate John Calipari, Head Basketball Coach of

the University of Kentucky Wildcats, on his induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Over his career as a basketball coach, Calipari has received many well deserved awards and the Hall of Fame recognizes the years of successful accomplishments.

In twenty two years as a head coach in college basketball, Coach Cal has an overall record of 593–174 (.773). He has led three schools to the Final Four; UMass, Memphis, and Kentucky. At the University of Kentucky, his teams have reached the Final Four in four out of the last five years. As all Kentuckians know, the 2012 Kentucky team won the national championship. He has twenty official twenty win seasons and eight official thirty win seasons as a college head coach.

In addition to his amazing won-loss record and his successful teams, Coach Cal can be very proud of the positive affect he has had on the lives of many young men. Numerous former players are now successful stars in the next step of their careers, the NBA. Coach Cal continues to follow their careers after they go to the NBA and takes time to show continued interest in their lives.

Coach Calipari can also be proud of the positive contributions he has made to the communities where he has coached through philanthropic efforts. Not only does he give generously to the community in many ways, he teaches his players to do the same. Young men on his teams are known for spending time with those who are less fortunate, especially children. He teaches players to be positive role models and good citizens.

For all the accomplishments of his college basketball coaching career, Coach John Calipari has been honored with membership in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. As a proud alumnus of the University of Kentucky and lifelong Wildcat fan, I am happy to be able to congratulate him before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF EBBY HALLIDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a proud Dallasite and a true American. Ebby Halliday, known in North Texas as the "Queen of Real Estate," passed in Dallas on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. The 70-year-old company that she founded, Ebby Halliday Real Estate, has nearly 1800 real estate agents and in 2014 amassed sales of \$6.6 billion. The impact of her company was only outweighed by the impact of her character.

The life and work of Ebby Halliday is a part of the social and economic fabric of Dallas. Mrs. Halliday approached philanthropy with the same way she approached real estate. Always graceful, she explained her work ethic by saying: "I work like a dog and act like a lady." Her intensity and charm only intensified with age.

Praise for Mrs. Halliday rings far and wide in Dallas, from the state capitol to her many

employees. Twenty-three years ago, she placed 49 percent of the company that she had built into a stock portfolio for her employees. She believed that they should be rewarded for their work.

She changed the scope and nature of the real estate industry in Texas, by including, recruiting, and mentoring talented women to lead the industry. Some of the largest real estate firms in North Texas today are owned by women who received their training under the prudent tutelage of Ebby Halliday.

At a celebration for her 100th birthday four years ago, this graceful lady donned a ukulele and sang "Happy Days Are Here Again." She was as joyous as the youngest person in the room.

Because of Ebby Halliday, Dallas grew not only in size, but in the capacity to love. I want to take this time to remember her, on behalf of her family, the city of Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, Ebby Halliday is an unforgettable public servant and leader. A woman fueled by passion and concern for others, she was a trailblazer for women throughout the state of Texas. She left a powerful legacy that will live for generations.

RECOGNIZING MR. THOMAS MARTIN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 3, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Thomas Martin, the Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent of Lincoln County Hospital, for his years of service and advocacy to Eastern Washington. A visionary leader, Mr. Martin served for more than twenty-six years as a hospital administrator in Lincoln County. Mr. Martin will be retiring at the end of January and I am pleased to recognize his accomplishments and countless contributions to our great community in Eastern Washington.

Throughout his illustrious career, Tom gained a reputation as a visionary and innovative leader. In Northeastern Washington, his legacy includes numerous programs that were developed and utilized during his tenure, namely Level One Cardiac Care, F.A.S.T. Stroke, Remote Presence Physicians using robotics, Telehealth, and other key partnerships with tertiary facilities and services. Due to his tireless work, these programs and initiatives will continue to better the lives of those in Eastern Washington for generations to come.

Furthermore, through the years, Tom received several prestigious healthcare and leadership awards including the American College of Healthcare Executives Regents Award, the Qualis Health Award of Excellence in Healthcare Quality, and the Healthcare Leadership Award from the Washington Rural Health Association and the Becker's National Review. These awards exemplify Mr. Martin's incredible service to our community.

Constantly working to advance the health and well-being of those in the Inland Northwest, Tom continually positioned his hospital and programs for success. Through his efforts, he provided increased access to healthcare throughout our community and continues to remain an important advocate for rural health care and Critical Access Hospitals all across our State. Mr. Martin is a true testament to what an involved and devoted member of a community looks like and continually goes above and beyond to advance healthcare efforts in Northeastern Washington.

I would like to thank Mr. Thomas Martin for his years of dedication to Lincoln County and to the greater Inland Northwest. I applaud his commitment to advocating for rural healthcare access all across our State and for his devotion to bettering the lives of those within Eastern Washington. I wish him the best of luck in the next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DE-
SHAUN SWANSON

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart, as I grieve along with the entire City of Indianapolis for the loss of a young man whose life was cut tragically short by senseless gun violence. Today, we remember De-Shaun Swanson, a 10-year-old boy who was taken from this world too soon on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

Although he was only with us for a short time, I am confident that the memories of De-Shaun can provide some solace in the face of this tragedy. De-Shaun was one of six children and a fifth grade student at Stony Brook Elementary. Family and friends have described him as an energetic young man who loved to rap, play football, with his team the Steelers, and joke around.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending prayers to De-Shaun Swanson's parents, Antwuan Lawrence and Shannon Swanson, his siblings, friends, coaches, teammates, teachers, as well as the entire Indianapolis community. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on September 25th. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On roll call 508, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 509, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 510, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 511, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 512, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 513, I would have voted Yes.

On roll call 514, I would have voted No.
On roll call 515, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 516, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 517, I would have voted Yes.
On roll call 518, I would have voted No.

HONORING JILL JOHNSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jill Johnson upon her retirement from the Napa County Office of Education. Jill has served in this office for 30 years, and she will end her career as Director of General Services this September. Her commitment to our local community is notable and deserving of recognition.

Over the past thirty years, Ms. Johnson has led a remarkable career. She began as an aide, and worked her way up to teacher, and eventually head teacher. Her administrative background includes time as purchasing agent and purchasing supervisor. She then moved on to become an Admissions Coordinator for Fairs, and currently serves as the Director of General Services for the Napa County Office of Education.

In addition, Ms. Johnson has been awarded several titles and held several offices throughout her professional experience. She served as an Alternate Board Member for the North Bay Schools Insurance Authority. She was part of the California Schools of Business Officials as a Sacramento Section Director, as well as part of the Sacramento Section Research and Professional Development Committee. Jill is a former member of the Sunrise Soroptimist and is currently a Member of the School Nutrition Association and Women of the Moose.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Jill Johnson at this time and thank Jill for her invaluable service and wish her a most enjoyable retirement. Her commitment to serving her community and her level of dedication will not be easily replaced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2015, I missed rollcall vote number 495 and number 496 due to difficulty traveling because of a broken leg. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 495 and 496.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN AVOIDANCE ACT OF
2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, although it appears the federal government will narrowly avert a shutdown on October 1, the second shutdown since 2013, I rise today to offer the District of Columbia Government Shutdown Avoidance Act of 2015 to permanently authorize the District to spend its local funds during a federal shutdown and therefore to remain open during a shutdown. Congress has recently exempted D.C. from shutdowns on an annual basis, and this bill simply makes those exemptions permanent.

The District has an \$8 billion local budget, which is comprised entirely of local revenue sources, such as taxes and fees. The District should be free, as every state and city is, to spend its own local funds during a federal shutdown. The shutdowns involve congressional disputes about federal funding, but the federal government does not provide a dollar of D.C.'s local budget. The D.C. government should never have to wonder whether it will be part of a federal shutdown, have to prepare in case of a shutdown, or even have to ask Congress to be exempted annually. No Member of the House or Senate has spoken up in favor of shutting down the D.C. government, and I do not believe any Member wants to shut down the D.C. government and bring a large, complicated city to its knees over purely federal matters in which the city is not involved.

There is unprecedented bipartisan and bicameral support, as well as support from the Obama administration, for preventing D.C. shutdowns. In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, for the first time ever, Congress exempted D.C. from shutdowns for an entire fiscal year (fiscal years 2015 and 2016, respectively). The pending House and Senate fiscal year 2016 D.C. Appropriations bills each exempt D.C. from shutdowns for fiscal year 2017.

Among the most important reasons for a permanent shutdown exemption would be the significant financial and operational benefits for the District. If the District shuts down, it could default under certain financing agreements and leases. The financial importance of eliminating shutdown threats to the District were definitively shown recently. The three leading bond rating agencies have cited the annual shutdown exemption as a positive credit factor in upgrading or maintaining their ratings on the District's bonds. The city's partners, Wall Street and vendors alike can charge a risk premium for the uncertainty created by shutdown threats. A permanent shutdown exemption would undoubtedly improve D.C.'s creditworthiness even more.

The 650,000 D.C. residents do not suffer alone when vital city services cease during a shutdown. Federal officials, federal buildings, foreign embassies and dignitaries, businesses and tourists rely daily on the city's services as well. Successive continuing resolutions (CRs) do not help much. Not only do successive

CRs make it difficult for the city to plan its activities for the year, they increase the city's costs of doing business. Shutdown threats force the District to invest time and money preparing contingency shutdown plans.

Although federal shutdowns have shut down the District in the past, the District did not shut down during the 2013 federal shutdown, only because D.C. was able to use previously appropriated contingency funds to remain open. However, the District had to severely ration its payments, risking its credit standing, and if the federal shutdown had continued for much longer, the District would have exhausted those funds and shut down, too.

It is clear that Congress does not intend such risks and consequences to the District. Congress loses nothing by allowing the District, which submits a balanced budget, almost always with surpluses, each year, to remain open.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. VALERIE JONES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Valerie Camille Jones, Ed.D. an educator at the Ron Clark Academy located in my congressional district. I am proud to share that the President of the United States recently honored Dr. Jones with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), which is our country's highest honor in math and science for teachers.

For over 15 years, Dr. Jones has served her country and the people of Metropolitan Atlanta as a teacher. Dr. Jones earned her bachelor's degree in Mathematics at Spelman College and continued her studies by earning master's and doctoral degrees in Education from Georgia State University. As you may know, Mr. Speaker, both of these wonderful institutions are located in Georgia's 5th Congressional District.

Dr. Jones is greatly respected for her creative approach in making the most difficult subjects accessible and tangible to her students. Dr. Jones teaches her students how to effectively use mathematical models as communication tools. In the classroom, she develops art and video games simulations to connect students to math and coordinates field trips to provide real-life examples of angles and forces for struggling geometry students.

Not only does Dr. Jones' innovative and creative approach help students develop the critical skills they need to compete and thrive in today's world, but she also goes out of her way to share these effective teaching techniques with over 17,000 teachers across the country and around the world. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Jones is a wonderful national and international model and practitioner in the field of education.

Today, I join the President, the administration, the Ron Clark Academy community, and Metropolitan Atlanta in congratulating Dr.

Jones on this prestigious honor, and thanking her for her tireless work and support of the most precious and beloved members of our community—our youth—our future.

CONGRATULATING ADRIAN KARMAZYN, VOICE OF AMERICA UKRAINIAN SERVICE CHIEF, ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ukrainian-American and Northern Ohioan Adrian Karmazyn on the announcement of his retirement as Voice of America's (VOA) Ukrainian Service Chief. Mr. Karmazyn is a native of Parma, Ohio and is respected around the world as a veteran journalist covering Ukraine and Ukrainian-American communities in the United States.

During his career, Mr. Karmazyn has contributed immensely to keeping the flame of freedom alive in Ukraine, even during some of her darkest hours. He is a freedom fighter. His mindful voice has been an essential component on the arduous path to a more open, democratic society following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the harrowing but steady progress of Ukraine to become part of the European community of nations.

Mr. Karmazyn attended Ohio State University, receiving a B.A. in History. He then joined Voice of America in 1988 as an international radio broadcaster in VOA's Ukrainian Service, serving as a writer, producer, reporter, translator, announcer, and eventually as a correspondent in Kyiv. While there, he recruited a team of radio and video journalists in Kyiv and in other regional cities, helping to establish VOA's reporting presence throughout Ukraine.

He continued to distinguish himself and in 1999 was named Program Manager of VOA's Ukrainian Service. Mr. Karmazyn directed the reorganization of the weekly Ukrainian Service TV magazine program *Vikno v America*, or *Window on America*. Over the next several years, the Ukrainian Service significantly expanded its network of reporters in Ukraine.

In 2004, Mr. Karmazyn was assigned leadership over VOA's Ukrainian television programming. Later that year, during Ukraine's Orange Revolution, Karmazyn oversaw the launch of the daily *Chas-Time* television program. He was appointed Chief of VOA's Ukrainian Service in 2006 and served as one of the most reliable and valuable sources of information during the Euromaidan protests and Revolution of Dignity in 2013. This was vital as freedom of the press was under threat in the region.

I have known and worked with Adrian Karmazyn for many years. Please allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation for his years of exemplary and passionate service and his commitment to telling the stories of Ukraine, from Kyiv to Cleveland. His labor has brought the American people and the people of Ukraine closer for decades, with his regular presence and positive influence at VOA for the

cause of liberty. His has been a voice of freedom and he will be missed.

RECOGNIZING TAIWANESE NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan, on October 10th.

The economic relationship between the United States and Taiwan has been long and prosperous and will continue long into the future.

Taiwan is a key trading partner for my state of California, and indeed for the entire United States. In my own district, Taiwan is a vital source and destination of cargo coming through the Port of Long Beach.

In recent decades, Taiwan has created a democracy that, since 1996, has conducted direct presidential elections every four years and witnessed the peaceful passage of power from one political party to another on two occasions. It is a regional and global economic force, and makes global contributions culturally in fields ranging from art to fashion. Through our shared security partnership, Taiwan also contributes to the security of the Asia-Pacific, and is a humanitarian force around the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day, and in thanking Taiwan for its many contributions to the global community.

RECOGNIZING CLAUDE GORDON "PEEWEE" SHAFFER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claude Gordon "PeeWee" Shaffer's 90th birthday which will take place Saturday, October 3rd of 2015.

Claude served his country from 1943 to 1946 during World War II. He was drafted into the Army and completed Gunnery School in Arizona. He was then sent to Rapid City Army Air Base in South Dakota for training and crew assignment as a ball turret gunner. Claude then became a Staff Sergeant and member of the 545th Bomb Squadron, the Dark Angel Crew.

As a part of this distinguished squadron, he was ordered to carry out a bombing mission on Leipzig, Germany on March 17, 1945. On this mission, his B17 was shot down behind enemy lines near Naundorf, Germany. Claude was captured and became a prisoner of war.

After being captured, Claude and his squad mates were prisoners to both the Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe and were transported around Germany. They went to Oschatz, Weimar, Nuremberg, and Moosburg until finally arriving at the Stalag VII, a prisoner of war

camp. It wasn't until April 29, 1945 that Stalag VII was liberated and he was released. Claude was discharged the following year.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Claude for his service to our country with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in his honor. He is a true patriot for his actions and I wish him a very happy birthday.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,073,031,331.50. We've added \$7,524,195,982,418.42 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CENTER

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, the nation's first and only integrated Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense medical center, on its five-year anniversary.

In just five years, the Center demonstrated the merits of combining two different health care systems. Through hard work and dedication, the FHCC staff has shown that one health care facility can annually provide excellent care to over 90,000 military personnel, their families, military retirees and Veterans. I would like to personally congratulate Director Dr. Stephan Holt, and Deputy Director Navy Captain Bob Buckley. Their vision and enthusiasm facilitated the integration tremendously.

I look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries of the Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for Roll Call vote number 518. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on final passage of H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015. On Roll Call num-

ber 514, (Gosar of Arizona Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 348) I intended to vote "YEA."

CELEBRATING THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 375th anniversary of Farmington, Connecticut.

During the month of August and September, seven historical organizations planned History Day to display, honor, and celebrate influential Farmington community leaders. This historic milestone recognizes Farmington's deeply rooted history and significance as one of the first settlements in New England.

Over the past 375 years, Farmington residents have enjoyed the fruits of the land, scenic views along the Farmington River, and trails through the Farmington Valley greenway. Though closely neighboring the major metropolitan hub of Hartford, the town of Farmington has maintained its unique character through careful land use and historic preservation.

On September 13, 2015, the town celebrated History Day, educating community members about the first Tunxis Indians who welcomed new settlers into the area. In 1640, the early settlers purchased the land that would become Farmington. During the mid-1700s, Farmington's rich farmland and access to water made it an attractive destination for homesteaders. As trade opportunities evolved, a booming economy brought with it an era of technological innovation. Manufacturers located their factories in the Unionville section of Farmington to take advantage of its easy access to the Farmington Canal, which was later replaced by a railroad.

Through its many periods of growth, Farmington continues to embody the values instilled by its early inhabitants to promote its natural resources. From its wooden lands, to the majestic river and valley, Farmington offers its residents a getaway from the Hartford metropolitan area, while remaining in a central location in the state. I am honored to represent Farmington in Congress.

Congratulations to Farmington on its 375th anniversary.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF NATIONAL RICE MONTH

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with America's rice farmers in celebrating the month of September as National Rice Month.

It has been 25 years since September was first declared National Rice Month.

On this silver anniversary, I want to pay a special tribute to the hard working men and

women who produce rice on their family farms.

I would also like to recognize all of those who mill and market rice, all of the suppliers and buyers, and, of course, all of the consumers who make rice an essential part of their diet.

Rice farming in America actually predates our nation's independence, beginning some 300 years ago.

Today, America's rice industry creates 125,000 good-paying jobs and contributes an estimated \$34 billion to our nation's economy, including an estimated direct impact of \$169.8 million in my home state of Texas.

Nine million tons of rice are grown each year by family farmers on some 2.7 million acres of land, predominately in the states of Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas. While these six states produce the lion's share of rice in America, there is also rice production in other states, like Illinois and Tennessee, and the entire rice industry reaches every state in the nation, especially those states with cereal makers, breweries, and other food-makers that use rice as a key ingredient.

On top of this, about half of America's rice crop is bound for export markets, helping to feed people around the globe while positively contributing to our nation's balance of trade.

Although the figures I just listed are as impressive as they are important, the benefits of rice are not limited to jobs and the economy.

Health-wise, rice is a source of more than 15 vitamins and minerals and 100% gluten-free, with only 100 calories per serving. Brown rice is 100% whole grain and may reduce the risk of heart disease and certain cancers.

What is more, studies suggest that those who eat rice have healthier diets than those who do not.

On the conservation front, America's rice farmers have a longstanding commitment to protect and preserve natural resources. Today, U.S. rice farmers produce more rice using less land, energy, and water than they did just 20 years ago. Our rice farms provide critical habitat for hundreds of species, particularly migratory birds.

America's rice farmers continue to serve as leaders in the farming community by producing a healthy, conservation-friendly food that, as a byproduct, generates jobs and economic opportunity.

It is fitting that we honor the hard working American farmers, millers, merchants, suppliers and buyers, and the consumers who make rice not only such a wholesome and popular food but an important part of our economy.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in celebrating September as National Rice Month.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD RAINWATER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Richard Rainwater sadly passed away on

Sunday, September 27, 2015, at his home in Fort Worth, Texas. The following obituary by Miguel Bustillo, Gregory Zuckerman and Rob Copeland was published in The Wall Street Journal on September 27, 2015. The citizens of South Carolina especially appreciate the Rainwater and Moore families for their phenomenal generosity promoting business education at the University of South Carolina.

Long before Wall Street was littered with swaggering hedge-fund billionaires, Richard Rainwater earned a Texas-size reputation as an investor with an eye on the big score.

He helped install Michael Eisner as Walt Disney Co. chief executive, steered George W. Bush to buy a stake in Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers and helped multiply the Bass family fortune one-hundredfold before building a billion-dollar one of his own.

"My brother said, 'Don't be mediocre at anything; be remarkable at something,'" Mr. Rainwater recalled in 2010 in a speech at Stanford University.

Mr. Rainwater died on Sunday morning at his home in Fort Worth, Texas, according to the Rainwater Charitable Foundation and his family. He had been suffering from complications of a rare brain disease. He was 71 years old.

Born to a middle-class family, Mr. Rainwater parlayed a gift for mathematics and a gregarious personality into a more than \$2 billion fortune as a financial adviser and wheeler-dealer whose underlings went on to become chief executives, governors and hedge-fund tycoons.

"He was a laid back guy who liked to invest but he was not a fan of fancy dinners or some of the other things that went with it," his son, Todd, said on Sunday. "What he was best at is being a talent scout. He would find a troubled business, find the best person to run it, the Michael Jordan of that industry, and inevitably that person would turn the business around."

A native of Fort Worth, Mr. Rainwater attended the Stanford Graduate School of Business on scholarship, where he met Sid Bass, who hired him to serve as chief investment adviser for the Bass brothers, who were also from Fort Worth.

He began working in 1970 for the Bass family, which had inherited an oil fortune from Texas wildcatter Sid Williams Richardson, and helped them to dramatically increase their wealth over the next decade and a half through a dizzying succession of deals.

Perhaps the most famous deal was the Bass family's rescue of then-struggling Disney in 1984 with a nearly \$500 million investment to ward off a potential hostile takeover bid by financier Saul Steinberg. Mr. Rainwater helped handpick a new management team for Disney led by Mr. Eisner that brought the studio back to prominence—and made the Bass brothers billions.

"Richard was one of best deal guys who ever lived," said David Bonderman, who met Mr. Rainwater while working for Robert Bass and later founded private-equity giant TPG. "He was always confident and idiosyncratic, and generally was right."

Mr. Rainwater struck out on his own in the late 1980s, continuing his penchant for spotting distressed assets and market quirks that made for bold investment opportunities through his private-equity firm, Rainwater Inc. His winning moves included buying more than 15 million square feet of downtown Houston real estate during a slump in the mid-1990s; many of the properties later sold for two or three times his purchase price.

In addition to mastering the art of the deal, Mr. Rainwater became known for his extraordinary ability to spot and cultivate young talent during the 1980s and early 1990s. His Fort Worth offices became a salon of sorts for ambitious young financiers.

Among those he encouraged was Edward S. Lampert, who began his ESL Investments Inc. hedge fund in the office. Down the hall at the time was Rick Scott, who became the CEO of the Columbia/HCA hospital chain and is now governor of Florida.

"He believed in [young people] and made them believe in themselves," said Mr. Lampert, who later made a fortune for investors buying the debt of Kmart and steering the troubled retailer out of bankruptcy.

Mr. Rainwater's unorthodox personal style—he would often stand on his desk to hammer home a point—made an impression on his protégés, as did his lack of pretense. Mr. Bonderman recalled how Mr. Rainwater once traveled to a city to cut a deal without packing a suitcase; the billionaire brought a change of clothes in a paper bag.

"He couldn't be bothered, he was a total character," Mr. Bonderman said. "It was all about making lot of money and having fun doing it."

Mr. Rainwater, who had three children with his first wife, Karen, married Darla Moore, a prominent bankruptcy banker, in 1991.

Ms. Moore became CEO of Rainwater Inc. in 1994 and brought a harder edge to some of the firm's dealings that generated controversy, notably when it forced oilman T. Boone Pickens to leave the company he founded, Mesa Petroleum, in 1996.

Mr. Rainwater had slowed his investment activity, playing golf and traveling with his wife, when he began experiencing falls and mood changes. He slowly withdrew from public life as the symptoms of progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare brain disease with no known cure, became more pronounced and he lost his ability to speak clearly. Doctors warned his friends and family that he would almost certainly die from the disease.

Undeterred, Mr. Rainwater's family tackled the problem through an investment, creating the Tau Consortium, a group of international scientists, which is trying to understand and ultimately treat degenerative brain diseases such as the one that struck Mr. Rainwater. The Tau Consortium has spent a total of more than \$50 million trying to find a solution to the disease, a cure that may also assist people with a more common illness: Alzheimer's disease, Todd Rainwater said Sunday.

"Just like my father invested in business, we went about assembling the top team possible to work on this," he said. "I do have faith that ultimately, we will be able to make a difference."

MR. GEORGE AIGEN

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. George Aigen today for his ninetieth birthday. As a veteran of World War II, he has been a leader in his community, and revered for his service and sacrifice to our great nation.

Seventy one years ago, Mr. Aigen was drafted into the Army as a corporal in the

1269th Engineer Combat Battalion. At the age of nineteen, he had experienced much fighting and witnessed horrible atrocities while serving in Europe. In 1945, as the war drew to a close, Mr. Aigen was among the first soldiers to liberate the prisoners of Dachau, one of the oldest Nazi concentration camps.

In his community, Mr. Aigen has spoken to schools, universities, and countless organizations about the horrors committed by the Nazis and the importance of military service. His dedication to our country has been commemorated across Georgia from the Valdosta community to the state capitol. Mr. Aigen's story has been archived at the Library of Congress and televised by Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Through his actions, service, and community involvement, Mr. Aigen has demonstrated that he is a leader, a mentor, and a hero. I am humbled to honor him and his legacy as our nation's servicemen and servicewomen secure our freedoms for future generations.

H.R. 348—RAPID ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 25, 2015, I voted against H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, which, if enacted, would severely weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under current law, NEPA requires federal agencies to go through a public assessment of the environmental impacts of certain proposed federal actions and mandates the consideration of alternatives to those actions. This process often identifies alternatives that are less costly and have fewer impacts on the environment.

While I support efforts to refine our regulatory process in a manner that rewards outcomes instead of dictating onerous processes, H.R. 348 adds confusion and would lead to worse outcomes for our environment, communities and future generations. This bill would allow potential developers to prepare environmental review documents for their proposed projects, creating clear conflicts of interest. The bill prohibits agencies from using the social cost of carbon in the environmental review or decision-making process and it limits the ability of an aggrieved party to seek judicial review of a permit or license. The bill imposes arbitrary and rigid deadlines for review and approval, and it provides for default approvals of permits or licenses if deadlines are not met; a measure that wholly undermines the environmental review process.

The stated goal of this bill is to help projects—including infrastructure projects—to move forward more quickly. The NEPA process, however, is not the reason for project delays; other factors such as project complexity and under-resourced agencies are to blame. At the Army Corps of Engineers, there is a \$60 billion backlog of authorized water resources projects that were successfully approved under NEPA, but have not been built due to lack of funding. Our roads and bridges are in disrepair, not due to NEPA, but because the Congress has failed to act to raise

the gas tax, leaving the federal government short of resources. The Highway Trust Fund is projected to need \$90 billion in additional revenue over the next six years just to stay solvent. Additionally, the NEPA process, which ensures the public has a voice in the planning of major projects that impact their communities, leads to better decision-making and better projects. In the end, NEPA saves time, money and reduces negative impacts.

NEPA's positive impact is unquestionable—it is one of the nation's bedrock environmental laws, ensuring careful decision making and public participation. I am disappointed to see H.R. 348 pass the House, which will only limit the public's participation, increase confusion and undermine responsible agency reviews.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENARD DAVIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Denard Davis, a pillar of the community in Merced County. Mr. Denard Davis passed away September 8th, 2015. He is survived by his wife Yvonne, two daughters, Donna and Dorma, 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Denard Davis was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on May 15, 1934. Denard left New Orleans to attend Texas College in Tyler, Texas. Denard then served in the United States Marine Corps.

After his discharge from the Corps in 1959 he went to San Francisco to work as a substitute teacher. On May 16, 1960 he married his childhood sweetheart Yvonne. On August 13th 1960 the newlyweds arrived in Merced where Denard began working for the Merced City School District. After teaching for fifteen years Denard became the first African American Assistant Superintendent of Merced County schools, providing administrative leadership for over 30 years.

Denard Davis had extensive experience in the planning and development of educational programs from their inception to their implementation. He was an instrumental part in the development of the Head Start buildings in Planada and South Dos Palos. Denard also played an essential role in the development of preschool programs and buildings in the migrant worker camps in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. His efforts later extended to Madera and Contra Costa counties in 1969 and his administrative duties included hiring all staff in the five county migrant education program.

After retiring from the Merced County Office of Education he created his own consulting business and served on many projects, programs and initiatives that focused on the betterment of Merced County children's education. Denard worked on anything that would improve the opportunities, training, job creation and life-long experiences that would translate into the development of Merced County. These movements include among many others: serving on the board of the local

NAACP chapter, workforce development and the renaming of J Street in Merced to Martin Luther King Jr. Way. He was instrumental in establishing the annual "Concerned Men Cook" event where all of the proceeds go to scholarships for local children. Denard managed local campaigns, and was always engaged on municipal and county committees. He was a thoughtful and active leader who often called upon the community to weigh in on local issues at public hearings.

Mr. Speaker it is with great honor that I recognize the memory of Denard Davis. Denard dedicated his life to the promotion of civil rights and education. May his years of service to the community of Merced County never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF TARY L. BROWN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of Mr. Tary L. Brown, who will be retiring after thirty years of serving as CEO of Albany Area Primary Health Care (AAPHC) in Southwest Georgia. A retirement celebration was held in Tary's honor on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Doublegate Country Club in Albany, Georgia.

Tary began his professional career after the death of his grandmother. Upset with how the local health care system treated her, he chose to devote his life "to making a difference and promoting healthcare as a Right." Tary subsequently received a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University and a Master's degree in Health Administration from the University of Illinois. Upon graduation, he began working with community health centers (CHCs) in Oquawka, Illinois as both health department administrator and CHC director.

Tary was then offered an opportunity to work in Georgia for two years initially. But Tary, as countless others before and after him, fell in love with the beautiful landscape and rich culture of our great state. For the next three decades, he worked tirelessly in Georgia to ensure that all citizens—no matter their race, income, or background—had access to quality health care.

Under Tary's leadership, AAPHC performed over one million patient visits. The center trained medical students and residents and piloted primary care case management of HIV/AIDS, the largest rural program in the nation. Moreover, AAPHC was instrumental in responding to the medical needs of citizens during natural disasters. Tary oversaw AAPHC's growth from three sites and 34 employees to eight sites and 160 employees. I know that he will leave the AAPHC in good hands with incoming CEO, Shelley Spires.

Tary has been recognized and commended for his leadership and service numerous times throughout his career. Some of his accolades include the 2010 Betsey K. Cook Advocacy MVP Award and the 2015 Spirit of Excellence Award, both from the National Association of

Community Health Centers, and two Administrator of the Year Awards from the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care, Inc. His practice has been recognized as the Rural Practice of the Year in 2009 and was listed in the Top 25 Physician Group Practices by Atlanta Business Chronicle in 1997.

Tary Brown has been a stalwart advocate for CHCs on the local, state, and national levels and has been a frequent visitor to my Congressional office both in Albany and Washington D.C. He also has been active in the community and previously served as President of Georgia Association for Primary Health Care, Inc.

Tary has achieved much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Lyndea, their three children, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Mr. Tary Brown for his outstanding leadership and his contributions to improving the quality of health care in Southwest Georgia. I wish Tary all the best for his retirement and I look forward to his continued friendship and wise counsel in the future.

RECOGNIZING DOWNTOWN GOLDSBORO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation (DGDC) on the occasion of their Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony. The DGDC was established in 1979 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving Downtown Goldsboro by creating and facilitating downtown development, promotion, and preservation activities.

DGDC's employees and members of its board strive to work with local community members, downtown merchants, and other groups to enhance the appearance, desirability, and vitality of Downtown Goldsboro. DGDC's work that started some 36 years ago continues today under the capable leadership of its Executive Director, Ms. Julie M. Metz.

I have had the pleasure of representing the City of Goldsboro since coming to Congress 11 years ago and have witnessed firsthand the renaissance of Downtown Goldsboro. The significant infrastructure improvements and beautification efforts have helped to draw new residents and businesses to the City and helped to create jobs and expand the tax base. I was proud to accompany U.S. Secretaries of Transportation Ray LaHood and Anthony Foxx to Goldsboro. They were equally impressed by the focused efforts of DGDC and the City in pursuing the Goldsboro Master Plan.

Implementing that long term plan takes strategic partnerships between federal and local government and individuals and businesses. And it is DGDC's Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony that recognizes and honors the dedicated work of those that have labored so

hard to improve the City of Goldsboro and its vibrant downtown.

Awardees are honored in a variety of categories, including awards for Best Curb Appeal, Best Promotional or Marketing Effort, Best New Business, Indicator of the Year, the "Thank You" Award, Historic Preservation, Volunteer of the Year, Design Improvement, Advocate of the Year, Board Member of the Year, Outstanding Investor, Most Valuable Supporter, and Outstanding Business of the Year.

This year's award recipients are most deserving of DGDC's recognition. They have gone to great lengths on behalf of those who live, work, and visit Downtown Goldsboro. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's award recipients and in extending best wishes as they continue to build upon the City's great successes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 24, and Friday, September 25, I was attending a funeral in Pennsylvania and unable to be present for recorded votes.

On September 24, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 507, which would designate a post office in Chesterfield, MO, as the Sgt. Zackary M. Fisher Post Office.

On September 25, had I been present, I would have voted the following on amendments to H.R. 348, the RAPID Act: "no" on roll call no. 508, the Lowenthal amendment, "yes" on roll call no. 509, the Grijalva amendment, "no" on roll call no. 510, Gallego amendment, "no" on roll call no. 511, the Jackson Lee amendment, "no" on roll call no. 512, the Dingell amendment, "no" on roll call no. 513, the Peters amendment, "yes" on roll call no. 514, the Gosar amendment, "no" on roll call no. 515, Jackson Lee amendment no. two, "no" on roll call no. 516, the Johnson of Georgia amendment, and "no" on roll call no. 517, the Democratic Motion to Recommit.

I would have proudly voted "yes" on roll call no. 518, final passage of H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, offered by my friend and colleague TOM MARINO. Since coming to Congress, I have been proud to work with him to reduce burdensome bureaucratic regulations on businesses in Pennsylvania and across the nation. These streamlining provisions will allow shovel ready construction projects to move forward, putting Americans back to work.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF ESTHER GOLAR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Esther Golar was called home by the Lord

on Monday, September 21, 2015 at age 71. Esther was born in Chicago, Illinois and was educated here including attending college at Malcolm X; and she was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ. Esther devoted her adult life to a tireless quest for social and economic justice; and she worked with Alternative Policing Strategy, Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago and Robert Fulton Elementary Local School Council. In 2006, Esther was appointed to represent the people of District 6 of the Illinois State House of Representatives and was first elected in 2006 to the Illinois House and re-elected again in each election since and she was known and loved as one of the kindest and most compassionate elected officials in Illinois, a woman who used her powerful voice and enduring passion to selflessly champion for her constituents.

Esther leaves to mourn her passing her daughter: Tiffany Golar; and grandchildren Briana Golar, Toni Thomas, Ananda Thomas and Jayden Golar, along with a massive host of friends and co-workers.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that we deeply mourn the passing of our dear friend Esther Golar; and be it further resolved, that we express to her family, friends and all who knew her, our appreciation, admiration and respect for her life and works and we commend her soul to the Almighty God for peaceful repose.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call vote 508. If present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call 508.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REP. LOUIS STOKES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight, it is an honor to stand before you all and celebrate the life of my good friend, Congressman Lou Stokes.

Lou was a highly honored member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. He was a decorated veteran who served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was one of the original founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, and later its chair from 1972–1974.

We will miss him here in Congress and across the country—he gave us all so much.

Lou lived his life with an unrelenting optimism—he knew his country could be a better place, and he never ceased to join in that struggle. He shared that quality that so many great men and women possess: a fierce, unrelenting, desire to bring about change.

In 1967, Lou followed that conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he argued for the petitioner in *Terry v. Ohio*, which established

the standards under which a police officer may stop a citizen.

Less than a year later, he became the first African-American in Ohio elected to the United States House of Representatives. On Jan. 3, 1969 he took his seat in the House, just a year and three days after his brother—Carl Stokes—was elected Mayor of Cleveland and the first African-American mayor of a major city.

He was a distinguished member of this body, serving on the Appropriations Committee for many years. He also served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, investigating the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as Chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, now the House Ethics Committee.

If there was one thing you knew about Lou, it was that you could find him fighting for what is right no matter how difficult the challenge or ominous the odds. It was—quite simply—an honor to call him my friend and my colleague. To have fought with him for 30 years has given my own time in this body a special meaning.

I have passed along my condolences to his family—his wife Jay, his daughters Shelly, Angela, and Lori, and his son Chuck Stokes, an Editorial Director with Detroit's WXYZ News. I thank them for sharing Lou with those who loved him and a country that needed him.

Congressman Louis Stokes left behind a record of accomplishment that will continue to benefit the people of Cleveland, the American public, and this body for many years.

POPE FRANCIS' VISIT AND CALL TO DEFEND AND PRESERVE THE DIGNITY OF ALL

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, last week His Holiness Pope Francis addressed a Joint Session of Congress—an address that I, like many, found to be both profound and provocative.

Pope Francis' first visit to our country coincided with a time when our nation as he stated, is "marking the anniversaries of several great Americans", including Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who fifty years ago led the Selma-to-Montgomery marches in order to achieve full civil and political rights for African-Americans.

These marches culminated in the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which offered African-Americans a piece of Dr. King's dream of equality, fairness, and justice.

Yet, our nation continues to struggle with ensuring racial equality and voter enfranchisement; we have, as Pope Francis stated at the White House last week, "defaulted on a promissory note", but now is the time to honor it."

Let us continue to strive to follow the advice of Pope Francis and as envisioned by Dr. King—"to foster a culture which enables people to dream of full rights for all our brothers and sisters, instead of creating one which limits its opportunity and growth."

We could take a big step in that direction by passing the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2015, H.R. 885.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation and urge the Republican Leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote without delay.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 29, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Education and student achievement.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the development of the new regulatory definition of "Waters of the United States".

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 799, to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome, S. 1893, to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders, S. 481, to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human

Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and other pending calendar business.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian R. Martinotti, and Julien Xavier Neals, both to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Robert F. Rossiter, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, and Edward L. Stanton III, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

SD-226

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine financing higher education, focusing on exploring current challenges and potential alternatives.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold closed hearings to examine the economic crisis in Ukraine.

S-116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management

To hold hearings to examine end of the year spending.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

SR-418

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine pension advances.

SD-562

OCTOBER 1

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the procurement, acquisition, testing, and oversight of the Navy's *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carrier program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "American Crude Oil Export Equality Act".

SD-538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine improper payments in Federal programs.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Scott Allen, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Ann Calvaresi Barr, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, United States Agency for International Development, Barbara Lee, of California, and Christopher H. Smith, of New Jersey, both to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Seventieth Session of the General

Assembly of the United Nations, and Carolyn Patricia Alsop, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, David R. Gilmour, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic, Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Edwin Richard Nolan, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Suriname, David Malcolm Robinson, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations), and to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, Daniel H. Rubinstein, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the civil nuclear agreement in South Korea.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine achieving the promise of health information technology.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1814, to withhold certain Federal funding from sanctuary cities.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the significant costs and related burdens for small businesses resulting from the Gold King Mine waste water spill near Silverton, Colorado.

SR-428A

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Porter Jackson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, Julie Furuta-Toy, of Wyoming, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Administration's FY 2016 refugee resettlement program, including fiscal and security implications.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 2031, to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands.

SD-366

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217, following the open session.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues.

SD-366

OCTOBER 7

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

SD-628

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 2898, to provide drought relief in the State of California, S. 1894, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, S. 1936, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, and S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 414, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 872, to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1295 and H.R. 1324, bills to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, S. 1448, to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R.

1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 1955, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 1971, to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

SD-366

OCTOBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Energy, and Mary L. Kendall, of Minnesota, to be Inspector General, Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Kristen Joan Sarri, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

SENATE—Tuesday, September 29, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who calls us to a life rooted in faith, immerse our lawmakers in the wisdom of Your Spirit. Guide them with Your insights, enabling them to be salt and light in the world, living with humility and integrity. As they strive to be a force for good, direct them around the pitfalls that prevent them from fulfilling Your purposes. Inspire them to rely on Your love as they seek to faithfully serve You and country.

Lord, nurture within us all a godly sincerity and a daily reliance upon Your strength, wisdom, and love.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night, 77 Senators voted to advance legislation that would keep the government funded through the fall at the bipartisan level agreed to by both parties. The bill hardly represents my preferred method for funding the government, but it is now the most viable way forward after Democrats' extreme action forced our country into this situation.

Let's remember how we got here. Democrats knew the American people were unlikely to buy their desire for more bureaucracy and more debt, but they figured they might in a crisis. So Democrats pursued a deliberate strategy of blocking government funding all year in order to force our Nation to the brink. Democrats said they would block government funding legislation they had even voted for in committee. Some of these bills came out of committee overwhelmingly on a bipartisan

basis. Democrats said they would block government funding of legislation they had actually praised in their press releases when these bills emerged from the Appropriations Committee with large majorities. Democrats even voted repeatedly to block the bill that funds our military, to repeatedly block the bill that funds medical care and pay raises for our troops. That is how far Democrats are willing to go—at a time of daunting international threats—in order to tear down the normal government funding process and force our country into this situation that we now face.

Well, I am not prepared to let the Democrats lead us over the cliff. The bill before us would keep the government open; it would allow time for cooler heads to prevail. That is why I joined 76 other Senators and voted to advance it yesterday.

But, look, obviously the best way to fund the government is by first passing a budget and then passing appropriations bills. The Senate also passed a budget. The Senate is prepared to pass appropriations legislation too. All that is needed is for Democrats to drop these endless filibusters.

We know that nearly all these funding bills are bipartisan. We know that Democrats and have supported and praised them. And with the CR behind us, we can turn back to the work of trying to pass these appropriations bills.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2089

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2089) to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure, to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 719, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 719, an act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 2689, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

McConnell amendment No. 2690 (to amendment No. 2689), to change the enactment date.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I am reminded of that famous line from "Cool Hand Luke": "What we have here is a failure to communicate."

What we have here in Congress is a failure to legislate, a failure to exert congressional authority. What we have here is a failure to use our leverage. What we have here is a failure to use the power of the purse.

Conservatives across America are unhappy, and rightly so. We were told that when we took over Congress, when Republicans were elected to Congress, that things would be different: that if voters put us in charge, we would right the ship, we would stop the deficits. And here we are with another continuing resolution.

What is a continuing resolution? It is a continuation of the deficit spending

of the past. It is a continuation of the waste. It is a continuation of the duplication. What is a continuing resolution? It is a steaming pile of the same old, same old.

Let me be clear: A continuing resolution is not a good thing. It is more of the status quo. It is a warmed-over version of yesterday's failures. It is an abdication of congressional authority. It is an abdication of congressional power.

Let's at least be honest. With a continuing resolution, no waste will be cut, no spending will be cut, no regulations will be stopped, and the debt will continue to mount.

We are told that we cannot win, that we need 60 votes to defund anything, but perhaps there is an alternate future where courage steps up and saves the day.

All spending is set to expire automatically. This is the perfect time to turn the tables, to tell the other side that they will need 60 votes to affirmatively spend any money. See, it doesn't have to be 60 votes to stop things. All spending will expire, and only those programs for which we can get 60 votes should go forward.

What would that mean? That would mean an elimination of waste, an elimination of duplication, an elimination of bad things that we spend money on.

If we had the courage, we could use the Senate's supermajority rules to stop wasteful spending. If we had the courage, we could force the other side to come up with 60 votes to fund things like Planned Parenthood. The budget is loaded with nonsense and waste.

Some will say our job is to govern, to preside. But to preside over what? To preside over a mountain of new debt? To be the same as the other side—to continue to add debt after debt? Our debt will consume us if we continue to preside over the status quo. It is as if we are on the Titanic and just simply reshuffling the chairs. A continuing resolution continues the wasteful spending of money.

I can go on and on about what we are wasting money on. I will tell of a few.

We spent \$300,000 last year studying whether Japanese quail are more sexually promiscuous on cocaine. I think we could poll the audience and save money. These things should never have had money spent on them, but if we do a continuing resolution, it will continue.

We spent several hundred thousand dollars studying whether we can relieve stress in Vietnamese villagers by having them watch American television reruns. I don't know about you, but I don't want one penny of taxpayer dollars going to this ridiculous stuff. If we continue, if we pass a continuing resolution, no reform will occur.

We spent \$800,000 in the last couple of years developing a televised cricket

league for Afghanistan—\$800,000. Do you know how many people have a television in Afghanistan? One in 10,000 people. And I don't care if they all have TVs, it is ridiculous that our money, which we don't even have—we have to borrow it from China to send it to Afghanistan. If we pass a continuing resolution, we are agreeing to continue this nonsense.

We spent \$150,000 last year on yoga classes for Federal employees. So not only do we pay them nearly 1.5 times as much as private-sector employees, we give them yoga classes. If we pass a continuing resolution, this goes on and on. Nothing will change. The status quo will continue, and we will continue to spend ourselves into oblivion.

We spent \$250,000 last year inviting 24 kids from Pakistan to go to space camp in Alabama. We borrow money from China to send it to Pakistan.

It is crazy, it is ridiculous, and it should stop. We have the power to stop it. Congress has the power to spend money or not spend money, and yet we roll over and we say: It must continue; we don't have the votes to stop it. Nonsense. The other side doesn't have the votes to continue the spending if we would stand up and challenge them.

We spent \$500,000 last year or the year before developing a menu for when we colonize Mars. We sent a bunch of college students to Hawaii to study this. We paid \$5,000 apiece. They got 2 weeks all expenses paid in Hawaii. And do you know what a bunch of college kids came up with? Pizza. This is where your money is going.

I could go on, hundreds and hundreds of programs. If we do not exert the power of the purse, this continues.

We should attach to all 12 individual spending bills—not glommed together—we should attach hundreds of instructions, thousands of instructions. Now, some of the media have said: Well, those would be riders on appropriations bills. Exactly. That is the power of the purse. If you object to the President writing regulations without our authority, Congress should defund the regulations. Congress should instruct him on ObamaCare, on what we object to. Congress should instruct him that we don't want money spent on Planned Parenthood. Hundreds and hundreds of instructions should be written into every bill and passed and sent to him.

Would we win all of these battles? Do we have the power to win every battle and defund everything we want? No. But do you know what we start out with? Our negotiating position right now is, we start out with defunding nothing. Why don't we start out with a negotiating position that we defund everything that is objectionable? All the wasteful spending, all the duplicative spending, let's defund it all. If there has to be a negotiation, let's start from defunding it all and see where we get,

but it would take courage because we would have to let spending expire. If we are not willing to let the spending expire and start anew, we have no leverage. The power of the purse is there only if you have courage. We must have the courage of convictions to say enough is enough, that the debt is a greater threat to us than letting spending expire.

Now, several will report on this speech and say: Oh, he wants to shut down government. No, I don't. I just want to exert the power of the purse, and that means spending must expire. I am all for renewing the spending, but let's renew only the spending that makes sense. We have the power of the purse if we choose to exert it. Look at the mountain of debt. Look at the debt that continues to be added up. We have not been doing our job.

The way we are supposed to spend money in Congress is 12 individual appropriations bills. They have passed out of committee. Why aren't they presented on the floor? The Democrats have filibustered the only one presented. Let's present every one of them, and let the public know—let everyone in America know—that it is Democrats filibustering the spending bills. It is Democrats who desire to shut down government. It is Democrats who desire not to have any restrictions on where the money is spent. It is Democrats who are saying: We don't want to end wasteful spending. We don't want to end any spending. We don't want any controls over spending. We want to continue the status quo. But we should not be complicit with them.

We have allowed this to go on for too long. It threatens the very heart of the Republic. It threatens our very foundation to continue to borrow \$1 million a minute. It is time that we stood up. It is time that we took a stand and said enough is enough.

When is the last time we did it in the appropriate fashion? When is the last time Congress passed each of the individual appropriations bills with instructions on how to spend the money? It was 2005, a decade ago. It has been a decade. In the last decade we have added nearly \$10 trillion in new debt. It is time to take a stand.

I, for one, have had enough. I have had enough. I am not going to vote for a continuing resolution. A continuing resolution is simply a continuation of the mounting debt. I, for one, will not do it. A continuing resolution is retreat. It is announcing your defeat in advance.

What we should do is take a stand. We should say to the other side: In the Senate, it requires a supermajority. What does that mean? It means 60 votes to pass spending. What would happen? Spending that is controversial, like Planned Parenthood, would fall away. They can ask for private donations. Good luck on that. You wouldn't

find things being funded that are controversial. What would happen is there would no longer be funding for wasteful and duplicative projects.

We listed these a couple years ago. I think we had \$7 billion worth of just duplication. Did we fix it? No. Every year the President—even this President—puts forward \$10, \$15, \$20 billion worth of programs that could be eliminated. Do they ever get eliminated? No, because Congress is dysfunctional and we continue to pass a continuing resolution, which means we do nothing to exert the power of the purse.

Congress is a shadow of what it once was. Madison said that we would have coequal branches and we would pit ambition against ambition. We no longer do that. Congress is a withering shadow. It is a shadow of what it once was. Congress has no power, exerts no power, and we walk and we live in the shadow of a Presidency that is growing larger and larger and larger.

The President is not afraid. He says he has his pen and his phone. So he is writing and creating law. One of our philosophers we look to is Montesquieu, and Montesquieu said when the Executive begins to legislate, a form of tyranny will ensue. That is what we have now; we have Executive tyranny. It is not just this President, though. It has been going on for a while, probably for 100 years. We have been allowing more and more power to accumulate in the hands of the Presidency.

What we need is a bipartisan taking back of that power. We need Congress to stand up on its own two feet and say: Enough is enough. We are reclaiming the power of the purse, and we are going to do whatever is necessary to get rid of the wasteful spending, the duplicative spending, the offensive spending, and we are going to do what the American people want and that is to spend only what comes in.

But I will tell you, I, for one, will oppose this continuing resolution. I recommend that everybody in America call their Congressmen and say: We are tired of the mounting debt. We want you to stand up. We want you to stand up and say enough is enough. Let the funding expire, and make the other side come up with 60 votes to spend the money.

It is time we took a stand. I hope we will.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING FRANCES OLDHAM KELSEY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, in August this country lost a hero, a woman most have not heard of, but her story is legendary. Frances Oldham Kelsey passed away in August at the age of 101. She was a woman of tremendous courage and conviction. She was a trailblazing scientist. She earned her Ph.D. and then her medical degree from the University of Chicago while raising daughters. She did things that women of her generation were usually not allowed to do or certainly rarely encouraged to do.

As she began her professional life, it was the early 1960s and a horrific scourge was afflicting Europe and other countries around the world. Thousands of babies were dying in the womb, thousands more were born with severe birth defects—including deformed arms and legs that, as history will tell us, resembled flippers—missing organs, missing limbs.

The United States was largely spared from these terrible effects because of Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey. As a medical officer at the FDA, Dr. Kelsey was charged with investigating and approving the drug called Kevadon, better known in history by its generic name, thalidomide. The pharmaceutical company Merrell was expecting a speedy approval. After all, the drug was used around the world as a sedative and as a treatment for morning sickness. The drug had made a windfall for its German manufacturer, and Merrell was hoping for the same in our country. But Dr. Kelsey, who at that time was a woman in very much a man's world at the FDA, a woman who was not all that experienced, was willing to show her courage and demand further investigation before she would approve this drug.

With few studies providing the safety of Kevadon—thalidomide—she rejected the application. Merrell protested, drug companies were outraged, and a number of other employees at the FDA disagreed. She asked for, though, and reviewed more data, and again she rejected the application. Again, Merrell protested. Again, other people were outraged by this woman's decision. Merrell's executives called her a petty and nitpicking bureaucrat.

It is always easy to pick on a bureaucrat—a nameless, faceless bureaucrat, or a named bureaucrat with a face. It is easy to pick on bureaucrats. People here do it all the time.

They called her office, and they peppered her with letters. They went over her head to her FDA bosses. Dr. Kelsey again—imagine a young woman without the sort of support that a more experienced, older, and, particularly in those days, male researcher might have had. She held her ground. She continued to reject the application. Mean-

while, the horrible toll was mounting in places around the world where thalidomide was sold.

In late 1961, the German manufacturer pulled the drug, and health departments around the world began to issue warnings. In March 1962, Merrell, the drug company, seeing the handwriting on the wall, finally withdrew its thalidomide application.

That might have been the end of the story, but staffers for Senator Estes Kefauver, a Democrat from Tennessee who had long been battling pharmaceutical companies to strengthen our country's drug oversight, gave the Washington Post a tip. The Senator's staff wanted the country to know about this woman, Dr. Kelsey; wanted people to know about the heroine who had spared our children from the terrible consequences of this drug. They wanted them to know that Big Pharma—Senator Kefauver wanted them to know that Big Pharma, the big drug companies, had fought her every step of the way, putting pressure on the FDA, going over her head, sending her letters, perhaps indirectly threatening her. Fortunately, she stood her ground against a very powerful combatant, for want of a better term.

In no small part because of Dr. Kelsey and her persistence, we have the Kefauver Harris Amendment of 1962, which strengthened drug approval standards. We have a branch of the FDA dedicated to testing and investigating new drugs. Who became the head of it? Dr. Kelsey. Over a 45-year career, she helped to rewrite our drug and medical testing regulations, she strengthened patient protections, and she cracked down on medical conflicts of interest. Her rigorous standards were not only instrumental in improving drug safety in the United States, they also set the world standard for drug safety. The United States is known all over the world as having the gold standard to protect the public by rigorous testing and rigorous examination to protect the public against drugs that can do damage.

Everybody thought thalidomide was harmless except Dr. Kelsey. Because she had the authority at the FDA to do it right and then was able to expand that authority working with Congress, uncounted lives, innumerable lives—we don't know how many lives were saved and how many people have been protected against harmful drugs. She had a 45-year career. She made a huge difference. Her accomplishments are heroic. She has received many honors.

But we should remember that for all of Dr. Kelsey's recognition, there are thousands more Federal employees working with little appreciation and sometimes not very high pay. I am sure Dr. Kelsey could have been making more money practicing medicine, but look at the lives she saved and look at the difference she made. Expand that

to so many government workers, so many people who do their jobs.

Members of Congress—well-paid, well-dressed, getting good taxpayer benefits—love to attack the bureaucracy, love to call bureaucrats names, love to nitpick agencies, when, in fact, so many of them are making a huge difference in keeping the air we breathe, the water we drink, the drugs we take, the consumer products we use—keeping them safe. That is something those Federal employees should be proud of. They protect Americans from pollution and predatory lenders and faulty products and infectious diseases and dangerous drugs.

We have made so much progress over the past century because of Americans like Frances Kelsey, but unfortunately too many people in this town seem to have amnesia and are trying to turn back the clock.

I sit on the banking committee. We had a hearing today. I sit in the banking committee at least once a week for a couple of hours. I listen to my Republican colleagues who seem to have forgotten that the economy sort of imploded—almost imploded in 2008 and 2009. They seem to want to go back to those days of deregulation, not holding Wall Street accountable—the same kinds of things—the deregulation, the weakening of the FDA, the weakening of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the weakening of the Department of Agriculture standards, and all of the things that we do, where this country works better because we have government—call them bureaucrats—we have government bureaucrats who are working to protect the public interest.

So we should honor Dr. Kelsey not with awards but with action to protect her legacy. Yet people right now in this Congress—I heard a long speech last night from the junior Senator from Texas, not ever to be confused with the senior Senator from Texas—I heard him again threaten government shutdowns. When government shuts down, food is less protected and water is likely going to be less clean, and all of the things that happen when government is not doing its job.

I hope my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Kelsey's legacy and remembering the work that heroic public servants in our Federal workforce do for this country.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. President, I want to read a brief letter. I was at my 45th high school class reunion. Some of us in this body might have reached an age close to that; most of you have not. At my 45th reunion, I met a woman who was there visiting someone else. She was much younger. She handed me this letter.

She said: Senator BROWN, I want to thank you for a couple of things. Thanks for the Affordable Care Act.

She has a photography business.

She said: Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, I was able to pursue my dream and open my business. I am diabetic. I was unable to self-insure due to my preexisting condition. I was forced to work low-wage jobs just so I could get insurance. Now, because of the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—I can thrive as an entrepreneur. Thank you.

I hear those stories. I meet people. Now 600,000 Ohioans have health insurance who did not have it prior to the Affordable Care Act, and 100,000 additional Ohioans who are not much older than these pages sitting here, who are 19, 20, maybe 25, have insurance on their parents' health plan. One million—that is in Ohio alone—1 million seniors in Ohio have no copay, no deductible, and get free preventive care tests for osteoporosis, tests for diabetes, and physical exams.

More than 100,000 seniors have saved an average of \$700 on their prescription drugs because of the Affordable Care Act. A family like this—the parents of a child who has juvenile arthritis or diabetes or whatever a child might be afflicted with can get insurance in spite of the child's preexisting condition.

When I hear in the Republican debates they are saying "Repeal ObamaCare," it would be nice if one sort of gutsy reporter would say, "Well, what about all those millions of seniors who now get free preventive care? What about those millions of people who have consumer protections so they cannot be denied coverage because they have a sick child? What about those people who got so sick that their medical care was very expensive and the insurance company cancelled their care? They cannot do that anymore. What about those people?" I just wish we would hear that question one time.

We honor Dr. Kelsey today, and we think about when government does things right in partnership with the private sector to make this country a better place to live.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM AND VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, we just passed the 14th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Americans all across the country honored the memory of 2,977 lives lost. There were moments of silence. There were

testimonials from friends and family of the victims. There were statements, speeches, and posts online by my colleagues in Congress vowing to "never forget." But the victims of September 11 are not just the men and women who were killed on that horrible day; the terror attacks on that day in 2001 are still claiming American lives. This includes the heroes who ran into the towers to save whom they could, who worked on the piles so that Americans might rebuild, and who would not abandon their community in a time of terrifying confusion and intense grief. Many of them are now sick because of their work at Ground Zero, and many are dying.

In 2010, after years of delay, we finally established the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation programs to provide our first responders, the survivors, and their families with the health care and benefits they very desperately needed. Tomorrow, at midnight, the bill authorizing this funding will expire.

More than 33,000 first responders and survivors have an illness or injury caused by the attacks or their aftermath. More than 1,700 have passed away from 9/11-related illnesses. More police officers have died since 9/11 from 9/11-related diseases than died on 9/11 itself. Since the 14th anniversary of the attacks earlier this month, another six 9/11 first responders have died. Think about that. In just a few short weeks, 6 more of our 9/11 heroes have died: John P. McKee, Roy McLaughlin, Reginald Umphery, Kevin Kelly, Thomas Zayas, and Paul McCabe. They were married, and they had kids. Their average age was just a few years older than mine—53. They will all miss birthday parties and graduations. They will miss evening dinners and holidays. They leave behind mortgages, car payments, and college-tuition payments. These 9/11 illnesses not only rob families of their loved ones, but they leave them to face expenses without, in many cases, the family's primary breadwinner.

Two weeks ago, hundreds of first responders from all over the country traveled to Washington to lobby Congress not to let their health care program expire. If Congress doesn't act now, how many more first responders and their families are going to suffer medically and financially because we didn't do our job and reauthorize this program?

Let me tell you about just one responder, Ken George from Long Island. Ken was 37 on September 11, 2001. He was working for the New York City Highway Department, and after the attacks he went to do search and rescue work. He was there for a couple of weeks. Almost right away, Ken developed a cough, then asthma, and then the asthma led to restricted airway disease. Doctors found crushed glass

from Ground Zero in his lungs. He was forced to retire in 2006 because his medical ailments became too burdensome, and now, as he put it, he is "financially hurting like you wouldn't believe."

We are not talking about statistics. We are not talking about data points on a chart. We are talking about a 51-year-old man with a wife and three kids, with crushed glass in his lungs because he chose to do the right thing. He chose to answer the call of duty, and he chose to search for survivors after 9/11. On top of everything else he is dealing with, Ken now has to worry if he will get the health treatments he needs and if his family will have the basic financial support they need.

The health program officially expires tomorrow at midnight, but these illnesses—Ken's and thousands of others—never expire, and neither should their health care.

We must reauthorize and make permanent the World Trade Center Health Program and Victim Compensation Fund. The participants in the health program live in every single State. They live in 429 of the 435 congressional districts. Every Senator in this Chamber has constituents who are sick and dying and are in this program.

A majority of this body has already signed on as cosponsors of this legislation, including many after our day of action a couple weeks ago. So let's finish this job. Let's give our 9/11 heroes the care and compensation they deserve and so desperately need. Let's truly never forget. The clock is ticking. Let's do our job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12 noon, recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about the latest developments in international trade.

As most of my colleagues know, this week officials from the Obama administration are meeting in Atlanta with representatives from our negotiating partners in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. Many reports indicate that our trade negotiators are hoping to conclude talks and finalize a deal over the next few days.

Now, as the Presiding Officer is aware, I was an original author of the legislation that renewed trade promotion authority, or TPA, earlier this year. I fought extremely hard to renew TPA because I believe it is an absolutely essential tool to ensure we get the very best trade agreements possible. For years I have been one of the most outspoken proponents in Congress for full engagement in the various trade agreements that have been under negotiation, including the TPP.

A strong Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement could greatly enhance our Nation's ability to compete in an increasingly global marketplace and result in a healthier economy and more high-paying jobs that come with increased U.S. trade. After all, when we are talking about the 12 countries currently taking part in these negotiations, we are talking about 40 percent of the global economy. As a group, TPP countries represent the largest market for our goods and services exports. Trade with these countries already supports an estimated 4 million U.S. jobs, and, with a good trade agreement in place, I believe it can do even better.

The Asia-Pacific region, where this agreement is focused, is one of the most economically vibrant and fastest growing areas in the world. According to the International Monetary Fund, the world economy will grow by more than \$20 trillion over the next 5 years, and nearly half of that growth will be in Asia. Unfortunately, our share of exports to the Asia-Pacific has been on the decline, as exports to the region lag behind overall U.S. export growth. One reason U.S. companies have lost so much market share in this very important part of the world is that many countries in the region maintain steep barriers to U.S. exports while they have been negotiating to remove many of the same types of barriers for other countries, most notably for places such as China and the European Union.

On average, Southeast Asian countries impose tariffs that are five times higher than the average U.S. tariff. In addition, their duties on U.S. agricultural products often reach triple digits. There are also numerous other barriers, such as regulatory restrictions, that impede access for U.S. exporters in many of these countries. These obstacles, and increased global competition, have made it increasingly difficult for U.S. companies to remain competitive in Asia.

Put simply, a strong TPP Agreement is the best tool we could have to in-

crease the growth of U.S. exports to the Asia-Pacific region.

There are also important strategic and security reasons to support a strong TPP Agreement. We have all seen in recent years how the economies of our Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiating partners have been shaped by China's expanding economic influence. I think we would all prefer that the United States remain the world leader in trade. If we want to maintain and expand our influence in the Asia-Pacific, it is essential that we more fully engage in that region. A strong TPP Agreement will facilitate that engagement and help ensure that trade patterns develop under a U.S. model, operating under U.S. rules and applying U.S. standards.

A strong TPP Agreement can help us create high-paying jobs through increased exports, as well as help secure our strategic and economic position in the Asia-Pacific region. But to do all of that, we need a strong agreement. That is why I have been pushing the Obama administration to negotiate wisely in order to reach a TPP Agreement that advances our Nation's interests and provides significant benefits for American workers and job creators.

Despite these obvious advantages to concluding a TPP Agreement, I think it is critically important that the administration take the time necessary to get the agreement right. A number of key issues are outstanding, and how they are resolved will go a long way to determining whether I can support the final agreement.

Our country has a long history of negotiating and reaching high-standard trade agreements. While they haven't all been perfect, our existing trade agreements have, in my view, advanced our interests in foreign markets and strengthened our own economy.

There are a number of reasons why, historically, our trade negotiators have fought long and hard to get gold-standard agreements. The most obvious reason is that anything less is unlikely to pass through Congress. If the administration is serious about not only getting an agreement but getting an agreement passed, they need to make sure they get our country the best deal possible. If that means continuing negotiations beyond Atlanta, so be it. Getting a good agreement will be worth the wait.

Over the years, I have laid out very clearly what I think a good agreement looks like. These ideas are embodied in the recently enacted TPA law. If the administration and our negotiating partners do conclude an agreement this week, they can be sure that I will examine it very carefully to ensure it meets these standards. As I have stated many times before, if the agreement falls short, I will not support it. I don't think I will be alone on that.

I am as big a proponent of expanding U.S. trade as you will find in this

Chamber, with the possible exception of the Presiding Officer, and, in concept, I very much support the idea of a Trans-Pacific Partnership. While I worked very hard for a number of years to get a TPA bill through Congress, I have made it abundantly clear that I will not support just any deal, whether it is this or any other future administration that wants to sign it. We need to get a good deal. Indeed, as I have said, we need to get the best deal possible.

No one—at least no one from our side of the negotiations—should be in a hurry to close talks if it means getting a less-than-optimal result for our country. Ultimately, I don't believe anyone in the administration wants to reach an agreement that will not pass in Congress.

I think our negotiators understand these concerns. My hope is that, as they move through the latest rounds of talks in Atlanta this week, they consider what it will take to get a deal through Congress. If we look at the bipartisan coalition that supported our TPA bill, we should get a pretty good sense of the balance it will take to get enough support here in the Senate and over in the House. Put simply, if TPP does not reflect that balance, it is hard to see how it will be successfully enacted into law.

As always, I am an optimist. I know we can get a good deal here, and, for my part, I am going to do all I can to help ensure that we do.

I don't think I am alone when I say I am going to be watching very closely to see what happens in Atlanta this week. All of us have an interest in the outcome of these negotiations. Hopefully, in the end, those of us who have supported TPA and its promise of better trade terms for U.S. workers and expanded market access for American goods and services will not be disappointed at the outcome.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to support reauthorizing the Perkins Loan Program, which will expire tomorrow, September 30, if the Senate does not act.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed legislation to extend this vital program for 1 year. I urge my Senate colleagues to support this bill and send it immediately to the President for his signature.

I want to recognize and thank my colleagues, Senator BALDWIN, Senator CASEY, and the Presiding Officer, Senator PORTMAN, for their leadership in highlighting the importance of this program. I am pleased to join with them in submitting a Senate resolution urging its extension.

Since 1958, the Perkins Loan Program has helped make college afford-

able for millions of students who have financial need. In the State of Maine, more than 5,000 students received a Perkins loan last year, providing \$9.2 million in aid. Last Friday, I had a conversation with the president of the University of Maine, who told me just how critical Perkins loans are to UMaine students.

Perkins loans are a critical part of a college's and a student's financial aid resources. These loans help to fill gaps beyond what is available through the Department of Education's Direct Loan Program and a family's ability to pay. A Perkins loan can meet that additional need so that students do not have to resort to borrowing through private or higher cost loans, and, most of all, so they can remain in school.

Perkins borrowers are predominantly from lower income families. For example, at the University of Maine last year, 64 percent of Perkins borrowers had a family income of \$40,000 or less.

The Perkins Loan Program is campus-based, which means that participating colleges and universities administer the loans. When students graduate, they make payments directly to their college or university, and those payments are used to make new loans to other students through a revolving fund. These revolving funds are a combination of a Federal contribution and an institutional match.

Now, I think it is important to understand that Congress has not had to appropriate funds for the Perkins Loan Program since 2004 because of this revolving fund concept, but institutions continue to be able to assist needy students through this self-sustaining program. That is why we simply cannot allow it to lapse.

As a Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, I know that our committee is committed to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. I strongly support that effort. In the meantime, however, we must ensure that there is not a lapse in the financial assistance provided to students under the Perkins Loan Program.

As I mentioned earlier, the House-passed bill extends the authority for the Perkins Loan Program for an additional year and does not authorize any additional Federal funds. Students who receive a Perkins loan during this academic year and remain in the same academic program would be eligible to receive future Perkins loans.

We only have 1 day before the Perkins Loan Program expires. Students at our colleges and universities are looking at us—they are depending on us—to ensure that this vital and proven program does not expire. I urge my colleagues to pass the House-passed legislation so that the Perkins Loan Program can continue.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a

letter from the chancellor of the University of Maine System in support of the reauthorization of the Perkins Loan Program.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAINE'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES,
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM,
Bangor, ME, September 23, 2015.

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senator, Bangor State Office,
Bangor, ME.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: I'm writing to you on behalf of the University of Maine System in support of the Federal Perkins Loan Program. Perkins loans are an invaluable component of an institution's and student's financial aid resources. The flexibility, low fixed interest rate and generous cancellation benefits are both unique and critical to our needy student population, especially many middle and low-income students. The program is administered at the school level providing a highly efficient, self-sustaining program with accountability, transparency, and risk-sharing.

The Federal Perkins Loan Program is in danger of being discontinued. Without Congressional intervention, this program will be terminated and the Perkins funds recalled beginning October 1, 2015.

Throughout the 56-year history of the Perkins Loan Program, \$7.9 billion in federal contributions have been leveraged with institutional contributions into over \$36 billion in low-cost loans to more than 30 million needy students. The fact that this program provides critical support each year to more than a half-million students across the country, operating solely right now on the existing revolving fund dollars, is quite remarkable. A key factor of the program's success is the central role of the college that originates, services, and collects the loans, while providing loan counseling for the borrower. This is one of the most effective and efficient public-private partnerships in the federal government.

Perkins loans also offer more favorable forgiveness options for borrowers than any other federal loan program. Full or partial forgiveness is available to borrowers who work in designated, high-need, public-service areas. During a time when we are trying to reduce student loan indebtedness, the loan forgiveness aspect of this unique program provides financial relief to the student, and a well-educated workforce to fortify public service in rural and inner-city communities.

Students enrolled at one of the institutions in the University of Maine System have benefited for many years because of the efficiencies of the Perkins Loan Program. In fiscal year 2013-2014 the University of Maine System awarded almost \$5.1 million in Perkins Loans to 3,386 students who, without this program, would be forced to either borrow higher-cost loans or leave school altogether.

If this program is eliminated, students at one of the institutions in the University of Maine System will lose a vital resource in support of their higher education goals. Public universities already struggle to provide sufficient financial aid to students, especially the lower and middle class who currently benefit from this program.

Eliminating the Perkins Loan Program will either force students to borrow through less desirable loan programs, or universities to make even more difficult cuts in an attempt to fund the gap from the loss of this program.

I sincerely hope that the students enrolled at all of the institutions in the University of Maine System, and all across the state, can count on your support of this vitally important and proven program. Also, I hope you can help facilitate a budget solution that does not impact funding in other critical areas relating to higher education and other federal loan programs.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and we appreciate your hard work and support.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. PAGE,

Chancellor, University of Maine System.

Ms. COLLINS. Again, I want to commend my colleagues, including the Presiding Officer, Senator PORTMAN, and my colleague from Wisconsin who has been a leader on this issue as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3614, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3614) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3614) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, much attention has appropriately been focused upon our next 36 hours in the Congress. A lot of attention—again, appropriately—focused on whether there would be a government shutdown for failure to pass a continuing resolution. Now we believe that is, hopefully, going to be avoided.

In just under 36 hours, there are a number of other vital programs that

will expire, lapse, or sunset if this Congress does not take appropriate action. I am here to join my colleagues, Senator COLLINS and, in a moment, Senator AYOTTE, to call attention to one of those critical programs, one of those vital programs, and that is the Federal Perkins Loan Program, the authorization of which will expire in less than 36 hours if we do not take collective action in this body.

I am here today to call on our colleagues across the aisle to join me in supporting the extension of the Federal Perkins Loan Program. Already we have seen encouraging bipartisan support for the program here in the Senate. The Presiding Officer, Senator COLLINS, Senator KIRK, Senator AYOTTE, and just today Senator THUNE have all joined me and more than 20 Democrats last week in submitting a resolution highlighting the importance of the Federal Perkins Loan Program and urging its extension.

Yesterday our colleagues in the House of Representatives unanimously passed a measure that would extend the program for 1 year. I am hoping this body will do exactly the same. While I look forward to a broader conversation about improving Federal support for students as we look to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, we simply cannot sit idly by and watch the Federal Perkins Loan Program expire as America's students are left with such uncertainty.

Since 1958, the Federal Perkins Loan Program has been successful in helping Americans access affordable higher education with low-interest loans for students who cannot borrow or afford more expensive private student loans. In my home State of Wisconsin, the program provides more than 20,000 low-income students with more than \$41 million in aid. The impact of this program isn't just isolated to the Badger State. In fact, the Federal Perkins Loan Program aids over one-half million students with financial need each year, across 1,500 institutions of higher education. The schools originate, service, and collect the fixed-interest-rate loans. What is more, institutions maintain loans available for future students through a revolving fund.

Since the program's creation, institutions have invested millions of dollars of their own funds into the program. In addition to making higher education accessible for low-income students, the program serves as an incentive for people who wish to go into public service as careers by offering targeted loan cancellations for specific professions in areas of high national needs, such as teaching, nursing, and law enforcement.

As a Member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and as a U.S. Senator representing a State with a rich history of investment in cherishing of

higher education, it is a top priority for me to fight to ensure the Federal Perkins Loan Program continues for generations to come.

I am fighting for students like Benjamin Wooten. Benjamin is a 2004 UW-Madison graduate and a small business owner from Genoa, WI, whose family fell on hard times while he was attending school. Ben shared with me:

The fact that I did not have to pay interest while I was in school was a huge help to me. I was attending school full time, working and trying to live on a meager budget. . . . I am a grateful and successful small business owner. I paid my loan off in full about a year ago with pride and excitement. I know that when I repaid my loan it was returned to a revolving fund and will be lent back out to other students in need.

I am also fighting for students like Brittany McAdams. Brittany is a medical school student with a passion for pediatrics and helping the most vulnerable among us—something that doesn't always yield a significant paycheck, especially in comparison to some of her medical school peers. Brittany said:

I want to be able to treat patients from all socioeconomic levels, despite their ability to pay. In other words, I want to do important work for less money than most other physicians. . . . The Perkins Loan is so valuable because it does not collect interest while we are in school. To me, that says the government believes that what I am doing with my life is important. That our country needs more doctors willing to tackle primary care. That while we need to pay for our graduate degrees, that they are going to do their part to make it just a bit easier. The Perkins Loan makes me feel valued and respected and even more passionate about my work.

Finally, I am here today fighting for students like Nayeli Spahr. Nayeli was raised by a single immigrant mother who worked two full-time jobs. She attended 10 different schools in 3 different States before she finished high school. Without the Federal Perkins Loan Program, Nayeli said that her opportunity to get a college education would have been "an illusory dream."

Today, Nayeli is the first in her family to finish college and is now in her last year of medical school and is planning to work with those who are underserved in our urban communities. She finished by telling me:

The Perkins loan program helped me reach this point. And, its existence is essential to provide that opportunity for other young adults wanting to believe in themselves and to empower their communities to be better. Please save it.

You don't have to look very far to find the significant impact of the Federal Perkins Loan Program—the significant impact that it has on America's students. There are thousands of stories like the few that I just shared, representing thousands and thousands of students who are still benefiting from the opportunities provided to them by this hugely successful program. Let's show the American people and the one-half million students impacted by this program that we can

come together, that we can find a bipartisan and commonsense solution.

I urge my colleagues to immediately take up and pass the House bill so that we can avoid another crisis of our own creation and put America's students and our Nation's future first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I rise today and join my colleagues, and I wish to thank Senator BALDWIN from Wisconsin for the speech that she gave and for her leadership—as well as yours, Mr. President—on the resolution to extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program. This is something we should take up and pass right now. There is strong bipartisan support to do so.

Yesterday the House of Representatives passed the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015, which would extend this important program for an additional year. But if the Senate does not act by tomorrow, this program, which helps the most financially needy students receive a college education, will expire. We can't let that happen.

I have heard from students, colleges in my State, universities, and financial aid administrators who have urged us to act and to make sure we continue this program, which allows students with exceptional financial needs to have access to low-interest loans they need so they can get higher education, live the American dream, and contribute to our society. Making sure they have that access is critical.

In New Hampshire, approximately 5,000 students received a Perkins loan during the last academic year. Across the country, as Senator BALDWIN mentioned, over one-half million students received a Perkins loan during the 2013–2014 academic year. That is one-half million students across this country that will be impacted—their access to higher education negatively impacted—if we do not take up the House-passed bill and immediately pass it in this body.

The cost of higher education in the United States continues to skyrocket. My home State of New Hampshire has the highest average student-loan debt in the country—either putting college out of reach for too many or requiring students to take on substantial amounts of debt in order to get a college education that is often hard to repay, especially with the first job they receive right out of college.

There are several things we must do to address the issue of rising college costs, including, in my view, requiring schools to have more skin in the game and providing more transparency for students and for parents. But as we stand here today, there is one thing right now we can do to help make college just a little bit more affordable, especially for low-income students and families, and that is by taking up and

passing the House bill to extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program for 1 more year. Allowing Perkins to expire would mean that hundreds of thousands of low-income students across the country could see a decrease of about \$2,000 on average in their student aid packages. For many, that could put college out of reach because they are counting on it. If we don't take this up now, we will be in a position of really leaving those students hanging, and we should not do that. We should not allow that to happen.

I again thank my colleague from Wisconsin and the Presiding Officer, who is from Ohio, for his leadership.

Again, this has such strong bipartisan support. I hope we get it done today. Let's do it now. Let's make sure we extend the Perkins Loan Program for another year, just as the House did, and ensure we can work together to make college more affordable for everyone so that everyone has the opportunity to live and achieve the American dream.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Perkins Loan Program as well. We heard a number of important presentations here about the critical nature of this program to students across the country who are trying to fulfill the American dream, and one way to do that is to have access to higher education.

I have often said in the context of early learning, whether we are talking about early learning programs or pre-kindergarten programs, if kids learn more now, they will earn more later. That linkage, that bond between earning and learning is, of course, at the core of what we are talking about when it comes to higher education as well.

The benefit of a higher education has become so essential not only to being able to learn and to grow but also to getting the best job you can to be able to move forward. One of the ways young people are able to do that is by having access to Perkins loans. They are fixed-rate, low-interest loans, and they are meant for students who, as we heard before on this floor, have exceptional financial needs. For example, in Pennsylvania, in the 2013 to 2014 school year, nearly 40,000 students in Pennsylvania, at more than 100 colleges and universities, were able to go to school because of these loans. Nationwide, more than 539,000 students were helped. For many students, these loans are the difference between staying in school and working toward a bright future or literally dropping out of school.

According to the Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations, one-quarter of all loan recipients are from families with incomes of less than \$30,000 a year. We all have examples in our States.

I have one example from the northwestern part of Pennsylvania. Edinboro University is part of our State system of higher education. I had a chance to speak at their graduation this year.

Nikki Ezzolo, a 2015 graduate of Edinboro University, said the following:

I am sending this to you to tell you that I just started my new job at Highmark.

Highmark is a major health care company in western Pennsylvania.

She goes on to say:

I am a single mom who wasn't your normal 20 year old at college. I was an adult student who had left school more than once when I thought I couldn't do it. The last time I came back I was dedicated to getting my degree but I didn't have enough financial aid to help me pay my bill. I had messed up along the way in school and used up my only chance of having a good life with my daughter.

I wanted to thank you for the perkins aid that I needed in order to graduate. I am proud to be a college grad and my daughter is proud of me too. I have always been a bartender and this week I started my career at Highmark. I am so grateful for getting the perkins money to help me. I know that I wouldn't be where I am right now without it and that is a really scary thought.

Whether it is Nikki from northwestern Pennsylvania or Kayla McBride, a recent graduate of Temple University—Temple University is all the way at the other corner of our State in southeastern Pennsylvania. Kayla also talked about the Perkins loan. Kayla said:

I wanted to extend my gratitude to Temple University and the Bursar's Office.

With the rising costs of tuition, attending college might seem impossible for some students. I come from a single-family home and my mom did everything in her power to see that I graduated. When my mom was laid off from her job, I thought graduating would no longer be possible. I received some scholarships, but it was still not enough to cover the entire cost of tuition as well as room and board.

Without the assistance of the Federal Perkins Loan finishing college would've been very difficult. I am now a college graduate and I am thankful for all of the financial assistance I received during my undergraduate years. College can be an expensive investment, but I am glad that I had the Perkins Loan to assist me.

Both cases exemplify and validate the importance of the Perkins Loan Program.

Since the 1960s, over 30 million students have been helped by Perkins loans, and we have to do everything we can to continue the program.

What we are trying to do now is very simple. We are trying to get some time in order to fully update and reauthorize Perkins loans so that all students have access to an affordable college education. I urge the majority to work with us on this bipartisan effort to allow the bill to pass so we can move forward and continue the Perkins Loan Program even as we focus on changes in the future.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last night, with an overwhelming vote, the Senate ended debate that will conclude the postcloture period, which will run until midnight tonight. Tomorrow morning the Senate will pass a continuing resolution appropriations bill that will keep the lights on and keep the Federal Government running.

I have told my constituents that the irony of this is that we only appropriate funds for about 30 percent of the government, and half of that 30 percent, roughly, is for defense spending; 70 percent, as the Presiding Officer knows well since he is an expert in this area, is on autopilot.

Since 2011, since the Budget Control Act, we have actually done a remarkably decent job of freezing the growth of discretionary spending. It is roughly at the 2007 appropriations level. But the problem is that without bipartisan cooperation, we are unable to touch the 70 percent of government spending that has been growing by leaps and bounds, and that simply can't continue.

This year, for the first time since I believe 2009, under the new majority, the 114th Congress actually passed a budget, and that was a notable achievement. I am almost a little sheepish about mentioning that as an achievement because most people across America would think that is not something to be particularly proud of and that that should happen routinely, so why give anybody a pat on the back for doing something they ought to have done in the first place? But our budgets have been missing under this administration, and literally the last budget that was passed was 2009.

One of the benefits of having a budget is there is a regular appropriations process. That may sound like getting in the weeds for most people, but this is the money we should be appropriating subject to spending caps to keep the government running. It is for items such as military construction and veterans' benefits, paying our men and women in uniform through the Defense appropriations bill. Those are essential items on which I know we would all agree.

The only reason we had to deal with the drama of this so-called continuing resolution is because notwithstanding the fact that we actually passed a budget and notwithstanding the fact that the various appropriations subcommittees had passed a budget and indeed the whole Appropriations Committee had voted them out and they were available for action on the floor, our friends across the aisle decided they were going to block those appropriations bills. Given the fact that under Senate rules it takes 60 votes to close off debate, our only alternative

was to pass a continuing resolution, which I believe will fly out of here tomorrow morning with overwhelming support. It is a terrible way to do business, and it creates needless uncertainty for the people we ought to be caring a lot about—people such as our veterans and our military servicemembers.

Even though we had the opportunity to move the appropriations process under what we call regular order around here and not resort to this continuing resolution process, our Democratic colleagues decided instead to turn their misguided filibuster summer into an equally misguided filibuster fall.

Many of these bills, of course, came out with strong support. Here is an example of some of the oddity of this process: Some of the bills they blocked were the very same pieces of legislation they supported in the Appropriations Committee. For example, many of my colleagues from across the aisle praised elements of the Defense appropriations bill, only to then buckle under the Democratic leadership's pressure and twice block the bill from going forward.

In some cases, our Democratic colleagues were quick to send out press releases to their constituents back home celebrating their accomplishments under these very same bills and claiming a victory that would benefit their home State. That was true in particular of both of our colleagues representing the State of New Jersey. When the bill was overwhelmingly voted out of committee, our colleagues from New Jersey applauded funding for a bill for F-16 fighters based in their State. The junior Senator said: "The inclusion of this funding is a deserving victory for our U.S. Air National Guard." Similarly, the senior Senator said: "Securing this funding in the Department of Defense Appropriation bill is a win, win, win." But these same Senators filibustered that bill on the Senate floor. How do you explain that one back home? And they did that twice, along with virtually all of our Democratic colleagues.

Unfortunately, the other 11 appropriations bills haven't made it to the Senate floor because the majority leader recognizes that it is probably a futile effort to do so—bills that many of our colleagues celebrated, only to then refuse to take action that would move them forward, at the behest of Democratic leadership.

We didn't have to resort to this drama, and believe me, our Democratic colleagues have been beating the drum, saying: There is going to be a shutdown. There is going to be a shutdown.

Well, they are the ones who created this crisis in the first place that necessitated the passage of a continuing resolution by filibustering the very same appropriations bills many of them

voted for in committee and sent out press releases saying: Look at me. Look at what I have done for my constituents.

I don't know how to put a better word on it, but I think it reeks of hypocrisy at the very least.

But I also believe we have a responsibility—those of us who choose to operate in a responsible fashion—to try to govern the best we can even in the face of such arbitrary hypocrisy by some of our opponents. They blocked the very same bills on the floor that they voted for in the Appropriations Committee, thus creating this "crisis." I put quotes around that. There was never really a crisis because we knew we were going to do our job and make sure we kept the lights on, paid the money to our veterans for the benefits they earned, and that our military—many of whom are in harm's way defending our freedoms and those of our allies—was going to be taken care of. But the idea that you would vote for bills in committee and then come to the floor and block them is hard to explain, and, in fact, I can't explain it other than using the word "hypocrisy."

Another element of this discussion has been whether we would use this continuing resolution to cut off money to Planned Parenthood. As we know, Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in America. Well over 300,000 abortions are done at Planned Parenthood facilities each year.

I want to assure our Democratic colleagues, even though they have filibustered our efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and to make sure that not one penny of tax dollars goes to support the No. 1 abortion provider in America, this fight is not over, based on their filibustering of the defund Planned Parenthood legislation that we voted on or their refusal to even consider the pain-capable abortion ban.

We have said it before, but it bears repeating. I think most people would be shocked to find out that the United States is only one of seven nations in the world that allows late-term abortions after a baby in utero is a viable human being. We are right there alongside the great defenders of human rights such as China, North Korea, and Vietnam. While many States such as my State have imposed limitations at the State level, I think it is appropriate for us to recognize that medical technology has now allowed us to save preterm babies that we could not in the past. In fact, the distinguished Presiding Officer, I believe, has shown me a picture on his iPhone of a child that was born that weighed, I believe, somewhere around 1 pound at 20 weeks or so.

So we ought to be having this debate because I think what it reflects is who we are as a nation and whether we want to continue to subsidize the sort of horrific practices we have seen depicted in some of these videos, and

most of them involve late-term abortions because that is where the money is. That is where Planned Parenthood harvests tissue from these late-term babies and then sells them. The only question is whether they do it with the appropriate legal informed consent and whether they do it for profit, as some of these videos would suggest, both of which, by the way, are banned by current law—selling it for profit and doing it without informed consent. Both of those are current provisions of the law. We are conducting investigations in four different committees in the Congress to make sure Planned Parenthood is not in violation of current law, in addition to the steps we have begun to both make sure no tax dollars go to Planned Parenthood to subsidize their abortion practice—the largest abortion provider in the United States—and then to redirect that money to provide for women's health at community health centers and other places.

I was surprised this morning when I caught a glimpse of the hearing that is occurring over in the House of Representatives where Cecile Richards, the chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood, is testifying. Somebody asked her about her compensation. I was shocked that she said: Well, I get paid \$520,000 a year—\$520,000 a year. This money—the vast majority of the money that Planned Parenthood gets is Federal tax dollars, primarily through Medicaid. So, in effect, the taxpayers are subsidizing the chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood—the No. 1 abortion provider in the country—her salary of \$520,000 a year.

I remember after the financial crisis in 2008, a number of our colleagues would come to the floor and say: We need to do something about these excessive salaries of people working in the financial services industry; this is an outrage. But I will tell my colleagues, I haven't heard one peep out of our colleagues across the aisle about the \$520,000 that Cecile Richards is paid each year as CEO of Planned Parenthood, the No. 1 abortion provider in the country and an entity subsidized mainly or in large part, I should say, by U.S. tax dollars—about one-half billion dollars a year. Maybe that is a discussion we ought to have.

The last thing I want to say is I think it is important to stress, in the context of this debate, the value and the meaning of human life that the fight is not over with the votes we have had so far. It is important to stress how some of the advocates back home in Texas, for example—some of the strongest champions for the unborn in the country—have made clear how they hope their elected representatives will respond to these horrific videos and the current debate. Just yesterday, for example, the executive director of the Texas Alliance for Life, Dr. Joe Pojman, said he applauded the strong

efforts of Republican leadership in Congress to move forward with the strategy of shifting funds from Planned Parenthood to better providers of women's health services—providers that are not part of the abortion industry. Indeed, that is exactly what the Texas legislature has done, and it is something we need to do. In his statement, Dr. Pojman went on to say that instead of a government shutdown, better options exist for achieving success.

This is similar to the statement made by Carol Tobias earlier, the leader of the National Right to Life organization. In other words, at this pivotal moment in time, Congress has an opportunity to make progress with legislation that would further the cause for life and defend those who cannot defend themselves and to put on record all 100 Members of the Senate. I know many people would prefer to look the other way because of the gruesomeness of this practice, particularly as it regards late-term fetuses—children who, if born, even though they are not full term at 40 weeks, could literally live outside of the womb. In fact, neonatologists, as I mentioned a moment ago, have demonstrated incredible capability of keeping these children alive even if they are born preterm.

We will, I hope, have a vote on—Senator BEN SASSE from Nebraska has introduced a bill that has actually passed the House of Representatives called “the born alive” bill. This bill simply would say, if a child is born alive as a result of a botched abortion, the health care provider must do everything in their power to save and preserve that life. I think it is important to get every Senator on record on that issue because this is a little bit different than the issue of defunding Planned Parenthood. I think we ought to do both. We ought to ban funding of tax dollars for Planned Parenthood, the No. 1 abortion provider in the country, but we ought to also focus on the desensitization of America and the world to some of these horrific practices, some of which we were shocked by when Kermit Gosnell, an abortion doctor in Pennsylvania, would literally deliver these babies alive and then kill them. I know people don't want to talk about it. They don't want to think about it. They would prefer to just look the other way, but we can't, in the name of our very humanity, look the other way. We have to deal with this and where better to have that debate and discussion and to put people on the record than right here in the U.S. Senate. That is what our plan is going forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Washington.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I think a lot of people here talk about

what they think everyone should be focused on, but what I think we should be focused on is that this month students across the country are making their way back to college campuses. When more Americans pursue their degrees beyond high school, it is actually good for our country. It strengthens the middle class. It strengthens the workforce that needs to compete in the 21st century global economy. So here in Congress what I believe we should be working on are ways to help more students earn a degree and gain a foothold into the middle class.

Unfortunately, instead of keeping students' options open to help them succeed, we are facing another deadline and another artificial crisis. If we do not act in the Senate, the Perkins Loan Program will expire after tomorrow. That means that more than 100,000 students will no longer be eligible for this assistance over the next year. That is going to leave a lot of students in this country in the lurch.

Without Perkins loans, students might have to take out private loans that have higher interest rates and fewer repayment options. So students would end up with a heavier burden of student debt or they might decide not to enroll in the first place. That is the exact opposite outcome we need for the future of this economy.

In my home State of Washington, more than 15,000 students received Perkins loans last year. That includes about 4,700 students from the University of Washington. I want to make sure the next class of students has the same opportunity so they can better afford college.

We in Congress need to supply students with more support to manage rising college costs, not less. I am hopeful that today we can extend the Perkins loan for 1 year while we work to reauthorize the Higher Education Act because there is no reason to block this bipartisan legislation that would give our students some certainty for next year.

The Perkins Loan Program gives students with financial needs three things that private loans do not. The loans are low cost. They do not accrue interest while a student is enrolled and for 9 months afterward. That can reduce student debt by hundreds or even thousands of dollars. The loans provide flexible repayment terms, and they also give those who are interested in the public sector generous forgiveness options.

The House Representatives has already acted to extend this program for 1 year. We should do the same before the clock runs out.

I am so glad this effort to extend the Perkins Loan Program has strong bipartisan support in the Senate. It would provide new students with some certainty for the current school year. Today, students face unprecedented

challenges in financing their education. The cost of college has skyrocketed, and many students are struggling under the crushing burden of student debt. Preventing the Perkins Loan Program from expiring will not solve all of their problems. I hope we can continue this bipartisan work on ways to make college more affordable and rein in student debt.

Passing this bill to extend the Perkins Loan Program is a step we can take so students don't have the rug pulled out from under them. There is no reason students should have to face this uncertainty and there is no reason we shouldn't be able to pass this by unanimous consent.

I know firsthand how important education is for families and for our Nation's middle class. When I was 15, my dad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and, in a few short years, he couldn't work any longer. Without warning, my family had fallen on hard times, but instead of falling through the cracks, my brothers and sisters and I got a good public education at our schools and we had a country at our back that helped make sure we were able to go to college with student loans and what is now known as the Pell program. My mom got the skills she needed to find a better paying job at Lake Washington Vocational School. So even though we faced some hard times, we never lost hope that with a good education we would be able to find our footing and earn our way to a stable middle-class life.

Students at colleges and universities across the country today are looking now to us to make sure they have a solid pathway into the middle class. So I urge my colleagues to support extending this program to make sure students have the financial aid tools they need so they can build their skills, grow our economy, and help lead the world in the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I join my fellow colleague from Washington State, talking about the Perkins Loan Program. The House has already acted on this. They extended it for 1 year. All we are asking is that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle allow us to have the opportunity to do that here, probably by unanimous consent.

It shouldn't be terribly controversial. After all, this is a program that is working. I am following a number of my colleagues today in talking about this. We just heard from Senator MURRAY. We also heard from Senators COLLINS, BALDWIN, AYOTTE, and CASEY. This is a bipartisan effort. It is an attempt on our part to ensure that students are not going to fall between the cracks. They are getting started this fall in colleges and universities, and

they are wondering whether this program is going to be here or whether we are going to allow it to expire. We ought to be sure these young people know that, yes, the program is going to be here and, yes, they are going to have the opportunity to get ahead by using this relatively low-cost student loan option that is focused on kids with the most need to be able to get an education.

Since 1958 this program has been strong. It has been one that works. By the way, there is no appropriation involved. There is no spending involved here. It is a matter of allowing the program to continue. The program has what is called a revolving fund, where whenever somebody gets a loan and pays that money back, the money goes back to another student. This is an opportunity for us to continue a program that is working.

If we don't pass it, we are going to have a situation where new loans will not be awarded. College tuition is already too tough. I hear it all the time from families back home and from students back home. One of the biggest concerns they have—we had a tele-townhall meeting last night, and one of the biggest concerns that people have, of course, is the cost of education. This is a way to ensure that young people can pursue their dreams, despite the fact that college tuitions are too high in many cases. This is a tool that is incredibly important.

It is also a matching program that hasn't been talked about much on the floor today. The fact is that the program is administered by the schools, and the schools actually match so that they are providing some of the funding for this. That is another reason why I like this program.

There are 67 colleges and universities in the Buckeye State, my State of Ohio, that participate and take advantage of this. I have gotten interesting correspondence from some of the schools and students. Last year there were 25,000 or so Ohio students who received Perkins loans. I heard from Kent State. They have 3,000 students involved in Perkins. I have heard from Ohio State, which has 1,700 students there. I have also heard from other schools. I have heard from the University of Toledo, Oberlin, and Ohio Wesleyan.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD some of the correspondence because it describes the needs of the program so well.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

KENT STATE,

Kent, Ohio, September 3, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
*Chairman, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions*

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

DEAR CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER AND RANKING MEMBER MURRAY: On behalf of Kent State University, I write to you today in support of reauthorizing the Federal Perkins Loan Program before it is due to expire on September 30.

Since its inception over 55 years ago, the Perkins Loan Program has played an important role in providing need-based financial aid for our students by distributing low-interest, subsidized loans to those with demonstrated financial need.

Kent State University students receive the largest volume of Perkins Loans in the entire State of Ohio. Total disbursements for the 2015-16 academic year alone are estimated to reach over \$9M.

While there have not been federal capital contributions to the Perkins Loan Program in recent years, universities have continued to use existing resources to fund new loans for needy students. Absent Congressional action before the end of this month, these loans will cease to be disbursed and hundreds of thousands of students across the nation will lose a vital source of aid.

In a higher education environment that focuses on access and affordability, the expiration of the Perkins Loan Program would have a devastating effect. I therefore urge that you delay the expiration of the Perkins Loan Program until Congress has the opportunity to enact a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Sincerely,

BEVERLY WARREN,
President.

OBERLIN COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
Oberlin, Ohio, September 18, 2015.

Hon. ROB PORTMAN,
*U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR PORTMAN: I am writing to you as President of Oberlin College asking that you intervene to extend the Perkins Loan Program, which is set to expire on September 30, 2015. As you may be aware, the Perkins Program provides federal funds to institutions of higher education in order to offer low-interest loans of up to \$5,500 per year to students. More than 500,000 students received Perkins Loans in the 2013-2014 academic year, totaling more than \$1 billion in disbursed student aid. However, not all the funding for this program comes from the federal government, as up to one-third of the funds appropriated by the federal government are matched by participating institutions. Ultimately, Perkins Loans are an important piece of the campus-based federal aid model, offering flexibility and discretion to financial aid officers to help students afford their higher education.

At Oberlin College we have committed to meeting 100% of every student's demonstrated financial need. While we do this predominantly with grant dollars, the Perkins Loan Program is a vital component in making an Oberlin education affordable for both our low and middle-income families. Last year alone more than 320 Oberlin students received funding of over \$1 million from the Perkins Program. Many students tell us, particularly lower income students,

that without the help of the Perkins Loan it is likely they could not have attended Oberlin.

Senator Portman, I urge you to support the reauthorization of the Perkins Loan Program. As history has shown us, the Perkins Program was one, if not the first, form of federal student aid that has helped millions of students afford higher education. At Oberlin, while we have a tremendous institutional commitment to making college affordable through our needbased grant program, we also know our students rely heavily on Perkins Loans as a means to attain their educational aspirations.

Sincerely,

MARVIN KRISLOV,
President.

MICHAEL BODNAR: My wife and I are very concerned about Congress not extending the Perkins Loan Program. With two children in College and one on the way, we would not be able to send them to the type of school needed to excel in this world today.

Every time we vote the political platform of higher education is expressed as so important. Now we and our children are faced with the possibility of losing vital money needed to stay in college.

We urge you to move forward and make sure that this program is extended. Most of our friends that have children in college rely on this program to help them pay their tuition.

MARY BODNAR: My husband and I are very concerned that The Federal Perkins Loan is on the verge of being discontinued.

By not acting on this very important issue which comes due on October 1st you are putting many families and College students at risk of not being able to afford their higher education. We have two children in college and one on the way and this program is vital to us as a family. Every year it's time to vote a representative into office whether it's the House of Representatives or the Senate we hear how important it is to educate our children.

Please make sure that this important Federal Loan Program continues. All of our friends that have children in college depend on The Federal Perkins Loan Program to get their kids through college.

Mr. PORTMAN. It is not just about Ohio. It is about the entire country. There are 1,700 postsecondary institutions that take advantage of the program. Allowing it to expire is going to affect all those institutions and all those many thousands of students.

Tuition is far too high. We should be making it easier—not harder—for students to be able to pay for college. I have heard concerns from some of my colleagues that we shouldn't extend this and not allow a unanimous consent agreement to occur here because they would like to improve the program to make it better and even more targeted, updated, and modernized, and make sure the funds are allocated properly. I don't disagree with that at all. I agree that this program, like every other program in the Federal Government, could be improved. That should be part of our work. We should be improving these programs so they are more cost effective and efficient and getting to the folks who really need the program the most.

While I agree we need to look at it and make changes, I don't think we should take this step of allowing it to expire. Why? Because, in effect, what we are doing there is we are saying that it is going to be at the expense of the students who need the aid. It should be on us. We should be doing our work. So I hope that we will go ahead and allow this extension to occur, and then let's work on those solutions. I think that it may be easier to have these reforms take place if we are not working under the gun—in other words, allowing this program to expire. Letting something lapse and trying to figure out how to bring it back is not the way the American people and the people of Ohio whom I represent expect Congress to work. I think we can get this done, and I think we can do this with the extension.

The Department of Education already indicated to us that they may start to recall funding in October from colleges and universities if this program is not extended. By the way, not extending Perkins won't help with the Nation's budget problems, because, again, it is a revolving fund. The way it works is one loan is paid back and another loan is extended.

This is the right thing to do. As we ensure that government continues to operate, let's ensure the Perkins Loan Program does as well.

I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their discussion today on this issue. I want to urge leadership on both sides of the aisle to focus on this issue. Let's be sure and do what the Senate should do along with the House. The House acted already with a 1-year extension. Let's simply do what the House has already done. Let's ensure we are providing loans to students who need them while we continue our efforts to reform this program and make it even stronger going forward.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND
COMPENSATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to hopefully prick the conscience of the Senate to ask the Senate to honor the memory of James Zadroga and all of those first responders who on September 11 responded to a national tragedy.

I come to the floor to achieve a goal that I and others did in 2010, which was then to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, and today it is to speak to reauthorize it before it expires.

Now, Jim Zadroga was a New Jerseyman, but he was also a hero who after September 11, 2001, ran towards the World Trade Center—not away—to help us recover. But while working on the site, breathing in the smoke, dust,

and debris, unknown to him, he was developing an illness from which he would never recover.

Jim was the first emergency responder to die directly because of health effects from working at Ground Zero. For years we had pieces of legislation in Congress to right the wrong created when hundreds of emergency workers were left out of the World Trade Center emergency worker settlements. It took us 9 years to pass the original bill. Let's not let it expire tomorrow.

Let's send a clear message to our first responders, those who responded on that fateful day and those who may be called upon to respond on some future fateful day, that we will never forget what they did for their fellow citizens, for this Nation, on the day that changed the world—for Jim Zadroga, who passed away, and for every other first responder sick because of their response to duty, some of whom have died and left loved ones behind.

If you told any American 14 years ago that we would let expire our commitment to provide for those who helped in the 9/11 recovery effort, that their government would be slow to respond to their illnesses, their suffering, and their sacrifices, no American would believe it. But that is what we are on the verge of doing. That is exactly what we are on the verge of doing.

We just had the September 11 commemoration. We all faithfully and responsibly went to remember the lives of those fellow Americans who were lost. We all paid tribute to them and to those who sacrificed in response. Yet here we are, just a few weeks after, on the verge of allowing to expire the very law that helps those who did their duty—some who did beyond their duty, because they were first responders not even from New York City but who came from across the country to help in the aftermath. No American would believe that we are about to let this expire. That is where we are, and it must change. This law is set to expire at midnight tomorrow.

Now, there is still enough funding to pay out claims for months to follow, but the reauthorization bill that I and other colleagues have cosponsored is needed now for a number of reasons. First and foremost, to provide the security, the peace of mind, and reassurances to those first responders that these critical programs will last longer than just what the next couple of months' funding would provide. It also permanently lifts the statute of limitations on the Victims Compensation Fund to provide for those first responders who need access beyond next year because we don't know what latent illness may befall them as a result of their sacrifice at Ground Zero.

Very importantly, it exempts the key programs from the budget sequestration cuts that would hollow out the

critical safety net that this program provides for those September 11 first responders. The sequestration, which I voted against, imposes arbitrary and capricious cuts to funding that will continue to provide care and support for those 9/11 heroes, who sacrificed everything to help those in need on that tragic day.

The fact is, Congress must act, and this time, let's not wait for a public outcry before we ensure that these heroes receive the care and support they deserve. Last week I stood with colleagues and first responders to call on all of us to do what is right and honor these heroic men and women.

Let's reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act before it expires tomorrow. It is the least we can do to say thank you for the risks they took and the sacrifices they made. Fourteen years after the attack, we still have a profound and moral obligation to take care of these brave men and women, the first responders who risked their lives and are now suffering health effects as a result of their efforts.

All of us remember that day. We remember where we were on the day that changed the world. We remember that it brought us closer together as family, as a community, one Nation indivisible. This is not a New York or a New Jersey issue. Nearly every State in the Nation has a first responder or more who ultimately will benefit from the fund because of an illness they have contracted or a loved one they left behind.

There is a reason we call this great country the United States of America, because, in fact, whether there are wildfires in the West, flooding in the Mississippi or any other great consequence to our country, we take care of our own collectively. In fact, this is the moment to take care of those whom we have heralded as heroes. It is not simply enough to say so in words, but we have to do so in deeds.

We should remember that feeling that we had on that day and subsequently the days afterwards and honor the heroic men and women, such as James Zadroga, and reauthorize the bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in recent years we have faced a lot of dif-

ficulty filling positions for service to our Federal Government, not the least of which are critical diplomatic posts around the world. We have seen delays in confirming Federal judges, one of the most important duties of the Senate. These men and woman are chosen for life appointments.

The most frustrating part of this is that virtually all of these nominees should be confirmed with overwhelming support. To be nominated by the President at the White House for an ambassadorial spot or even a Federal judgeship you go through a clearance process in the beginning for the White House to choose this person, then a background check—and it is a pretty extensive background check—and then eventually, if the White House is satisfied this person is fit for the job, with no obstructions to their moving forward, they send them to Congress and it goes through this process all over again.

So these nominees have been vetted once, twice, three times before they finally reach the point where there is a vote on the nominee in a committee on Capitol Hill in the Senate. If they clear that vote—and it is a partisan vote—if they clear that vote, then they make it to the Executive Calendar. It takes a long time. While this is going on, people are sitting there in suspense as to whether they are going to be selected and when they finally might get a chance to serve.

For some reason, we have seen a virtual standstill since the Republicans have taken control of the Senate when it comes to filling critical positions appointed by the President. It is time for us to schedule up-or-down votes on more than 27 foreign affairs and judicial nominees who are awaiting floor action.

Given the foreign policy challenges we face around the world, the delays in considering delays for our ambassadors and other critical foreign policy positions is inexcusable. Many come to the floor on the other side of the aisle every day to criticize the President and his foreign policy. Yet when he asks for men and women to serve and represent the United States in foreign countries, they languish on the calendar.

Most of the people languishing on the calendar for ambassadorial spots are not political, they are professional. They are men and women who have served our government through Democratic and Republican administrations, have developed a good reputation, and are now moving up to a new responsibility. Why in the world is the Republican majority refusing to allow those men and women to serve the United States? I don't understand it. I think it is dangerous. I think some people are putting politics ahead of national security.

As of today, we have at least 11 foreign affairs nominees on the Senate

Executive Calendar. Typically the vast majority of those nominees move quickly in a bipartisanship manner. However, over the past few years that has all changed. Everything is political now. Last year the Senate Republicans held up more than 30 nominees at various times. At least 10 of them were held over from the last Congress.

Most astonishingly, on the Senate Executive Calendar today, at a time when the international community is facing a terrible conflict in Syria, is a professional named Gayle Smith. She is a qualified nominee who wishes to serve as the head of USAID, U.S. Agency for International Development. What does that Agency do? That Agency provides food and medicine to the refugees of the Syrian war. It is a big process. It has to be moved into countries and into refugee camps in massive amounts to keep innocent people—victims of this war—alive.

Gayle Smith has been waiting for weeks, if not months, for approval. So what is so controversial about her? The only controversy is she was chosen by President Obama. She is eminently qualified. No one has raised any questions about her competency to do this job. She came to see me a week or two ago. She is anxious to serve our government, and the job she has to do is critically important at this moment in history. Yet she languishes on the Senate Executive Calendar not approved. So there is no nominal leader of this massive Agency which is responsible for the well-being of so many innocent people. There are another 10 just like her. In addition to this, three dozen more await confirmation in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Many of them have had hearings; they just sit there. This includes people like Jeffrey Hawkins to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic. Now, most of us would struggle to find that on a map, but the fact is, that country is facing its own conflict that has displaced more than one-half million people. Yet the post of U.S. Ambassador to that country goes vacant, not because of any controversy about Jeffrey Hawkins but the fact that he was chosen by this President. That is it. That is the only complaint.

It also includes Roberta Jacobson, who has been named as the next Ambassador of Mexico. Roberta is a seasoned diplomat who would be a great asset to a country that is our neighbor and closest among Latin American countries.

It includes Daniel Rubinstein to be the next Ambassador to Tunisia, one of the few countries to emerge from the Arab Spring as a functioning democracy. In total, some of these posts have been vacant for more than 1 year, despite the President's efforts to fill them. Other nominees are supposed to replace current Ambassadors who are looking forward to moving to their

next post. They cannot do it. Why? The Senate does not want to call them for a vote.

That is a decision to be made by the Republican majority. It is a shame our nominees, many of whom are non-controversial, who have distinguished careers in the Foreign Service, languish on the Senate Executive Calendar for months at a time, in some cases a year. There used to be a spirit of bipartisanship when it came to national security, one that had a long and proud tradition. I hope the majority now will return to that proud tradition.

We have a similar delay when it comes to judges. So far this year—this year, and here we are in the month of September, near the end, coming into October—so far this year, the Republican-controlled Senate has held confirmation votes on six judges—six—all year. Well, you say, the President only has 2 years left. Maybe it is normal that you would not approve a judge for a lifetime appointment if he only has a little over a year left now. During President George W. Bush's final 2 years in office, the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed 68 judicial nominees—6 so far this year by the Republicans. At this point in 2007, the Democratic Senate had confirmed 29 of President Bush's judicial nominees. That is nearly five times the number that has been cleared by the Republican Senate, despite the fact that there is no controversy involving any of those nominees.

There are 16 noncontroversial judicial nominees currently pending on the Senate Calendar whom we could confirm right away. Seven of these nominees would fill judicial emergencies. That means they are being sent to courthouses where the cases are stacking up and people are asking: When am I going to get my day in court?

Well, you will not get your day in court until the new judge gets his day in the Senate. We don't know when that might happen. There is no reason to delay these confirmation votes. These nominees would be confirmed with overwhelming support. We need to put them into the vacancies on the Federal bench. Overall, there are 67 vacant Federal judgeships now, 31 of which have been designated as judicial emergencies. Most of those vacancies are from States where there is at least one Republican Senator. What that means is that nominee would not even be on the calendar were it not for the approval of that Republican Senator. So they have bipartisan support. I urge my Republican colleagues to work in good faith to fill these vacancies on the Federal bench. This is an important responsibility of the Senate. We should not neglect it.

The vast majority of nominees could be confirmed today. If debate is needed on a few of them, so be it. If a rollcall

is needed, let's have it. We cannot leave vacant important positions in our government and in our judicial system: 16 judicial nominees, 11 nominees for foreign affairs. We could vote on them this afternoon. Are we holding off the vote because we are too busy on the Senate floor? If you are following the Senate, you know that is not the case. It is time for us to do our jobs so these nominees can do theirs. For the sake of national security and our system of justice, let's move forward in a bipartisan fashion and vote on these nominees.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Mr. President, another school year has begun. In August, I marked the occasion by holding a press conference outside of Argosy University. Don't be surprised if you have not heard the name Argosy University. It is a for-profit college in downtown Chicago. This for-profit college is part of an industry that enrolls 10 percent of all college students—the for-profit colleges and universities—10 percent of the students. They take in 20 percent of all the Department of Education financial aid. Here is the kicker. For-profit colleges and universities account for 44 percent of all the student loan defaults: 10 percent of the students, 44 percent of the student loan defaults.

Why does that happen? Because of several things. First, they are very expensive. They accept anyone—virtually anyone. Many of the students start going to these for-profit schools and realize they are getting too deep in debt and they drop out. Then they have the worst world: a student debt and no degree. Some of them finish the school, finish the course, and are given a diploma. They find out that they cannot get a job with it.

When you look at the Brookings Institution's recent study of for-profit schools, they ranked last when it comes to good-paying jobs after college. Then what happens? The students cannot make enough money to pay off their student loans and they default. That, sadly, is the cycle that has faced thousands of students across America. This industry is in trouble. It is in such trouble that many of the large for-profit schools are threatened and some have collapsed. The largest, Corinthian College, this for-profit university sent shock waves through the industry. They raked in profits, leaving students with mountains of debt, and then when they were asked to prove to the Federal Government that the students actually got a job after they graduated, they falsified the returns to the Federal Government. When they were challenged, they went under. They sunk.

When they sunk, look what happened. The students who had gone to school there were told: Corinthian just disappeared. You no longer have a university. Then they learned that the courses they took could not be trans-

ferred to any other school except maybe another for-profit school somewhere. The net result of it is, the students had an option: give up whatever credits they had at Corinthian and walk away from their student loans or keep their Corinthian credits and pay their student loans.

The students who walked away from their student loans, of course, created an obligation to Federal taxpayers who had to make up the difference.

Argosy University is another one of these for-profit colleges. It is owned by Education Management Corporation. It is one of the companies that are also being looked at very carefully. Students who walk through Argosy's doors in Chicago or surf their ads online considering enrollment should know the company that runs this school, Argosy University, is under investigation by at least 14 different State attorneys general for unfair and deceptive practices.

In 2013, the Colorado attorney general sued EDMC, which owns Argosy, for deceiving, misleading, and financially injuring students. The Colorado attorney general's investigation centered on Argosy and found a long, elaborate pattern of deceptive behavior by the school. That is not all. EDMC is also being sued by the Department of Justice under the Federal False Claims Act for falsely certifying compliance with provisions of Federal law. It turns out that they are incentivizing people to sign up students at their schools, these for-profit schools. They give them a signing bonus if they can lure some young student into signing up. That violates the law.

In addition, the San Francisco city attorney found that EDMC, the company that runs Argosy, engaged in marketing tactics that underestimated program costs for students and inflated job placement figures. They were just flatout lying to these kids.

According to the Department of Education, EDMC is considered "not financially responsible." It has been placed on the Department's special heightened cash monitoring status.

The company withdrew its stock from trading on NASDAQ because it no longer wanted to make public filings with the SEC. You see, if you make a public filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission and lie, you can go to jail, so they just withdrew their stock rather than be caught lying.

In addition, in Chicago, an Argosy student seeking an associate's degree in business, information technology, or psychology will pay about \$34,000 in tuition to this for-profit school. Two blocks away, the students at City Colleges of Chicago Harold Washington Campus are also getting the same degree, and the cost there is \$7,000. It is \$34,000 at Argosy and \$7,000 at the City Colleges of Chicago. Incidentally, the hours at the City Colleges of Chicago are transferable to other universities and schools—not if it is Argosy.

One in fifty students at the Harold Washington Campus is likely to default ultimately when it comes to paying their student loans; at Argosy, one out of seven. It is just too darn expensive, and these kids cannot pay back the loans.

A recent Brookings report found that Argosy University Chicago—the one I visited in August—is No. 9 in the country on the list of schools whose students owe the most in Federal student loans. They owe a total of \$6.2 billion—billion. In fact, of the top 25 schools on the list, 13 are for-profit colleges and account for 10 percent of all the outstanding student loan debt in America.

I want to close, as I see my colleague is on the floor seeking recognition. I close by using one more example: ITT Tech. It sounds great, doesn't it. It is No. 16 on Brookings' list. Students owe \$4.6 billion in loans. It is not surprising. An associate's degree, a 2-year degree at ITT Tech, costs \$47,000, and the students have a one-in-five chance of defaulting on the loans they make at that school. Meanwhile, ITT Tech, which does business in Chicago—Arlington Heights, Orland Park, and Oak Brook—has been under investigation by at least 18 State attorneys general for unfair and deceptive practices, has been sued by the New Mexico attorney general for misrepresentation to students about their accreditation status and sued by the Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for predatory lending. The list just goes on.

The point I am getting to is we are subsidizing these schools. This is the most heavily subsidized for-profit business in America; 80 percent to 95 percent of their revenue comes straight from the Federal Treasury. If all of the money going to for-profit colleges and universities—think about the University of Phoenix, DeVry, Kaplan—if all of that money were combined, this would be the ninth largest Federal agency in Washington. But, instead, the CEOs who run these for-profit companies are making a ton of money. The top man at the University of Phoenix—the biggest one—makes \$9 million a year. How is that for being a college president? And some of these other ones, small change—\$3 million a year. They get to run these for-profit schools while these kids stack up in debt, end up defaulting, and end with their lives ruined. Incidentally, defaulting on a debt means you still owe it to the grave. Student loan debts are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

I could go through a long list, but I hope Congress comes to its senses when the higher education bill comes to the floor. This rip-off, this scam on students and families across America, has to come to an end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise to discuss one of the major crises facing our health care system today, and that is that the pharmaceutical industry itself has become a major health hazard to the American people. The pharmaceutical industry in this country is charging the American people by far the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs.

The result is that one out of five Americans, including patients suffering from cancer who get a prescription from a doctor, is unable to afford to fill that prescription. This is totally absurd. The result is that Americans who are unable to buy the drugs that were prescribed to them become much sicker than they should have been, and in some cases they die. The result is also that people will end up in the emergency room or in the hospital at great expense to themselves and to the system because they were unable to afford the drugs that would have improved their health.

As Dr. Marcia Angell, a senior lecturer in social medicine at Harvard Medical School and a former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, recently wrote in the *Washington Post*:

Why do drug companies charge so much? Because they can.

Simple truth. There is not a rational economic reason for that. They charge outrageously high prices because nobody is stopping them in this country.

The United States is the only major country on Earth—the only one—that does not in one form or another regulate prescription drug prices. What that means is you could walk into the drugstore and the pharmacy tomorrow, and you could find that the price you are paying for a drug you have been using for many years has doubled, tripled, or gone up 10 times, and the United States has chosen to be the only major country on Earth that does not address this issue.

Let me give a few examples, some of which have received a good deal of attention recently.

In the United States, Daraprim, a prescription drug used to treat patients diagnosed with cancer and AIDS, shot up in price from \$18 a pill to \$750 a pill, literally overnight, after this drug was acquired by a former hedge fund manager by the name of Martin Shkreli, who is quickly becoming the poster child for pharmaceutical greed. This same exact drug sells for 66 cents a pill in Britain, and Mr. Shkreli is charging the American people \$750 for a drug used to treat patients with cancer and AIDS. That makes no sense to me, and it makes no sense to the American people.

Last week Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS and I sent a letter to Mr. Shkreli asking him to explain why the price of this drug has skyrocketed by over 4,000

percent. Now the good news—or it appears to be the good news—is that Mr. Shkreli recently said he would lower the price of this lifesaving drug, although he has not yet indicated what the new price will be. But let's be very clear—this is just one of many examples of price gouging within the pharmaceutical industry.

I wish to give another example. In the United States the prescription drug Sovaldi, which is used to treat a very serious and widespread disease, Hepatitis C, costs \$1,000 a pill—a thousand bucks a pill. In Europe, the same exact drug, made by the same exact company, costs \$555 a pill. In Egypt and India, the same drug costs \$11 a pill.

The cost of this drug has become so expensive that Medicaid and the Veterans' Administration—and many veterans are suffering with Hepatitis C—both Medicaid and the VA are rationing access to Sovaldi and other blockbuster Hepatitis C drugs to only the sickest patients. In other words, people in the United States are dying and suffering because they or the government programs they rely on—Medicaid or the VA—are simply unable to afford the outrageous prices this company is charging.

According to a recent article in the *Atlantic* magazine, despite rationing Sovaldi, the State of New Mexico—and I am just using New Mexico as one example; this is taking place all across the country—the State of New Mexico will spend an estimated \$140 million this year on that drug alone.

I should tell you this issue first came to my attention as the former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee when the VA requested an additional \$1.3 billion for that particular drug—\$1.3 billion for one drug. This is unacceptable and it has to change.

Last year, the pharmaceutical industry—shock of all shocks; I know the American people will be very surprised to hear this—the pharmaceutical industry spent \$250 million on lobbying and campaign contributions, and they employed some 1,400 lobbyists. Well, that is what you get when you spend one-quarter of a billion dollars and you have 1,400 lobbyists on Capitol Hill. What you get is the ability to rip off the American people, to charge our people prices far higher than the people of any other country on Earth pay. And you have the three largest drug companies in this country making \$45 billion in profit last year. So that is not a bad investment. Hey, just spread the money around on Capitol Hill—\$250 million—throw in some campaign contributions, and the three largest drug companies make \$45 billion in a year. Meanwhile, all over this country, one out of five Americans cannot afford to fill their prescriptions. People die. People become sick. State governments spend huge sums of money on these drugs because they are so expensive.

The time has come to say loudly and clearly: Yes, the drug companies make a lot of campaign contributions, but maybe, just maybe, Congress might have the radical idea that it is more important for us to represent our constituents than the people who throw all kinds of money at us in Congress.

It is unacceptable that total spending on medicine in the United States has gone up by more than 90 percent since 2002. It is unacceptable that the monthly cost of cancer drugs has more than doubled over the last 10 years to \$9,900 a month. In the United States of America, you should not be forced into

bankruptcy because you are diagnosed with cancer.

It is time—in fact, the time is long overdue—for our country and our Congress to join the rest of the industrialized world by implementing prescription drug policies that work for everybody and not just the owners in the pharmaceutical industry. That is why I recently introduced legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs in America. That legislation is cosponsored by Senator AL FRANKEN of Minnesota and was introduced in the House by Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

Specifically, this is what the bill would do: No. 1, it requires Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate

with the prescription drug companies for better prices—a practice that was banned by the Bush administration several years ago. No. 2, this bill would allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import prescription drugs from licensed Canadian pharmacies, where drug prices are significantly lower than they are in the United States.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a comparison of the prices of some drugs in the United States with Canada be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BRAND VS. BRAND

[Manufactured by the same company at the same cost. Delivered to two different countries]

	United States	Canada	
Advair Diskus			
Condition: Asthma & COPD	\$878.31	\$212.01	— 76%
Crestor			
Condition: High Cholesterol	608.72	160.05	— 74%
Premarin			
Condition: Estrogen Therapy	324.99	90.00	— 72%
Abilify			
Condition: Depression	2,615.08	467.07	— 82%
Zetia			
Condition: High Cholesterol	636.49	183.45	— 71%
Nexium			
Condition: Heartburn	682.42	228.60	— 67%
Synthroid			
Condition: Hypothyroidism	878.31	212.01	— 76%
Januvia			
Condition: Type-2 Diabetes	970.56	273.60	— 72%
Celebrex			
Condition: Arthritis	878.31	212.01	— 76%
Diovan			
Condition: High Blood Pressure	475.04	144.90	— 70%

Prices obtained May 19th, 2015 using average U.S. cash price for a 90 day personal supply from GoodRx.com using New York resident pricing and average Canadian mail-order pharmacy price.

Mr. SANDERS. I will give a few examples. We have a drug called Crestor that deals with high cholesterol. Here in the United States, we pay \$608 for a 90-day supply; in Canada \$160—74 percent less in Canada. Premarin for estrogen therapy is \$324 in the United States and \$90 in Canada. Nexium is \$682 in the United States and \$228 in Canada. Synthroid is \$878 in the United States and \$212 in Canada. It is the same product, the same company. It is not generic. These are the same exact brand name products. Celebrex—a widely used drug for arthritis—is \$878 in the United States and \$212 in Canada.

What this bill would do, in addition to having Medicare negotiate drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry—which would substantially lower the prices Medicare pays—this bill would allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import prescription drugs from licensed Canadian pharmacies, where drug prices are substantially lower than they are in the United States.

I live 100 miles away from the Canadian border. In 1999, I took a busload of Vermonters—mostly women, many of them dealing with breast cancer—over the Canadian border into Montreal. As long as I live, I will never forget the looks on their faces when they bought the same medicine they were buying in Vermont, in the U.S.A., for one-tenth

of the price—one-tenth of the price. These were working-class women who were struggling with breast cancer and who didn't have a whole lot of money. They were able to purchase the exact same medicine for 10 percent of the price in Montreal. That makes no sense to me, and it only speaks to the power of the pharmaceutical industry over the Congress that we have Members here who vote for all kinds of free-trade agreements—they just love free trade. We can bring in any product we want from China. We can have lettuce and tomatoes coming in from farms in Mexico. But for some strange reason we cannot bring in brand name drugs from Canada. We just can't do it. We can't figure out how to do it. And everybody here knows what the reason is—it is the power of the pharmaceutical industry, their campaign donations, and their lobbying efforts.

Our bill does a lot more than that. We cannot in good conscience tell people in our States that they must continue to pay outrageously high prices for prescription drugs when year after year drug companies make billions of dollars in profit and year after year people in our country get sicker and in some cases die because they can't afford the medicine they need.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, last Friday, China announced its decision to implement a national cap-and-trade program beginning in 2017. It will cover the majority of China's greenhouse gas emissions, including those from power generation, iron and steel production, cement, chemicals, and manufacturing. In creating the world's largest market-based program that puts a price on carbon pollution, China is showing that it knows that climate change and economic growth can be addressed at the same time.

China stepped up on climate finance as well, matching the United States' contribution to the Green Climate Fund. China's announcement directly counters the arguments made by opponents of climate action here at home. The original idea was that essentially we should wait for China, that our actions would not make a difference

without China, or worse, that we would be harming our own economic growth while they kept burning fossil fuels.

That argument, originally—that idea that on the challenge of our generation we should wait for other countries—was ridiculous on its face. After all, the United States must always lead. We are the indispensable Nation regardless of what the other countries may or may not be doing. But even if you subscribe to that argument, everything changed last week. The world is taking action around us. We are now at risk of being left behind, both in terms of our energy systems and our international standing.

China's recent announcement to peak its coal use, reduce emissions from superpollutants, and now its decision to implement a cap-and-trade program throw the old arguments out the window.

Those who oppose climate action have also said that addressing climate change would slow economic growth. Of course, we have known for years that this is not true. Consider the plummeting cost of clean energy or savings at the pump due to higher fuel economy standards, both of which are good for consumers and good for the climate. Now we have further confirmation that countries can reduce emissions without sacrificing economic growth.

China obviously has no interest in putting the brakes on its growth. By including in its cap-and-trade program many sectors that are vital to its future growth, China is showing the United States and the rest of the world that it means business. China does not have a monopoly on ideas to reduce carbon pollution. In fact, most of their good ideas are still coming from us. The Senate has a long history of proposing market-based solutions to climate change, dating back to the 2003 Climate Stewardship Act from Senators McCain and Lieberman.

Earlier this year, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I reintroduced our American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act. Our bill would impose a price on carbon pollution and use the revenues to cut a \$500 check for all Americans, while lowering the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 29 percent. Economists from across the political spectrum agree this is good policy.

Putting a price on carbon in a revenue-neutral way will provide numerous benefits above and beyond the significant cuts in carbon pollution. It will give companies the policy certainty that they need, and it will send a price signal to polluters. By using revenues to lower tax rates and provide dividends to every American, we can stimulate economic growth and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Carbon pollution entails costs, but right now taxpayers are footing the bill. By making polluters responsible

for the damage they cause and returning all of the revenues to individuals and employers, we will send a signal that innovation in clean energy and other low-carbon technologies will be the driving force behind the global economy of the 21st century.

The United States should not cede leadership in those sectors to China, Germany or any other country. We always lead. It is what Americans do best. American ingenuity led to some of the most exciting developments in the last century—from the airplane and the assembly line to the microprocessors and solar cells. With the right policies, we can assure American leadership for the next century as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD EVANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Richard Evans, who has served as a Transportation Security Administration, TSA, aviation compliance inspector, passenger service manager, and county sheriff.

Richard Evans has always been a man of sound judgement and conviction. He began his law enforcement career at the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1964 at the age of 21. As would become recurrent in his career, Richard rose through the ranks for 20 years and retired from the sheriff's department as an investigator. During Richard's exemplary career, he participated in numerous high-level, dangerous undercover cases. The department called upon Richard to participate in many joint Federal, State, and local task forces. He always answered the call and was willing to go above and beyond.

Following his service with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Richard spent 17 years rising through the ranks of the world's largest airline fleet, American Airlines. Richard worked at the John Wayne Airport in Orange County, the Ontario International Airport, and the Los Angeles

International Airport. He completed his career with American Airlines at McCarran Airport in 2001.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, Richard answered the call to service yet again and joined the TSA. He was quickly assigned to the law enforcement liaison section, where he built upon his 20 year law enforcement career and his 17 years with American Airlines. For nearly two decades, Richard has been the point of contact for all dignitary movements and specialized screening at McCarran Airport. In conjunction with Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, Richard seamlessly ensured the safe and security of dignitaries in one of the Nation's busiest airports.

Official records note thousands of successful escorts, which include escorts for the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, and former Presidents. Richard has personally coordinated the movements of Kings, Queens, Prime Ministers, Princes, Princesses, Ambassadors, and senior officials from more than 57 different countries. Nearly every Governor in the United States, a vast majority of Executive Branch Cabinet Secretaries, multiple Supreme Court Justices, and countless Members of Congress have experienced Richard's unrivaled expertise and without fail everyone agrees: Richard is the standard for exceptional service.

Richard Evans is a wonderful man and one of the finest public servants I have had the pleasure of meeting during my career. His trustworthy, problem-solving nature was always apparent when crises or challenges presented themselves. Dignitaries in the United States and around the world were fortunate to have been in his capable care. I commend Richard for his service to this Nation, and I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this month, the Senate passed a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating Hispanic Americans as dedicated public servants in the highest levels of government. These great Americans include a Supreme Court Justice, 3 U.S. Senators, 34 members of the House of Representatives, and 3 members of the President's Cabinet. I commend the U.S. Senate for passing this resolution celebrating Hispanic heritage, but we should be doing much more than approving a resolution. We should be working on a bipartisan basis to pass comprehensive immigration reform, as the Senate did last Congress under a Democratic majority. At the same time, the Senate should immediately confirm the several judicial nominees supported by the nonpartisan Hispanic National Bar Association.

There are three outstanding Hispanic judicial nominees that are currently

pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar: Luis Felipe Restrepo, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the Third Circuit; Armando Bonilla, nominated to a judicial vacancy in the Court of Federal Claims; and John Michael Vazquez, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the district of New Jersey. A fourth, Dax Lopez, has been nominated to a judicial vacancy in the Northern District of Georgia, and is still awaiting a hearing in the Judiciary Committee.

These dedicated public servants are eager to serve, but they have been blocked by the Republican leadership's virtual shutdown of the judicial confirmation process since they took over the majority in January. More than 8 months into this new Congress, the Republican leadership has allowed just six votes for judges. At this rate, the Senate this year will confirm the fewest number of judges in more than a half century. Luis Felipe Restrepo, Armando Bonilla, John Michael Vazquez, and Dax Lopez all deserve an up or down vote by this Senate.

Judge Restrepo was nominated last year to fill an emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Pennsylvania. If confirmed, Judge Restrepo would be the first Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania to ever serve on this appellate court and only the second Hispanic judge to serve on the Third Circuit. He was unanimously confirmed 2 years ago by the Senate to serve as a district court judge. During his tenure as both a Federal district court judge and as a Federal magistrate judge, he has presided over 56 trials that have gone to verdict or judgment. He is superbly qualified, and I have heard no objection to his nomination. Despite his outstanding credentials and experience, it took the Republican majority 7 months just to schedule a hearing in the Judiciary Committee for this qualified nominee.

Judge Restrepo has bipartisan support from both Pennsylvania Senators and was voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote. He has the strong endorsement of the nonpartisan Hispanic National Bar Association. At his confirmation hearing in June, Senator TOOMEY stated that "there is no question Judge Restrepo is a very well-qualified candidate to serve on the Third Circuit." Senator TOOMEY described Judge Restrepo's life story as "an American dream" and recounted how Judge Restrepo came to the United States from Colombia and rose to the top of his profession by "virtue of his hard work, his intellect, his integrity." I could not agree more.

Given his remarkable credentials, wealth of experience, and strong bipartisan support, the Senate should have confirmed Judge Restrepo months ago. Instead, for 10 months since his nomination back in November 2014, he has been denied a vote on his confirmation.

No Senate Democrat opposes a vote on his nomination. He is being denied a confirmation vote by Senate Republican leadership. No one doubts that he will be confirmed once Majority Leader MCCONNELL schedules his vote. I have heard Senator TOOMEY indicate his strong support and that he would like to see Judge Restrepo receive a vote, but I have yet to see him ask for a firm commitment on a vote. The people of Pennsylvania are no doubt wondering when this longstanding and emergency vacancy on their appeals court will be filled.

Another outstanding public servant is Armando Bonilla, who was first nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims back in May 2014. If confirmed, Mr. Bonilla would be the first Hispanic judge to hold a seat on that court. He is strongly endorsed by the Hispanic National Bar Association. He has spent his entire career, now spanning over two decades, as an attorney for the Department of Justice. He was hired out of law school into the Department's prestigious Honors Program and has risen to become an associate deputy attorney general in the Department.

Armando Bonilla's background is also one that reminds us of the American dream. The son of a Cuban immigrant and Cuban American father, Mr. Bonilla has told the story of his mother's flight from Havana with his aunt and his grandmother. He has told the story of his uncle, "Tio Mario," who eventually disappeared trying to help other exiles. And he has told the story of his father, who dropped out of high school, but served our country by joining the Marines and took on several jobs to support Armando and his sister. As Mr. Bonilla has beautifully described, his father "exemplified the most outstanding qualities of the Hispanic culture and Hispanic people: the selfless sacrifice, the steely resolve, and unbridled optimism and the genuine pride in an honest day's work—all toward the cause of improving the lives of the next generation." Mr. Bonilla should be confirmed without further delay.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims has been operating with several vacancies since February 2013. Only 11 of the 16 seats on the court are occupied by active judges. We could have a court working at full strength if we confirmed Mr. Bonilla and the other four nominees pending on the Senate Executive Calendar. All five of them were nominated more than a year ago and have twice been voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote. There is no good reason to delay an up-or-down vote for these uncontroversial nominees.

John Michael Vazquez was nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the district of New Jersey in March. He has been a public servant for both

the Office of the Attorney General for the State of New Jersey and as a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office in the District of New Jersey. During his tenure in the U.S. attorney's office, Mr. Vazquez handled a wide array of Federal investigations and prosecutions while serving in the general crimes unit, the major narcotics unit, the terrorism unit, and the securities and health care fraud unit.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Vazquez "Well Qualified" to serve as a district judge, its highest rating. He also has the support of his two home State Senators, Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER. He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote. There is no reason why Mr. Vazquez, along with Judge Restrepo and Mr. Bonilla, should not be confirmed today. Each of the outstanding Hispanic judicial nominees pending on the floor will be confirmed overwhelmingly if Majority Leader MCCONNELL will simply schedule a confirmation vote.

Over the past 7 years, the Senate has acted to confirm some outstanding Hispanic American judicial nominees. President Obama nominated the first Latina to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as the first Latino circuit judges in three circuits: Alberto Diaz on the fourth circuit, Adalberto Jordan on the 11th circuit, and Jimmie Reyna on the Federal Circuit; and has already appointed 35 Hispanic Americans to serve on the Federal bench, more than any other president in history. But this record does not mean that the Senate should shut down any further confirmations as some in the majority may desire. The Senate has an obligation to vote on judicial nominees in regular order and to consider them fairly based on their individual merit.

A recent report from The Brookings Institution dated September 18, 2015, confirms that the Republican obstruction on judicial nominees is unprecedented in recent history. It states: "Senate Republicans' aggressive slowdown in judicial confirmations so far in 2015 . . . are contrary to the confirmation records in the final two years of the other two-term presidencies since 1961—Ronald Reagan, William Clinton, and George W. Bush." And a recent report by the Alliance for Justice, dated September 17, 2015, notes that "the burgeoning vacancies are the result of playing politics with judicial selection. And the victims are the people and businesses who cannot access courts to seek justice and the judges who must shoulder the burden of increased caseloads and fewer resources."

I urge all Senators to read these reports as well as a recent story in the Associated Press that highlights the real consequences of Senate Republicans' judicial blockade. The story

highlights a case brought by Latino migrant farmworkers for wage theft in Federal district court in eastern California. I ask unanimous consent that the Associated Press article be printed in the RECORD. The workers have waited more than 3 years to learn whether they can proceed with their claim. As years go by, the workers' attorney worries that her clients will have moved and be impossible to reach if and when she is able to recover their stolen wages. This is another heartbreaking example that justice delayed is effectively justice denied. The Senate, however, can act right now to alleviate the considerable backlog of cases in the Eastern District of California by confirming the noncontroversial pending nominee for this court, Federal Magistrate Judge Dale Drozd. Judge Drozd was voice voted out of the Judiciary Committee in June, and there is no reason why we cannot vote today on his confirmation.

The Republican leadership's virtual shutdown of judicial confirmations has only served to undermine the judicial branch and harm the American people. I urge Senate Republicans to change course and lead responsibly. The Senate should immediately turn to the confirmation vote of Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo and then schedule confirmation votes for the other 15 judicial nominees, including Mr. Bonilla and Mr. Vazquez, without further delay.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Associated Press, Sept. 27, 2015]

WHEELS OF JUSTICE SLOW AT OVERLOADED
FEDERAL COURTS

(By Sudhin Thanawala)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Attorney Martha Gomez has been waiting more than three years to hear from a federal court whether a group of farm workers in California's Central Valley can proceed with their lawsuit alleging wage theft.

The case in California's Eastern District could result in payouts for thousands of migrant workers, but each passing day raises the possibility that they will have moved on and be impossible to track down, Gomez said.

"Everybody is in limbo, and it's hard to explain that," she said.

Across the country, federal district courts have seen a rise in recent years in the time it takes to get civil cases to trial and resolve felony criminal cases as judges' workloads have increased, according to statistics from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

The problem is particularly acute in some federal courts such as California's and Texas's Eastern Districts. Judges there have workloads about twice the national average and say they are struggling to keep up.

The result, the judges and attorneys say, is longer wait times in prison for defendants awaiting trial, higher costs for civil lawsuits and delays that can render those suits moot.

"I think it's fair to say that things are quite bad," said Matt Menendez, a lawyer with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law who has studied judicial caseloads.

Legal scholars say Congress needs to fill judicial vacancies more quickly but also increase the number of judges in some districts—both issues that get bogged down in partisan political fights over judicial nominees.

California's Eastern District, which covers a large swath of the state that includes Sacramento and Fresno, has had an unfilled judicial vacancy for nearly three years, and it has the same number of judicial positions—six—it had in 1978, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

The Judicial Conference of the United States, the national policy-making body for the federal courts, has recommended Congress double the number of judicial positions in the district.

In the late 1990s, the median time for civil cases to go to trial in the district averaged 2 years and four months. From 2009 to 2014, that number jumped by more than a year. The median time to resolve criminal cases nearly doubled to an average of 13 months.

"You're never out from under it," said Morrison England, the court's chief judge. "You're constantly trying to do what you can to get these cases resolved, and we just can't do it."

The weighted caseload per judge has climbed from an average of nearly 600 in the late 1990s to over 1,000.

The Eastern District of Texas has seen similar increases.

"The way one older judge put it to me: 'If you have too many cases, you start to lose the time to think about them,'" said Ron Clark, the court's chief judge.

The vacancy in California's Eastern District is in Fresno, which is down to just one full-time district court judge.

Attorneys say they are reluctant to file cases in the Fresno court because of delays and have faced additional expenses from having to drive to Sacramento when their case gets assigned to a judge there who has been called in to help.

Gomez's April 2012 lawsuit was filed in Fresno and alleges that Castlerock Farming and Transport forced the workers—grape harvesters—to work off the clock and did not provide them with proper rest breaks.

Jim Hanlon, an attorney for Castlerock, said he does not comment on pending cases. The company says in court documents it did not directly employ the workers and has already defended their claims in a separate lawsuit.

Anthony Raimondo, an attorney for another defendant in the case, said at least some of the time it's taken to resolve the lawsuit can be attributed to its complexity.

The case lists multiple defendants and alleged labor code violations and seeks class action status on behalf of as many as several thousand employees. Early on, the judge overseeing the case, Senior U.S. District Judge Anthony Ishii, put it on hold pending a class certification ruling in a related case.

But Raimondo and Gomez say there have been delays that appear to have no explanation other than a backlogged court. Castlerock, for example, filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit last September that the judge has yet to rule on.

A woman who answered the phone in Ishii's chambers said he would be away until the end of September and unavailable for comment.

Lawrence O'Neill, the one full-time district court judge in Fresno, said he could not comment on any pending case. But he said the court's caseload has made it difficult to get trial dates for civil cases.

He pointed to two cases on his docket—one alleging excessive force by police and the other race and sex discrimination by an employer—that were filed in 2013, but won't go to trial until 2017.

"We can slow things down because we simply can't work any harder or faster," he said. "But the real important effect of that is people who need our help to move their lives forward are delayed."

PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. REED. Mr. President, unless we act quickly, our longest running student loan program—the Perkins Loan Program—will meet its demise on September 30. It will end not because it is ineffective or because it does not make college more affordable for needy students or because we have debated and built consensus on how best to reform our Federal student loan programs. Rather, the Perkins Loan Program might end because some of my colleagues refuse to extend it as we routinely do with other programs awaiting reauthorization. We should not allow this to happen. I hope that my colleagues will swiftly approve H.R. 3594, the Higher Education Extension Act, a bipartisan bill to extend the Perkins Loan Program that the House of Representatives passed by a unanimous vote yesterday.

The Perkins Loan Program was created in 1958 as the National Defense Student Loan Program. Approximately 1,500 colleges and universities, including a dozen in my home State of Rhode Island, disburse more than \$1.2 billion in Perkins loans to students who have demonstrated exceptional financial need.

The Perkins Loan Program carries some of the most generous terms of all the Federal student loan programs. Perkins loans are offered at a low, fixed rate of 5 percent. No interest accrues until the student enters repayment, which starts after a 9-month grace period, giving the recent graduate time to get on his or her feet. The Perkins Loan Program also encourages public service, offering generous loan forgiveness for many public sector careers, including for school librarians, something that I have long championed.

Another compelling feature of the Perkins Loan Program is that participating institutions must contribute their own resources—\$1 for every 2 Federal dollars. Many institutions, including colleges and universities in Rhode Island, have invested more than their legal obligation. As students repay their loans, institutions are able to make new loans. In other words, participating colleges and universities have a real stake in students being able to repay their loans, something that is missing from our other Federal student loan programs and something that I have been advocating we need more, not less, of.

In Rhode Island during the 2013–2014 school year, over 9,000 students attending Rhode Island colleges benefitted from more than \$18 million in low-cost Perkins loans. Without this assistance, these students would face a gap in their ability to pay for college and could be forced into risky private loans or higher cost parent loans.

We need to maintain the Perkins Loan Program as we continue working towards a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. We cannot and should not leave needy students and families in the lurch by cutting off access to this vital program.

I urge all of my colleagues to support swift passage of H.R. 3594, the Higher Education Extension Act, to ensure there is no lapse in the availability of Perkins loans.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I wish to discuss the international nuclear agreement with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA. Reached on July 14, 2015, after years of difficult negotiations among the United States and the other P5+1 countries—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and Germany—and Iran, the agreement confronts the Iranian nuclear program, which has long been the subject of U.S., European Union, and United Nations sanctions.

Throughout these years of international negotiations, and more recently, during these months of congressional debate, I have been focused on one goal—ensuring that our dual-track policy of diplomacy and economic sanctions results in an outcome that verifiably prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Iran getting the bomb is simply unacceptable, and blocking that is in our national security interests and that of our allies, including Israel.

This international agreement impacts the safety and security of Americans and our allies and is an incredibly serious matter, deserving careful and considered scrutiny. That includes a thorough and responsible debate in Congress. That is why I voted for the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, P.L. 114–17, which provided Congress with a 60-day window to consider the JCPOA prior to its taking effect. And that window was filled with vigorous debate in the Senate. Regardless of one's position for or against the international agreement, one thing is clear: every Senator has had an opportunity to pass their judgement on whether we are right to choose a path of international diplomacy to achieve our goal of verifiably preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. In my judgement we are.

For me personally, I felt that it was critical to closely review the details of the agreement and hear from individ-

uals on all sides of this debate, including experts and constituents, and listen to their arguments. I have attended numerous classified briefings with administration officials, including those with firsthand technical, scientific, and diplomatic expertise, heard from the Ambassadors of our P5+1 partners, and benefited from many candid conversations with Wisconsin constituents. All of these interactions have been invaluable and have informed my conclusion that rejecting this international agreement is not in our national security interest. According to the agreement, before receiving relief from sanctions, Iran must comply with a number of far-reaching and long-term obligations to limit its nuclear program, all of which will be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, through an unprecedentedly robust inspections and monitoring framework. Iran's obligations include redesigning the Arak reactor to eliminate the plutonium pathway to nuclear weapons; eliminating its current stockpile of highly enriched uranium, reducing its current stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 97 percent, and capping enrichment at that level for 15 years; reducing the number of operational centrifuges by two-thirds and severely limiting research on advanced enrichment technology; converting the underground Fordow facility to a medical research center; accepting intrusive IAEA monitoring of Iran's nuclear supply chain and fuel cycle; and satisfactorily answering IAEA questions into the possible military dimensions of its prior nuclear program. In exchange for verifiably meeting these obligations, Iran will receive relief from U.S. and international nuclear-related sanctions. And importantly, U.S. sanctions against Iran related to human rights violations, support for terrorism, and illicit arms shipments remain in effect. Should the international verification regime catch Iran noncompliant with its obligations, the agreement includes a provision allowing the United States to unilaterally reimpose nuclear-related U.N. sanctions.

My judgement on this issue has also been guided by the hard lessons that should be learned when America chooses to engage in military action and war in the Middle East. It is easy to conclude that a rejection of international diplomacy and the JCPOA would shatter the current international coalition, making key multilateral sanctions impossible, and would result in Iran restarting its illicit nuclear activities, leading to inevitable military action. Indeed, I have been struck by the inability of opponents of the agreement to put forth a credible alternative that does not involve military action in the Middle East. In this case, it is simply not feasible for the United States to go it alone. So I am proud that America

led six countries toward a historic international agreement with Iran that verifiably prevents it from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

While the agreement does represent the best option to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, moving forward, Congress and the administration must work together in a bipartisan manner and in concert with our allies to ensure that the agreement is implemented effectively. Implementation is critical because this agreement is not built on trust of Iran. In fact, the agreement is built on mistrust of Iranian motives and a clear-eyed view of Iran's past and present destabilizing activities in the region.

That is why the JCPOA establishes the most intrusive inspections and monitoring framework in the history of arms control agreements. Approximately 150 IAEA inspectors, outfitted with the latest training and technology, much of which originates from the cutting-edge work of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Labs, will be onsite in Iran and ready to report any suspicious behavior.

In addition to this stringent monitoring regime, the very real threat of snapback sanctions will work to incentivize Iranian compliance with its JCPOA obligations. According to the agreement, in the event of Iranian cheating, the United States has the ability to unilaterally reimpose nuclear-related U.N. sanctions as well as add on to U.S. sanctions against Iran beyond those related to human rights violations, support for terrorism, and illicit arms shipments that remain in place. And Iran should make no mistake: I, along with my colleagues in the Senate, will not hesitate to reapply sanctions should Iran break the terms of the JCPOA. In short, if Iran cheats, even along the margins, we will catch them and there will be a heavy price to pay.

I am under no illusions regarding Iran's continuing destabilizing behavior in the region and its record during the Iraq war, which includes supporting Shiite militias that killed American servicemembers. From human rights violations to support for terrorism and criminal client states such as Assad's Syria to its illicit nuclear program, Iran is a bad actor. That is why it is absolutely critical that the JCPOA move forward and block Iran from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon, an unthinkable outcome that would make it an even greater security challenge.

At the same time, I support taking immediate, additional steps to counter Iran's non-nuclear activities in the region and bolster the security of our Gulf Cooperation Council partners—who support the JCPOA—and Israel. From the time of the establishment of the modern Jewish State in 1948, the United States and Israel have shared a

special bond, grounded in our mutual commitment to democracy, freedom, respect for the rule of law and the quest for a secure and stable Middle East. I have spent more time in Israel than in any foreign country, and my travel and interactions there have greatly informed my understanding of the security challenges Israel faces.

That is why I have been a longtime supporter of annual U.S. aid to Israel, which is currently set at \$3.1 billion per year, as well as additional funding for Israeli missile defense systems such as Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow, all of which are so valuable in protecting Israeli citizens. I support increasing that level of assistance and broadening and deepening our two countries' collaboration in the security and intelligence spheres. The United States and Israel are currently drafting a new 10-year memorandum of understanding to govern the nature of U.S. military assistance to Israel. This is an opportunity to further strengthen our security relationship with Israel and ensure its qualitative military edge.

In conclusion, the United States cannot afford to walk away from an international agreement that is based on a robust inspections and compliance regime and will verifiably prevent Iran from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon. While there are legitimately held policy differences on this highly complex issue, going it alone is not an effective path forward and not in our national security interest. I support moving this international agreement forward so we can begin enforcing it and preventing Iran from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon. ●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding work of the Police Officers Association of Michigan, the largest organization of law enforcement officers in the State of Michigan, representing over 14,000 frontline crime fighters, law enforcement officers, and first responders throughout the State. POAM officers are in every jurisdiction in Michigan—every precinct, ward, city, township, county, and congressional district—and are truly a strong voice for the Michigan law enforcement community.

POAM recently met for its annual conference in Grand Rapids, MI. During that conference, POAM recognized outstanding police officers for exceptional law enforcement work. This year's POAM conference highlighted some of the countless acts of bravery and community-strengthening that the thousands of law enforcement officers throughout Michigan perform on a

daily basis. I applaud POAM's commitment to the communities that they serve.

I join POAM and all of my fellow Michiganders in recognizing these incredible public servants and all of the brave men and women of Michigan's law enforcement community who are responsible for keeping our streets safe. ●

REMEMBERING DR. WILLIAM JEFFERSON TERRY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate and celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. William Jefferson Terry of Mobile, AL, who was the first pediatric urologist in the State of Alabama. He was a nationally known and a well-respected physician.

Dr. Terry was born in Mobile, AL where he later returned to begin his urology practice. He graduated cum laude from the University of Alabama and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After receiving his M.D. degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, he was an intern and resident at the University of Kentucky Medical Center; he then served as a resident and chief resident in urology at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, followed by a fellowship in pediatric urology at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

His valuable contributions to the medical profession have been recognized by his colleagues. He was honored by the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association with the 2007 Garber Galbraith Medical Political Service Award for outstanding service to the medical profession and the 2010 Distinguished Service Award. He was also honored by the University of South Alabama Department of Internal Medicine as the 2009 John McGehee Excellence as a Teacher Award. The Medical Association of the State of Alabama honored him this year with the Paul W. Burleson Award presented in recognition of a medical career that encompasses not only high ethical and professional standards in patient care, but includes extraordinary service to physician organizations at the county, State, and national levels. Dr. Terry was a delegate to the American Medical Association for 20 years, served on the AMA Council on Medical Service, and was chairman of the Alabama delegation to the AMA for 7 years. He was active in many issues relating directly to the patient-physician relationship and the quality of care being delivered.

In addition to being a remarkable physician, Dr. Terry was a fierce advocate for his patients and the medical community. He worked tirelessly and successfully to stop the implementation of ICD-10, which he and the physicians he served believed was not practical and harmful to medicine. He carefully questioned the Affordable Care

Act and gave of himself extensively towards advancing quality health care. He was a wonderful friend and adviser to me. As a voice from the real world of medicine, his views impacted my decisions significantly. On a personal note, I knew the quality of his practice firsthand as he provided top quality care to my mother. He placed his patients first and was a tireless worker.

Senator BILL CASSIDY, a fellow physician and friend of Dr. Terry, recognized Dr. Terry's commitment to his profession, country, and family:

Beyond serving his family and community, Dr. Terry genuinely cared about the future of the medical profession. He made his passion for creating more sensible public policy a priority, even testifying before Congress and moderating a discussion between physicians, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. His contributions to the policy making process are absolutely invaluable.

I am privileged to say that Dr. Terry was a fellow American, and a colleague as a physician. He was a blessing to many. Remember his widow and children in prayer. We who were blessed look forward to being reunited in heaven.

Dr. Terry was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, as well as a dedicated member of the Dauphin Way United Methodist Church. He was a man of God. He dearly loved his family, country, and profession. His integrity and work ethic were second to none. Dr. Terry's life represented the highest ideals of the serving physician, and he was held in the highest esteem and affection by the many he served. He leaves surviving him Elizabeth, his wife of 39 years; his three sons, William, Miller, and Gordon; and his four granddaughters, Eleanor, Sally, Lida, and Eloise.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Terry for his dedication and many contributions to the field of medicine. ●

CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, the town of Conway in New Hampshire is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. Months of observances will culminate with a ceremony this Thursday, October 1, the anniversary date of the signing of the town's charter in 1775 by Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth. Appropriately, this commemoration will be held at Founders Park in Redstone, site of Conway's first meeting-house and the early settlers' cemetery.

Today, the Town of Conway—encompassing the villages of Kearsarge, Intervale, Redstone, Conway, North Conway, East Conway, Center Conway, and South Conway—is a vibrant and popular tourist destination, often described as the gateway to New Hampshire's spectacular White Mountain National Park. But the region's human history goes back many centuries prior

to the arrival of the first British explorers and settlers.

The area was originally home to the Pequawket Native American tribe, members of the larger Algonquian Abenaki tribe. Along the bountiful Saco River, they fished, hunted, and farmed. The initial White explorer of the region, Darby Field of Exeter, first encountered members of the Pequawket tribe in 1642. The Native Americans' dominion over the area formally ended on October 1, 1775, when Colonial Governor Wentworth chartered 65 men to establish the new town of Conway, named for the commander in chief of the British Army, Henry Seymour Conway.

By the mid-1900s, visitors from across America and also Europe discovered the wild beauty of the White Mountains. Artists came to the region to capture the landscape on canvas, creating what became known as the White Mountain School of Art. King Edward VII purchased 12 paintings by artists of the White Mountain School to display at Windsor Castle.

Beginning in 1871, the railroads came to Conway. Trains carried timber and wood products away from the town and brought more and more tourists into the town. North Conway was reborn as a booming tourist center for the region. By the early 20th century, so-called snow trains brought growing numbers of winter sports enthusiasts to Conway. Ski resorts began to open, led in 1937 by Cranmore, with its innovative "Skimobile" ski lift.

In the 1980s, the coming of scores of factory outlet stores transformed North Conway into a major shopping destination. Combined with a robust outdoor recreation industry, this ensured Conway's standing as a four-season attraction for visitors and was a major boost to the economy.

From countless visits to Conway, including during my time as Governor and Senator, I can testify that its greatest assets are the everyday people of the town and its villages, who are unfailingly gracious and friendly. Conway takes its unique character not only from the stunning natural setting, but also from its stores, cafes, restaurants, and B&Bs—places where people know your name, and where the small-business owners are right there, every day.

Conway's celebration of its first quarter millennium has required years of planning and countless volunteer hours from local citizens. In particular, I salute the tireless organizing efforts of Brian Wiggin and Jill Reynolds, co-chairs of the "Conway Celebrates Legacy" committee. I know that, for them, this has been a labor of love. I also congratulate board of selectmen chair, David Weathers, and the town's other leaders. Most importantly, I salute the townspeople and families of Conway, who warmly welcome many

tens of thousands of visitors annually from across the United States and always make us proud to be Granite Staters.

So congratulations to the Town of Conway. I wish everyone a wonderful celebration this Thursday.●

TRIBUTE TO HAYDEN MEATTEY

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I have been a strong supporter of Special Olympics for many years. It is a truly extraordinary global movement, bringing together more than 4.5 million athletes in 170 countries. This summer, folks in my State have come to admire one especially talented and accomplished Special Olympian, Hayden Meattey of Goffstown, NH.

Hayden was one of only two Granite Staters selected to compete this summer at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. He returned home to a hero's welcome at Goffstown High School, having won a gold medal in the 800-meter speedwalking event and a bronze in the 800-meter event.

Qualifying for the World Games was itself a remarkable achievement against talented competition. Hayden, a cross-country runner and speed-walker, trained twice a week with his team at Goffstown High School and independently the rest of the week, constantly pushing to exceed his personal best. Nancy Kelleher, coordinator of Team Uncanoonuc and Hayden's coach for 9 years, praised his work ethic as exceptional.

His fellow students at Goffstown High packed the school gymnasium for a rally to wish him luck before he left for Los Angeles. When Hayden and his teammates on Team Uncanoonuc entered the gym, the room erupted in cheers and clapping.

To say that Hayden is popular at Goffstown High is an understatement. As Principal Frank McBride put it: "Hayden is just one of those sweet, kind human beings who puts a smile on everyone's face. He makes my day better. I think he does that with most of the people he comes into contact with."

The Special Olympics World Games are a remarkable sporting event. The accent is not on the participants' disabilities, but on their abilities. The athletes' success is determined by their own hard work, talent, and determination.

In truth, Hayden was already a winner before he left for the games. He already had demonstrated grit and determination by joining Team Uncanoonuc, training like an Olympian, and earning the chance to compete at the highest level with Team USA against athletes from nearly 170 nations. His gold and bronze medals in Los Angeles only confirmed what his friends and family already knew, that Hayden is a young man of indomitable spirit.

Hayden was accompanied to Los Angeles by his very proud mom, dad, brother, and stepdad. I know that folks in Goffstown are also very proud of all he has achieved. So am I, and so are folks all across the Granite State. On behalf of my colleagues in the Senate, I thank Hayden Meattey for representing the United States at the games with a noble spirit and a champion's heart.●

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL PIMLEY

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to honor Director Lowell Pimley of the Bureau of Reclamation as he retires after more than three decades of public service. The values of hard work and practicality that he learned on his family's farm outside Chester, Montana, have echoed loudly throughout his 35-year career with the Bureau of Reclamation. On the occasion of his retirement, I would like to thank him, farmer to farmer, for the long hours, the technical expertise, and the uniquely Western perspective he has brought to bear on this demanding job.

Lowell Pimley joined the Bureau of Reclamation in 1980 as a civil engineer after graduating from Montana State University with his bachelor's and master's degree in Civil Engineering. He applied himself to developing, designing, and supporting tunnels, bridges, pipelines, and other infrastructure projects. As he gained recognition for his engineering skills and his leadership ability, Mr. Pimley rose through the ranks to become the Technical Service Center Director in 2008. There, he led a team of more than 500 engineers, scientists, and technicians as they assisted in the planning, design, and construction of water resource projects.

Mr. Pimley came to Washington, DC, to become the Deputy Commissioner for Operations in 2013 and began overseeing all five of Reclamation's regions and the Native American and International Affairs Office. In 2014, Secretary Jewell recognized his talents and appointed Mr. Pimley to serve as Acting Commissioner. While serving in Washington, Mr. Pimley testified before Congress both as the Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner, representing his agency well and providing Congress with his valuable insight.

The Bureau of Reclamation has already acknowledged Mr. Pimley's outstanding service over his career, including the Meritorious Service Award in 2012 and a Distinguished Service Award in 2015 for his outstanding leadership, dedication, and accomplishments. He is widely respected by his peers, stakeholders, and folks across the country. To that list of appreciation, I would like to add my own thanks and congratulations on a career

dedicated to public service. As he retires, he can be proud of his lasting legacy, ensuring that Reclamation continues to supply water and power to the farms, towns, and communities of the West.

I again offer Mr. Pimley my warmest congratulations and hope that he enjoys a rich and rewarding retirement with his wife, Debbie, and their children Ashley, Brittany, and Brian, as they head back West to Littleton, Colorado, and to the family farm near Chester, Montana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 136. An act to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

S. 139. An act to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 565. An act to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 313. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1624. An act to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

H.R. 2061. An act to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2617. An act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

H.R. 2786. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to submit a report on cross-border rail security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2835. An act to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

H.R. 3089. An act to close out expired grants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3594. An act to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3614. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2051. An act to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, September 29, 2015, he had signed the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 261. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 994. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1707. An act to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 313. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2061. An act to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2786. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to submit a report on cross-border rail security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3089. An act to close out expired grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2089. A bill to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure,

to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Assistant Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 29, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 261. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 994. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1707. An act to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House".

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEE, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KIRK, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2091. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2092. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt amounts paid for aircraft management services from the excise taxes imposed on transportation by air; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2093. A bill to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2094. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the designation of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2095. A bill to establish certain requirements with respect to pollock and golden king crab; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2096. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act

are processed in a fair and timely manner, to better protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as "black lung disease"), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2097. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for Medicaid services furnished by Ryan White part C grantees under a cost-based prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2098. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the determination of cohort default rates and provide for enhanced civil penalties, to ensure personal liability of owners, officers, and executives of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2099. A bill to provide for the establishment of a mechanism to allow borrowers of Federal student loans to refinance their loans, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payment of interest on certain refinanced student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2100. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2101. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 233

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 233, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 677

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the Medicare hospital readmission reduction program to respond to patient disparities, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1099

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1099, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide States with flexibility in determining the size of employers in the small group market.

S. 1476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to require States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding shooting incidents involving law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1716

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide access to higher education for the students of the United States.

S. 1746

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1746, a bill to require the Office of Personnel Management to provide complimentary, comprehensive identity protection coverage to all individuals whose personally identifiable information was compromised during recent data breaches at Federal agencies.

S. 1770

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1770, a bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives.

S. 1789

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1789, a bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1852

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1852, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

S. 1916

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1916, a bill to include skilled nursing facilities as a type of health care provider under section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934.

S. 1972

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1972, a bill to require air carriers to modify certain policies with respect to the use of epinephrine for in-flight emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1977

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1977, a bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 2016

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2016, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to promote the responsible transfer of firearms.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2034, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim.

S. RES. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 266, a resolution designating September 2015 as "National Kinship Care Month".

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 266, supra.

S. RES. 267

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 267, a resolution expressing support for the con-

tinuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Achieving the Promise of Health Information Technology."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Jamie Garden of the committee staff on (202) 224-7675.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Stealing the American Dream of Business Ownership: The NLRB's Joint Employer Decision."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Carolyn Gorman of the committee staff on (202) 224-6770.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled "Pipeline Safety: Oversight of Our Nation's Pipeline Network."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Economy-wide Implications of President Obama's Air Agenda."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Improving the Endangered Species Act: Perspectives from the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Governors."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Financial and Economic Challenges in Puerto Rico."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The U.S. Role and Strategy in the Middle East: The Humanitarian Crisis."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Impact of Exposure to Toxic Chemicals on Veterans and the VA's Response."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on September 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Changing Landscape if U.S.-China Relations: What's Next?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 217.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 217) designating October 8, 2015, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 217) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 8, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 719, postcloture; further, that all time during the adjournment of the Senate count postcloture on the motion to concur with amendment No. 2689; finally, that all

postcloture time on the motion to concur be considered expired at 10 a.m., Wednesday, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today for my 113th "Time to Wake Up" speech on climate change. They say 13 is unlucky. I don't know what 113 is, but I do know what climate change is. It is very real. We shouldn't kid ourselves. And it is an urgent challenge for our country and our world. Our leading scientific organizations say so. Our national security leaders say so. All of our National Laboratories say so. Major American businesses say so. Religious leaders of all faiths say so. Pope Francis certainly said so last week. But the Senate is jammed by persistent, meretricious climate denial. The denial comes in many guises, but, like a compass, all the denial points in the same direction: whatever helps the fossil fuel industry keep polluting. That is the true north of climate denial—whatever helps the fossil fuel industry. Look at the fossil fuel money pouring into the Republican Party and tell me this is a coincidence.

We have Senators who deny that anything is happening, who say it is a hoax. We have Senators who deny that we can solve this. We have Senators who deny their faith in the American economy to win if we innovate. We have Senators who simply shrug and say: I am not a scientist. A bunch of Senators say: Don't even worry about it; climate change has stopped. The junior Senator from Florida tells us, "Despite 17 years of dramatic increases in carbon production by humans, surface temperatures [on] the earth have stabilized." The junior Senator from Texas proclaims that "satellite data demonstrate for the last seventeen years, there's been zero warming. None whatsoever."

Let's leave aside for a moment the cherry-picked data this conclusion is based on, which leaves out the oceans, which cover a mere 70 percent of the Earth's surface. I will get back to oceans in a minute. But even this cherry-picked data needs a trick to deny

the long-term trend. Using their trick, you could convince yourself climate change has stopped six times in the history of this increase from 1970. It is easy to do. You pick a spot here and you pick a spot there, and in the variability you make it a flat line and you say: There, you see a pause. The problem is that these manufactured pauses keep climbing.

When this bogus climate pause idea was trotted out in an op-ed in the Providence Journal, my home State paper, PolitiFact quickly determined that it uses “cherry-picked numbers and leaves out important details that would give a very different impression.”

When we look at the linear trend for this whole data set, from 1970 to 2013, no one can deny that the Earth is warming. Research shows that climate change is marching on. The past decade was warmer than the one before that, which was warmer than the one before that. Seventeen of the 18 hottest years in the historical record have occurred in the last 18 years. NOAA and NASA count 2014 as the hottest year on record, and so far 2015 is on track to be even hotter than 2014. Fluctuations do not statistically alter the trend.

It is a disservice to the truth and to this Senate to suggest that this heralds the end of climate change. As noted UC Berkeley physics professor Richard Muller put it, “When walking up stairs in a tall building, it is a mistake to interpret a landing as the end of the climb.”

Plus, for what reason would it have stopped? There is no basis for the pause. We know why it is happening. Global warming is caused by carbon pollution. We have known that science since Abraham Lincoln wore a top hat around this town. That is not news. And our carbon pollution sure hasn't stopped. We just broke 400 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere for the first time in the history of the human species.

There is no intellectual basis behind the pause theory. These claims of a climate change pause have been debunked. Just a couple of weeks ago, researchers from Stanford University published a study: “There is no hiatus in the increase in the global mean temperature, no statistically significant difference in trends, no stalling of the global mean temperature, and no change in year-to-year temperature increases.” In other words, there is no pause.

A different study prepared for the U.S. Climate Variability and Predictability Program reviewed this so-called pause data and said this: It “not only failed to establish a trend change with statistical significance, it failed by a wide margin. [A]ny argument that global warming stopped 18 or 20 years ago is just hogwash,” said one of that report's authors—just hogwash. When

legitimate scientists and statisticians examine the data for global mean temperature, they don't find any so-called pause.

This chart I have in the Chamber shows global average temperatures since the late 1800s, which is about the time we began burning fossil fuels in the Industrial Revolution. In yet another study out this month, researchers did a little test. They showed this chart to 25 economists, but instead of temperature they told the economists that the chart showed world agricultural output. That stripped the data of any political baggage of climate change. It made this a simple statistical question: Does this chart show that the measured phenomenon—climate change, temperature, world agricultural output—does this chart show whatever the measured phenomenon is stopped in 1998? The economists looked, and they flatout rejected that conclusion. What they agreed was that claiming the phenomenon had stopped would be misleading and ill-informed.

So why did this pause theory appear that is a mistake, that is hogwash, that is based on cherry-picked numbers all toward a conclusion that is misleading and ill-informed? Why? Because the big carbon polluters and their allies in Congress don't want us to act. So we keep getting this mischief fed to us.

The enterprise that performs that evil task of feeding mischief into this debate is perhaps the biggest and the most complex racket in American history. It is phony. They cherry-pick a handful of statistically insignificant data points and tell us the whole problem went away on its own. Then the real scientists take a look at it and say that is bunk. But in the meantime, the polluter enterprise notched a public relations victory. It bought some time to keep polluting for free, and sadly it got some of our colleagues to be party to it.

Telling the American people there is a pause in global warming may lull the gullible to sleep, but it is phony, it is inaccurate, and it is wrong. It ignores the truth. It ignores the science. Basically what it is, is cheesy fossil fuel PR dressed up in a lab coat to look like science, just enough to fool people that little bit.

Now let's turn back to the oceans—that 70 percent of the Earth's surface the other data left out. These data show the decades-long warming of the surface oceans—1960 to 2010. No pause. Remember, the deniers conveniently left all this data out when they cherry-picked their pause data—70 percent of the Earth's surface left out.

The first law of thermodynamics, conservation of energy, decrees that all of that heat in the ocean had to come from somewhere. Research shows that greenhouse gases trap excess heat in the atmosphere and that over 90 per-

cent of that excess heat went into the oceans, was absorbed by our oceans. People who insist that the climate has not warmed in recent decades ignore this one little thing—the oceans, which cover 70 percent of the surface of the Earth. The oceans don't lie. This warming is changing the oceans and our fisheries. Water expands when it warms. That is the law of thermal expansion—unless somebody wants to come and deny that. The seas are rising across the globe. In Rhode Island, we measure it at the Newport Naval Station tide gauge. Basically it is a glorified yardstick. It is not complicated. There is no theory involved. It is a measurement. It says we are up nearly 10 inches since the 1930s. That may be funny to landlocked States, but when there are 10 more inches of sea to be thrown against your shores by a big ocean storm, coastal States take that stuff very seriously. NASA measures it around the world with satellites; it is not just the coastal stations that take these measures. NASA measures from satellites. We measure the exploding acidity of the seas. The exploding acidities of the sea are directly related to CO₂ absorption—unless people want to deny chemistry. You can put CO₂ seawater in a high school lab and you can make the pH change. That is what we are doing on a global scale, and we don't get to repeal laws of chemistry around here, no matter how powerful the special interests.

Last week, His Holiness Pope Francis called on us to work together to protect our common home. He warned us in his recent encyclical: “Those who will have to suffer the consequences of what we are trying to hide will not forget this failure of conscience and responsibility.” But first we have to want to protect our common home. If what we want to protect is the fossil fuel industry, at all costs, at any cost, we need a priority adjustment.

In our rotten, post-Citizens United, billionaire special interests politics, perhaps the Pope would have had more effect if he had a super Pac, but it shouldn't take a super Pac for us to heed the Pope's warning or to heed the science or to heed our national security leaders or to heed everyone else who has lined up to try to wake us up.

Pope Francis also said “to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity,” now is the time for courageous actions and strategies.

Today's New York Times has this headline: “Many Conservative Republicans Believe Climate Change Is a Real Threat.” Once you get away from this building and the pernicious influence of the fossil-fuel industry and its relentless money and threats, it is not a question of ideology, it is a question of special interest influence, and conservative Republicans increasingly understand that this is real. Eleven of them just broke rank in the House.

It is time to come together in good faith to tackle this real and persistent threat—the threat of climate change.

It is time for us to wake up.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands

adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:06 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, September 29, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 29, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN M. PALAZZO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we witnessed thugs, tyrants, and dictators from Russia, Iran, and Cuba speak before the General Assembly at the United Nations; and with straight faces, each claimed to be defenders of peace, of international standards, of human rights, principles that Putin, Rouhani, and Castro have made a living out of ignoring and abusing to the detriment of the people who live under their oppressive rule.

President Obama had an opportunity to set the tone, to call for reforms at the badly mismanaged United Nations, to challenge the status quo and reestablish America's leadership and credibility. Instead, he used it as an opportunity to pay lip service to American ideals and values and to abdicate America's role as a world leader, a void that is now being filled by our adversaries like Russia, Iran, China, and Syria.

The Russians continue their aggressive actions in Ukraine and are now

sending military hardware to the murderous Assad regime. Iran has had a record number of hangings since the so-called moderate leader, Rouhani, took office, and thousands of ethnic and religious minorities are imprisoned and sentenced to death.

The President has done everything in his power not to upset the Iranians because he doesn't want to ruin the chance for a nuclear deal, a deal which will cause a nuclear and conventional arms race in the region, and his words yesterday proved to be empty rhetoric when matched to his policies and actions in the past.

Not to be outdone, Raul Castro doubled down on his intransigence, further demonstrating that the Obama administration offered concessions to the regime, which have resulted in even greater oppression by that hated Cuban dictatorship. But per usual with the President, it was the "blame America first" narrative that he was trying to peddle with his misguided policies toward Cuba.

President Obama used this opportunity to undermine the United States Congress, and perhaps foreshadowing an eventual abstention on the U.N. vote on the Cuban embargo, he stated:

I'm confident that our Congress will inevitably lift an embargo that should not be in place anymore.

President Obama failed once again to put the onus on the Castro regime to release all political prisoners, to hold free and fair elections, and to respect human rights in order for us to lift the embargo. The Cuban embargo language in the law is clear on all the conditions, Mr. Speaker, conditions that have to be met in order for it to be lifted, conditions that the Castro regime has no interest in abiding by.

President Obama should stop ignoring current law and stop loosening regulations on a regime that has done nothing to deserve this praise. The Castro regime is the one responsible for the human rights violations occurring in Cuba and the constant beatings against pro-democracy leaders. The U.S. embargo cannot be held responsible for that.

Does Castro say: "Oh, I had to beat the very peaceful group Ladies in White walking to church because the embargo says I must beat their heads in?" Does Castro say: "Oh, I cannot have any political party operating in Cuba other than the Communist Party because the embargo has me, obligates me, to only have this political party operating?" Does he say: "I cannot re-

spect human rights in Cuba because that nasty U.S. embargo forces me to violate human rights?" Of course not. That is lunacy. That is a responsibility that only Castro can claim. The Castro regime instead has done nothing—nada—to unclench its iron fist.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's remarks yesterday at the U.N. made him part of the problem with what is wrong at that broken institution; and, once again, it highlighted that his misplaced priorities and misguided foreign policies have not kept our country any safer.

That is why it is up to us in Congress to be proactive and to push for reforms at the United Nations. That is why this week I am reintroducing my U.N. Transparency Accountability and Reform Act. My bill would fundamentally change the way that we fund this failed institution by shifting the funding mechanism from assessed to voluntary contributions in order to make the organization more effective and accountable to its objectives.

For example, the Human Rights Council does not deserve our assistance when countries like Cuba, China, Venezuela, some of the world's worst human rights violators, push a decidedly anti-American, anti-Israel agenda at the Council. We should not fund these bodies at the U.N. We should only fund the ones that we believe are working, the ones that are transparent, the ones who are accountable to the member states that donate their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration has had 7 years to implement reforms, and it has failed. It is time for Congress to take the lead, and I urge my colleagues to sign up to my bill this week.

LET STATES SET MARIJUANA POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, amidst all the turmoil on the world stage, I think many of us are still processing the visit from Pope Francis last week, his call for us to care for the planet, for our fellow man, for all of God's creatures.

In the background here on Capitol Hill, there is more than a little turmoil in terms of what is going to happen after the resignation of Speaker BOEHNER. There looks to be a little good news that we will avert a government

shutdown, at least for a few months, as we continue to have the misdirected crusade to defund Planned Parenthood.

I have been focusing on the epidemic of deaths from prescription drug abuse and heroin overdoses. Mr. Speaker, it is something that is creating problems from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine; yet, in the midst of that epidemic, there was a stark symbol of our dysfunction on something that most Americans now think should be legal.

There are over 200 million Americans that live in States where they can get access to medical marijuana. Four States and the District of Columbia have legalized adult use, and more States are going to be voting on it again this year; yet we have arrested over 7 million people over the last 10 years, costing billions of dollars.

It can turn lives upside down, particularly lives of young men of color, especially African Americans, who are arrested many times more often even though their use is the same as White young men. It fuels that frustration that one can understand in the African American community.

I would suggest that it is time for us to focus law enforcement resources on real drug problems, deal with that epidemic of prescription drug abuse and heroin overdose. Let's deal with making sure that our children are safe rather than at risk from a vast underground drug distribution network. accounts, so this is an attractive source of revenue for people who would like to rob them.

Let's let the States make their own policy until we reclassify marijuana, frankly, less dangerous than tobacco, which is completely legal in every State. In the meantime, we should at least stay out of the way, let States formulate their own policy, and have local authorities deal with real problems, not creating unnecessary ones.

CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, for many in California, including my own family and my neighbors, it is an exciting time this year. This is harvest time. Busy, but again, a very enjoyable time we all look forward to as farmers and ranchers. You see more combines, shakers, and sweepers running from sunrise to sunset working to fill the next truckload with this season's crops. And you see the men and women responsible for producing nearly half of all U.S.-grown vegetables, nuts, and fruits.

But this year's harvest in the north State paints a much different picture, one with fallowing fields, wells that are going dry, and less and less truckloads of crops leaving those farms. As a

farmer myself, we know it is the last truckload that leaves the field that is the one you make your living on.

From the grapes in world-renowned wines to almonds and pistachios, exports are down and production is lower, causing a troubling ripple effect in the region and across our Nation's economy in the form of lost jobs and revenue and less choices for high-quality crops grown by Americans for our American consumers.

The numbers for this year are without a doubt very troubling. On-farm gate prices are down, and farm yields per acre are down. According to a recent UC Davis study, just California alone is set to lose about \$2.7 billion due to the drought. Farm employment is down by over 10,000 jobs this year, as well as the 21,000 or so indirect jobs that will also be lost by those involved in the production and processing of farm crops.

Labor income is estimated to fall by at least \$716 million, being replaced by an already troubled and strapped unemployment. Direct crop revenue losses are going to be up to \$900 million, straight out of grower's pockets. In addition, the rice harvest is expected to cover only 375,000 acres, down from a peak number of 560,000 acres. The almond supply is expected to decrease by 4 percent, potentially losing market share to foreign interests. California dairy production is down by at least 3 percent, costing an estimated \$250 million, a number that has shown significant increases in other States as well this year. Alfalfa hay shipments are significantly lower than last year, and the livestock industry faces losses of an estimated \$100 million in order to replace it.

Mr. Speaker, these are real numbers that are only set to get worse. We cannot simply stand by and watch as farmers, ranchers, small town economies, and ag employees face more water rationing and fallowed fields.

California and the West cannot afford another year of inaction from Congress. I rise today to urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in both House and Senate to come to the table and advance commonsense drought solutions, such as new water storage and infrastructure, to provide relief now and in the future such as Sites Reservoir up in northern California and desalination projects for our cities. Let's get them permitted, let's get them approved and in the pipeline. We can't wait any longer. We need these reforms, indeed, now and for the future. Our State is growing, the population is growing, and we grow the finest and best crops and export them not only to the rest of the country, but to much of the world.

Mr. Speaker, not doing anything now or this year is a dereliction of our responsibility and betrays Americans who expect us to provide the products

they consume and enjoy these fine ag products that, indeed, give America the reputation as being the breadbasket of the world.

□ 1015

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, while there is talk of a 2-month spending bill to keep the government open before time runs out this week, we have yet to see it. Passing a short-term bill will only postpone a Republican shutdown, not stop it. As long as it remains a possibility, we need to talk about the cost to everyday families.

Unlike the last Republican shutdown in 2013, closing the government's doors this time around means millions and millions of Americans may be cut off from their Federal food assistance benefits.

Forty-five million Americans rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, to help put food on the table. SNAP is our Nation's premier antihunger program, and it is one of the most effective and efficient of any Federal programs.

Two-thirds of all SNAP recipients are the most vulnerable among us: children, seniors, and the disabled. Millions more are working families who may be working one, two, or three jobs just to make ends meet, and sometimes it is still not enough. SNAP is a critical program that millions of Americans depend on to keep from going hungry.

Mr. Speaker, during the last Republican shutdown in 2013, SNAP had contingency funds available from the stimulus law that meant SNAP benefits continued uninterrupted. But stimulus funding was cut off in November of 2013. So this time around there is no back-up plan for SNAP.

Current law prevents the U.S. Department of Agriculture from spending SNAP money it doesn't have. Without congressional action, USDA will be forced to shut off retailers from accepting SNAP benefits within the first few days of October.

That means families won't be able to use their SNAP benefits to purchase food at any store that normally accepts SNAP, including grocery stores, big-box retailers, and corner stores.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfathomable to me that this would happen, that Republicans would threaten the food benefits of tens of millions of American children, families, and seniors, all just to score political points with their right-wing base. Whether Republicans shut down the government this week or in December, it is unacceptable to leave struggling families out in the cold.

As our economy continues to recover, I would remind my colleagues that SNAP is one of the quickest, most effective economic multipliers we have. Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates about \$1.70 in economic activity.

About 80 percent of SNAP benefits are redeemed within 2 weeks of receipt, and about 97 percent are spent within a month. Every day SNAP pumps money back into our local economies and supports local businesses.

SNAP benefits can only be spent on food, meaning that a family can use its other income to meet its other essential needs, like paying rent, utilities, and medical care.

Mr. Speaker, not only would a government shutdown have a devastating impact on hungry families, it has the potential to result in serious economic harm to retailers that could ripple throughout our economy.

Already food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens are bracing to serve an influx of clients if SNAP benefits are cut off. But despite the incredible work they do, these charities are already overburdened. The demand for food assistance is incredibly high.

They are working tirelessly every day to meet the need, and charities are already forced to pick up the slack from an inadequate SNAP benefit. All too often the benefit runs out before the end of the month and families must turn to charities just to cobble together enough to eat.

I cannot begin to imagine how overwhelmed antihunger agencies will be if millions of Americans lose access to SNAP next month or the month after. Unfortunately, in a Republican-controlled Congress with the habit of going from one crisis to the next, this scenario is all too realistic.

A government shutdown would literally take food away from hungry Americans. It would be devastating for millions of Americans that are already struggling to put food on the table and make ends meet. Families who rely on SNAP cannot afford to have their food benefits disrupted even for a day.

Mr. Speaker, we should be working to end hunger now, not making hunger worse in this country, the richest country in the world. Quite frankly, it is unconscionable we are even in a situation where millions of hungry people are at risk of losing their food benefit.

Last week Pope Francis delivered an inspiring message to Congress. It is unthinkable that we could so quickly forget his call for compassion in helping the least among us. For millions of American families who are already struggling to put food on the table, we should be giving them a hand up, not taking food away.

Nobody in this Chamber will go without food if the Republicans shut down the government. None of our kids will go without food, but millions and millions of our fellow citizens will.

For the sake of 45 million Americans across the country and more than 700,000 in Massachusetts who depend on SNAP, I urge my Republican colleagues to work with Democrats on a long-term, bipartisan budget that puts families first. Families who rely on SNAP shouldn't have to worry about losing their benefits at the end of every short-term funding bill.

Whether it is this week or in December, our most vulnerable families simply cannot afford another government shutdown.

SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks on their 50th year as a national recreation area.

Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area was established by an act of Congress on September 28, 1965, and has been enjoyed by families from all over the country ever since.

It is located in Pendleton County in the eastern panhandle area of my district in West Virginia. I was lucky enough to have had the privilege to visit just last month.

As the only true peak on the East Coast of the United States, it lures rock climbers from all around and boasts some of the most spectacular scenery on this side of the Mississippi.

Let me tell you, it is even more beautiful in person. Don't take my word for it, though. I encourage everyone to plan a trip to this national treasure.

LIFE AT CONCEPTION ACT

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the historic event that took place last week. On September 24, 2015, his Holiness Pope Francis became the first Pope to ever address Congress.

I would like to thank all that were involved in this planning process that led to this significant event, especially Speaker JOHN BOEHNER. It was truly an honor to take part in the first papal address to Congress.

Pope Francis' message was one of hope and love, and it reminded us that we need to keep fighting for the sanctity of life, marriage, family, and religious liberty.

Pope Francis clearly stated that there is a moral obligation to protect unborn babies. Protecting the unborn is one of the issues that compelled me to run for political office in the first place, and I am committed to continuing to fight in Congress.

During his address, the Pope said:

The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. I am con-

vinced that this is the best way, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity.

I am proud to be the lead sponsor of H.R. 816, the Life at Conception Act. The Life at Conception Act is a necessary component in the long-term protection of the unborn. In the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, the Supreme Court justices wrote that, since the beginning of life is not defined by law, it is open to interpretation.

The Life at Conception Act simply defines by Congress that the life of a child begins at conception. Establishing personhood will protect the right to life of unborn children who are the most defenseless among us and need our protection.

This bill sets a standard for promoting and encouraging a culture of life. If enacted, it would simply affirm that unborn children are deserving of protection.

We currently have 122 cosponsors of this important bill. I encourage my colleagues in the House to cosponsor as well.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is making a habit, unfortunately, of acting in crisis mode, which is irresponsible and does a disservice to the fate and the trust that the American public has placed in us as their elected representatives, and this has a direct bearing on our economy. The Pope spoke to the need for us to come together and negotiate bipartisan solutions for the many challenges facing the United States and the world.

The first and most pressing issue is to fund government. Thankfully, tomorrow the House is expected to vote on a short-term continuing resolution to do just that. I hope my colleagues will vote in favor of a clean continuing resolution to avert a government shutdown. There is no justification to shut down government. Yes, we have our differences. We negotiate that in a budget process.

However, we know that this is a short-term fix and that a real solution to fixing our Nation's very real and very serious budget problems is in producing a long-term budget, and we should do that in December.

Instead of moving from one crisis to another crisis, we must get back to the work of governing responsibly. Responsible governance requires that we come together, work hard, compromise on a bipartisan budget that will not result in poorly thought-out, across-the-board spending cuts, more commonly known as sequestration.

Failing to govern responsibly and compromise will negatively impact industries so vital to America. That includes our agriculture economy, which

provides the food that we eat on America's dinner table. It includes manufacturing and service industries that provide goods and services that we trade.

Finally, it will severely impact some programs that support our Nation's future, like health care, education, public safety, and research and development, costing billions of dollars and thousands of jobs.

In addition to negotiating a bipartisan budget agreement, we need to address the impacts of sequestration and the Congress must address the debt ceiling this December without fanfare that could further throw our economy into chaos.

If the United States were to default on its loans or fail to live up to our promises to those of retirement age, it would send our economy in a downward spiral just at the time that we are finally recovering from this Great Recession.

Unfortunately, not all the areas of the United States are feeling the recovery's effects equally. In the San Joaquin Valley that I represent, many of my constituents are still feeling the effects of the recession, in addition to the unnecessary impacts of our failure to invest in infrastructure, our water infrastructure that we terribly need to invest in as well as our transportation infrastructure.

Vital programs, like the Ex-Im Bank, the highway trust fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, have either expired or will soon expire. The Export-Import Bank's charter which was created has sustained 1½ million private sector jobs and expired June 30.

By refusing to bring up the reauthorization of the Bank for a vote, American jobs are being threatened and Congress is undermining the ability of American businesses to compete in a global market.

The highway trust fund is set to expire on October 29. Our Nation's roads, bridges, highways, and railroads are out of date and are in dire need of repair. I have never seen a bridge or road that is Republican or Democrat. This is just investing in America.

A long-term transportation bill was last passed by Congress in 2009. Since then, Congress has had 34 short-term patches. That is simply irresponsible. This not only puts American's safety at risk, but completely undermines our ability to create and sustain American jobs by investing in our infrastructure.

Congress must act to work on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize these programs and countless other Federal programs that are set to expire not only this week, but in December, when we address long-term funding for the next fiscal year. Otherwise, there will be another threat to shut down government in December. It is irresponsible.

Last week Pope Francis reminded us of our responsibilities, the better angels in all of us. He said, "A good polit-

ical leader is one who, with the interests of all in mind, seizes the moment in a spirit of openness and pragmatism. A good political leader always opts to initiate processes rather than simply possessing spaces."

□ 1030

Therefore, the question we should be asking: Are we simply possessing spaces or are we trying to find together the common good for the common man, as Pope Francis suggested?

I hope his spiritual guidance will allow us to work together to do what we were sent here to do, which is the people's work. That is what we were sent here to do on behalf of all Americans.

AGRICULTURE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of two Future Farmers of America teams from my district after they placed first and second at a national competition this past weekend.

The competition, known as "The Big E," hosts teams from schools from the East Coast and the Mid-Atlantic regions which compete in a wide variety of categories, including poultry science, equine events, dairy science, and much more.

A team from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, Centre County, placed first in the poultry science career development event and was responsible for judging the birds and rating their quality along with other criteria.

The second team, from the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology in Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania, Centre County, placed second in the nursery and landscaping division. They were tasked with designing and selling a landscaping plan. The team is now working on a landscape project for Pennsylvania's farm show in January.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the accomplishments of these future farmers and also recognize the important work performed by the FFA. The success of these young people shows that the industry is in good hands and agriculture has a bright future.

PUT AN END TO TRAGIC AND WASTEFUL SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the foolish and wasteful squandering of Americans' hard-earned taxpayer dollars are once again on display in the war in the Middle East and in Syria. Before I get to my point, I

want to remind my colleagues here that we spent \$3 trillion on the war in Iraq. That is right, \$3 trillion. Look where it has gotten us.

I would like to remind my colleagues that for one of those trillion we could have graduated every college kid in America and vocational school kid in America debt free. Instead, we have saddled them with debt that is crippling their ability to get ahead and our economy to grow.

It is no secret that bridges are falling down here in America and trains are coming off the rails. For one of those trillion dollars, we could have rebuilt our infrastructure and transportation system in this country, once again creating good jobs and opportunities and laying the foundation for our economy to grow.

For another trillion of those dollars, we could have given the American taxpayers a trillion-dollar tax break. Would they not have loved that and do they not need that? Instead, we are still looking at \$2 trillion going forward in taking care of the men and women who served: the warriors, the patriots, the men and women who were willing to stand up and protect us, but who lost arms and lost legs and suffered severe brain injuries. Yes, that is right, \$2 trillion going forward, tending to and caring for them. And that is a moral obligation that we are obligated to and must fulfill.

Now to my point today. Last year the Congress authorized \$500 million to be spent on training the so-called moderate Free Syrian rebels, and now we have learned that only a handful, like four to five, has shown up for duty, according to Lloyd Austin, the U.S. Central Commander for troops in the Middle East.

Back in June, Republican Congressman CURT CLAWSON and I offered an amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill to stop funding this so-called Free Syrian rebel program. Why? Well, the hard, cold fact is that many of their leaders told us at the time that they would not use the money to fight and join us in the fight against ISIL. Now we ask the House not to appropriate an additional \$600 million, seeing that the \$500 million that was spent has already been wasted and misspent.

Unfortunately, our colleagues at the time did not follow our bipartisan recommendation on this important issue, and the House did go ahead and appropriate an additional \$600 million for that failed program. Now that we know only a handful are showing up for duty, it is not too late to stop this additional \$600 million from going forward for this failed program.

I am calling for the immediate removal of that funding. After all, we did pass my amendment prohibiting Congress from funding so-called rebels where there was clear proof that the

money was being misspent. Mr. Speaker, the proof could not be more clear in this case.

This isn't about agreement or disagreement with our involvement in these Middle East conflicts. This is about the tragic, foolish, senseless, wasteful squandering of \$1.1 billion of hard-earned American taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. CLAWSON and I both worked as businessmen for decades before coming to the Congress. Anyone who knows anything about business can tell you this: No private sector company ever succeeded by spending huge amounts of money on employees who never showed up for work or, worse yet, turned their allegiances to an opposition or a competitive company. That is no way to run a business, that is no way to govern, and it is certainly no way to win a war.

I plead with my colleagues to come to their bipartisan senses, join Mr. CLAWSON and me, and help us put an end to this tragic and wasteful spending of hard-earned American taxpayer dollars. The American taxpayers are counting on us. Let's not disappoint them.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Kevin Myers, 12Stone Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

God, You invite us to come to You as our Heavenly Father. And we know that if You kept a record of our wrongs, none of us would stand a chance. But with You there is forgiveness, so we are eternally grateful.

And beyond Your gift of forgiveness, we need Your wisdom under pressure.

Leadership pressure strains our marriage and family. Would You give us grace to love our spouse, wisdom to make time for family, and keep no record of wrongs? The stress of political leadership can tempt us to sweep aside our convictions. Give us wisdom and grace to lead with courage.

The problems in our Nation and pressing decisions can divide us beyond reason. Would You give us discernment beyond ourselves for the sake of our

country? May we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, our God.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOLLY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR KEVIN MYERS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues we had the great honor of the opening prayer today by Kevin Myers, who is one of my constituents in the great State of Georgia.

I don't want to tell you about everything he has done. I want to tell you a little bit, though, about who he is because he represents those folks that I have the honor of serving.

Pastor Kevin Myers and his new bride sold everything they owned and moved down to Georgia to plant their first church. God called him to do that. He is obedient.

Faced with trying to build that church from scratch, it was in an old movie theater just outside of where I call home. Sixty-nine people showed up on that very first day. That movie theater has now come and gone in our great State of Georgia, but the church remains. But through those dark times, he was faithful.

There are now 17,000 men and women who call that church their faith home, 12Stone Church. And every single one of those godly families loves on our community because of the love and faithfulness that Kevin inspires.

We are all honored to serve the men and women that elect us to this office. I want you to know that I am honored to serve the godly folks of 12Stone Church and all of Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain up to

15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

U.S. ARMY MAJOR GENERAL BRYAN KELLY

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has dedicated 26 years of his life to ensuring the health of our U.S. Army reservists, a man who has devoted his life to helping others, U.S. Army Major General Bryan Kelly, who retired as commanding general of the Army Reserve Medical Command in Pinellas Park, Florida, on September 26.

General Kelly's military career began when he received a direct commission into the U.S. Army Reserves after graduating magna cum laude from Boston College, where he earned a Master of Arts and a doctorate in psychology.

During his service to our country, General Kelly has served in the 883 Medical Company and the 804. He has been deployed to Iraq, where he served as the commander of the 399 Combat Support Hospital. And since 2012, General Kelly has served as the commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Major General Bryan Kelly for his 26 years of service and for the positive impact he has had, both on his community and the many men and women who serve in our military today.

I also rise to recognize and thank his wife of 35 years, Denise, and his two daughters, Kristina and Michelle, for their support during his service.

VA CHILDCARE PILOT PROGRAM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, a Department of Veterans Affairs survey found that over 10 percent of our veterans had to cancel VA medical appointments due to lack of child care.

Today, the House will consider H.R. 3596, which will extend the VA childcare pilot program that is scheduled to expire this year.

This initiative has been a tremendous success in western New York. Last year, more than 1,300 children visited Kids Korner at the Buffalo VA Medical Center, helping hundreds of veterans keep their appointments. The program has been especially useful in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, which requires regular counseling and recurring follow-up appointments.

While I am grateful that Kids Korner will be extended for another year, Congress should do more. I urge my colleagues to support legislation introduced by Congresswoman JULIA

BROWNLEY to make the program permanent and allow VA hospitals across the country to establish similar programs for veterans that they serve. Making child care available to patients who need it is a cost-effective way to improve health outcomes for veterans to whom we owe so much.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, it is no secret that Iran has been one of the leading sponsors of terrorism in the world for decades and that I am strongly opposed to the Iran nuclear deal.

Hundreds of Americans have been killed by terrorist attacks that were sponsored or financed by Iran. U.S. courts have ruled against Iran in more than 80 cases, holding Iran responsible for nearly \$45 billion in damages.

The first thing, before any agreement would ever happen, is that we should make sure that Iran—out of that \$150 billion of possible sanctions relief, we should demand that American families who lost a loved one at the hands of Iranian terrorism receive the damages they are owed. We cannot fail these American families. Yet Obama's administration is prepared to unfreeze up to \$150 billion of these assets that will help finance Iran's continued terror attacks.

I am proud to cosponsor the legislation by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, which keeps Iran's sanctions in place until Iran has at least paid the damages that it owes American families.

Madam Speaker, this is the very least we can do on a bad deal.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, the right to choice, the right for a woman to have control of her own body is guaranteed by the Constitution and has been for 40 years. Defunding Planned Parenthood will not change that. Instead, defunding Planned Parenthood would lead to a decrease in access to contraception and an increase in unplanned pregnancies.

With 40 percent of unplanned pregnancies ending in abortion, defunding Planned Parenthood would inevitably result in more abortions, not fewer. If you really want to reduce the number of abortions, you should be lobbying to increase funding for Planned Parenthood and other organizations that provide safe and effective birth control.

So let's fund Planned Parenthood, keep our government open, and move on to more pressing issues for the American people.

NATIONAL RICE MONTH

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with America's rice farmers and families in celebrating the month of September as National Rice Month. It has been 25 years since September was first dedicated as National Rice Month.

So on this silver anniversary, I want to pay a special tribute to the hardworking men and women who produce rice on their family farms. I would also like to recognize all those who mill and market rice, all the suppliers and buyers and, of course, all of the consumers who make rice an essential part of their diet.

Rice farming in America actually predates this Nation's independence, beginning almost 300 years ago. Today, America's rice industry creates 125,000 good-paying jobs and contributes an estimated \$34 billion to our Nation's economy.

Nine million tons of rice are grown each year by family farmers on more than 2.7 million acres of land, predominantly in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, California, and Texas. While these six States produce the lion's share of rice in America, there is also rice production in other States, like Illinois and Tennessee. In fact, the rice industry reaches every State in the Nation, especially those States with cereal makers, breweries, and other foodmakers that use rice as a key ingredient.

I ask my colleagues to support me in recognizing September as National Rice Month.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here because I stand with the majority of Americans who support Planned Parenthood and the lifesaving preventative healthcare services that they provide each year to millions of women, to men, to families all across this country. In fact, a new poll shows that nearly 7 in 10 Americans, 69 percent, oppose shutting down the Federal Government as a means of defunding Planned Parenthood. Shutting down the government, we know, puts this American economy at risk, and it is no way to govern.

But there is only 1 legislative day left before another GOP-engineered shutdown. Republicans are so focused on defunding Planned Parenthood, in

fact, they are so focused on fighting one another, that they can't fight for hardworking Americans who are simply looking for their government to address the problems and concerns and the priorities that the American people sent us here to address.

Americans overwhelmingly want both parties to work together, to find solutions to the big problems we face in this country. I call on this Congress to set aside these petty fights and get to the work that the American people sent us here to do.

CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, back home in Georgia's 12th Congressional District, I have had the opportunity to visit Southern Company's Plant Vogtle in Waynesboro many times. I am extremely excited to see the progress of construction of Vogtle reactors 3 and 4, the Nation's first new nuclear reactors in 30 years. I look forward to the clean energy and job opportunities they will provide for our State and the entire Southeast.

My district is proud to be the home of every nuclear reactor in the State, including two at Plant Vogtle, two at Plant Hatch in Appling County, and two in construction at Plant Vogtle.

Nuclear energy plays an important role in Georgia's energy portfolio and accounts for nearly a third of all power generated. Nuclear energy facilities across Georgia employ more than 4,000 highly skilled employees and play a vital role in our State and local economy.

Nuclear energy produces 91 percent of Georgia's emission-free electricity and is the only clean air source that can produce large amounts of electricity around the clock.

As the proud grandfather of Elsie Louise Allen, born at 10:45 a.m. this morning, I support clean nuclear energy and support the great work being done at Plant Vogtle and Plant Hatch on behalf of our children and grandchildren and their future energy needs.

□ 1215

THE POPE'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to first thank Speaker BOEHNER for inviting Pope Francis to be the first Pope to ever address a joint session of Congress in his visit to the United States last week.

I know that I was not the only Member of Congress who was deeply moved

by Pope Francis' address. His message was simple and honest. It crossed religious and political divides. He challenged us to do better and even invoked Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He reminded us that this Nation continues to be a land of dreams.

Pope Francis has returned to the Vatican, and we must get back to work. But I hope that his message will stay with us a little longer. And we should follow the Golden Rule. Paraphrased, we should treat others like we would like to be treated. Not only should that apply to how we treat each other in the Halls of Congress, but also to how we address the bigger problems that this Nation is facing.

From immigration reform to voting rights, each of us should place ourselves in the shoes of struggling families and work on the solution that is right for them and right for this country.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as this Suicide Prevention Month comes to a close, I believe it is crucial we remain committed to all suicide prevention efforts. We must continually ask ourselves: Are we doing enough when it comes to addressing mental health and suicide in our Nation? I don't think so.

As vice chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I know that this issue is especially important for our Nation's heroes. Recent data has shown that every day in this country approximately 18 to 22 veterans take their own lives. This statistic answers the question I posed earlier. It is obvious more needs to be done.

My COVER Act addresses suicide prevention for veterans by promoting access to better alternative complementary mental health treatments. While traditional forms of therapy may work for some, tailoring therapies to the veteran and finding the balance between traditional and complementary alternative treatments could be the difference in saving lives.

The COVER Act passed the House several weeks ago. I encourage my Senate colleagues to do the same in the Senate so we can get it to the President's desk for his signature.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE NEA AND NEH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities a happy anni-

versary, as both the NEA and NEH turn 50 years old today.

As a Rhode Islander, I share a special connection with these agencies because both reflect the legacy of our late long-time senior Senator, Claiborne Pell. Senator Pell knew that art and culture were a vital part of our society because he grew up around the vibrant arts scene Rhode Island is justifiably known for.

Today I know that Senator Pell would be proud of the legacy that he has left in our Nation and in his State. Whether it is the Providence International Arts Festival, which had a terrific inaugural year thanks to NEA support, or Cafe Recuerdos, an NEH-funded traditional Cuban coffee cart that serves as a forum for sharing stories as part of Latino Americans: 500 Years of History or the numerous other arts and cultural organizations, institutions, and events that were given birth because of the endowments, the endowments have been integral to our continued social and economic development.

To the NEA and NEH, happy anniversary.

CONGRATULATING EARLY COLLEGE OF FORSYTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Early College of Forsyth, which was recently named one of America's top high schools by Newsweek magazine.

Established in 2008, Early College of Forsyth is a partnership between Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools and Forsyth Technical Community College. The school provides a small learning community of students with the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree. By considering their learning needs and providing support services, every student is given the tools to excel in both high school and college courses.

Early College of Forsyth provides an advanced educational experience that promotes independence, responsibility for learning, and community involvement. America needs more of this type of innovative learning that equips students for success in college, career, and life.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEA AND NEH

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Humanities Caucus and a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am proud to strongly support the important missions of these two agencies.

The NEA partners with State arts agencies, local leaders, other Federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector to promote arts education and community access to the fine arts.

The NEH remains the single most important source of Federal funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide us with invaluable ethical, cultural, and historical perspectives.

Both the NEA and the NEH merit increased support. This investment is one of the most efficient we make in terms of leveraging private, nonprofit, and corporate dollars. These programs are critically important locally as well as nationally, and they are the foundation of an arts and humanities community that supports millions of jobs.

Let's honor this 50th anniversary by renewing our national commitment to the arts and the humanities and the many ways they enrich our lives.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Hunger Action Month to discuss an issue that demands our immediate attention: hunger.

My district—North Carolina's 12th—ranks ninth in the Nation and first in the State for hunger. My hometown of Greensboro and High Point are first in the Nation for food insecurity. In May, I launched the Adams Hunger Initiative to draw greater attention to this issue and to foster bipartisan solutions.

This week I am introducing a resolution to highlight the severity of the hunger crisis across our Nation and to recognize the role critical programs like SNAP and others play in helping families put food on the table and to call on Congress to strengthen these programs and streamline requirements for afterschool and summer meals programs.

Mr. Speaker, if the government shuts down on Thursday, the SNAP program won't have enough to cover October benefits, impacting more than 65,000 people in my district and millions across the Nation. During Hunger Action Month, a time when we should be elevating and addressing this crisis, we are taking steps back. I call on my colleagues to stand with our most vulnerable and keep our government running.

SALUTING THE EFFORTS OF FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the eighth annual Hunger Action Month comes to an end, I salute the efforts of Feeding South Florida for its year-round efforts to end hunger in our communities.

For the past 8 years, we have dug our way out of a deep recession that turned once middle class families into people who have less and already struggling families into have-nots. In Florida's 24th Congressional District, more than 200,000 children are food-insecure and go to bed hungry. Overall, 23 percent of individuals are food-insecure.

Feeding South Florida is a lifeline that runs food banks, a mobile food pantry that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables, a summer food service so students can continue to receive healthy meals when school is out of session, and a program that brings food to senior housing sites.

Just last week in this very Chamber Pope Francis reminded us that the fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts. Feeding South Florida does that every day and deserves all the support we can muster. That is why I wear this orange adornment today, to honor the entire organization, administration, and workers, of Feeding South Florida.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 29, 2015 at 9:27 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 599.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3495, WOMEN'S PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS RE- PORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 444 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 444

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the

House the bill (H.R. 3495) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of October 1, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 444 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

Over the past few months, extremely disturbing information has come to light about the activities of abortion providers and their sale of unborn children's hearts and other organs for compensation. In light of those discoveries, we provide for consideration today of crucial legislation to ensure States are free to ensure their limited taxpayers' dollars do not provide sustaining funding to abortion providers whose activities are found repugnant.

H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, allows States to make a decision identical to the one this House made earlier this month when we passed H.R. 3134, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which stopped the flow of taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood as investigations continue into its sale of unborn children's parts.

As my colleagues noted during debate on H.R. 3134, arguments from the minority that this bill will prevent women from accessing health care ring

hollow. We know that federally qualified health centers and rural health centers outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics at a rate of 20 to 1.

Of these over 13,000 federally qualified health centers and rural health centers, women have access to any healthcare service provided by Planned Parenthood or other abortion providers with one obvious exception. Because they are federally funded, these true health centers do not perform abortions.

Clearly, despite opponents' best efforts to argue otherwise, this bill does not deny healthcare services to women. It does allow States to decide whether their Medicaid funds should support a provider whose atrocities have shocked our national conscience and devalued human life.

It is not surprising, though, that we are hearing these hollow arguments about access to healthcare services, as the political machinery of abortion providers has kicked into high gear with scare tactics to protect their business. Abortion is, after all, a business. Planned Parenthood is the single largest abortion business in the country.

□ 1230

Recently, they performed over 325,000 abortions in 1 year. That is nearly 900 every day, at a rate of over 35 an hour. They are able to continue that activity, in part, because Planned Parenthood has received over \$1 billion in 3 years from Medicaid alone. I have spoken previously on the floor about the absurdity of providing taxpayer funds to organizations that have had their willingness to accept compensation for the remains of unborn children exposed for all to see.

Several States, including Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, and Indiana, have recognized that alarming truth and acted on their own to stop providing abortion providers with taxpayer dollars through Medicaid. Unfortunately, the Obama administration has forced those States to continue providing taxpayer dollars to abortion providers.

Thankfully, when the Framers of our Constitution established our Nation, they saw fit to give States a right to determine their own affairs and the disposition of their citizens' taxes. Today, we restore federalism to the Medicaid program and enable States to make their own choices on which Medicaid providers to accept, allowing them to stop the flow of taxpayer dollars to organizations that accept compensation for the sale of well-developed unborn children's hearts and bodies.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this rule and the underlying bill to my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding the customary 30 minutes for debate.

My friend, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, says that the minority speaks in a way that is hollow. I will tell you what is hollow: talk about regular order in this institution.

The general public may not know that there is a methodology that allows for all proceedings to go forward. Customarily, a measure of this kind would have had a committee hearing and a committee markup. It did not, and that is not regular order.

Mr. Speaker, we are now less than 48 hours away from another government shutdown, and instead of considering a continuing resolution, we are debating legislation that will limit a woman's access to health services and make it harder for Medicaid patients to obtain care. I wonder about States like Florida and Texas that did not accept Medicaid money under so-called ObamaCare having charge of Medicare and Medicaid.

Like many of my colleagues, I am frustrated that we are again wasting precious time considering a bill crafted by ideological extremists, which, even in the unlikely event of Senate passage, would be vetoed by the President.

To be sure, this frustration isn't limited to my friends on this side of the aisle. Just this week, the fight over defunding Planned Parenthood and similar scuffles facilitated by fringe elements of the Republican Party led to the resignation of the Speaker of the House.

And on a personal note, I would like to thank the Speaker for his service and his forthright commentary regarding his leaving the House. In my judgment, he has done a credible job for this institution. He had people who would not let him do the things that were needed for all of us in this Nation.

The Republican Conference is really divided so fervently that we can again expect the real threat of a government shutdown in December. All we are doing today, in the final analysis on that subject, whenever it comes up—and it may come up today and tomorrow—is to kick the can down the road again. The can ain't got no more space for kicking. But we continue to do that, and this time until December, even if we are able to avoid the one currently looming over our heads.

Mr. Speaker, current Federal law already denies Federal Medicaid coverage of abortion except in limited circumstances, and Federal insurance coverage of an abortion is restricted.

Instead of debating bills like the one before us today, we should be coming together to find a balanced and responsible way to fund the government, pass a budget that represents our constituents' priorities, and invest in this great country.

H.R. 3495 seeks to amend title 19 of the Medicaid law to allow States to prevent qualified providers and institutions from participating in their Med-

icaid programs without a showing of cause or due process if they have any involvement—underscore that, “any involvement”—in abortions, a standard which has been left undefined and certainly vague.

Aptly termed the “free choice of provider” provision, title 19 currently mandates that Medicaid beneficiaries be permitted to obtain services from any qualified provider he or she chooses and is implemented in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' free choice of provider regulation. This regulation also explicitly states that under no circumstance can the free choice of provider protection be compromised with respect to providers of family planning services.

In short, current Federal law was designated to guarantee that State Medicaid programs provide beneficiaries with the same basic opportunity and rights to choose and receive covered healthcare services from any qualified provider in the same way as any member of the general population seeking healthcare services. The legislative language of this bill is so broad that, if enacted, it has the potential to have a devastating impact on patient access by giving States the ability to kick any provider out of Medicaid, including entire hospital systems, if that provider has even an attenuated connection to abortion services.

For example, it is entirely possible that, under this bill, a hospital could be excluded from providing any and all services in Medicaid if an obstetrician with admitting privileges at the same hospital provides, or even provided in the past, abortions as a separate part of his or her practice.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an organization of over 57,000 physicians and partners in women's health, have come out publicly against this legislation, as have the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I will include those endorsements against this measure in the RECORD.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing 57,000 physicians and partners in women's health, I urge you to vote NO on H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

This intentionally vague bill should not be enacted into law. In falling far short of any standard for sound federal health legislation and policy, it would serve only to scare providers away from providing comprehensive, compassionate care to women, and leave women without the care they need. America needs more ob-gyns participating in the Medicaid program; this bill would do the opposite.

I urge you to vote NO on H.R. 3495 when it comes to the House floor. Don't be fooled by the title of this bill. This legislation is noth-

ing more than the latest in a string of attacks against women's health.

Sincerely,

MARK S. DEFRAncESCO,
MD, MBA, FACOG,
President.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2015.
Vote “NO” on H.R. 3495

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a nationwide organization with more than a million members, activists, and supporters that fights tirelessly to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country, we urge you to vote NO on Rep. Duffy's bill, the misleadingly titled “Women's Public Health and Safety Act.” (H.R. 3495). Because of the critical importance of the civil rights and civil liberties principles involved, we will score the vote.

H.R. 3495 gives states virtually unchecked power to exclude women's health care providers from participation in Medicaid. It does so by undermining the longstanding free choice of provider provision which guarantees patients the ability to seek health care services, and specifically family planning services, from any qualified provider. This bill would allow states that are hostile to a woman's right to abortion in general, and to Planned Parenthood in particular, to target women's health providers for exclusion from Medicaid with impunity. In so doing, the bill forces doctors and organizations to choose between providing a constitutionally-protected medical service that one in three women needs in her lifetime and providing other necessary health care services to low-income patients who already face a dearth of qualified and willing medical professionals. Mandating such a choice not only raises serious constitutional concerns, but also threatens to devastate access to care for millions of low-income women and men.

As the latest component of the ongoing smear campaign against Planned Parenthood, this bill particularly jeopardizes access to the high quality, affordable health care that Planned Parenthood health centers provide. Planned Parenthood is a critical safety-net provider. One in five women will visit a local Planned Parenthood health center during her lifetime, and many low-income women and women of color rely on Planned Parenthood as their primary health care provider. Despite the fact that numerous investigations have already cleared Planned Parenthood of wrongdoing, opponents of safe, legal abortion continue to cite the deceptively edited videos that misrepresent the organization's fetal tissue donation practices as justification for legislation, like H.R. 3495, that would harm women's health.

H.R. 3495 would allow states to eliminate Planned Parenthood health centers from Medicaid without cause based solely on political motivations, effectively denying access to vital preventive care services, including wellness exams, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and contraception to many patients. Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Utah have all recently attempted to do this, despite warnings from the Department of Health and Human Services that doing so likely violates federal law by illegally restricting beneficiaries' access to services. As defunding efforts in Texas and Indiana have demonstrated, eliminating Planned Parenthood as an option for those enrolled in public health care programs

would leave a serious void that could simply not be filled by other health care providers.

H.R. 3495 would give these states and others that share this anti-women's health agenda broad discretion to exclude any person, institution, agency or entity that "performs or participates in the performance of abortions" from participating in Medicaid. Not only would this mean that all such women's health providers could be cut out of the Medicaid program under this provision, but states could also attempt to use it to eliminate a wide range of other health care providers, with serious consequences for low-income patients. For example, a hospital that provides emergency abortions to stabilize a women's health, as required under federal law would be barred from Medicaid under H.R. 3495, leaving Medicaid patients without access to any care at that hospital. Simply put, this bill is extreme and would have a devastating impact on access to care.

The ACLU opposes H.R. 3495 and urges all members of the House of Representatives to vote "No." Should you have any questions, please contact Georgeanne Usova.

Sincerely,

KARIN JOHANSON,
Director.

GEORGEANNE M. USOVA,
Legislative Counsel.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2015.
Re: NAACP Strong Opposition to H.R. 3495, a
Bill to Prohibit Federal Funding to Pro-
viders of Abortions, Including Planned
Parenthood Federation of America.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to oppose and vote against H.R. 3495, which would eliminate all federal funding to any agency which provides abortions to women, including Planned Parenthood and its affiliates nation-wide. To ban all federal funding for Planned Parenthood and similar organizations would result in the elimination of a myriad of crucial and affordable health care services; for many in the communities we serve and represent, Planned Parenthood clinics represent the only health care services available. Furthermore, since a prohibition on federal funding for abortions is already in place, there is no justification for this reckless initiative.

The NAACP policy agenda has never taken a position on abortions, neither in opposition nor support. We are, however, very cognizant and very appreciative of the wide range of health care services offered to the communities we serve and represent by Planned Parenthood and its affiliates. The latest estimates indicate that Planned Parenthood serves over five million clients a year, and that 75% of their clients have incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Services provided at locations include screening for breast, cervical and testicular cancers; contraceptives; pregnancy testing and pregnancy options counseling; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; comprehensive sexuality education, menopause treatments; and vasectomies and tubal ligations. For many of Planned Parenthood's patients, the annual exams received at their facilities are the only access to health care they have.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the position of the NAACP; H.R. 3495 is extreme and should be opposed.

Sincerely,

HILARY O. SHELTON,
*Director, NAACP Washington
Bureau & Senior Vice President
for Advocacy and Policy.*

Mr. HASTINGS. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists stated that the bill falls far short of any standard Federal health legislation policy, and insisted that "it would serve only to scare providers away from providing comprehensive, compassionate care to women, and leave women without the care they need." Moreover, the group maintains this bill would prevent OB/GYNs from participating in the Medicaid program.

The reality is over 90 percent of the services of Planned Parenthood and similar organizations are preventative in nature, including cancer screenings, testing for sexually transmitted infections, and family planning services.

Medicaid beneficiaries already have limited access to doctors, and this bill will only restrict access for the poorest individuals in our society.

I said last night in the Rules Committee that wealthy women in our society don't have the problem of seeing the doctor of their choice. Under this particular measure, poor women will be further restricted from having the access to a physician of their choice as a Medicaid provider.

Knowing this, the title of the bill, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, is as ironic as it is patronizing. H.R. 3495 will punish the most vulnerable Americans and will prevent women from accessing the care that keeps them safe and healthy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the question, Why haven't you done this before? Unfortunately, the full depths to which abortion providers have sunk was not previously public knowledge. The recent release of a number of hidden camera videos exposing the painful dismemberment of unborn children to facilitate the sale of their body parts by Planned Parenthood has provided clear evidence that truly repugnant activities are rampant in the abortion industry and that taxpayer support should never be provided to organizations that participate in the trade of human tissue.

One key Planned Parenthood abortionist even said: "We've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm gonna basically crush below, I'm gonna to crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact."

In these days of 3-D ultrasounds and high-definition screens, it is impossible to hide the humanity of these child victims. They have fingers and toes, heartbeats, and organs developed

enough that tissue collectors will pay \$60 a specimen for them.

In light of the serious questions raised by these videos, the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform have each launched investigations.

While Planned Parenthood does not receive direct Federal funding for abortions, these investigations are warranted, as a recent report from the Government Accountability Office shows that the organization receives an average of 500 million taxpayer dollars each year for other lines of business. Money is fungible, and the Federal funds that Planned Parenthood receives ultimately subsidize their abortion services.

Mr. Speaker, that is why today's legislation is so important. In light of the atrocities uncovered in abortion facilities across the country, it is vital that States be empowered to choose to withhold Medicaid funds from flowing to abortion providers that deliberately dismember unborn children to receive compensation for their organs and other body parts.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), my good friend.

□ 1245

Ms. MATSUI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3495. This bill is misleadingly named the Women's Public Health and Safety Act when, in fact, it puts women's and men's health at risk.

This bill would allow States to block Planned Parenthood or any other health provider from Medicaid based on "involvement in abortions." Now, millions of American women and men depend on Planned Parenthood for essential health care.

The majority seems determined to take our Nation's healthcare system backwards. Planned Parenthood uses Medicaid funding to provide services like cancer screening, access to contraception, and pre-conception counseling that helps women prepare for healthy pregnancies.

Members of Congress should stop attacking women's ability to control their own health care. This bill disproportionately impacts low-income women and families and unfairly takes away one of their healthcare options.

Congress needs to get back to doing our job and stop this attack on women's health.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For those who complain that this bill isn't properly named, let us not forget that at least half of the unborn children who are victims of abortion are female who would grow up to be women.

Far too many supporters of abortion on demand ignore that reality and the fact that many abortions are sex-selection abortions.

Until they confront that, how can they parse bill titles, particularly those that protect all existing funding for women's health, while ensuring women and their children are not party to the sale of tiny hearts and organs for compensation?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my colleague from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill very simply allows States to be partners in the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program is a partnership between the Federal Government and the States, except too often Washington tells the States exactly what they have to do.

This is one of those examples because this is not theoretical. There are two States that have attempted to defund with their use of taxpayer dollars in their States—these are not Federal tax dollars. They don't want their State's taxpayers dollars to fund Planned Parenthood. Instead, they want to fund other women's health services. They should be allowed to do that.

Why should the Secretary of Health and Human Services demand that one particular institution get funds?

Let's talk about that institution. The gentleman from Florida says, oh, this is going to deny women health care.

Let me tell you who is denying women health care in my district, in rural Lower Eastern Shore. We had a Planned Parenthood in Salisbury. They closed up in April. On their Web site, they said: The center in Easton will be open Monday through Friday. You can just get your care there, our Planned Parenthood Center, which is about 45 minutes up the road.

Mr. Speaker, just go on your tablet device and see what the hours at the Easton Planned Parenthood are that are supposed to develop this wonderful comprehensive health care to women in my district.

Now, if you want to go today, you are out of luck. They are closed. Now, if you went yesterday, they were open for 7 hours, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. That is nice. I guess they are bankers' hours. I guess we just assume that everybody is going to get their health care between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. So Monday they are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday they are closed.

Mr. Speaker, if one of the women in my Lower Shore want to go on Wednesday, they are out of luck. They are closed. If they want to go on Thursday, they are in luck. They are open for 7½ hours, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. But if they want to go on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, they are out of luck because Planned Parenthood is closed. They are not delivering comprehensive services those days.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, as we know, Planned Parenthood doesn't deliver comprehensive women's health services. One of the most important services that you can deliver to a woman of child-bearing age is mammograms.

Not a single Planned Parenthood facility in this entire country has a mammography machine. Now, how do you deliver a mammogram without a mammography machine?

Mr. Speaker, it is an untruth. Planned Parenthood doesn't do comprehensive cancer screening. Because one of the most important screening techniques is mammography, and none of them can deliver it.

Let's contrast what the woman who is seeking comprehensive women's health care on the Lower Eastern Shore in Maryland—what her alternative is, because the gentleman from Florida mentions that our Medicaid patients won't be able to be seen if we pass this bill.

The alternative is our Federally qualified health center, our community health center, called Three Lower Counties. Now, if you go to Three Lower Counties today, you are actually in luck because they are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they have a mammography machine as well as the entire range of comprehensive services, with one exception. They don't do abortions. But, then again, the other Planned Parenthoods on the Eastern Shore of Maryland don't do it either.

So, in fact, if a woman who is on Medicaid really wants access to comprehensive health care in my district, they have got to go past Planned Parenthood unless—well, that is not true.

I guess, if Monday and Thursday they want their health care, they can go to Planned Parenthood. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, they can't.

But they could go to one of those at my community health center. In fact, nationwide there are only a little over 500 Planned Parenthood facilities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HARRIS. There are 13,000 community health centers, each of which has to have radiology facilities. That is how you get the Federal money.

So, in fact, if we really want to let our States, by their choice—we are not forcing States. We are not saying that a State can't fund Planned Parenthood.

Look, I come from the State of Maryland. We will probably choose to do it.

But a State that chooses not to should be given the option to tell their women: If you really want it, really want comprehensive care, well, go to one of the community health centers. That is all this bill does.

This doesn't limit care. This expands care because this tells women: You don't have to go to the Monday-and

Thursday-only clinic that can't give you a mammogram. You can actually go get comprehensive care somewhere else, even if you are on Medicaid.

My biggest objection—and the gentlewoman from North Carolina hit it on the head—is look at what else Planned Parenthood does. They actually—and, as a physician, I find this unbelievable.

They will change the abortion technique in order to better harvest the fetal tissue that they can then sell. That should be so morally objectionable that we should allow States to limit that funding.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just like to indicate to my friend from Maryland that, while there are 13,000 community health centers, many of them are overcrowded to begin with and can't provide even the daytime that you mentioned in Salisbury, all the services for various communities.

But, more important, you are correct. Planned Parenthood does not do mammograms. But they did in the last year 500,000 breast screenings. I could offer up anecdotal information that allows—you can go downstairs right here to the House physician. The House physician doesn't provide all of the services, but refers you out to GW or to Walter Reed Bethesda.

So referring out those women, if I were to pull up the anecdotal information of the number of women that did ultimately learn that they had problems, those statistics justify the continuation of this organization that provides compassionate services to women.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Just 10 days ago the House took a vote to attack women's health. At that time, I said it felt like *deja vu*.

Now I am starting to wonder if this is the only issue that my colleagues care about.

Have we taken a vote to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank? No.

Have we taken a vote to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund? No.

Have we taken a single vote this year to fix our broken immigration system? No.

Yet, somehow we found time to take vote after vote restricting women's access to care. It is reprehensible.

The bill we are considering today is one of the worst yet. It is a dangerous and unprecedented assault on women and their healthcare providers, and it does nothing to address the real issues that Americans are facing.

Mr. Speaker, voters didn't send us here to intimidate their doctors and interfere in their private medical decisions.

It is time for Congress to stop wasting time and get to work. I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 3611, a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to my good friend from Washington (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida.

I rise to oppose the demand for the previous question so that we might, in fact, take up the issue of a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Something has changed. This is no longer an abstract philosophical conversation. This is a real, manifest, concrete conversation in which people are losing their livelihoods.

I stood here last week and reported that not one, but two, satellite sales were likely lost. A subsequent announcement by Boeing to lay off workers in El Segundo, California, is not abstract.

I referred to General Electric announcing that it was laying off 500 people as a result of the failure of this body to do what it has done every chance it had under every President for 81 years, almost always unanimously.

This is no longer an abstraction. People are losing their livelihoods, and it will continue. It continued yesterday. General Electric announced another 350 jobs lost. They are moving them from Wisconsin to Canada.

This is not an abstraction. This is not some ideological tug of war. You are taking away people's jobs.

And, by the way, last week, when GE announced its first layoff of 500, the spokesman for the majority party said it was immaterial. They dismissed it. Well, if you opened up that envelope and found a pink slip, you wouldn't think it was immaterial.

Last week I revealed a dirty little secret. I shared with you that the Boeing aircraft company, the largest exporter in the United States of America, the heart of our manufacturing base, didn't make airplanes. They don't. They design and assemble them. They assemble them with parts made mostly in America.

Now, here is today's dirty little secret: domestic content. The Export-Import Bank requires anything it finances to be made out of 85 percent domestic content. Made in America, 85 percent.

Now, our largest exporter, in good times, finances about 1 in 5 of its sales through the Ex-Im. But it is counter-cyclical. In bad times, it is up to 40 percent, as a consequence of that material amount that is sold. And, by the way, 70 percent of its sales are international. They make all their airplanes with a minimum of 85 percent domestic content.

People, stop and think. If you do away with the Ex-Im, you do away with the 85 percent domestic content requirement.

Boeing wants to make airplanes in America with 85 percent domestic content.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HECK of Washington. I know this because 2 years ago there was a coalition formed to lobby to reduce the domestic content. Boeing left the coalition because they want to make airplanes in America. If you do away with Ex-Im, you do away with the domestic content requirement.

Six to 8,000 of the 15,000 businesses in Boeing's supply chain are small businesses. They are small businesses. You are holding a gun to the head of America's number one exporter and forcing them—forcing them—by virtue of competitive disadvantage to look at and consider outsourcing.

More pink slips. More people losing their livelihood. This is no longer an abstraction. You are taking away people's livelihoods.

Yes, it is unilateral disarmament. Every other developed country on the face of the planet has an export credit authority, every other one, except us now.

In God's name, defeat the previous question.

□ 1300

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are talking about the Ex-Im Bank because they know when they talk about protecting organizations that sell babies' hearts and lungs, they are losing.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in the minority also claim that women would no longer have access to healthcare services. It is important to remember that this bill merely stops the Obama administration's current practice of using Medicaid to force States into including abortionists in their provider network. Each State can take its specific needs into consideration when determining what, if any, action to take

under this bill. Claims that 13,000 federally qualified and rural health centers aren't sufficient fail to reflect the fact that community health centers have grown significantly since 2010.

According to HRSA data, health centers have grown so much that, in the years since 2010, they have acquired 3.4 million more patients, 1.9 million of whom are women. And as our colleague from Maryland pointed out, they are often open more days and more hours than Planned Parenthood clinics are. They are providing better and more comprehensive services to women.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), my very good friend who is the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services and a real champion on both these issues that we are discussing here today.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the previous question so that this House may finally get on with the important work of supporting American jobs by reauthorizing the charter of the Export-Import Bank.

My friends on the opposite side of the aisle claim that they support business. They claim they support small business. They claim that this is something that is not paid enough attention to. Yet when we have the opportunity to support the Ex-Im Bank, what do they do? They turn it into a political question because they want to use it to divide.

Let me tell you some facts about the Ex-Im Bank.

The Ex-Im Bank supported \$27.4 billion of U.S. exports at no cost to American taxpayers; 164,000 American jobs were supported. Nearly 90 percent of Ex-Im Bank transactions directly supported small businesses. There was a \$675 million surplus generated for American taxpayers in funding year 2014 alone.

Ex-Im Bank's mission is American jobs. By financing the export of American goods and services, Ex-Im Bank has supported \$1.3 million private sector, American jobs since 2009, supporting, again, 164,000 jobs in funding year 2014 alone.

So, Mr. Speaker and Members, every day that this Republican-led House refuses to act is another day that American workers suffer the consequences.

It has been 3 months now since Republicans shut down our Nation's export credit agency, a vital financing tool that enables U.S. companies both large and small to compete for sales in the global marketplace, and businesses and their workers are feeling the pain.

The stories that we have received from across the Nation make the unfortunate consequences of the House Republicans' shutdown of the Ex-Im

Bank distressingly clear. In describing the impact of the Ex-Im shutdown, the chief financial officer of Chief Industries, Incorporated, a Nebraska company that sells grain bins and elevators, said: "We've lost business. That's the easiest way to put it. We can't get that business back."

In my home State of California, the president of Combustion Associates, Incorporated, a power plant manufacturer, said that the shutdown of the Ex-Im Bank has put her small, woman- and minority-owned company at a "real disadvantage," saying that, as a result of fierce competition from Chinese and European firms: "If we don't get Ex-Im back soon, there's a very good chance we will lose three pending contracts to one of our competitors."

In describing the devastating consequence of losing the support of the Ex-Im Bank, the owner of U.S. International Trading Corporation, based in Nevada, said that the ideologically charged debate surrounding the reauthorization "is like being stabbed in the back by people who should be defending you."

Steve Wilburn, a long-time Republican and former marine, who owns a renewable fuels company in Arizona that lost a major Philippines green energy project due to the uncertainty over Ex-Im's future, recently remarked: "I never thought the day would come when the Republican Party would somehow view a small business like mine as crony capitalism."

While these small businesses and many like them are unable to successfully compete internationally without the support of the Ex-Im Bank, some of our Nation's largest manufacturers are losing contracts as well, with significant negative downstream consequences for the small business suppliers that make up their vast U.S. supply chains.

Making matters worse, in recent weeks, large companies, including GE and Boeing, have announced that the lack of export credit financing from the Ex-Im Bank has forced those companies to move some of their manufacturing operations abroad, where export credit financing is readily available.

Mr. Speaker, we should be ashamed of this. We should be doing everything we can to grow jobs in this country and give U.S. businesses the tools they need to succeed.

I have said it before and will say it again, a majority of this House supports reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank; and if we don't give Members the opportunity to vote up or down on reopening the Bank's doors today, the self-inflicted shutdown of the Ex-Im Bank will continue to hurt workers and our economy. It is time to recognize the realities of the extremely competitive international marketplace that businesses must compete in.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I don't know what they are afraid of. They like shutting things down.

You are going to shut down something in this country that is going to cause us to lose jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members of the House.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I repeat, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are talking about the Ex-Im Bank because they know that when they talk about protecting organizations that sell babies' hearts and lungs, they are losing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, we have known for some time that Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortions in this country. What we did not know until recently was just how vile and disgusting the nature of this organization truly is.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3495 because I believe States have the right to refuse funding to an organization that profits from the sale of aborted children's organs. Medicaid and CMS should not be allowed to force States to fund these horrific practices against the States' wishes.

The advancement of women's health should always remain a top priority for our healthcare community. However, we can achieve this goal without requiring States to provide access to institutions like Planned Parenthood.

Taxpayer dollars should not be going to the killing of unborn babies. Taxpayer dollars should not go to organizations like Planned Parenthood that support the practice of abortion and trafficking of aborted fetal tissue.

Taxpayer funds should go toward investigating and prosecuting the individuals that are responsible for trafficking in the selling of fetal tissue. Taxpayer funds should go toward the advancement of women's health.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, but we cannot stop here.

In addition to cutting off funding, the perpetrators behind these heinous crimes should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. These disgusting acts are on par with those committed by the sickest of criminals behind bars, and that is exactly where the people who did this belong.

I urge my colleagues to support precious, innocent lives of the unborn.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from North Carolina says that we are discussing the Export-Import Bank because we are losing, as she put it, on the subject that is the base bill here today. We are not losing. This

bill will pass the House of Representatives, and it will go nowhere. Why we are discussing the Ex-Im Bank is because we need American businesses to win.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), my classmate, who is a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose this rule and support the motion to defeat the previous question.

Instead of bringing a bill to the floor that will go nowhere, we should, instead, be letting the House work its will; and we should be voting to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank is an economic imperative.

While some of my colleagues celebrate their misguided, ideologically driven agenda, hardworking Americans are losing their jobs, and American businesses and exporters are being outgunned by larger export credit agencies which are more than willing to provide financing to America's foreign competitors.

The Bank is an unbridled, market-driven success story which has broad bipartisan support in both Houses of this Congress as well as support from the majority of Americans. The Bank supports hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs in this country.

If we fail to act now, we are shutting off a lifeline for many of our small businesses and exporters. In my congressional district alone, the Bank has supported thousands of small business and manufacturing jobs. These are good jobs in a very high-need area in Texas that would not have been possible without the Bank. These jobs are now in danger.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my GOP colleagues to let common sense regain a foothold in this House. We have the votes. Let Congress work its will and allow a vote on the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to how I began my remarks today, and that is to say that the measure before us has not gone through regular order in the House of Representatives. There were no hearings, no markup. It just showed up in the rules for us. And somehow or another, that seems to be a pattern that is developing around here, where we are not legislating, we are rulemaking. In the final analysis, many Members and their constituents are being shut out.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to have an abortion is obviously a very, very difficult decision for a woman, and it is one that must be made, in my judgment—and my colleague from Colorado

(Mr. POLIS) always says that it is not the Oversight Committee's—which is hearing right now, as we speak, from Planned Parenthood providers—or the Energy and Commerce Committee's decision for a woman's right to choose. The freedom of choice measure, since 1960, has been a part of Medicaid in this country, and now we would tear that fabric and divide this country with an issue that the only committee that should be in charge is the committee formed by a woman, her doctor, and God.

□ 1315

There is no place for the ideological whims of politicians in that determination. I said last night I know where this is headed. I have seen it now for 22 years. What the ultimate objective is is not this legislation today or the legislation that we considered 2 weeks ago or legislation like this that they have considered. For 22 years that I have been here, it has been headed toward trying to reverse *Roe v. Wade*.

Like it or not, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade* conferred upon women the right to do with their own bodies what they determine best until the point of viability. It is unfathomable to me and countless others around this country and the world that we continue to entertain attacks on poor women's health to satisfy the extreme political agenda of a few in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle often articulate their support for measures such as the one we are considering today by insisting that it is our duty to protect the most vulnerable in society. To those individuals I ask: How does eliminating critical health services to our country's most poor and preventing those same individuals from being able to see the doctors of their choice that they know and trust help them to accomplish this worthwhile goal?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and against this rule and the underlying bill. I want to ask us to get back to regular order and let us get into legislating.

No, my colleague from North Carolina, we are not losing. We asked on the Export-Import measure to allow for American businesses to win. Everybody here knows that this legislation, once it passes the House of Representatives, is going to get lost in that nowhere forest. I said last night, and I listened to my granddaughter saying, "Let It Go." The words are different to this particular situation today, but the title of the song should be heard as a mantra by the Republican Party on the subject of the rights of women and their choice. They should just let it go.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

My colleagues continue to hold up regular order as an excuse for their unwillingness to stop the flow of taxpayer dollars to organizations that dismember children. Thankfully, there are committee hearings being held on this issue even now that will continue to expose the wrongs of the abortion industry. Here today, though, we take the simple step of stopping funding to organizations that sell children's body parts.

My colleague's newfound affection for regular order is a poor objection to the passage of this legislation to protect women and children from being parties to trafficking in human tissue. It is not extreme to want to protect the most vulnerable, the unborn, from having their body parts being sold and the use of taxpayer dollars to aid such enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard today about outrageous activities that are ongoing in the abortion industry as it takes apart tiny babies with beating hearts and cute little fingers and toes. It is truly saddening that the reaction in this Chamber isn't unanimous agreement that the clinics where this has occurred be closed and those responsible be sanctioned for their reprehensible actions. We haven't even been able to come to agreement with those on the other side that Federal grants to these organizations from the Department of Health and Human Services stop immediately.

Now we try again to find common ground. Today, the legislation before us would take the small but vital step of allowing those States that choose, and only those States, to stop funding abortion providers through Medicaid. This legislation wouldn't tell New York or Massachusetts or California that they can't give their taxpayer dollars to an organization that sells body parts. It would, however, enable Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, or Indiana to do so.

The principle of federalism, that Americans are free to come together with others in their community and establish the principles by which they will govern themselves, is a bedrock for our Nation. Even if opponents of this legislation have become callous to the unheard cries of unborn children dismembered for compensation, they should rally to the cause of federalism in order to allow their own communities to exercise the freedom it protects.

What a sad day it is when we can no longer even unite around our founding principles, one of which was that life is the first unalienable right. When we ignore the need to protect that right for the smallest of our brothers and sisters, we should not be surprised by the erosion of our other rights, including the right to self-governance prohibited by federalism.

The exposure of the ongoing tragedy of crushed young lives must spur us to

unite to stop this imposition of Federal power on States and their citizens and restore to them the choice of protecting children from being sold as organ donors before even taking their first breath. This is what H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, would accomplish, and I commend it and this rule providing for its consideration to my colleagues for their support.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 444 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3611) to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3611.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry,

asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 182, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 521]

YEAS—243

Abraham	Babin	Bilirakis
Aderholt	Barletta	Bishop (MI)
Allen	Barr	Bishop (UT)
Amash	Barton	Black
Amodei	Benish	Blackburn

Blum	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Bost	Herrera Beutler	Poliquin
Boustany	Hice, Jody B.	Pompeo
Brady (TX)	Hill	Posey
Brat	Holding	Price, Tom
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Ratcliffe
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Reed
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Renacci
Buchanan	Hunter	Ribble
Buck	Hurd (TX)	Rice (SC)
Bucshon	Hurt (VA)	Rigell
Burgess	Issa	Roby
Byrne	Jenkins (KS)	Roe (TN)
Calvert	Jenkins (WV)	Rogers (AL)
Carter (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Carter (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Chabot	Jolly	Rokita
Chaffetz	Jones	Rooney (FL)
Clawson (FL)	Jordan	Ros-Lehtinen
Coffman	Joyce	Roskam
Cole	Katko	Ross
Collins (GA)	Kelly (MS)	Rothfus
Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer
Comstock	King (IA)	Royce
Conaway	King (NY)	Russell
Cook	Kinzing (IL)	Ryan (WI)
Costello (PA)	Kline	Salmon
Cramer	Knight	Sanford
Crawford	Labrador	Scalise
Crenshaw	LaHood	Schweikert
Culberson	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Curbelo (FL)	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Davis, Rodney	Lance	Sessions
Denham	Latta	Shimkus
Dent	LoBiondo	Shuster
DeSantis	Long	Simpson
DesJarlais	Longdermilk	Smith (MO)
Diaz-Balart	Love	Smith (NE)
Dold	Lucas	Smith (NJ)
Donovan	Luetkemeyer	Smith (TX)
Duffy	Lummis	Stefanik
Duncan (SC)	MacArthur	Stewart
Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Stivers
Ellmers (NC)	Marino	Stutzman
Emmer (MN)	Massie	Thompson (PA)
Farenthold	McCarthy	Thornberry
Fincher	McCaul	Tiberi
Fitzpatrick	McClintock	McHenry
Fleischmann	McHenry	McKinley
Fleming	McKinley	McMorris
Flores	McMorris	Rodgers
Forbes	Rodgers	McSally
Fortenberry	McSally	Meadows
Foxx	Meadows	Meehan
Franks (AZ)	Meehan	Messer
Frelinghuysen	Messer	Mica
Garrett	Mica	Miller (FL)
Gibbs	Miller (FL)	Miller (MI)
Gibson	Miller (MI)	Moolenaar
Gohmert	Moolenaar	Mooney (WV)
Goodlatte	Mooney (WV)	Mullin
Gosar	Mullin	Mulvaney
Gowdy	Mulvaney	Murphy (PA)
Granger	Murphy (PA)	Neugebauer
Graves (GA)	Neugebauer	Newhouse
Graves (LA)	Newhouse	Noem
Graves (MO)	Noem	Nugent
Grothman	Nugent	Nunes
Guinta	Nunes	Olson
Guthrie	Olson	Palazzo
Hanna	Palazzo	Palmer
Hardy	Palmer	Paulsen
Harper	Paulsen	Pearce
Harris	Pearce	Perry
Hartzler	Perry	Pittenger
Heck (NV)	Pittenger	Pitts

NAYS—182

Adams	Bustos	Clyburn
Aguiar	Butterfield	Cohen
Ashford	Capps	Connolly
Bass	Capuano	Conyers
Beatty	Cárdenas	Cooper
Becerra	Carney	Costa
Bera	Carson (IN)	Courtney
Beyer	Cartwright	Crowley
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Cuellar
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Cummings
Bonamici	Chu, Judy	Davis (CA)
Boyle, Brendan	Cicilline	Davis, Danny
F.	Clark (MA)	DeFazio
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	DeGette
Brown (FL)	Clay	Delaney
Brownley (CA)	Cleaver	DeLauro

DelBene	Kuster	Rangel
DeSaulnier	Langevin	Rice (NY)
Deutch	Larsen (WA)	Richmond
Dingell	Lawrence	Roybal-Allard
Doggett	Lee	Ruiz
Doyle, Michael	Levin	Ruppersberger
F.	Lewis	Rush
Duckworth	Lieu, Ted	Ryan (OH)
Edwards	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda
Engel	Loeb	T.
Eshoo	Loftgren	Sarbanes
Esty	Lowenthal	Schakowsky
Farr	Lowey	Schiff
Fattah	Lujan Grisham	Schrader
Foster	(NM)	Scott (VA)
Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray	Scott, David
Fudge	(NM)	Serrano
Gabbard	Lynch	Sewell (AL)
Gallego	Maloney,	Sherman
Garamendi	Carolyn	Sinema
Graham	Maloney, Sean	Sires
Grayson	Matsui	Slaughter
Green, Al	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Green, Gene	McGovern	Speier
Grijalva	McNerney	Swalwell (CA)
Gutiérrez	Meeks	Takai
Hahn	Meng	Takano
Hastings	Moore	Thompson (CA)
Heck (WA)	Moulton	Thompson (MS)
Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Titus
Himes	Nadler	Tonko
Hinojosa	Napolitano	Torres
Honda	Neal	Tsongas
Hoyer	Nolan	Van Hollen
Huffman	Norcross	Vargas
Israel	O'Rourke	Veasey
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Vela
Jeffries	Pascarella	Velázquez
Johnson (GA)	Pelosi	Visclosky
Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter	Walz
Kaptur	Peters	Wasserman
Keating	Peterson	Schultz
Kennedy	Pingree	Waters, Maxine
Kildee	Pocan	Watson Coleman
Kilmer	Polis	Welch
Kind	Price (NC)	Wilson (FL)
Kirkpatrick	Quigley	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

□ 1349

Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. BASS, and Mr. NORCROSS changed their votes from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. FINCHER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 183, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 522]

AYES—242

Abraham	Benish	Boustany
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Allen	Bishop (MI)	Brat
Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Bridenstine
Babin	Black	Brooks (AL)
Barletta	Blackburn	Brooks (IN)
Barr	Blum	Buchanan
Barton	Bost	Buck

Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)

NOES—183

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownlee (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps

Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaull
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin

Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberti
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kinder
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis

Frelinghuysen
Hudson
Kelly (IL)

Lieu, Ted
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz

NOT VOTING—9

Frelinghuysen
Hudson
Kelly (IL)

Larson (CT)
McDermott
Payne

□ 1357

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 29th I missed two votes on Ordering the Previous Question and House Resolution 444. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

□ 1400

WOMEN'S PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 444, I call up the bill (H.R. 3495) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). Pursuant to House Resolution 444, the amendment printed in House Report 114-269, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3495

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women's Public Health and Safety Act".

SEC. 2. INCREASING STATE FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING PARTICIPATION OF PROVIDERS WHO PERFORM, OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF, ABORTIONS.

Section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(23), by striking "subsection (g)" and inserting "subsection (g), subsection (11),"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(1) RULES WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION OF PROVIDERS WHO PERFORM, OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF, ABORTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning October 1, 2015, subject to paragraph (2), for purposes of this title, a State, at its option, may establish criteria with respect to the participation under the State plan (or under a waiver of the plan) of an institution, agency, entity, or person who performs, or participates in the performance of, abortions.

"(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an abortion—

"(A) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

"(B) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

"(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the terms 'institution', 'agency', or 'entity' mean the entire legal institution, agency, or entity, or any part thereof, including any institution, agency, or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with such institution, agency, or entity."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3495.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act. This bill, at its core, is about choice as well as protecting the lives of millions of unborn babies across America.

H.R. 3495 would empower States with flexibility to include or not include in their Medicaid program providers who perform or assist in the performance of elective abortions.

The Hyde amendment already makes sure that Federal Medicaid dollars do not pay for elective abortions. This bill would amend current law so that States would have the flexibility and discretion to work with qualified providers of their choice.

This bill also means States would be able to remove the largest abortion chain from being the recipient of millions of dollars of State and Federal funds, which are allocated within their States.

Planned Parenthood has received about \$1.2 billion through Medicaid over a 3-year period, and States who wish to eliminate Planned Parenthood from this funding stream are being blocked from doing so.

All Medicaid providers ought to be held responsible for their actions. However, the current administration is interpreting current law to protect the interests of political elites over the health care of those truly in need. States should be able to work with providers who prioritize and respect life and exclude organizations whose business model is built around the destruction of life.

Planned Parenthood is the Nation's largest abortion chain, doing over 327,653 abortions in the last reported year. That comes out to an average of 898 abortions per day every day, 37 abortions every hour, 3 abortions every 5 minutes, more than 1 abortion every 2 minutes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the new fiscal year starts in less than 36 hours, and Congress has still not passed the annual appropriations bills. If we don't do it, the government will shut down. During the last shutdown, we lost \$24 billion and 120,000 private sector jobs. I am sure we could expect just the same now.

The debt ceiling will need to be raised within the next couple months, Madam Speaker, and many Republicans are already threatening to refuse to perform even that basic task. This would throw the international economy into chaos. It would cause the loss of tens of thousands more jobs in the United States.

Of course, the Ex-Im Bank expired in June, and our business communities are clamoring for reauthorization. Why? Well, last year the Ex-Im Bank financed deals that supported 164,000 American jobs.

I would suggest, Madam Speaker, that the U.S. House should spend this week figuring out how to avoid a political and financial catastrophe rather than once again passing a blatantly political bill stripping women of their

basic healthcare rights. This latest attack targets both the women who need to see a doctor or healthcare provider as well as the providers themselves.

I wonder if the people on the other side of the aisle actually read this bill on the floor today because it is so broadly written that it would target any medical provider—doctor, hospital, clinic, you name it—that has even the most tenuous connection to the provision of a full range of women's healthcare services.

The majority claims that this bill targets Planned Parenthood, a healthcare provider that 2.7 million Americans rely on every year. First of all, over 90 percent of the services provided by that agency are routine wellness exams, like breast exams, cervical cancer screening, and birth control and family planning services.

As we all know, because we discussed it ad nauseam last week, Planned Parenthood has received no Federal funding for abortions. In fact, no agency receives Federal funding for abortions with a very few exceptions.

This bill would, therefore, not stop any government funding of abortions. It would instead allow Federal and State funding to be cut off for any entity, not just Planned Parenthood, which performs abortions with private dollars.

That means that poor women would be blocked from the full range of healthcare services that they need not just at Planned Parenthood, but at their local hospital or their local clinic or the offices of another women's health group.

Let's call this bill what it is. It is an attempt to eliminate healthcare services for women across the board, using the Planned Parenthood witch hunt as an excuse. Let's be very clear. The investigation of the last few months has demonstrated that the videotapes the majority so heavily relies on are heavily edited, manipulated, and at times downright misleading.

We are the U.S. Congress, Madam Speaker, and we are better than that. The American public will not stand for this diversion, and neither should we. Let's defeat this ill-conceived bill. Let's direct all of our collective attention to bipartisan solutions resolving the looming fiscal disaster that we are all facing.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in response briefly, money is fungible. Everybody knows it. In one pocket, out the other, same pair of pants. \$1.2 billion over the last 3 years in Medicaid. The videos, nobody is putting words in their mouth. It is their words, their pictures.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), vice chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and a distinguished leader on this issue.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his diligence and his consistency through the years as we have worked on this issue at the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I do rise in strong support today of the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

There will be a lot said about this bill during the course of the day, but let's be certain in what the bill actually says. You have got two pages, and what this does is grant to the States flexibility.

Madam Speaker, what they have asked us for is flexibility. Why are they asking us for this flexibility? Because we have four States currently in litigation over wanting to be able to determine who is and is not a Medicaid provider in their State.

So there is a premise and a basis and a reason for bringing this forward and allowing the States to have the final say in who participates in that Medicaid delivery—that is what you call good government—and sending the power and the money back to the State and local level.

This bill is necessary because the Obama administration has blocked attempts of States to remove certain providers from the program. Now, we have four States, as I said, that have had to go into court because they have tried to remove providers and CMS has blocked that action. So, therefore, they are not able to move these providers out of the program.

The States know best the needs of their residents, and they know best which providers are providing affordable access to quality medical care and which ones are trying to skirt the law. There are no mandates in this bill. The final decision is up to the States.

The left, in their endless efforts to protect Planned Parenthood and to prevent them from being held accountable, have once again resorted to scare tactics.

I also want to touch on the issue of the community health centers, 9,000 here in our country. They meet the needs of over 24 million Americans. You take a district like mine in Tennessee, there are zero Planned Parenthood affiliates in my district—zero. There are 16 community health centers.

Contrast that with the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY's district. She has 1 Planned Parenthood affiliate, and there are 44 community health centers. Ms. DEGETTE has 3 Planned Parenthood sites and 46 of the community health centers.

So what we are doing is encouraging the States to take the responsibility and make the determination of where this ought to be.

Madam Speaker, it is amazing to me. People always say: Let's make certain that we are being good stewards of the

money. Planned Parenthood is now outsourcing their women's health issues. They have cut them in half over the past 7 years. It is important for us to redirect the funds and give the States the opportunity to determine who provides the service and the access.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3495, yet another radical GOP assault on women's health care. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are at it again, attempting to use any excuse to pursue their extreme agenda. They are attacking Planned Parenthood in order to limit women's constitutionally protected right to choose what is best for them and their families.

The legislation is particularly offensive and egregious. Let me tell you what this legislation is. In the words of more than 120,000 family physicians nationwide, it represents an unprecedented level of legislative interference in the patient-physician relationship. It is not only ill-advised, it is dangerous.

This legislation would, in the words of the National Women's Law Center or the National Health Law Program, "wreak havoc on our Nation's safety net programs and millions' access to health care across the country." It represents a direct attack by Members of Congress on women's ability to control their own reproductive health.

This legislation undermines patient choice of providers and provides States unchecked authority to terminate providers from Medicaid without cause. This is a direct attack on the freedom of low-income women to choose their own trusted and qualified medical provider.

I stand, Madam Speaker, with Planned Parenthood. I stand with all the physicians and health professionals out there who provide lifesaving, preventative health services to millions of women and men every day. I stand with the hundreds of millions of Americans to say that I will not stand by silent and allow those who are committed to ending abortion access in this country use fraud and deception to cut millions of people off from their health care.

We cannot allow Republicans to win their war on women. I urge my colleagues to oppose the extreme Republican agenda and vote "no" on H.R. 3495.

I include in the RECORD two letters on this legislation, one from the American Academy of Family Physicians, and an analysis of this legislation by the National Health Law Program and the National Women's Law Center.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER & MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: I am writing on behalf of the 120,900 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians to express our strong opposition to the "Women's Public Health and Safety Act" (H.R. 3495), which will be considered by the House of Representatives this week. This legislation would, if enacted, expand the ability of states to selectively prohibit identified physicians and health care facilities from participating in the Medicaid program. Furthermore, this legislation represents an unprecedented level of legislative interference in the patient-physician relationship.

We are deeply concerned with the overall intent of this legislation and, more specifically, its attempts to interfere with the patient-physician relationship. Our most pointed criticism is directed at the phrase "or by any individual or entity based on the individual's or entity's involvement in abortions." This language is not only ill-advised, it is dangerous. Health care decisions should be made by a patient in consultation with her physician(s). Patients deserve an environment that encourages open communication with their physicians on health care options appropriate for their health status. This legislation would potentially discourage and prohibit physicians from discussing a safe and legal health care service with their patients. As previously stated, this represents an unprecedented level of legislative interference in the patient-physician relationship.

Again, we urge the House to reject this legislation. The proposal represents an inappropriate and misguided intrusion into the patient-physician relationship and actually seeks to criminalize a physician for discussing a legal, safe, and appropriate health care service with their patients. This is a dangerous bill and it should not pass.

Sincerely,
REID BLACKWELDER, MD, FAAFP,
Board Chair.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The National Health Law Program and the National Women's Law Center strongly oppose H.R. 3134, a bill that would wreak havoc on our nation's safety net programs and millions' access to health care across the country. It is no overstatement to say that, if H.R. 3134 were to become law, our country would face a significant public health crisis. Excluding a highly trusted and qualified provider from a network that provides critical preventative health care would do nothing more than harm those who are in need of this health care the most.

H.R. 3134 would mean that millions of low-income individuals in the Medicaid program could lose their ability to access the provider they trust and choose for high quality health care. This conflicts with, and threatens to jeopardize, a longstanding protection for Medicaid enrollees, the "freedom of choice" provision. This provision gives Medicaid recipients the right to choose to receive covered services from any qualified provider. Historically, Congress has singled out family planning for unique protection when it comes to freedom of choice. Freedom of choice is especially critical for receiving

family planning services—it guarantees that women, men, and young people have ready access to family planning services they need when they need them, and from a provider they trust. H.R. 3134 attempts to eliminate Medicaid enrollees' ability to visit Planned Parenthood, whether for family planning services or the other critical services Planned Parenthood provides, such as well woman visits, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and life-saving cancer screenings. The end result could mean that Medicaid beneficiaries lose access to what may be the only source of primary and preventive care they have.

H.R. 3134 would also inflict serious harm on the chronically underfunded Title X program. Planned Parenthood is a critical component of this safety net program, as the health centers serve a disproportionate share of clients in the Title X system. While only comprising 13% of Title X clinics, Planned Parenthood clinics serve 37% of clients. Each Planned Parenthood health care center serves nearly 3,000 patients for birth control services, far more than other clinic types. Taking away Title X funding from Planned Parenthood would leave those who rely on the Title X program without a key provider that they trust and that provides the health care services they need.

Eliminating funding from Planned Parenthood would have a disproportionate impact on women of color. Hispanic and Black women more commonly access family planning or medical services from a Title X-funded clinic. And women of color make up a disproportionate share of Medicaid recipients relative to their population. Given that Planned Parenthood serves 36% of all clients who obtain care from the family planning health network, and that women of color often turn to this network for their health care, taking away such a trusted, high-quality health care provider would have inflict particular harm on women of color.

Proponents of H.R. 3134 boldly suggest that individuals would not lose services because other providers will fill in the drastic void that would be left if Planned Parenthood clinics were shut down. Historical evidence and existing gaps in our country's public safety net suggest otherwise. For example, after Texas turned its preventative care and family planning program into a state-funded program in order to exclude Planned Parenthood from its network, 30,000 fewer low-income women received health care. When Indiana defunding forced a Planned Parenthood clinic to shut its doors, it led to an HIV outbreak in the county because there was no other clinic providing HIV education and testing. The suggestion that other providers can and will step up to fill this need defies common sense.

On a closing note, while we focus on the dramatic negative impact that H.R. 3134 would have on millions of lives across our country, it is imperative to place this attack in the context of the many other attacks on women's health. For example, some members of Congress are pushing to completely eliminate or further cripple the Title X program, as reflected in the current appropriations proposals.

Not only would H.R. 3134 mean that millions of women, men, and young people would lose access to birth control, cancer screenings, breast exams, and STI and HIV testing, but it also represents a direct attack by Members of Congress on women's ability to control their own reproductive health.

We strongly urge you to vote no on H.R. 3134, and stand strong in support of the millions who receive high quality health care

through the Planned Parenthood health care centers.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL HEALTH LAW
PROGRAM,
NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW
CENTER.

□ 1415

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, the Obama administration puts its own abortion-centered ideology ahead of women's health care.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), an outstanding leader on this issue.

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, legislation empowering States to terminate Medicaid contracts with providers that disrespect innocent human life by performing abortions.

As we debate this bill today, the big abortion industry is in crisis mode. They have seen the same videos I have implicating Planned Parenthood, the Nation's largest abortion provider, in the trafficking of fetal tissue and organs, and they have seen the same non-partisan government report I have indicated that Planned Parenthood received \$1.2 billion in Medicaid funding over a 3-year period.

So, knowing that they are losing the public opinion battle, they are taking their fight to the courts, suing States that dare to protect taxpayer dollars by exercising their right to terminate contracts with this abortion giant. Tennessee saw this tactic before when Planned Parenthood took our State to court over an abortion law back in 2000. We defeated them, but it took 14 years to do it.

Madam Speaker, let's not let that happen again. If President Obama and the congressional Democrats are so intent on blocking this legislation to combat taxpayer funding of abortion providers at the Federal level, then they should at least let States use their 10th Amendment rights to take action within their own borders without the threat of costly, politically motivated lawsuits. The Women's Public Health and Safety Act will do just that.

I urge a "yes" vote on this compassionate, pro-life, pro-woman legislation.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill and to the political gamesmanship that continues to put our Nation at risk.

Today we witness yet another attack by some of our colleagues who are obsessed with ending access to Planned Parenthood, a trusted healthcare provider in my community. But today's

bill takes a slightly different approach, one that cynically tells a woman that the government knows better than she does when it comes to telling her who she should trust with her health and well-being. As a woman, a mother, and a nurse, this is insulting. These attacks have to stop.

Republicans are willfully putting their heads in the sand. They think it is no big deal to shut down hundreds of clinics offering essential services not available anywhere else; they think that the rest of the safety net can easily pick up the slack, ignoring the fact that those providers themselves have said they cannot; and they think it is worth shutting down the government to achieve this goal.

Moreover, I would just like to emphasize that these women have chosen to go to Planned Parenthood for their care. Suggesting that they can just get their care from some other provider is both callous and condescending.

With all due respect to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, which provider a woman chooses to go to for her own reproductive health care is not your decision to make—at least, it shouldn't be.

I urge my colleagues to trust women to make their own decisions. Vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the prime sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, I have to tell you, I have been watching my Democrat friends across the aisle do somersaults trying to whitewash their past and rename their dinners that they have every year, their Jefferson-Jackson dinner. There is a big conversation about the Confederate flag and what it means, which I would agree with my friends across the aisle. But what they don't want to talk about is the roots of where Planned Parenthood started.

It started with Margaret Sanger, a known racist and a speaker in front of the KKK. She believed in eugenics, and she is the founder of Planned Parenthood. We should talk about the racist roots of Planned Parenthood just like with the Confederate flag and just like the Jefferson-Jackson dinner that the Democrats celebrate every year.

If you watch the videos that have come out about Planned Parenthood harvesting little baby body parts and selling those body parts for a profit, it is disgusting. This is not a debate about abortion or even non-abortion, pro-life or pro-abortion. Those who are even pro-abortion agree that these tactics are unacceptable. They have no place in our society. That Federal tax dollars should actually go to fund an institution that harvests baby body parts for sale is absolutely asinine.

You want to talk about health care? Health care doesn't mean Planned Par-

enthood, and Planned Parenthood doesn't mean women's health care.

You talk about defunding women's health care. There is no less money. There is the same amount of money that goes to women's health care. That is a false argument. We spend the same amount of money, but we say: You know what? When we have an organization that supports the harvest and sale of body parts, our tax dollars probably shouldn't go to it.

Or, better yet, why don't we let the States make that decision for themselves? If they say that it is an affront to our morals and our values in one State, we should say we are not going to send Federal Medicaid money to that organization. And if another State says, "You know what? We are okay with it," then let them spend their money that way, giving States back the power to choose how they use their money.

I have got to tell you that I often-times sit back and am amazed that my friends across the aisle who talk about being very compassionate and caring and loving and supporting the down-trodden can't join us in saying: We probably should at least ban abortions after 20 weeks when little babies feel pain, when little babies can survive outside the womb. We are so radical in our position that we want to support abortion up to the point of birth. We won't even support you if there is a botched abortion and the baby is born alive and we should probably try to save it.

You can't even join us in that. It is a sellout to the radical abortion industry.

I see the rally outside. It is a rally for Planned Parenthood, which provides the largest funds to the Democratic coffers, to their campaigns.

This is not about life. This not about health care. This is not about abortion. This is about campaign money that flows from Planned Parenthood into my friends' campaigns. Sadly, I wish they would put aside their campaign concerns instead of standing for states' rights and women's health and little babies' lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I didn't agree with much the previous speaker said, but I do agree that, from our perspective, it is about campaign money on that side.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding, but also for her tremendous leadership on this and so many issues.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3495, the so-called Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

First of all, this bill does not keep women safe, and it certainly won't

keep them healthy. Instead, it would prevent individuals or organizations that provide abortion services from treating women enrolled in Medicaid, and it would simply strip women of their fundamental right to choose their own healthcare provider.

Congress already denies Federal Medicaid coverage of abortion, which is wrong, and that needs to be repealed. That is the Hyde amendment. We have got to repeal that. Now, excluding doctors from serving Medicaid patients is yet another attack on the rights of low-income women.

When in the world are you going to stop?

H.R. 3495 would deny more than 7 million women access to critical healthcare services, including contraceptive care, STI tests, lifesaving cancer screenings, and other primary care services; and it would hurt our most vulnerable communities, including low-income women and women of color.

Madam Speaker, this bill is simply wrong. It is nothing more than a shameful attempt to restrict women's constitutional rights. Politicians should never interfere with women's personal healthcare decisions, period. Stay out of our lives.

The Women's Public Health and Safety Act does just the opposite of what this bogus title says. It erodes the health and safety of women and continues the war on women.

Today I am proud to stand with Planned Parenthood and the men, women, and children in our country. I urge a "no" vote on this bill that will severely hurt the health and safety of women.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, we should be aware that not a single penny will be cut for women's health care under this bill.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I stand before you in full support of H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

This legislation amends Medicaid law to give States the freedom and flexibility to remove abortion providers from Medicaid. Taxpayer dollars should not be used for abortion, period.

This important policy is widely supported by the American people. That is why the Hyde amendment, first established in 1976, protects taxpayers from preventing the use of Federal funds for abortion. However, through the years, we have seen these groups attempt to circumvent this Federal mandate in order to further their own destructive agenda of death.

In North Carolina, Madam Speaker, there are 294 community health clinics, but only 9 Planned Parenthood abortion centers. Providing States like North Carolina with flexibility and

funding will result in better, more accessible health care for all women, instead of funneling money to abortion providers like Planned Parenthood and their army of political lobbyists.

Thank you to Congressman SEAN DUFFY for his leadership on this issue.

As a nation, we must restore the value and sanctity of each and every life against this selfish culture of death. I will continue to be a voice for the voiceless and speak out against these egregious acts as long as it takes to restore the God-given promise of life.

Life is precious. As Pope Francis stated in this Chamber, we must cherish each and every one at every stage of life.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am in opposition to this ill-conceived legislation brought forward from my good friend and colleague from Wisconsin.

I realize that good people can differ on topics, and I have been stunned by some of the discussion that has occurred on the floor today with regard to the racist roots of Planned Parenthood, with regard to so-called states' rights.

I can tell you that, as an African American and as a woman, I have heard the term "states' rights" used in ways that were not very healthy and safe for me as an African American woman. There is nothing healthy and safe about a bill that would deny women their constitutional and human rights to control their own reproduction—to get birth control, to be protected against STDs, or to have an abortion.

I know many people in this body are fond of reality shows, but in reality, a woman is fertile for 30 to 40 years of her life, and there is nothing healthy about becoming pregnant every year for 30 to 40 years. I am one of nine kids, and that is not a healthy scenario for many women.

The reality is that this would have an adverse impact on some of the poorest women, and many of them African American, in this country. Seventy-eight percent of Planned Parenthood patients live at 150 percent or lower of the poverty level.

The reality is that 60 percent of all Americans do not want to see Planned Parenthood defunded. It is not in the interest of public health and safety for these women to be denied this basic health care.

□ 1430

Madam Speaker, we have heard about these films that are not real at all. They have been doctored, edited, and they are revisionist tapes, all in pur-

suit of defunding the premier organization that protects women's health.

With regard to the other community health centers, I am glad to know that my colleagues are interested in funding those centers. But this bill even puts them at risk because any ancillary service related to abortion can be deemed as unfitting for reimbursement under the Medicaid program.

My last point, Madam Speaker, is that we have seen the flexibility that States have used. We saw in Indiana where they defunded Planned Parenthood and, as a result, we saw a pandemic of HIV infestations in that State.

So I would say before I yield back, Madam Speaker, that I urge my colleagues to not go for the appeasement of the Anti-Choice Caucus so that we don't shut the government down, to use women as a gambit in this political battle.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 18 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Colorado has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Pro-Life Caucus.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, last week Pope Francis admonished a joint session of Congress to follow the Golden Rule—to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The Pope also said the Golden Rule compels us to protect and defend human life at every stage of development—and, of course, that includes the unborn. It is wrong to remain silent, he said, or to look the other way when individuals are put at risk.

At the White House welcoming ceremony earlier in the day, President Obama spoke of protecting the least of these, taken from Matthew's Gospel, the 25th chapter. When President Obama says protect the least of these, he excludes millions of unborn children.

Every day Planned Parenthood dismembers or chemically poisons to death approximately 900 unborn babies, the least of these, and hurts many women in the process.

Subsidized by half a billion dollars annually, Planned Parenthood kills a baby every 2 minutes and has terminated the lives of over 7 million infants since 1973, a staggering loss of children's lives that equates to twice the number of every man, woman and child living in the State of Connecticut.

So I rise in strong support of H.R. 3495, the Women's Health and Public Safety Act, authored by our distinguished colleague, SEAN DUFFY, to give States the authority to defund Planned Parenthood.

States, indeed, Madam Speaker, should have the freedom to choose who they subsidize and why. But the President has denied that option to at least six States so far, including Texas, Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas. The latter three States had moved to defend in the wake of the recent undercover videos by the Center for Medical Progress.

Now, because of the CMP videos, we know Planned Parenthood is also trafficking in baby body parts.

I would note parenthetically, Madam Speaker, I wrote the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to try to end the cruelty of modern-day slavery, sex trafficking, and labor trafficking. Planned Parenthood's activities are a manifestation of human trafficking, exploiting defenseless unborn children and taking body parts that they have no right to take.

It turns out Planned Parenthood has turned these babies into human guinea pigs, and it makes the abortion industry even richer.

Although much of the media continues to ignore this scandal, Planned Parenthood's meticulously crafted facade of care and compassion has been shattered. Caught on tape, Planned Parenthood's top leadership, not interns or lower level employees, show callous disregard for precious children's lives while gleefully calculating the financial gain, which begs the question: Do Americans understand the violence to children done every day in Planned Parenthood clinics?

Have my Congressional colleagues, has the President, actually watched the videos? To care for the least of these, have they watched them?

In one clip, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Senior Director of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Medical Services, says: "We have been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that I am not going to crush that part."

So they crush all around that part that is desired, dismember that baby piece by piece, but they leave intact certain parts, including livers, that will then be sold.

Planned Parenthood Medical Directors' Council President Dr. Mary Gatter appears on the video nonchalantly talking about utilizing a "less crunchy"—her words—abortion method, again, to preserve body parts.

Regarding the price tag for baby body parts, she says: "Let me just figure out what others are getting. And if this in the ballpark, then it is fine." "If it is still low, then we can bump it up," she says.

Another Planned Parenthood Director, Deborah VanDerhei, says: "We are just trying to figure out as an industry"—and it is the abortion industry—"we are just trying to figure out how we are going to manage remuneration because the headlines would be a disaster."

Concern for making money, finding another revenue stream, but no concern whatsoever for that child victim who suffers when they are dismembered: arms, legs, torso, decapitated head. It is gruesome dismemberment abortions. That is what Planned Parenthood does.

One woman, Holly O'Donnell, from StemExpress, says: "She gave me the scissors and told me that I had to cut down the middle of the face." "I can't even describe what that feels like," she says.

I suspect that, if the President watches at least one of the videos and my colleagues on the other side, they would at least demand real answers concerning Planned Parenthood's inhumane behavior and violence that is directed at the least of these.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend.

You know, mention has been made about Margaret Sanger. I have read three of Margaret Sanger's books. In one of them, called *The Pivot of Civilization*, she talks about the cruelty of charity of caring for indigent women who carry babies to term, that you should not give them help, that charity is cruel.

She was a racist. Read her books. Read her birth control review. I went to the Library of Congress, got many copies of it and read through it. She had many programs that talked about focusing on Blacks and others for extermination. Just read her books. And, again, *The Pivot of Civilization* is one of the worst.

Let me also say to my friends that they talk about how these videos have been doctored. Well, there is a new report that just came out called the *Coalfire Forensics Analysis*. It finds that the videos are authentic and show no evidence of manipulation or editing.

The events depicted in the missing footage fall into five common categories: commuting, waiting, adjusting recording equipment, meals, and restroom breaks.

At each interview, four devices recorded conversations, two video recorders with microphones and two audio-only devices. I ask my friends and colleagues on the other side to take a look at that analysis.

Again, you just attack the whistleblower. You attack the organization. But you don't look at the evidence.

I have watched those tapes several times and was sickened by just how inhumane these individuals are in cutting little babies into pieces in order to procure their body parts.

Seven million babies since 1973 killed in Planned Parenthood clinics. They ought to be called Child Abuse, Incorporated. It is the most unsafe place in

America, for a child to be in a Planned Parenthood clinic.

I submit the *Coalfire Forensics Analysis Report* for the RECORD.

[Prepared by Coalfire Systems, Inc.,
Sept. 28, 2015]

DIGITAL FORENSICS ANALYSIS REPORT
(Delivered to Alliance Defending Freedom)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September, 2015, CGS, the prime contractor on behalf of Alliance Defending Freedom, engaged Coalfire Systems, Inc., the sub-contractor (hereinafter "Coalfire") to conduct a computer forensics analysis of certain raw video and audio data files. Coalfire's objectives for this project are to:

Forensically evaluate video and audio files provided by The Center for Medical Progress ("the Organization") through CGS ("raw" video and audio), and determine whether the raw video or audio content of the files have been edited or otherwise altered;

Compare the raw video and audio to certain files posted to YouTube ("Full Footage" videos and a "Supplemental" video) for the purpose of determining inconsistencies between the files.

The scope of Coalfire's analysis did not cover or include:

Validation of those individuals depicted in the video or audio, who recorded the video and audio files, the location where they were recorded, when they were recorded, or the purpose of the recordings;

Providing an opinion on the chain of custody prior to receipt of source materials by Coalfire;

Coalfire's analysis was limited to only the source materials received from the Organization and did not include interviews of participants in the videos or audio.

A flash drive containing recorded media was received via FedEx by Coalfire on September 17th, 2015, where it was examined using industry-standard forensic tools and techniques. The flash drive contained (i) a total of ten (10) videos with audio recorded on two (2) separate devices, and (ii) a total of eight (8) audio recordings made with two (2) audio-only devices.

Coalfire's analysis of the recorded media files contained on the flash drive indicates that the video recordings are authentic and show no evidence of manipulation or editing. This conclusion is supported by the consistency of the video file date and time stamps, the video timecode, as well as the folder and file naming scheme. The uniformity between the footage from the cameras from the two Investigators also support the evidence that the video recordings are authentic.

With regard to the "Full Footage" YouTube videos released by the Organization, edits made to these videos were applied to eliminate non-pertinent footage, including "commuting," "waiting," "adjusting recording equipment," "meals," or "restroom breaks," lacking pertinent conversation. Any discrepancies in the chronology of the timecodes are consistent with the intentional removal of this non-pertinent footage as described in this report.

Furthermore, four of the five raw video recordings, which also contained audio captured from the video recording device, are accompanied by a raw audio recording captured from a separate audio-only recording device. The raw audio-only recordings last for the duration of their associated raw videos. These raw audio recordings support the completeness and authenticity of the raw video recordings since they depict the same events within the same duration as captured from the two separate video recorders.

DIGITAL FORENSICS ANALYSIS REPORT OF VIDEO RECORDINGS BY THE CENTER FOR MEDICAL PROGRESS (CMP)

The Coalfire forensic analysis removes any doubt that the full length undercover videos released by Center for Medical Progress are authentic and have not been manipulated. Analysts scrutinized every second of video recorded during the investigation and released by CMP to date and found only bathroom breaks and other non-pertinent footage had been removed. Planned Parenthood can no longer hide behind a smokescreen of false accusations and should now answer for what appear to be the very real crimes revealed by the CMP investigation.—Casey Mattox, Senior Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom

American taxpayer money should be redirected to fund local community health centers and not subsidize a scandal-ridden, billion-dollar abortion business. Planned Parenthood is an organization that cares about one thing: making a profit at the expense of women's health. The investigative videos, whose authenticity was confirmed by the report, show that Planned Parenthood is an abortion-machine whose top executives and doctors haggle and joke about the harvesting and selling of baby body parts. Women deserve far better.—Kerri Kupec, Legal Communications Director, Alliance Defending Freedom

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Forensic analysis of CMP's recorded media files indicates that the video recordings are authentic and show no evidence of manipulation or editing.

The events depicted in the missing footage fell into five common categories: commuting, waiting, adjusting recording equipment, meals, and restroom breaks.

At each interview, four devices recorded conversations (two video recorders with microphones and two audio only devices). The recordings were cross-referenced and found to be consistent.

COALFIRE V. FUSION REPORT

The Coalfire report had access to every second of released audio and video investigative footage recorded by CMP and analyzed that footage to verify and authenticate all of the videos on the CMP YouTube page.

The Fusion report had access only to four full length videos released on YouTube between July 14 and August 4, and none of the source material.

The Coalfire report also confirmed that one segment of missing video highlighted by the Fusion Report was later uploaded in full to CMP's YouTube page.

Coalfire is an internationally recognized third-party digital security and forensics firm with experience providing evidence for civil and criminal investigations.

Fusion is a small company formed to develop material for Democratic party campaigns.

Both reports verify there is no evidence of fabrication or misrepresentative editing, nothing was dubbed or altered. Fusion's "analysis did not reveal widespread evidence of substantive video manipulation." Coalfire found the videos to be "authentic and show no evidence of manipulation or editing."

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank my good friend for her leadership and for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong opposition to this ironically titled bill,

Women's Public Health and Safety Act. Let's be honest. We all know that this bill in no way protects the health and safety of women. In fact, it does quite the opposite.

This bill is aimed squarely at restricting a woman's constitutionally protected freedom to make her own reproductive health choices. This bill is not based on facts. This bill is not based on the health needs of women. This bill is pure politics and ideologically driven.

It is shameful that Congress is considering a bill that would leave vulnerable women's access to comprehensive health care at the mercy of the extreme fringe of the far right.

This is another attempt to put politics between a woman and her doctor and a thinly veiled attempt to destroy a woman's right to choose. This bill is so vaguely worded and so broadly written that it will have devastating and far-reaching effects on women's health.

States would be allowed to exclude any provider, any entity, that has ever provided an abortion or has ever had any sort of association or involvement with an abortion. This bill puts women's lives in danger, and it is a chilling and a most dangerous precedent.

Madam Speaker, I urge a strong "no" vote. Instead, stand for a women's right to make her own personal health care choices.

Planned Parenthood should be celebrated, not demonized. It is the largest healthcare provider for vulnerable women in this great country of ours.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I would just remind the gentlewoman that abortion is not health care.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), a great leader in the pro-life movement.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, protecting innocent unborn lives is paramount to defining who we are as a people and as a nation. Killing innocent babies before they even have a chance at life is unconscionable, let alone turning around and selling the fetal tissue for profit.

Planned Parenthood is the Nation's largest provider of abortion. This abortion chain received \$1.2 billion of taxpayer money through Medicaid over a 3-year period. Planned Parenthood last reported that over \$500 million of their annual revenue comes from government funding. This is reprehensible.

No Federal dollars should go to any institution in the business of harvesting and selling baby parts of aborted children.

Can you imagine what people would say in this country if this practice occurred with our beloved pets? Most of us have cats and dogs. Would we stand for them to be killed and their body parts harvested and sold for profit?

Where is the outrage that this is happening to our country's babies, our unborn children?

I continue to fight to defund Planned Parenthood at the Federal level, and I encourage all State and local governments to also stop funding Planned Parenthood.

In light of the recent undercover videos, three States have attempted to end their Medicaid contracts with Planned Parenthood and the Obama administration said disqualifying Planned Parenthood because of its abortion business violated Federal Medicaid law.

Well, today's bill amends the Medicaid law to empower States with the ability to exclude abortion providers from Medicaid.

Given the horrific nature of the videos showing the shameful lengths that Planned Parenthood will go to in order to harvest and sell fetal organs, I am hopeful that each and every State would exercise this option.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, which is critical to the fight to protect innocent lives.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, another day, another attack by Republicans on women's health care in the House of Representatives. But this one is different. It goes beyond the typical attacks on women and endangers their health and the health of entire communities.

By holding Medicaid hostage, this bill seeks to intimidate doctors and hospitals into not providing a safe and constitutionally protected service.

□ 1445

I am appalled by how far Republicans are willing to go. The language in the bill is so vague that it would allow States to exclude entire providers from the Medicaid program. Minority and low-income women would be disproportionately impacted and would stand to lose access to critical health services like birth control and family planning.

It is time to stop the attacks. Women must be free to make their own healthcare choices in consultation with their doctors and without threats from Republican politicians in Washington, and we must have as one of those choices Planned Parenthood.

For many, it is the only place they can turn to for even the most basic care. Women—especially low-income women—turn to Planned Parenthood for affordable and dependable primary care services. They fill a vital gap that community health centers can't fill by themselves. We are all better off because of their cancer screenings, STI testing, and wellness exams.

Republicans are trying to hold our health care hostage by using baseless attacks to shut down Planned Parenthood, using heavily doctored videos. It is time to stop using health care as a weapon to bully women.

We must vote against this bill.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), another leader on this issue.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, look, this bill is very simple. This bill just says that States actually can be partners with the Federal Government and Medicaid. The Federal Government, the Secretary of HHS, doesn't get to tell a State which providers they think are inadequate—yes, inadequate.

Planned Parenthood is not a comprehensive health provider in my district. In the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, they closed the Planned Parenthood in April and said on the Web site: "You can get services Monday through Friday at the center in Easton, 45 minutes up the road."

Madam Speaker, if you go up the road today, they are closed. In fact, the center in Easton, funded with Federal dollars, is open 2 days a week. That clinic is empty the rest of the time. Federal dollars are paying for an empty clinic that doesn't deliver comprehensive care.

Madam Speaker, you may have heard somewhere that Planned Parenthood provides mammograms. Nonsense. Even Planned Parenthood executives say they don't have a mammogram machine in the entire system. They don't provide mammograms.

The only method for breast cancer screening that actually results in decreased deaths from breast cancer, the only method—mammograms—they don't even provide at Planned Parenthood. They say: Oh, but you can be referred.

Actually, Madam Speaker, the law is you don't need a referral for a mammogram screening. That is the law. You don't need a referral. Any woman can go get a mammogram screening as long as she is within the screening guidelines without a referral.

So exactly what is this magic that Planned Parenthood provides?

The gentlewoman from New York said it fills a gap that community health centers can't fill. Nonsense. Community health centers can provide mammograms. They can provide breast cancer screenings, cervical cancer screenings, contraceptives, birth control.

The only thing they don't do is they don't provide abortions outside the limits of the Hyde amendment, and they don't sell baby body parts.

Oh, that is right. I guess if selling baby body parts is what is important about women's health care, then you are right. You have got to go to a Planned Parenthood to get it. You can't get it at a community health center.

Remember, there are 13,000 community health centers providing the broad range, the truly broad range, of health care, not health care that you have to

leave, by the way. Maybe you approach some age, you are younger than some age, and you don't go to Planned Parenthood because it is not comprehensive care. Community health centers are. They were designed that way.

The Affordable Care Act I am no particular fan of. But the fact of the matter is it set these up to be truly comprehensive primary care centers. And there are 20 times as many as there are Planned Parenthoods.

And you know what? My community health center in my district, if you call today, they are actually open. If you call tomorrow, they are open. But Planned Parenthood isn't. If you call Thursday, Planned Parenthood is open for 7½ hours. My community health center is open 8½ hours. If you call Friday, you are out of luck with Planned Parenthood. Madam Speaker, we are paying Planned Parenthood to keep an empty office open that doesn't even provide comprehensive care in my clinic.

Now, the gentlewoman from New York said that, in this bill, you could not provide an abortion. That is nonsense. Read the bill. It says, as long as you provide abortions consistent with the Hyde amendment—that is a rape or incest exclusion or the life of the mother. In fact, the gentlewoman was wrong.

She said lives are threatened. No, Madam Speaker. If lives are threatened, specifically, this bill says the State can choose to fund that provider and can do that.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line is Planned Parenthood—there is only one thing that it does that you don't get—again, I will reiterate—that you don't get—in a community health center.

You can get an abortion usually at any stage of pregnancy for any reason, and you can get your baby's body parts sold in the trafficking of body parts that we saw in those films.

Are those films doctored? They are not doctored. Anyone can go look on the Web site. They are raw footage. People are talking about a Lamborghini from the profits of baby body parts. If that isn't repulsive to us, what is? All this bill does is it allows States to defund that.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to point out that the gentleman is absolutely correct. Planned Parenthood does not provide mammograms. They do provide breast cancer screenings.

But under this bill, if there is a hospital or a clinic that does provide mammograms and they also provide abortions, well, then, the States could prevent funding.

So, ironically, under the terms of this bill up for discussion today, mammograms could be prevented. I don't think that is the intention of the rider of this bill.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), a senior

member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague from Colorado for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3495, the so-called Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

Women's health care is more than mammograms. I know at the Planned Parenthood in my district over 80 percent of the care they provide is for women's health and not abortion.

This bill would give States the right to exclude a healthcare provider who performs abortion care from their Medicaid program.

Medicaid provides premium care to millions of low-income women and families alike. Excluding providers from Medicaid without cause is another ill-masked attempt to impede reproductive rights.

This bill, as it is named, is claiming to provide safe public health care for women. By excluding quality healthcare providers, such as Planned Parenthood, the quality of available services will drop. As a result, women's health will be detrimentally harmed.

That was proved in a study by a Texas agency after 2011. This is yet one more attempt to defund Planned Parenthood which, if successful, would hurt millions of women in communities across the country.

H.R. 3495 is contradictory to the views of the majority of Americans. Three out of four American women support publicly funded family planning centers and believe these centers have a positive impact on public health.

By passing this bill, we are harming the millions of women who rely on publicly funded family planning care. I urge my colleagues to vote against this damaging bill.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, despite its puffed-up name, this bill has nothing to do with protecting women's health or safety. The bill the Republicans pass today would cut off access to health care for millions of American families who rely on Medicaid.

This bill would cut off Medicaid reimbursement for any service, Planned Parenthood or any doctor or hospital or clinic or local health center that performs or is involved in any way with abortions.

If this bill passes, a woman seeking prenatal care for a planned pregnancy could suddenly be cut off from her doctor if that doctor also provides abortion services or even referral to abortion services.

A child with a life-threatening illness could be turned away from his hospital

because the hospital chair expressed views supportive of abortion.

A senior citizen with a chronic illness could suddenly find his or her prescription lapsed with no way to refill it because his or her doctor is somehow involved with abortion.

My colleagues continue to insist that this bill won't interrupt care, that these families, children, and seniors will just see different doctors, will go to different hospitals.

How many of my colleagues have ever been on Medicaid? How many of them have ever been turned away by a doctor or told they have to wait months for an appointment because the doctor simply cannot afford to accept any more Medicaid patients?

This bill would dramatically worsen the shortage of Medicaid doctors and lengthen wait times for patients, putting more people at risk and increasing healthcare costs in the long term. If their overarching goal is dismantling Medicaid as we know it, this bill is a strong first step.

If we really want to talk about a culture of life, we should be bringing bills to the floor to encourage more doctors to serve in high-need areas to give every child access to the highest quality health care.

We should be talking about increasing funding for WIC and SNAP to make sure parents, babies, and children aren't going to bed hungry at night.

We should be talking about expanding education programs that target low-income students. We should be talking about funding public housing programs to provide stability to families.

We should be talking about lowering student loan debt to ensure parents can give their kids every opportunity without a crushing burden of debt.

What we should not be doing is cutting doctors and hospitals and clinics and community healthcare centers out of Medicaid and putting more lives at risk.

This bill is just another blatant attempt to intimidate doctors and hospitals into ending abortion services. Under the guise of promoting life, this bill puts more lives at risk.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BERA).

Mr. BERA. I thank my colleague from Colorado.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to another bill restricting women's access to health care. The so-called Women's Public Health and Safety Act is not about public health, and it is certainly not about safety.

This is a bill that takes away individual rights. It is a bill that would significantly restrict a woman's access to health care, where they want to go.

This is fundamentally about individual rights and an individual's ability to choose where they want to get health care. It is another example of politicians coming into the exam room and making decisions.

Now, my colleagues on the right, Madam Speaker, often will say they want to stand for individual rights. Well, Planned Parenthood has not broken any laws, to my knowledge.

If an individual patient wants to go get their care at Planned Parenthood, that is their right. Planned Parenthood is providing access to care. They are doing exactly what their name says: planning and helping families decide when they are ready to start a family, planning parenthood. We should be protecting that fundamental individual right.

As a doctor, I find it offensive when the government comes into my exam room and tells patients what they can and cannot do. Fundamentally to the practice of medicine, I have to answer my patients' questions, empower them to make the choices that they want to, and let them make those choices.

Again, patients should be able to choose their provider. Congress should not be picking and choosing who people can go see. This is about individual rights and preserving that right.

I am proud to stand with Planned Parenthood. I am proud to fight to preserve those individual rights. As a doctor, we have got to protect access to care.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today we are debating H.R. 3495, which should be called the Yet Another Radical Republican Assault on Women's Health Care Act.

This bill undermines the long-standing Freedom of Choice providers provision of the Medicaid statute that protects the rights of Medicare patients to seek care from any willing, qualified provider.

This bill contains language that is so broad that it gives States unchecked authority to deny access to any providers it defines as participating in the performance of abortion.

This bill is the latest in a long line of radical Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and deny women access to the high-quality health care services it provides.

Madam Speaker, here are the facts:

Each year Planned Parenthood provides essential care to 2.7 million men and women. One in five American women have visited Planned Parenthood at least once.

There are 1.5 million young people and adults who participate in Planned Parenthood's educational programs on reproductive health.

Each year 700 Planned Parenthood clinics across the United States provide 900,000 cancer screenings to help detect cervical and breast cancer, 400,000 Pap tests, and 500,000 breast exams.

□ 1500

Madam Speaker, the cruel irony of this bill is that if it becomes law, these services, not abortion services, will be put at risk because Planned Parenthood is already prohibited from using Federal funds to provide abortion services except in very limited circumstances. In providing the critical services I just described, Planned Parenthood saves lives.

Madam Speaker, I want to close by noting the very articulate and powerful testimony that Cecile Richards offered in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee today. It was disturbing that so many Members of this Chamber treated her with such condescension and disrespect.

At some point, Madam Speaker, the Republican Party will need to end this war on women and recognize that the question of whether women have a right to make their own healthcare decisions is a matter of settled law, and threatening to shut down the government unless we agree to deny millions of women access to high-quality health care is reckless and irresponsible.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman from Colorado for her leadership, and I thank the gentleman, Mr. PITTS, because in actuality this is not a debate on people's conscience and what you believe in. It is a debate and a question of the law.

First of all, the underlying legislation that we have before us is likely to be ruled unconstitutional, and it is likely to be so because it meets the very four corners of why the Supreme Court ruled the Texas law to be unconstitutional, and I venture to say that this bill was a copy of the Texas law.

In 2014 and 2015, the Texas legislators tried to stop reproductive healthcare clinics by requiring them to have a hospital-style surgery center building and staffing requirements, leaving only seven clinics to provide health care, the same thing where they threatened the same kind of thing which would only leave 10 healthcare providers. Guess what, Madam Speaker; in 2014 and 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled it unconstitutional and stopped the legislature in their tracks. That is what is going to happen to this legislation as well.

Let me be very clear: Planned Parenthood does not engage in selling body parts. Yes, as under the law, they do deal with fetal tissue research, which has saved millions of lives.

Under the 1993 NIH Revitalization Act, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly acquire, receive, or otherwise transfer any human fetal tissue for valuable consideration if the transfer affects interstate commerce. They do not do this. The reason I know that is there has been no Department of Justice investigation, no Health and Human Services investigation, and, in actuality, Mr. Daleiden, who is not the FBI and not the Department of Justice, has, in fact, engaged in a deleterious, dastardly, and deceitful investigation, even stealing—stealing—the ID of one of his fellow high school students.

So I am against this bill, and I am against it for the good things that Planned Parenthood does. For example, in my State, there are 38 clinics; 150,000 young women are being served, 108,000 on contraceptives, and others are STI.

Let me finish, Madam Speaker, by saying mammograms are not done in your doctor's office. You get a referral, and you go to a place where you can get a mammogram with a radiologist.

If we would only discuss facts, we would know that the underlying bill should be opposed. I oppose it, and I ask my colleagues to oppose it.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Rule and the underlying bill.

I strongly oppose this latest attempt by the Republican House majority to undermine women's rights.

Despite its title, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act," H.R. 3495 is nothing more than the latest string of attacks on women's health.

Instead of wasting time fueling politically-charged attacks on health care services for women, and attempting to roll back women's constitutionally protected rights, this House should be advancing legislation that will reform our broken immigration and criminal justice systems.

And as we approach yet another deadline for piecemeal fiscal fixes, we should be focused on passing a comprehensive and cost-savings budget.

Yet, we are here today debating a bill that threatens millions of American's access to preventative care and could end up costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars if enacted.

However, we know this bill will not become law given the President's clear Statement of Administrative Policy issued yesterday to veto this measure.

As such, HR 3495 is simply being offered here today as a shameless political decoy to attack the legal rights of women.

If enacted, H.R. 3495 would give states unchecked power to exclude women's health care providers from participating in Medicaid.

Hampering women's health and safety, this bill would enable states that are hostile to women's right to abortion, and to Planned Parenthood, to freely target women's health care providers for exclusion from Medicaid.

The United States Supreme Court ruled over 40 years ago, in *Roe v. Wade* (410 U.S. 113 (1973)), that a woman's constitutional right to privacy includes her right to abortion.

Since this landmark decision, abortion rates and risks have substantially declined, as have the number of teen and unwanted pregnancies.

However, politicians continue to try to sneak around the Constitution and four decades of Supreme Court precedent with sham laws that do nothing to improve women's health care and only make it more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain safe and legal abortion.

Restricting all access to reproductive and women's health services only exacerbates a woman's risk of an unintended pregnancy and fails to accomplish any meaningful overthrow of *Roe v. Wade*.

In recent years, state policymakers have passed hundreds of restrictions on abortion care under the guise of protecting women's health and safety.

Fights here in Congress have been no different.

In my state of Texas a law that would have cut off access to 75 percent of reproductive healthcare clinics in the state was challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014 and 2015.

On October 2, 2014, the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional a Texas law that required that all reproductive healthcare clinics that provided the full range of services would be required to have a hospital-style surgery center building and staffing requirements.

This requirement meant that only 7 clinics would be allowed to continue to provide a full spectrum of reproductive healthcare to women.

Any woman facing an unintended pregnancy needs to be able to make her own decisions and weigh all her options—and these laws take those options away.

Texas has 268,580 square miles, only second in size to the state of Alaska.

The impact of the law in implementation would have ended access to reproductive services for millions of women in my state.

In 2015, the State of Texas once again threatened women's access to reproductive health care when it attempted to shutter all but 10 healthcare providers in the state of Texas.

The Supreme Court once again intervened on the behalf of Texas women to block the move to close clinics in my state.

It seems every month we are faced with a new attack on women's access to reproductive health care, often couched in deceptive terms and concern for women's health and safety.

And in fact we are here today supposedly to talk about the safety of women—But we know that's not really the case.

If my colleagues were so concerned about women's health and safety, they would be promoting any one of the number of evidence-based proactive policies that improve women's health and well-being.

Instead, they are proposing yet another attempt to ban abortion.

That is their number one priority. This is certainly not about protecting women's health, it's about politics.

We must separate the personal views of abortion from the legal issues and fundamental constitutional rights.

Undisputable, every woman has the constitutional right to make personal health care decisions so basic that it must be equally protected for all.

Yet, this bill provides an outright pathway to discriminate against poor and minority women.

H.R. 3495 would give states broad discretion to exclude any person, institution, agency or entity that "performs or participates in the performance of abortions" from participating in Medicaid.

According to policy experts and advocates, such as the ACLU and National Partnership for Women and Families, this extreme measure would mean that not only would all such women's health care providers be cut out of Medicaid, but states could also attempt to use it to eliminate a wide range of other health care providers, with serious and devastating consequences for low-income patients.

Restricting access to women's reproductive health care providers makes it increasingly difficult—and sometimes impossible—for women who have decided to end a pregnancy to get the safe, legal, high-quality care they need.

The result is not the elimination of abortions, but higher costs, longer delays, and extra steps for women seeking abortion care, and in the process punish women for their decision to exercise their constitutional right to end a pregnancy.

History tells us that unsafe and late-term abortions did not cease to exist without adequate access to clinical service. Rather, the exact opposite—as we know limited and restricted access only leads to unsafe and dangerous practices.

Today, countless women in states like Texas and Mississippi, Wisconsin, Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana—where state laws are already gravely impacting women's access to health care providers—women are being forced to travel upwards of hundreds of miles or cross state lines to access their constitutional right to an abortion.

These restrictions create sharp disparities in access to care that are troublingly reminiscent of the time before *Roe v. Wade*, when access depended on a woman's social status, where she lived or her ability to travel to another state.

In an effort to undermine what they could not otherwise overturn, politicians are attempting to "turn back the clock" to the pre-*Roe* era by shuttering reproductive health care clinics and cutting off women's access to safe and legal abortion care.

Yet, far too many women who cannot afford to travel elsewhere will face an impossible choice between carrying an unintended pregnancy to term or seeking drastic options outside the law.

A right that only exists on paper is no right at all.

Simply, restricting a women's right and access to legal abortion services discriminately endangers the lives of women.

Congress should be doing everything it can to ensure that women have access to preventative care, not eliminating it.

This is a legislative assault on all progressive health care, service, and advocacy organizations who aim to provide vital care and services to women and men across this country.

Hundreds of thousands have already spoken up, including leading groups and communities such as the growing voice of our millennial generation.

For instance, the nearly 60,000 OB-GYN physicians and partners in women's health warn that this bill would scare providers away from providing comprehensive, compassionate care to women, in a time where America desperately needs more ob-gyns participating in Medicaid programs.

Physicians and experts in the field have long argued that these damaging measures serve no medical purpose, interfere in the doctor/patient relationship, and do nothing to promote women's health.

My colleagues should not be closing the door to health care services.

Rather, my colleagues should be doing more to connect our youth and women to services that help them reduce their risk of unintended pregnancies and STD's, and improve their overall health through preventative screenings, education and planning, and not restricting their access to lawfully entitled family planning and private health services.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, there has been a lot of talk here about a bill that is only two pages long. You have heard a lot of talk about and a lot of misstatements of fact about Planned Parenthood. But guess what; this bill is really about giving the States the ability to hurt women, and it never even mentions Planned Parenthood. It never mentions any of the procedures that you have heard about here on the floor. It merely gives the States the ability to wipe out clinics that serve women.

So it isn't about abortion procedures. It isn't about Planned Parenthood. It is about taking away access to health care. This bill gives the authority to States to cut off all of those services if they specialize in health care for women.

When is this war on women going to stop? Your party ought to be ashamed of its reputation in this country now that it is really taking on women on all issues. So on behalf of my wife, my daughter, and my granddaughter, who will need access to women's services—hopefully not abortion, but if necessary, maybe—I would hope that this war on women would stop and that all of us would vote against it.

Oppose this legislation.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have heard a lot of emotion today, Madam Speaker, and a lot of ideas and ugly things being thrown around, but as a lawyer with legal training, I did something radical. I actually read this bill. It didn't take me very long, because, as Mr. FARR pointed out, it is only two pages long.

I want to talk about what this bill would really do because this bill would

do far, far more than its proponents claim that it would do.

Let me say, first of all, there is no Federal money that is spent on abortion in most cases in the United States. This has been the law of the land for a long time. I disagree with that law because I think it limits full reproductive health for women who can least afford it, but that is the law of the land.

So what are we talking about here? What we are talking about is States being able to deny money to anybody who is directly or indirectly involved with abortion services with nongovernmental money, with private money from women and their family, with insurance money, with nongovernmental money.

So here is how this bill would work. A State could decide that, if a hospital provided abortions with nongovernment money, it simply wasn't going to authorize State money or Medicaid money to that hospital. I don't mean just Medicaid money for women's services; I mean all Medicaid money or State money, all money for services.

This bill could say that an OB-GYN who has co-privileges at a hospital that provides abortion could now not serve any—any—Medicaid patients. This bill would say that a doctor who provides services at a neighborhood healthcare clinic who has privileges at a hospital that provides abortion could now be banned from taking Medicaid patients. That is how broad this bill is written.

Madam Speaker, what this would do is it would allow States to terminate all government funds to any entity that directly or indirectly provides abortions with nongovernment dollars.

So what would this do? Well, 72 million people in this country are on Medicaid right now. These people are men, these people are women, and these people are children. These people are people who take women's medical services and those who don't need them. These 72 million Americans risk the loss of all of their healthcare services under Medicaid because of this radical bill.

Now, okay, let's say that won't really happen. Let's say that is just an overbroad interpretation of the bill. So then our colleagues on the other side say, well, let's just limit ourselves to community health centers. If we use this bill to deny funding for Planned Parenthood, everyone will go to community health centers. Let's see how that would work.

Right now, we have 24 million patients in this country in community health centers. The community health centers themselves tell us, for every one of those 24 million patients they are taking, right now they are turning away seven people. So we have 4.2 million Planned Parenthood patients. Let's say those 4.2 Planned Parenthood patients decide to go to the community health clinics. That is not going to work.

They tried this in Louisiana. In Louisiana, a Federal judge found there would be 29 providers for 5,000 women to get healthcare services. That is untenable, that is unacceptable, and it puts our Nation's women's health at risk.

Listen, since we have been debating this bill today, we are 1 hour closer to a government shutdown, and we have done nothing to make sure we are not going to do that. I would suggest that we refocus our efforts, that we stop beating up Planned Parenthood, that we stop beating up women's health, that we get together collectively and we say: How are we going to keep this government open? How are we going to work together to make sure every man and woman in this country has a good job, good health insurance, and that they can provide for their families? That is what we are elected to do, and that is what I commit myself to do on behalf of this body.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have heard lots of arguments here on the floor. We have heard about abortion being a healthcare issue. Abortion is not a healthcare issue. Abortion is the most violent form of death known to mankind: death by dismemberment and decapitation. It is horrific.

These video clips that we have seen show the graphic nature of what they are doing to these little unborn babies in Planned Parenthood clinics and the harvesting of their body parts.

You call that humane? It is horrific. It is barbaric.

Why is this bill necessary? Currently, CMS is bullying States, telling them they must include providers of elective abortions in their Medicaid programs. This bill empowers States with the needed flexibility to design their Medicaid programs in a manner that is consistent with pro-life values in a State.

The gentleman talked about patients. Well, a lot of unborn babies are treated as patients in their mother's womb. One lady talked about, what about individual rights? Well, what about the rights of these little patients in the womb?

Madam Speaker, this bill merely gives States the flexibility to choose to establish criteria regarding the participation in its Medicaid program of entities or persons who perform or participate in the performance of elective abortions.

Under this bill, low-income women and men will still have access to more than 13,000 federally qualified health centers in rural health center sites, in addition to at least 1,200 private and free charitable clinics. In contrast, Planned Parenthood has some 665 clinics. They can find health care near them because these federally qualified

and rural health centers are 20 to every 1 Planned Parenthood clinic.

We have the list of the Members here. Some of the Members who have spoken may have one Planned Parenthood clinic. They may have 56, 44—the list varies—community health centers who would get that redistributed money and provide real health care, as Dr. HARRIS said.

This bill gives States the flexibility to design their Medicaid programs in a manner they choose to serve their Medicaid patients. So I strongly urge support for H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 3495 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as Congress works to defund the nation's largest abortion provider—Planned Parenthood,

Following a number of undercover videos revealing potential baby part sales,

It is only right that we allow states to defund abortion providers as well.

If the governor of a state believes that funding these organizations goes against the will of the people, they should be permitted to do so.

That includes funding through Medicaid.

H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act bill simply gives states the flexibility to do just that.

Women should receive the best healthcare, But they should not be put at risk, along with their unborn children, by organizations who are driven by profit.

The federal government and state governments should not be forced to have blood on their hands.

We do not need to fund Planned Parenthood, which killed over 327,000 babies in 2013 alone.

And states do not need to do this either.

Instead, we should be sending this money to health centers that truly have the patients in mind.

How many more Planned Parenthood scandals do we need before they are cut off from federal and state dollars?

How many more mothers will be lied to and babies killed as a result of continued funding?

Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers, for that matter, must be defunded.

It is our role to protect the most vulnerable among us—

Unborn children and mothers and families in crisis alike.

I urge a YES vote on H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 444, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Speaker, I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Sinema moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3495 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in the amendments made by this Act shall be construed as prohibiting health care services from being provided to a woman by an institution, agency, entity, or person, so long as such services are provided to protect the health of the woman.

Mr. PITTS (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

□ 1515

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Speaker, this motion to recommit is the final amendment to the bill. It will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If this amendment is adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

This motion is straightforward and commonsense. The motion ensures that nothing in this bill prohibits a woman's access to healthcare services. This amendment protects the health of American women.

I believe a woman's personal healthcare decisions should be decided by the woman, her family, and her doctor. Women and their families should be able to make these decisions free from government interference.

Despite our political differences, protecting the health, safety, and independence of American women is something that most of us in this Chamber can readily support. It is what the American people want and believe.

The American people and people in my home State of Arizona want Congress to put aside partisanship and focus on solving our country's great challenges. They want Congress to focus on growing our economy, creating opportunity for hardworking families, making college affordable, reforming the VA, and strengthening our

military and national security. The list goes on and on.

It is no surprise that Republicans and Democrats alike think that Congress is a mess, but Congress doesn't have to be a mess. Congress can produce results when it puts partisanship aside and works for the American people.

Earlier this year, we worked together to find a real solution to the long-term challenge of reimbursing doctors through Medicaid. We replaced the SGR and protected seniors' access to health care. That is the kind of success we can achieve for the American people if we work together.

We also worked together to help prevent veteran suicide and improve access to mental health care for veterans. The Clay Hunt SAV Act, which passed with the support of every Member of Congress, is an important step toward ending the epidemic of veteran suicide in our country. That is the kind of work we can do for our veterans when we work together.

We worked together to pass the 21st Century Cures Act to encourage biomedical innovation and the development of lifesaving treatments and cures. This creative, bipartisan approach cuts through red tape, allowing innovators to focus on lifesaving discoveries rather than government bureaucracy. These are the solutions we can create when we work together.

Last night, we passed the PACE Act, which enables employees at small- and medium-sized businesses to keep their health insurance plans. This is the kind of bipartisan work we can accomplish.

If we work together, we can get things done for the American people. We can find a long-term sustainable solution to funding our highways and infrastructure; we can pass a budget that creates jobs and opportunity, grows our economy, and improves our national security; and we can reform our broken Tax Code so it provides certainty, encourages job growth, and enables us to compete on a global scale.

Instead, I've watched Congress fight once again in a partisan way, without a bipartisan solution on the horizon. This is not what Arizonans want. It is not what the American people want.

I offer this motion today to stand for something we all agree on, protecting the health of women, and I ask my colleagues to support this reasonable motion.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today, under the Obama administration's interpretation of Federal statute, States are forced to include in their Medicaid program providers who perform elective abortions, whether they like it or not.

The Women's Public Health and Safety Act is a commonsense measure that would allow a State to choose to establish criteria regarding the participation in its Medicaid program of entities or persons who perform or participate in the performance of elective abortions.

Unlike what some Members on the other side of the aisle have said, this bill will not harm women's access to health care. Rather, this gives States more tools to design a Medicaid program that fully serves low-income women and men.

The Women's Public Health and Safety Act would put States back in the driver's seat and let each State design their Medicaid program in a manner that best meets the needs and respects the choices and values of the people within their States.

This bill should be supported by every Member who believes the States should be strong, full partners in the operation of the Medicaid program. If State taxpayers do not want to include abortion providers in their Medicaid program, they should not be forced to include them.

I urge the Members strongly to vote "no" on the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1545

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER) at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3614. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the order of the House of today, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit on H.R. 3495; and

Passage of H.R. 3495, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Any remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

WOMEN'S PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 3495) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions, offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 242, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 523]

YEAS—184

Adams	Castor (FL)	DelBene
Aguilar	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Ashford	Chu, Judy	Deutch
Bass	Cicilline	Dingell
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Doyle, Michael
Bera	Clay	F.
Beyer	Cleaver	Duckworth
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Edwards
Blumenauer	Cohen	Ellison
Bonamici	Connolly	Engel
Boyle, Brendan	Conyers	Eshoo
F.	Cooper	Esty
Brady (PA)	Costa	Farr
Brown (FL)	Courtney	Fattah
Brownley (CA)	Crowley	Foster
Bustos	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Butterfield	Cummings	Fudge
Capps	Davis (CA)	Gabbard
Capuano	Davis, Danny	Gallego
Cardenas	DeFazio	Garamendi
Carney	DeGette	Graham
Carson (IN)	Delaney	Grayson
Cartwright	DeLauro	Green, Al

Green, Gene	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda
Grijalva	Maloney,	T.
Gutiérrez	Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta
Hahn	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
Hastings	Matsui	Schakowsky
Heck (WA)	McCollum	Schiff
Higgins	McDermott	Schrader
Himes	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Hinojosa	McNerney	Scott, David
Honda	Meeks	Serrano
Hoyer	Meng	Sewell (AL)
Huffman	Moore	Sherman
Israel	Moulton	Sinema
Jackson Lee	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Jeffries	Nadler	Slaughter
Johnson (GA)	Napolitano	Smith (WA)
Johnson, E. B.	Neal	Speier
Kaptur	Nolan	Swalwell (CA)
Keating	Norcross	Takai
Kennedy	O'Rourke	Takano
Kildee	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Kilmer	Pascrell	Thompson (MS)
Kind	Payne	Titus
Kirkpatrick	Pelosi	Tonko
Kuster	Perlmutter	Torres
Langevin	Peters	Tsongas
Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Van Hollen
Lawrence	Pocan	Vargas
Lee	Polis	Veasey
Levin	Price (NC)	Vela
Lewis	Quigley	Velázquez
Lieu, Ted	Rangel	Visclosky
Loeback	Rice (NY)	Walz
Lofgren	Richmond	Wasserman
Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard	Schultz
Lowe	Ruiz	Waters, Maxine
Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger	Watson Coleman
(NM)	Rush	Welch
Lujan, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)	Wilson (FL)
(NM)		Yarmuth

NAYS—242

Abraham	Donovan	Jolly
Aderholt	Duffy	Jones
Allen	Duncan (SC)	Jordan
Amash	Duncan (TN)	Joyce
Amodeli	Ellmers (NC)	Katko
Babin	Emmer (MN)	Kelly (MS)
Barletta	Farenthold	Kelly (PA)
Barr	Fincher	King (IA)
Barton	Fitzpatrick	King (NY)
Benishek	Fleischmann	Kinzinger (IL)
Bilirakis	Fleming	Kline
Bishop (MI)	Flores	Knight
Bishop (UT)	Forbes	Labrador
Black	Fortenberry	LaHood
Blackburn	Fox	LaMalfa
Blum	Franks (AZ)	Lamborn
Bost	Frelinghuysen	Lance
Boustany	Garrett	Latta
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Lipinski
Brat	Gibson	LoBiondo
Bridenstine	Gohmert	Long
Brooks (AL)	Goodlatte	Loudermilk
Brooks (IN)	Gosar	Love
Buchanan	Gowdy	Lucas
Buck	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	Lummis
Burgess	Graves (LA)	MacArthur
Byrne	Graves (MO)	Marchant
Calvert	Griffith	Marino
Carter (GA)	Grothman	Massie
Carter (TX)	Guinta	McCarthy
Chabot	Guthrie	McCaul
Chaffetz	Hanna	McClintock
Clawson (FL)	Hardy	McHenry
Coffman	Harper	McKinley
Cole	Harris	McMorris
Collins (GA)	Hartzler	Rodgers
Collins (NY)	Heck (NV)	McSally
Conaway	Hensarling	Meadows
Cook	Herrera Beutler	Meehan
Costello (PA)	Hice, Jody B.	Messer
Cramer	Hill	Mica
Crawford	Holding	Miller (FL)
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Miller (MI)
Culberson	Huizenga (MI)	Moolenaar
Curbelo (FL)	Hultgren	Mooney (WV)
Davis, Rodney	Hunter	Mullin
Denham	Hurd (TX)	Mulvaney
Dent	Issa	Murphy (PA)
DeSantis	Jenkins (KS)	Neugebauer
DesJarlais	Jenkins (WV)	Newhouse
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Noem
Dold	Johnson, Sam	Nugent

Nunes	Ross	Trott	Crawford	King (NY)	Rigell	Higgins	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
Olson	Rothfus	Turner	Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Roby	Himes	Matsui	Schakowsky
Palazzo	Rouzer	Upton	Culberson	Kline	Roe (TN)	Hinojosa	McCollum	Schiff
Palmer	Royce	Valadao	Davis, Rodney	Knight	Rogers (AL)	Honda	McDermott	Schrader
Paulsen	Russell	Wagner	Labrador	LaHood	Rogers (KY)	Hoyer	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Pearce	Ryan (WI)	Walberg	DeSantis	LaHood	Rohrabacher	Huffman	McNerney	Scott, David
Perry	Salmon	Walden	DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Rokita	Israel	Meeks	Serrano
Peterson	Sanford	Walker	Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Rooney (FL)	Jackson Lee	Meng	Sewell (AL)
Pittenger	Scalise	Walorski	Duffy	Lance	Ros-Lehtinen	Jeffries	Moore	Sherman
Pitts	Schweikert	Walters, Mimi	Duncan (SC)	Latta	Roskam	Johnson (GA)	Moulton	Sinema
Poe (TX)	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Lipinski	Ross	Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Poliquin	Sensenbrenner	Webster (FL)	Ellmers (NC)	LoBiondo	Rothfus	Jolly	Nadler	Slaughter
Pompeo	Sessions	Wenstrup	Emmer (MN)	Long	Rouzer	Kaptur	Napolitano	Smith (WA)
Posey	Shinkus	Westerman	Farenthold	Loudermilk	Royce	Katko	Neal	Speier
Ratcliffe	Shuster	Westmoreland	Fincher	Love	Russell	Keating	Nolan	Stefanik
Renacci	Simpson	Whitfield	Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Ryan (WI)	Kennedy	Norcross	Swalwell (CA)
Ribble	Smith (MO)	Williams	Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Salmon	Kildee	O'Rourke	Takai
Rice (SC)	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)	Fleming	Lummis	Sanford	Kilmer	Pallone	Takano
Rigell	Smith (NJ)	Wittman	Flores	MacArthur	Scalise	Kind	Pascarell	Thompson (CA)
Roby	Smith (TX)	Womack	Forbes	Marchant	Schweikert	Kirkpatrick	Payne	Thompson (MS)
Roe (TN)	Stefanik	Woodall	Fortenberry	Marino	Scott, Austin	Kuster	Pelosi	Titus
Rogers (AL)	Stewart	Yoder	Fox	Massie	Sensenbrenner	Langevin	Perlmutter	Tonko
Rogers (KY)	Stivers	Yoho	Franks (AZ)	McCarthy	Sessions	Larsen (WA)	Peters	Torres
Rohrabacher	Stutzman	Young (AK)	Frelinghuysen	McCaul	Shinkus	Lawrence	Pingree	Tsongas
Rokita	Thompson (PA)	Young (IA)	Garrett	McClintock	Shuster	Lee	Pocan	Van Hollen
Rooney (FL)	Thornberry	Young (IN)	Gibbs	McHenry	Simpson	Levin	Polis	Vargas
Ros-Lehtinen	Tiberi	Zeldin	Gohmert	McKinley	Smith (MO)	Lewis	Price (NC)	Vela
Roskam	Tipton	Zinke	Goodlatte	McMorris	Smith (NE)	Lieu, Ted	Quigley	Veasey
			Gosar	Rodgers	Smith (NJ)	Loeb	Rangel	Vela
			Gowdy	McSally	Smith (TX)	Lofgren	Rice (NY)	Velázquez
			Granger	Meadows	Stewart	Lowenthal	Richmond	Visclosky
			Graves (GA)	Meehan	Stivers	Lowe	Roybal-Allard	Walz
			Graves (LA)	Messer	Stutzman	Lujan Grisham	Ruiz	Wasserman
			Graves (MO)	Mica	Thompson (PA)	(NM)	Ruppersberger	Schultz
			Griffith	Miller (FL)	Thornberry	Lujan, Ben Ray	Rush	Waters, Maxine
			Grothman	Miller (MI)	Tiberi	(NM)	Ryan (OH)	Watson Coleman
			Guinta	Mooney (WV)	Tipton	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda	Welch
			Guthrie	Mullin	Trott	Maloney,	T.	Wilson (FL)
			Hardy	Mulvaney	Turner	Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta	Yarmuth
			Harper	Neugebauer	Upton			
			Harris	Newhouse	Valadao			
			Hartzler	Noem	Wagner			
			Heck (NV)	Nugent	Walberg			
			Hensarling	Nunes	Walden			
			Herrera Beutler	Olson	Walker			
			Hice, Jody B.	Palazzo	Walorski			
			Hill	Palmer	Walters, Mimi			
			Holding	Paulsen	Weber (TX)			
			Huelskamp	Pearce	Webster (FL)			
			Huizenga (MI)	Perry	Wenstrup			
			Hultgren	Peterson	Westerman			
			Hunter	Pittenger	Westmoreland			
			Hurd (TX)	Pitts	Whitfield			
			Hurt (VA)	Poe (TX)	Williams			
			Issa	Poliquin	Wilson (SC)			
			Jenkins (KS)	Pompeo	Wittman			
			Jenkins (WV)	Posey	Womack			
			Johnson (OH)	Price, Tom	Woodall			
			Johnson, Sam	Ratcliffe	Yoder			
			Jones	Reed	Yoho			
			Jordan	Renacci	Young (AK)			
			Joyce	Ribble	Young (IA)			
			Kelly (MS)	Rice (SC)	Young (IN)			
			Kelly (PA)		Zeldin			
			King (IA)		Zinke			

NOT VOTING—8

Comstock	Kelly (IL)	Reed
Hudson	Larson (CT)	Reichert
Hurt (VA)	Price, Tom	

□ 1618

Messrs. FORBES, DUNCAN of South Carolina, ROGERS of Alabama, DESJARLAIS, WEBSTER of Florida, and SMITH of Missouri changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. QUIGLEY, POCAN, and GRAYSON changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I was not present for roll call vote No. 523 on the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3495, the Women's Public Health and Safety Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 236, noes 193, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 524]

AYES—236

Abraham	Blackburn	Calvert
Aderholt	Blum	Carter (GA)
Allen	Bost	Carter (TX)
Amash	Boustany	Chabot
Amodel	Brady (TX)	Chaffetz
Babin	Brat	Clawson (FL)
Barletta	Bridenstine	Coffman
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Cole
Barton	Brooks (IN)	Collins (GA)
Benishek	Buchanan	Collins (NY)
Bilirakis	Buck	Conaway
Bishop (MI)	Bucshon	Cook
Bishop (UT)	Burgess	Costello (PA)
Black	Byrne	Cramer

NOES—193

Adams	Clark (MA)	Donovan
Aguilar	Clarke (NY)	Doyle, Michael
Ashford	Clay	F.
Bass	Cleaver	Duckworth
Beatty	Clyburn	Edwards
Becerra	Cohen	Ellison
Bera	Connolly	Engel
Beyer	Conyers	Eshoo
Bishop (GA)	Cooper	Esty
Blumenauer	Costa	Farr
Bonamici	Courtney	Fattah
Boyle, Brendan	Crowley	Foster
F.	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Brady (PA)	Cummings	Fudge
Brown (FL)	Curbelo (FL)	Gabbard
Brownley (CA)	Davis (CA)	Gallego
Bustos	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Butterfield	DeFazio	Gibson
Capps	DeGette	Graham
Capuano	Delaney	Grayson
Cardenas	DeLauro	Green, Al
Carney	DelBene	Green, Gene
Carson (IN)	Dent	Grijalva
Cartwright	DeSaulnier	Gutiérrez
Castor (FL)	Deutch	Hahn
Castro (TX)	Dingell	Hanna
Chu, Judy	Doggett	Hastings
Cicilline	Dold	Heck (WA)

NOT VOTING—5

Comstock	Kelly (IL)	Reichert
Hudson	Larson (CT)	

□ 1627

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2015—I was not present for rollcall votes 521, 522, 523, and 524. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: “nay” on rollcall vote 521, “nay” on rollcall vote 522, “yea” on rollcall vote 523, “nay” on rollcall vote 524.

□ 1630

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. THORNBERRY submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 114-270)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for

other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016”.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **DIVISIONS.**—This Act is organized into four divisions as follows:

(1) **Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.**

(2) **Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.**

(3) **Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.**

(4) **Division D—Funding Tables.**

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees.

Sec. 4. Budgetary effects of this Act.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

Sec. 111. Prioritization of upgraded UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters within Army National Guard.

Sec. 112. Roadmap for replacement of A/MH-6 Mission Enhanced Little Bird aircraft to meet special operations requirements.

Sec. 113. Report on options to accelerate replacement of UH-60A Blackhawk helicopters of Army National Guard.

Sec. 114. Sense of Congress on tactical wheeled vehicle protection kits.

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

Sec. 121. Modification of CVN-78 class aircraft carrier program.

Sec. 122. Amendment to cost limitation baseline for CVN-78 class aircraft carrier program.

Sec. 123. Extension and modification of limitation on availability of funds for Littoral Combat Ship.

Sec. 124. Modification to multiyear procurement authority for Arleigh Burke class destroyers and associated systems.

Sec. 125. Procurement of additional Arleigh Burke class destroyer.

Sec. 126. Refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. George Washington.

Sec. 127. Fleet Replenishment Oiler Program.

Sec. 128. Limitation on availability of funds for U.S.S. John F. Kennedy (CVN-79).

Sec. 129. Limitation on availability of funds for U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN-80).

Sec. 130. Limitation on availability of funds for Littoral Combat Ship.

Sec. 131. Reporting requirement for Ohio-class replacement submarine program.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

Sec. 141. Backup inventory status of A-10 aircraft.

Sec. 142. Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of A-10 aircraft.

Sec. 143. Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of EC-130H Compass Call aircraft.

Sec. 144. Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, EC-130H Compass Call, and Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.

Sec. 145. Limitation on availability of funds for F-35A aircraft procurement.

Sec. 146. Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of KC-10 aircraft.

Sec. 147. Limitation on availability of funds for transfer of C-130 aircraft.

Sec. 148. Limitation on availability of funds for executive communications upgrades for C-20 and C-37 aircraft.

Sec. 149. Limitation on availability of funds for T-1A Jayhawk aircraft.

Sec. 150. Notification of retirement of B-1, B-2, and B-52 bomber aircraft.

Sec. 151. Inventory requirement for fighter aircraft of the Air Force.

Sec. 152. Sense of Congress regarding the OCONUS basing of F-35A aircraft.

Subtitle E—Defense-wide, Joint, and Multiservice Matters

Sec. 161. Limitation on availability of funds for Joint Battle Command-Platform.

Sec. 162. Report on Army and Marine Corps modernization plan for small arms.

Sec. 163. Study on use of different types of enhanced 5.56mm ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 211. Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership.

Sec. 212. Expansion of eligibility for financial assistance under Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Program to include citizens of countries participating in the Technical Cooperation Program.

Sec. 213. Expansion of education partnerships to support technology transfer and transition.

Sec. 214. Improvement to coordination and communication of defense research activities.

Sec. 215. Reauthorization of Global Research Watch program.

Sec. 216. Reauthorization of defense research and development rapid innovation program.

Sec. 217. Science and technology activities to support business systems information technology acquisition programs.

Sec. 218. Department of Defense technology offset program to build and maintain the military technological superiority of the United States.

Sec. 219. Limitation on availability of funds for F-15 infrared search and track capability development.

Sec. 220. Limitation on availability of funds for development of the shallow water combat submersible.

Sec. 221. Limitation on availability of funds for the advanced development and manufacturing facility under the medical countermeasure program.

Sec. 222. Limitation on availability of funds for distributed common ground system of the Army.

Sec. 223. Limitation on availability of funds for distributed common ground system of the United States Special Operations Command.

Sec. 224. Limitation on availability of funds for Integrated Personnel and Pay System of the Army.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

Sec. 231. Streamlining the Joint Federated Assurance Center.

Sec. 232. Demonstration of Persistent Close Air Support capabilities.

Sec. 233. Strategies for engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-serving Institutions of Higher Education.

Sec. 234. Report on commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance systems for Army tactical unmanned aerial systems.

Sec. 235. Report on Tactical Combat Training System Increment II.

Sec. 236. Report on technology readiness levels of the technologies and capabilities critical to the long-range strike bomber aircraft.

Sec. 237. Assessment of air-land mobile tactical communications and data network requirements and capabilities.

Sec. 238. Study of field failures involving counterfeit electronic parts.

Sec. 239. Airborne data link plan.

Sec. 240. Plan for advanced weapons technology war games.

Sec. 241. Independent assessment of F135 engine program.

Sec. 242. Comptroller General review of automatic logistics information system for F-35 Lightning II aircraft.

Sec. 243. Sense of Congress regarding facilitation of a high quality technical workforce.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Energy and Environment

Sec. 311. Limitation on procurement of drop-in fuels.

Sec. 312. Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas.

Sec. 313. Modification of energy management reporting requirements.

Sec. 314. Revision to scope of statutorily required review of projects relating to potential obstructions to aviation so as to apply only to energy projects.

Sec. 315. Exclusions from definition of “chemical substance” under Toxic Substances Control Act.

Subtitle C—Logistics and Sustainment

Sec. 322. Repeal of limitation on authority to enter into a contract for the sustainment, maintenance, repair, or overhaul of the F117 engine.

Sec. 323. Pilot programs for availability of working-capital funds for product improvements.

Subtitle D—Reports

Sec. 331. Modification of annual report on prepositioned materiel and equipment.

Sec. 332. Report on merger of Office of Assistant Secretary for Operational Energy Plans and Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment.

Sec. 333. Report on equipment purchased non-competitively from foreign entities.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

Sec. 341. Prohibition on contracts making payments for honoring members of the Armed Forces at sporting events.

Sec. 342. Military animals: transfer and adoption.

Sec. 343. Temporary authority to extend contracts and leases under the ARMS Initiative.

Sec. 344. Improvements to Department of Defense excess property disposal.

Sec. 345. Limitation on use of funds for Department of Defense sponsorships, advertising, or marketing associated with sports-related organizations or sporting events.

Sec. 346. Reduction in amounts available for Department of Defense headquarters, administrative, and support activities.

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Active Forces

Sec. 401. End strengths for active forces.

Sec. 402. Revisions in permanent active duty end strength minimum levels.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

Sec. 411. End strengths for Selected Reserve.

Sec. 412. End strengths for reserves on active duty in support of the reserves.

Sec. 413. End strengths for military technicians (dual status).

Sec. 414. Fiscal year 2016 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians.

Sec. 415. Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 421. Military personnel.

Sec. 422. Report on force structure of the Army.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

Sec. 501. Reinstatement of enhanced authority for selective early discharge of warrant officers.

Sec. 502. Equitable treatment of junior officers excluded from an all-fully-qualified-officers list because of administrative error.

Sec. 503. Enhanced flexibility for determination of officers to continue on active duty and for selective early retirement and early discharge.

Sec. 504. Authority to defer until age 68 mandatory retirement for age of a general or flag officer serving as Chief or Deputy Chief of Chaplains of the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

Sec. 505. General rule for warrant officer retirement in highest grade held satisfactorily.

Sec. 506. Implementation of Comptroller General recommendation on the definition and availability of costs associated with general and flag officers and their aides.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

Sec. 511. Continued service in the Ready Reserve by Members of Congress who are also members of the Ready Reserve.

Sec. 512. Clarification of purpose of reserve component special selection boards as limited to correction of error at a mandatory promotion board.

Sec. 513. Increase in number of days of active duty required to be performed by reserve component members for duty to be considered Federal service for purposes of unemployment compensation for ex-servicemembers.

Sec. 514. Temporary authority to use Air Force reserve component personnel to provide training and instruction regarding pilot training.

Sec. 515. Assessment of Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recommendation regarding consolidation of authorities to order members of reserve components to perform duty.

Subtitle C—General Service Authorities

Sec. 521. Limited authority for Secretary concerned to initiate applications for correction of military records.

Sec. 522. Temporary authority to develop and provide additional recruitment incentives.

Sec. 523. Expansion of authority to conduct pilot programs on career flexibility to enhance retention of members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 524. Modification of notice and wait requirements for change in ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 525. Role of Secretary of Defense in development of gender-neutral occupational standards.

Sec. 526. Establishment of process by which members of the Armed Forces may carry an appropriate firearm on a military installation.

Sec. 527. Establishment of breastfeeding policy for the Department of the Army.

Sec. 528. Sense of Congress recognizing the diversity of the members of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle D—Military Justice, Including Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention and Response

Sec. 531. Enforcement of certain crime victim rights by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Sec. 532. Department of Defense civilian employee access to Special Victims' Counsel.

Sec. 533. Authority of Special Victims' Counsel to provide legal consultation and assistance in connection with various Government proceedings.

Sec. 534. Timely notification to victims of sex-related offenses of the availability of assistance from Special Victims' Counsel.

Sec. 535. Additional improvements to Special Victims' Counsel program.

Sec. 536. Enhancement of confidentiality of restricted reporting of sexual assault in the military.

Sec. 537. Modification of deadline for establishment of Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces.

Sec. 538. Improved Department of Defense prevention and response to sexual assaults in which the victim is a male member of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 539. Preventing retaliation against members of the Armed Forces who report or intervene on behalf of the victim of an alleged sex-related offense.

Sec. 540. Sexual assault prevention and response training for administrators and instructors of Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Sec. 541. Retention of case notes in investigations of sex-related offenses involving members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.

Sec. 542. Comptroller General of the United States reports on prevention and response to sexual assault by the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Sec. 543. Improved implementation of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Sec. 544. Modification of Rule 104 of the Rules for Courts-Martial to establish certain prohibitions concerning evaluations of Special Victims' Counsel.

Sec. 545. Modification of Rule 304 of the Military Rules of Evidence relating to the corroboration of a confession or admission.

Subtitle E—Member Education, Training, and Transition

Sec. 551. Enhancements to Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Sec. 552. Availability of preseparation counseling for members of the Armed Forces discharged or released after limited active duty.

Sec. 553. Availability of additional training opportunities under Transition Assistance Program.

Sec. 554. Modification of requirement for in-resident instruction for courses of instruction offered as part of Phase II joint professional military education.

Sec. 555. Termination of program of educational assistance for reserve component members supporting contingency operations and other operations.

Sec. 556. Appointments to military service academies from nominations made by Delegates in Congress from the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sec. 557. Support for athletic programs of the United States Military Academy.

Sec. 558. Condition on admission of defense industry civilians to attend the United States Air Force Institute of Technology.

Sec. 559. Quality assurance of certification programs and standards for professional credentials obtained by members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 560. Prohibition on receipt of unemployment insurance while receiving post-9/11 education assistance.

Sec. 561. Job Training and Post-Service Placement Executive Committee.

Sec. 562. Recognition of additional involuntary mobilization duty authorities exempt from five-year limit on reemployment rights of persons who serve in the uniformed services.

Sec. 563. Expansion of outreach for veterans transitioning from serving on active duty.

Subtitle F—Defense Dependents' Education and Military Family Readiness Matters

Sec. 571. Continuation of authority to assist local educational agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Sec. 572. Impact aid for children with severe disabilities.

Sec. 573. Authority to use appropriated funds to support Department of Defense student meal programs in domestic dependent elementary and secondary schools located outside the United States.

Sec. 574. Family support programs for immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces assigned to special operations forces.

Subtitle G—Decorations and Awards

Sec. 581. Authorization for award of the Distinguished-Service Cross for acts of extraordinary heroism during the Korean War.

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SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.

In this Act, the term “congressional defense committees” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF THIS ACT.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purposes of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, jointly submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairmen of the House and Senate Budget Committees, provided that such

statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage in the House acting first on the conference report or amendment between the Houses.

**DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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- Sec. 121. Modification of CVN-78 class aircraft carrier program.
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- Sec. 124. Modification to multiyear procurement authority for Arleigh Burke class destroyers and associated systems.
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- Sec. 149. Limitation on availability of funds for T-1A Jayhawk aircraft.
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- Sec. 161. Limitation on availability of funds for Joint Battle Command-Platform.
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Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for procurement for the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and Defense-wide activities, as specified in the funding table in section 4101.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

SEC. 111. PRIORITIZATION OF UPGRADED UH-60 BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS WITHIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

(a) **PRIORITIZATION OF UPGRADES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall issue guidance regarding the fielding of upgraded UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to units of the Army National Guard. Such guidance shall prioritize for such fielding the units of the Army National Guard with assigned UH-60 helicopters that have the most flight hours and the highest annual usage rates within the UH-60 fleet of the Army National Guard, consistent with the force generation unit readiness requirements of the Army.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Chief of the National Guard Bureau issues the guidance under subsection (a), the Chief shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that details such guidance.

SEC. 112. ROADMAP FOR REPLACEMENT OF A/MH-6 MISSION ENHANCED LITTLE BIRD AIRCRAFT TO MEET SPECIAL OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **ROADMAP.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a roadmap for replacing A/MH-6 Mission Enhanced Little Bird aircraft to meet the rotary-wing, light attack, reconnaissance requirements particular to special operations.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The roadmap under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An updated schedule and display of programmed A/MH-6 Block 3.0 modernization and upgrades, showing usable life of the fleet, and the anticipated service life extensions of all A/MH-6 platforms.

(2) A description of current and anticipated rotary-wing, light attack, reconnaissance requirements and platforms particular to special operations, including key performance parameters of anticipated platforms.

(3) The feasibility of service-common platforms satisfying future rotary-wing, light attack, reconnaissance requirements particular to special operations.

(4) The feasibility of commercially available platforms satisfying future rotary-wing, light attack, reconnaissance requirements particular to special operations.

(5) The anticipated funding requirements for the special operation forces major force program for the development and procurement of an A/MH-6 replacement platform if the service-common platforms described in paragraph (3) are not available or if commercially available platforms described in paragraph (4) are leveraged.

(6) A description of efforts as of the date of the roadmap to coordinate with the military departments on a service-common platform to satisfy replacement platform requirements.

(7) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 113. REPORT ON OPTIONS TO ACCELERATE REPLACEMENT OF UH-60A BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS OF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing detailed options for the potential acceleration of the replacement of all UH-60A helicopters of the Army National Guard by not later than September 30, 2020. The report shall include the following:

(1) The additional funding and quantities required, listed by each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020, for H-60M production, UH-60A-to-L RECAP, and UH-60L-to-V RECAP that is necessary to achieve such replacement of all UH-60A helicopters by September 30, 2020.

(2) Any industrial base limitations that may affect such acceleration, including with respect to the production schedules for the other variants of the UH-60 helicopter.

(3) The potential effects of such acceleration on the planned replacement of all UH-60A helicopters of the regular components of the Armed Forces by September 30, 2025.

(4) Identification of any additional funding or resources required to train members of the National Guard to operate and maintain UH-60M aircraft in order to achieve such replacement of all UH-60A helicopters by September 30, 2020.

(5) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 114. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE PROTECTION KITS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) members of the Army face an increasingly complex and evolving threat environment that requires advanced and effective technology to protect soldiers while allowing the soldiers to effectively carry out the mission of the Army;

(2) the heavy tactical vehicle protection kits program provides the Army with improved and necessary ballistic protection for the heavy tactical vehicle fleet;

(3) a secure heavy tactical vehicle fleet provides the Army with greater logistical tractability and offers soldiers the necessary flexibility to tailor armor levels based on threat levels and mission requirements; and

(4) as Congress provides for a modern and secure Army, it is necessary to provide the appropriate funding levels to meet the tactical wheeled vehicle protection kits acquisition objectives of the Army.

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

SEC. 121. MODIFICATION OF CVN-78 CLASS AIRCRAFT CARRIER PROGRAM.

(a) **REPORTS ON DESIGN AND ENGINEERING CHANGES.**—Subsection (f) of section 122 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2104), as added by section 121(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 692), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) CVN-78 CLASS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS CHANGE ORDERS.—

“(A) As part of each report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include a description of new design and engineering changes to CVN-78 class aircraft carriers if applicable.

“(B) The additional reporting requirement in subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to CVN-78 class aircraft carriers in each reporting period—

“(i) any design or engineering change with an associated cost greater than \$5,000,000;

“(ii) any program or ship cost increases for each design or engineering change identified in subparagraph (A); and

“(iii) any cost reduction achieved.

“(C) The Secretary and the Chief of Naval Operations, without delegation, shall jointly certify the design and engineering changes included in each report under paragraph (1), as required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph. Each certification shall include a determination that each such change—

“(i) serves the national security interests of the United States; and

“(ii) cannot be deferred to a future ship because of operational necessity, safety, or substantial cost reduction that still meets threshold requirements.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Such subsection is further amended—

(1) by striking the heading and inserting the following new heading: “REQUIREMENTS FOR CVN-78 CLASS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking the heading and inserting the following new heading: “CVN-79 QUARTERLY COST ESTIMATE”.

SEC. 122. AMENDMENT TO COST LIMITATION BASELINE FOR CVN-78 CLASS AIRCRAFT CARRIER PROGRAM.

(a) **COST LIMITATION.**—Section 122(a)(2) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2104), as amended by section 121(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 691), is further amended by striking “\$11,498,000,000” and inserting “\$11,398,000,000”.

(b) **FACTOR FOR ADJUSTMENT.**—Subsection (b) of such section 122, as amended by section 121(b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) With respect to the aircraft carrier designated as CVN-79, the amounts of increases not exceeding \$100,000,000 if the Chief of Naval Operations determines that achieving the amount set forth in subsection (a)(2) (as amended by section 122(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016) would result in unacceptable reductions to the operational capability of the ship.”.

SEC. 123. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP.

Section 124(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 693), as amended by section 123 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3314), is further amended—

(1) by striking “this Act, the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, or otherwise made available for fiscal years 2014 or 2015” and inserting “this Act, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, or otherwise made available for fiscal years 2014, 2015, or 2016”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(6) A Littoral Combat Ship seaframe acquisition strategy for the Littoral Combat Ships designated as LCS 25 through LCS 32, including upgrades to be installed on these ships that were identified for the upgraded Littoral Combat Ship, which is proposed to commence with LCS 33.

“(7) A Littoral Combat Ship mission module acquisition strategy to reach the total acquisition quantity of each mission module.

“(8) A cost and schedule plan to outfit Flight 0 and Flight 0+ Littoral Combat Ships with capabilities identified for the upgraded Littoral Combat Ship.

“(9) A current Test and Evaluation Master Plan for the Littoral Combat Ship Mission Modules, approved by the Director of Operational

Test and Evaluation, which includes the performance levels expected to be demonstrated during developmental testing for each component and mission module prior to commencing the associated operational test phase.”

SEC. 124. MODIFICATION TO MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS DESTROYERS AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEMS.

Section 123(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1655) is amended by inserting “or Flight III” after “Flight IIA”.

SEC. 125. PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS DESTROYER.

(a) PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY.—

(1) ADDITIONAL DESTROYER.—The Secretary of the Navy may procure one Arleigh Burke class destroyer, in addition to any other procurement of such ships otherwise authorized by law, to be procured either—

(A) as an addition to the contract covering the 10 Arleigh Burke class destroyers authorized to be procured under section 123 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1655); or

(B) under a separate contract in fiscal year 2018.

(2) INCREMENTAL FUNDING.—The Secretary may employ incremental funding for the procurement authorized under paragraph (1).

(b) CONDITION ON OUT-YEAR CONTRACT PAYMENTS.—A contract entered into under subsection (a) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under such contract for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 is subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose for such fiscal year.

SEC. 126. REFUELING AND COMPLEX OVERHAUL OF THE U.S.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

(a) REFUELING AND COMPLEX OVERHAUL.—The Secretary of the Navy may carry out the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. George Washington (CVN–73).

(b) USE OF INCREMENTAL FUNDING.—With respect to any contract entered into under subsection (a) for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. George Washington, the Secretary may use incremental funding for a period not to exceed six years after advance procurement funds for such nuclear refueling and complex overhaul effort are first obligated.

(c) CONDITION FOR OUT-YEAR CONTRACT PAYMENTS.—Any contract entered into under subsection (a) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under the contract for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 is subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose for that later fiscal year.

SEC. 127. FLEET REPLENISHMENT OILER PROGRAM.

(a) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Navy may enter into one or more contracts to procure up to six Fleet Replenishment Oilers. Such procurements may also include advance procurement for economic order quantity and long lead time materials, beginning with the lead ship, commencing not earlier than fiscal year 2016.

(b) LIABILITY.—Any contract entered into under subsection (a) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under the contract is subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose, and that total liability to the Government for termination of any contract entered into shall be limited to the total amount of funding obligated at the time of termination.

SEC. 128. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR U.S.S. JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVN–79).

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made

available for fiscal year 2016 for procurement for the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy (CVN–79), \$100,000,000 may not be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of the Navy submits to the congressional defense committees the certification under subsection (b)(1) or the notification under paragraph (2) of such subsection, as the case may be, and the reports under subsections (c) and (d).

(b) CERTIFICATION REGARDING FULL SHIP SHOCK TRIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification that the Navy will conduct full ship shock trials on the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford (CVN–78) prior to the first deployment of such ship.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the certification required under paragraph (1) if the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a notification of such waiver, including—

(A) the rationale of the Secretary for issuing such waiver;

(B) a certification that the Secretary has analyzed and accepts the operational risk of the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford deploying without having conducted full ship shock trials; and

(C) a certification that full ship shock trials will be completed on the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford after the first deployment of such ship and prior to the first major maintenance availability of such ship.

(c) REPORT ON COSTS RELATING TO CVN–79 AND CVN–80.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that evaluates cost issues related to the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy (CVN–79) and the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN–80).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Options to achieve ship end cost of no more than \$10,000,000,000.

(B) Options to freeze the design of CVN–79 for CVN–80, with exceptions only for changes due to full ship shock trials or other significant test and evaluation results.

(C) Options to reduce the plans cost for CVN–80 to less than 50 percent of the CVN–79 plans cost.

(D) Options to transition all non-nuclear Government-furnished equipment, including launch and arresting equipment, to contractor-furnished equipment.

(E) Options to build the ships at the most economic pace, such as four years between ships.

(F) A business case analysis for the Enterprise Air Search Radar modification to CVN–79 and CVN–80.

(G) A business case analysis for the two-phase CVN–79 delivery proposal and impact on fleet deployments.

(d) REPORT ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on potential requirements, capabilities, and alternatives for the future development of aircraft carriers that would replace or supplement the CVN–78 class aircraft carrier.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of fleet, sea-based tactical aviation capability requirements for a range of operational scenarios beginning in the 2025 timeframe.

(B) A description of alternative aircraft carrier designs that meet the requirements described under subparagraph (A).

(C) A description of nuclear and non-nuclear propulsion options.

(D) A description of tonnage options ranging from less than 20,000 tons to greater than 100,000 tons.

(E) Requirements for unmanned systems integration from inception.

(F) Developmental, procurement, and lifecycle cost assessment of alternatives.

(G) A notional acquisition strategy for the development and construction of alternatives.

(H) A description of shipbuilding industrial base considerations and a plan to ensure opportunity for competition among alternatives.

(I) A description of funding and timing considerations related to developing the Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels required under section 231 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 129. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CVN–80).

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for advance procurement for the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN–80), \$191,400,000 may not be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of the Navy submits to the congressional defense committees the certification under subsection (b) and the report under subsection (c).

(b) CERTIFICATION REGARDING CVN–80 DESIGN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification that the design of the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN–80) will repeat the design of CVN–79, with modifications only for significant test and evaluation results or significant cost reduction initiatives that still meet threshold requirements.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that details the costs of the plans related to the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN–80).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements, reported by total cost and cost by fiscal year, with a detailed description and a justification for why each cost is recurring and attributable to the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN–80):

(A) Overall plans.

(B) Propulsion plant detail design.

(C) Platform detail design.

(D) Lead yard services and hull planning yard.

(E) Platform detail design (Steam and Electric Plant Planning Yard).

(F) Other.

SEC. 130. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research and development, design, construction, procurement, or advanced procurement of materials for the Littoral Combat Ships designated as LCS 33 or subsequent, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until Secretary of the Navy submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives each of the following:

(1) A capabilities based assessment, or equivalent report, to assess capability gaps and associated capability requirements and risks for the upgraded Littoral Combat Ship, which is proposed to commence with LCS 33. Such assessment shall conform with the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3170.01H.

(2) A certification that the Joint Requirements Oversight Council has validated an updated Capabilities Development Document for the upgraded Littoral Combat Ship.

(3) A report describing the upgraded Littoral Combat Ship modernization, which shall, at a minimum, include the following elements:

(A) A description of capabilities that the Littoral Combat Ship program delivers, and a description of how these relate to the characteristics of the future joint force identified in the Capstone Concept for Joint Operations, concept of operations, and integrated architecture documents.

(B) A summary of analyses and studies conducted on Littoral Combat Ship modernization.

(C) A concept of operations for Littoral Combat Ship at the operational level and tactical level describing how they integrate and synchronize with joint and combined forces to achieve the Joint Force Commander's intent.

(D) A description of threat systems of potential adversaries that are projected or assessed to reach initial operational capability within 15 years against which the lethality and survivability of the Littoral Combat Ship should be determined.

(E) A plan and timeline for Littoral Combat Ship modernization program execution.

(F) A description of system capabilities required for Littoral Combat Ship modernization, including key performance parameters and key system attributes.

(G) A plan for family of systems or systems of systems synchronization.

(H) A plan for information technology and national security systems supportability.

(I) A plan for intelligence supportability.

(J) A plan for electromagnetic environmental effects and spectrum supportability.

(K) A description of assets required to achieve initial operational capability of a Littoral Combat Ship modernization increment.

(L) A schedule and initial operational capability and full operational capability definitions.

(M) A description of doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, education, personnel, facilities, and policy considerations.

(N) A description of other system attributes.

(4) A plan for future periodic combat systems upgrades, which are necessary to ensure relevant capability throughout the Littoral Combat Ship or Frigate class service lives, using the process described in paragraph (3).

SEC. 131. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR OHIO-CLASS REPLACEMENT SUBMARINE PROGRAM.

If the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year includes a request for funds for the Ohio-class replacement submarine program, the Secretary of Defense shall include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department of Defense budget for such fiscal year a report that includes the following elements in terms of both fiscal year 2010 dollars and current fiscal year dollars as of the date of the report:

(1) Lead ship end cost (with plans).

(2) Lead ship end cost (less plans).

(3) Lead ship non-recurring engineering cost.

(4) Average follow-on ship cost.

(5) Average operations and sustainment cost per hull per year.

(6) The average follow-on ship affordability target as determined by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

(7) The operations and sustainment cost per hull per year affordability target as determined by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

SEC. 141. BACKUP INVENTORY STATUS OF A-10 AIRCRAFT.

(a) **MAXIMUM NUMBER.**—In carrying out section 133(b)(2)(A) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3316), the Secretary of the Air Force may not move more than 18 A-10 aircraft in the active component to backup flying status pursuant to an authorization made by the Secretary of Defense under such section.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Such section 133(b)(2)(A) is amended by striking “36” and inserting “18”.

SEC. 142. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF A-10 AIRCRAFT.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT.**—Except as provided by section 141, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any A-10 aircraft.

(b) **ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON RETIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by section 141, and in addition to the limitation in subsection (a), during the period before December 31, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup flying status any A-10 aircraft.

(2) **MINIMUM INVENTORY REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure the Air Force maintains a minimum of 171 A-10 aircraft designated as primary mission aircraft inventory.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to make significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any A-10 aircraft squadrons or divisions.

(d) **ADDITIONAL LIMITATION ON SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.**—In addition to the limitation in subsection (c), during the period before December 31, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force may not make significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any A-10 aircraft squadrons or divisions.

(e) **STUDY ON REPLACEMENT CAPABILITY REQUIREMENTS OR MISSION PLATFORM FOR THE A-10 AIRCRAFT.**—

(1) **INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Air Force shall commission an appropriate entity outside the Department of Defense to conduct an assessment of the required capabilities or mission platform to replace the A-10 aircraft. This assessment would represent preparatory work to inform an analysis of alternatives.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment required under subparagraph (A) shall include each of the following:

(i) Future needs analysis for the current A-10 aircraft mission set to include troops-in-contact/close air support, air interdiction, strike control and reconnaissance, and combat search and rescue support in both contested and uncontested battle environments. At a minimum, the needs analysis should specifically address the following areas:

(I) The ability to safely and effectively conduct troops-in-contact/danger close missions or missions in close proximity to civilians in the presence of the air defenses found with enemy ground maneuver units.

(II) The ability to effectively target and destroy moving, camouflaged, or dug-in troops, artillery, armor, and armored personnel carriers.

(III) The ability to engage, target, and destroy tanks and armored personnel carriers, including with respect to the carrying capacity of armor-piercing weaponry, including mounted cannons and missiles.

(IV) The ability to remain within visual range of friendly forces and targets to facilitate responsiveness to ground forces and minimize re-attack times.

(V) The ability to safely conduct close air support beneath low cloud ceilings and in reduced visibilities at low airspeeds in the presence of the air defenses found with enemy ground maneuver units.

(VI) The capability to enable the pilot and aircraft to survive attacks stemming from small arms, machine guns, man-portable air-defense systems, and lower caliber anti-aircraft artillery organic or attached to enemy ground forces and maneuver units.

(VII) The ability to communicate effectively with ground forces and downed pilots, including in communications jamming or satellite-denied environments.

(VIII) The ability to execute the missions described in subclauses (I), (II), (III), and (IV) in a GPS- or satellite-denied environment with or without sensors.

(IX) The ability to deliver multiple lethal firing passes and sustain long loiter endurance to support friendly forces throughout extended ground engagements.

(X) The ability to operate from unprepared dirt, grass, and narrow road runways and to generate high sortie rates under these austere conditions.

(ii) Identification and assessment of gaps in the ability of existing and programmed mission platforms in providing required capabilities to conduct missions specified in clause (i) in both contested and uncontested battle environments.

(iii) Assessment of operational effectiveness of existing and programmed mission platforms to conduct missions specified in clause (i) in both contested and uncontested battle environments.

(iv) Assessment of probability of likelihood of conducting missions requiring troops-in-contact/close air support operations specified in clause (i) in contested environments as compared to uncontested environments.

(v) Any other matters the independent entity or the Secretary of the Air Force determines to be appropriate.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the assessment required under paragraph (1).

(B) **FORM.**—The report required under subparagraph (A) may be submitted in classified form, but shall also contain an unclassified executive summary and may contain an unclassified annex.

(3) **NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORT.**—If any information required under paragraph (1) has been included in another report or notification previously submitted to the congressional defense committees by law, the Secretary of the Air Force may provide a list of such reports and notifications at the time of submitting the report required under paragraph (2) instead of including such information in such report.

SEC. 143. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF EC-130H COMPASS CALL AIRCRAFT.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any EC-130H Compass Call aircraft.

(b) **ADDITIONAL PROHIBITION ON RETIREMENT.**—In addition to the prohibition in subsection (a), during the period preceding December 31, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup flying status any EC-130H Compass Call aircraft.

(c) **REPORT ON RETIREMENT OF EC-130H COMPASS CALL AIRCRAFT.**—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The rationale for the retirement of existing EC-130H Compass Call aircraft, including an operational analysis of the impact of such retirements on the warfighting requirements of the combatant commanders.

(2) Future needs analysis for the current EC-130H Compass Call aircraft electronic warfare mission set to include suppression of sophisticated enemy air defense systems, advanced radar jamming, avoiding radar detection, communications, sensing, satellite navigation, command and control, and battlefield awareness.

(3) A review of operating concepts for airborne electronic attack.

(4) An assessment of upgrades to the electronic warfare systems of EC-130H Compass Call aircraft, the costs of such upgrades, and expected upgrades through 2025, and the expected service life of EC-130H Compass Call aircraft.

(5) A review of the global proliferation of more sophisticated air defenses and advanced commercial digital electronic devices which counter the airborne electronic attack capabilities of the United States by state and non-state actors.

(6) An assessment of the ability of the current EC-130H Compass Call fleet to meet tasking requirements of the combatant commanders.

(7) A plan for how the Air Force will recapitalize the capability requirement of the EC-130H Compass Call mission in the future, whether through a replacement program or by integrating such capabilities onto an existing platform.

(8) If the plan under paragraph (7) includes integrating such capabilities onto an existing platform, an analysis that verifies that such platform has the space, weight, cooling, and power necessary to support the integration of the EC-130H Compass Call capability.

(9) Such other matters relating to the required mission capabilities and transition of the EC-130H Compass Call fleet as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) **FORM.**—The report under subsection (c) may be submitted in classified form, but shall also contain an unclassified executive summary and may contain an unclassified annex.

(e) **NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORT.**—If any information required in the report under subsection (c) has been included in another report or notification previously submitted to the congressional defense committees by law, the Secretary of the Air Force may provide a list of such reports and notifications at the time of submitting the report required under subsection (c) instead of including such information in such report.

SEC. 144. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF JOINT SURVEILLANCE TARGET ATTACK RADAR SYSTEM, EC-130H COMPASS CALL, AND AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM AIRCRAFT.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal years 2016 or 2017 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, or prepare to retire, any covered aircraft.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to individual covered aircraft that the Secretary of the Air Force determines,

on a case-by-case basis, to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

(c) **COVERED AIRCRAFT.**—In this section, the term “covered aircraft” means the following:

(1) Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft.

(2) EC-130H Compass Call aircraft.

(3) Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.

SEC. 145. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR F-35A AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for aircraft procurement, Air Force, not more than \$4,285,000,000 may be obligated for the procurement of F-35A aircraft until the Secretary of the Air Force certifies to the congressional defense committees that F-35A aircraft delivered during fiscal year 2018 will have full combat capability, as determined as of the date of the enactment of this Act, with Block 3F hardware, software, and weapons carriage.

SEC. 146. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF KC-10 AIRCRAFT.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal years 2016 or 2017 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, or prepare to retire, any KC-10 aircraft.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to individual KC-10 aircraft that the Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

SEC. 147. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OF C-130 AIRCRAFT.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to transfer from one facility of the Department of Defense to another any C-130H aircraft, initiate any C-130 manpower authorization adjustments, retire or prepare to retire any C-130H aircraft, or close any C-130H unit until a period of 90 days elapses following the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Chief of Staff of the Army, in consultation with the commanders of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, and the United States Army Special Operations Command, jointly certify to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that—

(1) the Secretary of the Air Force will maintain dedicated C-130 wings to support the daily training and contingency requirements of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, and the United States Army Special Operations Command at manning levels required to support and operate the number of aircraft that existed as part of regular and reserve Air Force operations in support of such units as of September 30, 2014; or

(2) the failure to maintain such dedicated C-130 wings will not adversely affect the daily training requirement of such airborne and special operations units.

SEC. 148. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADES FOR C-20 AND C-37 AIRCRAFT.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to upgrade the executive communications of C-20 and C-37 aircraft until the date on which the Secretary of

the Air Force certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that such upgrades do not—

(1) cause such aircraft to exceed any weight limitation; or

(2) reduce the operational capability of such aircraft.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(1) determines that such waiver is necessary for the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver.

SEC. 149. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR T-1A JAYHAWK AIRCRAFT.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for aircraft procurement, Air Force, for avionics modification to the T-1A Jayhawk aircraft, not more than 85 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the report required under section 142 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3320).

SEC. 150. NOTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT OF B-1, B-2, AND B-52 BOMBER AIRCRAFT.

(a) **NOTIFICATION.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), during the period preceding the date on which the long-range strike bomber aircraft achieves initial operational capability, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire or prepare to retire covered aircraft during a fiscal year unless the Secretary includes in the defense budget materials for that fiscal year a notification of the proposed retirement, including the rationale for the retirement, the effects of the retirement, and how the Secretary will mitigate any risks relating to the retirement.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The notification requirement in subsection (a) shall not apply to individual covered aircraft that the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered aircraft” means B-1, B-2, and B-52 bomber aircraft.

(2) The term “defense budget materials” has the meaning given that term in section 231(f) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 151. INVENTORY REQUIREMENT FOR FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) **INVENTORY REQUIREMENT.**—During the two-year period beginning on October 1, 2015, the Secretary of the Air Force shall maintain a total aircraft inventory of fighter aircraft of not less than 1,900 aircraft, and a total primary mission aircraft inventory (combat-coded) of not less than 1,100 fighter aircraft.

(b) **BUDGET INFORMATION REGARDING RETIREMENT OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—If the Secretary proposes to retire fighter aircraft in a fiscal year, the Secretary shall include in the materials submitted in support of the budget of the President for that fiscal year (as submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a report setting forth the following:

(A) The rationale and appropriate supporting analysis for the proposed retirement.

(B) An assessment of the implications of such retirement for the Air Force, the Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve for the force mix ratio of fighter aircraft.

(C) Such other matters relating to the proposed retirement as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to individual fighter aircraft that the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be

non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “fighter aircraft” means an aircraft that is designated by a basic mission design series of A-10, F-15, F-16, F-22, or F-35.

(2) The term “primary mission aircraft inventory” means aircraft assigned to meet the primary aircraft authorization to a unit for the performance of its wartime mission.

SEC. 152. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE OCONUS BASING OF F-35A AIRCRAFT.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that the Department of Defense is continuing its process of permanently stationing the F-35 aircraft at installations in the continental United States and forward-basing such aircraft outside the continental United States.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Air Force, in the strategic basing process for the F-35A aircraft, should continue to consider the benefits derived from sites that—

(1) are capable of hosting fighter-based bilateral and multilateral training opportunities with international partners;

(2) have sufficient airspace and range capabilities and capacity to meet the training requirements;

(3) have existing facilities to support personnel, operations, and logistics associated with the flying mission;

(4) have limited encroachment that would adversely impact training or operations; and

(5) minimize the overall construction and operational costs.

Subtitle E—Defense-wide, Joint, and Multiservice Matters

SEC. 161. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR JOINT BATTLE COMMAND-PLATFORM.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for joint battle command-platform equipment, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics submits to the congressional defense committees the report under subsection (b).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that provides a detailed test and evaluation plan to address the effectiveness, suitability, and survivability shortfalls of the joint battle command-platform identified by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the fiscal year 2014 report of the Director submitted to Congress.

SEC. 162. REPORT ON ARMY AND MARINE CORPS MODERNIZATION PLAN FOR SMALL ARMS.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy shall jointly submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the plan of the Army and the Marine Corps to modernize small arms for the Army and the Marine Corps during the 15-year period beginning on the date of such plan, including the mechanisms to be used to promote competition among suppliers of small arms and small arms parts in achieving the plan.

(b) **SMALL ARMS.**—The small arms covered by the plan under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Pistols.

(2) Carbines.

(3) Rifles and automatic rifles.

(4) Light machine guns.

(5) Such other small arms as the Secretaries consider appropriate for purposes of the report required by subsection (a).

(c) **NON-STANDARD SMALL ARMS.**—In addition to the arms specified in subsection (b), the plan under subsection (a) shall also address non-standard small arms not currently in the small arms inventory of the Army or the Marine Corps.

SEC. 163. STUDY ON USE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENHANCED 5.56MM AMMUNITION BY THE ARMY AND THE MARINE CORPS.

(a) **USE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENHANCED 5.56MM AMMUNITION.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct a study on the use of different types of enhanced 5.56mm ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps.

(2) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the contract is entered into under paragraph (1), the federally funded research and development center conducting the study under such paragraph shall submit to the Secretary the study, including any findings and recommendations of the federally funded research and development center.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the study under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the study.

(2) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The study, including any findings and recommendations of the federally funded research and development center that conducted the study.

(B) An explanation of the reasons for the Army and the Marine Corps to use in combat two different types of enhanced 5.56mm ammunition.

(C) An explanation of the appropriateness, effectiveness, and suitability issues that may arise from the use of such different types of ammunition.

(D) An explanation of any additional costs that have resulted from the use of such different types of ammunition.

(E) An explanation of any future plans of the Army or the Marine Corps to eventually transition to using in combat one standard type of enhanced 5.56mm ammunition.

(F) If there are no plans described in subparagraph (E), an analysis of the potential benefits of a transition described in such subparagraph, including the timeline for such a transition to occur.

(G) Any findings, recommendations, comments, or plans that the Secretary determines appropriate.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 211. Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership.

Sec. 212. Expansion of eligibility for financial assistance under Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Program to include citizens of countries participating in the Technical Cooperation Program.

Sec. 213. Expansion of education partnerships to support technology transfer and transition.

Sec. 214. Improvement to coordination and communication of defense research activities.

Sec. 215. Reauthorization of Global Research Watch program.

Sec. 216. Reauthorization of defense research and development rapid innovation program.

Sec. 217. Science and technology activities to support business systems information technology acquisition programs.

Sec. 218. Department of Defense technology offset program to build and maintain the military technological superiority of the United States.

Sec. 219. Limitation on availability of funds for F-15 infrared search and track capability development.

Sec. 220. Limitation on availability of funds for development of the shallow water combat submersible.

Sec. 221. Limitation on availability of funds for the advanced development and manufacturing facility under the medical countermeasure program.

Sec. 222. Limitation on availability of funds for distributed common ground system of the Army.

Sec. 223. Limitation on availability of funds for distributed common ground system of the United States Special Operations Command.

Sec. 224. Limitation on availability of funds for Integrated Personnel and Pay System of the Army.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

Sec. 231. Streamlining the Joint Federated Assurance Center.

Sec. 232. Demonstration of Persistent Close Air Support capabilities.

Sec. 233. Strategies for engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-serving Institutions of Higher Education.

Sec. 234. Report on commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance systems for Army tactical unmanned aerial systems.

Sec. 235. Report on Tactical Combat Training System Increment II.

Sec. 236. Report on technology readiness levels of the technologies and capabilities critical to the long-range strike bomber aircraft.

Sec. 237. Assessment of air-land mobile tactical communications and data network requirements and capabilities.

Sec. 238. Study of field failures involving counterfeit electronic parts.

Sec. 239. Airborne data link plan.

Sec. 240. Plan for advanced weapons technology war games.

Sec. 241. Independent assessment of F135 engine program.

Sec. 242. Comptroller General review of autonomous logistics information system for F-35 Lightning II aircraft.

Sec. 243. Sense of Congress regarding facilitation of a high quality technical workforce.

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation as specified in the funding table in section 4201.

**Subtitle B—Program Requirements,
Restrictions, and Limitations**

**SEC. 211. CENTERS FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
AND ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIP.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2367 the following new section:

“§2368. Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership

“(a) DESIGNATION.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall designate each science and technology reinvention laboratory as a Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership (in this section referred to as ‘Centers’) in the recognized core competencies of the designee.

“(2) The Secretary of Defense shall establish a policy to encourage the Secretary of each military department to reengineer management and business processes and adopt best-business and personnel practices at the Centers of the Secretary concerned in connection with the capability requirements of the Centers, so as to serve as recognized leaders in such capabilities throughout the Department of Defense and in the national technology and industrial base.

“(3) The Secretary of Defense, acting through the directors of the Centers, may conduct one or more pilot programs, consistent with applicable requirements of law, to test any practices referred to in paragraph (2) that the Directors determine could—

“(A) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations at Centers;

“(B) improve the support provided by the Centers for the elements of the Department of Defense who use the services of the Centers; and

“(C) enhance capabilities by reducing the cost and improving the performance and efficiency of executing laboratory missions.

“(b) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—(1) To achieve one or more objectives set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary may authorize and establish incentives for the Director of a Center to enter into public-private cooperative arrangements (in this section referred to as a ‘public-private partnership’) to provide for any of the following:

“(A) For employees of the Center, academia, private industry, State and local governments, or other entities outside the Department of Defense to perform (under contract, subcontract, or otherwise) work related to the capabilities of the Center, including any work that—

“(i) involves one or more capabilities of the Center; and

“(ii) may be applicable to both the Department and commercial entities.

“(B) For private industry or other entities outside the Department of Defense to use for either Government or commercial purposes any capabilities of the Center that are not fully used for Department of Defense activities for any period determined to be consistent with the needs of the Department of Defense.

“(2) The objectives for exercising the authority provided in paragraph (1) are as follows:

“(A) To maximize the use of the capacity of a Center.

“(B) To reduce or eliminate the cost of ownership of a Center by the Department of Defense.

“(C) To reduce the cost of science, technology, and engineering activities of the Department of Defense.

“(D) To leverage private sector investment in—

“(i) such efforts as research and equipment recapitalization for a Center; and

“(ii) the promotion of the undertaking of commercial business ventures based on the capabilities of a Center, as determined by the director of the Center.

“(E) To foster cooperation and technology transfer between the armed forces, academia,

private industry, and State and local governments.

“(F) To increase access by a Center to a skilled technical workforce that can contribute to the effective and efficient execution of the missions of the Department of Defense.

“(G) To increase the ability of a Center to access and use non-Department of Defense methods to develop and innovate and access capabilities that contribute to the effective and efficient execution of the missions of the Department of Defense.

“(3)(A) Public-private partnerships entered into under paragraph (1) may be used for purposes relating to technology transfer and other authorities described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) The authorities described in this subparagraph are provisions of law that provide for cooperation and partnership by the Department of Defense with academia, private industry, and State and local governments, including the following:

“(i) Sections 3371 through 3375 of title 5.

“(ii) Sections 2194, 2358, 2371, 2511, 2539b, and 2563 of this title.

“(iii) Section 209 of title 35.

“(iv) Sections 8, 12, and 23 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706, 3710a, and 3715).

“(c) PRIVATE SECTOR USE OF EXCESS CAPACITY.—Any capability of a Center made available to the private sector may be used to perform research and testing activities in order to make more efficient and economical use of Government-owned capabilities and encourage the creation and preservation of jobs to ensure the availability of a workforce with the necessary research and technical skills to meet the needs of the armed forces.

“(d) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS FOR PERFORMANCE.—Amounts received by a Center for work performed under a public-private partnership may—

“(1) be credited to the appropriation or fund, including a working-capital or revolving fund, that incurs the cost of performing the work; or

“(2) be used by the Director of the Center as the Director considers appropriate and consistent with section 219 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

“(e) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS CAPACITIES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTNERS.—Capacities of a Center may be made available for use by a private-sector entity under this section only if—

“(1) the use of the capacities will not have a significant adverse effect on the performance of the Center or the ability of the Center to achieve the mission of the Center, as determined by the Director of the Center; and

“(2) the private-sector entity agrees—

“(A) to reimburse the Department of Defense when required in accordance with the guidance of the Department for the direct and indirect costs (including any rental costs) that are attributable to the use of the capabilities by the private-sector entity, as determined by the Secretary of the military departments; and

“(B) to hold harmless and indemnify the United States from—

“(i) any claim for damages or injury to any person or property arising out of the use of the capabilities, except under the circumstances described in section 2563(c)(3) of this title; and

“(ii) any liability or claim for damages or injury to any person or property arising out of a decision by the Secretary to suspend or terminate that use of capabilities during a war or national emergency.

“(f) CONSTRUCTION OF PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a change, otherwise prohibited by law, from the performance of work at a Center by personnel of

the Department of Defense to performance by a contractor.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘capabilities’, with respect to a Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership, means the facilities, equipment, personnel, intellectual property, and other assets that support the core competencies of the Center.

“(2) The term ‘national technology and industrial base’ has the meaning given that term in section 2500 of this title.

“(3) The term ‘science and technology reinvention laboratory’ means a science and technology reinvention laboratory designated under section 1105 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2367 the following new item:

“2368. Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership.”

SEC. 212. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND RESEARCH FOR TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM.

Section 2192a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “or, subject to subsection (g), a country the government of which is a party to The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP) memorandum of understanding of October 24, 1995” after “United States”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(3) by inserting after section (f) the following new subsection (g):

“(g) LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION.—(1) The Secretary may not award scholarships or fellowships under this section to more than five individuals described in paragraph (2) per year.

“(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who—

“(A) has not previously been awarded a scholarship or fellowship under the program under this section;

“(B) is not a citizen of the United States; and

“(C) is a citizen of a country the government of which is a party to The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP) memorandum of understanding of October 24, 1995.”

SEC. 213. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TRANSITION.

Section 2194 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “business, law, technology transfer or transition” after “mathematics,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

“(4) providing in the defense laboratory sabbatical opportunities for faculty and internship opportunities for students;”;

(C) in paragraphs (5) and (6), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking “research projects” both places it appears and inserting “projects, including research and technology transfer or transition projects”.

SEC. 214. IMPROVEMENT TO COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION OF DEFENSE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2364 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(a) COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DATA.—The Secretary of Defense shall promote, monitor, and evaluate programs for the communication and exchange of research, development, and technological data—

“(1) among the Defense research facilities, combatant commands, and other organizations that are involved in developing for the Department of Defense the technological requirements for new items for use by combat forces;

“(2) among Defense research facilities and other offices, agencies, and bureaus in the Department that are engaged in related technological matters;

“(3) among other research facilities and other departments or agencies of the Federal Government that are engaged in research, development, and technological matters;

“(4) among private commercial, research institution, and university entities engaged in research, development, and technological matters potentially relevant to defense on a voluntary basis;

“(5) to the extent practicable, to achieve full awareness of scientific and technological advancement and innovation wherever it may occur, whether funded by the Department of Defense, another element of the Federal Government, or other entities; and

“(6) through development and distribution of clear technical communications to the public, military operators, acquisition organizations, and civilian and military decision-makers that conveys successes of research and engineering activities supported by the Department and the contributions of such activities to support national needs.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(3) that the managers of such facilities have broad latitude to choose research and development projects based on awareness of activities throughout the technology domain, including within the Federal Government, the Department of Defense, public and private research institutions and universities, and the global commercial marketplace.”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) that, in light of Defense research facilities being funded by the public, Defense research facilities are broadly authorized and encouraged to support national technological development goals and support technological missions of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, when such support is determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the best interests of the Federal Government.”.

(3) in the section heading, by inserting “**and technology domain awareness**” after “**activities**”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2364 and inserting the following:

“2364. Coordination and communication of defense research activities and technology domain awareness.”.

SEC. 215. REAUTHORIZATION OF GLOBAL RESEARCH WATCH PROGRAM.

Section 2365 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), by inserting “and private sector persons” after “foreign nations” both places it appears; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 216. REAUTHORIZATION OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT RAPID INNOVATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 1073 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 10 U.S.C. 2359a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “2015” and inserting “2023”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2023”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The issuance of an annual broad agency announcement or the use of any other competitive or merit-based processes by the Department of Defense for candidate proposals in support of defense acquisition programs as described in subsection (a).”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the second sentence;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “be funded under the program for more than two years” and inserting “receive more than a total of two years of funding under the program”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence; and

(4) by adding at the end, the following new paragraphs:

“(5) Mechanisms to facilitate transition of follow-on or current projects carried out under the program into defense acquisition programs, through the use of the authorities of section 819 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) or such other authorities as may be appropriate to conduct further testing, low rate production, or full rate production of technologies developed under the program.

“(6) Projects are selected using merit-based selection procedures and the selection of projects is not subject to undue influence by Congress or other Federal agencies.”.

(c) REPEAL OF REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

SEC. 217. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT BUSINESS SYSTEMS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Deputy Chief Management Officer, and the Chief Information Officer, shall establish a set of science, technology, and innovation activities to improve the acquisition outcomes of major automated information systems through improved performance and reduced developmental and life cycle costs.

(b) EXECUTION OF ACTIVITIES.—The activities established under subsection (a) shall be carried out by such military departments and Defense Agencies as the Under Secretary and the Deputy Chief Management Officer consider appropriate.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The set of activities established under subsection (a) may include the following:

(A) Development of capabilities in Department of Defense laboratories, test centers, and federally funded research and development centers to provide technical support for acquisition program management and business process re-engineering activities.

(B) Funding of intramural and extramural research and development activities as described in subsection (e).

(2) CURRENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall identify the current activities described in sub-

paragraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) that are being carried out as of the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall consider such current activities in determining the set of activities to establish pursuant to subsection (a).

(d) GAP ANALYSIS.—In establishing the set of activities under subsection (a), not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the heads of the Defense Agencies, shall conduct a gap analysis to identify activities that are not, as of such date, being pursued in the current science and technology program of the Department. The Secretary shall use such analysis in determining—

(1) the set of activities to establish pursuant to subsection (a) that carry out the purposes specified in subsection (c)(1); and

(2) the proposed funding requirements and timelines.

(e) FUNDING OF INTRAMURAL AND EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the set of activities required by subsection (a), the Secretary may award grants or contracts to eligible entities to carry out intramural or extramural research and development in areas of interest described in paragraph (3).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible entity includes the following:

(A) Entities in the defense industry.

(B) Institutions of higher education.

(C) Small businesses.

(D) Nontraditional defense contractors (as defined in section 2302 of title 10, United States Code).

(E) Federally funded research and development centers, primarily for the purpose of improving technical expertise to support acquisition efforts.

(F) Nonprofit research institutions.

(G) Government laboratories and test centers, primarily for the purpose of improving technical expertise to support acquisition efforts.

(3) AREAS OF INTEREST.—The areas of interest described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Management innovation, including personnel and financial management policy innovation.

(B) Business process re-engineering.

(C) Systems engineering of information technology business systems.

(D) Cloud computing to support business systems and business processes.

(E) Software development, including systems and techniques to limit unique interfaces and simplify processes to customize commercial software to meet the needs of the Department of Defense.

(F) Hardware development, including systems and techniques to limit unique interfaces and simplify processes to customize commercial hardware to meet the needs of the Department of Defense.

(G) Development of methodologies and tools to support development and operational test of large and complex business systems.

(H) Analysis tools to allow decision-makers to make tradeoffs between requirements, costs, technical risks, and schedule in major automated information system acquisition programs.

(I) Information security in major automated information system systems.

(J) Innovative acquisition policies and practices to streamline acquisition of information technology systems.

(K) Such other areas as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(f) PRIORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the set of activities required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

(A) projects that—

(i) address the innovation and technology needs of the Department of Defense; and

(ii) support activities of initiatives, programs, and offices identified by the Under Secretary and Deputy Chief Management Officer; and

(B) the projects and programs identified in paragraph (2).

(2) **PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED.**—The projects and programs identified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Major automated information system programs.

(B) Projects and programs under the oversight of the Deputy Chief Management Officer.

(C) Projects and programs relating to defense procurement acquisition policy.

(D) Projects and programs of the agencies and field activities of the Office of the Secretary of Defense that support business missions such as finance, human resources, security, management, logistics, and contract management.

(E) Military and civilian personnel policy development for information technology workforce.

SEC. 218. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY OFFSET PROGRAM TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THE MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a technology offset program to build and maintain the military technological superiority of the United States by—

(A) accelerating the fielding of offset technologies that would help counter technological advantages of potential adversaries of the United States, including directed energy, low-cost, high-speed munitions, autonomous systems, undersea warfare, cyber technology, and intelligence data analytics, developed using research funding of the Department of Defense and accelerating the commercialization of such technologies; and

(B) developing and implementing new policies and acquisition and business practices.

(2) **GUIDELINES.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidelines for the operation of the program established under paragraph (1), including—

(A) criteria for an application for funding by a military department, Defense Agency, or a combatant command;

(B) the purposes for which such a department, agency, or command may apply for funds and appropriate requirements for technology development or commercialization to be supported using program funds;

(C) the priorities, if any, to be provided to field or commercialize offset technologies developed by certain types of research funding of the Department; and

(D) criteria for evaluation of an application for funding or changes to policies or acquisition and business practices by such a department, agency, or command for purposes of the program.

(b) **APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Under the program established under subsection (a)(1), not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall solicit from the heads of the military departments, the Defense Agencies, and the combatant commands applications for funding to be used to enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, or other transaction agreements entered into pursuant to section 2371b of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 815, with appropriate entities for the fielding or commercialization of technologies.

(2) **TREATMENT PURSUANT TO CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL RULES.**—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to require any official of the

Department of Defense to provide funding under this section to any Congressional earmark as defined pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or any congressionally directed spending item as defined pursuant to paragraph 5 of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(c) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, not more than \$400,000,000 may be used for each such fiscal year for the program established under subsection (a)(1).

(2) **AMOUNT FOR DIRECTED ENERGY.**—Of the funds specified in paragraph (1) for any of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, not more than \$200,000,000 may be used for each such fiscal year for activities in the field of directed energy.

(d) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may transfer funds available for the program established under subsection (a)(1) to the research, development, test, and evaluation accounts of a military department, Defense Agency, or a combatant command pursuant to an application, or any part of an application, that the Secretary determines would support the purposes of the program.

(2) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—The transfer authority provided in paragraph (1) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Secretary of Defense.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority to carry out the program under subsection (a)(1) shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

(2) **TRANSFER AFTER TERMINATION.**—Any amounts made available for the program that remain available for obligation on the date on which the program terminates may be transferred under subsection (d) during the 180-day period beginning on the date of the termination of the program.

SEC. 219. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR F-15 INFRARED SEARCH AND TRACK CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Air Force, for F-15 infrared search and track capability, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the report under subsection (b).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and cost estimates for the development and procurement of infrared search and track capability for F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft of the Navy and the Air Force. The report shall include the following:

(1) A comparison of the requirements between the F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft infrared search and track development efforts of the Navy and the Air Force.

(2) An explanation of any differences between the F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft infrared search and track capability development efforts of the Navy and the Air Force.

(3) A summary of the schedules and required funding to develop and field such capability.

(4) An explanation of any need for the Navy and the Air Force to field different F/A-18 and F-15 aircraft infrared search and track systems.

(5) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 220. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHALLOW WATER COMBAT SUBMERSIBLE.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the development of the shallow water combat submersible of the United States Special Operations Command, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 15 days elapses following the later of the date on which—

(1) the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics designates a civilian official to be responsible for oversight of and assistance to the United States Special Operations Command for all undersea mobility programs; and

(2) the Under Secretary, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict and the Commander of the United States Special Operations Command, submits to the congressional defense committees the report described in subsection (b).

(b) **REPORT DESCRIBED.**—The report described in this subsection is a report on the shallow water combat submersible program that includes the following:

(1) An analysis of the reasons for cost and schedule overruns associated with the program, including with respect to the performance of contractors and subcontractors.

(2) A revised timeline for initial and full operational capability of the shallow water combat submersible.

(3) A description of the challenges associated with the integration with dry deck shelter and other diving technologies.

(4) The projected cost to meet the total unit acquisition objective.

(5) A plan to prevent, identify, and mitigate any additional cost and schedule overruns.

(6) A description of any opportunities to recover cost or schedule overruns.

(7) A description of any lessons that the Under Secretary may have learned from the shallow water combat submersible program that could be applied to future undersea mobility acquisition programs.

(8) Any other matters that the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 221. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING FACILITY UNDER THE MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE PROGRAM.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, for the advanced development and manufacturing facility, and the associated activities performed at such facility, under the medical countermeasure program of the chemical and biological defense program, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 45 days elapses following the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the report under subsection (b).

(b) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the advanced development and manufacturing facility under the medical countermeasure program that includes the following:

(1) An overall description of the advanced development and manufacturing facility, including validated Department of Defense requirements.

(2) Program goals, proposed metrics of performance, and anticipated procurement and operations and maintenance costs during the period covered by the current future years defense program under section 221 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The results of any analysis of alternatives and efficiency reviews conducted by the Secretary that justifies the manufacturing and privately financed construction of an advanced manufacturing and development facility rather than using other programs and facilities of the Federal Government or industry facilities for advanced development and manufacturing of medical countermeasures.

(4) An independent cost-benefit analysis that justifies the manufacturing and privately financed construction of an advanced manufacturing and development facility described in paragraph (3).

(5) If no independent cost-benefit analysis makes the justification described in paragraph (4), an explanation for why such manufacturing and privately financed construction cannot be so justified.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(c) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a review of such report.

SEC. 222. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND SYSTEM OF THE ARMY.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Army, for the distributed common ground system of the Army, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of the Army—

(1) conducts a review of the program planning for the distributed common ground system of the Army; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees the report required by subsection (b)(1).

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the review of the distributed common ground system of the Army conducted under subsection (a)(1).

(2) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A review of the segmentation of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system program of the Army into discrete software components with the associated requirements of each component.

(B) Identification of each component of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army for which commercial software exists that is capable of fulfilling most or all of the system requirements for each such component.

(C) A cost analysis of each such commercial software that compares performance with projected cost.

(D) Determination of the degree to which commercial software solutions are compliant with the standards required by the framework and guidance for the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise, the Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise, and the Joint Information Environment.

(E) Identification of each component of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army that the Secretary determines may be acquired through competitive means.

(F) An acquisition plan for Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army that prioritizes the acquisition of commercial software components, including a data integration layer, in time to meet the projected deployment schedule for Increment 2.

(G) A review of the timetable for the distributed common ground system program of the Army in order to determine whether there is a

practical, executable acquisition strategy, including the use of operational capability demonstrations, that could lead to an initial operating capability of Increment 2 of the distributed common ground system of the Army prior to fiscal year 2017.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 223. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, for the United States Special Operations Command for the distributed common ground system, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the Commander of the United States Special Operations Command submits to the congressional defense committees the report required by subsection (b).

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—The Commander shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report on the distributed common ground system. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A review of the segmentation of the distributed common ground system special operations forces program into discrete software components with the associated requirements of each component.

(2) Identification of each component of the distributed common ground system special operations forces program for which commercial software exists that is capable of fulfilling most or all of the system requirements for each such component.

(3) A cost analysis of each such commercial software that compares performance with projected cost.

(4) A determination of the degree to which commercial software solutions are compliant with the standards required by the framework and guidance for the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise, the Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise, and the Joint Information Environment.

(5) Identification of each component of the distributed common ground system special operations forces program that the Commander determines may be acquired through competitive means.

(6) An assessment of the extent to which elements of the distributed common ground system special operations forces program could be modified to increase commercial acquisition opportunities.

(7) An acquisition plan that leads to full operational capability prior to fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 224. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM OF THE ARMY.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Army, for the integrated personnel and pay system of the Army, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of the Army submits to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) Updated and validated information regarding the performance of the current legacy personnel and pay system of the Army for each high-level objective and business outcome de-

scribed in the business case for IPPS-A Increment II, dated December 2014, including justifications for threshold and objective values for the integrated personnel and pay system of the Army.

(2) An explanation how the integrated personnel and pay system of the Army will enable significant change throughout the entire human resources enterprise.

(3) A description for how the implementation of the capabilities in the integrated personnel and pay system of the Army will result in changes to the capabilities and services to be provided by the Defense Finance and Accounting Services, including an estimate of cost savings and manpower savings resulting from elimination of duplicative functions.

(4) A description of alternative program approaches that could reduce the overall cost of development and deployment for the integrated personnel and pay system of the Army without delaying the current program schedule by more than six months.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

SEC. 231. STREAMLINING THE JOINT FEDERATED ASSURANCE CENTER.

Section 937(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “, in coordination with the Center for Assured Software of the National Security Agency,”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “, in coordination with the Defense Microelectronics Activity,”.

SEC. 232. DEMONSTRATION OF PERSISTENT CLOSE AIR SUPPORT CAPABILITIES.

(a) **JOINT DEMONSTRATION REQUIRED.**—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Army, and the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency may jointly conduct a demonstration of the persistent close air support capability during fiscal year 2016.

(b) **PARAMETERS OF DEMONSTRATION.**—

(1) **SELECTION AND EQUIPMENT OF AIRCRAFT.**—If the demonstration under subsection (a) is conducted, the Secretary of the Air Force shall select and equip at least two aircraft for use in the demonstration that the Secretary otherwise intends to use for close air support.

(2) **CLOSE AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS.**—If the demonstration under subsection (a) is conducted, the demonstration shall include close air support operations that involve the following:

(A) Multiple tactical radio networks representing diverse ground force user communities.

(B) Two-way digital exchanges of situational awareness data, video, and calls for fire between aircraft and ground users without modification to aircraft operational flight profiles.

(C) Real-time sharing of blue force, aircraft, and target location data to reduce risks of fratricide.

(D) Lightweight digital tools based on commercial-off-the-shelf technology for pilots and joint tactical air controllers.

(E) Operations in simple and complex operating environments.

(c) **ASSESSMENT.**—If the demonstration under subsection (a) is conducted, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Army, and the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency shall jointly—

(1) assess the effect of the capabilities demonstrated as part of the demonstration required by subsection (a) on—

(A) the time required to conduct close air support operations;

(B) the effectiveness of blue force in achieving tactical objectives; and

(C) the risk of fratricide and collateral damage;

(2) estimate the costs that would be incurred in transitioning the technology used in the persistent close air support capability to the Army and the Air Force; and

(3) provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the results of the demonstration, the assessment under paragraph (1), and the cost estimates under paragraph (2) by December 1, 2016.

SEC. 233. STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) BASIC RESEARCH ENTITIES.—

(1) STRATEGY.—The heads of each basic research entity shall each develop a strategy for how to engage with and support the development of scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics capabilities of covered educational institutions in carrying out section 2362 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each strategy under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Goals and vision for maintaining a credible and sustainable program relating to the engagement and support under the strategy.

(B) Metrics to enhance scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics capabilities at covered educational institutions, including with respect to measuring progress toward increasing the success of such institutions to compete for broader research funding sources other than set-aside funds.

(C) Promotion of mentoring opportunities between covered educational institutions and other research institutions.

(D) Regular assessment of activities that are used to develop, maintain, and grow scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics capabilities.

(E) Inclusion of faculty of covered educational institutions into program reviews, peer reviews, and other similar activities.

(F) Targeting of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students at covered educational institutions for inclusion into research or internship opportunities within the military department.

(b) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a strategy for how to engage with and support the development of scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics capabilities of covered educational institutions pursuant to the strategies developed under subsection (a).

(c) SUBMISSION.—

(1) BASIC RESEARCH ENTITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the heads of each basic research entity shall each submit to the congressional defense committees the strategy developed by the head under subsection (a)(1).

(2) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees the strategy developed under subsection (b).

(d) COVERED INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this section:

(1) The term “basic research entity” means an entity of the Department of Defense that executes research, development, test, and evaluation budget activity 1 funding, as described in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation.

(2) The term “covered educational institution” has the meaning given that term in section 2362(e) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 234. REPORT ON COMMERCIAL-OFF-THE-SHELF WIDE-AREA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS FOR ARMY TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains the findings of a market survey and assessment of commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance sensors operationally suitable for insertion into the tactical unmanned aerial systems of the Army.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The market survey and assessment contained in the report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) specific details regarding the capabilities of current and commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance sensors that are, or could be, used on tactical unmanned aerial systems of the Army, including—

(A) daytime and nighttime monitoring coverage;

(B) video resolution outputs;

(C) bandwidth requirements;

(D) activity-based intelligence and forensic capabilities;

(E) simultaneous region of interest monitoring capability;

(F) interoperability with other sensors and subsystems currently used on such tactical unmanned aerial systems;

(G) sensor weight;

(H) sensor cost;

(I) frame rates;

(J) on-board processing capabilities; and

(K) any other factors the Secretary considers relevant;

(2) an assessment of the effect on such tactical unmanned aerial systems due to the insertion of commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance sensors; and

(3) recommendations on the advisability and feasibility to upgrade or enhance wide-area surveillance sensors of such tactical unmanned aerial systems, as considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) FORM.—The report under subsection (a) may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 235. REPORT ON TACTICAL COMBAT TRAINING SYSTEM INCREMENT II.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than January 29, 2016, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the baseline and alternatives to the Tactical Air Combat Training System (TCTS) Increment II of the Navy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An explanation of the rationale for a new start TCTS II program as compared to an incremental upgrade to the existing TCTS system.

(2) An estimate of total cost to develop, procure, and replace the existing Department of the Navy TCTS architecture with an encrypted TCTS II compared to upgrades to existing TCTS.

(3) A cost estimate and schedule comparison of achieving encryption requirements into the existing TCTS program as compared to TCTS II.

(4) A review of joint Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy investment in live-virtual-constructive advanced air combat training and planned timeline for inclusion into TCTS II architecture.

(5) A cost estimate to integrate F-35 aircraft with TCTS II and achieve interoperability between the Department of the Navy and Department of the Air Force.

(6) A cost estimate for coalition partners to achieve TCTS II interoperability within the Department of Defense.

(7) An assessment of risks posed by non-interoperable TCTS systems within the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force.

(8) An explanation of the acquisition strategy for the TCTS program.

(9) An explanation of key performance parameters for the TCTS II program.

(10) Any other information the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of the Air Force determine is appropriate to include.

SEC. 236. REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS OF THE TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPABILITIES CRITICAL TO THE LONG-RANGE STRIKE BOMBER AIRCRAFT.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the technology readiness levels of the technologies and capabilities critical to the long-range strike bomber aircraft.

(b) REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 60 days after the report of the Secretary is submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall review the report and submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of the matters contained in the report.

SEC. 237. ASSESSMENT OF AIR-LAND MOBILE TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA NETWORK REQUIREMENTS AND CAPABILITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation shall seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and future requirements and capabilities of the Army with respect to air-land ad hoc, mobile tactical communications and data networks, including the technological feasibility, suitability, and survivability of such networks.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Concepts, capabilities, and capacities of current or future communications and data network systems to meet the requirements of current or future tactical operations effectively, efficiently, and affordably.

(2) Software requirements and capabilities, particularly with respect to communications and data network waveforms.

(3) Hardware requirements and capabilities, particularly with respect to receiver and transmission technology, tactical communications, and data radios at all levels and on all platforms, all associated technologies, and their integration, compatibility, and interoperability.

(4) Any other matters relevant or necessary for a comprehensive assessment of tactical networks or networking in the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (Increments 1 and 2).

(c) INDEPENDENT ENTITY.—The Director shall select a federally funded research and development center with direct, long-standing, and demonstrated experience and expertise in program test and evaluation of concepts, requirements, and technologies for joint tactical communications and data networking to perform the assessment under subsection (a).

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than April 30, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report including the findings and recommendations of the assessment conducted under subsection (a), together with the separate comments of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army.

SEC. 238. STUDY OF FIELD FAILURES INVOLVING COUNTERFEIT ELECTRONIC PARTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a hardware assurance study to assess the presence, scope, and effect on Department of Defense operations of counterfeit electronic parts that have passed through the supply chain of the Department and into fielded systems.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The technical analysis conducted under paragraph (1) of subsection (c).

(2) The report on the technical assessment submitted under paragraph (3)(B) of subsection (c).

(3) Recommendations for such legislative and administrative action, including budget requirements, as the Secretary considers necessary to conduct sampling and technical hardware analyses of counterfeit parts in identified areas of high concern.

(c) EXECUTION AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the executive agent for printed circuit board technology designated under section 256(a) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 2501 note) to coordinate the execution of the study under subsection (a) using capabilities of the Department in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act to conduct a technical analysis on a sample of failed electronic parts in fielded systems.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The technical analysis required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The selection of a representative sample of electronic component types, including digital, mixed-signal, and analog integrated circuits.

(B) An assessment of the presence of counterfeit parts, including causes and attributes of failures of any identified counterfeit part.

(C) For components found to have counterfeit parts, an assessment of the effect of the counterfeit part in the failure mechanism.

(D) For cases with counterfeit parts contributing to the failure, a determination of the failure attributes, factors, and effects on subsystem and system level reliability, readiness, and performance.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT.—For any parts assessed under paragraph (2) that demonstrate unusual or suspicious failure mechanisms, the federation established under section 937(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) shall—

(A) conduct a technical assessment for indications of malicious tampering; and

(B) submit to the executive agent described in paragraph (1) a report on the findings of the federation with respect to the technical assessment.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the study carried out under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The findings of the Secretary with respect to the study conducted under subsection (a).

(B) The recommendations developed under subsection (b)(3).

SEC. 239. AIRBORNE DATA LINK PLAN.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall jointly, in consultation with the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force, develop a plan—

(1) to provide objective survivable communications gateways to enable—

(A) the secure dissemination of national and tactical intelligence information to fourth-generation fighter aircraft and supporting airborne platforms and to low-observable penetrating platforms such as the F-22 and F-35 aircraft; and

(B) the secure reception and dissemination of sensor data from low-observable penetrating aircraft, such as the F-22 and F-35 aircraft;

(2) to provide secure data sharing between the fifth-generation fighter aircraft of the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps, with minimal

changes to the outer surfaces of the aircraft and to aircraft operational flight programs; and

(3) to enable secure data sharing between fifth-generation and fourth-generation aircraft in jamming environments.

(b) ADDITIONAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall include non-proprietary and open systems approaches that are compatible with the rapid capabilities office open mission systems initiative of the Air Force and the future airborne capability environment initiative of the Navy.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than February 15, 2016, the Under Secretary and the Vice Chairman shall jointly provide to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a briefing on the plan under subsection (a).

SEC. 240. PLAN FOR ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY WAR GAMES.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall develop and implement a plan for integrating advanced weapons and offset technologies into exercises carried out individually and jointly by the military departments to improve the development and experimentation of various concepts for employment by the Armed Forces.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Identification of specific exercises to be carried out individually or jointly by the military departments under the plan.

(2) Identification of emerging advanced weapons and offset technologies based on joint and individual recommendations of the military departments, including with respect to directed-energy weapons, hypersonic strike systems, autonomous systems, or other technologies as determined by the Secretary.

(3) A schedule for integrating either prototype capabilities or table-top exercises into relevant exercises.

(4) A method for capturing lessons learned and providing feedback both to the developers of the advanced weapons and offset technology and the military departments.

(c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the plan under subsection (a) and a status update on the implementation of such plan.

SEC. 241. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF F135 ENGINE PROGRAM.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the F135 engine program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the reliability, growth, and cost-reduction efforts with respect to the F135 engine program, including—

(A) a detailed description of the reliability and cost history of the engine;

(B) the identification of key reliability and cost challenges to the program as of the date of the assessment; and

(C) the identification of any potential options for addressing such challenges.

(2) In accordance with subsection (c), a thorough assessment of the incident on June 23, 2014, consisting of an F135 engine failure and subsequent fire, including—

(A) the identification and definition of the root cause of the incident;

(B) the identification of potential actions or design changes needed to address such root cause; and

(C) the associated cost, schedule, and performance implications of such incident to both the F135 engine program and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

(c) CONDUCT OF ASSESSMENT.—The federally funded research and development center selected to conduct the assessment under subsection (a) shall carry out subsection (b)(2) by analyzing data collected by the F-35 Joint Program Office, other elements of the Federal Government, or contractors. Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting the plans of the Secretary to dispose of the aircraft involved in the incident described in such subsection (b)(2).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than March 15, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 242. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF AUTONOMIC LOGISTICS INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR F-35 LIGHTNING II AIRCRAFT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the autonomic logistics information system for the F-35 Lightning II aircraft program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The fielding status, in terms of units equipped with various software and hardware configurations, for the autonomic logistics information system element of the F-35 Lightning II aircraft program, as of the date of the report.

(2) The development schedule for upgrades to the autonomic logistics information system, and an assessment of the ability of the F-35 Lightning II aircraft program to maintain such schedule.

(3) The views of maintenance personnel and other personnel involved in operating and maintaining F-35 Lightning II aircraft in testing and operational units.

(4) The effect of the autonomic logistics information system program on the operational availability of the F-35 Lightning II aircraft program.

(5) Improvements, if any, regarding the time required for maintenance personnel to input data and use the autonomic logistics information system.

(6) The ability of the autonomic logistics information system to be deployed on both ships and to forward land-based locations, including any limitations of such a deployable version.

(7) The cost estimates for development and fielding of the autonomic logistics information system program and an assessment of the capability of the program to address performance problems within the planned resources.

(8) Other matters regarding the autonomic logistics information system that the Comptroller General determines of critical importance to the long-term viability of the system.

SEC. 243. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FACILITATION OF A HIGH QUALITY TECHNICAL WORKFORCE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should explore using existing authorities for promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, such as under section 233 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 10 U.S.C. 2193a note), to allow laboratories of the Department of Defense and federally funded research and development centers to help facilitate and shape a high quality scientific and technical future workforce that can support the needs of the Department.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations
Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Energy and Environment

Sec. 311. Limitation on procurement of drop-in fuels.

Sec. 312. Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas.

Sec. 313. Modification of energy management reporting requirements.

Sec. 314. Revision to scope of statutorily required review of projects relating to potential obstructions to aviation so as to apply only to energy projects.

Sec. 315. Exclusions from definition of “chemical substance” under Toxic Substances Control Act.

Subtitle C—Logistics and Sustainment

Sec. 322. Repeal of limitation on authority to enter into a contract for the sustainment, maintenance, repair, or overhaul of the F117 engine.

Sec. 323. Pilot programs for availability of working-capital funds for product improvements.

Subtitle D—Reports

Sec. 331. Modification of annual report on prepositioned materiel and equipment.

Sec. 332. Report on merger of Office of Assistant Secretary for Operational Energy Plans and Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment.

Sec. 333. Report on equipment purchased non-competitively from foreign entities.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

Sec. 341. Prohibition on contracts making payments for honoring members of the Armed Forces at sporting events.

Sec. 342. Military animals: transfer and adoption.

Sec. 343. Temporary authority to extend contracts and leases under the ARMS Initiative.

Sec. 344. Improvements to Department of Defense excess property disposal.

Sec. 345. Limitation on use of funds for Department of Defense sponsorships, advertising, or marketing associated with sports-related organizations or sporting events.

Sec. 346. Reduction in amounts available for Department of Defense headquarters, administrative, and support activities.

*Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations***SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, as specified in the funding table in section 4301.

*Subtitle B—Energy and Environment***SEC. 311. LIMITATION ON PROCUREMENT OF DROP-IN FUELS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§2922h. Limitation on procurement of drop-in fuels

“(a) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense may not make a bulk purchase of a drop-in fuel for operational purposes unless the fully burdened cost of that drop-in fuel is cost-competitive with the fully burdened cost of a traditional fuel available for the same purpose.

“(b) WAIVER.—(1) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation under subsection (a) with respect to a purchase.

“(2) Not later than 30 days after issuing a waiver under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees notice of the waiver. Any such notice shall include each of the following:

“(A) The rationale of the Secretary for issuing the waiver.

“(B) A certification that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

“(C) The expected fully burdened cost of the purchase for which the waiver is issued.

“N. Latitude/W. Longitude

33°27.8'/119°34.3'

33°20.5'/119°15.5'

33°13.5'/119°11.8'

33°06.5'/119°15.3'

33°02.8'/119°26.8'

33°08.8'/119°46.3'

33°17.2'/119°56.9'

33°30.9'/119°54.2'.

“(2) The area that includes Naval Base Coronado, San Clemente Island and the adjacent and surrounding waters running parallel to shore to 3 nautical miles from the high tide line designated by part 165 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, on May 20, 2010, as the San Clemente Island 3NM Safety Zone.

“(b) ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SOUTHERN SEA OTTER MILITARY READINESS AREAS.—

“(1) INCIDENTAL TAKINGS UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.—Sections 4 and 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533, 1538) shall not apply with respect to the incidental taking of any southern sea otter in the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas in the course of conducting a military readiness activity.

“(2) INCIDENTAL TAKINGS UNDER MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972.—Sections 101 and 102 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1371, 1372) shall not apply with respect to the incidental taking of any southern sea otter in the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas in the course of conducting a military readiness activity.

“(3) TREATMENT AS SPECIES PROPOSED TO BE LISTED.—For purposes of conducting a military readiness activity, any southern sea otter while within the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas shall be treated for the purposes of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) as a member of a species that is proposed to be listed as an endangered species

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘drop-in fuel’ means a neat or blended liquid hydrocarbon fuel designed as a direct replacement for a traditional fuel with comparable performance characteristics and compatible with existing infrastructure and equipment.

“(2) The term ‘traditional fuel’ means a liquid hydrocarbon fuel derived or refined from petroleum.

“(3) The term ‘operational purposes’—

“(A) means for the purposes of conducting military operations, including training, exercises, large scale demonstrations, and moving and sustaining military forces and military platforms; and

“(B) does not include research, development, testing, evaluation, fuel certification, or other demonstrations.

“(4) The term ‘fully burdened cost’ means the commodity price of the fuel plus the total cost of all personnel and assets required to move and, when necessary, protect the fuel from the point at which the fuel is received from the commercial supplier to the point of use.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2922g the following new item:

“2922h. Limitation on procurement of drop-in fuels.”.

SEC. 312. SOUTHERN SEA OTTER MILITARY READINESS AREAS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHERN SEA OTTER MILITARY READINESS AREAS.—Chapter 631 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§7235. Establishment of the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Navy shall establish areas, to be known as ‘Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas’, for national defense purposes. Such areas shall include each of the following:

“(1) The area that includes Naval Base Ventura County, San Nicolas Island, and Begg Rock and the adjacent and surrounding waters within the following coordinates:

or a threatened species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533).

“(c) REMOVAL.—Nothing in this section or any other Federal law shall be construed to require that any southern sea otter located within the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas be removed from the Areas.

“(d) REVISION OR TERMINATION OF EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may revise or terminate the application of subsection (b) if the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Navy, determines that military activities occurring in the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas are impeding the southern sea otter conservation or the return of southern sea otters to optimum sustainable population levels.

“(e) MONITORING.—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Navy shall conduct monitoring and research within the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas to determine the effects of military readiness activities on the growth or decline of the southern sea otter population and on the near-shore ecosystem. Monitoring and research parameters and methods shall be determined in consultation with the Service.

“(2) *REPORTS.*—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this section and every three years thereafter, the Secretary of the Navy shall report to Congress and the public on monitoring undertaken pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(f) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

“(1) *SOUTHERN SEA OTTER.*—The term ‘southern sea otter’ means any member of the subspecies *Enhydra lutris nereis*.

“(2) *TAKE.*—The term ‘take’—

“(A) when used in reference to activities subject to regulation by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), shall have the meaning given such term in that Act; and

“(B) when used in reference to activities subject to regulation by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) shall have the meaning given such term in that Act.

“(3) *INCIDENTAL TAKING.*—The term ‘incidental taking’ means any take of a southern sea otter that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity.

“(4) *MILITARY READINESS ACTIVITY.*—The term ‘military readiness activity’ has the meaning given that term in section 315(f) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (16 U.S.C. 703 note) and includes all training and operations of the armed forces that relate to combat and the adequate and realistic testing of military equipment, vehicles, weapons, and sensors for proper operation and suitability for combat use.

“(5) *OPTIMUM SUSTAINABLE POPULATION.*—The term ‘optimum sustainable population’ means, with respect to any population stock, the number of animals that will result in the maximum productivity of the population or the species, keeping in mind the carrying capacity of the habitat and the health of the ecosystem of which they form a constituent element.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item: “7235. Establishment of the Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas.”.

SEC. 313. MODIFICATION OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 2925(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (4) and (7);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (12) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10), respectively;

(3) by amending paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this section, to read as follows:

“(7) A description and estimate of the progress made by the military departments in meeting current high performance and sustainable building standards under the Unified Facilities Criteria.”.

(4) by amending paragraph (9), as redesignated by such paragraph (2), to read as follows:

“(9) Details of all commercial utility outages caused by threats and those caused by hazards at military installations that last eight hours or longer, whether or not the outage was mitigated by backup power, including non-commercial utility outages and Department of Defense-owned infrastructure, including the total number and location of outages, the financial impact of the outages, and measure taken to mitigate outages in the future at the affected loca-

tions and across the Department of Defense.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) At the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, a classified annex, as appropriate.”.

SEC. 314. REVISION TO SCOPE OF STATUTORILY REQUIRED REVIEW OF PROJECTS RELATING TO POTENTIAL OBSTRUCTIONS TO AVIATION SO AS TO APPLY ONLY TO ENERGY PROJECTS.

(a) *SCOPE OF SECTION.*—Section 358 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 124 Stat. 4198; 49 U.S.C. 44718 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “from State and local officials or the developer of a renewable energy development or other energy project” and inserting “from a State government, an Indian tribal government, a local government, a landowner, or the developer of an energy project”;

(2) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “readiness, and” and all that follows and inserting “readiness and to clearly communicate to such parties actions being taken by the Department of Defense under this section.”;

(3) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking “as high, medium, or low”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection (j):

“(j) *APPLICABILITY OF SECTION.*—This section does not apply to a non-energy project.”.

(b) *DEFINITIONS.*—Subsection (k) of such section, as redesignated by paragraph (4) of subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(4) The term ‘energy project’ means a project that provides for the generation or transmission of electrical energy.

“(5) The term ‘non-energy project’ means a project that is not an energy project.

“(6) The term ‘landowner’ means a person or other legal entity that owns a fee interest in real property on which a proposed energy project is planned to be located.”.

SEC. 315. EXCLUSIONS FROM DEFINITION OF “CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE” UNDER TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT.

Section 3(2)(B)(v) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2602(2)(B)(v)) is amended by striking “, and” and inserting “and any component of such an article (limited to shot shells, cartridges, and components of shot shells and cartridges), and”.

Subtitle C—Logistics and Sustainment

SEC. 322. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SUSTAINMENT, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, OR OVERHAUL OF THE F117 ENGINE.

Section 341 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3345) is repealed.

SEC. 323. PILOT PROGRAMS FOR AVAILABILITY OF WORKING-CAPITAL FUNDS FOR PRODUCT IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) *PILOT PROGRAMS REQUIRED.*—During fiscal year 2016, each of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition shall initiate a pilot program pursuant to section 330 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 68), as amended by section 332 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1697).

(b) *LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.*—A minimum of \$5,000,000 of working-capital

funds shall be used for each of the pilot programs initiated under subsection (a) for fiscal year 2016.

Subtitle D—Reports

SEC. 331. MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON PREPOSITIONED MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 2229a(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(8) A list of any equipment used in support of contingency operations slated for retrograde and subsequent inclusion in the prepositioned stocks.”.

SEC. 332. REPORT ON MERGER OF OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OPERATIONAL ENERGY PLANS AND DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT.

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the merger of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment under section 901 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3462). Such report shall include—

(1) a description of how the office is implementing its responsibilities under sections 138(b)(9), 138(c), and 2925(b) of title 10, United States Code, and Department of Defense Directives 5134.15 (Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs) and 4280.01 (Department of Defense Energy Policy);

(2) a description of any efficiencies achieved as a result of the merger; and

(3) the number of Department of Defense personnel whose responsibilities are focused on energy matters specifically.

SEC. 333. REPORT ON EQUIPMENT PURCHASED NONCOMPETITIVELY FROM FOREIGN ENTITIES.

(a) *REPORT REQUIRED.*—Not later than March 30, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing a list of each contract awarded to a foreign entity outside of the national technology and industrial base, as described in section 2505(c) of title 10, United States Code, by the Department of Defense during fiscal years 2011 through 2015—

(1) using procedures other than competitive procedures; and

(2) for the procurement of equipment, weapons, weapons systems, components, subcomponents, or end-items with a value of \$10,000,000 or more.

(b) *ELEMENTS OF REPORT.*—The report required by subsection (a) shall include, for each contract listed, each of the following:

(1) An identification of the items purchased under the contract—

(A) described in section 8302(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, and purchased from a foreign manufacturer by reason of an exception under section 8302(a)(2)(A) or section 8302(a)(2)(B) of such title;

(B) described in section 2533b(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, and purchased from a foreign manufacturer by reason of an exception under section 2533b(b); and

(C) described in section 2534(a) of such title and purchased from a foreign manufacturer by reason of a waiver exercised under paragraph (1), (2), (4), or (5) of section 2534(d) of such title.

(2) The rationale for using the exception or waiver.

(3) A list of potential alternative manufacturing sources from the public and private sector that could be developed to establish competition for those items.

Subtitle E—Other Matters**SEC. 341. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS MAKING PAYMENTS FOR HONORING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AT SPORTING EVENTS.**

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Subchapter I of chapter 134 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2241a the following new section:

“§2241b. Prohibition on contracts providing payments for activities at sporting events to honor members of the armed forces

“(a) **PROHIBITION.**—The Department of Defense may not enter into any contract or other agreement under which payments are to be made in exchange for activities by the contractor intended to honor, or giving the appearance of honoring, members of the armed forces (whether members of the regular components or the reserve components) at any form of sporting event.

“(b) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed as prohibiting the Department of Defense from taking actions to facilitate activities intended to honor members of the armed forces at sporting events that are provided on a pro bono basis or otherwise funded with non-Federal funds if such activities are provided and received in accordance with applicable rules and regulations regarding the acceptance of gifts by the military departments, the armed forces, and members of the armed forces.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 134 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2241a the following new item:

“2241b. Prohibition on contracts providing payments for activities at sporting events to honor members of the armed forces.”.

SEC. 342. MILITARY ANIMALS: TRANSFER AND ADOPTION.

(a) **AVAILABILITY FOR ADOPTION.**—Section 2583(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “may” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting “shall”.

(b) **AUTHORIZED RECIPIENTS.**—Subsection (c) of section 2583 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) **AUTHORIZED RECIPIENTS.**—(1) A military animal shall be made available for adoption under this section, in order of recommended priority—

“(A) by former handlers of the animal;

“(B) by other persons capable of humanely caring for the animal; and

“(C) by law enforcement agencies.

“(2) If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that an adoption is justified under subsection (a)(2) under circumstances under which the handler of a military working dog is wounded in action, the dog shall be made available for adoption only by the handler. If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that such an adoption is justified under circumstances under which the handler of a military working dog is killed in action or dies of wounds received in action, the military working dog shall be made available for adoption only by a parent, child, spouse, or sibling of the deceased handler.”.

(c) **TRANSFER FOR ADOPTION.**—Subsection (f) of section 2583 of title 10, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “may transfer” and inserting “shall transfer”.

(d) **LOCATION OF RETIREMENT.**—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by inserting “(1)” before “If the Secretary”;

(3) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) by striking “, and no suitable adoption is available at the military facility where the dog is located,”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by inserting “within the United States” after “to another location”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply if at the time of retirement—

“(A) the dog is located outside the United States and a United States citizen or service member living abroad adopts the dog; or

“(B) the dog is located within the United States and suitable adoption is available where the dog is located.”.

(e) **PREFERENCE IN ADOPTION FOR FORMER HANDLERS.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection (g):

“(g) **PREFERENCE IN ADOPTION OF RETIRED MILITARY WORKING DOGS FOR FORMER HANDLERS.**—(1) In providing for the adoption under this section of a retired military working dog described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary of the military department concerned shall accord a preference to the former handler of the dog unless the Secretary determines that adoption of the dog by the former handler would not be in the best interests of the dog.

“(2) In the case of a dog covered by paragraph (1) with more than one former handler seeking adoption of the dog at the time of adoption, the Secretary shall provide for the adoption of the dog by such former handler whose adoption of the dog will best serve the interests of the dog and such former handlers. The Secretary shall make any determination required by this paragraph with respect to a dog following consultation with the kennel master of the unit at which the dog was last located before adoption under this section.

“(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as altering, revising, or overriding any policy of a military department for the adoption of military working dogs by law enforcement agencies before the end of the dogs’ useful lives.”.

SEC. 343. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO EXTEND CONTRACTS AND LEASES UNDER THE ARMS INITIATIVE.

Contracts or subcontracts entered into pursuant to section 4554(a)(3)(A) of title 10, United States Code, on or before the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act may include an option to extend the term of the contract or subcontract for an additional 25 years.

SEC. 344. IMPROVEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXCESS PROPERTY DISPOSAL.

(a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than March 15, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the improved management and oversight of the systems, processes, and controls involved in the disposition of excess non-mission essential equipment and materiel by the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services.

(b) **CONTENTS OF PLAN.**—At a minimum, the plan shall address each of the following:

(1) Backlogs of unprocessed property at disposition sites that do not meet Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services goals.

(2) Customer wait times.

(3) Procedures governing the disposal of serviceable items in order to prevent the destruction of excess property eligible for utilization, trans-

fer, or donation before potential recipients are able to view and obtain the property.

(4) Validation of materiel release orders.

(5) Assuring adequate physical security for the storage of equipment.

(6) The number of personnel required to effectively manage retrograde sort yards.

(7) Managing any potential increase in the amount of excess property to be processed.

(8) Improving the reliability of Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services data.

(9) Procedures for ensuring no property is offered for public sale until all requirements for utilization, transfer, and donation are met.

(10) Validation of physical inventory against database entries.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**—By not later than March 15, 2016, the Secretary shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the actions taken to implement the plan required under subsection (a).

SEC. 345. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPONSORSHIPS, ADVERTISING, OR MARKETING ASSOCIATED WITH SPORTS-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS OR SPORTING EVENTS.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense by this Act or otherwise made available to the Department for sponsorship, advertising, or marketing associated with sports-related organizations or sporting events, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, in consultation with the Director of Accessions Policy—

(1) conducts a review of current contracts and task orders for such sponsorships, advertising, and marketing (as awarded by the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces) in order to assess—

(A) whether such sponsorships, advertising, and marketing are effective in meeting the recruiting objectives of the Department; and

(B) whether consistent metrics are used to evaluate the effectiveness of each such activity in generating leads and recruit accessions; and

(C) whether the return on investment for such activities is sufficient to warrant the continuing use of Department funds for such activities; and

(2) submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) a description of the actions being taken to coordinate efforts of the Department relating to such sponsorships, advertising, and marketing, and to minimize duplicative contracts for such sponsorships, advertising, and marketing, as applicable; and

(B) the results of the review required by paragraph (1), including an assessment of the extent to which the continuing use of Department funds for such sponsorships, advertising, and marketing is warranted in light of the review and the actions described pursuant to subparagraph (A).

SEC. 346. REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **PLAN FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF COST SAVINGS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Commencing not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall implement a plan to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves not less than \$10,000,000,000 in cost savings from the headquarters, administrative, and support activities of the Department during the period beginning with fiscal year 2015 and ending with fiscal year 2019. The Secretary shall ensure that at least one half of the required cost savings are programmed for fiscal years before fiscal year 2018.

(2) **TREATMENT OF SAVINGS PURSUANT TO HEADQUARTERS REDUCTION.**—Documented savings achieved pursuant to the headquarters reduction requirement in subsection (b), other than savings achieved in fiscal year 2020, shall count toward the cost savings required by paragraph (1).

(3) **TREATMENT OF SAVINGS PURSUANT TO MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Documented savings in the human resources management, health care management, financial flow management, information technology infrastructure and management, supply chain and logistics, acquisition and procurement, and real property management activities of the Department during the period referred to in paragraph (1) may be counted toward the cost savings required by paragraph (1).

(4) **TREATMENT OF SAVINGS PURSUANT TO FORCE STRUCTURE REVISIONS.**—Savings or reductions to military force structure or military operating units of the Armed Forces may not count toward the cost savings required by paragraph (1).

(5) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall include with the budget for the Department of Defense for each of fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019, as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describing and assessing the progress of the Department in implementing the plan required by paragraph (1) and in achieving the cost savings required by that paragraph.

(6) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of each report required by paragraph (5), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the assessment of the Comptroller General of the report and of the extent to which the Department of Defense is in compliance with the requirements of this section.

(b) **HEADQUARTERS REDUCTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall modify the headquarters reduction plan required by section 904 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 816; 10 U.S.C. 111 note) to ensure that it achieves savings in the total funding available for major Department of Defense headquarters activities by fiscal year 2020 that are not less than 25 percent of the baseline amount. The modified plan shall establish a specific savings objective for each major headquarters activity in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2020. The budget for the Department of Defense for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 shall reflect the savings required by the modified plan.

(2) **BASLINE AMOUNT.**—For the purposes of this subsection, the baseline amount is the amount authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2016 for major Department of Defense headquarters activities, adjusted by a credit for reductions in such headquarters activities that are documented, as of the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, as having been accomplished in earlier fiscal years in accordance with the December 2013 directive of the Secretary of Defense on headquarters reductions. The modified plan issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an overall baseline amount for all of the major Department of Defense headquarters activities that credits reductions accomplished in earlier fiscal years in accordance with the December 2013 directive, and a specific baseline amount for each such headquarters activity that credits such reductions.

(3) **MAJOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “major Department of Defense headquarters activities” means the following:

(A) Each of the following organizations:

(i) The Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff.

(ii) The Office of the Secretary of the Army and the Army Staff.

(iii) The Office of the Secretary of the Navy, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and Headquarters, Marine Corps.

(iv) The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Staff.

(v) The Office of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the National Guard Joint Staff.

(B)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), headquarters elements of each of the following:

(I) The combatant commands, the sub-unified commands, and subordinate commands that directly report to such commands.

(II) The major commands of the military departments and the subordinate commands that directly report to such commands.

(III) The component commands of the military departments.

(IV) The Defense Agencies, the Department of Defense field activities, and the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

(V) Department of Defense components that report directly to the organizations specified in subparagraph (A).

(ii) Subordinate commands and direct-reporting components otherwise described in clause (i) that do not have significant functions other than operational, operational intelligence, or tactical functions, or training for operational, operational intelligence, or tactical functions, are not headquarters elements for purposes of this subsection.

(4) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise applicable guidance on the Department of Defense major headquarters activities as needed to—

(A) incorporate into such guidance the definition of the term “major Department of Defense headquarters activities” as provided in paragraph (3);

(B) ensure that the term “headquarters element”, as used in paragraph (3)(B), is consistently applied within such guidance to include—

(i) senior leadership and staff functions of applicable commands and components; and

(ii) direct support to senior leadership and staff functions of applicable commands and components and to higher headquarters;

(C) ensure that the budget and accounting systems of the Department of Defense are modified to track funding for the major Department of Defense headquarters activities as separate funding lines; and

(D) identify and address any deviation from the specific savings objective established for a headquarters activity in the modified plan issued by the Secretary pursuant to the requirement in paragraph (1).

(c) **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF HEADQUARTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a comprehensive review of the management and operational headquarters of the Department of Defense for purposes of consolidating and streamlining headquarters functions and administrative and support activities.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The review required by paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) The extent, if any, to which the staff of the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces have duplicative staff functions and services and could be consolidated into a single service staff.

(B) The extent, if any, to which the staff of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, the Defense Agencies, and temporary organizations have duplicative staff functions and services and could be streamlined with respect to—

(i) performing oversight and making policy;

(ii) performing staff functions and services specific to the military department concerned;

(iii) performing multi-department staff functions and services; and

(iv) performing functions and services across the Department of Defense with respect to intelligence collection and analysis.

(C) The extent, if any, to which the Joint Staff, the combatant commands, and their subordinate service component commands have duplicative staff functions and services that could be shared, consolidated, eliminated, or otherwise streamlined with—

(i) the Joint Staff performing oversight and execution;

(ii) the staff of the combatant commands performing only staff functions and services specific to the combatant command concerned; and

(iii) the staff of the service component commands of the combatant commands performing only staff functions and services specific to the service component command concerned.

(D) The extent, if any, to which reductions in military and civilian end-strength in management or operational headquarters could be used to create, build, or fill shortages in force structure for operational units.

(E) The extent, if any, to which revisions are required to the Defense Officers Personnel Management Act, including requirements for officers to serve in joint billets, the number of qualifying billets, the rank structure in the joint billets, and the joint qualification requirement for officers to be promoted while serving for extensive periods in critical positions such as program managers of major defense acquisition programs, and officers in units of component forces supporting joint commands, in order to achieve efficiencies, provide promotion fairness and equity, and obtain effective governance in the management of the Department of Defense.

(F) The structure and staffing of the Joint Staff, and the number, structure, and staffing of the combatant commands and their subordinate service component commands, including, in particular—

(i) whether or not the staff organization of each such entity has documented and periodically validated requirements for such entity;

(ii) whether or not there are an appropriate number of combatant commands relative to the requirements of the National Security Strategy, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and the National Military Strategy; and

(iii) whether or not opportunities exist to consolidate staff functions and services common to the Joint Staff and the service component commands into a single staff organization that provides the required functions, services, capabilities, and capacities to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and supported combatant commanders, and if so—

(I) where in the organizational structure such staff functions, services, capabilities, and capacities would be established; and

(II) whether or not the military departments could execute such staff functions, services, capabilities, and capacities while executing their requirements to organize, train, and equip the Armed Forces.

(G) The statutory and regulatory authority of the combatant commands to establish subordinate joint commands or headquarters, including joint task forces, led by a general or flag officer, and the extent, if any, to which the combatant commands have used such authority—

(i) to establish temporary or permanent subordinate joint commands or headquarters, including joint task forces, led by general or flag officers;

(ii) to disestablish temporary or permanent subordinate joint commands or headquarters, including joint task forces, led by general or flag officers;

(iii) to increase requirements for general and flag officers in the joint pool which are exempt from the end strength limitations otherwise applicable to general and flag officers in the Armed Forces;

(iv) to participate in the management of joint officer qualification in order to ensure the efficient and effective quality and quantity of officers needed to staff headquarters functions and services and return to the services officers with required professional experience and skills necessary to remain competitive for increased responsibility and authority through subsequent assignment or promotion, including by identifying—

(I) circumstances, if any, in which officers spend a disproportionate amount of time in their careers to attain joint officer qualifications with corresponding loss of opportunities to develop in the service-specific assignments needed to gain the increased proficiency and experience to qualify for service and command assignments; and

(II) circumstances, if any, in which the military departments detail officers to joint headquarters staffs in order to maximize the number of officers receiving joint duty credit with a focus on the quantity, instead of the quality, of officers achieving joint duty credit;

(v) to establish commanders' strategic planning groups, advisory groups, or similar parallel personal staff entities that could risk isolating function and staff processes, including an assessment of the justification used to establish such personal staff organizations and their impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of organizational staff functions, services, capabilities, and capacities; and

(vi) to ensure the identification and management of officers serving or having served in units in subordinate service component or joint commands during combat operations and did not receive joint credit for such service.

(3) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable and as the Secretary considers appropriate, conduct the review required by paragraph (1) in consultation with such experts on matters covered by the review who are independent of the Department of Defense.

(4) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the results of the review required by paragraph (1).

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Active Forces

Sec. 401. End strengths for active forces.

Sec. 402. Revisions in permanent active duty end strength minimum levels.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

Sec. 411. End strengths for Selected Reserve.

Sec. 412. End strengths for reserves on active duty in support of the reserves.

Sec. 413. End strengths for military technicians (dual status).

Sec. 414. Fiscal year 2016 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians.

Sec. 415. Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 421. Military personnel.

Sec. 422. Report on force structure of the Army.

Subtitle A—Active Forces

SEC. 401. END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE FORCES.

The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active duty personnel as of September 30, 2016, as follows:

- (1) The Army, 475,000.
- (2) The Navy, 329,200.
- (3) The Marine Corps, 184,000.
- (4) The Air Force, 320,715.

SEC. 402. REVISIONS IN PERMANENT ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTH MINIMUM LEVELS.

Section 691 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(1) For the Army, 475,000.

“(2) For the Navy, 329,200.

“(3) For the Marine Corps, 184,000.

“(4) For the Air Force, 317,000.”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “.05 percent” and inserting “.2 percent”.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

SEC. 411. END STRENGTHS FOR SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of the reserve components as of September 30, 2016, as follows:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 342,000.

(2) The Army Reserve, 198,000.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 57,400.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 38,900.

(5) The Air National Guard of the United States, 105,500.

(6) The Air Force Reserve, 69,200.

(7) The Coast Guard Reserve, 7,000.

(b) **END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS.**—The end strengths prescribed by subsection (a) for the Selected Reserve of any reserve component shall be proportionately reduced by—

(1) the total authorized strength of units organized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of such component which are on active duty (other than for training) at the end of the fiscal year; and

(2) the total number of individual members not in units organized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of such component who are on active duty (other than for training or for unsatisfactory participation in training) without their consent at the end of the fiscal year.

(c) **END STRENGTH INCREASES.**—Whenever units or individual members of the Selected Reserve of any reserve component are released from active duty during any fiscal year, the end strength prescribed for such fiscal year for the Selected Reserve of such reserve component shall be increased proportionately by the total authorized strengths of such units and by the total number of such individual members.

SEC. 412. END STRENGTHS FOR RESERVES ON ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE RESERVES.

Within the end strengths prescribed in section 411(a), the reserve components of the Armed Forces are authorized, as of September 30, 2016, the following number of Reserves to be serving on full-time active duty or full-time duty, in the case of members of the National Guard, for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 30,770.

(2) The Army Reserve, 16,261.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 9,934.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 2,260.

(5) The Air National Guard of the United States, 14,748.

(6) The Air Force Reserve, 3,032.

SEC. 413. END STRENGTHS FOR MILITARY TECHNICIANS (DUAL STATUS).

The minimum number of military technicians (dual status) as of the last day of fiscal year 2016 for the reserve components of the Army and the Air Force (notwithstanding section 129 of title 10, United States Code) shall be the following:

(1) For the Army National Guard of the United States, 26,099.

(2) For the Army Reserve, 7,395.

(3) For the Air National Guard of the United States, 22,104.

(4) For the Air Force Reserve, 9,814.

SEC. 414. FISCAL YEAR 2016 LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS.

(a) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **NATIONAL GUARD.**—Within the limitation provided in section 10217(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, the number of non-dual status technicians employed by the National Guard as of September 30, 2016, may not exceed the following:

(A) For the Army National Guard of the United States, 1,600.

(B) For the Air National Guard of the United States, 350.

(2) **ARMY RESERVE.**—The number of non-dual status technicians employed by the Army Reserve as of September 30, 2016, may not exceed 595.

(3) **AIR FORCE RESERVE.**—The number of non-dual status technicians employed by the Air Force Reserve as of September 30, 2016, may not exceed 90.

(b) **NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “non-dual status technician” has the meaning given that term in section 10217(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 415. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

During fiscal year 2016, the maximum number of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who may be serving at any time on full-time operational support duty under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, is the following:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 17,000.

(2) The Army Reserve, 13,000.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 6,200.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 3,000.

(5) The Air National Guard of the United States, 16,000.

(6) The Air Force Reserve, 14,000.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 421. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for military personnel, as specified in the funding table in section 4401.

(b) **CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORIZATION.**—The authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) supersedes any other authorization of appropriations (definite or indefinite) for such purpose for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 422. REPORT ON FORCE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMY.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report containing the following:

(1) An assessment by the Secretary of Defense of reports by the Secretary of the Army on the force structure of the Army submitted to Congress under section 1066 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1943) and section 1062 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3503).

(2) An evaluation of the adequacy of the Army force structure proposed for the future-years defense program for fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to meet the goals of the national military strategy of the United States.

(3) An independent risk assessment by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the proposed Army force structure and the ability of

such force structure to meet the operational requirements of combatant commanders.

(4) A description of the planning assumptions and scenarios used by the Department of Defense to validate the size and force structure of the Army, including the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

(5) A certification by the Secretary of Defense that the Secretary has reviewed the reports by the Secretary of the Army and the assessments of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and determined that an end strength for active duty personnel of the Army below the end strength level authorized in section 401(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3348) will be adequate to meet the national military strategy of the United States.

(6) A description of various alternative options for allocating funds to ensure that the end strengths of the Army do not fall below levels of significant risk, as determined pursuant to the risk assessment conducted by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under paragraph (3).

(7) Such other information or updates as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

- Sec. 501. Reinstatement of enhanced authority for selective early discharge of warrant officers.
- Sec. 502. Equitable treatment of junior officers excluded from an all-fully-qualified-officers list because of administrative error.
- Sec. 503. Enhanced flexibility for determination of officers to continue on active duty and for selective early retirement and early discharge.
- Sec. 504. Authority to defer until age 68 mandatory retirement for age of a general or flag officer serving as Chief or Deputy Chief of Chaplains of the Army, Navy, or Air Force.
- Sec. 505. General rule for warrant officer retirement in highest grade held satisfactorily.
- Sec. 506. Implementation of Comptroller General recommendation on the definition and availability of costs associated with general and flag officers and their aides.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

- Sec. 511. Continued service in the Ready Reserve by Members of Congress who are also members of the Ready Reserve.
- Sec. 512. Clarification of purpose of reserve component special selection boards as limited to correction of error at a mandatory promotion board.
- Sec. 513. Increase in number of days of active duty required to be performed by reserve component members for duty to be considered Federal service for purposes of unemployment compensation for ex-servicemembers.
- Sec. 514. Temporary authority to use Air Force reserve component personnel to provide training and instruction regarding pilot training.
- Sec. 515. Assessment of Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recommendation regarding consolidation of authorities to order members of reserve components to perform duty.

Subtitle C—General Service Authorities

- Sec. 521. Limited authority for Secretary concerned to initiate applications for correction of military records.
- Sec. 522. Temporary authority to develop and provide additional recruitment incentives.
- Sec. 523. Expansion of authority to conduct pilot programs on career flexibility to enhance retention of members of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 524. Modification of notice and wait requirements for change in ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 525. Role of Secretary of Defense in development of gender-neutral occupational standards.
- Sec. 526. Establishment of process by which members of the Armed Forces may carry an appropriate firearm on a military installation.
- Sec. 527. Establishment of breastfeeding policy for the Department of the Army.
- Sec. 528. Sense of Congress recognizing the diversity of the members of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle D—Military Justice, Including Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention and Response

- Sec. 531. Enforcement of certain crime victim rights by the Court of Criminal Appeals.
- Sec. 532. Department of Defense civilian employee access to Special Victims' Counsel.
- Sec. 533. Authority of Special Victims' Counsel to provide legal consultation and assistance in connection with various Government proceedings.
- Sec. 534. Timely notification to victims of sex-related offenses of the availability of assistance from Special Victims' Counsel.
- Sec. 535. Additional improvements to Special Victims' Counsel program.
- Sec. 536. Enhancement of confidentiality of restricted reporting of sexual assault in the military.
- Sec. 537. Modification of deadline for establishment of Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 538. Improved Department of Defense prevention and response to sexual assaults in which the victim is a male member of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 539. Preventing retaliation against members of the Armed Forces who report or intervene on behalf of the victim of an alleged sex-related offense.
- Sec. 540. Sexual assault prevention and response training for administrators and instructors of Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.
- Sec. 541. Retention of case notes in investigations of sex-related offenses involving members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.
- Sec. 542. Comptroller General of the United States reports on prevention and response to sexual assault by the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.
- Sec. 543. Improved implementation of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice.
- Sec. 544. Modification of Rule 104 of the Rules for Courts-Martial to establish certain prohibitions concerning evaluations of Special Victims' Counsel.

- Sec. 545. Modification of Rule 304 of the Military Rules of Evidence relating to the corroboration of a confession or admission.

Subtitle E—Member Education, Training, and Transition

- Sec. 551. Enhancements to Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.
- Sec. 552. Availability of preseparation counseling for members of the Armed Forces discharged or released after limited active duty.
- Sec. 553. Availability of additional training opportunities under Transition Assistance Program.
- Sec. 554. Modification of requirement for in-resident instruction for courses of instruction offered as part of Phase II joint professional military education.
- Sec. 555. Termination of program of educational assistance for reserve component members supporting contingency operations and other operations.
- Sec. 556. Appointments to military service academies from nominations made by Delegates in Congress from the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Sec. 557. Support for athletic programs of the United States Military Academy.
- Sec. 558. Condition on admission of defense industry civilians to attend the United States Air Force Institute of Technology.
- Sec. 559. Quality assurance of certification programs and standards for professional credentials obtained by members of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 560. Prohibition on receipt of unemployment insurance while receiving post-9/11 education assistance.
- Sec. 561. Job Training and Post-Service Placement Executive Committee.
- Sec. 562. Recognition of additional involuntary mobilization duty authorities exempt from five-year limit on reemployment rights of persons who serve in the uniformed services.
- Sec. 563. Expansion of outreach for veterans transitioning from serving on active duty.

Subtitle F—Defense Dependents' Education and Military Family Readiness Matters

- Sec. 571. Continuation of authority to assist local educational agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees.
- Sec. 572. Impact aid for children with severe disabilities.
- Sec. 573. Authority to use appropriated funds to support Department of Defense student meal programs in domestic dependent elementary and secondary schools located outside the United States.
- Sec. 574. Family support programs for immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces assigned to special operations forces.

Subtitle G—Decorations and Awards

- Sec. 581. Authorization for award of the Distinguished-Service Cross for acts of extraordinary heroism during the Korean War.

Subtitle H—Miscellaneous Reports and Other Matters

- Sec. 591. Coordination with non-government suicide prevention organizations and agencies to assist in reducing suicides by members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 592. Extension of semiannual reports on the involuntary separation of members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 593. Report on preliminary mental health screenings for individuals becoming members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 594. Report regarding new rulemaking under the Military Lending Act and Defense Manpower Data Center reports and meetings.

Sec. 595. Remotely piloted aircraft career field manning shortfalls.

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

SEC. 501. REINSTATEMENT OF ENHANCED AUTHORITY FOR SELECTIVE EARLY DISCHARGE OF WARRANT OFFICERS.

Section 580a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “November 30, 1993, and ending on October 1, 1999” and inserting “October 1, 2015, and ending on October 1, 2019”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

SEC. 502. EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF JUNIOR OFFICERS EXCLUDED FROM AN ALL-FULLY-QUALIFIED-OFFICERS LIST BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.

(a) OFFICERS ON ACTIVE-DUTY LIST.—Section 624(a)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that one or more officers or former officers were not placed on an all-fully-qualified-list under this paragraph because of administrative error, the Secretary may prepare a supplemental all-fully-qualified-officers list containing the names of any such officers for approval in accordance with this paragraph.”.

(b) OFFICERS ON RESERVE ACTIVE-STATUS LIST.—Section 14308(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that one or more officers or former officers were not placed on an all-fully-qualified-list under this paragraph because of administrative error, the Secretary may prepare a supplemental all-fully-qualified-officers list containing the names of any such officers for approval in accordance with this paragraph.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SPECIAL SELECTION BOARD AUTHORITY.—

(1) REGULAR COMPONENTS.—Section 628(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “or the name of a person that should have been placed on an all-fully-qualified-officers list under section 624(a)(3) of this title was not so placed,”.

(2) RESERVE COMPONENTS.—Section 14502(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “or whose name was not placed on an all-fully-qualified-officers list under section 14308(b)(4) of this title because of administrative error,”.

SEC. 503. ENHANCED FLEXIBILITY FOR DETERMINATION OF OFFICERS TO CONTINUE ON ACTIVE DUTY AND FOR SELECTIVE EARLY RETIREMENT AND EARLY DISCHARGE.

Section 638a(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “officers considered—” and all that follows and inserting “officers considered.”.

SEC. 504. AUTHORITY TO DEFER UNTIL AGE 68 MANDATORY RETIREMENT FOR AGE OF A GENERAL OR FLAG OFFICER SERVING AS CHIEF OR DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE ARMY, NAVY, OR AIR FORCE.

(a) DEFERRAL AUTHORITY.—Section 1253 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) DEFERRED RETIREMENT OF CHAPLAINS.—(1) The Secretary of the military department concerned may defer the retirement under subsection (a) of an officer serving in a general or flag officer grade who is the Chief of Chaplains or Deputy Chief of Chaplains of that officer’s armed force.

“(2) A deferment of the retirement of an officer referred to in paragraph (1) may not extend beyond the first day of the month following the month in which the officer becomes 68 years of age.

“(3) The authority to defer the retirement of an officer referred to in paragraph (1) expires December 31, 2020. Subject to paragraph (2), a deferment granted before that date may continue on and after that date.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of section 1253 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§1253. Age 64: regular commissioned officers in general and flag officer grades; exceptions”.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 63 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1253 and inserting the following new item:

“1253. Age 64: regular commissioned officers in general and flag officer grades; exceptions.”.

SEC. 505. GENERAL RULE FOR WARRANT OFFICER RETIREMENT IN HIGHEST GRADE HELD SATISFACTORILY.

Section 1371 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§1371. Warrant officers: general rule

“Unless entitled to a higher retired grade under some other provision of law, a warrant officer shall be retired in the highest regular or reserve warrant officer grade in which the warrant officer served satisfactorily, as determined by the Secretary concerned.”.

SEC. 506. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATION ON THE DEFINITION AND AVAILABILITY OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS AND THEIR AIDES.

(a) DEFINITION OF COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of providing a consistent approach to estimating and managing the full costs associated with general and flag officers and their aides, the Secretary of Defense shall direct the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, to define the costs that could be associated with general and flag officers since 2001, including—

(A) security details;

(B) Government and commercial air travel;

(C) general and flag officer per diem;

(D) enlisted and officer aide housing and travel costs;

(E) general and flag officer additional support staff and their travel, equipment, and per diem costs;

(F) general and flag officer official residences; and

(G) any other associated costs incurred due to the nature of their position.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, shall prepare the definition of costs under paragraph (1) in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense

for Personnel and Readiness and the Secretaries of the military departments.

(b) REPORT ON COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS AND AIDES.—Not later than June 30, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report describing the costs associated with general and flag officers and their enlisted and officer aides.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

SEC. 511. CONTINUED SERVICE IN THE READY RESERVE BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE.

Section 10149 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b)(1) In applying Ready Reserve continuous screening under this section, an individual who is both a member of the Ready Reserve and a Member of Congress may not be transferred to the Standby Reserve or discharged on account of the individual’s position as a Member of Congress.

“(2) The transfer or discharge of an individual who is both a member of the Ready Reserve and a Member of Congress may be ordered—

“(A) only by the Secretary of Defense or, in the case of a Member of Congress who also is a member of the Coast Guard Reserve, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy; and

“(B) only on the basis of the needs of the service, taking into consideration the position and duties of the individual in the Ready Reserve.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘Member of Congress’ includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress and a Member-elect.”.

SEC. 512. CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE OF RESERVE COMPONENT SPECIAL SELECTION BOARDS AS LIMITED TO CORRECTION OF ERROR AT A MANDATORY PROMOTION BOARD.

Section 14502(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “a selection board” and inserting “a mandatory promotion board convened under section 1410I(a) of this title”; and

(B) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “selection board” and inserting “mandatory promotion board”; and

(2) in the first sentence of paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “Such board” and inserting “The special selection board”; and

(B) by striking “selection board” and inserting “mandatory promotion board”.

SEC. 513. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DAYS OF ACTIVE DUTY REQUIRED TO BE PERFORMED BY RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR DUTY TO BE CONSIDERED FEDERAL SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR EX-SERVICEMEMBERS.

(a) INCREASE OF NUMBER OF DAYS.—Section 8521(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “90 days” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting “180 days”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to periods of Federal service commencing on or after that date.

SEC. 514. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO USE AIR FORCE RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION REGARDING PILOT TRAINING.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force may authorize personnel described in paragraph (2) to provide training and instruction regarding pilot training to the following:

(A) Members of the Armed Forces on active duty.

(B) Members of foreign military forces who are in the United States.

(2) **PERSONNEL.**—The personnel described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Members of the reserve components of the Air Force on active Guard and Reserve duty (as that term is defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code) who are not otherwise authorized to conduct the training described in paragraph (1) due to the limitations in section 12310 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) Members of the Air Force who are military technicians (dual status) who are not otherwise authorized to conduct the training described in paragraph (1) due to the limitations in section 10216 of title 10, United States Code, and section 709(a) of title 32, United States Code.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—Not more than 50 members described in paragraph (2) may provide training and instruction under the authority in paragraph (1) at any one time.

(4) **FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT.**—Members of the uniformed services described in paragraph (2) who provide training and instruction pursuant to the authority in paragraph (1) shall be covered by the Federal Tort Claims Act for purposes of any claim arising from the employment of such individuals under that authority.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth a plan to eliminate shortages in the number of pilot instructors within the Air Force using authorities available to the Secretary under current law.

SEC. 515. ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION REGARDING CONSOLIDATION OF AUTHORITIES TO ORDER MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS TO PERFORM DUTY.

(a) **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment of the recommendation of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission regarding consolidation of statutory authorities by which members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces may be ordered to perform duty. The Secretary shall specifically assess each of the six broader duty statuses recommended by the Commission as replacements for the 30 reserve component duty statuses currently authorized to determine whether consolidation will increase efficiency in the reserve components.

(b) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the Secretary's assessment. If, as a result of the assessment, the Secretary determines that an alternate approach to consolidation of the statutory authorities described in subsection (a) is preferable, the Secretary shall submit the alternate approach, including a draft of such legislation as would be necessary to amend titles 10, 14, 32, and 37 of the United States Code and other provisions of law in order to implement the Secretary's approach by October 1, 2018.

Subtitle C—General Service Authorities

SEC. 521. LIMITED AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY CONCERNED TO INITIATE APPLICATIONS FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS.

Section 1552(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “or his heir or legal representative” and inserting “(or the claimant's heir or legal representative) or the Secretary concerned”; and

(B) by striking “he discovers” and inserting “discovering”; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “However, a board” and inserting the following: “The Secretary concerned may file a request for correction of a military record only if the request is made on behalf of a group of members or former members of the armed forces who were similarly harmed by the same error or injustice. A board”.

SEC. 522. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES.

(a) **ADDITIONAL RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of a military department may develop and provide incentives, not otherwise authorized by law, to encourage individuals to accept an appointment as a commissioned officer, to accept an appointment as a warrant officer, or to enlist in an Armed Force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(b) **RELATION TO OTHER PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.**—A recruitment incentive developed under subsection (a) may be provided—

(1) without regard to the lack of specific authority for the recruitment incentive under title 10 or 37, United States Code; and

(2) notwithstanding any provision of such titles, or any rule or regulation prescribed under such provision, relating to methods of providing incentives to individuals to accept appointments or enlistments in the Armed Forces, including the provision of group or individual bonuses, pay, or other incentives.

(c) **NOTICE AND WAIT REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of a military department may not provide a recruitment incentive developed under subsection (a) until—

(1) the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a plan regarding provision of the recruitment incentive, which includes—

(A) a description of the incentive, including the purpose of the incentive and the potential recruits to be addressed by the incentive;

(B) a description of the provisions of titles 10 and 37, United States Code, from which the incentive would require a waiver and the rationale to support the waiver;

(C) a statement of the anticipated outcomes as a result of providing the incentive; and

(D) a description of the method to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the incentive; and

(2) the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the plan was received by Congress.

(d) **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF INCENTIVES.**—The Secretary of a military department may not provide more than three recruitment incentives under the authority of this section.

(e) **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING INCENTIVES.**—The number of individuals who receive one or more of the recruitment incentives provided under subsection (a) by the Secretary of a military department during a fiscal year for an Armed Force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary may not exceed 20 percent of the accession objective of that Armed Force for that fiscal year.

(f) **DURATION OF DEVELOPED INCENTIVE.**—A recruitment incentive developed under subsection (a) may be provided for not longer than a three-year period beginning on the date on

which the incentive is first provided, except that the Secretary of the military department concerned may extend the period if the Secretary determines that additional time is needed to fully evaluate the effectiveness of the incentive.

(g) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—If the Secretary of a military department provides an recruitment incentive under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report, not later than 60 days after the end of the fiscal year, containing—

(1) a description of each incentive provided under subsection (a) during that fiscal year; and

(2) an assessment of the impact of the incentives on the recruitment of individuals for an Armed Force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(h) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES.**—Notwithstanding subsection (f), the authority to provide recruitment incentives under this section expires on December 31, 2020.

SEC. 523. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PILOT PROGRAMS ON CAREER FLEXIBILITY TO ENHANCE RETENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.**—Subsection (b) of section 533 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. prec. 701 note) is repealed.

(b) **REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.**—Subsection (c) of section 533 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. prec. 701 note) is repealed.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 533 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. prec. 701 note) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (m) as subsections (b) through (k), respectively; and

(2) in subsections (b)(1), (d), and (f)(3)(D) (as so redesignated), by striking “subsection (e)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (c)”.

SEC. 524. MODIFICATION OF NOTICE AND WAIT REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGE IN GROUND COMBAT EXCLUSION POLICY FOR FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **RULE FOR GROUND COMBAT PERSONNEL POLICY.**—Section 652(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “before any such change is implemented” and inserting “not less than 30 calendar days before such change is implemented”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5).

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 652(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “calendar” before “days”.

SEC. 525. ROLE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER-NEUTRAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS.

Section 524(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3361; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) measure the combat readiness of combat units, including special operations forces.”.

SEC. 526. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESS BY WHICH MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MAY CARRY AN APPROPRIATE FIREARM ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION.

Not later than December 31, 2015, the Secretary of Defense, taking into consideration the views of senior leadership of military installations in the United States, shall establish and implement a process by which the commanders of military installations in the United States, or other military commanders designated by the Secretary of Defense for military reserve centers, Armed Services recruiting centers, and such other defense facilities as the Secretary may prescribe, may authorize a member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to duty at the installation, center or facility to carry an appropriate firearm on the installation, center, or facility if the commander determines that carrying such a firearm is necessary as a personal- or force-protection measure.

SEC. 527. ESTABLISHMENT OF BREASTFEEDING POLICY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

The Secretary of the Army shall develop a comprehensive policy regarding breastfeeding by female members of the Army who are breastfeeding. At a minimum, the policy shall address the following:

(1) The provision of a designated room or area that will provide the member with adequate privacy and cleanliness and that includes an electrical outlet to facilitate the use of a breast pump. Restrooms should not be considered an appropriate location.

(2) An allowance for appropriate breaks, when practicable, to permit the member to breastfeed or utilize a breast pump.

SEC. 528. SENSE OF CONGRESS RECOGNIZING THE DIVERSITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States military includes individuals with a variety of national, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds that have roots all over the world.

(2) In addition to diverse backgrounds, members of the Armed Forces come from numerous religious traditions, including Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, non-denominational, non-practicing, and many more.

(3) Members of the Armed Forces from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions have lost their lives or been injured defending the national security of the United States.

(4) Diversity contributes to the strength of the Armed Forces, and service members from different backgrounds and religious traditions share the same goal of defending the United States.

(5) The unity of the Armed Forces reflects the strength in diversity that makes the United States a great nation.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) continue to recognize and promote diversity in the Armed Forces; and

(2) honor those from all diverse backgrounds and religious traditions who have made sacrifices in serving the United States through the Armed Forces.

Subtitle D—Military Justice, Including Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention and Response

SEC. 531. ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS BY THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS.

Subsection (e) of section 806b of title 10, United States Code (article 6b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is amended to read as follows:

“(e) ENFORCEMENT BY COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS.—(1) If the victim of an offense under this chapter believes that a preliminary hearing

ruling under section 832 of this title (article 32) or a court-martial ruling violates the rights of the victim afforded by a section (article) or rule specified in paragraph (4), the victim may petition the Court of Criminal Appeals for a writ of mandamus to require the preliminary hearing officer or the court-martial to comply with the section (article) or rule.

“(2) If the victim of an offense under this chapter is subject to an order to submit to a deposition, notwithstanding the availability of the victim to testify at the court-martial trying the accused for the offense, the victim may petition the Court of Criminal Appeals for a writ of mandamus to quash such order.

“(3) A petition for a writ of mandamus described in this subsection shall be forwarded directly to the Court of Criminal Appeals, by such means as may be prescribed by the President, and, to the extent practicable, shall have priority over all other proceedings before the court.

“(4) Paragraph (1) applies with respect to the protections afforded by the following:

“(A) This section (article).

“(B) Section 832 (article 32) of this title.

“(C) Military Rule of Evidence 412, relating to the admission of evidence regarding a victim's sexual background.

“(D) Military Rule of Evidence 513, relating to the psychotherapist-patient privilege.

“(E) Military Rule of Evidence 514, relating to the victim advocate-victim privilege.

“(F) Military Rule of Evidence 615, relating to the exclusion of witnesses.”.

SEC. 532. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL.

Section 1044e(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

“(C) A civilian employee of the Department of Defense who is not eligible for military legal assistance under section 1044(a)(7) of this title, but who is the victim of an alleged sex-related offense, and the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the military department concerned waives the condition in such section for the purposes of offering Special Victims' Counsel services to the employee.”.

SEC. 533. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL TO PROVIDE LEGAL CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PROCEEDINGS.

Section 1044e(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph (9):

“(9) Legal consultation and assistance in connection with—

“(A) any complaint against the Government, including an allegation under review by an inspector general and a complaint regarding equal employment opportunities;

“(B) any request to the Government for information, including a request under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as a ‘Freedom of Information Act request’); and

“(C) any correspondence or other communications with Congress.”.

SEC. 534. TIMELY NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS OF SEX-RELATED OFFENSES OF THE AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE FROM SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL.

(a) TIMELY NOTICE DESCRIBED.—Section 1044e(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) Subject to such exceptions for exigent circumstances as the Secretary of Defense and the

Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may prescribe, notice of the availability of a Special Victims' Counsel shall be provided to an individual described in subsection (a)(2) before any military criminal investigator or trial counsel interviews, or requests any statement from, the individual regarding the alleged sex-related offense.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO RELATED LEGAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY.—Section 1565b(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) Subject to such exceptions for exigent circumstances as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may prescribe, notice of the availability of a Special Victims' Counsel under section 1044e of this title shall be provided to a member of the armed forces or dependent who is the victim of sexual assault before any military criminal investigator or trial counsel interviews, or requests any statement from, the member or dependent regarding the alleged sexual assault.”.

SEC. 535. ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL PROGRAM.

(a) TRAINING TIME PERIOD AND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1044e(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “An individual”;

(2) by designating existing paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary of Defense shall—

“(A) develop a policy to standardize the time period within which a Special Victims' Counsel receives training; and

“(B) establish the baseline training requirements for a Special Victims' Counsel.”.

(b) IMPROVED ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.—Section 1044e(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall establish—

“(A) guiding principles for the Special Victims' Counsel program, to include ensuring that—

“(i) Special Victims' Counsel are assigned to locations that maximize the opportunity for face-to-face communication between counsel and clients; and

“(ii) effective means of communication are available to permit counsel and client interactions when face-to-face communication is not feasible;

“(B) performance measures and standards to measure the effectiveness of the Special Victims' Counsel program and client satisfaction with the program; and

“(C) processes by which the Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating will evaluate and monitor the Special Victims' Counsel program using such guiding principles and performance measures and standards.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 1044(d)(2) of chapter 53 of title 10, United States Code is amended by striking “meets the additional qualifications specified in subsection (d)(2)” and inserting “satisfies the additional qualifications and training requirements specified in subsection (d)”.

SEC. 536. ENHANCEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESTRICTED REPORTING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY.

(a) **PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW TO ENSURE CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTING.**—Section 1565b(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) In the case of information disclosed pursuant to paragraph (1), any State law or regulation that would require an individual specified in paragraph (2) to disclose the personally identifiable information of the adult victim or alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault to a State or local law enforcement agency shall not apply, except when reporting is necessary to prevent or mitigate a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual.”.

(b) **CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE.**—Section 1565b(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “a dependent” and inserting “an adult dependent”.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 1565b of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **SEXUAL ASSAULT.**—The term ‘sexual assault’ includes the offenses of rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and attempts to commit such offenses, as punishable under applicable Federal or State law.

“(2) **STATE.**—The term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any territory or possession of the United States.”.

SEC. 537. MODIFICATION OF DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND DEFENSE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 546(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3374; 10 U.S.C. 1561 note) is amended by striking “not later than” and all that follows and inserting “not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.”.

SEC. 538. IMPROVED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN WHICH THE VICTIM IS A MALE MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **PLAN TO IMPROVE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.**—The Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall develop a plan to improve Department of Defense prevention and response to sexual assaults in which the victim is a male member of the Armed Forces.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Sexual assault prevention and response training to more comprehensively and directly address the incidence of male members of the Armed Forces who are sexually assaulted and how certain behavior and activities, such as hazing, can constitute a sexual assault.

(2) Methods to evaluate the extent to which differences exist in the medical and mental health-care needs of male and female sexual assault victims, and the care regimen, if any, that will best meet those needs.

(3) Data-driven decision making to improve male-victim sexual assault prevention and response program efforts.

(4) Goals with associated metrics to drive the changes needed to address sexual assaults of male members of the Armed Forces.

(5) Information about the sexual victimization of males in communications to members that are

used to raise awareness of sexual assault and efforts to prevent and respond to it.

(6) Guidance for the department’s medical and mental health providers, and other personnel as appropriate, based on the results of the evaluation described in paragraph (2), that delineates these gender-specific distinctions and the care regimen that is recommended to most effectively meet those needs.

SEC. 539. PREVENTING RETALIATION AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO REPORT OR INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIM OF AN ALLEGED SEX-RELATED OFFENSE.

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent retaliation carried out by members of the Armed Forces against other members who report or otherwise intervene on behalf of the victim of an alleged sex-related offense.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The comprehensive strategy required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Bystander intervention programs emphasizing the importance of guarding against retaliation.

(2) Department of Defense and military department policies and requirements to ensure protection for victims of alleged sex-related offenses and members who intervene on behalf of victims from retaliation.

(3) Additional training for commanders on methods and procedures to combat attitudes and beliefs that result in retaliation.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

(1) The term “alleged sex-related offense” has the meaning given that term in section 1044e(g) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “retaliation” has such meaning as may be given that term by the Secretary of Defense in the development of the strategy required by subsection (a).

SEC. 540. SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TRAINING FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND INSTRUCTORS OF SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS.

The Secretary of a military department shall ensure that the commander of each unit of the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and all Professors of Military Science, senior military instructors, and civilian employees detailed, assigned, or employed as administrators and instructors of the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps receive regular sexual assault prevention and response training and education.

SEC. 541. RETENTION OF CASE NOTES IN INVESTIGATIONS OF SEX-RELATED OFFENSES INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, OR MARINE CORPS.

(a) **RETENTION OF ALL INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall update Department of Defense records retention policies to ensure that, for all investigations relating to an alleged sex-related offense (as defined in section 1044e(g) of title 10, United States Code) involving a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps, all elements of the case file shall be retained as part of the investigative records retained in accordance with section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 1561 note).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—In updating records retention policies as required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall address, at a minimum, the following matters:

(1) The elements of the case file to be retained must include, at a minimum, the case activity record, case review record, investigative plans, and all case notes made by an investigating agent or agents.

(2) All investigative records must be retained for no less than 50 years.

(3) No element of the case file may be destroyed until the expiration of the time that investigative records must be kept.

(4) Records may be stored digitally or in hard copy, in accordance with existing law or regulations or additionally prescribed policy considered necessary by the Secretary of the military department concerned.

(c) **CONSISTENT EDUCATION AND POLICY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that existing policy, education, and training are updated to reflect policy changes in accordance with subsection (a).

(d) **UNIFORM APPLICATION TO MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, the policy developed under subsections (a) is implemented uniformly by the military departments.

SEC. 542. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORTS ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT BY THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND THE ARMY RESERVE.

(a) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the preliminary assessment of the Comptroller General (made pursuant to a review conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of this section) of the extent to which the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve—

(1) have in place policies and programs to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault involving members of the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve, as applicable;

(2) provide medical and mental health care services to members of the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve, as applicable, following a sexual assault; and

(3) have identified whether the nature of service in the Army National Guard or the Army Reserve, as the case may be, poses challenges to the prevention of or response to sexual assault.

(b) **ADDITIONAL REPORTS.**—If after submitting the report required by subsection (a) the Comptroller General makes additional assessments as a result of the review described in that subsection, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress such reports on such additional assessments as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

SEC. 543. IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

The Secretary of Defense shall examine the Department of Defense process for implementing statutory changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice for the purpose of developing options for streamlining such process. The Secretary shall adopt procedures to ensure that legal guidance is published as soon as practicable whenever statutory changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice are implemented.

SEC. 544. MODIFICATION OF RULE 104 OF THE RULES FOR COURTS-MARTIAL TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS CONCERNING EVALUATIONS OF SPECIAL VICTIMS’ COUNSEL.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Rule 104(b) of the Rules for Courts-Martial shall be modified to provide that the prohibitions concerning evaluations established by that Rule shall apply to the giving of a less favorable rating or evaluation to any member of the Armed Forces serving as a Special Victims’ Counsel because of the zeal with which such counsel represented a victim.

SEC. 545. MODIFICATION OF RULE 304 OF THE MILITARY RULES OF EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE CORROBORATION OF A CONFESSION OR ADMISSION.

To the extent the President considers practicable, the President shall modify Rule 304(c) of

the Military Rules of Evidence to conform to the rules governing the admissibility of the corroboration of admissions and confessions in the trial of criminal cases in the United States district courts.

Subtitle E—Member Education, Training, and Transition

SEC. 551. ENHANCEMENTS TO YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

(a) **SCOPE AND PURPOSE.**—Section 582(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended by striking “combat veteran”.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **DEFINITION.**—Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS DEFINED.**—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible individual’ means a member of a reserve component, a member of their family, or a designated representative who the Secretary of Defense determines to be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “National Guard and Reserve members and their families” and inserting “eligible individuals”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, their families,” and inserting “eligible individuals”;

(C) in subsection (d)(2)(C), by striking “members of the Armed Forces and their families” and inserting “eligible individuals”;

(D) in subsection (h), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “members of the Armed Forces and their family members” and inserting “eligible individuals”; and

(ii) by striking “such members and their family members” and inserting “such eligible individuals”;

(E) in subsection (j), by striking “members of the Armed Forces and their families” and inserting “eligible individuals”; and

(F) in subsection (k), by striking “individual members of the Armed Forces and their families” and inserting “eligible individuals”.

(c) **OFFICE FOR REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**—Section 582(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (1)(B), by striking “substance abuse and mental health treatment services” and inserting “substance abuse, mental health treatment, and other quality of life services”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **GRANTS.**—The Office for Reintegration Programs may make grants to conduct data collection, trend analysis, and curriculum development and to prepare reports in support of activities under this section.”.

(d) **OPERATION OF PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ENHANCED FLEXIBILITY.**—Subsection (g) of section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(g) **OPERATION OF PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office for Reintegration Programs shall assist State National Guard and Reserve organizations with the development and provision of information, events, and activities to support the health and well-being of eligible individuals before, during, and after periods of activation, mobilization, or deployment.

“(2) **FOCUS OF INFORMATION, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES.**—

“(A) **BEFORE ACTIVATION, MOBILIZATION, OR DEPLOYMENT.**—Before a period of activation, mobilization, or deployment, the information, events, and activities described in paragraph (1) should focus on preparing eligible individuals and affected communities for the rigors of activation, mobilization, and deployment.

“(B) **DURING ACTIVATION, MOBILIZATION, OR DEPLOYMENT.**—During such a period, the information, events, and activities described in paragraph (1) should focus on—

“(i) helping eligible individuals cope with the challenges and stress associated with such period;

“(ii) decreasing the isolation of eligible individuals during such period; and

“(iii) preparing eligible individuals for the challenges associated with reintegration.

“(C) **AFTER ACTIVATION, MOBILIZATION, OR DEPLOYMENT.**—After such a period, but no earlier than 30 days after demobilization, the information, events, and activities described in paragraph (1) should focus on—

“(i) reconnecting the member with their families, friends, and communities;

“(ii) providing information on employment opportunities;

“(iii) helping eligible individuals deal with the challenges of reintegration;

“(iv) ensuring that eligible individuals understand what benefits they are entitled to and what resources are available to help them overcome the challenges of reintegration; and

“(v) providing a forum for addressing negative behaviors related to operational stress and reintegration.

“(3) **MEMBER PAY.**—Members shall receive appropriate pay for days spent attending such events and activities.

“(4) **MINIMUM NUMBER OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.**—The State National Guard and Reserve Organizations shall provide to eligible individuals—

“(A) one event or activity before a period of activation, mobilization, or deployment;

“(B) one event or activity during a period of activation, mobilization, or deployment; and

“(C) two events or activities after a period of activation, mobilization, or deployment.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “throughout the entire deployment cycle”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking “well-being through the 4 phases” through the end of the subsection and inserting “well-being.”;

(ii) in the heading, by striking “; DEPLOYMENT CYCLE”;

(C) in subsection (d)(2)(C), by striking “throughout the deployment cycle described in subsection (g)”;

(D) in the heading of subsection (f), by striking “STATE DEPLOYMENT CYCLE”.

(e) **ADDITIONAL PERMITTED OUTREACH SERVICE.**—Section 582(h) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(16) Stress management and positive coping skills.”.

(f) **SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT-WIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS.**—Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

“(i) **SUPPORT OF SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS.**—The Office for Reintegration Programs shall assist the Defense Suicide Prevention Of-

fice and the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury to collect and analyze information, suggestions, and best practices from State National Guard and Reserve organizations with suicide prevention and community response programs.”.

(g) **NAME CHANGE.**—Section 582(d)(1)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended by striking “Substance Abuse and the Mental Health Services Administration” and inserting “Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration”.

SEC. 552. AVAILABILITY OF PRESEPARATION COUNSELING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DISCHARGED OR RELEASED AFTER LIMITED ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 1142(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that member’s first 180 days of active duty” and inserting “the first 180 continuous days of active duty of the member”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) For purposes of calculating the days of active duty of a member under subparagraph (A), the Secretary concerned shall exclude any day on which—

“(i) the member performed full-time training duty or annual training duty; and

“(ii) the member attended, while in the active military service, a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary concerned.”.

SEC. 553. AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) **ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.**—

(1) As part of the program carried out under this section, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, when the Coast Guard is not operating within the Department of the Navy, shall permit a member of the armed forces eligible for assistance under the program to elect to receive additional training in any of the following subjects:

“(A) Preparation for higher education or training.

“(B) Preparation for career or technical training.

“(C) Preparation for entrepreneurship.

“(D) Other training options determined by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, when the Coast Guard is not operating within the Department of the Navy.

“(2) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, when the Coast Guard is not operating within the Department of the Navy, shall ensure that a member of the armed forces who elects to receive additional training in subjects available under paragraph (1) is able to receive the training.”.

SEC. 554. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR IN-RESIDENT INSTRUCTION FOR COURSES OF INSTRUCTION OFFERED AS PART OF PHASE II JOINT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION.

Section 2154(a)(2)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, or offered through,” after “taught in residence at”.

SEC. 555. TERMINATION OF PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS SUPPORTING CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AND OTHER OPERATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 16167. Sunset

“(a) **SUNSET.**—The authority to provide educational assistance under this chapter shall terminate on the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

“(b) **LIMITATION ON PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE PENDING SUNSET.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 and ending on the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of that Act, educational assistance may be provided under this chapter only to a member otherwise eligible for educational assistance under this chapter who received educational assistance under this chapter for a course of study at an educational institution for the enrollment period at the educational institution that immediately preceded the date of the enactment of that Act.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“16167. Sunset.”.

SEC. 556. APPOINTMENTS TO MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES FROM NOMINATIONS MADE BY DELEGATES IN CONGRESS FROM THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) **UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.**—Section 4342(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “Three” and inserting “Four”;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “Three” and inserting “Four”;

(3) in paragraph (9), by striking “Two” and inserting “Three”; and

(4) in paragraph (10), by striking “Two” and inserting “Three”.

(b) **UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.**—Section 6954(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “Three” and inserting “Four”;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “Three” and inserting “Four”;

(3) in paragraph (9), by striking “Two” and inserting “Three”; and

(4) in paragraph (10), by striking “Two” and inserting “Three”.

(c) **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.**—Section 9342(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “Three” and inserting “Four”;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “Three” and inserting “Four”;

(3) in paragraph (9), by striking “Two” and inserting “Three”; and

(4) in paragraph (10), by striking “Two” and inserting “Three”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to the nomination of candidates for appointment to the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, and the United States Air Force Academy for classes entering these military service academies after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 557. SUPPORT FOR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 403 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 4362. Support of athletic programs

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary of the Army may enter

into contracts and cooperative agreements with the Army West Point Athletic Association for the purpose of supporting the athletic programs of the Academy. Notwithstanding section 2304(k) of this title, the Secretary may enter such contracts or cooperative agreements on a sole source basis pursuant to section 2304(c)(5) of this title. Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, a cooperative agreement under this section may be used to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Academy.

“(2) **FINANCIAL CONTROLS.**—(A) Before entering into a contract or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that such contract or agreement includes appropriate financial controls to account for Academy and Association resources in accordance with accepted accounting principles.

“(B) Any such contract or cooperative agreement shall contain a provision that allows the Secretary, at the Secretary’s discretion, to review the financial accounts of the Association to determine whether the operations of the Association—

“(i) are consistent with the terms of the contract or cooperative agreement; and

“(ii) will not compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of the Army.

“(3) **LEASES.**—Section 2667(h) of this title shall not apply to any leases the Secretary may enter into with the Association for the purpose of supporting the athletic programs of the Academy.

“(b) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

“(1) **AUTHORITY.**—To the extent required by a contract or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), the Secretary may provide support services to the Association while the Association conducts its support activities at the Academy. The Secretary may provide support services described in paragraph (2) only if the Secretary determines that the provision of such services is essential for the support of the athletic programs of the Academy.

“(2) **SUPPORT SERVICES DEFINED.**—(A) In this subsection, the term ‘support services’ includes utilities, office furnishings and equipment, communications services, records staging and archiving, audio and video support, and security systems in conjunction with the leasing or licensing of property.

“(B) Such term includes—

“(i) housing for Association personnel on United States Army Garrison, West Point, New York; and

“(ii) enrollment of dependents of Association personnel in elementary and secondary schools under the same criteria applied to dependents of Federal employees under section 2164(a) of this title, except that educational services provided pursuant to this clause shall be provided on a reimbursable basis.

“(3) **NO LIABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES.**—Any such support services may only be provided without any liability of the United States to the Association.

“(c) **ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPORT.**—

“(1) **SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM THE ASSOCIATION.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, the Secretary may accept from the Association funds, supplies, and services for the support of the athletic programs of the Academy. For the purposes of this section, employees or personnel of the Association may not be considered to be employees of the United States.

“(2) **FUNDS RECEIVED FROM NCAA.**—The Secretary may accept funds from the National Collegiate Athletic Association to support the athletic programs of the Academy.

“(3) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure that contributions under this subsection and expenditure of funds pursuant to subsection (e) do not reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Department of the Army, any of its employees, or

any member of the armed forces to carry out any responsibility or duty in a fair and objective manner, or compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of the Army, or any individual involved in such a program.

“(d) **TRADEMARKS AND SERVICE MARKS.**—

“(1) **LICENSING, MARKETING, AND SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENTS.**—An agreement under subsection (a) may, consistent with section 2260 of this title (other than subsection (d) of such section), authorize the Association to enter into licensing, marketing, and sponsorship agreements relating to trademarks and service marks identifying the Academy, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Army.

“(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—No licensing, marketing, or sponsorship agreement may be entered into under paragraph (1) if—

“(A) such agreement would reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Department of the Army, any of its employees, or any member of the armed forces to carry out any responsibility or duty in a fair and objective manner; or

“(B) the Secretary determines that the use of the trademark or service mark would compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of the Army, or any individual involved in such a program.

“(e) **RETENTION AND USE OF FUNDS.**—Any funds received by the Secretary under this section may be retained for use in support of the athletic programs of the Academy and shall remain available until expended.

“(f) **SERVICE ON ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**—The Association is a designated entity for which authorization under sections 1033(a) and 1589(a) of this title may be provided.

“(g) **CONDITIONS.**—The authority provided in this section with respect to the Association is available only so long as the Association continues—

“(1) to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and operates in accordance with this section, the law of the State of New York, and the constitution and bylaws of the Association; and

“(2) to operate exclusively to support the athletic programs of the Academy.

“(h) **ASSOCIATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘Association’ means the Army West Point Athletic Association.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 403 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“4362. Support of athletic programs.”.

SEC. 558. CONDITION ON ADMISSION OF DEFENSE INDUSTRY CIVILIANS TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

Section 9314a(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “will be done on a space-available basis and not require an increase in the size of the faculty” and inserting “will not require an increase in the permanently authorized size of the faculty”.

SEC. 559. QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS OBTAINED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 551 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3376), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) **QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND STANDARDS.**—(1) Commencing

not later than three years after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, each Secretary concerned shall ensure that any credentialing program used in connection with the program under subsection (a) is accredited by an accreditation body that meets the requirements specified in paragraph (2).

“(2) The requirements for accreditation bodies specified in this paragraph are requirements that an accreditation body—

“(A) be an independent body that has in place mechanisms to ensure objectivity and impartiality in its accreditation activities;

“(B) meet a recognized national or international standard that directs its policy and procedures regarding accreditation;

“(C) apply a recognized national or international certification standard in making its accreditation decisions regarding certification bodies and programs;

“(D) conduct on-site visits, as applicable, to verify the documents and records submitted by credentialing bodies for accreditation;

“(E) have in place policies and procedures to ensure due process when addressing complaints and appeals regarding its accreditation activities;

“(F) conduct regular training to ensure consistent and reliable decisions among reviewers conducting accreditations; and

“(G) meet such other criteria as the Secretary concerned considers appropriate in order to ensure quality in its accreditation activities.”.

SEC. 560. PROHIBITION ON RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WHILE RECEIVING POST-9/11 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) EFFECT OF RECEIPT OF POST-9/11 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 8525(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “he receives” and inserting “the individual receives”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) except in the case of an individual described in subsection (a), an educational assistance allowance under chapter 33 of title 38; or”.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Section 8525 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting before subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(a) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply to an individual who—

“(1) is otherwise entitled to compensation under this subchapter;

“(2) is described in section 3311(b) of title 38;

“(3) is not receiving retired pay under title 10; and

“(4) was discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (including through a reduction in force) under honorable conditions, but did not voluntarily separate from such service.”.

SEC. 561. JOB TRAINING AND POST-SERVICE PLACEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 320 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “a subordinate Job Training and Post-Service Placement Executive Committee,” before “and such other committees”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) JOB TRAINING AND POST-SERVICE PLACEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Job Training and Post-Service Placement Executive Committee described in subsection (b)(2) shall—

“(1) review existing policies, procedures, and practices of the Departments (including the mili-

tary departments) with respect to job training and post-service placement programs; and

“(2) identify changes to such policies, procedures, and practices to improve job training and post-service placement.”; and

(3) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “, including with respect to job training and post-service placement” before the period at the end.

SEC. 562. RECOGNITION OF ADDITIONAL INVOLUNTARY MOBILIZATION DUTY AUTHORITIES EXEMPT FROM FIVE-YEAR LIMIT ON REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO SERVE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

Section 4312(c)(4)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “12304,” the following: “12304a, 12304b.”.

SEC. 563. EXPANSION OF OUTREACH FOR VETERANS TRANSITIONING FROM SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) EXPANSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 5(c)(5) of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (Public Law 114–2; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) conducts outreach to individuals transitioning from serving on active duty in the Armed Forces who are participating in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense or other similar transition programs to inform such individuals of the community oriented veteran peer support network under paragraph (1) and other support programs and opportunities that are available to such individuals.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION IN INTERIM REPORT.—Section 5(d)(1) of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (Public Law 114–2; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) the number of veterans who—
“(i) received outreach from the Department of Veterans Affairs while serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces; and
“(ii) participated in a peer support program under the pilot program for veterans transitioning from serving on active duty.”.

Subtitle F—Defense Dependents’ Education and Military Family Readiness Matters

SEC. 571. CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO ASSIST LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS WITH SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF MILITARY DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 301 and available for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities as specified in the funding table in section 4301, \$25,000,000 shall be available only for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies under subsection (a) of section 572 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 20 U.S.C. 7703b).

(b) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “local educational agency” has the meaning given that term in section 8013(9) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7713(9)).

SEC. 572. IMPACT AID FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES.

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to section 301 and

available for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities as specified in the funding table in section 4301, \$5,000,000 shall be available for payments under section 363 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–77; 20 U.S.C. 7703a).

SEC. 573. AUTHORITY TO USE APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STUDENT MEAL PROGRAMS IN DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 2243 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “the defense dependents’ education system” and inserting “overseas defense dependents’ schools”; and

(B) by striking “students enrolled in that system” and inserting “students enrolled in such a school”;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “Department of Defense dependents’ schools which are located outside the United States” and inserting “overseas defense dependents’ schools”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) OVERSEAS DEFENSE DEPENDENTS’ SCHOOL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘overseas defense dependents’ school’ means the following:

“(1) A school established as part of the defense dependents’ education system provided for under the Defense Dependents’ Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.).

“(2) An elementary or secondary school established pursuant to section 2164 of this title that is located in a territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of section 2243 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§2243. Authority to use appropriated funds to support student meal programs in overseas defense dependents’ schools”.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 134 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2243 and inserting the following new item:

“2243. Authority to use appropriated funds to support student meal programs in overseas defense dependents’ schools.”.

SEC. 574. FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PROGRAMS.—Section 554(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 1785 note) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2018”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (g) of section 554 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 1785 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2016, and each March 1 thereafter though the conclusion of the pilot programs conducted under subsection (a), the Commander, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the progress made in achieving the goals of the pilot programs.

“(2) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—Each report under this subsection shall include the following for each pilot program:

“(A) A description of the pilot program to address family support requirements not being provided by the Secretary of a military department to immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces assigned to special operations forces.

“(B) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program on the readiness of members of the Armed Forces assigned to special operations forces.

“(C) A comparison of the pilot program to other programs conducted by the Secretaries of the military departments to provide family support to immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces.

“(D) Recommendations for incorporating the lessons learned from the pilot program into family support programs conducted by the Secretaries of the military departments.

“(E) Any other matters considered appropriate by the Commander or the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.”.

Subtitle G—Decorations and Awards

SEC. 581. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS FOR ACTS OF EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the Secretary of the Army may award the Distinguished-Service Cross under section 3742 of such title to Edward Halcomb who, while serving in Korea as a member of the United States Army in the grade of Private First Class in Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by acts of extraordinary heroism from August 20, 1950, to October 19, 1950, during the Korean War.

Subtitle H—Miscellaneous Reports and Other Matters

SEC. 591. COORDINATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENT SUICIDE PREVENTION ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES TO ASSIST IN REDUCING SUICIDES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, may develop a policy to coordinate the efforts of the Department of Defense and non-government suicide prevention organizations regarding—

(1) the use of such non-government organizations to reduce the number of suicides among members of the Armed Forces by comprehensively addressing the needs of members of the Armed Forces who have been identified as being at risk of suicide;

(2) the delineation of the responsibilities within the Department of Defense regarding interaction with such organizations;

(3) the collection of data regarding the efficacy and cost of coordinating with such organizations; and

(4) the preparation and preservation of any reporting material the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the policy.

(b) SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS.—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to take any necessary measures to prevent suicides by members of the Armed Forces, including by facilitating the access of members of the Armed Forces to successful non-governmental treatment regimen.

SEC. 592. EXTENSION OF SEMIANNUAL REPORTS ON THE INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 525(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1724) is amended by striking “calendar years 2013 and 2014” and “each of calendar years 2013 through 2017”.

SEC. 593. REPORT ON PRELIMINARY MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS BECOMING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH SCREENINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the feasibility of conducting, before the enlistment or accession of an individual into the Armed Forces, a mental health screening of the individual to bring mental health screenings to parity with physical screenings of prospective members.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Recommendations with respect to establishing a secure, electronically-based preliminary mental health screening of new members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Recommendations with respect to the composition of the mental health screening, evidenced-based best practices, and how to track changes in mental health screenings relating to traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions.

SEC. 594. REPORT REGARDING NEW RULEMAKING UNDER THE MILITARY LENDING ACT AND DEFENSE MANPOWER DATA CENTER REPORTS AND MEETINGS.

(a) REPORT ON NEW MILITARY LENDING ACT RULEMAKING.—Not later than 60 days after the issuance by the Secretary of Defense of the regulation issued with regard to section 987 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the Military Lending Act), and part of 232 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (its implementing regulation), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that discusses—

(1) the ability and reliability of the Defense Manpower Data Center in meeting real-time requests for accurate information needed to make a determination regarding whether a borrower is covered by the Military Lending Act; or

(2) an alternate mechanism or mechanisms for identifying such covered borrowers.

(b) DEFENSE MANPOWER DATA CENTER REPORTS AND MEETINGS.—

(1) REPORTS ON ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEGRITY OF SYSTEMS.—The Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall submit to the congressional defense committees reports on the accuracy, reliability, and integrity of the Defense Manpower Data Center systems used to identify covered borrowers and covered policyholders under military consumer protection laws. The first report is due six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and the Director shall submit additional reports every six months thereafter through December 31, 2020, to show improvements in the accuracy, reliability, and integrity of such systems.

(2) REPORT ON PLAN TO STRENGTHEN CAPABILITIES.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on plans to strengthen the capabilities of the Defense Manpower Data Center systems, including staffing levels and funding, in order to improve the identification of covered borrowers and covered policyholders under military consumer protection laws.

(3) MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR USERS OF SYSTEMS.—The Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall meet regularly with private sector users of Defense Manpower Data Center systems used to identify covered borrowers and covered policyholders under military consumer protection laws to learn about issues facing such users and to develop ways of addressing such issues. The first meeting pursuant

to this requirement shall take place with three months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 595. REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT CAREER FIELD MANNING SHORTFALLS.

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for operation and maintenance for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, not more than 85 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 15 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the report described in subsection (b).

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on remotely piloted aircraft career field manning levels and actions the Air Force will take to rectify personnel shortfalls.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of current and projected manning requirements and inventory levels for remotely piloted aircraft systems.

(B) A description of rated and non-rated officer and enlisted manning policies for authorization and inventory levels in effect for remotely piloted aircraft systems and units, to include whether remotely piloted aircraft duty is considered as a permanent Air Force Specialty Code or treated as an ancillary single assignment duty, and if both are used, the division of authorizations between permanently assigned personnel and those who will return to a different primary career field.

(C) Comparisons to other Air Force manned combat aircraft systems and units with respect to personnel policies, manpower authorization levels, and projected personnel inventory.

(D) Identification and assessment of mitigation actions to increase unit manning levels, including recruitment and retention bonuses, incentive pay, use of enlisted personnel, and increased weighting to remotely piloted aircraft personnel on promotion boards, and to ensure the school house for remotely piloted aircraft personnel is sufficient to meet increased manning demands.

(E) Analysis demonstrating the requirements determination for how remotely piloted aircraft pilot and sensor operators are selected, including whether individuals are prior rated or non-rated qualified, what prerequisite training or experience is necessary, and required and types of basic and advanced qualification training for each mission design series of remotely piloted aircraft in the Air Force inventory.

(F) Recommendations for changes to existing legislation required to implement mitigation actions.

(G) An assessment of the authorization levels of government civilian and contractor support required for sufficiency of remotely piloted aircraft career field manning.

(H) A description and associated timeline of actions the Air Force will take to increase remotely piloted aircraft career field manpower authorizations and manning levels to at least the equal of the normative levels of manning and readiness of all other combat aircraft career fields.

(I) A description of any other matters concerning remotely piloted aircraft career field manning levels the Secretary of the Air Force determines to be appropriate.

(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) may be submitted in classified form, but shall also contain an unclassified executive summary and may contain an unclassified annex.

(4) **NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORT.**—If any information required under paragraph (1) has been included in another report or notification previously submitted to Congress by law, the Secretary of the Air Force may provide a list of such reports and notifications at the time of submitting the report required under this subsection in lieu of including such information in the report.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances

- Sec. 601. No fiscal year 2016 increase in military basic pay for general and flag officers.
- Sec. 602. Limitation on eligibility for supplemental subsistence allowances to members serving outside the United States and associated territory.
- Sec. 603. Phased-in modification of percentage of national average monthly cost of housing usable in computation of basic allowance for housing inside the United States.
- Sec. 604. Extension of authority to provide temporary increase in rates of basic allowance for housing under certain circumstances.
- Sec. 605. Availability of information under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.
- Subtitle B—Bonuses and Special and Incentive Pays**
- Sec. 611. One-year extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for reserve forces.
- Sec. 612. One-year extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for health care professionals.
- Sec. 613. One-year extension of special pay and bonus authorities for nuclear officers.
- Sec. 614. One-year extension of authorities relating to title 37 consolidated special pay, incentive pay, and bonus authorities.
- Sec. 615. One-year extension of authorities relating to payment of other title 37 bonuses and special pays.
- Sec. 616. Increase in maximum annual amount of nuclear officer bonus pay.
- Sec. 617. Modification to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.
- Sec. 618. Repeal of obsolete authority to pay bonus to encourage Army personnel to refer persons for enlistment in the Army.

Subtitle C—Travel and Transportation Allowances

- Sec. 621. Transportation to transfer ceremonies for family and next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who die overseas during humanitarian operations.
- Sec. 622. Repeal of obsolete special travel and transportation allowance for survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces from the Vietnam conflict.
- Sec. 623. Study and report on policy changes to the Joint Travel Regulations.

Subtitle D—Disability Pay, Retired Pay, and Survivor Benefits

PART I—RETIRED PAY REFORM

- Sec. 631. Modernized retirement system for members of the uniformed services.
- Sec. 632. Full participation for members of the uniformed services in the Thrift Savings Plan.
- Sec. 633. Lump sum payments of certain retired pay.

- Sec. 634. Continuation pay for full TSP members with 12 years of service.
- Sec. 635. Effective date and implementation.

PART II—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 641. Death of former spouse beneficiaries and subsequent remarriages under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Subtitle E—Commissary and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality Benefits and Operations

- Sec. 651. Plan to obtain budget-neutrality for the defense commissary system and the military exchange system.
- Sec. 652. Comptroller General of the United States report on the Commissary Surcharge, Non-appropriated Fund, and Privately-Financed Major Construction Program.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

- Sec. 661. Improvement of financial literacy and preparedness of members of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 662. Recordation of obligations for installment payments of incentive pays, allowances, and similar benefits when payment is due.

Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances

SEC. 601. NO FISCAL YEAR 2016 INCREASE IN MILITARY BASIC PAY FOR GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS.

Section 203(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code, shall be applied for rates of basic pay payable for commissioned officers in pay grades O-7 through O-10 during calendar year 2016 by using the rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule in effect during 2014. The rates of basic pay payable for such officers shall not increase during calendar year 2016.

SEC. 602. LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS SERVING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND ASSOCIATED TERRITORY.

Section 402a(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and paragraph (4)” after “subsection (d)”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) After September 30, 2016, a member is eligible for a supplemental subsistence allowance under this section only if the member is serving outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or Guam.”.

SEC. 603. PHASED-IN MODIFICATION OF PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL AVERAGE MONTHLY COST OF HOUSING USABLE IN COMPUTATION OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

Section 403(b)(3)(B) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “may not exceed one percent.” and inserting the following: “may not exceed the following:

- “(i) One percent for months occurring during 2015.
- “(ii) Two percent for months occurring during 2016.
- “(iii) Three percent for months occurring during 2017.
- “(iv) Four percent for months occurring during 2018.
- “(v) Five percent for months occurring after 2018.”.

SEC. 604. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY INCREASE IN RATES OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Section 403(b)(7)(E) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 605. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION UNDER THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.

In administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food

and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that any safeguards that prevent the use or disclosure of information obtained from applicant households shall not prevent the use of that information by, or the disclosure of that information to, the Secretary of Defense for purposes of determining the number of applicant households that contain one or more members of a regular component or reserve component of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle B—Bonuses and Special and Incentive Pays

SEC. 611. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR RESERVE FORCES.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”:

(1) Section 308b(g), relating to Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus.

(2) Section 308c(i), relating to Selected Reserve affiliation or enlistment bonus.

(3) Section 308d(c), relating to special pay for enlisted members assigned to certain high-priority units.

(4) Section 308g(f)(2), relating to Ready Reserve enlistment bonus for persons without prior service.

(5) Section 308h(e), relating to Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service.

(6) Section 308i(f), relating to Selected Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service.

(7) Section 478a(e), relating to reimbursement of travel expenses for inactive-duty training outside of normal commuting distance.

(8) Section 910(g), relating to income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.

SEC. 612. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) **TITLE 10 AUTHORITIES.**—The following sections of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”:

(1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse officer candidate accession program.

(2) Section 16302(d), relating to repayment of education loans for certain health professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve.

(b) **TITLE 37 AUTHORITIES.**—The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”:

(1) Section 302c-1(f), relating to accession and retention bonuses for psychologists.

(2) Section 302d(a)(1), relating to accession bonus for registered nurses.

(3) Section 302e(a)(1), relating to incentive special pay for nurse anesthetists.

(4) Section 302g(e), relating to special pay for Selected Reserve health professionals in critically short wartime specialties.

(5) Section 302h(a)(1), relating to accession bonus for dental officers.

(6) Section 302j(a), relating to accession bonus for pharmacy officers.

(7) Section 302k(f), relating to accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties.

(8) Section 302l(g), relating to accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties.

SEC. 613. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL PAY AND BONUS AUTHORITIES FOR NUCLEAR OFFICERS.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”:

(1) Section 312(f), relating to special pay for nuclear-qualified officers extending period of active service.

(2) Section 312b(c), relating to nuclear career accession bonus.

(3) Section 312c(d), relating to nuclear career annual incentive bonus.

SEC. 614. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37 CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”:

(1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus authority for enlisted members.

(2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus authority for officers.

(3) Section 333(i), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for nuclear officers.

(4) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.

(5) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions.

(6) Section 336(g), relating to contracting bonus for cadets and midshipmen enrolled in the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

(7) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty pay.

(8) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay or special duty pay.

(9) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus.

(10) Section 355(h), relating to retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

SEC. 615. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PAYMENT OF OTHER TITLE 37 BONUSES AND SPECIAL PAYS.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”:

(1) Section 301b(a), relating to aviation officer retention bonus.

(2) Section 307a(g), relating to assignment incentive pay.

(3) Section 308(g), relating to reenlistment bonus for active members.

(4) Section 309(e), relating to enlistment bonus.

(5) Section 316a(g), relating to incentive pay for members of precommissioning programs pursuing foreign language proficiency.

(6) Section 324(g), relating to accession bonus for new officers in critical skills.

(7) Section 326(g), relating to incentive bonus for conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage.

(8) Section 327(h), relating to incentive bonus for transfer between Armed Forces.

(9) Section 330(f), relating to accession bonus for officer candidates.

SEC. 616. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM ANNUAL AMOUNT OF NUCLEAR OFFICER BONUS PAY.

Section 333(d)(1)(A) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$35,000” and inserting “\$50,000”.

SEC. 617. MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL AVIATION INCENTIVE PAY AND BONUS AUTHORITIES FOR OFFICERS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY TO SET REQUIREMENTS FOR AVIATION INCENTIVE PAY ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (a) of section 334 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E), respectively, and moving the margin of such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) INCENTIVE PAY AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) OFFICERS NOT CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN FLYING DUTY.—The Secretary concerned may pay aviation incentive pay under this section to an officer who is otherwise qualified for such pay but who is not currently engaged in the performance of operational flying duty or proficiency flying duty if the Secretary determines, under regulations prescribed under section 374 of this title, that payment of aviation incentive pay to that officer is in the best interests of the service.”.

(b) RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY TO PAY AVIATION INCENTIVE PAY TO MEDICAL OFFICERS PERFORMING FLIGHT SURGEON DUTIES.—Subsection (h)(1) of such section is amended by striking “(except a flight surgeon or other medical officer)”.

(c) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF AVIATION SPECIAL PAYS FOR FLYING DUTY OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “exceed \$850 per month; and” and inserting “exceed—

“(i) \$1,000 per month for officers performing qualifying flying duty relating to remotely piloted aircraft (RPA); or

“(ii) \$850 per month for officers performing other qualifying flying duty; and”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$25,000” and all that follows and inserting “, for each 12-month period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (d)—

“(i) \$35,000 for officers performing qualifying flying duty relating to remotely piloted aircraft; or

“(ii) \$25,000 for officers performing other qualifying flying duty.”.

(d) AUTHORITY TO PAY AVIATION BONUS AND SKILL INCENTIVE PAY TO OFFICERS SIMULTANEOUSLY.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “353” and inserting “353(a)”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “a payment” and inserting “a bonus payment”; and

(B) by striking “353” and inserting “353(b)”.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the empirical case for an increase in special and incentive pay for aviation officers in order to address a specific, statistically-based retention problem with respect to such officers. The report shall include the results of a study, conducted by the Secretary in connection with the case, on a market-based compensation approach to the retention of such officers that considers the pay and allowances offered by commercial airlines to pilots and the propensity of pilots to leave the Air Force to become commercial airline pilots.

SEC. 618. REPEAL OF OBSOLETE AUTHORITY TO PAY BONUS TO ENCOURAGE ARMY PERSONNEL TO REFER PERSONS FOR ENLISTMENT IN THE ARMY.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 3252 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 333 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3252.

Subtitle C—Travel and Transportation Allowances

SEC. 621. TRANSPORTATION TO TRANSFER CEREMONIES FOR FAMILY AND NEXT OF KIN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO DIE OVERSEAS DURING HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS.

Section 481f(e)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(including dur-

ing a humanitarian relief operation)” after “located or serving overseas”.

SEC. 622. REPEAL OF OBSOLETE SPECIAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

(a) REPEAL AND REDESIGNATION.—Section 481f of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g), respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO CROSS REFERENCE.—Section 2493(a)(4)(B)(ii) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 481f(e)” and inserting “section 481f(d)”.

SEC. 623. STUDY AND REPORT ON POLICY CHANGES TO THE JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the impact of the policy changes to the Joint Travel Regulations for the Uniformed Service Members and Department of Defense Civilian Employees related to flat rate per diem for long term temporary duty travel that took effect on November 1, 2014. The study shall assess the following:

(1) The impact of such changes on shipyard workers who travel on long-term temporary duty assignments.

(2) Whether such changes have discouraged employees of the Department of Defense, including civilian employees at shipyards and depots, from volunteering for important temporary duty travel assignments.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2016, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the study required by subsection (a).

Subtitle D—Disability Pay, Retired Pay, and Survivor Benefits

PART I—RETIRED PAY REFORM

SEC. 631. MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) REGULAR SERVICE.—Section 1409(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

“(A) REDUCED MULTIPLIER FOR FULL TSP MEMBERS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), in the case of a member who first becomes a member of the uniformed services on or after January 1, 2018, or a member who makes the election described in subparagraph (B) (referred to as a ‘full TSP member’)—

“(i) paragraph (1)(A) shall be applied by substituting ‘2’ for ‘2½’;

“(ii) clause (i) of paragraph (3)(B) shall be applied by substituting ‘60 percent’ for ‘75 percent’; and

“(iii) clause (ii)(I) of such paragraph shall be applied by substituting ‘2’ for ‘2½’.

“(B) ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Pursuant to subparagraph (C), a member of a uniformed service serving on December 31, 2017, who has served in the uniformed services for fewer than 12 years as of December 31, 2017, may elect, in exchange for the reduced multipliers described in subparagraph (A) for purposes of calculating the retired pay of the member, to receive Thrift Savings Plan contributions pursuant to section 8440e(e) of title 5.

“(C) ELECTION PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), a member of a uniformed service described in subparagraph (B) may make the election authorized by that subparagraph only during the period that begins on January 1, 2018, and ends on December 31, 2018.

“(ii) **HARDSHIP EXTENSION.**—The Secretary concerned may extend the election period described in clause (i) for a member who experiences a hardship as determined by the Secretary concerned.

“(iii) **EFFECT OF BREAK IN SERVICE.**—A member of a uniformed service who returns to service after a break in service that occurs during the election period specified in clause (i) shall make the election described in subparagraph (B) within 30 days after the date of the reentry into service of the member.

“(D) **NO RETROACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS PURSUANT TO ELECTION.**—Thrift Savings Plan contributions may not be made for a member making an election pursuant to subparagraph (B) for any period beginning before the date of the member's election under that subparagraph by reason of the member's election.

“(E) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations to implement this paragraph.”

(b) **NON-REGULAR SERVICE.**—Section 12739 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) **MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—

“(1) **REDUCED MULTIPLIER FOR FULL TSP MEMBERS.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (c), in the case of a person who first performs reserve component service on or after January 1, 2018, after not having performed regular or reserve component service on or before that date, or a person who makes the election described in paragraph (2) (referred to as a ‘full TSP member’)—

“(A) subsection (a)(2) shall be applied by substituting ‘2 percent’ for ‘2½ percent’;

“(B) subparagraph (A) of subsection (c)(2) shall be applied by substituting ‘60 percent’ for ‘75 percent’; and

“(C) subparagraph (B)(ii) of such subsection shall be applied by substituting ‘2 percent’ for ‘2½ percent’.

“(2) **ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to subparagraph (B), a person performing reserve component service on December 31, 2017, who has performed fewer than 12 years of service as of December 31, 2017 (as computed in accordance with section 12733 of this title), may elect, in exchange for the reduced multipliers described in paragraph (1) for purposes of calculating the retired pay of the person, to receive Thrift Savings Plan contributions pursuant to section 8440e(e) of title 5.

“(B) **ELECTION PERIOD.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), a person described in subparagraph (A) may make the election described in that subparagraph during the period that begins on January 1, 2018, and ends on December 31, 2018.

“(ii) **HARDSHIP EXTENSION.**—The Secretary concerned may extend the election period described in clause (i) for a person who experiences a hardship as determined by the Secretary concerned.

“(iii) **PERSONS EXPERIENCING BREAK IN SERVICE.**—A person returning to reserve component service after a break in reserve component service in which falls the election period specified in clause (i) shall make the election described in subparagraph (A) on the date of the reentry into service of the person.

“(C) **NO RETROACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS PURSUANT TO ELECTION.**—Thrift Savings Plan contributions may not be made for a person making an election pursuant to subparagraph (A) for any pay period beginning before the date of the person's election under that subparagraph by reason of the person's election.

“(3) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations to implement this subsection.”

(c) **COORDINATING AMENDMENTS TO OTHER RETIREMENT AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **DISABILITY, WARRANT OFFICERS, AND DOPMA RETIRED PAY.**—

(A) **COMPUTATION OF RETIRED PAY.**—The table in section 1401(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1) in column 2 of formula number 1, by striking “2½% of years of service credited to him under section 1208” and inserting “the retired pay multiplier determined for the member under section 1409 of this title”; and

(ii) in paragraph (1) in column 2 of formula number 2, by striking “2½% of years of service credited to him under section 1208” and inserting “the retired pay multiplier determined for the member under section 1409 of this title”; and

(iii) in column 2 of each of formula number 4 and formula number 5, by striking “section 1409(a)” and inserting “section 1409”.

(B) **CLARIFICATION REGARDING MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—Section 1401a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

“(5) **ADJUSTMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), if a member or former member participates in the modernized retirement system by reason of section 1409(b)(4) of this title (including pursuant to an election under subparagraph (B) of that section), the Secretary shall increase the retired pay of such member in accordance with paragraph (2).”

(2) **15-YEAR CAREER STATUS BONUS.**—Section 354 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (f)—

(i) by striking “If a” and inserting “(1) If a”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) If a person who is paid a bonus under this section subsequently makes an election described in section 1409(b)(4)(B) of title 10, the person shall repay any bonus payments received under this section in the same manner as repayments are made under section 373 of this title.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) **SUNSET AND CONTINUATION OF PAYMENTS.**—(1) A Secretary concerned may not pay a new bonus under this section after December 31, 2017.

“(2) Subject to subsection (f)(2), the Secretary concerned may continue to make payments for bonuses that were awarded under this section on or before the date specified in paragraph (1).”

(3) **APPLICATION TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED CORPS.**—Paragraph (2) of section 245(a) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3045(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the retired pay multiplier determined under section 1409 of such title for the number of years of service that may be credited to the officer under section 1405 of such title as if the officer's service were service as a member of the Armed Forces.”

(4) **APPLICATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.**—Section 211(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 212(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “at the rate of 2½ percent of the basic pay of the highest grade held by him as such officer” and inserting “calculated by multiplying the retired pay base determined under section 1406 of title 10, United States Code, by the retired pay multiplier determined under section 1409 of such title for the numbers of years

of service credited to the officer under this paragraph”; and

(B) in the matter following subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “such pay, and” and inserting “such pay.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “such basic pay.” and inserting “such basic pay, and (E) in the case of any officer who participates in the modernized retirement system by reason of section 1409(b) of title 10, United States Code (including pursuant to an election under subparagraph (B) of that section), subparagraph (C) shall be applied by substituting ‘40 per centum’ for ‘50 per centum’ each place the term appears.”

(d) **REPEAL OF REDUCED COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MEMBERS UNDER THE AGE OF 62.**—The following amendments shall not take effect:

(1) The amendments to be made by section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67; 127 Stat. 1186), as amended by section 10001(a) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 (division C of Public Law 113-76; 128 Stat. 151), section 2 of Public Law 113-82 (128 Stat. 1009), and section 623 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3403).

(2) The amendments to be made by section 10001(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014.

SEC. 632. FULL PARTICIPATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES IN THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN.

(a) **MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 8440e(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(1) the term ‘basic pay’ means basic pay payable under section 204 of title 37;

“(2) the term ‘full TSP member’ means a member described in subsection (e)(1);

“(3) the term ‘member’ has the meaning given the term in section 211 of title 37; and

“(4) the term ‘Secretary concerned’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 37.”

(2) **TSP CONTRIBUTIONS.**—Subsection (e) of section 8440e of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(e) **MODERNIZED RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**—

“(1) **TSP CONTRIBUTIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary concerned shall make contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund, in accordance with section 8432 (except to the extent the requirements under such section are modified by this subsection), for the benefit of a member—

“(A) who first enters a uniformed service on or after January 1, 2018; or

“(B) who—

“(i) first entered a uniformed service before January 1, 2018;

“(ii) has completed fewer than 12 years of service in the uniformed services as of December 31, 2017; and

“(iii) makes the election described in section 1409(b)(4)(B) or 12729(f)(2) of title 10 to receive Thrift Savings Plan contributions under this subsection in exchange for the reduced multipliers described in section 1409(b)(4)(A) or 12739(f)(1) of title 10, as applicable, for purposes of calculating the retired pay of the member.

“(2) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—The amount contributed under this subsection by the Secretary concerned for the benefit of a full TSP member for any pay period shall not be more than 5 percent of the member's basic pay for such pay period. Any such contribution under this subsection, though in accordance with section 8432 as provided in paragraph (1), is instead of, and

not in addition to, amounts contributable under section 8432 as provided in section 8432(c).

“(3) **TIMING AND DURATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**—

“(A) **AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary concerned shall make a contribution described in section 8432(c)(1) under this subsection for the benefit of a member described in paragraph (1) for any pay period during the period that—

“(i) begins—

“(I) on or after the day that is 60 days after the date the member first enters a uniformed service, in the case of a member described in paragraph (1)(A); or

“(II) on or after the date the member makes the election described in paragraph (1)(B), in the case of a member making such an election; and

“(ii) ends on the day such member completes 26 years of service as a member of the uniformed services.

“(B) **MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary concerned shall make a contribution described in section 8432(c)(2) under this subsection for the benefit of a member described in paragraph (1) for any pay period during the period that—

“(i) begins—

“(I) on or after the day that is 2 years and 1 day after the date the member first enters a uniformed service, in the case of a member described in paragraph (1)(A); or

“(II) on or after the date the member makes the election described in paragraph (1)(B), in the case of a member making such an election; and

“(ii) ends on the day such member completes 26 years of service as a member of the uniformed services.

“(4) **PROTECTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND FORMER SPOUSES.**—Section 8435 shall apply to a full TSP member in the same manner as such section is applied to an employee or Member under such section.”

(b) **AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT IN THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN.**—Section 8432(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking “Members” and inserting “(ii) Except in the case of a full TSP member (as defined in section 8440e(a)), members”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “8440e(a)(1)” and inserting “8440e(b)(1)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, if a full TSP member (as defined in section 8440e(a)) has declined automatic enrollment into the Thrift Savings Plan for a year, the full TSP member shall be automatically re-enrolled on January 1 of the succeeding year, with contributions under subsection (a) at the default percentage of basic pay.”

(c) **VESTING.**—

(1) **TWO-YEARS OF SERVICE.**—Section 8432(g)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) 2 years of service in the case of a member of the uniformed services.”

(2) **SEPARATION.**—Section 8432(g) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) For purposes of this subsection, a member of the uniformed services shall be considered to have separated from Government employment if the member is discharged or released from service in the uniformed services.”

(d) **THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN DEFAULT INVESTMENT FUND.**—Section 8438(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(A) Consistent with the requirements of subparagraph (B), if an” and inserting “If an”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

(e) **REPEAL OF SEPARATE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **REPEAL.**—Section 211 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 8432b(c)(2)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “(including pursuant to an agreement under section 211(d) of title 37)”

SEC. 633. LUMP SUM PAYMENTS OF CERTAIN RETIRED PAY.

(a) **LUMP SUM PAYMENTS OF CERTAIN RETIRED PAY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 71 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“**§ 1415. Lump sum payment of certain retired pay**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **COVERED RETIRED PAY.**—The term ‘covered retired pay’ means retired pay under—

“(A) this title;

“(B) title 14;

“(C) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); or

“(D) the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

“(2) **ELIGIBLE PERSON.**—The term ‘eligible person’ means a person who—

“(A)(i) first becomes a member of a uniformed service on or after January 1, 2018; or

“(ii) makes the election described in section 1409(b)(4)(B) or 12739(f)(2) of this title; and

“(B) does not retire or separate under chapter 61 of this title.

“(3) **RETIREMENT AGE.**—The term ‘retirement age’ has the meaning given the term in section 216(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(l)).

“(b) **ELECTION OF LUMP SUM PAYMENT OF CERTAIN RETIRED PAY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible person entitled to covered retired pay (including an eligible person who is entitled to such pay by reason of an election described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)) may elect to receive—

“(A) a lump sum payment of the discounted present value at the time of the election of an amount of the covered retired pay that the eligible person is otherwise entitled to receive for the period beginning on the date of retirement and ending on the date the eligible person attains the eligible person’s retirement age equal to—

“(i) 50 percent of the amount of such covered retired pay during such period; or

“(ii) 25 percent of the amount of such covered retired pay during such period; and

“(B) a monthly amount during the period described in subparagraph (A) equal to—

“(i) in the case of an eligible person electing to receive an amount described in subparagraph (A)(i), 50 percent of the amount of monthly covered retired pay the eligible person is otherwise entitled to receive during such period; and

“(ii) in the case of an eligible person electing to receive an amount described in subparagraph (A)(ii), 75 percent of the amount of monthly covered retired pay the eligible person is otherwise entitled to receive during such period

“(2) **DISCOUNTED PRESENT VALUE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall compute the discounted present value of amounts of covered retired pay that an eligible person is otherwise entitled to receive for a period for purposes of paragraph (1)(A) by—

“(A) estimating the aggregate amount of retired pay the person would receive for the pe-

riod, taking into account cost-of-living adjustments under section 1401a of this title projected by the Secretary at the time the person separates from service and would otherwise begin receiving covered retired pay; and

“(B) reducing the aggregate amount estimated pursuant to subparagraph (A) by an appropriate percentage determined by the Secretary—

“(i) using average personal discount rates (as defined and calculated by the Secretary taking into consideration applicable and reputable studies of personal discount rates for military personnel and past actuarial experience in the calculation of personal discount rates under this paragraph); and

“(ii) in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices.

“(3) **TIMING OF ELECTION.**—An eligible person shall make the election under this subsection not later than 90 days before the date of the retirement of the eligible person from the uniformed services.

“(4) **SINGLE PAYMENT OR COMBINATION OF PAYMENTS.**—An eligible person may elect to receive a lump sum payment under this subsection in a single payment or in a combination of payments.

“(5) **COMMENCEMENT OF PAYMENT.**—An eligible person who makes an election under this subsection shall receive the lump sum payment, or the first installment of a combination of payments of the lump sum payment if elected under paragraph (4), as follows:

“(A) Not later than 60 days after the date of the retirement of the eligible person from the uniformed services.

“(B) In the case of an eligible person who is a member of a reserve component, not later than 60 days after the earlier of—

“(i) the date on which the eligible person attains 60 years of age; or

“(ii) the date on which the eligible person first becomes entitled to covered retired pay.

“(6) **NO SUBSEQUENT ADJUSTMENT.**—An eligible person who accepts payment of a lump sum under this subsection may not seek the review of or otherwise challenge the amount of the lump sum in light of any variation in cost-of-living adjustments under section 1401a of this title, actuarial assumptions, or other factors used by the Secretary in calculating the amount of the lump sum that occur after the Secretary pays the lump sum.

“(c) **RESUMPTION OF MONTHLY ANNUITY.**—

“(1) **GENERAL RULE.**—Subject to paragraph (2), an eligible person who makes an election described in subsection (b)(1) shall be entitled to receive the eligible person’s monthly covered retired pay calculated in accordance with paragraph (2) after the eligible person attains the eligible person’s retirement age.

“(2) **RESTORATION OF FULL RETIREMENT AMOUNT AT RETIREMENT AGE.**—The retired pay of an eligible person who makes an election described in subsection (a) shall be recomputed, effective on the first day of the first month beginning after the person attains the eligible person’s retirement age, so as to be an amount equal to the amount of covered retired pay to which the eligible person would otherwise be entitled on that date if the annual increases, in the retired pay of the eligible person made to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index, had been made in accordance with section 1401a of this title.

“(d) **PAYMENT OF RETIRED PAY TO PERSONS NOT MAKING ELECTION.**—An eligible person who does not make the election described in subsection (b)(1) shall be paid the retired pay to which the eligible person is otherwise entitled under the applicable provisions of law referred to in subsection (a)(1).

“(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 71 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1415. Lump sum payment of certain retired pay.”.

(3) PAYMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY RETIREMENT FUND.—Section 1463(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 1414” and inserting “, 1414, or 1415”.

(b) OFFSET OF VETERANS PENSION AND COMPENSATION BY AMOUNT OF LUMP SUM PAYMENTS.—Section 5304 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Other than amounts payable under section 1413a or 1414 of title 10, the amount of pension and compensation benefits payable to a person under this title shall be reduced by the amount of any lump sum payment made to such person under section 1415 of title 10.

“(2) The Secretary shall collect any reduction under paragraph (1) from amounts otherwise payable to the person under this title, including pension and compensation payable under this title, before any pension and compensation payments under this title may be paid to the person.”.

SEC. 634. CONTINUATION PAY FOR FULL TSP MEMBERS WITH 12 YEARS OF SERVICE.

(a) CONTINUATION PAY.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§356. Continuation pay: full TSP members with 12 years of service

“(a) CONTINUATION PAY.—The Secretary concerned shall make a payment of continuation pay to each full TSP member (as defined in section 8440e(a) of title 5) of the uniformed services under the jurisdiction of the Secretary who—

“(1) completes 12 years of service; and
“(2) enters into an agreement with the Secretary to serve for an additional 4 years of obligated service.

“(b) AMOUNT.—The amount of continuation pay payable to a full TSP member under subsection (a) shall be the amount that is equal to—

“(1) in the case of a member of a regular component—

“(A) the monthly basic pay of the member at 12 years of service multiplied by 2.5; plus

“(B) at the discretion of the Secretary concerned, the monthly basic pay of the member at 12 years of service multiplied by such number of months (not to exceed 13 months) as the Secretary concerned shall specify in the agreement of the member under subsection (a); and

“(2) in the case of a member of a reserve component—

“(A) the amount of monthly basic pay to which the member would be entitled at 12 years of service if the member were a member of a regular component multiplied by 0.5; plus

“(B) at the discretion of the Secretary concerned, the amount of monthly basic pay described in subparagraph (A) multiplied by such number of months (not to exceed 6 months) as the Secretary concerned shall specify in the agreement of the member under subsection (a).

“(c) ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—In addition to the continuation pay required under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may provide continuation pay under this subsection to a full TSP member described in subsection (a), and subject to the service agreement referred to in paragraph (2) of such subsection, in an amount determined by the Secretary concerned.

“(d) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary concerned shall pay continuation pay under

subsection (a) to a full TSP member when the member completes 12 years of service. If the Secretary concerned also provides continuation pay under subsection (c) to the member, that continuation pay shall be provided when the member completes 12 years of service.

“(e) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—A full TSP member may elect to receive continuation pay provided under subsection (a) or (c) in a lump sum or in a series of not more than four payments.

“(f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—Continuation pay under this section is in addition to any other pay or allowance to which the full TSP member is entitled.

“(g) REPAYMENT.—A full TSP member who receives continuation pay under this section (a) and fails to complete the obligated service required under such subsection shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

“(h) REGULATIONS.—Each Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“356. Continuation pay: full TSP members with 12 years of service.”.

SEC. 635. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this part shall take effect on January 1, 2018.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries concerned, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board shall each and jointly take appropriate actions to ensure the full and effective implementation of the amendments made by this part in order to ensure that members of the uniformed services will be able to participate in the modernized retirement plan provided by this part commencing on the date specified in subsection (a).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretaries concerned shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing a plan to ensure the full and effective commencement and operational implementation of the amendments made by this part in accordance with paragraph (1).

(c) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The report required by subsection (b) shall contain a draft of such legislation as may be necessary to make any additional technical and conforming changes to titles 10 and 37, United States Code, and other provisions of law that are required or should be made by reason of the amendments made by this part.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 37, United States Code.

PART II—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 641. DEATH OF FORMER SPOUSE BENEFICIARIES AND SUBSEQUENT REMARRIAGES UNDER THE SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1448(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) EFFECT OF DEATH OF FORMER SPOUSE BENEFICIARY.—

“(A) TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION IN PLAN.—A person who elects to provide an annuity to a former spouse under paragraph (2) or (3) and whose former spouse subsequently dies is no longer a participant in the Plan, effective on the date of death of the former spouse.

“(B) AUTHORITY FOR ELECTION OF NEW SPOUSE BENEFICIARY.—If a person’s participation in the Plan is discontinued by reason of the death of a former spouse beneficiary, the person may elect to resume participation in the Plan and to elect a new spouse beneficiary as follows:

“(i) MARRIED ON THE DATE OF DEATH OF FORMER SPOUSE.—A person who is married at the time of the death of the former spouse beneficiary may elect to provide coverage to that person’s spouse. Such an election must be received by the Secretary concerned within one year after the date of death of the former spouse beneficiary.

“(ii) MARRIAGE AFTER DEATH OF FORMER SPOUSE BENEFICIARY.—A person who is not married at the time of the death of the former spouse beneficiary and who later marries may elect to provide spouse coverage. Such an election must be received by the Secretary concerned within one year after the date on which that person marries.

“(C) EFFECTIVE DATE OF ELECTION.—The effective date of election under this paragraph shall be as follows:

“(i) An election under subparagraph (B)(i) is effective as of the first day of the first calendar month following the death of the former spouse beneficiary.

“(ii) An election under subparagraph (B)(ii) is effective as of the first day of the first calendar month following the month in which the election is received by the Secretary concerned.

“(D) LEVEL OF COVERAGE.—A person making an election under subparagraph (B) may not reduce the base amount previously elected.

“(E) PROCEDURES.—An election under this paragraph shall be in writing, signed by the participant, and made in such form and manner as the Secretary concerned may prescribe.

“(F) IRREVOCABILITY.—An election under this paragraph is irrevocable.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (7) of section 1448(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to any person whose former spouse beneficiary dies on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICABILITY TO FORMER SPOUSE DEATHS BEFORE ENACTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person—

(A) who before the date of the enactment of this Act had a former spouse beneficiary under the Survivor Benefit Plan who died before that date; and

(B) who on the date of the enactment of this Act is married,
may elect to provide spouse coverage for such spouse under the Plan, regardless of whether the person married such spouse before or after the death of the former spouse beneficiary. Any such election may only be made during the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF ELECTION IF MARRIED AT LEAST A YEAR AT DEATH FORMER SPOUSE.—If the person providing the annuity was married to the spouse beneficiary for at least one year at

the time of the death of the former spouse beneficiary, the effective date of such election shall be the first day of the first month after the death of the former spouse beneficiary.

(3) **OTHER EFFECTIVE DATE.**—If the person providing the annuity married the spouse beneficiary after (or during the one-year period preceding) the death of the former spouse beneficiary, the effective date of the election shall be the first day of the first month following the first anniversary of the person's marriage to the spouse beneficiary.

(4) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREMIUMS.**—A person electing to participate in the Plan under this subsection shall be responsible for payment of all premiums due from the effective date of the election.

Subtitle E—Commissary and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality Benefits and Operations

SEC. 651. PLAN TO OBTAIN BUDGET-NEUTRALITY FOR THE DEFENSE COMMISSARY SYSTEM AND THE MILITARY EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth a comprehensive plan to achieve by October 1, 2018, budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits while meeting the benchmarks set forth in subsection (c). In preparing the report, the Secretary shall consider the report required by section 634 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3406) and any other previous reports, studies, and surveys of matters appropriate to the report.

(b) **REPORT ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of any modifications to the commissary and exchange benefit systems the Secretary considers appropriate to obtain budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits, including the following:

(A) The establishment of common business processes, practices, and systems to exploit synergies between the operations of defense commissaries and exchanges and to optimize the operations of the resale system and the benefits provided by the commissaries and exchanges.

(B) The privatization of the defense commissary system and the military exchange system, in whole or in part.

(C) Engagement of major commercial grocery retailers or other private sector entities to determine their willingness to provide eligible beneficiaries with discount savings on grocery products and certain household goods.

(D) The closure of commissaries in locations in close proximity to other commissaries or in locations where commercial alternatives, through major grocery retailers, may be available.

(2) An analysis of different pricing constructs to improve or enhance the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits.

(3) A description of the impact of any modifications described pursuant to paragraph (1) on Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) quality-of-life programs.

(4) Such recommendations for legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to achieve by October 1, 2018, budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits while meeting the benchmarks set forth in subsection (c).

(c) **BENCHMARKS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall ensure—

(1) the maintenance of high levels of customer satisfaction in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits;

(2) the provision of high quality products; and

(3) the sustainment of discount savings to eligible beneficiaries.

(d) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF PLAN.**—Not later than 120 days after the submittal of the report required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth an assessment by the Comptroller General of the plan to achieve budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits while meeting the benchmarks set forth in subsection (c) as set forth in the report required by subsection (a).

(e) **PILOT PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.**—After the reports required by subsections (a) and (d) have been submitted as described in such subsections, the Secretary may, notwithstanding any requirement in chapter 147 of title 10, United States Code, conduct one or more pilot programs to evaluate the feasibility and advisability of processes and methods for achieving budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits and other applicable benchmarks in accordance with this section. The Secretary may authorize any commissary or exchange, or private sector entity, participating in any such pilot program to establish appropriate prices in response to market conditions and customer demand, provided that the level of savings required by paragraph (3) is maintained.

(2) **BENCHMARKS.**—If the Secretary conducts a pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish specific, measurable benchmarks for measuring success in the provision of high quality grocery goods and products, discount savings to patrons, and high levels of customer satisfaction while achieving budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits under the pilot program.

(3) **REQUIRED SAVINGS TO PATRONS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the level of savings to commissary and exchange patrons under any pilot program under this subsection is not less than the level of savings to such patrons before the implementation of such pilot program, as follows:

(A) Before commencing a pilot program the Secretary shall establish a baseline of savings to patrons achieved for each commissary or exchange to participate in such pilot program by comparing prices charged by such commissary or exchange for a representative market basket of goods to prices charged by local competitors for the same market basket of goods.

(B) After commencement of such pilot program, the Secretary shall ensure that each commissary or exchange, or private sector entity, participating in such pilot program conducts market-basket price comparisons not less than once a month and adjusts pricing as necessary to ensure that pricing achieves savings to patrons under such pilot program that are reasonably consistent with the baseline savings for the commissary or exchange established pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(4) **DURATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out a pilot program under this subsection shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act. However, if a pilot program achieves budget-neutrality in the delivery of commissary and exchange benefits and other applicable benchmarks, as measured using the benchmarks required by paragraph (2), the Secretary may continue the pilot program for an additional period of up to five years.

(5) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **INITIAL REPORTS.**—If the Secretary conducts a pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days before commencing the pilot program, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, including the following:

(i) A description of the pilot program.

(ii) The provisions, if any, of chapter 147 of title 10, United States Code, that will be waived in the conduct of the pilot program.

(B) **FINAL REPORTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the completion of any pilot program under this subsection or the date of the commencement of an extension of a pilot program under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, including the following:

(i) A description and assessment of the pilot program.

(ii) Such recommendations for administrative or legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the pilot program.

SEC. 652. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON THE COMMISSARY SURCHARGE, NON-APPROPRIATED FUND, AND PRIVATELY-FINANCED MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the Commissary Surcharge, Non-appropriated Fund and Privately-Financed Major Construction Program of the Department of Defense.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment whether the Secretary of Defense has established policies and procedures to ensure the timely submittal to the committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a) of notice on construction projects proposed to be funded through the program referred to in that subsection.

(2) An assessment whether the Secretaries of the military departments have developed and implemented policies and procedures to comply with the policies and directives of the Department of Defense for the submittal to such committees of Congress of notice on such construction projects.

(3) An assessment whether the Secretary of Defense has established policies and procedures to notify such committees of Congress when such construction projects have been commenced without notice to Congress.

(4) An assessment whether construction projects described in paragraph (3) have been completed before submittal of notice to Congress as described in that paragraph and, if so, a list of such projects.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 661. IMPROVEMENT OF FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PREPAREDNESS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PREPAREDNESS OF MEMBERS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of Defense should strengthen arrangements with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government and nonprofit organizations in order to improve the financial literacy and preparedness of members of the Armed Forces; and

(2) the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces should provide support for the financial literacy and preparedness training carried out under section 992 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsections (b), (c), and (d).

(b) **PROVISION OF FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PREPAREDNESS TRAINING.**—Subsection (a) of section 992 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “CONSUMER EDUCATION” and inserting “FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “education” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting “financial literacy training”;

(3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(2) Training under this subsection shall be provided to a member of the armed forces—

“(A) as a component of the initial entry training of the member;

“(B) upon arrival at the first duty station of the member;

“(C) upon arrival at each subsequent duty station, in the case of a member in pay grade E-4 or below or in pay grade O-3 or below;

“(D) on the date of promotion of the member, in the case of a member in pay grade E-5 or below or in pay grade O-4 or below;

“(E) when the member vests in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) under section 8432(g)(2)(C) of title 5;

“(F) when the member becomes entitled to receive continuation pay under section 356 of title 37, at which time the training shall include, at a minimum, information on options available to the member regarding the use of continuation pay;

“(G) at each major life event during the service of the member, such as—

“(i) marriage;

“(ii) divorce;

“(iii) birth of first child; or

“(iv) disabling sickness or condition;

“(H) during leadership training;

“(I) during pre-deployment training and during post-deployment training;

“(J) at transition points in the service of the member, such as—

“(i) transition from a regular component to a reserve component;

“(ii) separation from service; or

“(iii) retirement; and

“(K) as a component of periodically recurring required training that is provided to the member at a military installation.”;

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph (2)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(J)”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations setting forth any other events and circumstances (in addition to the events and circumstances described in paragraph (2)) upon which the training required by this subsection shall be provided.”.

(c) **SURVEY OF MEMBERS’ FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PREPAREDNESS.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) **FINANCIAL LITERACY AND PREPAREDNESS SURVEY.**—(1) The Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall annually include in the status of forces survey a survey of the status of the financial literacy and preparedness of members of the armed forces.

“(2) The results of the annual financial literacy and preparedness survey—

“(A) shall be used by each of the Secretaries concerned as a benchmark to evaluate and update training provided under this section; and

“(B) shall be submitted to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.”.

(d) **FINANCIAL SERVICES DEFINED.**—Subsection (e) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (c)(1) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Health insurance, budget management, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), retirement lump sum payments (including rollover options and tax consequences), and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).”.

(e) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **SECTION HEADING.**—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

“§992. Financial literacy training: financial services”.

(2) **TABLE OF SECTIONS.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 50 of such title is amended by striking the item related to section 992 and inserting the following new item:

“992. Financial literacy training: financial services.”.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATIONS.**—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall commence providing financial literacy training under section 992 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section, to members of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 662. RECORDATION OF OBLIGATIONS FOR INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS OF INCENTIVE PAYS, ALLOWANCES, AND SIMILAR BENEFITS WHEN PAYMENT IS DUE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 19 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§1015. Recordation of installment payment obligations for incentive pays and similar benefits

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any pay, allowance, bonus, or other benefit described in subsection (b) that is paid to a member of the uniformed services on an installment basis, each installment payment shall be charged to appropriations that are available for obligation at the time such payment is payable.

“(b) **COVERED PAY AND BENEFITS.**—Subsection (a) applies to any incentive pay, special pay, or bonus, or similar periodic payment of pay or allowances, or of educational benefits or stipends, that is paid to a member of the uniformed services under this title or title 10.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 19 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1015. Recordation of installment payment obligations for incentive pays and similar benefits.”.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—TRICARE and Other Health Care Benefits

Sec. 701. Access to TRICARE Prime for certain beneficiaries.

Sec. 702. Modifications of cost-sharing for the TRICARE pharmacy benefits program.

Sec. 703. Expansion of continued health benefits coverage to include discharged and released members of the Selected Reserve.

Sec. 704. Access to health care under the TRICARE program for beneficiaries of TRICARE Prime.

Sec. 705. Expansion of reimbursement for smoking cessation services for certain TRICARE beneficiaries.

Subtitle B—Health Care Administration

Sec. 711. Waiver of recoupment of erroneous payments caused by administrative error under the TRICARE program.

Sec. 712. Publication of data on patient safety, quality of care, satisfaction, and health outcome measures under the TRICARE program.

Sec. 713. Expansion of evaluation of effectiveness of the TRICARE program to include information on patient safety, quality of care, and access to care at military medical treatment facilities.

Sec. 714. Portability of health plans under the TRICARE program.

Sec. 715. Joint uniform formulary for transition of care.

Sec. 716. Licensure of mental health professionals in TRICARE program.

Sec. 717. Designation of certain non-Department mental health care providers with knowledge relating to treatment of members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 718. Comprehensive standards and access to contraception counseling for members of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

Sec. 721. Provision of transportation of dependent patients relating to obstetrical anesthesia services.

Sec. 722. Extension of authority for DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

Sec. 723. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Sec. 724. Limitation on availability of funds for Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Sec. 725. Pilot program on urgent care under TRICARE program.

Sec. 726. Pilot program on incentive programs to improve health care provided under the TRICARE program.

Sec. 727. Limitation on availability of funds for Department of Defense Healthcare Management Systems Modernization.

Sec. 728. Submittal of information to Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to exposure to airborne hazards and open burn pits.

Sec. 729. Plan for development of procedures to measure data on mental health care provided by the Department of Defense.

Sec. 730. Report on plans to improve experience with and eliminate performance variability of health care provided by the Department of Defense.

Sec. 731. Comptroller General study on gambling and problem gambling behavior among members of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle A—TRICARE and Other Health Care Benefits

SEC. 701. ACCESS TO TRICARE PRIME FOR CERTAIN BENEFICIARIES.

Section 732(c)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1097a note) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) **RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ELECTION.**—

“(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), an affected eligible beneficiary may not make the one-time election under paragraph (1) if, at the time of such election, the beneficiary does not reside—

“(i) in a ZIP code that is in a region described in subsection (d)(1)(B); and

“(ii) within 100 miles of a military medical treatment facility.

“(B) Subparagraph (A)(ii) shall not apply with respect to an affected eligible beneficiary who—

“(i) as of December 25, 2013, resides farther than 100 miles from a military medical treatment facility; and

“(ii) is such an eligible beneficiary by reason of service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.”.

SEC. 702. MODIFICATIONS OF COST-SHARING FOR THE TRICARE PHARMACY BENEFITS PROGRAM.

(a) **MODIFICATION OF COST-SHARING AMOUNTS.**—Subparagraph (A) of section

1074g(a)(6) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “\$8” and inserting “\$10”; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking “\$20” and inserting “\$24”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (II), by striking “\$16” and inserting “\$20”; and

(B) in subclause (III), by striking “\$46” and inserting “\$49”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF COLA INCREASE.—Subparagraph (C) of such section is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “Beginning October 1, 2013,” and inserting “Beginning October 1, 2016,”; and

(2) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause (ii):

“(ii) The amount of the increase otherwise provided for a year by clause (i) shall be computed as follows:

“(I) If the amount of the increase is equal to or greater than 50 cents, the amount of the increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1.

“(II) If the amount of the increase is less than 50 cents, the increase shall not be made for such year, but shall be carried over to, and accumulated with, the amount of the increase for the subsequent year or years and made when the aggregate amount of increases under this clause for a year is equal to or greater than 50 cents.”.

SEC. 703. EXPANSION OF CONTINUED HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE TO INCLUDE DISCHARGED AND RELEASED MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 1078a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) A member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a reserve component of the armed forces who—

“(A) is discharged or released from service in the Selected Reserve, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, under other than adverse conditions, as characterized by the Secretary concerned;

“(B) immediately preceding that discharge or release, is enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select; and

“(C) after that discharge or release, would not otherwise be eligible for any benefits under this chapter.”.

(b) NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (c)(2) of such section is amended by inserting “or subsection (b)(2)” after “subsection (b)(1)”.

(c) ELECTION OF COVERAGE.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) In the case of a member described in subsection (b)(2), the written election shall be submitted to the Secretary concerned before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the later of—

“(A) the date of the discharge or release of the member from service in the Selected Reserve; and

“(B) the date the member receives the notification required pursuant to subsection (c).”.

(d) COVERAGE OF DEPENDENTS.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by inserting “or subsection (b)(2)” after “subsection (b)(1)”.

(e) PERIOD OF CONTINUED COVERAGE.—Subsection (g)(1) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) in the case of a member described in subsection (b)(2), the date which is 18 months after the date the member ceases to be eligible to enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select;”.

(f) TRICARE RESERVE SELECT DEFINED.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) TRICARE RESERVE SELECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “TRICARE Reserve Select” means TRICARE Standard coverage provided under section 1076d of this title.”.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3)”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “subsection (b)(4)”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by subsection (c)(1), by striking “subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3)”;

(B) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “subsection (b)(4)”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)(4)” and inserting “subsection (b)(5)”;

(3) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection (b)(2) or subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3) or subsection (b)(4)”; and

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated by subsection (c)(1), by striking “subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “subsection (b)(4)”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)(4)” and inserting “subsection (b)(5)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(C)”; and

(ii) by striking “subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3)”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “paragraph (1)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(D)”; and

(ii) by striking “subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “subsection (b)(4)”.

SEC. 704. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM FOR BENEFICIARIES OF TRICARE PRIME.

(a) ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that beneficiaries under TRICARE Prime who are seeking an appointment for health care under TRICARE Prime shall obtain such an appointment within the health care access standards established under subsection (b), including through the use of health care providers in the preferred provider network of TRICARE Prime.

(b) STANDARDS FOR ACCESS TO CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish health care access standards for the receipt of health care under TRICARE Prime, whether received at military medical treatment facilities or from health care providers in the preferred provider network of TRICARE Prime.

(2) CATEGORIES OF CARE.—The health care access standards established under paragraph (1) shall include standards with respect to the following categories of health care:

(A) Primary care, including pediatric care, maternity care, gynecological care, and other subcategories of primary care.

(B) Specialty care, including behavioral health care and other subcategories of specialty care.

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—The Secretary may modify the health care access standards established under paragraph (1) whenever the Secretary considers the modification of such standards appropriate.

(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the health care access standards established under paragraph (1), and any modifications to such standards, in the Federal Register and on a publicly accessible Internet website of the Department of Defense.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) TRICARE PRIME.—The term “TRICARE Prime” means the managed care option of the TRICARE program.

(2) TRICARE PROGRAM.—The term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 705. EXPANSION OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR SMOKING CESSATION SERVICES FOR CERTAIN TRICARE BENEFICIARIES.

Section 713(f) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4503; 10 U.S.C. 1074 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “during fiscal year 2009”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “during such fiscal year”; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “during fiscal year 2009” and inserting “after September 30, 2008”.

Subtitle B—Health Care Administration

SEC. 711. WAIVER OF RECOUPMENT OF ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS CAUSED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1095f the following new section:

“§1095g. TRICARE program: waiver of recoupment of erroneous payments caused by administrative error

“(a) WAIVER OF RECOUPMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may waive recoupment from an individual who has benefited from an erroneous TRICARE payment in a case in which each of the following applies:

“(1) The payment was made because of an administrative error by an employee of the Department of Defense or a contractor under the TRICARE program.

“(2) The individual (or in the case of a minor, the parent or guardian of the individual) had a good faith, reasonable belief that the individual was entitled to the benefit of such payment under this chapter.

“(3) The individual relied on the expectation of such entitlement.

“(4) The Secretary determines that a waiver of recoupment of such payment is necessary to prevent an injustice.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRACTOR.—In any case in which the Secretary waives recoupment under subsection (a) and the administrative error was on the part of a contractor under the TRICARE program, the Secretary shall, consistent with the requirements and procedures of the applicable contract, impose financial responsibility on the contractor for the erroneous payment.

“(c) FINALITY OF DETERMINATIONS.—Any determination by the Secretary under this section to waive or decline to waive recoupment under subsection (a) is a final determination and shall not be subject to appeal or judicial review.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1095f the following new item:

“1095g. TRICARE program: waiver of recoupment of erroneous payments caused by administrative error.”.

SEC. 712. PUBLICATION OF DATA ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, SATISFACTION, AND HEALTH OUTCOME MEASURES UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1073b of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PUBLICATION OF DATA ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, SATISFACTION, AND HEALTH OUTCOME MEASURES.—(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall publish on a publicly available Internet website of the Department of Defense data on all measures that the Secretary considers appropriate that are used by the Department to assess patient safety, quality of care, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes for health care provided under the TRICARE program at each military medical treatment facility.

“(2) The Secretary shall publish an update to the data published under paragraph (1) not less frequently than once each quarter during each fiscal year.

“(3) The Secretary may not include data relating to risk management activities of the Department in any publication under paragraph (1) or update under paragraph (2).

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the data published under paragraph (1) and updated under paragraph (2) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and the primary Internet website of the military medical treatment facility with respect to which such data applies.”.

SEC. 713. EXPANSION OF EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRICARE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND ACCESS TO CARE AT MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Section 717(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public Law 104-106; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by striking “address”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “address” before “the impact of”; and

(B) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) address patient safety, quality of care, and access to care at military medical treatment facilities, including—

“(A) an identification of the number of practitioners providing health care in military medical treatment facilities that were reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank during the year preceding the evaluation; and

“(B) with respect to each military medical treatment facility, an assessment of—

“(i) the current accreditation status of such facility, including any recommendations for corrective action made by the relevant accrediting body;

“(ii) any policies or procedures implemented during such year by the Secretary of the military department concerned that were designed to improve patient safety, quality of care, and access to care at such facility;

“(iii) data on surgical and maternity care outcomes during such year;

“(iv) data on appointment wait times during such year; and

“(v) data on patient safety, quality of care, and access to care as compared to standards established by the Department of Defense with respect to patient safety, quality of care, and access to care.”.

SEC. 714. PORTABILITY OF HEALTH PLANS UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) HEALTH PLAN PORTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program who are covered under a health plan under such program are able to seamlessly access health care under such health plan in each TRICARE program region.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out paragraph (1).

(b) MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PORTABILITY.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a process for electronic notification of contractors responsible for administering the TRICARE program in each TRICARE region when any covered beneficiary intends to relocate between such regions;

(2) provide for the automatic electronic transfer between such contractors of information relating to covered beneficiaries who are relocating between such regions, including demographic, enrollment, and claims information; and

(3) ensure each such covered beneficiary is able to obtain a new primary health care provider within ten days of—

(A) arriving at the location to which the covered beneficiary has relocated; and

(B) initiating a request for a new primary health care provider.

(c) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish information on any modifications made pursuant to subsection (a) with respect to the ability of covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program who are covered under a health plan under such program to access health care in each TRICARE region on the primary Internet website of the Department that is available to the public; and

(2) ensure that such information is made available on the primary Internet website that is available to the public of each current contractor responsible for administering the TRICARE program.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “covered beneficiary” and “TRICARE program” have the meaning given such terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 715. JOINT UNIFORM FORMULARY FOR TRANSITION OF CARE.

(a) JOINT FORMULARY.—Not later than June 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly establish a joint uniform formulary for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense with respect to pharmaceutical agents that are critical for the transition of an individual from receiving treatment furnished by the Secretary of Defense to treatment furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) SELECTION.—The Secretaries shall select for inclusion on the joint uniform formulary established under subsection (a) pharmaceutical agents relating to—

(1) the control of pain, sleep disorders, and psychiatric conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(2) any other conditions determined appropriate by the Secretaries.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2016, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the joint uniform formulary established under subsection (a), including a list of the pharmaceutical agents selected for inclusion on the formulary.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from each maintaining the respective uniform formularies of the Department of the Secretary.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees; and

(B) the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(2) The term “pharmaceutical agent” has the meaning given that term in section 1074g(g) of title 10, United States Code.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1074g(a)(2)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “With respect to members of the uniformed services, such uniform formulary shall include pharmaceutical agents on the joint uniform formulary established under section 715 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.”.

SEC. 716. LICENSURE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) QUALIFICATIONS FOR TRICARE CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.—During the period preceding January 1, 2021, for purposes of determining whether a mental health care professional is eligible for reimbursement under the TRICARE program as a TRICARE certified mental health counselor, an individual who holds a masters degree or doctoral degree in counseling from a program that is accredited by a covered institution shall be treated as holding such degree from a mental health counseling program or clinical mental health counseling program that is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered institution” means any of the following:

(A) The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC-WASC).

(B) The Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

(C) The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

(D) The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE).

(E) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges.

(F) The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WASC-SCUC).

(G) The Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).

(H) The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

(I) The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

(J) The Distance Education Accreditation Commission (DEAC).

(2) The term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 717. DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN NON-DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WITH KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER READINESS DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop a system by which any non-Department mental health care provider that meets eligibility criteria established by the Secretary relating to the knowledge described in paragraph (2) receives a mental health provider readiness designation from the Department of Defense.

(2) KNOWLEDGE DESCRIBED.—The knowledge described in this paragraph is the following:

(A) Knowledge and understanding with respect to the culture of members of the Armed Forces and family members and caregivers of members of the Armed Forces.

(B) Knowledge with respect to evidence-based treatments that have been approved by the Department for the treatment of mental health issues among members of the Armed Forces.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON DESIGNATION.**—

(1) **REGISTRY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish and update as necessary a publicly available registry of all non-Department mental health care providers that are currently designated under subsection (a)(1).

(2) **PROVIDER LIST.**—The Secretary shall update all lists maintained by the Secretary of non-Department mental health care providers that provide mental health care under the laws administered by the Secretary by indicating the providers that are currently designated under subsection (a)(1).

(c) **NON-DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “non-Department mental health care provider” —

(1) means a health care provider who—

(A) specializes in mental health;

(B) is not a health care provider of the Department of Defense at a facility of the Department; and

(C) provides health care to members of the Armed Forces; and

(2) includes psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and other mental health care providers designated by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 718. COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS AND ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION COUNSELING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish clinical practice guidelines for health care providers employed by the Department of Defense on standards of care with respect to methods of contraception and counseling on methods of contraception for members of the Armed Forces.

(2) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall from time to time update the clinical practice guidelines established under paragraph (1) to incorporate into such guidelines new or updated standards of care with respect to methods of contraception and counseling on methods of contraception.

(b) **DISSEMINATION.**—

(1) **INITIAL DISSEMINATION.**—As soon as practicable, but commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for rapid dissemination of the clinical practice guidelines to health care providers described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) **DISSEMINATION OF UPDATES.**—As soon as practicable after each update to the clinical practice guidelines made by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for the rapid dissemination of such updated clinical practice guidelines to health care providers described in paragraph (1) of such subsection.

(3) **PROTOCOLS.**—The Secretary shall disseminate the clinical practice guidelines under paragraph (1) and any updates to such guidelines under paragraph (2) in accordance with administrative protocols developed by the Secretary for such purpose.

(c) **ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION COUNSELING.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that women members of the Armed Forces have access to comprehensive counseling on the full range of methods of contraception provided by health care providers described in subsection (a)(1) during health care visits, including visits as follows:

(1) During predeployment health care visits, including counseling that provides specific in-

formation women need regarding the interaction between anticipated deployment conditions and various methods of contraception.

(2) During health care visits during deployment.

(3) During annual physical examinations.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

SEC. 721. PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENT PATIENTS RELATING TO OBSTETRICAL ANESTHESIA SERVICES.

Section 1040(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

SEC. 722. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DOD-VA HEALTH CARE SHARING INCENTIVE FUND.

Section 8111(d)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

SEC. 723. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND.

Section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), as amended by section 722 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291), is further amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 724. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the report required by section 713(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3414).

SEC. 725. PILOT PROGRAM ON URGENT CARE UNDER TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a pilot program to allow a covered beneficiary under the TRICARE program access to urgent care visits without the need for preauthorization for such visits.

(2) **DURATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program for a period of three years.

(3) **INCORPORATION OF NURSE ADVICE LINE.**—The Secretary shall incorporate the nurse advice line of the Department into the pilot program to direct covered beneficiaries seeking access to care to the source of the most appropriate level of health care required to treat the medical conditions of the beneficiaries, including urgent care under the pilot program.

(b) **PUBLICATION.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish information on the pilot program under subsection (a) for the receipt of urgent care under the TRICARE program—

(A) on the primary publicly available Internet website of the Department; and

(B) on the primary publicly available Internet website of each military medical treatment facility; and

(2) ensure that such information is made available on the primary publicly available Internet website of each current managed care contractor that has established a health care provider network under the TRICARE program.

(c) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **FIRST REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date on which the pilot program under

subsection (a) commences, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the pilot program.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under subparagraph (1) shall include the following:

(i) An analysis of urgent care use by covered beneficiaries in military medical treatment facilities and the TRICARE purchased care provider network.

(ii) A comparison of urgent care use by covered beneficiaries to the use by covered beneficiaries of emergency departments in military medical treatment facilities and the TRICARE purchased care provider network, including an analysis of whether the pilot program decreases the inappropriate use of medical care in emergency departments.

(iii) A determination of the extent to which the nurse advice line of the Department affected both urgent care and emergency department use by covered beneficiaries in military medical treatment facilities and the TRICARE purchased care provider network.

(iv) An analysis of any cost savings to the Department realized through the pilot program.

(v) A determination of the optimum number of urgent care visits available to covered beneficiaries without preauthorization.

(vi) An analysis of the satisfaction of covered beneficiaries with the pilot program.

(2) **SECOND REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date on which the pilot program commences, the Secretary shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (1)(A) an update to the report required by such paragraph, including any recommendations of the Secretary with respect to extending or making permanent the pilot program and a description of any related legislative actions that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the pilot program is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (1)(A) a final report on the pilot program that updates the report required by paragraph (2).

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “covered beneficiary” and “TRICARE program” have the meaning given such terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 726. PILOT PROGRAM ON INCENTIVE PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDED UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall commence the conduct of a pilot program under section 1092 of title 10, United States Code, to assess whether a reduction in the rate of increase in health care spending by the Department of Defense and an enhancement of the operation of the military health system may be achieved by developing and implementing value-based incentive programs to encourage health care providers under the TRICARE program (including physicians, hospitals, and others involved in providing health care to patients) to improve the following:

(1) The quality of health care provided to covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program.

(2) The experience of covered beneficiaries in receiving health care under the TRICARE program.

(3) The health of covered beneficiaries.

(b) **INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—In developing an incentive program under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) consider the characteristics of the population of covered beneficiaries affected by the incentive program;

(B) consider how the incentive program would impact the receipt of health care under the

TRICARE program by such covered beneficiaries;

(C) establish or maintain an assurance that such covered beneficiaries will have timely access to health care during operation of the incentive program;

(D) ensure that there are no additional financial costs to such covered beneficiaries of implementing the incentive program; and

(E) consider such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—With respect to an incentive program developed and implemented under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(A) the size, scope, and duration of the incentive program is reasonable in relation to the purpose of the incentive program; and

(B) appropriate criteria and data collection are used to ensure adequate evaluation of the feasibility and advisability of implementing the incentive program throughout the TRICARE program.

(3) **USE OF EXISTING MODELS.**—In developing an incentive program under this section, the Secretary may adapt a value-based incentive program conducted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services or any other governmental or commercial health care program.

(c) **TERMINATION.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out the pilot program under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2019.

(d) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the termination of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the pilot program.

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a final report on the pilot program.

(3) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of each incentive program developed and implemented under this section, including whether such incentive program—

(i) improves the quality of health care provided to covered beneficiaries, the experience of covered beneficiaries in receiving health care under the TRICARE program, or the health of covered beneficiaries;

(ii) reduces the rate of increase in health care spending by the Department of Defense; or

(iii) enhances the operation of the military health system.

(B) Such recommendations for administrative or legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the pilot program, including to implement any such incentive program or programs throughout the TRICARE program.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “covered beneficiary” and “TRICARE program” have the meanings given those terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 727. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense Healthcare Management Systems Modernization, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense makes the certification required by section 713(g)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

SEC. 728. SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs such information in the possession of the Secretary of Defense as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers necessary to supplement and support—

(1) the development of information to be included in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry established by the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note); and

(2) research and development activities conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to explore the potential health risks of exposure by members of the Armed Forces to environmental factors in Iraq and Afghanistan, in particular the connection of such exposure to respiratory illnesses such as chronic cough, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis.

(b) **INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Defense shall include in the information submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subsection (a) information on any research and surveillance efforts conducted by the Department of Defense to evaluate the incidence and prevalence of respiratory illnesses among members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to open burn pits while deployed overseas.

SEC. 729. PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES TO MEASURE DATA ON MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for the Department of Defense to develop procedures to compile and assess data relating to the following:

(1) Outcomes for mental health care provided by the Department.

(2) Variations in such outcomes among different medical facilities of the Department.

(3) Barriers, if any, to the implementation by mental health care providers of the Department of the clinical practice guidelines and other evidence-based treatments and approaches recommended for such providers by the Secretary.

SEC. 730. REPORT ON PLANS TO IMPROVE EXPERIENCE WITH AND ELIMINATE PERFORMANCE VARIABILITY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a comprehensive report setting forth the current and future plans of the Secretary, with estimated dates of completion, to carry out the following:

(A) To improve the experience of beneficiaries with health care provided in military medical treatment facilities and through purchased care.

(B) To eliminate performance variability with respect to the provision of such health care.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The comprehensive report under paragraph (1) shall include the plans of the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, as follows:

(A) To align performance measures for health care provided in military medical treatment facilities with performance measures for health care provided through purchased care.

(B) To improve performance in the provision of health care by the Department of Defense by eliminating performance variability with respect to the provision of health care in military medical treatment facilities and through purchased care.

(C) To use innovative, high-technology services to improve access to care, coordination of care, and the experience of care in military medical treatment facilities and through purchased care.

(D) To collect and analyze data throughout the Department with respect to health care provided in military medical treatment facilities and through purchased care to improve the quality of such care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction.

(E) To develop a performance management system, including by adoption of common measures for access to care, quality of care, safety, and patient satisfaction, that holds medical leadership throughout the Department accountable for sustained improvement of performance.

(F) To use such other methods as the Secretary considers appropriate to improve the experience of beneficiaries with and eliminate performance variability with respect to health care received from the Department.

(b) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the comprehensive report required by subsection (a)(1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the plans of the Secretary of Defense set forth in the comprehensive report submitted under such subsection.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of whether the plans included in the comprehensive report submitted under subsection (a) will, with respect to members of the Armed Forces and covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program—

(i) improve health outcomes;

(ii) create consistent health value; and

(iii) ensure that such individuals receive quality health care in all military medical treatment facilities and through purchased care.

(B) An assessment of whether such plans can be achieved within the estimated dates of completion set forth by the Department under such subsection.

(C) An assessment of whether any such plan would require legislation for the implementation of such plan.

(D) An assessment of whether the Department of Defense has adequately budgeted amounts to fund the carrying out of such plans.

(E) Metrics that can be used to evaluate the performance of such plans.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “purchased care” means health care provided pursuant to a contract entered into under the TRICARE program.

(2) The terms “covered beneficiary” and “TRICARE program” have the meaning given such terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 731. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON GAMBLING AND PROBLEM GAMBLING BEHAVIOR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on gambling among members of the Armed Forces.

(b) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to gaming facilities at military installations, disaggregated by each military department, the number, type, and location of such gaming facilities.

(2) An assessment of the prevalence of and particular risks for problem gambling among

members of the Armed Forces, including such recommendations for policies and programs to be carried out by the Department to address problem gambling as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(3) An assessment of the ability and capacity of military health care personnel to adequately diagnose and provide dedicated treatment for problem gambling, including—

(A) a comparison of treatment programs of the Department for alcohol abuse, illegal substance abuse, and tobacco addiction with treatment programs of the Department for problem gambling; and

(B) an assessment of whether additional training for military health care personnel on providing treatment for problem gambling would be beneficial.

(4) An assessment of the financial counseling and related services that are available to members of the Armed Forces and dependents of such members who are affected by problem gambling.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

TITLE VIII—ACQUISITION POLICY, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—Acquisition Policy and Management

Sec. 801. Required review of acquisition-related functions of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 802. Role of Chiefs of Staff in the acquisition process.

Sec. 803. Expansion of rapid acquisition authority.

Sec. 804. Middle tier of acquisition for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding.

Sec. 805. Use of alternative acquisition paths to acquire critical national security capabilities.

Sec. 806. Secretary of Defense waiver of acquisition laws to acquire vital national security capabilities.

Sec. 807. Acquisition authority of the Commander of United States Cyber Command.

Sec. 808. Report on linking and streamlining requirements, acquisition, and budget processes within Armed Forces.

Sec. 809. Advisory panel on streamlining and codifying acquisition regulations.

Sec. 810. Review of time-based requirements process and budgeting and acquisition systems.

Subtitle B—Amendments to General Contracting Authorities, Procedures, and Limitations

Sec. 811. Amendment relating to multiyear contract authority for acquisition of property.

Sec. 812. Applicability of cost and pricing data and certification requirements.

Sec. 813. Rights in technical data.

Sec. 814. Procurement of supplies for experimental purposes.

Sec. 815. Amendments to other transaction authority.

Sec. 816. Amendment to acquisition threshold for special emergency procurement authority.

Sec. 817. Revision of method of rounding when making inflation adjustment of acquisition-related dollar thresholds.

Subtitle C—Provisions Related to Major Defense Acquisition Programs

Sec. 821. Acquisition strategy required for each major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, and major system.

Sec. 822. Revision to requirements relating to risk management in development of major defense acquisition programs and major systems.

Sec. 823. Revision of Milestone A decision authority responsibilities for major defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 824. Revision of Milestone B decision authority responsibilities for major defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 825. Designation of milestone decision authority.

Sec. 826. Tenure and accountability of program managers for program definition periods.

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Sec. 828. Penalty for cost overruns.

Sec. 829. Streamlining of reporting requirements applicable to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering regarding major defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 830. Configuration Steering Boards for cost control under major defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 831. Repeal of requirement for stand-alone manpower estimates for major defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 832. Revision to duties of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering.

Subtitle D—Provisions Relating to Acquisition Workforce

Sec. 841. Amendments to Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.

Sec. 842. Dual-track military professionals in operational and acquisition specialties.

Sec. 843. Provision of joint duty assignment credit for acquisition duty.

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Subtitle E—Provisions Relating to Commercial Items

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Sec. 852. Modification to information required to be submitted by offeror in procurement of major weapon systems as commercial items.

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Subtitle G—Other Matters

Sec. 881. Consideration of potential program cost increases and schedule delays resulting from oversight of defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 882. Examination and guidance relating to oversight and approval of services contracts.

Sec. 883. Streamlining of requirements relating to defense business systems.

Sec. 884. Procurement of personal protective equipment.

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Sec. 886. Exception for AbilityOne products from authority to acquire goods and services manufactured in Afghanistan, Central Asian States, and Djibouti.

Sec. 887. Effective communication between government and industry.

Sec. 888. Standards for procurement of secure information technology and cyber security systems.

Sec. 889. Unified information technology services.

Sec. 890. Cloud strategy for Department of Defense.

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Sec. 896. Survey on the costs of regulatory compliance.

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Sec. 898. Competition for religious services contracts.

Sec. 899. Pilot program regarding risk-based contracting for smaller contract actions under the Truth in Negotiations Act.

Subtitle A—Acquisition Policy and Management

SEC. 801. REQUIRED REVIEW OF ACQUISITION-RELATED FUNCTIONS OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **REVIEW REQUIRED.**—The Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall conduct a review of their current individual authorities provided in sections 3033, 5033, 8033, and 5043 of title 10, United States Code, and other relevant statutes and regulations related to defense acquisitions for the purpose of developing such recommendations as the Chief concerned or the Commandant considers necessary to further or advance the role of the Chief concerned or the Commandant in the development of requirements, acquisition processes, and the associated budget practices of the Department of Defense.

(b) **REPORTS.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall each submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The recommendations developed by the Chief concerned or the Commandant under subsection (a) and other results of the review conducted under such subsection.

(2) The actions the Chief concerned or the Commandant is taking, if any, within the Chief's or Commandant's existing authority to implement such recommendations.

SEC. 802. ROLE OF CHIEFS OF STAFF IN THE ACQUISITION PROCESS.

(a) **CHIEFS OF STAFF AS CUSTOMER OF ACQUISITION PROCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 149 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2546 the following new section:

“§2546a. Customer-oriented acquisition system

“(a) **OBJECTIVE.**—It shall be the objective of the defense acquisition system to meet the needs of its customers in the most cost-effective manner practicable. The acquisition policies, directives, and regulations of the Department of Defense shall be modified as necessary to ensure the development and implementation of a customer-oriented acquisition system.

“(b) **CUSTOMER.**—The customer of the defense acquisition system is the armed force that will have primary responsibility for fielding the system or systems acquired. The customer is represented with regard to a major defense acquisition program by the Secretary of the military department concerned and the Chief of the armed force concerned.

“(c) **ROLE OF CUSTOMER.**—The customer of a major defense acquisition program shall be responsible for balancing resources against priorities on the acquisition program and ensuring that appropriate trade-offs are made among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance on a continuing basis throughout the life of the acquisition program.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 149 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2546 the following new item:

“2546a. Customer-oriented acquisition system.”.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHIEFS.**—Section 2547(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) Decisions regarding the balancing of resources and priorities, and associated trade-offs among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance on major defense acquisition programs.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “The development” and inserting “The development and management”.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MILITARY DEPUTIES.**—Section 908(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 10 U.S.C. 2430 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **DUTIES OF PRINCIPAL MILITARY DEPUTIES.**—Each Principal Military Deputy to a service acquisition executive shall be responsible for—

“(1) keeping the Chief of Staff of the Armed Force concerned informed of the progress of major defense acquisition programs;

“(2) informing the Chief of Staff on a continuing basis of any developments on major defense acquisition programs, which may require new or revisited trade-offs among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance, including—

“(A) significant cost growth or schedule slippage; and

“(B) requirements creep (as defined in section 2547(c)(1) of title 10, United States Code); and

“(3) ensuring that the views of the Chief of Staff on cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance trade-offs are strongly considered by program managers and program executive officers in all phases of the acquisition process.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **JOINT REQUIREMENTS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL.**—Section 181(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The Council shall seek, and strongly consider, the views of the Chiefs of Staff of the armed forces, in their roles as customers of the acquisition system, on matters pertaining to trade-offs among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance under subsection (b)(1)(C) and the balancing of resources with priorities pursuant to subsection (b)(3).”.

(2) **MILESTONE A DECISIONS.**—The Chief of the Armed Force concerned shall advise the milestone decision authority for a major defense acquisition program of the Chief's views on cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance trade-offs that have been made with regard to the program, as provided in section 2366a(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 823 of this Act, prior to a Milestone A decision on the program.

(3) **MILESTONE B DECISIONS.**—The Chief of the Armed Force concerned shall advise the milestone decision authority for a major defense acquisition program of the Chief's views on cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance trade-offs that have been made with regard to the program, as provided in section 2366b(b)(3) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 824 of this Act, prior to a Milestone B decision on the program.

(4) **DUTIES OF CHIEFS.**—

(A) Section 3033(d)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 171” and inserting “sections 171 and 2547”.

(B) Section 5033(d)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 171” and inserting “sections 171 and 2547”.

(C) Section 5043(e)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 171” and inserting “sections 171 and 2547”.

(D) Section 8033(d)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 171” and inserting “sections 171 and 2547”.

SEC. 803. EXPANSION OF RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.

Section 806(c) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) **RESPONSE TO COMBAT EMERGENCIES AND CERTAIN URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS.**—

“(1) **DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR RAPID ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT.**—(A) In the case of any supplies and associated support services that, as determined in writing by the Secretary of Defense, are urgently needed to eliminate a documented deficiency that has resulted in combat casualties, or is likely to result in combat casualties, the Secretary may use the procedures developed under this section in order to accomplish the rapid acquisition and deployment of the needed supplies and associated support services.

“(B) In the case of any supplies and associated support services that, as determined in writing by the Secretary of Defense, are urgently needed to eliminate a documented deficiency that impacts an ongoing or anticipated contingency operation and that, if left unfulfilled, could potentially result in loss of life or critical mission failure, the Secretary may use the procedures developed under this section in order to accomplish the rapid acquisition and deployment of the needed supplies and associated support services.

“(C)(i) In the case of any supplies and associated support services that, as determined in writing by the Secretary of Defense without delegation, are urgently needed to eliminate a deficiency that as the result of a cyber attack has resulted in critical mission failure, the loss of life, property destruction, or economic effects, or if left unfulfilled is likely to result in critical mission failure, the loss of life, property destruction, or economic effects, the Secretary may use the procedures developed under this section in order to accomplish the rapid acquisition and deployment of the needed offensive or defensive cyber capabilities, supplies, and associated support services.

“(ii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘cyber attack’ means a deliberate action to alter, disrupt, deceive, degrade, or destroy computer systems or networks or the information or programs resident in or transiting these systems or networks.

“(2) **DESIGNATION OF SENIOR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE.**—(A) Whenever the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) that certain supplies and associated support services are urgently needed to eliminate a deficiency described in that subparagraph, the Secretary shall designate a senior official of the Department of Defense to ensure that the needed supplies and associated support services are acquired and deployed as quickly as possible, with a goal of awarding a contract for the acquisition of the supplies and associated support services within 15 days.

“(B) Upon designation of a senior official under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall authorize that official to waive any provision of law, policy, directive, or regulation described in subsection (d) that such official determines in writing would unnecessarily impede the rapid acquisition and deployment of the needed supplies and associated support services. In a case in which the needed supplies and associated support services cannot be acquired without an extensive delay, the senior official shall require that an interim solution be implemented and deployed using the procedures developed under

this section to minimize adverse consequences resulting from the urgent need.

“(3) **USE OF FUNDS.**—(A) In any fiscal year in which the Secretary makes a determination described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), the Secretary may use any funds available to the Department of Defense for acquisitions of supplies and associated support services if the determination includes a written finding that the use of such funds is necessary to address the deficiency in a timely manner.

“(B) The authority of this section may only be used to acquire supplies and associated support services—

“(i) in the case of determinations by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(A), in an amount aggregating not more than \$200,000,000 during any fiscal year;

“(ii) in the case of determinations by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B), in an amount aggregating not more than \$200,000,000 during any fiscal year; and

“(iii) in the case of determinations by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(C), in an amount aggregating not more than \$200,000,000 during any fiscal year.

“(4) **NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.**—(A) In the case of a determination by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees of the determination within 15 days after the date of the determination.

“(B) In the case of a determination by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B) the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees of the determination at least 10 days before the date on which the determination is effective.

“(C) A notice under this paragraph shall include the following:

“(i) The supplies and associated support services to be acquired.

“(ii) The amount anticipated to be expended for the acquisition.

“(iii) The source of funds for the acquisition.

“(D) A notice under this paragraph shall be sufficient to fulfill any requirement to provide notification to Congress for a new start program.

“(E) A notice under this paragraph shall be provided in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(5) **TIME FOR TRANSITIONING TO NORMAL ACQUISITION SYSTEM.**—Any acquisition initiated under this subsection shall transition to the normal acquisition system not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary makes the determination described in paragraph (1) with respect to the supplies and associated support services concerned.

“(6) **LIMITATION ON OFFICERS WITH AUTHORITY TO MAKE A DETERMINATION.**—The authority to make a determination under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) may be exercised only by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense.”.

SEC. 804. MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION FOR RAPID PROTOTYPING AND RAPID FIELDING.

(a) **GUIDANCE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, in consultation with the Comptroller of the Department of Defense and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall establish guidance for a “middle tier” of acquisition programs that are intended to be completed in a period of two to five years.

(b) **ACQUISITION PATHWAYS.**—The guidance required by subsection (a) shall cover the following two acquisition pathways:

(1) **RAPID PROTOTYPING.**—The rapid prototyping pathway shall provide for the use of innovative technologies to rapidly develop fieldable prototypes to demonstrate new capa-

bilities and meet emerging military needs. The objective of an acquisition program under this pathway shall be to field a prototype that can be demonstrated in an operational environment and provide for a residual operational capability within five years of the development of an approved requirement.

(2) **RAPID FIELDING.**—The rapid fielding pathway shall provide for the use of proven technologies to field production quantities of new or upgraded systems with minimal development required. The objective of an acquisition program under this pathway shall be to begin production within six months and complete fielding within five years of the development of an approved requirement.

(c) **EXPEDITED PROCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The guidance required by subsection (a) shall provide for a streamlined and coordinated requirements, budget, and acquisition process that results in the development of an approved requirement for each program in a period of not more than six months from the time that the process is initiated. Programs that are subject to the guidance shall not be subject to the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System Manual and Department of Defense Directive 5000.01, except to the extent specifically provided in the guidance.

(2) **RAPID PROTOTYPING.**—With respect to the rapid prototyping pathway, the guidance shall include—

(A) a merit-based process for the consideration of innovative technologies and new capabilities to meet needs communicated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the combatant commanders;

(B) a process for developing and implementing acquisition and funding strategies for the program;

(C) a process for cost-sharing with the military departments on rapid prototype projects, to ensure an appropriate commitment to the success of such projects;

(D) a process for demonstrating and evaluating the performance of fieldable prototypes developed pursuant to the program in an operational environment; and

(E) a process for transitioning successful prototypes to new or existing acquisition programs for production and fielding under the rapid fielding pathway or the traditional acquisition system.

(3) **RAPID FIELDING.**—With respect to the rapid fielding pathway, the guidance shall include—

(A) a merit-based process for the consideration of existing products and proven technologies to meet needs communicated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the combatant commanders;

(B) a process for demonstrating performance and evaluating for current operational purposes the proposed products and technologies;

(C) a process for developing and implementing acquisition and funding strategies for the program; and

(D) a process for considering lifecycle costs and addressing issues of logistics support and system interoperability.

(4) **STREAMLINED PROCEDURES.**—The guidance for the programs may provide for any of the following streamlined procedures:

(A) The service acquisition executive of the military department concerned shall appoint a program manager for such program from among candidates from among civilian employees or members of the Armed Forces who have significant and relevant experience managing large and complex programs.

(B) The program manager for each program shall report with respect to such program directly, without intervening review or approval, to the service acquisition executive of the military department concerned.

(C) The service acquisition executive of the military department concerned shall evaluate

the job performance of such manager on an annual basis. In conducting an evaluation under this paragraph, a service acquisition executive shall consider the extent to which the manager has achieved the objectives of the program for which the manager is responsible, including quality, timeliness, and cost objectives.

(D) The program manager of a defense streamlined program shall be authorized staff positions for a technical staff, including experts in business management, contracting, auditing, engineering, testing, and logistics, to enable the manager to manage the program without the technical assistance of another organizational unit of an agency to the maximum extent practicable.

(E) The program manager of a defense streamlined program shall be authorized, in coordination with the users of the equipment and capability to be acquired and the test community, to make trade-offs among life-cycle costs, requirements, and schedules to meet the goals of the program.

(F) The service acquisition executive, acting in coordination with the defense acquisition executive, shall serve as the milestone decision authority for the program.

(G) The program manager of a defense streamlined program shall be provided a process to expeditiously seek a waiver from Congress from any statutory or regulatory requirement that the program manager determines adds little or no value to the management of the program.

(d) **RAPID PROTOTYPING FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a fund to be known as the “Department of Defense Rapid Prototyping Fund” to provide funds, in addition to other funds that may be available for acquisition programs under the rapid prototyping pathway established pursuant to this section. The Fund shall be managed by a senior official of the Department of Defense designated by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated to the Fund and amounts credited to the Fund pursuant to section 828 of this Act.

(2) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—Amounts available in the Fund may be transferred to a military department for the purpose of carrying out an acquisition program under the rapid prototyping pathway established pursuant to this section. Any amount so transferred shall be credited to the account to which it is transferred. The transfer authority provided in this subsection is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(3) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.**—The senior official designated to manage the Fund shall notify the congressional defense committees of all transfers under paragraph (2). Each notification shall specify the amount transferred, the purpose of the transfer, and the total projected cost and estimated cost to complete the acquisition program to which the funds were transferred.

SEC. 805. USE OF ALTERNATIVE ACQUISITION PATHS TO ACQUIRE CRITICAL NATIONAL SECURITY CAPABILITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish procedures for alternative acquisition pathways to acquire capital assets and services that meet critical national security needs. The procedures shall—

(1) be separate from existing acquisition procedures;

(2) be supported by streamlined contracting, budgeting, and requirements processes;

(3) establish alternative acquisition paths based on the capabilities being bought and the time needed to deploy these capabilities; and

(4) maximize the use of flexible authorities in existing law and regulation.

SEC. 806. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WAIVER OF ACQUISITION LAWS TO ACQUIRE VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY CAPABILITIES.

(a) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to waive any provision of acquisition law or regulation described in subsection (c) for the purpose of acquiring a capability that would not otherwise be available to the Armed Forces of the United States, upon a determination that—

(1) the acquisition of the capability is in the vital national security interest of the United States;

(2) the application of the law or regulation to be waived would impede the acquisition of the capability in a manner that would undermine the national security of the United States; and

(3) the underlying purpose of the law or regulation to be waived can be addressed in a different manner or at a different time.

(b) **DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.**—Whenever the Secretary of Defense makes a determination under subsection (a)(1) that the acquisition of a capability is in the vital national security interest of the United States, the Secretary shall designate a senior official of the Department of Defense who shall be personally responsible and accountable for the rapid and effective acquisition and deployment of the needed capability. The Secretary shall provide the designated official such authority as the Secretary determines necessary to achieve this objective, and may use the waiver authority in subsection (a) for this purpose.

(c) **ACQUISITION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon a determination described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense is authorized to waive any provision of law or regulation addressing—

(A) the establishment of a requirement or specification for the capability to be acquired;

(B) research, development, test, and evaluation of the capability to be acquired;

(C) production, fielding, and sustainment of the capability to be acquired; or

(D) solicitation, selection of sources, and award of contracts for the capability to be acquired.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the waiver of—

(A) the requirements of this section;

(B) any provision of law imposing civil or criminal penalties; or

(C) any provision of law governing the proper expenditure of appropriated funds.

(d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees at least 30 days before exercising the waiver authority under subsection (a). Each such notice shall include—

(1) an explanation of the basis for determining that the acquisition of the capability is in the vital national security interest of the United States;

(2) an identification of each provision of law or regulation to be waived; and

(3) for each provision identified pursuant to paragraph (2)—

(A) an explanation of why the application of the provision would impede the acquisition in a manner that would undermine the national security of the United States; and

(B) a description of the time or manner in which the underlying purpose of the law or regulation to be waived will be addressed.

(e) **NONDELEGATION.**—The authority of the Secretary to waive provisions of laws and regulations under subsection (a) is nondelegable.

SEC. 807. ACQUISITION AUTHORITY OF THE COMMANDER OF UNITED STATES CYBER COMMAND.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commander of the United States Cyber Command shall be respon-

sible for, and shall have the authority to conduct, the following acquisition activities:

(A) Development and acquisition of cyber operations-peculiar equipment and capabilities.

(B) Acquisition and sustainment of cyber capability-peculiar equipment, capabilities, and services.

(2) **ACQUISITION FUNCTIONS.**—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Commander shall have authority to exercise the functions of the head of an agency under chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) **COMMAND ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The staff of the Commander shall include a command acquisition executive, who shall be responsible for the overall supervision of acquisition matters for the United States Cyber Command. The command acquisition executive shall have the authority—

(A) to negotiate memoranda of agreement with the military departments and Department of Defense components to carry out the acquisition of equipment, capabilities, and services described in subsection (a)(1) on behalf of the Command;

(B) to supervise the acquisition of equipment, capabilities, and services described in subsection (a)(1);

(C) to represent the Command in discussions with the military departments regarding acquisition programs for which the Command is a customer; and

(D) to work with the military departments to ensure that the Command is appropriately represented in any joint working group or integrated product team regarding acquisition programs for which the Command is a customer.

(2) **DELIVERY OF ACQUISITION SOLUTIONS.**—The command acquisition executive of the United States Cyber Command shall be—

(A) responsible to the Commander for rapidly delivering acquisition solutions to meet validated cyber operations-peculiar requirements;

(B) subordinate to the defense acquisition executive in matters of acquisition;

(C) subject to the same oversight as the service acquisition executives; and

(D) included on the distribution list for acquisition directives and instructions of the Department of Defense.

(c) **ACQUISITION PERSONNEL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the United States Cyber Command with the personnel or funding equivalent to ten full-time equivalent personnel to support the Commander in fulfilling the acquisition responsibilities provided for under this section with experience in—

(A) program acquisition;

(B) the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System Process;

(C) program management;

(D) system engineering; and

(E) costing.

(2) **EXISTING PERSONNEL.**—The personnel provided under this subsection shall be provided from among the existing personnel of the Department of Defense.

(d) **BUDGET.**—In addition to the activities of a combatant command for which funding may be requested under section 166 of title 10, United States Code, the budget proposal of the United States Cyber Command shall include requests for funding for—

(1) development and acquisition of cyber operations-peculiar equipment; and

(2) acquisition and sustainment of other capabilities or services that are peculiar to cyber operations activities.

(e) **CYBER OPERATIONS PROCUREMENT FUND.**—In exercising the authority granted in subsection (a), the Commander may not obligate or expend more than \$75,000,000 out of the funds made available in each fiscal year from 2016

through 2021 to support acquisition activities provided for under this section.

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to constitute authority to conduct any activity which, if carried out as an intelligence activity by the Department of Defense, would require a notice to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.).

(g) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED.**—The authority granted in subsection (a) shall become effective 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense provides to the congressional defense committees a plan for implementation of those authorities under subsection (a). The plan shall include the following:

(1) A Department of Defense definition of—

(A) cyber operations-peculiar equipment and capabilities; and

(B) cyber capability-peculiar equipment, capabilities, and services.

(2) Summaries of the components to be negotiated in the memorandum of agreements with the military departments and other Department of Defense components to carry out the development, acquisition, and sustainment of equipment, capabilities, and services described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

(3) Memorandum of agreement negotiation and approval timelines.

(4) Plan for oversight of the command acquisition executive established in subsection (b).

(5) Assessment of the acquisition workforce needs of the United States Cyber Command to support the authority in subsection (a) until 2021.

(6) Other matters as appropriate.

(h) **ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR ASSESSMENT.**—Each year, the Cyber Investment Management Board shall review and assess the acquisition activities of the United States Cyber Command, including contracting and acquisition documentation, for the previous fiscal year, and provide any recommendations or feedback to the acquisition executive of Cyber Command.

(i) **SUNSET.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2021.

(2) **LIMITATION ON DURATION OF ACQUISITIONS.**—The authority under this section does not include major defense acquisition programs, major automated information system programs, or acquisitions of foundational infrastructure or software architectures the duration of which is expected to last more than five years.

SEC. 808. REPORT ON LINKING AND STREAMLINING REQUIREMENTS, ACQUISITION, AND BUDGET PROCESSES WITHIN ARMED FORCES.

(a) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall each submit to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts to link and streamline the requirements, acquisition, and budget processes within the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, respectively.

(b) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A specific description of—

(A) the management actions the Chief concerned or the Commandant has taken or plans to take to link and streamline the requirements, acquisition, and budget processes of the Armed Force concerned;

(B) any reorganization or process changes that will link and streamline the requirements, acquisition, and budget processes of the Armed Force concerned; and

(C) any cross-training or professional development initiatives of the Chief concerned or the Commandant.

(2) For each description under paragraph (1)—

(A) the specific timeline associated with implementation;

(B) the anticipated outcomes once implemented; and

(C) how to measure whether or not those outcomes are realized.

(3) Any other matters the Chief concerned or the Commandant considers appropriate.

SEC. 809. ADVISORY PANEL ON STREAMLINING AND CODIFYING ACQUISITION REGULATIONS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish under the sponsorship of the Defense Acquisition University and the National Defense University an advisory panel on streamlining acquisition regulations.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The panel shall be composed of at least nine individuals who are recognized experts in acquisition and procurement policy. In making appointments to the advisory panel, the Under Secretary shall ensure that the members of the panel reflect diverse experiences in the public and private sectors.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The panel shall—

(1) review the acquisition regulations applicable to the Department of Defense with a view toward streamlining and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the defense acquisition process and maintaining defense technology advantage; and

(2) make any recommendations for the amendment or repeal of such regulations that the panel considers necessary, as a result of such review, to—

(A) establish and administer appropriate buyer and seller relationships in the procurement system;

(B) improve the functioning of the acquisition system;

(C) ensure the continuing financial and ethical integrity of defense procurement programs;

(D) protect the best interests of the Department of Defense; and

(E) eliminate any regulations that are unnecessary for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the advisory panel established pursuant to subsection (a) with timely access to appropriate information, data, resources, and analysis so that the advisory panel may conduct a thorough and independent assessment as required under such subsection.

(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—The requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory panel established pursuant to subsection (a).

(e) **REPORT.**—

(1) **PANEL REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary of Defense establishes the advisory panel, the panel shall transmit a final report to the Secretary.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the panel, including—

(A) a history of each current acquisition regulation and a recommendation as to whether the regulation and related law (if applicable) should be retained, modified, or repealed; and

(B) such additional recommendations for legislation as the panel considers appropriate.

(3) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—(A) Not later than 6 months and 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to or brief the congressional defense committees on the interim find-

ings of the panel with respect to the elements set forth in paragraph (2).

(B) The panel shall provide regular updates to the Secretary of Defense for purposes of providing the interim reports required under this paragraph.

(4) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving the final report of the advisory panel, the Secretary of Defense shall transmit the final report, together with such comments as the Secretary determines appropriate, to the congressional defense committees.

(f) **DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Defense may use amounts available in the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund established under section 1705 of title 10, United States Code, to support activities of the advisory panel under this section.

SEC. 810. REVIEW OF TIME-BASED REQUIREMENTS PROCESS AND BUDGETING AND ACQUISITION SYSTEMS.

(a) **TIME-BASED REQUIREMENTS PROCESS.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall review the requirements process with the goal of establishing an agile and streamlined system that develops requirements that provide stability and foundational direction for acquisition programs and shall determine the advisability of providing a time-based or phased distinction between capabilities needed to be deployed urgently, within 2 years, within 5 years, and longer than 5 years.

(b) **BUDGETING AND ACQUISITION SYSTEMS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall review and ensure that the acquisition and budgeting systems are structured to meet time-based or phased requirements in a manner that is predictable, cost effective, and efficient and takes advantage of emerging technological developments.

Subtitle B—Amendments to General Contracting Authorities, Procedures, and Limitations

SEC. 811. AMENDMENT RELATING TO MULTIYEAR CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.

Subsection (a)(1) and subsection (i)(4) of section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, are each amended by striking “substantial” and inserting “significant”.

SEC. 812. APPLICABILITY OF COST AND PRICING DATA AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 2306a(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) to the extent such data—

“(i) relates to an offset agreement in connection with a contract for the sale of a weapon system or defense-related item to a foreign country or foreign firm; and

“(ii) does not relate to a contract or subcontract under the offset agreement for work performed in such foreign country or by such foreign firm that is directly related to the weapon system or defense-related item being purchased under the contract.”.

SEC. 813. RIGHTS IN TECHNICAL DATA.

(a) **RIGHTS IN TECHNICAL DATA RELATING TO MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS.**—Paragraph (2) of section 2321(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) In the case of a challenge to a use or release restriction that is asserted with respect to technical data of a contractor or subcontractor for a major system or a subsystem or component thereof on the basis that the major weapon system, subsystem, or component was developed exclusively at private expense—

“(A) the presumption in paragraph (1) shall apply—

“(i) with regard to a commercial subsystem or component of a major system, if the major system was acquired as a commercial item in accordance with section 2379(a) of this title;

“(ii) with regard to a component of a subsystem, if the subsystem was acquired as a commercial item in accordance with section 2379(b) of this title; and

“(iii) with regard to any other component, if the component is a commercially available off-the-shelf item or a commercially available off-the-shelf item with modifications of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace or minor modifications made to meet Federal Government requirements; and

“(B) in all other cases, the challenge to the use or release restriction shall be sustained unless information provided by the contractor or subcontractor demonstrates that the item was developed exclusively at private expense.”.

(b) **GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY ADVISORY PANEL.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, shall establish a Government-industry advisory panel for the purpose of reviewing sections 2320 and 2321 of title 10, United States Code, regarding rights in technical data and the validation of proprietary data restrictions and the regulations implementing such sections, for the purpose of ensuring that such statutory and regulatory requirements are best structured to serve the interests of the taxpayers and the national defense.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The panel shall be chaired by an individual selected by the Under Secretary, and the Under Secretary shall ensure that—

(A) the government members of the advisory panel are knowledgeable about technical data issues and appropriately represent the three military departments, as well as the legal, acquisition, logistics, and research and development communities in the Department of Defense; and

(B) the private sector members of the advisory panel include independent experts and individuals appropriately representative of the diversity of interested parties, including large and small businesses, traditional and non-traditional government contractors, prime contractors and subcontractors, suppliers of hardware and software, and institutions of higher education.

(3) **SCOPE OF REVIEW.**—In conducting the review required by paragraph (1), the advisory panel shall give appropriate consideration to the following factors:

(A) Ensuring that the Department of Defense does not pay more than once for the same work.

(B) Ensuring that Department of Defense contractors are appropriately rewarded for their innovation and invention.

(C) Providing for cost-effective repurchase, sustainment, modification, and upgrades to Department of Defense systems.

(D) Encouraging the private sector to invest in new products, technologies, and processes relevant to the missions of the Department of Defense.

(E) Ensuring that the Department of Defense has appropriate access to innovative products, technologies, and processes developed by the private sector for commercial use.

(4) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2016, the advisory panel shall submit its final report and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense. Not later than 60 days after receiving the report, the Secretary shall submit a copy of the report, together with any comments or recommendations, to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 814. PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES.

(a) **ADDITIONAL PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (a) of section 2373 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “transportation, energy, medical, space-flight,” before “and aeronautical supplies”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 137 OF TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking “only when such purchases are made in quantity” and inserting “only when such purchases are made in quantities greater than necessary for experimentation, technical evaluation, assessment of operational utility, or safety or to provide a residual operational capability”.

SEC. 815. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.

(a) **AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN PROTOTYPE PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2371a the following new section:

“§2371b. Authority of the Department of Defense to carry out certain prototype projects

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Secretary of a military department, or any other official designated by the Secretary of Defense may, under the authority of section 2371 of this title, carry out prototype projects that are directly relevant to enhancing the mission effectiveness of military personnel and the supporting platforms, systems, components, or materials proposed to be acquired or developed by the Department of Defense, or to improvement of platforms, systems, components, or materials in use by the armed forces.

“(2) The authority of this section—

“(A) may be exercised for a prototype project that is expected to cost the Department of Defense in excess of \$50,000,000 but not in excess of \$250,000,000 (including all options) only upon a written determination by the senior procurement executive for the agency as designated for the purpose of section 1702(c) of title 41, or, for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or the Missile Defense Agency, the director of the agency that—

“(i) the requirements of subsection (d) will be met; and

“(ii) the use of the authority of this section is essential to promoting the success of the prototype project; and

“(B) may be exercised for a prototype project that is expected to cost the Department of Defense in excess of \$250,000,000 (including all options) only if—

“(i) the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics determines in writing that—

“(I) the requirements of subsection (d) will be met; and

“(II) the use of the authority of this section is essential to meet critical national security objectives; and

“(ii) the congressional defense committees are notified in writing at least 30 days before such authority is exercised.

“(3) The authority of a senior procurement executive or director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or Missile Defense Agency under paragraph (2)(A), and the authority of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics under paragraph (2)(B), may not be delegated.

“(b) **EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) Subsections (e)(1)(B) and (e)(2) of such section 2371 shall not apply to projects carried out under subsection (a).

“(2) To the maximum extent practicable, competitive procedures shall be used when entering

into agreements to carry out projects under subsection (a).

“(c) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**—(1) Each agreement entered into by an official referred to in subsection (a) to carry out a project under that subsection that provides for payments in a total amount in excess of \$5,000,000 shall include a clause that provides for the Comptroller General, in the discretion of the Comptroller General, to examine the records of any party to the agreement or any entity that participates in the performance of the agreement.

“(2) The requirement in paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a party or entity, or a subordinate element of a party or entity, that has not entered into any other agreement that provides for audit access by a Government entity in the year prior to the date of the agreement.

“(3)(A) The right provided to the Comptroller General in a clause of an agreement under paragraph (1) is limited as provided in subparagraph (B) in the case of a party to the agreement, an entity that participates in the performance of the agreement, or a subordinate element of that party or entity if the only agreements or other transactions that the party, entity, or subordinate element entered into with Government entities in the year prior to the date of that agreement are cooperative agreements or transactions that were entered into under this section or section 2371 of this title.

“(B) The only records of a party, other entity, or subordinate element referred to in subparagraph (A) that the Comptroller General may examine in the exercise of the right referred to in that subparagraph are records of the same type as the records that the Government has had the right to examine under the audit access clauses of the previous agreements or transactions referred to in such subparagraph that were entered into by that particular party, entity, or subordinate element.

“(4) The head of the contracting activity that is carrying out the agreement may waive the applicability of the requirement in paragraph (1) to the agreement if the head of the contracting activity determines that it would not be in the public interest to apply the requirement to the agreement. The waiver shall be effective with respect to the agreement only if the head of the contracting activity transmits a notification of the waiver to Congress and the Comptroller General before entering into the agreement. The notification shall include the rationale for the determination.

“(5) The Comptroller General may not examine records pursuant to a clause included in an agreement under paragraph (1) more than three years after the final payment is made by the United States under the agreement.

“(d) **APPROPRIATE USE OF AUTHORITY.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that no official of an agency enters into a transaction (other than a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement) for a prototype project under the authority of this section unless one of the following conditions is met:

“(A) There is at least one nontraditional defense contractor participating to a significant extent in the prototype project.

“(B) All significant participants in the transaction other than the Federal Government are small businesses or nontraditional defense contractors.

“(C) At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by parties to the transaction other than the Federal Government.

“(D) The senior procurement executive for the agency determines in writing that exceptional circumstances justify the use of a transaction that provides for innovative business arrangements or structures that would not be feasible or

appropriate under a contract, or would provide an opportunity to expand the defense supply base in a manner that would not be practical or feasible under a contract.

“(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amounts counted for the purposes of this subsection as being provided, or to be provided, by a party to a transaction with respect to a prototype project that is entered into under this section other than the Federal Government do not include costs that were incurred before the date on which the transaction becomes effective.

“(B) Costs that were incurred for a prototype project by a party after the beginning of negotiations resulting in a transaction (other than a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement) with respect to the project before the date on which the transaction becomes effective may be counted for purposes of this subsection as being provided, or to be provided, by the party to the transaction if and to the extent that the official responsible for entering into the transaction determines in writing that—

“(i) the party incurred the costs in anticipation of entering into the transaction; and

“(ii) it was appropriate for the party to incur the costs before the transaction became effective in order to ensure the successful implementation of the transaction.

“(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘nontraditional defense contractor’ has the meaning given the term under section 2302(9) of this title.

“(2) The term ‘small business’ means a small business concern as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

“(f) **FOLLOW-ON PRODUCTION CONTRACTS OR TRANSACTIONS.**—(1) A transaction entered into under this section for a prototype project may provide for the award of a follow-on production contract or transaction to the participants in the transaction.

“(2) A follow-on production contract or transaction provided for in a transaction under paragraph (1) may be awarded to the participants in the transaction without the use of competitive procedures, notwithstanding the requirements of section 2304 of this title, if—

“(A) competitive procedures were used for the selection of parties for participation in the transaction; and

“(B) the participants in the transaction successfully completed the prototype project provided for in the transaction.

“(3) Contracts and transactions entered into pursuant to this subsection may be awarded using the authority in subsection (a), under the authority of chapter 137 of this title, or under such procedures, terms, and conditions as the Secretary of Defense may establish by regulation.

“(g) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PROTOTYPES AND FOLLOW-ON PRODUCTION ITEMS AS GOVERNMENT-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT.**—An agreement entered into pursuant to the authority of subsection (a) or a follow-on contract or transaction entered into pursuant to the authority of subsection (f) may provide for prototypes or follow-on production items to be provided to another contractor as Government-furnished equipment.

“(h) **APPLICABILITY OF PROCUREMENT ETHICS REQUIREMENTS.**—An agreement entered into under the authority of this section shall be treated as a Federal agency procurement for the purposes of chapter 21 of title 41.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2371a the following new item:

“2371b. Authority of the Department of Defense to carry out certain prototype projects.”.

(b) MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF NON-TRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTOR.—Section 2302(9) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(9) The term ‘nontraditional defense contractor’, with respect to a procurement or with respect to a transaction authorized under section 2371(a) or 2371b of this title, means an entity that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the one-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by the Department of Defense for the procurement or transaction, any contract or subcontract for the Department of Defense that is subject to full coverage under the cost accounting standards prescribed pursuant to section 1502 of title 41 and the regulations implementing such section.”.

(c) REPEAL OF OBSOLETE AUTHORITY.—Section 845 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160; 10 U.S.C. 2371 note) is hereby repealed. Transactions entered into under the authority of such section 845 shall remain in force and effect and shall be modified as appropriate to reflect the amendments made by this section.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 1601(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) sections 2371 and 2371b of title 10, United States Code.”.

(e) UPDATED GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue updated guidance to implement the amendments made by this section.

(f) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of—

(1) the benefits and risks of permitting not-for-profit defense contractors to be awarded transaction agreements under section 2371b of title 10, United States Code, for the purposes of cost-sharing requirements of subsection (d)(1)(C) of such section; and

(2) the benefits and risks of removing the cost-sharing requirements of subsection (d)(1)(C) of such section in their entirety.

SEC. 816. AMENDMENT TO ACQUISITION THRESHOLD FOR SPECIAL EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY.

Section 1903(b)(2) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$750,000”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$1,500,000”.

SEC. 817. REVISION OF METHOD OF ROUNDING WHEN MAKING INFLATION ADJUSTMENT OF ACQUISITION-RELATED DOLLAR THRESHOLDS.

Section 1908(e)(2) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “on the day before the adjustment” and inserting “as calculated under paragraph (1)”;

(2) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C); and

(3) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

“(D) not less than \$1,000,000, but less than \$10,000,000, to the nearest \$500,000;

“(E) not less than \$10,000,000, but less than \$100,000,000, to the nearest \$5,000,000;

“(F) not less than \$100,000,000, but less than \$1,000,000,000, to the nearest \$50,000,000; and

“(G) \$1,000,000,000 or more, to the nearest \$500,000,000.”.

Subtitle C—Provisions Related to Major Defense Acquisition Programs

SEC. 821. ACQUISITION STRATEGY REQUIRED FOR EACH MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM, MAJOR AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM, AND MAJOR SYSTEM.

(a) CONSOLIDATION OF REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ACQUISITION STRATEGY.—

(1) NEW TITLE 10 SECTION.—Chapter 144 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2431 the following new section:

“§2431a. Acquisition strategy

“(a) ACQUISITION STRATEGY REQUIRED.—There shall be an acquisition strategy for each major defense acquisition program, each major automated information system, and each major system approved by a milestone decision authority.

“(b) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—For each acquisition strategy required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics is responsible for issuing and maintaining the requirements for—

“(1) the content of the strategy; and

“(2) the review and approval process for the strategy.

“(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—(1) In issuing requirements for the content of an acquisition strategy for a major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, or major system, the Under Secretary shall ensure that—

“(A) the strategy clearly describes the proposed top-level business and technical management approach for the program or system, in sufficient detail to allow the milestone decision authority to assess the viability of the proposed approach, the method of implementing laws and policies, and program objectives;

“(B) the strategy contains a clear explanation of how the strategy is designed to be implemented with available resources, such as time, funding, and management capacity;

“(C) the strategy is tailored to address program requirements and constraints; and

“(D) the strategy considers the items listed in paragraph (2).

“(2) Each strategy shall, where appropriate, consider the following:

“(A) An approach that delivers required capability in increments, each depending on available mature technology, and that recognizes up front the need for future capability improvements.

“(B) Acquisition approach, including industrial base considerations in accordance with section 2440 of this title.

“(C) Risk management, including such methods as competitive prototyping at the system, subsystem, or component level, in accordance with section 2431b of this title.

“(D) Business strategy, including measures to ensure competition at the system and subsystem level throughout the life-cycle of the program or system in accordance with section 2337 of this title.

“(E) Contracting strategy, including—

“(i) contract type and how the type selected relates to level of program risk in each acquisition phase;

“(ii) how the plans for the program or system to reduce risk enable the use of fixed-price elements in subsequent contracts and the timing of the use of those fixed price elements;

“(iii) market research; and

“(iv) consideration of small business participation.

“(F) Intellectual property strategy in accordance with section 2320 of this title.

“(G) International involvement, including foreign military sales and cooperative opportunities, in accordance with section 2350a of this title.

“(H) Multiyear procurement in accordance with section 2306b of this title.

“(I) Integration of current intelligence assessments into the acquisition process.

“(J) Requirements related to logistics, maintenance, and sustainment in accordance with sections 2464 and 2466 of this title.

“(d) REVIEW.—(1) Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the milestone decision authority shall review and approve, as appropriate, the acquisition strategy for a major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, or major system at each of the following times:

“(A) Milestone A approval.

“(B) The decision to release the request for proposals for development of the program or system.

“(C) Milestone B approval.

“(D) Each subsequent milestone.

“(E) Review of any decision to enter into full-rate production.

“(F) When there has been—

“(i) a significant change to the cost of the program or system;

“(ii) a critical change to the cost of the program or system;

“(iii) a significant change to the schedule of the program or system; or

“(iv) a significant change to the performance of the program or system.

“(G) Any other time considered relevant by the milestone decision authority.

“(2) If the milestone decision authority revises an acquisition strategy for a program or system, the milestone decision authority shall provide notice of the revision to the congressional defense committees.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘major defense acquisition program’ has the meaning provided in section 2430 of this title.

“(2) The term ‘major system’ has the meaning provided in section 2302(5) of this title.

“(3) The term ‘Milestone A approval’ means a decision to enter into technology maturation and risk reduction pursuant to guidance prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for the management of Department of Defense acquisition programs.

“(4) The term ‘Milestone B approval’ has the meaning provided in section 2366(e)(7) of this title.

“(5) The term ‘milestone decision authority’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, or major system, means the official within the Department of Defense designated with the overall responsibility and authority for acquisition decisions for the program or system, including authority to approve entry of the program or system into the next phase of the acquisition process.

“(6) The term ‘management capacity’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, or major system, means the capacity to manage the program or system through the use of highly qualified organizations and personnel with appropriate experience, knowledge, and skills.

“(7) The term ‘significant change to the cost’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program or major system, means a significant cost growth threshold, as that term is defined in section 2433(a)(4) of this title.

“(8) The term ‘critical change to the cost’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program or major system, means a critical cost growth threshold, as that term is defined in section 2433(a)(5) of this title.

“(9) The term ‘significant change to the schedule’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, or major system, means any schedule delay greater than six months in a reported event.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2431 the following new item:

“2431a. Acquisition strategy.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2350a(e) of such title is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “DOCUMENT”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “the Under Secretary of Defense for” and all that follows through “of the Board” and inserting “opportunities for such cooperative research and development shall be addressed in the acquisition strategy for the project”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “document” and inserting “discussion”; and

(II) by striking “include” and inserting “consider”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “A statement indicating whether” and inserting “Whether”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics”; and

(II) by striking “of the United States under consideration by the Department of Defense”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking “The recommendation of the Under Secretary” and inserting “A recommendation to the milestone decision authority”.

(2) Section 803 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314; 10 U.S.C. 2430 note) is repealed.

SEC. 822. REVISION TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO RISK MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS.

(a) RISK MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 144 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2431a (as added by section 821) the following new section:

“§2431b. Risk management and mitigation in major defense acquisition programs and major systems

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the initial acquisition strategy (required under section 2431a of this title) approved by the milestone decision authority and any subsequent revisions include the following:

“(1) A comprehensive approach for managing and mitigating risk (including technical, cost, and schedule risk) during each of the following periods or when determined appropriate by the milestone decision authority:

“(A) The period preceding engineering manufacturing development, or its equivalent.

“(B) The period preceding initial production.

“(C) The period preceding full-rate production.

“(2) An identification of the major sources of risk in each of the periods listed in paragraph (1) to improve programmatic decisionmaking and appropriately minimize and manage program concurrency.

“(b) APPROACH TO MANAGE AND MITIGATE RISKS.—The comprehensive approach to manage and mitigate risk included in the acquisition strategy for purposes of subsection (a)(1) shall, at a minimum, include consideration of risk mitigation techniques such as the following:

“(1) Prototyping (including prototyping at the system, subsystem, or component level and competitive prototyping, where appropriate) and, if prototyping at either the system, subsystem, or

component level is not used, an explanation of why it is not appropriate.

“(2) Modeling and simulation, the areas that modeling and simulation will assess, and identification of the need for development of any new modeling and simulation tools in order to support the comprehensive strategy.

“(3) Technology demonstrations and decision points for disciplined transition of planned technologies into programs or the selection of alternative technologies.

“(4) Multiple design approaches.

“(5) Alternative designs, including any designs that meet requirements but do so with reduced performance.

“(6) Phasing of program activities or related technology development efforts in order to address high-risk areas as early as feasible.

“(7) Manufacturability and industrial base availability.

“(8) Independent risk element assessments by outside subject matter experts.

“(9) Schedule and funding margins for identified risks.

“(c) PREFERENCE FOR PROTOTYPING.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the economical use of available financial resources, the milestone decision authority for each major defense acquisition program shall ensure that the acquisition strategy for the program provides for—

“(1) the production of competitive prototypes at the system or subsystem level before Milestone B approval; or

“(2) if the production of competitive prototypes is not practicable, the production of single prototypes at the system or subsystem level.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘major defense acquisition program’ and ‘major system’ have the meanings provided in section 2431a of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2431a, as so added, the following new item:

“2431b. Risk reduction in major defense acquisition programs and major systems.”.

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISION.—Section 203 of the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (10 U.S.C. 2430 note) is repealed.

SEC. 823. REVISION OF MILESTONE A DECISION AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REVISION TO MILESTONE A REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2366a of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§2366a. Major defense acquisition programs: determination required before Milestone A approval

“(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Before granting Milestone A approval for a major defense acquisition program or a major subprogram, the milestone decision authority for the program or subprogram shall ensure that—

“(1) information about the program or subprogram is sufficient to warrant entry of the program or subprogram into the risk reduction phase;

“(2) the Secretary of the military department concerned and the Chief of the armed force concerned concur in the cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance trade-offs that have been made with regard to the program; and

“(3) there are sound plans for progression of the program or subprogram to the development phase.

“(b) WRITTEN DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—A major defense acquisition program or subprogram may not receive Milestone A approval or otherwise be initiated prior to Milestone B ap-

proval until the milestone decision authority determines in writing, after consultation with the Joint Requirements Oversight Council on matters related to program requirements and military needs—

“(1) that the program fulfills an approved initial capabilities document;

“(2) that the program has been developed in light of appropriate market research;

“(3) if the program duplicates a capability already provided by an existing system, the duplication provided by such program is necessary and appropriate;

“(4) that, with respect to any identified areas of risk, there is a plan to reduce the risk;

“(5) that planning for sustainment has been addressed and that a determination of applicability of core logistics capabilities requirements has been made;

“(6) that an analysis of alternatives has been performed consistent with study guidance developed by the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation;

“(7) that a cost estimate for the program has been submitted, with the concurrence of the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, and that the level of resources required to develop, procure, and sustain the program is sufficient for successful program execution; and

“(8) that the program or subprogram meets any other considerations the milestone decision authority considers relevant.

“(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—At the request of any of the congressional defense committees, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the committee an explanation of the basis for a determination made under subsection (b) with respect to a major defense acquisition program, together with a copy of the written determination. The explanation shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘major defense acquisition program’ has the meaning provided in section 2430 of this title.

“(2) The term ‘initial capabilities document’ means any capabilities requirement document approved by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council that establishes the need for a materiel approach to resolve a capability gap.

“(3) The term ‘Milestone A approval’ means a decision to enter into technology maturation and risk reduction pursuant to guidance prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for the management of Department of Defense acquisition programs.

“(4) The term ‘Milestone B approval’ has the meaning provided that term in section 2366(e)(7) of this title.

“(5) The term ‘core logistics capabilities’ means the core logistics capabilities identified under section 2464(a) of this title.

“(6) The term ‘major subprogram’ means a major subprogram of a major defense acquisition program designated under section 2430a(a)(1) of this title.

“(7) The term ‘milestone decision authority’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program or a major subprogram, means the official within the Department of Defense designated with the overall responsibility and authority for acquisition decisions for the program or subprogram, including authority to approve entry of the program or subprogram into the next phase of the acquisition process.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2366a and inserting the following:

“2366a. Major defense acquisition programs: determination required before Milestone A approval.”.

SEC. 824. REVISION OF MILESTONE B DECISION AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **REVISION TO MILESTONE B REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 2366b of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§2366b. Major defense acquisition programs: certification required before Milestone B approval

“(a) **CERTIFICATIONS AND DETERMINATION REQUIRED.**—A major defense acquisition program may not receive Milestone B approval until the milestone decision authority—

“(1) has received a preliminary design review and conducted a formal post-preliminary design review assessment, and certifies on the basis of such assessment that the program demonstrates a high likelihood of accomplishing its intended mission;

“(2) further certifies that the technology in the program has been demonstrated in a relevant environment, as determined by the milestone decision authority on the basis of an independent review and assessment by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in consultation with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation;

“(3) determines in writing that—

“(A) the program is affordable when considering the ability of the Department of Defense to accomplish the program’s mission using alternative systems;

“(B) appropriate trade-offs among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance objectives have been made to ensure that the program is affordable when considering the per unit cost and the total acquisition cost in the context of the total resources available during the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted during the fiscal year in which the certification is made;

“(C) reasonable cost and schedule estimates have been developed to execute, with the concurrence of the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, the product development and production plan under the program; and

“(D) funding is available to execute the product development and production plan under the program, through the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted during the fiscal year in which the certification is made, consistent with the estimates described in subparagraph (C) for the program;

“(E) appropriate market research has been conducted prior to technology development to reduce duplication of existing technology and products;

“(F) the Department of Defense has completed an analysis of alternatives with respect to the program;

“(G) the Joint Requirements Oversight Council has accomplished its duties with respect to the program pursuant to section 181(b) of this title, including an analysis of the operational requirements for the program;

“(H) life-cycle sustainment planning, including corrosion prevention and mitigation planning, has identified and evaluated relevant sustainment costs throughout development, production, operation, sustainment, and disposal of the program, and any alternatives, and that such costs are reasonable and have been accurately estimated;

“(I) an estimate has been made of the requirements for core logistics capabilities and the associated sustaining workloads required to support such requirements;

“(J) there is a plan to mitigate and account for any costs in connection with any anticipated de-certification of cryptographic systems and components during the production and procurement of the major defense acquisition program to be acquired;

“(K) the program complies with all relevant policies, regulations, and directives of the Department of Defense; and

“(L) the Secretary of the military department concerned and the Chief of the armed force concerned concur in the trade-offs made in accordance with subparagraph (B); and

“(4) in the case of a space system, performs a cost benefit analysis for any new or follow-on satellite system using a dedicated ground control system instead of a shared ground control system, except that no cost benefit analysis is required to be performed under this paragraph for any Milestone B approval of a space system after December 31, 2019.

“(b) **CHANGES TO CERTIFICATIONS OR DETERMINATION.**—(1) The program manager for a major defense acquisition program that has received certifications or a determination under subsection (a) shall immediately notify the milestone decision authority of any changes to the program or a designated major subprogram of such program that—

“(A) alter the substantive basis for the certifications or determination of the milestone decision authority relating to any component of such certifications or determination specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a); or

“(B) otherwise cause the program or subprogram to deviate significantly from the material provided to the milestone decision authority in support of such certifications or determination.

“(2) Upon receipt of information under paragraph (1), the milestone decision authority may withdraw the certifications or determination concerned or rescind Milestone B approval if the milestone decision authority determines that such certifications, determination, or approval are no longer valid.

“(c) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—(1) The certifications and determination under subsection (a) with respect to a major defense acquisition program shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees with the first Selected Acquisition Report submitted under section 2432 of this title after completion of the certification.

“(2) The milestone decision authority shall retain records of the basis for the certifications and determination under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a).

“(3) At the request of any of the congressional defense committees, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the committee an explanation of the basis for the certifications and determination under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a) with respect to a major defense acquisition program. The explanation shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(d) **WAIVER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.**—(1) The milestone decision authority may, at the time of Milestone B approval or at the time that such milestone decision authority withdraws a certification or rescinds Milestone B approval pursuant to subsection (b)(2), waive the applicability to a major defense acquisition program of one or more components (as specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a)) of the certification and determination requirements if the milestone decision authority determines that, but for such a waiver, the Department would be unable to meet critical national security objectives.

“(2) Whenever the milestone decision authority makes such a determination and authorizes such a waiver—

“(A) the waiver, the waiver determination, and the reasons for the waiver determination shall be submitted in writing to the congressional defense committees within 30 days after the waiver is authorized; and

“(B) the milestone decision authority shall review the program not less often than annually to determine the extent to which such program

currently satisfies the certification and determination components specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a) until such time as the milestone decision authority determines that the program satisfies all such certification and determination components.

“(3) The requirement in paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply to a program for which a certification was required pursuant to section 2433a(c) of this title if the milestone decision authority—

“(A) determines in writing that—

“(i) the program has reached a stage in the acquisition process at which it would not be practicable to meet the certification component that was waived; and

“(ii) the milestone decision authority has taken appropriate alternative actions to address the underlying purposes of such certification component; and

“(B) submits the written determination, and an explanation of the basis for the determination, to the congressional defense committees.

“(e) **DESIGNATION OF CERTIFICATION STATUS IN BUDGET DOCUMENTATION.**—Any budget request, budget justification material, budget display, reprogramming request, Selected Acquisition Report, or other budget documentation or performance report submitted by the Secretary of Defense to the President regarding a major defense acquisition program receiving a waiver pursuant to subsection (d) shall prominently and clearly indicate that such program has not fully satisfied the certification requirements of this section until such time as the milestone decision authority makes the determination that such program has satisfied all such certification requirements.

“(f) **NONDELEGATION.**—The milestone decision authority may not delegate the certification requirement under subsection (a) or the authority to waive any component of such requirement under subsection (d).

“(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘major defense acquisition program’ means a Department of Defense acquisition program that is a major defense acquisition program for purposes of section 2430 of this title.

“(2) The term ‘designated major subprogram’ means a major subprogram of a major defense acquisition program designated under section 2430a(a)(1) of this title.

“(3) The term ‘milestone decision authority’, with respect to a major defense acquisition program, means the official within the Department of Defense designated with the overall responsibility and authority for acquisition decisions for the program, including authority to approve entry of the program into the next phase of the acquisition process.

“(4) The term ‘Milestone B approval’ has the meaning provided that term in section 2366(e)(7) of this title.

“(5) The term ‘core logistics capabilities’ means the core logistics capabilities identified under section 2464(a) of this title.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 2334(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (6)(A)(i) by striking “any certification under” and inserting “any decision to grant milestone approval pursuant to”.

SEC. 825. DESIGNATION OF MILESTONE DECISION AUTHORITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2430 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) The milestone decision authority for a major defense acquisition program reaching Milestone A after October 1, 2016, shall be the service acquisition executive of the military department that is managing the program, unless the Secretary of Defense designates, under paragraph (2), another official to serve as the milestone decision authority.

“(2) The Secretary of Defense may designate an alternate milestone decision authority for a program with respect to which—

“(A) the Secretary determines that the program is addressing a joint requirement;

“(B) the Secretary determines that the program is best managed by a Defense Agency;

“(C) the program has incurred a unit cost increase greater than the significant cost threshold or critical cost threshold under section 2433 of this title;

“(D) the program is critical to a major inter-agency requirement or technology development effort, or has significant international partner involvement; or

“(E) the Secretary determines that an alternate official serving as the milestone decision authority will best provide for the program to achieve desired cost, schedule, and performance outcomes.

“(3)(A) After designating an alternate milestone decision authority under paragraph (2) for a program, the Secretary of Defense may revert the position of milestone decision authority for the program back to the service acquisition executive upon request of the Secretary of the military department concerned. A decision on the request shall be made within 180 days after receipt of the request from the Secretary of the military department concerned.

“(B) If the Secretary of Defense denies the request for reversion of the milestone decision authority back to the service acquisition executive, the Secretary shall report to the congressional defense committees on the basis of the Secretary’s decision that an alternate official serving as milestone decision authority will best provide for the program to achieve desired cost, schedule, and performance outcomes. No such reversion is authorized after a program has incurred a unit cost increase greater than the significant cost threshold or critical cost threshold under section 2433 of this title, except in exceptional circumstances.

“(4)(A) For each major defense acquisition program, the Secretary of the military department concerned and the Chief of the armed force concerned shall, in each Selected Acquisition Report required under section 2432 of this title, certify that program requirements are stable and funding is adequate to meet cost, schedule, and performance objectives for the program and identify and report to the congressional defense committees on any increased risk to the program since the last report.

“(B) The Secretary of Defense shall review the acquisition oversight process for major defense acquisition programs and shall limit outside requirements for documentation to an absolute minimum on those programs where the service acquisition executive of the military department that is managing the program is the milestone decision authority and ensure that any policies, procedures, and activities related to oversight efforts conducted outside of the military departments with regard to major defense acquisition programs shall be implemented in a manner that does not unnecessarily increase program costs or impede program schedules.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 133(b)(5) of such title is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that the Under Secretary shall exercise advisory authority, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, over service acquisition programs for which the service acquisition executive is the milestone decision authority”.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for implementing subsection (d) of section 2430 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(2) **GUIDANCE.**—The Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, in

consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the service acquisition executives, shall issue guidance to ensure that by not later than October 1, 2016, the acquisition policy, guidance, and practices of the Department of Defense conform to the requirements of subsection (d) of section 2430 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section. The guidance shall be designed to ensure a streamlined decisionmaking and approval process and to minimize any information requests, consistent with the requirement of paragraph (4)(A) of such subsection (d).

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on October 1, 2016.

SEC. 826. TENURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PROGRAM MANAGERS FOR PROGRAM EXECUTION PERIODS.

(a) **REVISED GUIDANCE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall revise Department of Defense guidance for major defense acquisition programs to address the tenure and accountability of program managers for the program definition period of major defense acquisition programs.

(b) **PROGRAM DEFINITION PERIOD.**—For the purposes of this section, the term “program definition period”, with respect to a major defense acquisition program, means the period beginning with initiation of the program and ending with Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program).

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The revised guidance required by subsection (a) shall provide that the program manager for the program definition period of a major defense acquisition program is responsible for—

(1) bringing technologies to maturity and identifying the manufacturing processes that will be needed to carry out the program;

(2) ensuring continuing focus during program development on meeting stated mission requirements and other requirements of the Department of Defense;

(3) recommending trade-offs between program cost, schedule, and performance for the life-cycle of the program;

(4) developing a business case for the program; and

(5) ensuring that appropriate information is available to the milestone decision authority to make a decision on Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program), including information necessary to make the certification required by section 2366a of title 10, United States Code.

(d) **QUALIFICATIONS, RESOURCES, AND TENURE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that each program manager for the program definition period of a major defense acquisition program—

(1) has the appropriate management, engineering, technical, and financial expertise needed to meet the responsibilities assigned pursuant to subsection (c);

(2) is provided the resources and support (including systems engineering expertise, cost-estimating expertise, and software development expertise) needed to meet such responsibilities; and

(3) is assigned to the program manager position for such program until such time as such program receives Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program), unless removed for cause or due to exceptional circumstances.

(e) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may waive the requirement in paragraph (3) of subsection (d) upon a determination that the program definition period will take so long that it would not be appropriate for a single individual

to serve as program manager for the entire period covered by such paragraph.

SEC. 827. TENURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PROGRAM MANAGERS FOR PROGRAM EXECUTION PERIODS.

(a) **REVISED GUIDANCE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall revise Department of Defense guidance for major defense acquisition programs to address the tenure and accountability of program managers for the program execution period of major defense acquisition programs.

(b) **PROGRAM EXECUTION PERIOD.**—For purposes of this section, the term “program execution period”, with respect to a major defense acquisition program, means the period beginning with Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program) and ending with declaration of initial operational capability.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The revised guidance required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) require the program manager for the program execution period of a major defense acquisition program to enter into a performance agreement with the manager’s immediate supervisor for such program within six months of assignment, that—

(A) establishes expected parameters for the cost, schedule, and performance of the program consistent with the business case for the program;

(B) provides the commitment of the supervisor to provide the level of funding and resources required to meet such parameters; and

(C) provides the assurance of the program manager that such parameters are achievable and that the program manager will be accountable for meeting such parameters; and

(2) provide the program manager with the authority to—

(A) consult on the addition of new program requirements that would be inconsistent with the parameters established in the performance agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (1);

(B) recommend trade-offs between cost, schedule, and performance, provided that such trade-offs are consistent with the parameters established in the performance agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(C) develop such interim goals and milestones as may be required to achieve the parameters established in the performance agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (1).

(d) **QUALIFICATIONS, RESOURCES, AND TENURE.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each program manager for the program execution period of a defense acquisition program—

(1) has the appropriate management, engineering, technical, and financial expertise needed to meet the responsibilities assigned pursuant to subsection (c);

(2) is provided the resources and support (including systems engineering expertise, cost estimating expertise, and software development expertise) needed to meet such responsibilities; and

(3) is assigned to the program manager position for such program during the program execution period, unless removed for cause or due to exceptional circumstances.

(e) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The immediate supervisor of a program manager for a major defense acquisition program may waive the requirement in paragraph (3) of subsection (d) upon a determination that the program execution period will take so long that it would not be appropriate for a single individual to serve as program manager for the entire program execution period.

SEC. 828. PENALTY FOR COST OVERRUNS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of each

military department shall pay a penalty for cost overruns on the covered major defense acquisition programs of the military department.

(b) **CALCULATION OF PENALTY.**—For the purposes of this section:

(1) The amount of the cost overrun or underrun on any major defense acquisition program or subprogram in a fiscal year is the difference between the current program acquisition unit cost for the program or subprogram and the program acquisition unit cost for the program as shown in the original Baseline Estimate for the program or subprogram, multiplied by the quantity of items to be purchased under the program or subprogram, as reported in the final Selected Acquisition Report for the fiscal year in accordance with section 2432 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) Cost overruns or underruns for covered major defense acquisition programs that are joint programs of more than one military department shall be allocated among the military departments in percentages determined by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

(3) The cumulative amount of cost overruns for a military department in a fiscal year is the sum of the cost overruns and cost underruns for all covered major defense acquisition programs of the department in the fiscal year (including cost overruns or underruns allocated to the military department in accordance with paragraph (2)).

(4) The cost overrun penalty for a military department in a fiscal year is three percent of the cumulative amount of cost overruns of the military department in the fiscal year, as determined pursuant to paragraph (3), except that the cost overrun penalty may not be a negative amount.

(c) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **REDUCTION OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION ACCOUNTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of each military department shall reduce each research, development, test, and evaluation account of the military department by the percentage determined under paragraph (2), and remit such amount to the Secretary of Defense.

(2) **DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.**—The percentage reduction to research, development, test, and evaluation accounts of a military department referred to in paragraph (1) is the percentage reduction to such accounts necessary to equal the cost overrun penalty for the fiscal year for such department determined pursuant to subsection (b)(4).

(3) **CREDITING OF FUNDS.**—Any amount remitted under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the Rapid Prototyping Fund established pursuant to section 804 of this Act.

(d) **COVERED PROGRAMS.**—A major defense acquisition program is covered under this section if the original Baseline Estimate was established for such program under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2435(d) of title 10, United States Code, on or after May 22, 2009 (which is the date of the enactment of the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–23)).

SEC. 829. STREAMLINING OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING REGARDING MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **REPORTING TO UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS BEFORE MILESTONE B APPROVAL.**—Subparagraph (A) of paragraph (8) of section 138(b) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 901(h)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3466), is further amended—

(1) by striking “periodically”;

(2) by striking “the major defense acquisition programs” and inserting “each major defense acquisition program”;

(3) by inserting “before the Milestone B approval for that program” after “Department of Defense”;

(4) by striking “such reviews and assessments” and inserting “such review and assessment”.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.**—Subparagraph (B) of such paragraph is amended by inserting “for which a Milestone B approval occurred during the preceding fiscal year” after “Department of Defense”.

SEC. 830. CONFIGURATION STEERING BOARDS FOR COST CONTROL UNDER MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

Section 814(c)(1) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4529; 10 U.S.C. 2430 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after “for the following:” the following new subparagraph:

“(A) Monitoring changes in program requirements and ensuring the Chief of Staff of the Armed Force concerned, in consultation with the Secretary of the military department concerned, approves of any proposed changes that could have an adverse effect on program cost or schedule.”.

SEC. 831. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR STAND-ALONE MANPOWER ESTIMATES FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT.**—Subsection (a)(1) of section 2434 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “and a manpower estimate for the program have” and inserting “has”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REGULATIONS.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by striking “shall require—” and all that follows through “that the independent” and inserting “shall require that the independent”;

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and moving those paragraphs, as so redesignated, two ems to the left; and

(4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “and operations and support,” and inserting “operations and support, and trained manpower to operate, maintain, and support the program upon full operational deployment,”; and

(B) by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **SECTION HEADING.**—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

“**§2434. Independent cost estimates.**”

(2) **TABLE OF SECTIONS.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 144 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2434 and inserting the following:

“2434. Independent cost estimates.”.

SEC. 832. REVISION TO DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL TEST AND EVALUATION AND THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING.

Section 139b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and approve or disapprove”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “in order to advise relevant technical authorities for

such programs on the incorporation of best practices for developmental test from across the Department” after “in accordance with subsection (c)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(5)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and approve”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “in order to advise relevant technical authorities for such programs on the incorporation of best practices for systems engineering from across the Department” after “programs”.

Subtitle D—Provisions Relating to Acquisition Workforce

SEC. 841. AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

(a) **MODIFICATIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND.**—Section 1705 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the applicable percentage for a fiscal year is the percentage that results in the credit to the Fund of \$500,000,000 in each fiscal year.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by striking “an amount specified in subparagraph (C)” and inserting “the amount specified in subparagraph (C)”;

(ii) by striking “an amount that is less than” and all that follows through the end and inserting “an amount that is less than \$400,000,000.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “24-month period” and inserting “36-month period”;

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “60 days” and inserting “120 days”; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by striking “acquisition workforce positions” and inserting “of positions in the acquisition workforce, as defined in subsection (h).”;

(C) by striking “AUTHORITY.” and all that follows through “For purposes of” in paragraph (1) and inserting “AUTHORITY.—For purposes of”;

(D) by striking “(A)” and inserting “(1)”;

(E) by striking “(B)” and inserting “(2)”;

(F) by aligning paragraphs (1) and (2), as designated by subparagraphs (D) and (E), so as to be two ems from the left margin.

(b) **MODIFICATIONS TO BIENNIAL STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLAN.**—Section 115b(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “the defense acquisition workforce, including both military and civilian personnel” and inserting “the military, civilian, and contractor personnel that directly support the acquisition processes of the Department of Defense, including persons serving in acquisition-related positions designated by the Secretary of Defense under section 1721 of this title”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

“(ii) a description of steps that will be taken to address any new or expanded critical skills and competencies the civilian employee workforce will need to address recent trends in defense acquisition, emerging best practices, changes in the Government and commercial marketplace, and new requirements established in law or regulation; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), contractor personnel shall be treated as directly

supporting the acquisition processes of the Department if, and to the extent that, such contractor personnel perform functions in support of personnel in Department of Defense positions designated by the Secretary of Defense under section 1721 of this title.”.

SEC. 842. DUAL-TRACK MILITARY PROFESSIONALS IN OPERATIONAL AND ACQUISITION SPECIALITIES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR CHIEF OF STAFF INVOLVEMENT.**—Section 1722a(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “military department)” the following: “, in collaboration with the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (with respect to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, respectively).”.

(b) **DUAL-TRACK CAREER PATH.**—Section 1722a(b) of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “single-track” before “career path”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) A dual-track career path that attracts the highest quality officers and enlisted personnel and allows them to gain experience in and receive credit for a primary career in combat arms and a functional secondary career in the acquisition field in order to more closely align the military operational, requirements, and acquisition workforces of each armed force.”.

SEC. 843. PROVISION OF JOINT DUTY ASSIGNMENT CREDIT FOR ACQUISITION DUTY.

Section 668(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (D);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) acquisition matters addressed by military personnel and covered under chapter 87 of this title.”.

SEC. 844. MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR TRAINING RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF MARKET RESEARCH.

(a) **MANDATORY MARKET RESEARCH TRAINING.**—Section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **MARKET RESEARCH TRAINING REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide mandatory training for members of the armed forces and employees of the Department of Defense responsible for the conduct of market research required under subsection (c). Such mandatory training shall, at a minimum—

“(1) provide comprehensive information on the subject of market research and the function of market research in the acquisition of commercial items;

“(2) teach best practices for conducting and documenting market research; and

“(3) provide methodologies for establishing standard processes and reports for collecting and sharing market research across the Department.”.

(b) **INCORPORATION INTO MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION TRAINING MANDATE.**—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall ensure that the requirements of section 2377(d) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), are incorporated into the requirements management certification training mandate of the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System.

SEC. 845. INDEPENDENT STUDY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this

Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract with an independent research entity described in subsection (b) to carry out a comprehensive study of the strategic planning of the Department of Defense related to the defense acquisition workforce. The study shall provide a comprehensive examination of the Department’s efforts to recruit, develop, and retain the acquisition workforce with a specific review of the following:

(1) The implementation of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (including chapter 87 of title 10, United States Code).

(2) The application of the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (as established under section 1705 of title 10, United States Code).

(3) The effectiveness of professional military education programs, including fellowships and exchanges with industry.

(b) **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ENTITY.**—The entity described in this subsection is an independent research entity that is a not-for-profit entity or a federally funded research and development center with appropriate expertise and analytical capability.

(c) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **TO SECRETARY.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the independent research entity shall provide to the Secretary a report containing—

(A) the results of the study required by subsection (a); and

(B) such recommendations to improve the acquisition workforce as the independent research entity considers to be appropriate.

(2) **TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall submit such report, together with any additional views or recommendations of the Secretary, to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 846. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE CIVILIAN ACQUISITION WORKFORCE PERSONNEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 1762(g) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Such section is further amended by striking “demonstration program” and inserting “demonstration project”.

Subtitle E—Provisions Relating to Commercial Items

SEC. 851. PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) **COMMERCIAL ITEM DETERMINATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 140 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§2380. Commercial item determinations by Department of Defense

“The Secretary of Defense shall—

“(1) establish and maintain a centralized capability with necessary expertise and resources to oversee the making of commercial item determinations for the purposes of procurements by the Department of Defense; and

“(2) provide public access to Department of Defense commercial item determinations for the purposes of procurements by the Department of Defense.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item: “2380. Commercial item determinations by Department of Defense.”.

(b) **COMMERCIAL ITEM EXCEPTION TO SUBMISSION OF COST AND PRICING DATA.**—Section 2306a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) **COMMERCIAL ITEM DETERMINATION.**—(A) For purposes of applying the commercial item exception under paragraph (1)(B) to the required submission of certified cost or pricing data, the contracting officer may presume that a prior commercial item determination made by a military department, a Defense Agency, or another component of the Department of Defense shall serve as a determination for subsequent procurements of such item.

“(B) If the contracting officer does not make the presumption described in subparagraph (A) and instead chooses to proceed with a procurement of an item previously determined to be a commercial item using procedures other than the procedures authorized for the procurement of a commercial item, the contracting officer shall request a review of the commercial item determination by the head of the contracting activity.

“(C) Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for review of a commercial item determination under subparagraph (B), the head of a contracting activity shall—

“(i) confirm that the prior determination was appropriate and still applicable; or

“(ii) issue a revised determination with a written explanation of the basis for the revision.”.

(c) **DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL ITEM.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall affect the meaning of the term “commercial item” under subsection (a)(5) of section 2464 of title 10, United States Code, or any requirement under subsection (a)(3) or subsection (c) of such section.

(d) **REGULATIONS UPDATE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement shall be updated to reflect the requirements of this section and the amendments made by this section.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to preclude the contracting officer for the procurement of a commercial item from requiring the contractor to supply information that is sufficient to determine the reasonableness of price, regardless of whether or not the contractor was required to provide such information in connection with any earlier procurement.

SEC. 852. MODIFICATION TO INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED BY OFFEROR IN PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR DETERMINATION.**—Subsection (a) of section 2379 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(b) **TREATMENT OF SUBSYSTEMS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “only if” and inserting “if either”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “that—” and all that follows through “the subsystem is a” and inserting “that the subsystem is a”; and

(B) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (B).

(c) **TREATMENT OF COMPONENTS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.**—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “title only if” and inserting “title if either”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “that—” and all that follows through “the component or” and inserting “that the component or”; and

(B) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking clause (ii).

(d) **INFORMATION SUBMITTED.**—Subsection (d) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **INFORMATION SUBMITTED.**—(1) To the extent necessary to determine the reasonableness of the price for items acquired under this section, the contracting officer shall require the offeror to submit—

“(A) prices paid for the same or similar commercial items under comparable terms and conditions by both Government and commercial customers;

“(B) if the contracting officer determines that the offeror does not have access to and cannot provide sufficient information described in subparagraph (A) to determine the reasonableness of price, information on—

“(i) prices for the same or similar items sold under different terms and conditions;

“(ii) prices for similar levels of work or effort on related products or services;

“(iii) prices for alternative solutions or approaches; and

“(iv) other relevant information that can serve as the basis for a price assessment; and

“(C) if the contracting officer determines that the information submitted pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) is not sufficient to determine the reasonableness of price, other relevant information regarding the basis for price or cost, including information on labor costs, material costs, and overhead rates.

“(2) An offeror may not be required to submit information described in paragraph (1)(C) with regard to a commercially available off-the-shelf item and may be required to submit such information with regard to any other item that was developed exclusively at private expense only after the head of the contracting activity determines in writing that the information submitted pursuant to paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) is not sufficient to determine the reasonableness of price.”.

(e) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TRUTH IN NEGOTIATIONS ACT.**—Section 2306a(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “If the contracting officer determines that the offeror does not have access to and cannot provide sufficient information on prices for the same or similar items to determine the reasonableness of price, the contracting officer shall require the submission of information on prices for similar levels of work or effort on related products or services, prices for alternative solutions or approaches, and other information that is relevant to the determination of a fair and reasonable price.”.

SEC. 853. USE OF RECENT PRICES PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DETERMINATION OF PRICE REASONABLENESS.

Section 2306a(b) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 851, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) A contracting officer shall consider evidence provided by an offeror of recent purchase prices paid by the Government for the same or similar commercial items in establishing price reasonableness on a subsequent purchase if the contracting officer is satisfied that the prices previously paid remain a valid reference for comparison after considering the totality of other relevant factors such as the time elapsed since the prior purchase and any differences in the quantities purchased or applicable terms and conditions.”.

SEC. 854. REPORT ON DEFENSE-UNIQUE LAWS APPLICABLE TO THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS AND COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE OFF-THE-SHELF ITEMS.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report identifying the defense-unique provisions of law that are applicable for

procurement of commercial items or commercial off-the-shelf items, both at the prime contract and subcontract level. The report—

(1) shall discuss the impact—

(A) of limiting the inclusion of clauses in contracts for commercial items or commercial off-the-shelf items to those that are required to implement law or Executive orders or are determined to be consistent with standard commercial practice; and

(B) of limiting flow down of clauses in subcontracts for commercial items or commercial off-the-shelf items to those that are required to implement law or Executive order; and

(2) shall provide a listing of all standard clauses used in Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 12 contracts, including a justification for the inclusion of each.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.**—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 855. MARKET RESEARCH AND PREFERENCE FOR COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) **GUIDANCE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall issue guidance to ensure that acquisition officials of the Department of Defense fully comply with the requirements of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, regarding market research and commercial items. The guidance issued pursuant to this subsection shall, at a minimum—

(1) provide that the head of an agency may not enter into a contract in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold for information technology products or services that are not commercial items unless the head of the agency determines in writing that no commercial items are suitable to meet the agency's needs as provided in subsection (c)(2) of such section; and

(2) ensure that market research conducted in accordance with subsection (c) of such section is used, where appropriate, to inform price reasonableness determinations.

(b) **REVIEW REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, shall review Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3170.01, the Manual for the Operation of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System, and other documents governing the requirements development process and revise these documents as necessary to ensure that the Department of Defense fully complies with the requirement in section 2377(c) of title 10, United States Code, and section 10.001 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation for Federal agencies to conduct appropriate market research before developing new requirements.

(c) **MARKET RESEARCH DEFINED.**—For the purposes of this section, the term “market research” means a review of existing systems, subsystems, capabilities, and technologies that are available or could be made available to meet the needs of the Department of Defense in whole or in part. The review may include any of the techniques for conducting market research provided in section 10.002(b)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and shall include, at a minimum, contacting knowledgeable individuals in Government and industry regarding existing market capabilities.

SEC. 856. LIMITATION ON CONVERSION OF PROCUREMENTS FROM COMMERCIAL ACQUISITION PROCEDURES.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), prior to converting the procurement of commercial items or services valued at more

than \$1,000,000 from commercial acquisition procedures under part 12 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation to noncommercial acquisition procedures under part 15 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the contracting officer for the procurement shall determine in writing that—

(A) the earlier use of commercial acquisition procedures under part 12 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation was in error or based on inadequate information; and

(B) the Department of Defense will realize a cost savings compared to the cost of procuring a similar quantity or level of such item or service using commercial acquisition procedures.

(2) **REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL OF DETERMINATION BY HEAD OF CONTRACTING ACTIVITY.**—In the case of a procurement valued at more than \$100,000,000, a contract may not be awarded pursuant to a conversion of the procurement described in paragraph (1) until—

(A) the head of the contracting activity approves the determination made under paragraph (1); and

(B) a copy of the determination so approved is provided to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

(b) **FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.**—In making a determination under paragraph (1), the determining official shall, at a minimum, consider the following factors:

(1) The estimated cost of research and development to be performed by the existing contractor to improve future products or services.

(2) The transaction costs for the Department of Defense and the contractor in assessing and responding to data requests to support a conversion to noncommercial acquisition procedures.

(3) Changes in purchase quantities.

(4) Costs associated with potential procurement delays resulting from the conversion.

(c) **PROCEDURES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop procedures to track conversions of future contracts and subcontracts for improved analysis and reporting and shall revise the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to reflect the requirement in subsection (a).

(d) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of subsection (a), including any procurements converted as described in that subsection.

(e) **SUNSET.**—The requirements of this section shall terminate 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 857. TREATMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTORS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 140 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 851, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§2380A. Treatment of goods and services provided by nontraditional defense contractors as commercial items

“Notwithstanding section 2376(1) of this title, items and services provided by nontraditional defense contractors (as that term is defined in section 2302(9) of this title) may be treated by the head of an agency as commercial items for purposes of this chapter.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 140 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2380, as added by section 851, the following new item:

“2380A. Treatment of goods and services provided by nontraditional defense contractors as commercial items.”.

Subtitle F—Industrial Base Matters**SEC. 861. AMENDMENT TO MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 104 Stat. 1607; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “designed to enhance” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “designed to—

“(1) enhance the capabilities of disadvantaged small business concerns to perform as subcontractors and suppliers under Department of Defense contracts and other contracts and subcontracts; and

“(2) increase the participation of such business concerns as subcontractors and suppliers under Department of Defense contracts, other Federal Government contracts, and commercial contracts.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “to receive such assistance at any time” and inserting “concurrently, and the authority to enter into agreements under subsection (e) shall only be available to such concern during the 5-year period beginning on the date such concern enters into the first such agreement”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and conforming the margins accordingly); and

(B) by inserting before clause (i) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) the mentor firm is not affiliated with the protege firm prior to the approval of that agreement; and

“(2) the mentor firm demonstrates that it—

“(A) is qualified to provide assistance that will contribute to the purpose of the program;

“(B) is of good financial health and character and does not appear on a Federal list of debarred or suspended contractors; and

“(C) can impart value to a protege firm because of experience gained as a Department of Defense contractor or through knowledge of general business operations and government contracting, as demonstrated by evidence that—”;

(4) by amending subsection (e)(1) to read as follows:

“(1) A developmental program for the protege firm, in such detail as may be reasonable, including—

“(A) factors to assess the protege firm’s developmental progress under the program;

“(B) a description of the quantitative and qualitative benefits to the Department of Defense from the agreement, if applicable; and

“(C) goals for additional awards that protege firm can compete for outside the Mentor-Protege Program.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “business development,”;

(B) by striking paragraph (6); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (6);

(6) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraphs (1) and (7) of subsection (f)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) and (6) of subsection (f) (except as provided in subparagraph (D))”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “under subsection (1)(2)”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) The Secretary may not reimburse any fee assessed by the mentor firm for services provided to the protege firm pursuant to subsection (f)(6) or for business development expenses incurred by the mentor firm under a contract awarded to the mentor firm while participating in a joint venture with the protege firm.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)(i), by striking “subsection (f)(7)” and inserting “subsection (f)(6)”;

(7) in subsection (h)(1), by inserting “(15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.)” after “Small Business Act”;

(8) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2018”;

and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2021”;

(9) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection (n);

(10) by inserting after subsection (k) the following new subsections:

“(1) REPORT BY MENTOR FIRMS.—To comply with section 8(d)(7) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(7)), each mentor firm shall submit a report to the Secretary not less than once each fiscal year that includes, for the preceding fiscal year—

“(1) all technical or management assistance provided by mentor firm personnel for the purposes described in subsection (f)(1);

“(2) any new awards of subcontracts on a competitive or noncompetitive basis to the protege firm under Department of Defense contracts or other contracts, including the value of such subcontracts;

“(3) any extensions, increases in the scope of work, or additional payments not previously reported for prior awards of subcontracts on a competitive or noncompetitive basis to the protege firm under Department of Defense contracts or other contracts, including the value of such subcontracts;

“(4) the amount of any payment of progress payments or advance payments made to the protege firm for performance under any subcontract made under the Mentor-Protege Program;

“(5) any loans made by mentor firm to the protege firm;

“(6) all Federal contracts awarded to the mentor firm and the protege firm as a joint venture, designating whether the award was a restricted competition or a full and open competition;

“(7) any assistance obtained by the mentor firm for the protege firm from one or more—

“(A) small business development centers established pursuant to section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

“(B) entities providing procurement technical assistance pursuant to chapter 142 of title 10, United States Code; or

“(C) historically Black colleges or universities or minority institutions of higher education;

“(8) whether there have been any changes to the terms of the mentor-protege agreement; and

“(9) a narrative describing the success assistance provided under subsection (f) has had in addressing the developmental needs of the protege firm, the impact on Department of Defense contracts, and addressing any problems encountered.

“(m) REVIEW OF REPORT BY THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—The Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense shall review the report required by subsection (1) and, if the Office finds that the mentor-protege agreement is not furthering the purpose of the Mentor-Protege Program, decide not to approve any continuation of the agreement.”; and

(11) in subsection (n) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “means a business concern that meets the requirements of section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto” and inserting “has the meaning given such term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “means:” and inserting “means a firm that has less than half the size standard corresponding to its primary North American In-

dustry Classification System code, is not owned or managed by individuals or entities that directly or indirectly have stock options or convertible securities in the mentor firm, and is—”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “the severely disabled” and inserting “severely disabled individuals”;

(iii) in subparagraph (G), by striking “Small Business Act.” and inserting “Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)); or”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(H) a small business concern that—

“(i) is a nontraditional defense contractor, as such term is defined in section 2302 of title 10, United States Code; or

“(ii) currently provides goods or services in the private sector that are critical to enhancing the capabilities of the defense supplier base and fulfilling key Department of Defense needs.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8) The term ‘severely disabled individual’ means an individual who is blind (as defined in section 8501 of title 41, United States Code) or a severely disabled individual (as defined in such section).”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) The term ‘affiliated’, with respect to the relationship between a mentor firm and a protege firm, means—

“(A) the mentor firm shares, directly or indirectly, with the protege firm ownership or management of the protege firm;

“(B) the mentor firm has an agreement, at the time the mentor firm enters into a mentor-protege agreement under subsection (e), to merge with the protege firm;

“(C) the owners and managers of the mentor firm are the parent, child, spouse, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, or first cousin of an owner or manager of the protege firm;

“(D) the mentor firm has, during the 2-year period before entering into a mentor-protege agreement, employed any officer, director, principal stock holder, managing member, or key employee of the protege firm;

“(E) the mentor firm has engaged in a joint venture with the protege firm during the 2-year period before entering into a mentor-protege agreement, unless such joint venture was approved by the Small Business Administration prior to making any offer on a contract;

“(F) the mentor firm is, directly or indirectly, the primary party providing contracts to the protege firm, as measured by the dollar value of the contracts; and

“(G) the Small Business Administration has made a determination of affiliation or control under subsection (h).”.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to a mentor-protege agreement made pursuant to section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 104 Stat. 1607; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) entered into after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

(2) RETROACTIVITY OF REPORT AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—The amendments made by subsection (a)(10) shall apply to a mentor-protege agreement made pursuant to section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 104 Stat. 1607; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

SEC. 862. AMENDMENTS TO DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(s) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(s)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraphs:

“(4) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than October 1, 2016, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall implement the plan described in this subsection.

“(5) **CERTIFICATION.**—The Administrator shall annually provide to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a certification of the accuracy and completeness of data reported on bundled and consolidated contracts.”.

(b) **GAO STUDY.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—Not later than October 1, 2017, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a study on the effectiveness of the plan described in section 15(s) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(s)) that shall assess whether contracts were accurately labeled as bundled or consolidated.

(2) **CONTRACTS EVALUATED.**—For the purposes of conducting the study described in paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) shall evaluate, for work in each of sectors 23, 33, 54, and 56 (as defined by the North American Industry Classification System), not fewer than 100 contracts in each sector;

(B) shall evaluate only those contracts—

(i) awarded by an agency listed in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code; and

(ii) that have a Base and Exercised Options Value, an Action Obligation, or a Base and All Options Value (as such terms are defined in the Federal Procurement Data System described in section 1122(a)(4)(A) of title 41, United States Code, or any successor system); and

(C) shall not evaluate contracts that have used any set-aside authority.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 12 months after initiating the study required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate on the results from such study and, if warranted, any recommendations on how to improve the quality of data reported on bundled and consolidated contracts.

SEC. 863. NOTICE OF CONTRACT CONSOLIDATION FOR ACQUISITION STRATEGIES.

(a) **NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE HEAD OF A CONTRACTING AGENCY.**—Section 15(e)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(e)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) **STRATEGY SPECIFICATIONS.**—If the head of a contracting agency determines that an acquisition plan for a procurement involves a substantial bundling of contract requirements, the head of a contracting agency shall publish a notice on a public website that such determination has been made not later than 7 days after making such determination. Any solicitation for a procurement related to the acquisition plan may not be published earlier than 7 days after such notice is published. Along with the publication of the solicitation, the head of a contracting agency shall publish a justification for the determination, which shall include the following information:

“(A) The specific benefits anticipated to be derived from the bundling of contract requirements and a determination that such benefits justify the bundling.

“(B) An identification of any alternative contracting approaches that would involve a lesser degree of bundling of contract requirements.

“(C) An assessment of—

(i) the specific impediments to participation by small business concerns as prime contractors that result from the bundling of contract requirements; and

(ii) the specific actions designed to maximize participation of small business concerns as sub-contractors (including suppliers) at various tiers under the contract or contracts that are awarded to meet the requirements.”.

(b) **NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.**—Section 44(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657q(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 7 days after making a determination that an acquisition strategy involving a consolidation of contract requirements is necessary and justified under subparagraph (A), the senior procurement executive or Chief Acquisition Officer shall publish a notice on a public website that such determination has been made. Any solicitation for a procurement related to the acquisition strategy may not be published earlier than 7 days after such notice is published. Along with the publication of the solicitation, the senior procurement executive or Chief Acquisition Officer shall publish a justification for the determination, which shall include the information in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).”.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 44(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657q(c)(1)) is amended by striking “Subject to paragraph (4), the head” and inserting “The head”.

SEC. 864. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES.

(a) **PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.**—Section 8(a)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(17)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “any procurement contract” and all that follows through “section 15” and inserting “any procurement contract, which contract has as its principal purpose the supply of a product to be let pursuant to this subsection, subsection (m), section 15(a), section 31, or section 36.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) **LIMITATION.**—This paragraph shall not apply to a contract that has as its principal purpose the acquisition of services or construction.”.

(b) **SUBCONTRACTOR CONTRACTS.**—Section 46(a)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657s(a)(4)) is amended by striking “for supplies from a regular dealer in such supplies” and inserting “which is principally for supplies from a regular dealer in such supplies, and which is not a contract principally for services or construction”.

SEC. 865. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SPECIALISTS, COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVES, AND PROCUREMENT CENTER REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SPECIALIST REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SPECIALISTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2), a Business Opportunity Specialist described under section 7(j)(10)(D) shall have a Level I Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (or any successor certification) or the equivalent Department of Defense certification, except that a Business Opportunity Specialist who was serving on or before January 3, 2013, may continue to serve as a Business Opportunity Specialist for a period of 5 years beginning on such date without such a certification.

“(2) **DELAY OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—

“(A) **TIMING.**—The certification described in paragraph (1) is not required for any person serving as a Business Opportunity Specialist

until the date that is one calendar year after the date such person is appointed as a Business Opportunity Specialist.

“(B) **APPLICATION.**—The requirements of subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) be included in any initial job posting for the position of a Business Opportunity Specialist; and

“(ii) apply to any person appointed as a Business Opportunity Specialist after January 3, 2013.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 7(j)(10)(D)(i) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(10)(D)(i)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(b) **COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633), as amended by subsection (a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL MARKET REPRESENTATIVES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2), a commercial market representative referred to in section 15(q)(3) shall have a Level I Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (or any successor certification) or the equivalent Department of Defense certification, except that a commercial market representative who was serving on or before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 may continue to serve as a commercial market representative for a period of 5 years beginning on such date without such a certification.

“(2) **DELAY OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—

“(A) **TIMING.**—The certification described in paragraph (1) is not required for any person serving as a commercial market representative until the date that is one calendar year after the date such person is appointed as a commercial market representative.

“(B) **APPLICATION.**—The requirements of subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) be included in any initial job posting for the position of a commercial market representative; and

“(ii) apply to any person appointed as a commercial market representative after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.”.

(c) **PROCUREMENT CENTER REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 15(l)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(l)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

“(iii) have the certification described in subparagraph (C).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with the requirements of clause (ii), a procurement center representative shall have a Level III Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (or any successor certification) or the equivalent Department of Defense certification, except that any person serving in such a position on or before January 3, 2013, may continue to serve in that position for a period of 5 years without the required certification.

“(ii) **DELAY OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **TIMING.**—The certification described in clause (i) is not required for any person serving as a procurement center representative until the date that is one calendar year after the date such person is appointed as a procurement center representative.

“(II) **APPLICATION.**—The requirements of subclause (I) shall—

“(aa) be included in any initial job posting for the position of a procurement center representative; and

“(bb) apply to any person appointed as a procurement center representative after January 3, 2013.”.

SEC. 866. MODIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS LOCATED IN A BASE CLOSURE AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—
(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or”;
(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and
(C) by adding at the end the following:
“(F) qualified disaster areas.”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) a small business concern—

“(i) that is wholly owned by one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations (as defined in section 8(a)(15)), or by a corporation that is wholly owned by one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations; or

“(ii) that is owned in part by one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations, or by a corporation that is wholly owned by one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations, if all other owners are either United States citizens or small business concerns;”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) BASE CLOSURE AREA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the term ‘base closure area’ means—

“(I) lands within the external boundaries of a military installation that were closed through a privatization process under the authority of—

“(aa) the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of division B of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note);

“(bb) title II of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (Public Law 100–526; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note);

“(cc) section 2687 of title 10, United States Code; or

“(dd) any other provision of law authorizing or directing the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department to dispose of real property at the military installation for purposes relating to base closures of redevelopment, while retaining the authority to enter into a leaseback of all or a portion of the property for military use;

“(II) the census tract or nonmetropolitan county in which the lands described in subclause (I) are wholly contained;

“(III) a census tract or nonmetropolitan county the boundaries of which intersect the area described in subclause (I); and

“(IV) a census tract or nonmetropolitan county the boundaries of which are contiguous to the area described in subclause (II) or subclause (III).

“(ii) LIMITATION.—A base closure area shall be treated as a HUBZone—

“(I) with respect to a census tract or nonmetropolitan county described in clause (i), for a period of not less than 8 years, beginning on the date the military installation undergoes final closure and ending on the date the Administrator makes a final determination as to whether or not to implement the applicable designation described in subparagraph (A) or (B) in accordance with the results of the decennial census conducted after the area was initially designated as a base closure area; and

“(II) if such area was treated as a HUBZone at any time after 2010, until such time as the Administrator makes a final determination as to

whether or not to implement the applicable designation described in subparagraph (A) or (B), after the 2020 decennial census.

“(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

“(I) CENSUS TRACT.—The term ‘census tract’ means a census tract delineated by the United States Bureau of the Census in the most recent decennial census that is not located in a nonmetropolitan county and does not otherwise qualify as a qualified census tract.

“(II) NONMETROPOLITAN COUNTY.—The term ‘nonmetropolitan county’ means a county that was not located in a metropolitan statistical area (as defined in section 143(k)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) at the time of the most recent census taken for purposes of selecting qualified census tracts and does not otherwise qualify as a qualified nonmetropolitan county.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) QUALIFIED DISASTER AREA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the term ‘qualified disaster area’ means any census tract or nonmetropolitan county located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or located in an area in which a catastrophic incident has occurred if such census tract or nonmetropolitan county ceased to be qualified under subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, during the period beginning 5 years before the date on which the President declared the major disaster or the catastrophic incident occurred and ending 2 years after such date, except that such census tract or nonmetropolitan county may be a ‘qualified disaster area’ only—

“(I) in the case of a major disaster declared by the President, during the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the President declared the major disaster for the area in which the census tract or nonmetropolitan county, as applicable, is located; and

“(II) in the case of a catastrophic incident, during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the catastrophic incident occurred in the area in which the census tract or nonmetropolitan county, as applicable, is located.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—A qualified disaster area described in clause (i) shall be treated as a HUBZone for a period of not less than 8 years, beginning on the date the Administrator makes a final determination as to whether or not to implement the designations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) in accordance with the results of the decennial census conducted after the area was initially designated as a qualified disaster area.”; and

(4) in paragraph (5)(A)(i)(I)—

(A) in item (aa)—

(i) by striking “subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of paragraph (3)” and inserting “subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), or (F) of paragraph (3)”; and

(ii) by striking “or” at the end;

(B) by redesignating item (bb) as item (cc); and

(C) by inserting after item (aa) the following new item:

“(bb) pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), or (F) of paragraph (3), that its principal office is located within a base closure area and that not fewer than 35 percent of its employees reside in such base closure area or in another HUBZone; or”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a)(3)(B) shall apply to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or a catastrophic incident that occurs on or after the date of enactment of such subsection.

(c) INCLUDING FEMA IN AGENCIES THAT MAY PROVIDE DATA FOR HUBZONE PROGRAM.—Section 31(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(c)(3)) is amended by inserting “the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,” after “the Secretary of Labor.”.

(d) GAO STUDY OF IMPROVEMENT TO OVERSIGHT OF THE HUBZONE PROGRAM.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study on and submit a report to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate that includes—

(1) an assessment of the evaluation process, including any weaknesses in the process, used by the Small Business Administration to approve or deny participation in the HUBZone program established under section 31 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a);

(2) an assessment of the oversight of HUBZone program participants by the Small Business Administration, including Administration actions taken to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and

(3) recommendations on how to improve the evaluation process and oversight mechanisms to further reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.

SEC. 867. JOINT VENTURING AND TEAMING.

(a) JOINT VENTURE OFFERS FOR BUNDLED OR CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTS.—Section 15(e)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(e)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) CONTRACT TEAMING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a solicitation of offers for a bundled or consolidated contract that is issued by the head of an agency, a small business concern that provides for use of a particular team of subcontractors or a joint venture of small business concerns may submit an offer for the performance of the contract.

“(B) EVALUATION OF OFFERS.—The head of the agency shall evaluate an offer described in subparagraph (A) in the same manner as other offers, with due consideration to the capabilities of all of the proposed subcontractors or members of the joint venture as follows:

“(i) TEAMS.—When evaluating an offer of a small business prime contractor that includes a proposed team of small business subcontractors, the head of the agency shall consider the capabilities and past performance of each first tier subcontractor that is part of the team as the capabilities and past performance of the small business prime contractor.

“(ii) JOINT VENTURES.—When evaluating an offer of a joint venture of small business concerns, if the joint venture does not demonstrate sufficient capabilities or past performance to be considered for award of a contract opportunity, the head of the agency shall consider the capabilities and past performance of each member of the joint venture as the capabilities and past performance of the joint venture.

“(C) STATUS AS A SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—Participation of a small business concern in a team or a joint venture under this paragraph shall not affect the status of that concern as a small business concern for any other purpose.”.

(b) TEAM AND JOINT VENTURES OFFERS FOR MULTIPLE AWARD CONTRACTS.—Section 15(q)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 644(q)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “AND JOINT VENTURE” before “REQUIREMENTS”;

(2) by striking “Each Federal agency” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) TEAMS.—When evaluating an offer of a small business prime contractor that includes a proposed team of small business subcontractors

for any multiple award contract above the substantial bundling threshold of the Federal agency, the head of the agency shall consider the capabilities and past performance of each first tier subcontractor that is part of the team as the capabilities and past performance of the small business prime contractor.

“(C) **JOINT VENTURES.**—When evaluating an offer of a joint venture of small business concerns for any multiple award contract above the substantial bundling threshold of the Federal agency, if the joint venture does not demonstrate sufficient capabilities or past performance to be considered for award of a contract opportunity, the head of the agency shall consider the capabilities and past performance of each member of the joint venture as the capabilities and past performance of the joint venture.”.

SEC. 868. MODIFICATION TO AND SCORECARD PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING GOALS.

(a) **AMENDMENT TO GOVERNMENTWIDE GOAL FOR SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.**—Section 15(g)(1)(A)(i) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In meeting this goal, the Government shall ensure the participation of small business concerns from a wide variety of industries and from a broad spectrum of small business concerns within each industry.”.

(b) **SCORECARD PROGRAM FOR EVALUATING FEDERAL AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING GOALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Federal agencies, shall—

(A) develop a methodology for calculating a score to be used to evaluate the compliance of each Federal agency with meeting the goals established pursuant to section 15(g)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)(B)) based on each such goal; and

(B) develop a scorecard based on such methodology.

(2) **USE OF SCORECARD.**—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, the Administrator shall establish and carry out a program to use the scorecard developed under paragraph (1) to evaluate whether each Federal agency is creating the maximum practicable opportunities for the award of prime contracts and subcontracts to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women, by assigning a score to each Federal agency for the previous fiscal year.

(3) **CONTENTS OF SCORECARD.**—The scorecard developed under paragraph (1) shall include, for each Federal agency, the following information:

(A) A determination of whether the Federal agency met each of the prime contract goals established pursuant to section 15(g)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)(B)) with respect to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

(B) A determination of whether the Federal agency met each of the subcontract goals established pursuant to such section with respect to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvan-

taged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

(C) The number of small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women awarded prime contracts in each North American Industry Classification System code during the fiscal year and a comparison to the number of awarded contracts during the prior fiscal year, if available.

(D) The number of small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women awarded subcontracts in each North American Industry Classification System code during the fiscal year and a comparison to the number of awarded subcontracts during the prior fiscal year, if available.

(E) Any other factors that the Administrator deems important to achieve the maximum practicable utilization of small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

(4) **WEIGHTED FACTORS.**—In using the scorecard to evaluate and assign a score to a Federal agency, the Administrator shall base—

(A) fifty percent of the score on the dollar value of prime contracts described in paragraph (3)(A); and

(B) fifty percent of the score on the information provided in subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (3), weighted in a manner determined by the Administrator to encourage the maximum practicable opportunity for the award of prime contracts and subcontracts to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

(5) **PUBLICATION.**—The scorecard used by the Administrator under this subsection shall be submitted to the President and Congress along with the report submitted under section 15(h)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(h)(2)).

(6) **REPORT.**—After the Administrator uses the scorecard for fiscal year 2018 to assign scores to Federal agencies, but not later than March 31, 2019, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate. Such report shall include the following:

(A) A description of any increase in the dollar amount of prime contracts and subcontracts awarded to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

(B) A description of any increase in the dollar amount of prime contracts and subcontracts, and the total number of contracts, awarded to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvan-

taged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women in each North American Industry Classification System code.

(C) The recommendation of the Administrator on continuing, modifying, expanding, or terminating the program established under this subsection.

(7) **GAO REPORT ON SCORECARD METHODOLOGY.**—Not later than September 30, 2018, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report that—

(A) evaluates whether the methodology used to calculate a score under this subsection accurately and effectively—

(i) measures the compliance of each Federal agency with meeting the goals established pursuant to section 15(g)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)(B)); and

(ii) encourages Federal agencies to expand opportunities for small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women to compete for and be awarded Federal procurement contracts across North American Industry Classification System codes; and

(B) if warranted, makes recommendations on how to improve such methodology to improve its accuracy and effectiveness.

(8) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(B) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal agency” has the meaning given the term “agency” by section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code, but does not include the United States Postal Service or the Government Accountability Office.

(C) **SCORECARD.**—The term “scorecard” shall mean any summary using a rating system to evaluate a Federal agency’s efforts to meet goals established under section 15(g)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)(B)) that—

(i) includes the measures described in paragraph (3); and

(ii) assigns a score to each Federal agency evaluated.

(D) **SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The terms “small business concern”, “small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans”, “qualified HUBZone small business concern”, and “small business concern owned and controlled by women” have the meanings given such terms under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(ii) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.**—The term “small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals” has the meaning given that term under section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).

SEC. 869. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION; PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE STANDARDS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) **OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

“(A) OFFICE.—There is established in the Administration an Office of Hearings and Appeals—

“(i) to impartially decide matters relating to program decisions of the Administrator—

“(I) for which Congress requires a hearing on the record; or

“(II) that the Administrator designates for hearing by regulation; and

“(ii) which shall contain the office of the Administration that handles requests submitted pursuant to sections 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and maintains records pursuant to section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’).

“(B) JURISDICTION.—The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall only hear appeals of matters as described in this Act, the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

“(C) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The head of the Office of Hearings and Appeals shall be the Chief Hearing Officer appointed under section 4(b)(1), who shall be responsible to the Administrator.

“(2) CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DUTIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Hearing Officer shall—

“(i) be a career appointee in the Senior Executive Service and an attorney licensed by a State, commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia; and

“(ii) be responsible for the operation and management of the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

“(B) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—The Chief Hearing Officer may assign a matter for mediation or other means of alternative dispute resolution.

“(3) HEARING OFFICERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall appoint Hearing Officers to carry out the duties described in paragraph (1)(A)(i).

“(B) CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.—A Hearing Officer appointed under this paragraph—

“(i) shall serve in the excepted service as an employee of the Administration under section 2103 of title 5, United States Code, and under the supervision of the Chief Hearing Officer;

“(ii) shall be classified at a position to which section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, applies; and

“(iii) shall be compensated at a rate not exceeding the maximum rate payable under such section.

“(C) AUTHORITY; POWERS.—Notwithstanding section 556(b) of title 5, United States Code—

“(i) a Hearing Officer may hear cases arising under section 554 of such title;

“(ii) a Hearing Officer shall have the powers described in section 556(c) of such title; and

“(iii) the relevant provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of such title (except for section 556(b) of such title) shall apply to such Hearing Officer.

“(D) TREATMENT OF CURRENT PERSONNEL.—An individual serving as a Judge in the Office of Hearings and Appeals (as that position and office are designated in section 134.101 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations) on the effective date of this subsection shall be considered as qualified to be, and redesignated as, a Hearing Officer.

“(4) HEARING OFFICER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘Hearing Officer’ means an individual appointed or redesignated under this subsection who is an attorney licensed by a State, commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.”.

(2) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR AS CHIEF HEARING OFFICER.—Section 4(b)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 633(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “One such Associate Adminis-

trator shall be the Chief Hearing Officer, who shall administer the Office of Hearings and Appeals established under section 5(i).”.

(3) REPEAL OF REGULATION.—Section 134.102(t) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2015 (relating to types of hearings within the jurisdiction of the Office of Hearings and Appeals), shall have no force or effect.

(b) PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE STANDARDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may file a petition for reconsideration with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (as established under section 5(i)) of a size standard revised, modified, or established by the Administrator pursuant to this subsection.

“(B) TIME LIMIT.—A person filing a petition for reconsideration described in subparagraph (A) shall file such petition not later than 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register of the notice of final rule to revise, modify, or establish size standards described in paragraph (6).

“(C) PROCESS FOR AGENCY REVIEW.—The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall use the same process it uses to decide challenges to the size of a small business concern to decide a petition for review pursuant to this paragraph.

“(D) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The publication of a final rule in the Federal Register described in subparagraph (B) shall be considered final agency action for purposes of seeking judicial review. Filing a petition for reconsideration under subparagraph (A) shall not be a condition precedent to judicial review of any such size standard.”.

SEC. 870. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION.

Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (15), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (16)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following new paragraph:

“(17) shall, when notified by a small business concern prior to the award of a contract that the small business concern believes that a solicitation, request for proposal, or request for quotation unduly restricts the ability of the small business concern to compete for the award—

“(A) submit the notice of the small business concern to the contracting officer and, if necessary, recommend ways in which the solicitation, request for proposal, or request for quotation may be altered to increase the opportunity for competition;

“(B) inform the advocate for competition of such agency (as established under section 1705 of title 41, United States Code, or section 2318 of title 10, United States Code) of such notice; and

“(C) ensure that the small business concern is aware of other resources and processes available to address unduly restrictive provisions in a solicitation, request for proposal, or request for quotation, even if such resources and processes are provided by such agency, the Administration, the Comptroller General, or a procurement technical assistance program established under chapter 142 of title 10, United States Code.”.

SEC. 871. INCLUDING SUBCONTRACTING GOALS IN AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 1633(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2076; 15 U.S.C. 631 note) is

amended by striking “assume responsibility for of the agency’s success in achieving small business contracting goals and percentages” and inserting “assume responsibility for the agency’s success in achieving each of the small business prime contracting and subcontracting goals and percentages”.

SEC. 872. REPORTING RELATED TO FAILURE OF CONTRACTORS TO MEET GOALS UNDER NEGOTIATED COMPREHENSIVE SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLANS.

Paragraph (2) of section 834(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (15 U.S.C. 637 note), as added by section 821(d)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3434), is amended by striking “may not negotiate” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “shall report to Congress on any negotiated comprehensive subcontracting plan that the Secretary determines did not meet the subcontracting goals negotiated in the plan for the prior fiscal year.”.

SEC. 873. PILOT PROGRAM FOR STREAMLINING AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.

(a) EXCEPTION FROM CERTIFIED COST AND PRICING DATA REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements under section 2306a(a) of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to a contract, subcontract, or modification of a contract or subcontract valued at less than \$7,500,000 awarded to a small business or nontraditional defense contractor pursuant to—

(1) a technical, merit-based selection procedure, such as a broad agency announcement, or

(2) the Small Business Innovation Research Program,

unless the head of the agency determines that submission of cost and pricing data should be required based on past performance of the specific small business or nontraditional defense contractor, or based on analysis of other information specific to the award.

(b) EXCEPTION FROM RECORDS EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT.—The requirements under subsection (b) of section 2313 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to a contract valued at less than \$7,500,000 awarded to a small business or nontraditional defense contractor pursuant to—

(1) a technical, merit-based selection procedure, such as a broad agency announcement, or

(2) the Small Business Innovation Research Program,

unless the head of the agency determines that auditing of records should be required based on past performance of the specific small business or nontraditional defense contractor, or based on analysis of other information specific to the award.

(c) SUNSET.—The exceptions under subsections (a) and (b) shall terminate on October 1, 2020.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term “small business” has the meaning given the term “small business concern” under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(2) NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTOR.—The term “nontraditional defense contractor” has the meaning given that term in section 2302(9) of title 10, United States Code.

(e) SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE FEE EXTENSION.—Section 9(mm)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(1)) is amended by striking “, for the 3 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection,” and inserting “and until September 30, 2017,”.

SEC. 874. SURETY BOND REQUIREMENTS AND AMOUNT OF GUARANTEE.

(a) SURETY BOND REQUIREMENTS.—Chapter 93 of subtitle VI of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

“§9310. Individual sureties

“If another applicable Federal law or regulation permits the acceptance of a bond from a surety that is not subject to sections 9305 and 9306 and is based on a pledge of assets by the surety, the assets pledged by such surety shall—

“(1) consist of eligible obligations described under section 9303(a); and

“(2) be submitted to the official of the Government required to approve or accept the bond, who shall deposit the obligations as described under section 9303(b).”; and

(2) in the table of contents for such chapter, by adding at the end the following:

“9310. Individual sureties.”.

(b) AMOUNT OF SURETY BOND GUARANTEE FROM SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—Section 411(c)(1) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(c)(1)) is amended by striking “70” and inserting “90”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 875. REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR FIRMS.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract with an independent entity with appropriate expertise to conduct a review of—

(A) Department of Defense regulations, practices, and sustainment requirements related to Government access to and use of intellectual property rights of private sector firms; and

(B) Department of Defense practices related to the procurement, management, and use of intellectual property rights to facilitate competition in sustainment of weapon systems throughout their life-cycle.

(2) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The contract shall require that in conducting the review, the independent entity shall consult with the National Defense Technology and Industrial Base Council (described in section 2502 of title 10, United States Code) and each Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence (described in section 2474 of title 10, United States Code).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the independent entity, along with a description of any actions that the Secretary proposes to revise and clarify laws or that the Secretary may take to revise or clarify regulations related to intellectual property rights.

SEC. 876. INCLUSION IN ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITY ASSESSMENTS OF A DETERMINATION ABOUT DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 2505(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs (3) and (4):

“(3) determine the extent to which the requirements associated with defense acquisition programs can be satisfied by the present and projected performance capacities of industries supporting the sectors or capabilities in the assessment, evaluate the reasons for any variance from applicable preceding determinations, and identify the extent to which those industries are comprised of only one potential source in the national technology and industrial base or have multiple potential sources;

“(4) determine the extent to which the requirements associated with defense acquisition programs can be satisfied by the present and projected performance capacities of industries

that do not actively support Department of Defense acquisition programs and identify the barriers to the participation of those industries;”.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

SEC. 881. CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL PROGRAM COST INCREASES AND SCHEDULE DELAYS RESULTING FROM OVERSIGHT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) AVOIDANCE OF UNNECESSARY COST INCREASES AND SCHEDULE DELAYS.—The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, the Deputy Chief Management Officer, the Director of the Defense Contract Management Agency, the Director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, and the heads of other defense audit, testing, acquisition, and management agencies shall ensure that policies, procedures, and activities implemented by their offices and agencies in connection with defense acquisition program oversight do not result in unnecessary increases in program costs or cost estimates or delays in schedule or schedule estimates.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR BEST PRACTICES.—In considering potential cost increases and schedule delays as a result of oversight efforts pursuant to subsection (a), the officials described in such subsection shall consider private sector best practices with respect to oversight implementation.

SEC. 882. EXAMINATION AND GUIDANCE RELATING TO OVERSIGHT AND APPROVAL OF SERVICES CONTRACTS.

Not later than March 1, 2016, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall—

(1) complete an examination of the decision authority related to acquisition of services; and

(2) develop and issue guidance to improve capabilities and processes related to requirements development and source selection for, and oversight and management of, services contracts.

SEC. 883. STREAMLINING OF REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REVISION.—Section 2222 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§2222. Defense business systems: business process reengineering; enterprise architecture; management

“(a) DEFENSE BUSINESS PROCESSES GENERALLY.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that defense business processes are reviewed, and as appropriate revised, through business process reengineering to match best commercial practices, to the maximum extent practicable, so as to minimize customization of commercial business systems.

“(b) DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEMS GENERALLY.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that each covered defense business system developed, deployed, and operated by the Department of Defense—

“(1) supports efficient business processes that have been reviewed, and as appropriate revised, through business process reengineering;

“(2) is integrated into a comprehensive defense business enterprise architecture;

“(3) is managed in a manner that provides visibility into, and traceability of, expenditures for the system; and

“(4) uses an acquisition and sustainment strategy that prioritizes the use of commercial software and business practices.

“(c) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—

“(1) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall issue guidance to provide for the coordination of, and decision making for, the planning, programming, and control of investments in covered defense business systems.

“(2) SUPPORTING GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall direct the Deputy Chief Management Offi-

cer of the Department of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Chief Information Officer, and the Chief Management Officer of each of the military departments to issue and maintain supporting guidance, as appropriate and within their respective areas of responsibility, for the guidance of the Secretary issued under paragraph (1).

“(d) GUIDANCE ELEMENTS.—The guidance issued under subsection (c)(1) shall include the following elements:

“(1) Policy to ensure that the business processes of the Department of Defense are continuously reviewed and revised—

“(A) to implement the most streamlined and efficient business processes practicable; and

“(B) eliminate or reduce the need to tailor commercial off-the-shelf systems to meet or incorporate requirements or interfaces that are unique to the Department of Defense.

“(2) A process to establish requirements for covered defense business systems.

“(3) Mechanisms for the planning and control of investments in covered defense business systems, including a process for the collection and review of programming and budgeting information for covered defense business systems.

“(4) Policy requiring the periodic review of covered defense business systems that have been fully deployed, by portfolio, to ensure that investments in such portfolios are appropriate.

“(5) Policy to ensure full consideration of sustainability and technological refreshment requirements, and the appropriate use of open architectures.

“(6) Policy to ensure that best acquisition and systems engineering practices are used in the procurement and deployment of commercial systems, modified commercial systems, and defense-unique systems to meet Department of Defense missions.

“(e) DEFENSE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE.—

“(1) BLUEPRINT.—The Secretary, working through the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, shall develop and maintain a blueprint to guide the development of integrated business processes within the Department of Defense. Such blueprint shall be known as the ‘defense business enterprise architecture’.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The defense business enterprise architecture shall be sufficiently defined to effectively guide implementation of interoperable defense business system solutions and shall be consistent with the policies and procedures established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(3) ELEMENTS.—The defense business enterprise architecture shall—

“(A) include policies, procedures, business data standards, business performance measures, and business information requirements that apply uniformly throughout the Department of Defense; and

“(B) enable the Department of Defense to—

“(i) comply with all applicable law, including Federal accounting, financial management, and reporting requirements;

“(ii) routinely produce verifiable, timely, accurate, and reliable business and financial information for management purposes;

“(iii) integrate budget, accounting, and program information and systems; and

“(iv) identify whether each existing business system is a part of the business systems environment outlined by the defense business enterprise architecture, will become a part of that environment with appropriate modifications, or is not a part of that environment.

“(4) INTEGRATION INTO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARCHITECTURE.—(A) The defense business enterprise architecture shall be integrated

into the information technology enterprise architecture required under subparagraph (B).

“(B) The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense shall develop an information technology enterprise architecture. The architecture shall describe a plan for improving the information technology and computing infrastructure of the Department of Defense, including for each of the major business processes conducted by the Department of Defense.

“(f) DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT FOR COUNCIL.—The Secretary shall establish a Defense Business Council to provide advice to the Secretary on developing the defense business enterprise architecture, reengineering the Department’s business processes, developing and deploying defense business systems, and developing requirements for defense business systems. The Council shall be chaired by the Deputy Chief Management Officer and the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the Council shall include the following:

“(A) The Chief Management Officers of the military departments, or their designees.

“(B) The following officials of the Department of Defense, or their designees:

“(i) The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics with respect to acquisition, logistics, and installations management processes.

“(ii) The Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) with respect to financial management and planning and budgeting processes.

“(iii) The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness with respect to human resources management processes.

“(g) APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT.—

“(1) INITIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that a covered defense business system program cannot proceed into development (or, if no development is required, into production or fielding) unless the appropriate approval official (as specified in paragraph (2)) determines that—

“(A) the system has been, or is being, reengineered to be as streamlined and efficient as practicable, and the implementation of the system will maximize the elimination of unique software requirements and unique interfaces;

“(B) the system and business system portfolio are or will be in compliance with the defense business enterprise architecture developed pursuant to subsection (e) or will be in compliance as a result of modifications planned;

“(C) the system has valid, achievable requirements and a viable plan for implementing those requirements (including, as appropriate, market research, business process reengineering, and prototyping activities);

“(D) the system has an acquisition strategy designed to eliminate or reduce the need to tailor commercial off-the-shelf systems to meet unique requirements, incorporate unique requirements, or incorporate unique interfaces to the maximum extent practicable; and

“(E) is in compliance with the Department’s auditability requirements.

“(2) APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the appropriate approval official with respect to a covered defense business system is the following:

“(A) Except as may be provided in subparagraph (C), in the case of a priority defense business system, the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

“(B) Except as may be provided in subparagraph (C), for any defense business system other than a priority defense business system—

“(i) in the case of a system of a military department, the Chief Management Officer of that military department; and

“(ii) in the case of a system of a Defense Agency or Department of Defense Field Activity, or a system that will support the business process of more than one military department or Defense Agency or Department of Defense Field Activity, the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

“(C) In the case of any defense business system, such official other than the applicable official under subparagraph (A) or (B) as the Secretary designates for such purpose.

“(3) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—For any fiscal year in which funds are expended for development or sustainment pursuant to a covered defense business system program, the appropriate approval official shall review the system and certify, certify with conditions, or decline to certify, as the case may be, that it continues to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1). If the approval official determines that certification cannot be granted, the approval official shall notify the milestone decision authority for the program and provide a recommendation for corrective action.

“(4) OBLIGATION OF FUNDS IN VIOLATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The obligation of Department of Defense funds for a covered defense business system program that has not been certified in accordance with paragraph (3) is a violation of section 1341(a)(1)(A) of title 31.

“(h) RESPONSIBILITY OF MILESTONE DECISION AUTHORITY.—The milestone decision authority for a covered defense business system program shall be responsible for the acquisition of such system and shall ensure that acquisition process approvals are not considered for such system until the relevant certifications and approvals have been made under this section.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1)(A) DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEM.—The term ‘defense business system’ means an information system that is operated by, for, or on behalf of the Department of Defense, including any of the following:

“(i) A financial system.

“(ii) A financial data feeder system.

“(iii) A contracting system.

“(iv) A logistics system.

“(v) A planning and budgeting system.

“(vi) An installations management system.

“(vii) A human resources management system.

“(viii) A training and readiness system.

“(B) The term does not include—

“(i) a national security system; or

“(ii) an information system used exclusively by and within the defense commissary system or the exchange system or other instrumentality of the Department of Defense conducted for the morale, welfare, and recreation of members of the armed forces using nonappropriated funds.

“(2) COVERED DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEM.—The term ‘covered defense business system’ means a defense business system that is expected to have a total amount of budget authority, over the period of the current future-years defense program submitted to Congress under section 221 of this title, in excess of \$50,000,000.

“(3) BUSINESS SYSTEM PORTFOLIO.—The term ‘business system portfolio’ means all business systems performing functions closely related to the functions performed or to be performed by a covered defense business system.

“(4) COVERED DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEM PROGRAM.—The term ‘covered defense business system program’ means a defense acquisition program to develop and field a covered defense business system or an increment of a covered defense business system.

“(5) PRIORITY DEFENSE BUSINESS SYSTEM PROGRAM.—The term ‘priority defense business system’ means a defense business system that is—

“(A) expected to have a total amount of budget authority over the period of the current future-years defense program submitted to Con-

gress under section 221 of this title in excess of \$250,000,000; or

“(B) designated by the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense as a priority defense business system, based on specific program analyses of factors including complexity, scope, and technical risk, and after notification to Congress of such designation.

“(6) ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE.—The term ‘enterprise architecture’ has the meaning given that term in section 3601(4) of title 44.

“(7) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term ‘information system’ has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

“(8) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM.—The term ‘national security system’ has the meaning given that term in section 3552(b)(6)(A) of title 44.

“(9) BUSINESS PROCESS MAPPING.—The term ‘business process mapping’ means a procedure in which the steps in a business process are clarified and documented in both written form and in a flow chart.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 2222 and inserting the following new item:

“2222. Defense business systems: business process reengineering; enterprise architecture; management.”

(b) DEADLINE FOR GUIDANCE.—The guidance required by subsection (c)(1) of section 2222 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(1), shall be issued not later than December 31, 2016.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 811 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 10 U.S.C. 2222 note) is repealed.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—In each odd-numbered year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of the extent to which the actions taken by the Department of Defense comply with the requirements of section 2222 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISION.—Subsection (d) of section 332 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375; 118 Stat. 1856) is repealed.

(e) GUIDANCE ON ACQUISITION OF BUSINESS SYSTEMS.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance for major automated information systems acquisition programs to promote the use of best acquisition, contracting, requirement development, systems engineering, program management, and sustainment practices, including—

(1) ensuring that an acquisition program baseline has been established within two years after program initiation;

(2) ensuring that program requirements have not changed in a manner that increases acquisition costs or delays the schedule, without sufficient cause and only after maximum efforts to reengineer business processes prior to changing requirements;

(3) policies to evaluate commercial off-the-shelf business systems for security, resilience, reliability, interoperability, and integration with existing interrelated systems where such system integration and interoperability are essential to Department of Defense operations;

(4) policies to work with commercial off-the-shelf business system developers and owners in adapting systems for Department of Defense use;

(5) policies to perform Department of Defense legacy system audits to determine which systems are related to or rely upon the system to be replaced or integrated with commercial off-the-shelf business systems;

(6) policies to perform full backup of systems that will be changed or replaced by the installation of commercial off-the-shelf business systems

prior to installation and deployment to ensure reconstitution of the system to a functioning state should it become necessary;

(7) policies to engage the research and development activities and laboratories of the Department of Defense to improve acquisition outcomes; and

(8) policies to refine and improve developmental and operational testing of business processes that are supported by the major automated information systems.

SEC. 884. PROCUREMENT OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, in procuring an item of personal protective equipment or a critical safety item, use source selection criteria that is predominately based on technical qualifications of the item and not predominately based on price to the maximum extent practicable if the level of quality or failure of the item could result in death or severe bodily harm to the user, as determined by the Secretaries.

SEC. 885. AMENDMENTS CONCERNING DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT ELECTRONIC PARTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATED TO CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 818(c)(2)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting “electronic” after “avoid counterfeit”;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by inserting “covered” after “provided to the”;

(B) by inserting “or were obtained by the covered contractor in accordance with regulations described in paragraph (3)” after “Regulation”;

(3) in clause (iii), by inserting “discovers the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts and” after “contractor”.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATED TO TRUSTED SUPPLIERS.—Section 818(c)(3)(D)(iii) of such Act (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended by striking “review and audit” and inserting “review, audit, and approval”.

SEC. 886. EXCEPTION FOR ABILITYONE PRODUCTS FROM AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE GOODS AND SERVICES MANUFACTURED IN AFGHANISTAN, CENTRAL ASIAN STATES, AND DJIBOUTI.

(a) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS NOT MANUFACTURED IN AFGHANISTAN.—Section 886 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and except as provided in subsection (d),” after “subsection (b),”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) EXCLUSION OF ITEMS ON THE ABILITYONE PROCUREMENT CATALOG.—The authority under subsection (a) shall not be available for the procurement of any good that is contained in the procurement catalog described in section 8503(a) of title 41, United States Code, in Afghanistan if such good can be produced and delivered by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or a nonprofit agency for other severely disabled in a timely fashion to support mission requirements.”

(b) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS NOT MANUFACTURED IN CENTRAL ASIAN STATES.—Section 801 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2399) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and except as provided in subsection (h),” after “subsection (b),”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) EXCLUSION OF ITEMS ON THE ABILITYONE PROCUREMENT CATALOG.—The authority under

subsection (a) shall not be available for the procurement of any good that is contained in the procurement catalog described in section 8503(a) of title 41, United States Code, if such good can be produced and delivered by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or a nonprofit agency for other severely disabled in a timely fashion to support mission requirements.”

(c) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS NOT MANUFACTURED IN DJIBOUTI.—Section 1263 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “and except as provided in subsection (g),” after “subsection (c),”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) EXCLUSION OF ITEMS ON THE ABILITYONE PROCUREMENT CATALOG.—The authority under subsection (b) shall not be available for the procurement of any good that is contained in the procurement catalog described in section 8503(a) of title 41, United States Code, if such good can be produced and delivered by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or a nonprofit agency for other severely disabled in a timely fashion to support mission requirements.”

SEC. 887. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall prescribe a regulation making clear that agency acquisition personnel are permitted and encouraged to engage in responsible and constructive exchanges with industry, so long as those exchanges are consistent with existing law and regulation and do not promote an unfair competitive advantage to particular firms.

SEC. 888. STANDARDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF SECURE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY SYSTEMS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment of the application of the Open Trusted Technology Provider Standard or similar public, open technology standards to Department of Defense procurements for information technology and cyber security acquisitions and provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment and briefing required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Assessment of the current Open Trusted Technology Provider Standard to determine what aspects might be adopted by the Department of Defense and where additional development of the standard may be required.

(2) Identification of the types or classes of programs where the standard might be applied most effectively, as well as identification of types or classes of programs that should specifically be excluded from consideration.

(3) Assessment of the impact on current acquisition regulations or policies of the adoption of the standard.

(4) Recommendations the Secretary may have related to the adoption of the standard or improvement in the standard to support Department acquisitions.

(5) Any other matters the Secretary may deem appropriate.

SEC. 889. UNIFIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.

(a) BUSINESS CASE ANALYSIS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Deputy Chief Management Officer, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense, and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall

jointly complete a business case analysis to determine the most effective and efficient way to procure and deploy common information technology services.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The business case analysis required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of whether the Department of Defense should—

(1) either—

(A) acquire a unified set of commercially provided common or enterprise information technology services, including such services as messaging, collaboration, directory, security, and content delivery; or

(B) allow the military departments and other components of the Department to acquire such services separately;

(2) either—

(A) acquire such services from a single provider that bundles all of the services; or

(B) require that each common service be independently defined and use open standards to enable continuous adoption of best commercial technology; and

(3) enable availability of multiple versions of each type of service and application to enable choice and competition while supporting interoperability where necessary.

SEC. 890. CLOUD STRATEGY FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) CLOUD STRATEGY FOR SECRET INTERNET PROTOCOL ROUTER NETWORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense shall, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the chief information officers of the military departments, develop a cloud strategy for the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) of the Department.

(2) MATTERS ADDRESSED.—This strategy required by paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) Security requirements.

(B) The compatibility of applications currently utilized within the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network with a cloud computing environment.

(C) How a Secret Internet Protocol Router Network cloud capability should be competitively acquired.

(D) How a Secret Internet Protocol Router Network cloud system for the Department would achieve interoperability with the cloud systems of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) operating at the security level Sensitive Compartmented Information.

(b) PRICING POLICY AND COST RECOVERY PROCESS FOR CERTAIN CLOUD SERVICES.—The Chief Information Officer shall, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, develop a consistent pricing policy and cost recovery process for the use by Department of Defense components of the cloud services provided through the Intelligence Community Information Technology Environment.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF IMPOSING MINIMUM STANDARDS.—The Chief Information Officer shall assess the feasibility and advisability of imposing a minimum set of open standards for cloud infrastructure, middle-ware, metadata, and application programming interfaces to promote interoperability, information sharing, ease of access to data, and competition across all of the cloud computing systems and services utilized by components of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 891. DEVELOPMENT PERIOD FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

(a) FLEXIBLE LIMITATION ON DEVELOPMENT PERIOD.—Section 2445b of title 10, United States Code is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) **TIME-CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT.**—If an adjustment or revision under subsection (c) for a major automated information system that is not a national security system provides for a period in excess of five years from the time of program initiation to the time of a full deployment decision, the documents submitted under subsection (a) shall include a written determination by the senior Department of Defense official responsible for the program justifying the need for the longer period.”.

(b) **REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT REQUIREMENT.**—Section 2445c(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “; or”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (D).

SEC. 892. REVISIONS TO PILOT PROGRAM ON ACQUISITION OF MILITARY PURPOSE NONDEVELOPMENTAL ITEMS.

Section 866 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “with non-traditional defense contractors”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “awarded using competitive procedures in accordance with chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

SEC. 893. IMPROVED AUDITING OF CONTRACTS.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON PERFORMANCE OF NON-DEFENSE AUDITS BY DCAA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Defense Contract Audit Agency may not provide audit support for non-Defense Agencies unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that the backlog for incurred cost audits is less than 18 months of incurred cost inventory.

(2) **ADJUSTMENT IN FUNDING FOR REIMBURSEMENTS FROM NON-DEFENSE AGENCIES.**—The amount appropriated and otherwise available to the Defense Contract Audit Agency for a fiscal year beginning after September 30, 2016, shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to any reimbursements received by the Agency from non-Defense Agencies for audit support provided.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT.**—Section 2313a(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) the total costs of sustained or recovered costs both as a total number and as a percentage of questioned costs; and”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) a description of outreach actions toward industry to promote more effective use of audit resources; and”.

(c) **REVIEW OF ACQUISITION OVERSIGHT AND AUDITS.**—

(1) **REVIEW REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall review the oversight and audit structure of the Department of Defense with the goals of—

(A) enhancing the productivity of oversight and program and contract auditing to avoid duplicative audits; and

(B) streamlining of oversight reviews.

(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Secretary shall ensure streamlined oversight reviews and avoidance of duplicative audits and make recommendations in the report required under paragraph (3) for any necessary changes in law.

(3) **REPORT.**—

(A) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on actions taken to avoid duplicative audits and streamline oversight reviews.

(B) The report required under this paragraph shall include the following elements:

(i) A description of actions taken to avoid duplicative audits and streamline oversight reviews based on the review conducted under paragraph (1).

(ii) A comparison of commercial industry accounting practices, including requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-204; 15 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.), with the cost accounting standards prescribed under chapter 15 of title 41, United States Code, to determine if some portions of cost accounting standards compliance can be met through such practices or requirements.

(iii) A description of standards of materiality used by the Defense Contract Audit Agency and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense for defense contract audits.

(iv) An estimate of average delay and range of delays in contract awards due to the time necessary for the Defense Contract Audit Agency to complete pre-award audits.

(v) The total costs of sustained or recovered costs both as a total number and as a percentage of questioned costs.

(d) **INCURRED COST INVENTORY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “incurred cost inventory” means the level of contractor incurred cost proposals in inventory from prior fiscal years that are currently being audited by the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

SEC. 894. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON EVALUATION METHOD FOR PROCUREMENT OF AUDIT OR AUDIT READINESS SERVICES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Given the size, scope, and complexity of the Department of Defense, the statutory deadline to establish and maintain auditable financial statements, starting with the fiscal year 2018 financial statement, is one of the more challenging management tasks that has ever faced the Department.

(2) As the military services have never received a clean opinion on their consolidated financial statements and only recently begun auditing portions of their financial statements, the audits of military service financial statements will also be a complex challenge for companies selected to provide audit services.

(3) The acquisition of services by the Department abides by many rules and parameters, one of which is the lowest price, technically acceptable (LPTA) evaluation method. LPTA is generally appropriate for commercial or noncomplex services or supplies where the requirement is clearly definable and the risk of unsuccessful contract performance is minimal.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that, before using the lowest price, technically acceptable evaluation method for the procurement of audit or audit readiness services, the Secretary of Defense should establish the values and metrics for evaluating companies offering audit services, including financial management and audit expertise and experience, personnel qualifications and certifications, past performance, technology, tools, and size.

SEC. 895. MITIGATING POTENTIAL UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall review, and as necessary revise or issue, policy guidance pertaining to the identification, mitigation, and prevention of potential unfair competitive advantage conferred to technical advisors to acquisition programs.

SEC. 896. SURVEY ON THE COSTS OF REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.

(a) **SURVEY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a survey of contractors with the highest level of reimbursements for cost type contracts with the Department of Defense during fiscal year 2014 to estimate industry's cost of regulatory compliance (as a percentage of total costs) with Government-unique acquisition regulations and requirements in the categories of quality assurance, accounting and financial management, contracting and purchasing, program management, engineering, logistics, material management, property administration, and other unique requirements not imposed on contracts for commercial items.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the survey conducted under subsection (a). The data received as a result of the survey and included in the report shall be aggregated to protect against the public release of proprietary information.

SEC. 897. TREATMENT OF INTERAGENCY AND STATE AND LOCAL PURCHASES WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTS AS CONTRACT INTERMEDIARY FOR THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

Contracts executed by the Department of Defense as a result of the transfer of contracts from the General Services Administration or for which the Department serves as an item manager for products on behalf of the General Services Administration shall not be subject to requirements under chapter 148 of title 10, United States Code, to the extent such contracts are for purchases of products by other Federal agencies or State or local governments.

SEC. 898. COMPETITION FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES CONTRACTS.

The Department of Defense may not preclude a non-profit organization from competing for a contract for religious related services on a United States military installation.

SEC. 899. PILOT PROGRAM REGARDING RISK-BASED CONTRACTING FOR SMALLER CONTRACT ACTIONS UNDER THE TRUTH IN NEGOTIATIONS ACT.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a pilot program to demonstrate the efficacy of using risk-based techniques in requiring submission of data on a sampling basis for purposes of section 2306a of title 10, United States Code (popularly known as the “Truth in Negotiations Act”).

(b) **INCREASE IN THRESHOLDS.**—For purposes of a pilot program under subsection (a), \$5,000,000 shall be the threshold applicable to requirements under paragraph (1) of section 2306a(a) of such title, as follows:

(1) The requirement under subparagraph (A) of such paragraph to submit cost or pricing data for a prime contract entered into during the pilot program period.

(2) The requirement under subparagraph (B) of such paragraph to submit cost or pricing data for the change or modification to a prime contract made during the pilot program period.

(3) The requirement under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph to submit cost or pricing data

for a subcontract entered into during the pilot program period.

(4) The requirement under subparagraph (D) of such paragraph to submit cost or pricing data for the change or modification to a subcontract made during the pilot program period.

(c) **RISK-BASED CONTRACTING.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF COST OR PRICING DATA ON BELOW-THRESHOLD CONTRACTS.**—Subject to paragraph (4), when certified cost or pricing data are not required to be submitted pursuant to subsection (b) for a contract or subcontract entered into or modified during the pilot program period, such data may nevertheless be required to be submitted by the head of the procuring activity, if the head of the procuring activity—

(A) determines that such data are necessary for the evaluation by the agency of the reasonableness of the price of the contract, subcontract, or modification of a contract or subcontract; or

(B) requires the submission of such data in accordance with a risk-based contracting approach established pursuant to paragraph (3).

(2) **WRITTEN DETERMINATION REQUIRED.**—In any case in which the head of the procuring activity requires certified cost or pricing data to be submitted under paragraph (1)(A), the head of the procuring activity shall justify in writing the reason for such requirement.

(3) **RISK-BASED CONTRACTING.**—The head of an agency shall establish a risk-based sampling approach under which the submission of certified cost or pricing data may be required for a risk-based sample of contracts, the price of which is expected to exceed \$750,000 but not \$5,000,000. The authority to require certified cost or pricing data under this paragraph shall not apply to any contract of an offeror that has not been awarded, for at least the one-year period preceding the issuance of a solicitation for the contract, any other contract in excess of \$5,000,000 under which the offeror was required to submit certified cost or pricing data under section 2306a of title 10, United States Code.

(4) **EXCEPTION.**—The head of the procuring activity may not require certified cost or pricing data to be submitted under this subsection for any contract or subcontract, or modification of a contract or subcontract, covered by the exceptions in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 2306a(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY PROHIBITED.**—The head of a procuring activity may not delegate functions under this subsection.

(d) **REPORTS.**—Not later than January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2019, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on activities undertaken under this section.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **HEAD OF AN AGENCY.**—The term “head of an agency” has the meaning given the term in section 2302 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) **PILOT PROGRAM PERIOD.**—The term “pilot program period” means the period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on September 30, 2019.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Sec. 901. Update of statutory specification of functions of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff relating to joint force development activities.

Sec. 902. Sense of Congress on the United States Marine Corps.

SEC. 901. UPDATE OF STATUTORY SPECIFICATION OF FUNCTIONS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF RELATING TO JOINT FORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

Section 153(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) Advising the Secretary on development of joint command, control, communications, and cyber capability, including integration and interoperability of such capability, through requirements, integrated architectures, data standards, and assessments.”.

SEC. 902. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) As senior United States statesman Dr. Henry Kissinger wrote in testimony submitted to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on January 29, 2015, “The United States has not faced a more diverse and complex array of crises since the end of the Second World War.”.

(2) The rise of non-state forces and near peer competitors has introduced destabilizing pressures around the globe.

(3) Advances in information and weapons technology have reduced the time available for the United States to prepare for and respond to crises against both known and unknown threats.

(4) The importance of the maritime domain cannot be overstated. As acknowledged in the March 2015 Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard maritime strategy, “A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower: Forward, Engaged, Ready”: “Oceans are the lifeblood of the interconnected global community. . . 90 percent of trade by volume travels across the oceans. Approximately 70 percent of the world’s population lives within 100 miles of the coastline.”.

(5) The United States must be prepared to rapidly respond to crises around the world regardless of the nation’s fiscal health.

(6) In this global security environment, it is critical that the nation possess a maritime force whose mission and ethos is readiness—a fight tonight force, forward deployed, that can respond immediately to emergent crises across the full range of military operations around the globe either from the sea or home station.

(7) The need for such a force was recognized by the 82nd Congress during the Korean War, when it mandated a core mission for the nation’s leanest force—the Marine Corps—to be most ready when the nation is least ready.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Marine Corps, within the Department of the Navy, remain the Nation’s expeditionary, crisis response force;

(2) the need for such a force with such a capability has never been greater; and

(3) accordingly, in recognition of this need and the wisdom of the 82nd Congress, the 114th Congress reaffirms section 5063 of title 10, United States Code, which states that the Marine Corps—

(A) shall—

(i) be organized to include not less than three combat divisions and three air wings, and such other land combat, aviation, and other services as may be organic therein;

(ii) be organized, trained, and equipped to provide fleet marine forces of combined arms, together with supporting air components, for service with the fleet in the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and for the conduct of such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign; and

(iii) provide detachments and organizations for service on armed vessels of the Navy, provide security detachments for the protection of naval property at naval stations and bases, and perform such other duties as the President may direct;

but these additional duties may not detract from nor interfere with the operations for which the Marine Corps is primarily organized;

(B) shall develop, in coordination with the Army and the Air Force, those phases of amphibious operations that pertain to the tactics,

techniques, and equipment used by landing forces; and

(C) is responsible, in accordance with the integrated joint mobilization plans, for the expansion of peacetime components of the Marine Corps to meet the needs of war.

TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Financial Matters

Sec. 1001. General transfer authority.

Sec. 1002. Accounting standards to value certain property, plant, and equipment items.

Sec. 1003. Report on auditable financial statements.

Sec. 1004. Sense of Congress on sequestration.

Sec. 1005. Annual audit of financial statements of Department of Defense components by independent external auditors.

Subtitle B—Counter-Drug Activities

Sec. 1011. Extension of authority to support unified counterdrug and counterterrorism campaign in Colombia.

Sec. 1012. Extension and expansion of authority to provide additional support for counter-drug activities of certain foreign governments.

Sec. 1013. Sense of Congress on Central America.

Subtitle C—Naval Vessels and Shipyards

Sec. 1021. Additional information supporting long-range plans for construction of naval vessels.

Sec. 1022. National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund.

Sec. 1023. Extension of authority for reimbursement of expenses for certain Navy mess operations afloat.

Sec. 1024. Availability of funds for retirement or inactivation of Ticonderoga class cruisers or dock landing ships.

Sec. 1025. Limitation on the use of funds for removal of ballistic missile defense capabilities from Ticonderoga class cruisers.

Sec. 1026. Independent assessment of United States Combat Logistic Force requirements.

Subtitle D—Counterterrorism

Sec. 1031. Prohibition on use of funds for transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States.

Sec. 1032. Prohibition on use of funds to construct or modify facilities in the United States to house detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sec. 1033. Prohibition on use of funds for transfer or release to certain countries of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sec. 1034. Reenactment and modification of certain prior requirements for certifications relating to transfer of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to foreign countries and other foreign entities.

Sec. 1035. Comprehensive detention strategy.

Sec. 1036. Prohibition on use of funds for realignment of forces at or closure of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sec. 1037. Report on current detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, determined or assessed to be high risk or medium risk.

- Sec. 1038. Reports to Congress on contact between terrorists and individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Sec. 1039. Inclusion in reports to Congress of information about recidivism of individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Sec. 1040. Report to Congress on terms of written agreements with foreign countries regarding transfer of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Sec. 1041. Report on use of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and other Department of Defense or Bureau of Prisons prisons or detention or disciplinary facilities in recruitment or other propaganda of terrorist organizations.
- Sec. 1042. Permanent authority to provide rewards through government personnel of allied forces and certain other modifications to Department of Defense program to provide rewards.
- Sec. 1043. Sunset on exception to congressional notification of sensitive military operations.
- Sec. 1044. Repeal of semiannual reports on obligation and expenditure of funds for the combating terrorism program.
- Sec. 1045. Limitation on interrogation techniques.
- Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Authorities and Limitations**
- Sec. 1051. Department of Defense excess property program.
- Sec. 1052. Sale or donation of excess personal property for border security activities.
- Sec. 1053. Management of military technicians.
- Sec. 1054. Limitation on transfer of certain AH-64 Apache helicopters from Army National Guard to regular Army and related personnel levels.
- Sec. 1055. Authority to provide training and support to personnel of foreign ministries of defense.
- Sec. 1056. Information operations and engagement technology demonstrations.
- Sec. 1057. Prohibition on use of funds for retirement of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 84 and 85 aircraft.
- Sec. 1058. Limitation on availability of funds for destruction of certain landmines and report on department of defense policy and inventory of anti-personnel landmine munitions.
- Sec. 1059. Department of Defense authority to provide assistance to secure the southern land border of the United States.
- Subtitle F—Studies and Reports**
- Sec. 1060. Provision of defense planning guidance and contingency planning guidance information to Congress.
- Sec. 1061. Expedited meetings of the National Commission on the Future of the Army.
- Sec. 1062. Modification of certain reports submitted by Comptroller General of the United States.
- Sec. 1063. Report on implementation of the geographically distributed force laydown in the area of responsibility of United States Pacific Command.
- Sec. 1064. Independent study of national security strategy formulation process.
- Sec. 1065. Report on the status of detection, identification, and disablement capabilities related to remotely piloted aircraft.
- Sec. 1066. Report on options to accelerate the training of pilots of remotely piloted aircraft.
- Sec. 1067. Studies of fleet platform architectures for the Navy.
- Sec. 1068. Report on strategy to protect United States national security interests in the Arctic region.
- Sec. 1069. Comptroller General briefing and report on major medical facility projects of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 1070. Submittal to Congress of munitions assessments.
- Sec. 1071. Potential role for United States ground forces in the Western Pacific theater.
- Sec. 1072. Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to military personnel issues.
- Sec. 1073. Repeal or revision of reporting requirements relating to readiness.
- Sec. 1074. Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to naval vessels and Merchant Marine.
- Sec. 1075. Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to civilian personnel.
- Sec. 1076. Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to nuclear proliferation and related matters.
- Sec. 1077. Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to acquisition.
- Sec. 1078. Repeal or revision of miscellaneous reporting requirements.
- Sec. 1079. Repeal of reporting requirements.
- Sec. 1080. Termination of requirement for submittal to Congress of reports required of Department of Defense by statute.
- Subtitle G—Other Matters**
- Sec. 1081. Technical and clerical amendments.
- Sec. 1082. Situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.
- Sec. 1083. Executive agent for the oversight and management of alternative compensatory control measures.
- Sec. 1084. Navy support of Ocean Research Advisory Panel.
- Sec. 1085. Level of readiness of Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers.
- Sec. 1086. Reform and improvement of personnel security, insider threat detection and prevention, and physical security.
- Sec. 1087. Transfer of surplus firearms to Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety.
- Sec. 1088. Modification of requirements for transferring aircraft within the Air Force inventory.
- Sec. 1089. Reestablishment of Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack.
- Sec. 1090. Mine countermeasures master plan and report.
- Sec. 1091. Congressional notification and briefing requirement on ordered evacuations of United States embassies and consulates involving support provided by the Department of Defense.
- Sec. 1092. Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator.
- Sec. 1093. Sense of Congress on the inadvertent transfer of anthrax from the Department of Defense.
- Sec. 1094. Modification of certain requirements applicable to major medical facility lease for a Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- Sec. 1095. Authorization of fiscal year 2015 major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 1096. Designation of construction agent for certain construction projects by Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 1097. Department of Defense strategy for countering unconventional warfare.
- Subtitle A—Financial Matters**
- SEC. 1001. GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**
- (a) **AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER AUTHORIZATIONS.**—
- (1) **AUTHORITY.**—Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may transfer amounts of authorizations made available to the Department of Defense in this division for fiscal year 2016 between any such authorizations for that fiscal year (or any subdivisions thereof). Amounts of authorizations so transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes as the authorization to which transferred.
- (2) **LIMITATION.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the total amount of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of this section may not exceed \$4,500,000,000.
- (3) **EXCEPTION FOR TRANSFERS BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS.**—A transfer of funds between military personnel authorizations under title IV shall not be counted toward the dollar limitation in paragraph (2).
- (b) **LIMITATIONS.**—The authority provided by subsection (a) to transfer authorizations—
- (1) may only be used to provide authority for items that have a higher priority than the items from which authority is transferred; and
- (2) may not be used to provide authority for an item that has been denied authorization by Congress.
- (c) **EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.**—A transfer made from one account to another under the authority of this section shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for the account to which the amount is transferred by an amount equal to the amount transferred.
- (d) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall promptly notify Congress of each transfer made under subsection (a).
- SEC. 1002. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS TO VALUE CERTAIN PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT ITEMS.**
- (a) **REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall work in coordination with the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board to establish accounting standards to value large and extraordinary general property, plant, and equipment items.
- (b) **DEADLINE.**—The accounting standards required by subsection (a) shall be established by not later than September 30, 2017, and be available for use for the full audit on the financial statements of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2018, as required by section 1003(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 842; 10 U.S.C. 2222 note).
- SEC. 1003. REPORT ON AUDITABLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**
- Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report ranking all military departments and Defense Agencies in order of how advanced they are in achieving auditable financial statements as required by law. The report

should not include information otherwise available in other reports to Congress.

SEC. 1004. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SEQUESTRATION.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the fiscal challenges of the Federal Government are a top priority for Congress, and sequestration—non-strategic, across-the-board budget cuts—remains an unreasonable and inadequate budgeting tool to address the deficits and debt of the Federal Government;

(2) budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) impose unacceptable limitations on the budget and increase risk to the national security of the United States; and

(3) the budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 must be modified or eliminated through a bipartisan legislative agreement.

SEC. 1005. ANNUAL AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COMPONENTS BY INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL AUDITORS.

(a) **AUDITS REQUIRED.**—For purposes of satisfying the requirement under section 3521(e) of title 31, United States Code, for audits of financial statements of Department of Defense components identified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3515(c) of such title, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall obtain each year audits of the financial statements of each such component by an independent external auditor.

(b) **SELECTION OF AUDITORS.**—The selection of independent external auditors for purposes of subsection (a) shall be based, among other appropriate criteria, on their qualifications, independence, and capacity to conduct audits described in subsection (a) in accordance with applicable generally accepted government auditing standards. The Inspector General shall participate in the selection of the independent external auditors.

(c) **MONITORING AUDITS.**—The Inspector General shall monitor the conduct of all audits by independent external auditors under subsection (a).

(d) **REPORTS ON AUDITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Inspector General shall require the independent external auditors conducting audits under subsection (a) to submit a report on their audits each year to—

(A) the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) as the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Defense for the purposes of chapter 9 of title 31, United States Code;

(B) the Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management in the Office of Management and Budget; and

(C) the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(e) **RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING LAW.**—The requirements of this section—

(1) shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of section 1008 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 10 U.S.C. 113 note);

(2) shall not be construed to alter the requirement under section 3521(e) of title 31, United States Code, that the financial statements of the Department of Defense as a whole be audited by the Inspector General or by an independent ex-

ternal auditor, as determined by the Inspector General; and

(3) shall not be construed to limit or alter the authorities of the Comptroller General of the United States under section 3521(g) of title 31, United States Code.

Subtitle B—Counter-Drug Activities

SEC. 1011. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT UNIFIED COUNTERDRUG AND COUNTERTERRORISM CAMPAIGN IN COLOMBIA.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Section 1021 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2042), as most recently amended by section 1011(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3483), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF ANNUAL NOTICE TO CONGRESS ON ASSISTANCE.**—Section 1011(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 is amended by striking “(as amended by subsection (a)) using funds available for fiscal year 2015” and inserting “using funds available for any fiscal year”.

SEC. 1012. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (a)(2) of section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85; 111 Stat. 1881), as most recently amended by section 1013 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 844), is further amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

(b) **ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SUPPORT.**—Subsection (b) of such section 1033, as so amended, is further amended by adding at the end of the following new paragraphs:

“(40) Government of Kenya.

“(41) Government of Tanzania.”.

(c) **REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the authority to provide additional support for counter-drug activities of foreign governments in section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A description of the use of the authority over time, and of the use of the authority as in effect during fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

(B) A description of the impetus for the expansion of the countries eligible for assistance under the program.

(C) A description of the impetus for the increases over time in the amounts of fund requested for assistance under the program.

(D) A description of the processes through which priorities are established for countries and regions to be assisted under the program.

(E) An assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of providing assistance under the program on a country-by country basis rather than providing such assistance on a global basis.

(F) A description of the funding challenges, if any, associated with providing assistance under the program on a country-by country basis and with providing such assistance on a global basis.

(3) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1013. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The stability and security of Central American nations have a direct impact on the stability and security of the United States.

(2) Over the past decade, increased stability and security in the Republic of Colombia has displaced illicit trafficking to Central America, bringing with it increased violence and instability.

(3) According to the Global Study on Homicide 2013 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, four of the top five countries with the highest homicide rates in the world were Central American nations, including Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

(4) In 2014, approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children from Central America entered the United States through its southwest border.

(5) In November 2014, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador announced a Plan for the Alliance for Prosperity of the Northern Triangle, which is a comprehensive approach to address the ongoing violence and instability facing these three nations by stimulating economic opportunities, improving public safety and rule of law, and strengthening institutions to increase trust in the state.

(6) The United States Government is supportive of the Alliance for Prosperity, and President’s strategy for support includes \$1,000,000,000 focused on promoting prosperity and regional economic integration, enhancing security, and promoting improved governance.

(7) The Department of Defense continues to build the capacity of our partners in the region to address their security challenges and confront threats of mutual concern.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should, to the extent practicable, prioritize efforts to address the threatening levels of violence, instability, illicit trafficking, and transnational organized crime that challenge the sovereignty of Central American nations and the security of the United States; and

(2) in order to address such issues, the Department of Defense, to the extent practicable, should—

(A) increase its operations, as the lead agency of the United States Government, to detect and monitor aerial and maritime illicit trafficking into the United States;

(B) increase its efforts to support aerial and maritime illicit trafficking interdiction operations;

(C) increase its operations to build the capacity of partner nations in Central America to confront their own security challenges;

(D) support interagency programs and activities in Central America addressing instability, including development, education, economic, political, and security challenges; and

(E) promote observance of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect for civilian control of the military.

Subtitle C—Naval Vessels and Shipyards

SEC. 1021. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUPPORTING LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL VESSELS.

Section 231(b)(2)(C) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “by ship class in

both graphical and tabular form” after “The estimated levels of annual funding”.

SEC. 1022. NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND.

(a) **ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF NAVY TO USE NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND.**—Section 2218a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections:

“(f) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO ECONOMIC ORDER QUANTITY CONTRACTS.**—(1) The Secretary of the Navy may use funds deposited in the Fund to enter into contracts known as ‘economic order quantity contracts’ with private shipyards and other commercial or government entities to achieve economic efficiencies based on production economies for major components or subsystems. The authority under this subsection extends to the procurement of parts, components, and systems (including weapon systems) common with and required for other nuclear powered vessels under joint economic order quantity contracts.

“(2) A contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under the contract is subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose, and that total liability to the Government for termination of any contract entered into shall be limited to the total amount of funding obligated at time of termination.

“(g) **AUTHORITY TO BEGIN MANUFACTURING AND FABRICATION EFFORTS PRIOR TO SHIP AUTHORIZATION.**—(1) The Secretary of the Navy may use funds deposited into the Fund to enter into contracts for advance construction of national sea-based deterrence vessels to support achieving cost savings through workload management, manufacturing efficiencies, or workforce stability, or to phase fabrication activities within shipyard and manage sub-tier manufacturer capacity.

“(2) A contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under the contract is subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose, and that total liability to the Government for termination of any contract entered into shall be limited to the total amount of funding obligated at time of termination.

“(h) **AUTHORITY TO USE INCREMENTAL FUNDING TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN ITEMS.**—(1) The Secretary of the Navy may use funds deposited into the Fund to enter into incrementally funded contracts for advance procurement of high value, long lead time items for nuclear powered vessels to better support construction schedules and achieve cost savings through schedule reductions and properly phased installment payments.

“(2) A contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under the contract is subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose, and that total liability to the Government for termination of any contract entered into shall be limited to the total amount of funding obligated at time of termination.”.

(b) **MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS.**—Section 1022(b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3487) is amended—

(1) by striking “or 2016” and inserting “2016, or 2017”; and

(2) by striking “for the Navy for the Ohio Replacement Program” and inserting “for the Department of Defense”.

SEC. 1023. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR CERTAIN NAVY MESS OPERATIONS AFLOAT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (b) of section 1014 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4585), as amended by section 1021 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383, 124 Stat. 4348), is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS.**—Subsection (a) of such section is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “not more than” and inserting “not more than”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Naval vessels” and inserting “such vessels”.

SEC. 1024. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OR INACTIVATION OF TICONDEROGA CLASS CRUISERS OR DOCK LANDING SHIPS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, inactivate, or place in storage a cruiser or dock landing ship, except as provided in section 1026(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3490).

SEC. 1025. LIMITATION ON THE USE OF FUNDS FOR REMOVAL OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES FROM TICONDEROGA CLASS CRUISERS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense may be used to remove ballistic missile defense capabilities from any of the 5 Ticonderoga class cruisers equipped with such capabilities until the Secretary of the Navy certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Navy has—

(1) obtained the ballistic missile defense capabilities required by the most recent Navy Force Structure Assessment;

(2) entered into a modernization of such cruisers that will provide an equal or improved ballistic missile defense capability; or

(3) obtained at least 40 large surface combatants with ballistic missile defense capability.

SEC. 1026. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF UNITED STATES COMBAT LOGISTIC FORCE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center with appropriate expertise and analytical capability to conduct an assessment of the anticipated future demands of the combat logistics force ships of the Navy and the challenges such ships may face when conducting and supporting future naval operations in contested maritime environments.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the programmed ability of the United States Combat Logistic Force to support the Navy and the naval forces of allies of the United States that are operating in a dispersed manner and not concentrated in carrier or expeditionary strike groups, in accordance with the concept of distributed lethality of the Navy.

(B) An assessment of the programmed ability of the United States Combat Logistic Force to support the Navy and the naval forces of allies of the United States that are engaged in major combat operations against an adversary possessing maritime anti-access and area-denial ca-

pabilities, including anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles, land-based maritime strike aircraft, submarines, and sea mines.

(C) An assessment of the programmed ability of the United States Combat Logistic Force to support distributed and expeditionary air operations from an expanded set of alternative and austere air bases in accordance with concepts under development by the Air Force and the Marine Corps.

(D) An assessment of gaps and deficiencies in the capability and capacity of the United States Combat Logistic Force to conduct and support operations of the United States and allies under the conditions described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

(E) Recommendations for adjustments to the programmed ability of the United States Combat Logistic Force to address capability and capacity gaps and deficiencies described in subparagraph (D).

(F) Any other matters the federally funded research and development center considers appropriate.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the assessment under subsection (a) and any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **FORM.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) **SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the federally funded research and development center that conducts the assessment under subsection (a) with timely access to appropriate information, data, resources, and analyses necessary for the center to conduct such assessment thoroughly and independently.

Subtitle D—Counterterrorism

SEC. 1031. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, TO THE UNITED STATES.

No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense may be used during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2016, to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after January 20, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 1032. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT OR MODIFY FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES TO HOUSE DETAINEES TRANSFERRED FROM UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense may be used during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2016, to construct or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at Guantanamo for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense unless authorized by Congress.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) **INDIVIDUAL DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “individual detained at Guantanamo” has the meaning given that term in section 1034(f)(2).

SEC. 1033. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OR RELEASE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise available for the Department of Defense may be used during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2016, to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release of any individual detained in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the custody or control of any country, or any entity within such country, as follows:

- (1) Libya.
- (2) Somalia.
- (3) Syria.
- (4) Yemen.

SEC. 1034. REENACTMENT AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN PRIOR REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATIONS RELATING TO TRANSFER OF DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND OTHER FOREIGN ENTITIES.

(a) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED PRIOR TO TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may not use any amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Defense to transfer any individual detained at Guantanamo to the custody or control of the individual's country of origin, any other foreign country, or any other foreign entity unless the Secretary submits to the appropriate committees of Congress the certification described in subsection (b) not later than 30 days before the transfer of the individual.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any action taken by the Secretary to transfer any individual detained at Guantanamo to effectuate an order affecting the disposition of the individual that is issued by a court or competent tribunal of the United States having lawful jurisdiction (which the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of promptly after issuance).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in this subsection is a written certification made by the Secretary that—

(1) the transfer concerned is in the national security interests of the United States;

(2) the government of the foreign country or the recognized leadership of the foreign entity to which the individual detained at Guantanamo concerned is to be transferred—

(A) is not a designated state sponsor of terrorism or a designated foreign terrorist organization;

(B) maintains control over each detention facility in which the individual is to be detained if the individual is to be housed in a detention facility;

(C) has taken or agreed to take appropriate steps to substantially mitigate any risk the individual could attempt to reengage in terrorist activity or otherwise threaten the United States or its allies or interests; and

(D) has agreed to share with the United States any information that is related to the individual;

(3) if the country to which the individual is to be transferred is a country to which the United States transferred an individual who was detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, at any time after September 11, 2001, and such transferred individual subsequently engaged in any terrorist activity, the Secretary has—

(A) considered such circumstances; and

(B) determined that the actions to be taken as described in paragraph (2)(C) will substantially

mitigate the risk of recidivism with regard to the individual to be transferred; and

(4) includes an intelligence assessment, in classified or unclassified form, of the capacity, willingness, and past practices (if applicable) of the foreign country or foreign entity concerned in relation to the certification of the Secretary under this subsection.

(c) COORDINATION WITH PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—While the prohibition in section 1033 is in effect, no certification may be made under subsection (b) in connection with the transfer of an individual detained at Guantanamo to a country specified in such section.

(d) RECORD OF COOPERATION.—In assessing the risk that an individual detained at Guantanamo will engage in terrorist activity or other actions that could affect the national security of the United States if released for the purpose of making a certification under subsection (b), the Secretary may give favorable consideration to any such individual—

(1) who has substantially cooperated with United States intelligence and law enforcement authorities, pursuant to a pre-trial agreement, while in the custody of or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; and

(2) for whom agreements and effective mechanisms are in place, to the extent relevant and necessary, to provide for continued cooperation with United States intelligence and law enforcement authorities.

(e) REPORT.—Whenever the Secretary makes a certification under subsection (b) with respect to an individual detained at Guantanamo, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, together with such certification, a report that shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A detailed statement of the basis for the transfer of the individual.

(2) An explanation why the transfer of the individual is in the national security interests of the United States.

(3) A description of actions taken to mitigate the risks of reengagement by the individual as described in subsection (b)(2)(C), including any actions taken to address factors relevant to an applicable prior case of reengagement described in subsection (b)(3).

(4) A copy of any Periodic Review Board findings relating to the individual.

(5) A copy of the final recommendation by the Guantanamo Detainee Review Task Force established pursuant to Executive Order 13492 relating to the individual and, if applicable, updated information related to any change to such recommendation.

(6) An assessment whether, as of the date of the certification, the country to which the individual is to be transferred is facing a threat that could substantially affect its ability to exercise control over the individual.

(7) A classified summary of—

(A) the individual's record of cooperation, if any, while in the custody of or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; and

(B) any agreements and mechanisms in place to provide for continuing cooperation.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “individual detained at Guantanamo” means any individual located at United

States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as of October 1, 2009, who—

(A) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) is—

(i) in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(3) The term “foreign terrorist organization” means any organization so designated by the Secretary of State under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(4) The term “state sponsor of terrorism” has the meaning given that term in section 301(13) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8541(13)).

(g) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.—Section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 851; 10 U.S.C. 801 note) is repealed.

SEC. 1035. COMPREHENSIVE DETENTION STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence, submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the details of a comprehensive strategy for the detention of current and future individuals captured and held pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) pending the end of hostilities.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall contain the following:

(1) The specific facility or facilities that are intended to be used, or modified to be used, to hold individuals for purpose of trial and incarceration after conviction or detention and interrogation pursuant to the law of armed conflict.

(2) The estimated costs associated with the detention of individuals detained for purpose of trial, incarceration after conviction, or continued detention under the law of armed conflict, including the costs of—

(A) improvements, additions, or changes to each facility specified pursuant to paragraph (1);

(B) construction of new facilities, if any;

(C) maintenance, operation, and sustainment of any such facility;

(D) security;

(E) military, civilian, and contractor support personnel; and

(F) other matters associated with support of detention operations.

(3) A plan for the disposition of such individuals if the authority to continue detaining an individual pursuant to the law of armed conflict were to expire while such individual is being detained, and an assessment of possible actions that could be taken to mitigate any adverse implications of such a scenario to the national security interests of the United States.

(4) A plan for the disposition of individuals held pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force who are currently detained at the United States Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(5) A plan for the disposition of future detainees held pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force.

(6) The additional authorities, if any, necessary to detain an individual pursuant to the law of armed conflict as an unprivileged enemy belligerent pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force pending the end of hostilities or a future determination by the Secretary of Defense that such individual no longer requires continued detention.

(c) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1036. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR REALIGNMENT OF FORCES AT OR CLOSURE OF UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 may be used—

(1) to close or abandon United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

(2) to relinquish control of Guantanamo Bay to the Republic of Cuba; or

(3) to implement a material modification to the Treaty Between the United States of America and Cuba signed at Washington, D.C. on May 29, 1934 that constructively closes United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the military implications of United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report shall include the following:

(A) An historical analysis of the use and significance of the basing at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay.

(B) A description of the personnel, resources, and base operations based out of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) An assessment of the role of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, in support of the National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, and the National Military Strategy.

(D) An assessment of the missions and military requirements that United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, currently supports.

(E) A description of the uses of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, by other departments and agencies of the United States Government.

(F) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 1037. REPORT ON CURRENT DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, DETERMINED OR ASSESSED TO BE HIGH RISK OR MEDIUM RISK.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees and members of Congress a report setting forth a list of the individuals detained at Guantanamo as of the date of the enactment of this Act who have been determined or assessed by Joint Task Force Guantanamo, at any time before the date of the report, to be a high-risk or medium-risk threat to the United States, its interests, or its allies.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under subsection (a) shall set forth, for each individual covered by the report, the following:

(1) The name and country of origin.

(2) The date on which first designated or assessed as a high-risk or medium-risk threat to the United States, its interests, or its allies, and an assessment of the justification for the designation or assessment.

(3) Whether, as of the date of the report, currently designated or assessed as a high-risk or medium-risk threat to the United States, its interests, or its allies.

(4) If the designation or assessment changed between the date specified pursuant to paragraph (2) and the date of the report—

(A) the new designation or assessment to which changed;

(B) the year and month in which the designation or assessment changed; and

(C) information on, and a justification for, the change in designation or assessment.

(5) To the extent practicable, without jeopardizing intelligence sources and methods—

(A) prior actions in support of terrorism, hostile actions against the United States or its allies, gross violations of human rights, and other violations of international law; and

(B) any affiliations with al Qaeda, al Qaeda affiliates, or other terrorist groups.

(c) **FORM.**—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the maximum extent practicable, but may include a classified annex.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees and members of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “individual detained at Guantanamo” means any individual located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as of October 1, 2009, who—

(A) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) is—

(i) in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 1038. REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON CONTACT BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND INDIVIDUALS FORMERLY DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 319(c) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1874; 10 U.S.C. 801 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) A summary of all known contact between any individual formerly detained at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and any individual known or suspected to be associated with a foreign terrorist group, which contact included information or discussion about planning for or conduct of hostilities against the United States or its allies or the organizational, logistical, or resource needs or activities of any terrorist group or activity.”.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be construed to terminate, alter, modify, override, or otherwise affect any reporting of information required under section 319(c) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 before the date of the enactment of this section.

SEC. 1039. INCLUSION IN REPORTS TO CONGRESS OF INFORMATION ABOUT RECIDIVISM OF INDIVIDUALS FORMERLY DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

Section 319(c) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1874; 10 U.S.C. 801 note), as amended by section 1038, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(7) For each individual described in paragraph (4), the date on which such individual was released or transferred from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and the date on which it is

confirmed that such individual is suspected or confirmed of reengaging in terrorist activities.

“(8) The average period of time described in paragraph (7) for all the individuals described in paragraph (4).”.

SEC. 1040. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON TERMS OF WRITTEN AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES REGARDING TRANSFER OF DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the terms of any written agreement between the United States Government and the government of the foreign country concerned regarding each individual detained at Guantanamo who was transferred to a foreign country pursuant to a negotiated transfer.

(2) **STATEMENT ON LACK OF WRITTEN AGREEMENT.**—If an individual detained at Guantanamo was transferred to a foreign country pursuant to a negotiated transfer and no written agreement exists between the United States Government and the government of the foreign country regarding the transfer of such individual, the report under paragraph (1) shall include an unclassified statement of that fact.

(3) **ARRANGEMENTS WHEN LACK OF WRITTEN AGREEMENT.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall also provide a description of the types and frequency of arrangements or assurances applicable to negotiated transfers covered by paragraph (2).

(4) **FORM.**—The report under paragraph (1) may be submitted in classified form, except as provided in paragraph (2).

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “individual detained at Guantanamo” means any individual located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as of October 1, 2009, who—

(A) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) is—

(i) in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 1041. REPORT ON USE OF UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR BUREAU OF PRISONS PRISONS OR DETENTION OR DISCIPLINARY FACILITIES IN RECRUITMENT OR OTHER PROPAGANDA OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, submit to Congress a report on the use by terrorist organizations and their leaders of images and symbols relating to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and any other Department of Defense or Bureau of Prisons prison or other detention or disciplinary facility for recruitment and other propaganda purposes. The report shall include the following:

(1) a description of the use by terrorist organizations and their leaders of images and symbols relating to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, and any other Department of Defense or Bureau of Prisons prison or other detention or disciplinary facility for recruitment or other propaganda purposes.

(2) A description and assessment of—
(A) the effectiveness of the use of such images and symbols for recruitment and other propaganda purposes during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date of the report; and

(B) the extent to which such images and symbols continue to be used for recruitment or other propaganda purposes.

(3) A description and assessment of the efforts of the United States Government to counter the use of such images and symbols for recruitment and other propaganda purposes and to disseminate accurate information about such facilities.

SEC. 1042. PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REWARDS THROUGH GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL OF ALLIED FORCES AND CERTAIN OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE REWARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c)(3) of section 127b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subparagraphs (B) and (C)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)”;

(2) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D).

(b) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Subsection (f)(2) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (D);

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G), as subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F), respectively; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including in which countries the program is being operated”.

(c) REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES FOR WHICH REWARDS MAY BE PAID.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES FOR WHICH REWARDS MAY BE PAID.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the Secretary designates a country as a country in which an operation or activity of the armed forces is occurring in connection with which rewards may be paid under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the designation. Each report shall include the following:

“(1) The country so designated.

“(2) The reason for the designation of the country.

“(3) A justification for the designation of the country for purposes of this section.”.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

“§ 127b. Department of Defense rewards program”.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 127b and inserting the following new item:

“127b. Department of Defense rewards program.”.

SEC. 1043. SUNSET ON EXCEPTION TO CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF SENSITIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Section 130f(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “The notification”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The exception in paragraph (1) shall cease to be in effect at the close of December 31, 2017.”.

SEC. 1044. REPEAL OF SEMIANNUAL REPORTS ON OBLIGATION AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE COMBATING TERRORISM PROGRAM.

Section 229 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

SEC. 1045. LIMITATION ON INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES.

(a) LIMITATION ON INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES TO THOSE IN THE ARMY FIELD MANUAL.—

(1) ARMY FIELD MANUAL 2-22.3 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “Army Field Manual 2-22.3” means the Army Field Manual 2-22.3 entitled “Human Intelligence Collector Operations” in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act or any similar successor Army Field Manual.

(2) RESTRICTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual described in subparagraph (B) shall not be subjected to any interrogation technique or approach, or any treatment related to interrogation, that is not authorized by and listed in the Army Field Manual 2-22.3.

(B) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subparagraph is an individual who is—

(i) in the custody or under the effective control of an officer, employee, or other agent of the United States Government; or

(ii) detained within a facility owned, operated, or controlled by a department or agency of the United States, in any armed conflict.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—Interrogation techniques, approaches, and treatments described in Army Field Manual 2-22.3 shall be implemented strictly in accord with the principles, processes, conditions, and limitations prescribed by Army Field Manual 2-22.3.

(4) AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—If a process required by Army Field Manual 2-22.3, such as a requirement of approval by a specified Department of Defense official, is inapposite to a department or an agency other than the Department of Defense, the head of such department or agency shall ensure that a process that is substantially equivalent to the process prescribed by Army Field Manual 2-22.3 for the Department of Defense is utilized by all officers, employees, or other agents of such department or agency.

(5) INTERROGATION BY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.—The limitations in this subsection shall not apply to officers, employees, or agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, or other Federal law enforcement entities.

(6) UPDATE OF THE ARMY FIELD MANUAL.—

(A) REQUIREMENT TO UPDATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not sooner than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and once every three years thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall complete a thorough review of Army Field Manual 2-22.3, and revise Army Field Manual 2-22.3, as necessary to ensure that Army Field Manual 2-22.3 complies with the legal obligations of the United States and the practices for interrogation described therein do not involve the use or threat of force.

(ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Army Field Manual 2-22.3 shall remain available to the public and any revisions to the Army Field Manual 2-22.3 adopted by the Secretary of Defense shall be made available to the public 30 days prior to the date the revisions take effect.

(B) REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES OF INTERROGATIONS.—

(i) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the interagency body established pursuant to Executive Order 13491 (commonly known as the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group) shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Attorney General, and other appropriate officials a report on best practices for interrogation that do not involve the use of force.

(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report required by clause (i) may include recommendations for revisions to Army Field Manual 2-22.3 based on the body of research commissioned by the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group.

(iii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Not later than 30 days after the report required by clause (i) is submitted such report shall be made available to the public.

(b) INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ACCESS TO DETAINEES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The head of any department or agency of the United States Government shall provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with notification of, and prompt access to, any individual detained in any armed conflict in the custody or under the effective control of an officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor, or other agent of the United States Government or detained within a facility owned, operated, or effectively controlled by a department, agency, contractor, or subcontractor of the United States Government, consistent with Department of Defense regulations and policies.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

(A) to create or otherwise imply the authority to detain; or

(B) to limit or otherwise affect any other individual rights or state obligations which may arise under United States law or international agreements to which the United States is a party, including the Geneva Conventions, or to state all of the situations under which notification to and access for the International Committee of the Red Cross is required or allowed.

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Authorities and Limitations

SEC. 1051. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM.

(a) WEBSITE REQUIRED.—Section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE.—(1) The Secretary shall create and maintain a publicly available Internet website that provides information on the controlled property transferred under this section and the recipients of such property.

“(2) The contents of the Internet website required under paragraph (1) shall include all publicly accessible unclassified information pertaining to the request, transfer, denial, and repossession of controlled property under this section, including—

“(A) a current inventory of all controlled property transferred to Federal and State agencies under this section, listed by the name of the recipient and the year of the transfer;

“(B) all pending requests for transfers of controlled property under this section, including the information submitted by the Federal and State agencies requesting such transfers; and

“(C) all reports required to be submitted to the Secretary under this section by Federal and State agencies that receive controlled property under this section.”.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR TRANSFER.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) the recipient, on an annual basis, and with the authorization of the relevant local governing body or authority, certifies that it has adopted publicly available protocols for the appropriate use of controlled property, the supervision of such use, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of such use, including auditing and accountability policies; and

“(6) after the completion of the assessment required by section 1051(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, the recipient, on an annual basis, certifies that it provides annual training to relevant personnel on the maintenance, sustainment, and appropriate use of controlled property.”

(c) **DEFINITION OF CONTROLLED PROPERTY.**—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) **CONTROLLED PROPERTY.**—In this section, the term ‘controlled property’ means any item assigned a demilitarization code of B, C, D, E, G, or Q under Department of Defense Manual 4160.21–M, ‘Defense Materiel Disposition Manual’, or any successor document.”

(d) **EXAMINATION OF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for the conduct of an assessment of the Department of Defense excess property program under section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section. Such assessment shall include—

(1) an evaluation of the policies and controls governing the determination of the suitability of recipients of controlled property transferred under the program, including specific recommendations relating to the training that Federal and State agencies that receive such property should receive, at no cost to the Department of Defense, to ensure proficiency in the use, maintenance, and sustainment of such property; and

(2) an analysis of reported statistics on controlled property transfers, the incidence of controlled property that is unaccounted for, and the effectiveness of the policies and procedures governing the return of controlled property transferred under the program to the Department of Defense.

(e) **ONE-YEAR MANDATORY USE POLICY ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for the conduct of an assessment of the Department of Defense excess property program under section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section, to determine if the requirement that all controlled property transferred under the program be used within one year of being transferred is achieving its intended effect. Such assessment shall include recommendations on process improvement, including legislative proposals.

(f) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the Department of Defense excess property program under section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section. Such assessment shall include—

(1) an evaluation of the transfer of controlled property under the program, including the manner in which the property was used by Federal and State agencies and the effectiveness of the Internet website required under subsection (e) of section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), in providing transparency to the public; and

(2) a determination of whether the transfer of property under the program enhances the abil-

ity of Federal and State agencies to carry out counter-drug and counter-terrorism activities in accordance with the purposes of the program as set forth in section 2576a of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 1052. SALE OR DONATION OF EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR BORDER SECURITY ACTIVITIES.

Section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1051 is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “counter-drug and counter-terrorism activities” and inserting “counterdrug, counterterrorism, and border security activities”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the Attorney General and the Director of National Drug Control Policy” and inserting “the Attorney General, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “counter-drug or counter-terrorism activities” and inserting “counterdrug, counterterrorism, or border security activities”.

SEC. 1053. MANAGEMENT OF MILITARY TECHNICIANS.

(a) **CONVERSION OF CERTAIN MILITARY TECHNICIAN (DUAL STATUS) POSITIONS TO CIVILIAN POSITIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall convert not fewer than 20 percent of the positions described in paragraph (2) as of January 1, 2017, from military technician (dual status) positions to positions filled by individuals who are employed under section 3101 of title 5, United States Code, and are not military technicians.

(2) **COVERED POSITIONS.**—The positions described in this paragraph are military technician (dual status) positions as follows:

(A) Military technician (dual status) positions identified as general administration, clerical, finance, and office service occupations in the report of the Secretary of Defense under section 519 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1397).

(B) Such other military technician (dual status) positions as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of this subsection.

(3) **TREATMENT OF INCUMBENTS.**—In the case of a position converted under paragraph (1) for which there is an incumbent employee, the Secretary may fill that position, as converted, with the incumbent employee without regard to any requirement concerning competition or competitive hiring procedures.

(b) **PHASED-IN TERMINATION OF ARMY RESERVE, AIR FORCE RESERVE, AND NATIONAL GUARD NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 10217 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **PHASED-IN TERMINATION OF POSITIONS.**—

(i) No individual may be newly hired or employed, or rehired or reemployed, as a non-dual status technician for the purposes of this section after December 31, 2016.

“(2) Commencing January 1, 2017, the maximum number of non-dual status technicians employable by the Army Reserve and by the Air Force Reserve shall be reduced from the number otherwise provided by subsection (c)(1) by one for each individual who retires, is separated from, or otherwise ceases service as a non-dual status technician of the Army Reserve or the Air Force Reserve, as the case may be, after such date until the maximum number of non-dual status technicians employable by the Army Reserve or the Air Force Reserve, as the case may be, is zero.

“(3) Commencing January 1, 2017, the maximum number of non-dual status technicians

employable by the National Guard shall be reduced from the number otherwise provided by subsection (c)(2) by one for each individual who retires, is separated from, or otherwise ceases service as a non-dual status technician of the National Guard after such date until the maximum number of non-dual status technicians employable by the National Guard is zero.

“(4) Any individual newly hired or employed, or rehired or employed, to a position required to be filled by reason of the amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be an individual employed in such position under section 3101 of title 5, and may not be a military technician.

“(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to terminate the status as a non-dual status technician under this section after December 31, 2016, of any individual who is a non-dual status technician for the purposes of this section on that date.”

(2) **REPORT ON PHASED-IN TERMINATIONS.**—Not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth a plan for implementing the amendment made by paragraph (1).

SEC. 1054. LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AH-64 APACHE HELICOPTERS FROM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TO REGULAR ARMY AND RELATED PERSONNEL LEVELS.

Section 1712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3668) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “March 31, 2016” and inserting “June 30, 2016”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “March 31, 2016” and inserting “June 30, 2016” both places it appears.

SEC. 1055. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO PERSONNEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 1081 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 168 note), as amended by section 1047 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3494), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

“(b) **TRAINING OF PERSONNEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRIES WITH SECURITY MISSIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, carry out a program to provide training and associated training support services to personnel of foreign ministries of defense (or ministries with security force oversight) or regional organizations with security missions—

“(A) for the purpose of—

“(i) enhancing civilian oversight of foreign security forces;

“(ii) establishing responsible defense governance and internal controls in order to help build effective, transparent, and accountable defense institutions;

“(iii) assessing organizational weaknesses and establishing a roadmap for addressing shortfalls; and

“(iv) enhancing ministerial, general or joint staff, or service level core management competencies; and

“(B) for such other purposes as the Secretary considers appropriate, consistent with the authority in subsection (a).

“(2) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Each fiscal year quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on activities under the program under paragraph (1) during the preceding fiscal year quarter. Each report shall include, for the fiscal year quarter covered by such report, the following:

“(A) A list of activities under the program.

“(B) A list of any organization described in paragraph (1) to which the Secretary assigned employees under the program, including the number of such employees so assigned, the duration of each assignment, a brief description of each assigned employee’s activities, and a statement of the cost of each assignment.

“(C) A comprehensive justification of any activities conducted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B).”.

(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (c) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended in paragraph (1) by striking “of the Secretary of Defense” and all that follows and inserting “in this section terminates at the close of December 31, 2017.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ADVISOR” before “AUTHORITY”;

(2) in subsections (d) and (e), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, by striking “the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives” and inserting “the appropriate committees of Congress”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.”.

(d) **CLERICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO SECTION HEADING TO REFLECT NAME OF PROGRAM.**—

(1) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1081. DEFENSE INSTITUTION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 2(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 1081 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 1081. Defense Institution Capacity Building Program.”.

SEC. 1056. INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) military information support operations are a critical component of the efforts of the Department of Defense to provide commanders with capabilities to shape the operational environment;

(2) military information support operations are integral to armed conflict and therefore the Secretary of Defense has broad latitude to conduct military information support operations;

(3) the Secretary of Defense should develop creative and agile concepts, technologies, and strategies across all available media to most effectively reach target audiences, to counter and degrade the ability of adversaries and potential adversaries to persuade, inspire, and recruit inside areas of hostilities or in other areas in direct support of the objectives of commanders; and

(4) the Secretary of Defense should request additional funds in future budgets to carry out military information support operations to support the broader efforts of the Government to counter violent extremism.

(b) **TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS REQUIRED.**—To support the ability of the Department of Defense to provide innovative oper-

ational concepts and technologies to shape the informational environment, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a series of technology demonstrations, subject to the availability of funds for such purpose or to a prior approval reprogramming, to assess innovative new technologies for information operations and information engagement to support the operational and strategic requirements of the commanders of the geographic and functional combatant commands, including the urgent and emergent operational needs and the operational and theater campaign plans of such combatant commanders to further the national security objectives and strategic communications requirements of the United States.

(c) **PLAN.**—By not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a plan describing how the Department of Defense will execute the technology demonstrations required under subsection (b). Such plan shall include each of the following elements:

(1) A general timeline for conducting the technology demonstrations.

(2) Clearly defined goals and endstate objectives for the demonstrations, including traceability of such goals to the tactical, operational, or strategic requirements of the combatant commanders.

(3) A process for measuring the performance and effectiveness of the demonstrations.

(4) A coordination structure to include participation between the technology development and the operational communities, including potentially joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational partners.

(5) The identification of potential technologies to support the tactical, operational, or strategic needs of the combatant commanders.

(6) An explanation of how such technologies will support and coordinate with elements of joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational partners.

(d) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.**—Upon initiating a technology demonstration under subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees written notice of the demonstration that includes a detailed description of the demonstration, including its purpose, cost, engagement medium, targeted audience, and any other details the Secretary of Defense believes will assist the committees in evaluating the demonstration.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to carry out a technology demonstration under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2022.

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or alter any authority under which the Department of Defense supports information operations activities within the Department.

SEC. 1057. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON 84 AND 85 AIRCRAFT.

(a) **PROHIBITIONS.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Navy may be obligated or expended to—

(1) retire, prepare to retire, transfer, or place in storage any Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 84 (HSC-84) or Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 85 (HSC-85) aircraft; or

(2) make any changes to manning levels with respect to any HSC-84 or HSC-85 aircraft squadron.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary of the Navy may waive subsection (a), if the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Secretary has—

(1) conducted a cost-benefit analysis identifying savings to Department of the Navy regard-

ing decommissioning or deactivation of an HSC-84 or HSC-85 squadron;

(2) identified a replacement capability that would be available if prioritized and directed by the Secretary of Defense and would meet all operational requirements, including special operational-peculiar requirements of the combatant commands, currently being met by the HSC-84 or HSC-85 squadrons and aircraft to be retired, transferred, or placed in storage; and

(3) deployed such capability.

SEC. 1058. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN LANDMINES AND REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY AND INVENTORY OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINE MUNITIONS.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Except as provided under subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended for the destruction of anti-personnel landmine munitions before the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the report required by subsection (c).

(b) **EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY.**—The limitation under subsection (a) shall not apply to any anti-personnel landmine munitions that the Secretary determines are unsafe or could pose a safety risk if not demilitarized or destroyed.

(c) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report that includes each of the following:

(A) A description of the policy of the Department of Defense regarding the use of anti-personnel landmines, including methods for commanders to seek waivers to use such munitions.

(B) A 10-year projection of the inventory levels for all anti-personnel landmine munitions that takes into account future production of anti-personnel landmine munitions, any plans for demilitarization of such munitions, the age of the munitions, storage and safety considerations, and other factors that will impact the size of the inventory.

(C) A 10-year projection for the cost to achieve the inventory levels projected in subparagraph (B), including the cost for potential demilitarization or disposal of such munitions.

(D) A 10-year projection for the cost to develop and produce new anti-personnel landmine munitions the Secretary determines are necessary to meet the demands of current operational plans.

(E) An assessment, by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, of the effects of the projected anti-personnel landmine inventory on current operational plans.

(F) Any other matters that the Secretary determines should be included in the report.

(2) **FORM OF REPORT.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) **ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINE MUNITIONS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “anti-personnel landmine munitions” includes anti-personnel landmines and sub-munitions as defined by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 1059. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SECURE THE SOUTHERN LAND BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of Defense may provide assistance to United States Customs and Border Protection for purposes of increasing ongoing efforts to secure the southern land border of the United States.

(b) **CONCURRENCE IN ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance under subsection (a) shall be provided with the

concurrence of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) **TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**—The assistance provided under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Deployment of members and units of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces to the southern land border of the United States.

(2) Deployment of manned aircraft, unmanned aerial surveillance systems, and ground-based surveillance systems to support continuous surveillance of the southern land border of the United States.

(3) Intelligence analysis support.

(d) **MATERIEL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to deploy such materiel and equipment and logistics support as is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of assistance provided under subsection (a).

(e) **FUNDING.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense by this Act, the Secretary of Defense may use up to \$75,000,000 to provide assistance under subsection (a).

(f) **REPORTS.**—At the end of each three-month period during which assistance is provided under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate a report on the provision of such assistance during that period. Each report shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(1) A description of the assistance provided.

(2) A description of the sources and amounts of funds used to provide such assistance.

(3) A description of the amounts obligated to provide such assistance.

(4) An assessment of the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of such assistance in support of the Department of Homeland Security's objectives and strategy to address the challenges on the southern land border of the United States and recommendations, if any, to enhance the effectiveness of such assistance.

Subtitle F—Studies and Reports

SEC. 1060. PROVISION OF DEFENSE PLANNING GUIDANCE AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING GUIDANCE INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 113(g) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) At the time of the budget submission by the President for a fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall include in the budget materials submitted to Congress for that year summaries of the guidance developed under paragraphs (1) and (2), as well as summaries of any plans developed in accordance with the guidance developed under paragraph (2). Such summaries shall be sufficient to allow the congressional defense committees to evaluate fully the requirements for military forces, acquisition programs, and operation and maintenance funding in the President's annual budget request for the Department of Defense.”.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Notwithstanding the requirement under paragraph (3) of section 113(g) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), that the Secretary of Defense submit summaries under that paragraph at the time of the President's annual budget submission, by not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing—

(1) summaries of the guidance developed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (g) of section 113 of title 10, United States Code; and

(2) summaries of any plans developed in accordance with the guidance developed under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

SEC. 1061. EXPEDITED MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY.

Section 1702(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3665) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I) shall not apply to a meeting of the Commission unless the meeting is attended by five or more members of the Commission.”.

SEC. 1062. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REPORTS SUBMITTED BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **REPORT ON NNSA BUDGET REQUESTS.**—Section 3255(a)(2) of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2455(a)(2)) is amended by inserting before “, the Comptroller General” the following: “in an even-numbered year, and not later than 150 days after the date on which the Administrator submits such materials in an odd-numbered year”.

(b) **REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.**—Section 3134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2713), as amended by section 3134(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2193), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “a series of three reviews, as described in subsections (b), (c), and (d),” and inserting “reviews as described in subsections (b) and (c)”;

(2) by striking subsection (d); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

SEC. 1063. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTRIBUTED FORCE LAYDOWN IN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF UNITED STATES PACIFIC COMMAND.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Commander of the United States Pacific Command, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on Department of Defense plans for implementing the geographically distributed force laydown in the area of responsibility of United States Pacific Command.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the force laydown.

(2) A discussion of how the force laydown affects the operational and contingency plans in the area of responsibility of United States Pacific Command, including a discussion on how timeliness, availability of forces, and risk in meeting the military objectives contained in those plans are affected.

(3) A discussion of the specific support asset requirements derived from the force laydown, including logistical sustainment, pre-positioned stocks, sea and air lift and, command and control.

(4) A discussion of the specific infrastructure and military construction requirements derived from the force laydown.

(5) A discussion on how Department of Defense plans to meet the requirements identified in paragraphs (3) and (4), including the ability of United States Transportation Command, the United States Combat Logistics Force, and the Armed Forces to meet those requirements.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate.

(c) **FORM.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1064. INDEPENDENT STUDY OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY FORMULATION PROCESS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract with an independent research entity described in subsection (c) to carry out a comprehensive study of the role of the Department of Defense in the formulation of national security strategy.

(b) **MATTERS COVERED.**—The study required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Several case studies of the role of the Department of Defense and its process for the formulation of previous national security strategies in place throughout the history of the United States, with specific emphasis on the development and execution of previous strategies, as well as the factors that contributed to the development and execution of successful previous strategies with specific emphasis on—

(A) the frequency of strategy updates;

(B) the synchronization of timelines and content among different strategies;

(C) the prioritization of objectives;

(D) the assignment of roles and responsibilities among relevant agencies;

(E) the links between strategy and resourcing;

(F) the implementation of strategy within the planning documents of relevant agencies;

(G) the value of a competition of ideas; and

(H) recommendations for the executive and legislative branches on the best practices and organizational lessons learned for enabling the Department of Defense to formulate long-term defense strategy.

(2) A complete review and analysis of the current national security strategy formulation process, as it relates to the Department of Defense, including an analysis of the following:

(A) All major Government products and documents of national security strategy relevant to the Department of Defense and how they fit together, including—

(i) the National Military Strategy prepared by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under section 153(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code;

(ii) the most recent quadrennial defense review conducted by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to section 118 of title 10, United States Code;

(iii) the national security strategy report required under section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043); and

(iv) any other relevant national security strategy products and documents.

(B) The time periods during which the products and documents covered by subparagraph (A) are prepared and published, and how they fit together.

(C) The interaction between the White House and the agencies that develop such products and documents and formulate strategy.

(D) All the current entities in the Federal Government that contribute to the national security strategy formulation process and how they fit together.

(c) **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ENTITY.**—The entity described in this subsection is an independent research entity that is a not-for-profit entity or a federally funded research and development center with appropriate expertise and analytical capability.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the independent research entity shall provide to the Secretary a report on the results of the study. Not later than 90 days after receipt of the report, the Secretary shall submit such report, together with any additional views or recommendations of the Secretary, to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 1065. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION, AND DISABLEMENT CAPABILITIES RELATED TO REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report addressing the suitability of existing capabilities to detect, identify, and disable remotely piloted aircraft operating within special use and restricted airspace. The report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the degree to which existing capabilities to detect, identify, and potentially disable remotely piloted aircraft within special use and restricted airspace are able to be deployed and combat prevailing threats.

(2) An assessment of existing gaps in capabilities related to the detection, identification, or disablement of remotely piloted aircraft within special use and restricted airspace.

(3) A plan that outlines the extent to which existing research and development programs within the Department of Defense can be leveraged to fill identified capability gaps and/or the need to establish new programs to address such gaps as are identified pursuant to paragraph (2).

SEC. 1066. REPORT ON OPTIONS TO ACCELERATE THE TRAINING OF PILOTS OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT.

Not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report addressing the immediate and critical training and operational needs of the remotely piloted aircraft community. The report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the viability of using non-rated, civilian, contractor, or enlisted pilots to execute remotely piloted aircraft missions.

(2) An assessment of the availability and existing utilization of special use airspace available for remotely piloted aircraft training and a plan for accessing additional special use airspace in order to meet anticipated training requirements for remotely piloted aircraft.

(3) A comprehensive training plan aimed at increasing the throughput of undergraduate remotely piloted aircraft training without sacrificing quality and standards.

(4) Establishment of an optimum ratio for the mix of training airframes to operational airframes in the remotely piloted aircraft inventory necessary to achieve manning requirements for pilots and sensor operators and, to the extent practicable, a plan for fielding additional remotely piloted aircraft airframes at the formal training units in the active, National Guard, and reserve components in accordance with optimum ratios for MQ-9 and Global Hawk remotely piloted aircraft.

(5) Establishment of optimum and minimum crew ratios to combat air patrols taking into account all tasks remotely piloted aircraft units execute and, to the extent practicable, a plan for conducting missions in accordance with optimum ratios.

(6) Identification of any resource, legislative, or departmental policy challenges impeding the corrective action needed to reach a sustainable remotely piloted aircraft operations tempo.

(7) An assessment, to the extent practicable, of the direct and indirect impacts that the integration of remotely piloted aircraft into the national airspace system has on the ability to generate remotely piloted aircraft crews.

(8) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 1067. STUDIES OF FLEET PLATFORM ARCHITECTURES FOR THE NAVY.

(a) INDEPENDENT STUDIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for the performance of three independent studies of alternative future fleet plat-

form architectures for the Navy in the 2030 timeframe.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary shall submit the results of each study to the congressional defense committees.

(3) FORM.—Each such study shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex as necessary.

(b) ENTITIES TO PERFORM STUDIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for the studies under subsection (a) to be performed as follows:

(1) One study shall be performed by the Department of the Navy and shall include participants from—

(A) the Office of Net Assessment within the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and

(B) the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division.

(2) The second study shall be performed by a federally funded research and development center.

(3) The final study shall be conducted by an independent, non-governmental institute which is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code, and has recognized credentials and expertise in national security and military affairs.

(c) PERFORMANCE OF STUDIES.—

(1) INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall require the three studies under this section to be conducted independently of each other.

(2) MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In performing a study under this section, the organization performing the study, while being aware of the current and projected fleet platform architectures, shall not be limited by the current or projected fleet platform architecture and shall consider the following matters:

(A) The National Security Strategy of the United States.

(B) Potential future threats to the United States and to United States naval forces in the 2030 timeframe.

(C) Traditional roles and missions of United States naval forces.

(D) Alternative roles and missions for United States naval forces.

(E) Other government and non-government analyses that would contribute to the study through variations in study assumptions or potential scenarios.

(F) The role of evolving technology on future naval forces, including unmanned systems.

(G) Opportunities for reduced operation and sustainment costs.

(H) Current and projected capabilities of other United States armed forces that could affect force structure capability and capacity requirements of United States naval forces.

(d) STUDY RESULTS.—The results of each study under this section shall—

(1) present the alternative fleet platform architectures considered, with assumptions and possible scenarios identified for each;

(2) provide for presentation of minority views of study participants; and

(3) for the recommended architecture, provide—

(A) the numbers, kinds, and sizes of vessels, the numbers and types of associated manned and unmanned vehicles, and the basic capabilities of each of those platforms;

(B) other information needed to understand that architecture in basic form and the supporting analysis;

(C) deviations from the current Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels required under section 231 of title 10, United States Code;

(D) options to address ship classes that begin decommissioning prior to 2035; and

(E) implications for naval aviation, including the future carrier air wing and land-based aviation platforms.

SEC. 1068. REPORT ON STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION.

(a) REPORT ON STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that sets forth an updated military strategy for the protection of United States national security interests in the Arctic region.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of United States military interests in the Arctic region.

(2) A description of operational plans and military requirements for the protection of United States national security interests in the Arctic region, including United States citizens, territory, freedom of navigation, and economic and trade interests.

(3) An identification of any operational seams and a plan to enhance unity of effort among the combatant commands with responsibility for the Arctic region, as well as among the Armed Forces.

(4) A description of the security environment in the Arctic region, including the activities of foreign nations operating within the Arctic region.

(5) A description of United States military capabilities required to implement the strategy required by subsection (a).

(6) An identification of any capability gaps and resource gaps, including in installations, infrastructure, communications and domain awareness, and personnel in the Arctic region, that would impact the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (a) or the execution of any associated operational plan, and a mitigation plan to address such gaps.

(7) An assessment of military-to-military cooperation with partner nations that have mutual security interests in the Arctic region, including opportunities for sharing installations and maintenance facilities.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1069. COMPTROLLER GENERAL BRIEFING AND REPORT ON MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) BRIEFING.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on the administration and oversight by the Department of Veterans Affairs of contracts for the design and construction of major medical facility projects, as defined in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the administration and oversight described in subsection (a).

(c) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required by subsection (a) and the report required by subsection (b) shall each include an examination of the following:

(1) The processes used by the Department for overseeing and assuring the performance of construction design and construction contracts for major medical facility projects, as so defined.

(2) Any actions taken by the Department to improve the administration of such contracts.

(3) Such opportunities for further improvement of the administration of such contracts as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1070. SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS OF MUNITIONS ASSESSMENTS.

(a) **REQUIRED REPORTS.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees each of the following:

(1) The most current munitions assessments, as defined by Department of Defense Instruction Number 3000.04, relating to the Department of Defense munitions process.

(2) The most current sufficiency assessments, as defined by such Department of Defense Instruction.

(3) The most current approved memorandum of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council resulting from the munitions requirements process.

(b) **SUNSET.**—The requirement to submit reports and assessments under this section shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1071. POTENTIAL ROLE FOR UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC THEATER.

(a) **GENERAL ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall jointly conduct a comprehensive assessment of potential roles for United States ground forces in the western Pacific in cooperation with host nations to deter and defeat aggression in the western Pacific region.

(2) **CAPABILITIES TO BE EXAMINED.**—The Secretary and the Chairman shall assess the feasibility and potential effectiveness of mobile United States ground forces operating jointly to facilitate—

(A) anti-access and area-denial capabilities in contested sea lanes and airspace;

(B) air defense capabilities;

(C) electronic countermeasures capabilities;

(D) command, control, communications, and logistics capabilities;

(E) littoral defenses; and

(F) any other capabilities the Secretary and Chairman determine to be appropriate.

(b) **COMPLETION DATE.**—The assessment required by this section shall be completed by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **BRIEFING OF CONGRESS.**—Upon the completion of the assessments required by this section, the Secretary and the Chairman shall provide a briefing on the assessment to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives.

SEC. 1072. REPEAL OR REVISION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MILITARY PERSONNEL ISSUES.

(a) **REPORT ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY INCENTIVE PAY.**—Section 316a of title 37, United States Code, as amended by section 615(5) of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) **REPORT ON USE OF WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS.**—Section 553 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 4346 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(c) **REPORT ON INCREASE IN JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS UNITS.**—Subsection (e) of section 548 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4466) is repealed.

(d) **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.**—

(1) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 582(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(2) **CONFORMING REPEAL.**—Section 597 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is repealed.

(e) **REPORT ON STANDARDS OF FACILITIES.**—Section 1648 of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(f) **REPORT ON INSPECTIONS OF FACILITIES.**—Section 1662 of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) REQUIRED INSPECTIONS OF FACILITIES.—”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(g) **REPORT ON INSPECTIONS OF OTHER FACILITIES.**—Section 3307 of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110-28; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(h) **REPORT ON LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY ASSISTANCE RELATED TO DOD ACTIVITIES.**—Section 574 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 20 U.S.C. 7703b note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 1073. REPEAL OR REVISION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO READINESS.

(a) **BIANNUAL REPORTS ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS WITHIN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET SUBACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 9 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 228.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 228.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT ON NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES.**—Section 7431 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT ON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMBAT READINESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1013 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 10542.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 10542.

(d) **GAO REPORT ON IN-KIND PAYMENTS.**—Section 2805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2149) is repealed.

(e) **INSIDER THREAT DETECTION BUDGET SUBMISSION.**—Section 922 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(f) **PRICE TREND ANALYSIS.**—Section 892 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 10 U.S.C. 2306a) is repealed.

(g) **REPORT ON AUTHORITY FOR AIRLIFT TRANSPORTATION AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RATES FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FEDERAL CARGOES.**—Section 351 of the National De-

fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2262) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(h) **BIENNIAL REPORT ON PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS.**—Section 358 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(i) **REPORT ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.**—Section 958 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 297) is repealed.

(j) **REPORT ON ARSENAL SUPPORT PROGRAM INITIATIVE.**—Section 343 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 10 U.S.C. 4551 note) is amended by striking subsection (g).

(k) **GAO REVIEW OF CONTRACTOR-OPERATED CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPLY STORES PROGRAM.**—Section 345 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261; 112 Stat. 1978) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

SEC. 1074. REPEAL OR REVISION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO NAVAL VESSELS AND MERCHANT MARINE.

(a) **REPORT ON NAMING OF NAVAL VESSELS.**—Section 7292 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) **REPORT ON TRANSFER OF VESSELS STRICKEN FROM NAVAL VESSEL REGISTER.**—Section 7306 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **ELIMINATION OF REPORT AND REVISION OF REMAINING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 50111 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§50111. **Submission of annual MARAD authorization request**

“(a) **SUBMISSION OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the Maritime Administration authorization request for that fiscal year.

“(b) **MARITIME ADMINISTRATION REQUEST DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘Maritime Administration authorization request’ means a proposal for legislation that, for a fiscal year—

“(1) recommends authorizations of appropriations for the Maritime Administration for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in subsection 109(j) of title 49 or authorized in subtitle V of this title; and

“(2) addresses any other matter with respect to the Maritime Administration that the Secretary determines is appropriate.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 501 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 50111 and inserting the following new item:

“50111. **Submission of annual MARAD authorization request.**”.

(d) **DISCRETIONARY REPORT NO LONGER NEEDED.**—The Secretary of the Navy is not required to submit to the congressional defense committees a report, or updates to such a report, on

open architecture as described in Senate Report 110-077.

SEC. 1075. REPEAL OR REVISION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.

(a) **REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL.**—Section 1110 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2493) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (i);

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i); and

(3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(2) any employee whose assignment is allowed to continue by virtue of paragraph (1) shall be taken into account for purposes of the numerical limitation under subsection (h).”.

(b) **REPORT ON EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.**—Section 1101 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261; 112 Stat. 2139) is amended by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 1076. REPEAL OR REVISION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND RELATED MATTERS.

(a) **REPORT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL.**—Section 179 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (g).

(b) **REPORT ON PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE.**—Section 1821(b) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 2911(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—”; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3).

(c) **BRIEFINGS ON DIALOGUE BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON NUCLEAR ARMS.**—Section 1282 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2034; 22 U.S.C. 5951 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “BRIEFINGS ON DIALOGUE” and inserting “SENSE OF CONGRESS ON AGREEMENTS”;

(2) by striking subsection (a);

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—”; and

(4) by striking subsection (c).

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT VISION PRESCRIBED IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY.**—Section 1072 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1592; 50 U.S.C. 3043 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

SEC. 1077. REPEAL OR REVISION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO ACQUISITION.

(a) **REPORT ON COST ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Section 2334 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) **REPORT ON PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSES.**—Section 2438 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 1078. REPEAL OR REVISION OF MISCELLANEOUS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **REPORT ON TECHNOLOGICAL MATURITY AND INTEGRATION RISK OF CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES.**—Section 138(b)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking “shall—” and all that follows through “assess the technological maturity” and inserting “shall periodically review and assess the technological maturity”; and

(3) by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

(b) **REPORT ON SYSTEMS ENGINEERING.**—Section 139b(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “or (2)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “systems engineering master plans and”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, systems engineering master plans,”;

(D) in subparagraph (C); by striking “systems engineering, development planning,” and inserting “development planning”; and

(E) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (F);

(4) by transferring subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4) to the end of paragraph (2), as so redesignated, and redesignating those subparagraphs as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(5) by striking paragraph (4).

(c) **REPORT ON DARPA.**—

(1) **REPEAL.**—Section 2352 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2352.

(d) **REPORTS ON STATUS OF NAVY NEXT GENERATION ENTERPRISE NETWORKS PROGRAM.**—Section 1034 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4593) is repealed.

SEC. 1079. REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORT ON PRIZES FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS.**—Section 2374a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(b) **ANNUAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN INTEGRATED DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM ON READINESS REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 528 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1725) is repealed.

(c) **REPORT ON TASK FORCE FOR BUSINESS AND STABILITY OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN.**—Section 1535(a) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 124 Stat. 4426) is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(d) **REPORTS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 110-417.**—

(1) **MITIGATION OF POWER OUTAGE RISKS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.**—Section 335 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4422; 10 U.S.C. 2911 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(2) **ANNUAL REPORTS ON CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON TRAUMATIC EXTREMITY INJURIES AND AMPUTATIONS.**—Section 723 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4508) is amended by striking (d).

(e) **BIENNIAL UPDATE OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Section 904(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 275) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(f) **ROADMAPS AND REPORTS ON HYPERSONICS DEVELOPMENT.**—Section 218 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by striking subsection (f).

(g) **REPORTS ON ANNUAL REVIEW OF ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS.**—

Section 513(h) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375; 118 Stat. 1882; 10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(h) **ANNUAL SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION REGARDING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL ASSETS.**—Section 351 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 1080. TERMINATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS OF REPORTS REQUIRED OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BY STATUTE.

(a) **TERMINATION.**—Effective on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, each report described in subsection (b) that is still required to be submitted to Congress as of such effective date shall no longer be required to be submitted to Congress.

(b) **COVERED REPORTS.**—A report described in this subsection is a report that is required to be submitted to Congress by the Department of Defense, or by any officer, official, component, or element of the Department, by any annual national defense authorization Act as of April 1, 2015.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes each of the following:

(1) A list of all reports described in subsection (b).

(2) For each such report, a citation to the provision of law under which the report is required to be submitted.

(3) Draft legislation that would repeal each such report.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

SEC. 1081. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) **AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) The tables of chapters at the beginning of subtitle A, and at the beginning of part I of such subtitle, are each amended by striking the item relating to chapter 19 and inserting the following new item:

“19. Cyber Matters 391”.

(2) The heading of section 130e is amended to read as follows:

“§ 130e. Treatment under Freedom of Information Act of certain critical infrastructure security information”.

(3) The heading of section 153(a)(5) is amended to read as follows: “JOINT FORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—”.

(4) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 19 is amended by striking the item relating to section 391 and inserting the following new item:

“391. Reporting on cyber incidents with respect to networks and information systems of operationally critical contractors and certain other contractors.”.

(5) The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 21 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 429 the following new item:

“430. Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities Executive Agent.”.

(6) Section 2006a(a) is amended by striking “August, 1” and inserting “August 1”.

(7) Sections 2222(j)(5), 2223(c)(3), and 2315 are each amended by striking “section 3552(b)(5)” and inserting “section 3552(b)(6)”.

(8) Section 2229(d)(1) is amended by striking “certification in writing” and inserting “a certification in writing”.

(9) Section 2679, as transferred, redesignated, and amended by section 351 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3346), is amended in subsection (a)(1) by striking “with” before “, on a sole source”.

(10) Section 2684(d)(1) is amended by striking “section 2023.01 of title 54” and inserting “section 302101 of title 54”.

(11) Section 2687a(d)(2) is amended by inserting “fair market” before “value”.

(12) Section 2926, as added and amended by section 901(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3464), is amended in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) by striking “for Installations, Energy,” each place it appears and inserting “for Energy, Installations.”.

(13) Section 9314a(b) is amended by striking “only so long at” and inserting “only so long as”.

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.—Effective as of December 19, 2014, and as if included therein as enacted, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 351(b)(1) (128 Stat. 3346) is amended by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “; and”.

(2) Section 901(g)(1)(F) (128 Stat. 3465) is amended by inserting “paragraph (4) of” before “subsection (b) of section 2926”.

(3) Section 1072(a)(2) (128 Stat. 3516) is amended by inserting “in the table of sections” before “at the beginning of”.

(4) Section 1079(a)(1) (128 Stat. 3521) is amended by striking “section 12102 of title 42, United States Code” and inserting “section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)”.

(5) Section 1104(b)(2) (128 Stat. 3526) is amended by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)”.

(6) Section 1208 (128 Stat. 3541) is amended by striking “of Fiscal Year” each place it appears and inserting “for Fiscal Year”.

(7) Section 2803(a) (128 Stat. 3696) is amended in paragraph (2) of the subsection (f) being added by the amendment to be made by that section by inserting “section” before “1105 of title 31”.

(8) Section 2832(c)(3) (128 Stat. 3704) is amended by striking “United States Code” and inserting “United States Code”.

(c) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—Section 943(d)(1) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4578) by striking the second period at the end of the first sentence.

(d) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005.—Section 1208(f)(2) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2086), as amended by section 1202(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 363) and section 1202(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat 2512), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating the paragraphs (1) through (8) added by section 1202(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat 2512) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively; and

(2) by moving the margins of such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, two ems to the right.

(e) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AMENDMENTS MADE BY THIS ACT.—For purposes of applying amendments made by provisions of this Act other than this section, the amendments made

by this section shall be treated as having been enacted immediately before any such amendments by other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 1082. SITUATIONS INVOLVING BOMBINGS OF PLACES OF PUBLIC USE, GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 18 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§383. Situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense may provide assistance in support of Department of Justice activities related to the enforcement of section 2332f of title 18 during situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.

“(b) RENDERING-SAFE SUPPORT.—Military explosive ordnance disposal units providing rendering-safe support to Department of Justice activities relating to the enforcement of section 175, 229, or 2332a of title 18 in emergency situations involving weapons of mass destruction shall provide such support in a manner consistent with the provisions of section 382 of this title.

“(c) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General shall jointly prescribe regulations concerning the types of assistance that may be provided under this section. Such regulations shall also describe the actions that Department of Defense personnel may take in circumstances incident to the provision of assistance under this section.

“(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) may not authorize any of the following actions:

“(i) Arrest.

“(ii) Any direct participation in conducting a search for or seizure of evidence related to a violation of section 175, 229, or 2332a of title 18.

“(iii) Any direct participation in the collection of intelligence for law enforcement purposes.

“(B) Such regulations may authorize an action described in subparagraph (A) to be taken under the following conditions:

“(i) The action is considered necessary for the immediate protection of human life, and civilian law enforcement officials are not capable of taking the action.

“(ii) The action is otherwise authorized under subsection (a) or under otherwise applicable law.

“(d) EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEFINED.—The term ‘explosive ordnance’—

“(1) means—

“(A) bombs and warheads;

“(B) guided and ballistic missiles;

“(C) artillery, mortar, rocket, and small arms ammunition;

“(D) all mines, torpedoes, and depth charges;

“(E) grenades demolition charges;

“(F) pyrotechnics;

“(G) clusters and dispensers;

“(H) cartridge- and propellant- actuated devices;

“(I) electroexplosives devices;

“(J) landmine and improvised explosive devices; and

“(K) all similar or related items or components explosive in nature; and

“(2) includes all munitions containing explosives, propellants, nuclear fission or fusion materials, and biological and chemical agents.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“383. Situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.”.

SEC. 1083. EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATORY CONTROL MEASURES.

(a) EXECUTIVE AGENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of the following new section:

“§430a. Executive agent for management and oversight of alternative compensatory control measures

“(a) EXECUTIVE AGENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall designate a senior official from among the personnel of the Department of Defense to act as the Department of Defense executive agent for the management and oversight of alternative compensatory control measures.

“(b) ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary shall prescribe the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the executive agent designated under subsection (a). Such roles, responsibilities, and authorities shall include the development of an annual management and oversight plan for Department-wide accountability and reporting to the congressional defense committees.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“430a. Executive agent for management and oversight of alternative compensatory control measures.”.

(b) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the close of each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the oversight and management of alternative compensatory control measures. Each such report shall include—

(1) the annual management and oversight plan required under section 430a(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a);

(2) a discussion of the scope and number of alternative compensatory control measures in effect;

(3) a brief description of each alternative compensatory control measures program and of the number of individuals with access to such program; and

(4) any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 1084. NAVY SUPPORT OF OCEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL.

Section 7903 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 1085. LEVEL OF READINESS OF CIVIL RESERVE AIR FLEET CARRIERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Airlift Policy states that “[t]he national defense airlift objective is to ensure that military and civil airlift resources will be able to meet defense mobilization and deployment requirements in support of US defense and foreign policies.”.

(2) The National Airlift Policy also emphasizes the need for “dialogue and cooperation with our national aviation industry,” and it states that “[i]t is of particular importance that the aviation industry be apprised by the Department of Defense of long-term requirements for airlift in support of national defense.”.

(3) The National Airlift Policy emphasizes the importance of both military and civil airlift resources and their interdependence in the fulfillment of the national defense airlift objective, and it states that the “Department of Defense shall establish appropriate levels for peacetime cargo airlift augmentation in order to promote the effectiveness of Civil Reserve Air Fleet and

provide training within the military airlift system.”.

(4) *Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers continue to be an important component of the military airlift system in support of United States defense and foreign policies.*

(b) *LEVEL OF READINESS OF CIVIL RESERVE AIR FLEET CARRIERS.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—Chapter 931 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

“§9517. Level of readiness of Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers

“The Civil Reserve Air Fleet program is an important component of the military airlift system in support of United States defense and foreign policies, and it is the policy of the United States to maintain the readiness and interoperability of Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers by providing appropriate levels of peacetime airlift augmentation to maintain networks and infrastructure, exercise the system, and interface effectively within the military airlift system.”.

(2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:*

“9517. Level of Readiness of Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers.”.

(3) *DEFINITION OF CIVIL RESERVE AIR FLEET PROGRAM.—Section 9511 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

“(12) The term ‘Civil Reserve Air Fleet program’ means the program developed by the Department of Defense through which the Department of Defense augments its airlift capability by use of civil aircraft.”.

(c) *REPORT REQUIREMENT.—On the day the President submits the budget to Congress for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report that sets forth, for each fiscal year during the period covered by the current future-years defense program under section 221 of title 10, United States Code, each of the following, expressed separately for passenger and cargo airlift services:*

(1) *The results (including analytical and justification materials) of an assessment, conducted in consultation with the Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers, of the level of commercial airlift augmentation necessary to maintain the readiness and interoperability of such carriers, maintain networks and infrastructure, exercise the system, and facilitate the regular interfacing between such carriers and the military airlift system, which shall include—*

(A) *a projection of the number of block hours necessary to achieve such levels of commercial airlift augmentation;*

(B) *a strategic plan for achieving such level of commercial airlift augmentation; and*

(C) *an explanation of any deviation from the previous fiscal year’s assessment of the projected number of block hours under subparagraph (A).*

(2) *A comparison (including analytical and justification materials and explanations of any deviations) of the forecasted number of block hours for each fiscal year of the period covered by the report with the projected number of block hours under paragraph (1)(A) for each such fiscal year.*

SEC. 1086. REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT OF PERSONNEL SECURITY, INSIDER THREAT DETECTION AND PREVENTION, AND PHYSICAL SECURITY.

(a) *PERSONNEL SECURITY AND INSIDER THREAT PROTECTION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—*

(1) *PLANS AND SCHEDULES.—Consistent with the Memorandum of the Secretary of Defense dated March 18, 2014, regarding the recommendations of the reviews of the Washington Navy Yard shooting, the Secretary of Defense shall develop plans and schedules—*

(A) *to implement a continuous evaluation capability for the national security population for which clearance adjudications are conducted by the Department of Defense Central Adjudication Facility, in coordination with the heads of other relevant agencies;*

(B) *to produce a Department-wide insider threat strategy and implementation plan, which includes—*

(i) *resourcing for the Defense Insider Threat Management and Analysis Center and component insider threat programs, and*

(ii) *alignment of insider threat protection programs with continuous evaluation capabilities and processes for personnel security;*

(C) *to centralize the authority, accountability, and programmatic integration responsibilities, including fiscal control, for personnel security and insider threat protection under the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence;*

(D) *to develop a defense security enterprise reform investment strategy to ensure a consistent, long-term focus on funding to strengthen all of the Department’s security and insider threat programs, policies, functions, and information technology capabilities, including detecting threat behaviors conveyed in the cyber domain, in a manner that keeps pace with evolving threats and risks;*

(E) *to resource and expedite deployment of the Identity Management Enterprise Services Architecture; and*

(F) *to implement the recommendations contained in the study conducted by the Director of Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation required by section 907 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 1564 note), including, specifically, the recommendations to centrally manage and regulate Department of Defense requests for personnel security background investigations.*

(2) *REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the plans and schedules required under paragraph (1).*

(b) *PHYSICAL AND LOGICAL ACCESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—*

(1) *the Secretary of Defense shall define physical and logical access standards, capabilities, and processes applicable to all personnel with access to Department of Defense installations and information technology systems, including—*

(A) *periodic or regularized background or records checks appropriate to the type of physical or logical access involved, the security level, the category of individuals authorized, and the level of access to be granted;*

(B) *standards and methods for verifying the identity of individuals seeking access; and*

(C) *electronic attribute-based access controls that are appropriate for the type of access and facility or information technology system involved;*

(2) *the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and, when appropriate, the Director of National Intelligence, and in consultation with representatives from stakeholder organizations, shall design a capability to share and apply electronic identity information across the Government to enable real-time, risk-managed physical and logical access decisions; and*

(3) *the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in conjunction with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and in consultation with representatives from stakeholder organizations, shall establish investigative and adjudicative standards for the periodic*

or regularized reevaluation of the eligibility of an individual to retain credentials issued pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (dated August 27, 2004), as appropriate, but not less frequently than the authorization period of the issued credentials.

(c) *SECURITY ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—*

(1) *formalize the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Line of Business; and*

(2) *submit to the appropriate congressional committee a report that describes plans—*

(A) *for oversight by the Office of Management and Budget of activities of the executive branch of the Government for personnel security, suitability, and credentialing;*

(B) *to designate enterprise shared services to optimize investments;*

(C) *to define and implement data standards to support common electronic access to critical Government records; and*

(D) *to reduce the burden placed on Government data providers by centralizing requests for records access and ensuring proper sharing of the data with appropriate investigative and adjudicative elements.*

(d) *RECIPROCITY MANAGEMENT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council shall ensure that—*

(1) *a centralized system is available to serve as the reciprocity management system for the Federal Government; and*

(2) *the centralized system described in paragraph (1) is aligned with, and incorporates results from, continuous evaluation and other enterprise reform initiatives.*

(e) *REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council, in coordination with the Security Executive Agent, the Suitability Executive Agent, and the Secretary of Defense, shall jointly develop a plan to—*

(1) *implement the Security Executive Agent Directive on common, standardized employee and contractor security reporting requirements;*

(2) *establish and implement uniform reporting requirements for employees and Federal contractors, according to risk, relative to the safety of the workforce and protection of the most sensitive information of the Government; and*

(3) *ensure that reported information is shared appropriately.*

(f) *ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER PURPOSES.—*

(1) *DEFINITION.—Section 9101(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:*

“(7) The terms ‘Security Executive Agent’ and ‘Suitability Executive Agent’ mean the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability Executive Agent, respectively, established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.”.

(2) *COVERED AGENCIES.—Section 9101(a)(6) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:*

“(G) The Department of Homeland Security.

“(H) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

“(I) An Executive agency that—

“(i) is authorized to conduct background investigations under a Federal statute; or

“(ii) is delegated authority to conduct background investigations in accordance with procedures established by the Security Executive Agent or the Suitability Executive Agent under subsection (b) or (c)(iv) of section 2.3 of Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.

“(J) A contractor that conducts a background investigation on behalf of an agency described in subparagraphs (A) through (I).”.

(3) **APPLICABLE PURPOSES OF INVESTIGATIONS.**—Section 9101(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “the head of”;

(ii) by inserting “all” before “criminal history record information”; and

(iii) by striking “for the purpose of determining eligibility for any of the following:” and inserting “, in accordance with Federal Investigative Standards jointly promulgated by the Suitability Executive Agent and Security Executive Agent, for the purpose of—

“(A) determining eligibility for—”;

(C) in clause (i), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “Access” and inserting “access”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon;

(D) in clause (ii), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “Assignment” and inserting “assignment”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting “or positions”;;

(E) in clause (iii), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “Acceptance” and inserting “acceptance”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(F) in clause (iv), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “Appointment” and inserting “appointment”;

(ii) by striking “or a critical or sensitive position”; and

(iii) by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) conducting a basic suitability or fitness assessment for Federal or contractor employees, using Federal Investigative Standards jointly promulgated by the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability Executive Agent in accordance with—

“(i) Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto; and

“(ii) the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum ‘Assignment of Functions Relating to Coverage of Contractor Employee Fitness in the Federal Investigative Standards’, dated December 6, 2012;

“(C) credentialing under the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (dated August 27, 2004); and

“(D) Federal Aviation Administration checks required under—

“(i) the Federal Aviation Administration Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988 (subtitle E of title VII of Public Law 100-690; 102 Stat. 4424) and the amendments made by that Act; or

“(ii) section 44710 of title 49.”.

(4) **BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC SEARCHES.**—Section 9101(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) A State central criminal history record depository shall allow a covered agency to conduct both biometric and biographic searches of criminal history record information.

“(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit the Federal Bureau of Investigation from requiring a request for criminal history record information to be accompanied by the fingerprints of the individual who is the subject of the request.”.

(5) **USE OF MOST COST-EFFECTIVE SYSTEM.**—Section 9101(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) If a criminal justice agency is able to provide the same information through more than 1

system described in paragraph (1), a covered agency may request information under subsection (b) from the criminal justice agency, and require the criminal justice agency to provide the information, using the system that is most cost-effective for the Federal Government.”.

(6) **SEALED OR EXPUNGED RECORDS; JUVENILE RECORDS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9101(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: “The term includes those records of a State or locality sealed pursuant to law if such records are accessible by State and local criminal justice agencies for the purpose of conducting background checks.”.

(B) **REGULATIONS.**—

(i) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the terms “Security Executive Agent” and “Suitability Executive Agent” mean the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability Executive Agent, respectively, established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.

(ii) **DEVELOPMENT; PROMULGATION.**—The Security Executive Agent shall—

(I) not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and in conjunction with the Suitability Executive Agent and the Attorney General, begin developing regulations to implement the amendments made by subparagraph (A); and

(II) not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations to implement the amendments made by subparagraph (A).

(C) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not uniformly reject applicants for employment with the Federal Government or Federal contractors based on—

(i) sealed or expunged criminal records; or

(ii) juvenile records.

(7) **INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ABROAD.**—Section 9101 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) Upon request by a covered agency and in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Overseas Citizens Services shall make available criminal history record information collected by the Deputy Assistant Secretary with respect to an individual who is under investigation by the covered agency regarding any interaction of the individual with a law enforcement agency or intelligence agency of a foreign country.”.

(8) **CLARIFICATION OF SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS CONDUCTING BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.**—Section 9101 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this subsection, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) If a contractor described in subsection (a)(6)(J) uses an automated information delivery system to request criminal history record information, the contractor shall comply with any necessary security requirements for access to that system.”.

(9) **CLARIFICATION REGARDING ADVERSE ACTIONS.**—Section 7512 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or”;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting “, or”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) a suitability action taken by the Office under regulations prescribed by the Office, subject to the rules prescribed by the President under this title for the administration of the competitive service.”.

(10) **ANNUAL REPORT BY SUITABILITY AND SECURITY CLEARANCE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL.**—Section 9101 of title 5, United

States Code, as amended by this subsection, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) The Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto, shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, an annual report that—

“(1) describes efforts of the Council to integrate Federal, State, and local systems for sharing criminal history record information;

“(2) analyzes the extent and effectiveness of Federal education programs regarding criminal history record information;

“(3) provides an update on the implementation of best practices for sharing criminal history record information, including ongoing limitations experienced by investigators working for or on behalf of a covered agency with respect to access to State and local criminal history record information; and

“(4) provides a description of limitations on the sharing of information relevant to a background investigation, other than criminal history record information, between—

“(A) investigators working for or on behalf of a covered agency; and

“(B) State and local law enforcement agencies.”.

(11) **GAO REPORT ON ENHANCING INTEROPERABILITY AND REDUCING REDUNDANCY IN FEDERAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ACCESS CONTROL, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND CREDENTIALING STANDARDS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the background check, access control, and credentialing requirements of Federal programs for the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The Comptroller General shall include in the report required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) a summary of the major characteristics of each such Federal program, including the types of infrastructure and resources covered;

(ii) a comparison of the requirements, whether mandatory or voluntary in nature, for regulated entities under each such program to—

(I) conduct background checks on employees, contractors, and other individuals;

(II) adjudicate the results of a background check, including the utilization of a standardized set of disqualifying offenses or the consideration of minor, non-violent, or juvenile offenses; and

(III) establish access control systems to deter unauthorized access, or provide a security credential for any level of access to a covered facility or resource;

(iii) a review of any efforts that the Screening Coordination Office of the Department of Homeland Security has undertaken or plans to undertake to harmonize or standardize background check, access control, or credentialing requirements for critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs overseen by the Department; and

(iv) recommendations, developed in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, regarding—

(I) enhancing the interoperability of security credentials across critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs;

(II) eliminating the need for redundant background checks or credentials across existing critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs;

(III) harmonizing, where appropriate, the standards for identifying potentially disqualifying criminal offenses and the weight assigned to minor, nonviolent, or juvenile offenses in adjudicating the results of a completed background check; and

(IV) the development of common, risk-based standards with respect to the background check, access control, and security credentialing requirements for critical infrastructure and key resource protection programs.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the term “Performance Accountability Council” means the Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council established under Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto.

SEC. 1087. TRANSFER OF SURPLUS FIREARMS TO CORPORATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF RIFLE PRACTICE AND FIREARMS SAFETY.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFER OF SURPLUS FIREARMS TO CORPORATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF RIFLE PRACTICE AND FIREARMS SAFETY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 40728 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) **AUTHORIZED TRANSFERS.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may transfer to the corporation, in accordance with the procedure prescribed in this subchapter, surplus caliber .45 M1911/M1911A1 pistols and spare parts and related accessories for those pistols that, on the date of the enactment of this subsection, are under the control of the Secretary and are surplus to the requirements of the Department of the Army, and such material as may be recovered by the Secretary pursuant to section 40728A(a) of this title. The Secretary shall determine a reasonable schedule for the transfer of such surplus pistols.

“(2) The Secretary may not transfer more than 10,000 surplus caliber .45 M1911/M1911A1 pistols to the corporation during any year and may only transfer such pistols as long as pistols described in paragraph (1) remain available for transfer.”.

(2) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Such title is further amended—

(A) in section 40728A—

(i) by striking “rifles” each place it appears and inserting “surplus firearms”; and

(ii) in subsection (a), by striking “section 40731(a)” and inserting “section 40732(a)”;

(B) in section 40729(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 40728(a)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (h) of section 40728”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “40728(a)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (h) of section 40728”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and caliber .45 M1911/M1911A1 surplus pistols” after “caliber .30 and caliber .22 rimfire rifles”;

(C) in section 40732—

(i) by striking “caliber .22 rimfire and caliber .30 surplus rifles” both places it appears and inserting “surplus caliber .22 rimfire rifles, caliber .30 surplus rifles, and caliber .45 M1911/M1911A1 surplus pistols”; and

(ii) in subsection (b), by striking “is over 18 years of age” and inserting “is legally of age”; and

(D) in section 40733—

(i) by striking “Section 922(a)(1)-(3) and (5)” and inserting “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), section 922(a)(1)-(3) and (5)”;

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) **EXCEPTION.**—With respect to firearms other than caliber .22 rimfire and caliber .30 rifles, the corporation shall obtain a license as a dealer in firearms and abide by all requirements imposed on persons licensed under chapter 44 of title 18, including maintaining acquisition and disposition records, and conducting background checks.”.

(b) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ONE-YEAR AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Army may carry out a one-year pilot program under which the Secretary may transfer to the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety not more than 10,000 firearms described in paragraph (2).

(2) **FIREARMS DESCRIBED.**—The firearms described in this paragraph are surplus caliber .45 M1911/M1911A1 pistols and spare parts and related accessories for those pistols that, on the date of the enactment of this section, are under the control of the Secretary and are surplus to the requirements of the Department of the Army.

(3) **TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS.**—Transfers of surplus caliber .45 M1911/M1911A1 pistols from the Army to the Corporation under the pilot program shall be made in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 407 of title 36, United States Code.

(4) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(A) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary initiates the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an interim report on the pilot program.

(B) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 15 days after the Secretary completes the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a final report on the pilot program.

(C) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—Each report required by this subsection shall include, for the period covered by the report—

(i) the number of firearms described in subsection (a)(2) transferred under the pilot program; and

(ii) information on any crimes committed using firearms transferred under the pilot program.

(c) **LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF SURPLUS CALIBER .45 M1911/M1911A1 PISTOLS.**—The Secretary may not transfer firearms described in subsection (b)(2) under subchapter II of chapter 407 of title 36, United States Code, until the date that is 60 days after the date of the submittal of the final report required under subsection (b)(4)(B).

SEC. 1088. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERRING AIRCRAFT WITHIN THE AIR FORCE INVENTORY.

(a) **MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 345 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 10 U.S.C. 8062 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “Before making an aircraft transfer described in subsection (c), the Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure that a written agreement regarding such transfer has been entered into between the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Director of the Air National Guard or the Chief of Air Force Reserve.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “depot”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(b) **SUBMITTAL OF AGREEMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of the Air Force may not take any action to transfer an aircraft until the Secretary—

“(1) ensures that the Air Force has complied with Department of Defense regulations applicable to the transfer; and

“(2) for a transfer described in subsection (c)(1), submits to the congressional defense committees an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a) regarding the transfer of the aircraft.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(c) **COVERED AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS.**—

“(1) **COVERED TRANSFERS.**—An aircraft transfer described in this subsection is the transfer (other than as specified in paragraph (2)) from a reserve component of the Air Force to the regular component of the Air Force of—

“(A) the permanent assignment of an aircraft that terminates a reserve component’s equitable interest in the aircraft; or

“(B) possession of an aircraft for a period in excess of 90 days.

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Paragraph (1) does not apply to the following:

“(A) A routine temporary transfer of possession of an aircraft from a reserve component that is made solely for the benefit of the reserve component for the purpose of maintenance, upgrade, conversion, modification, or testing and evaluation.

“(B) A routine permanent transfer of assignment of an aircraft that terminates a reserve component’s equitable interest in the aircraft if notice of the transfer has previously been provided to the congressional defense committees and the transfer has been approved by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to Department of Defense regulations.

“(C) A transfer described in paragraph (1)(A) when there is a reciprocal permanent assignment of an aircraft from the regular component of the Air Force to the reserve component that does not degrade the capability of, or reduce the total number of, aircraft assigned to the reserve component.

“(d) **RETURN OF AIRCRAFT AFTER ROUTINE TEMPORARY TRANSFER.**—In the case of an aircraft transferred from a reserve component of the Air Force to the regular component of the Air Force for which an agreement under subsection (a) is not required by reason of subsection (c)(2)(A), possession of the aircraft shall be transferred back to the reserve component upon completion of the work described in subsection (c)(2)(A).”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 345(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 10 U.S.C. 8062 note) is amended by striking “Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command” and inserting “Chief of Air Force Reserve”.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO DELETE REFERENCES TO AIRCRAFT OWNERSHIP.**—Section 345(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 10 U.S.C. 8062 note) is amended in paragraphs (2)(A), (2)(C), and (3) by striking “the ownership of”.

SEC. 1089. REESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES FROM ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACK.

(a) **REESTABLISHMENT.**—The commission established pursuant to title XIV of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 114 Stat. 1654A-345), and reestablished pursuant to section 1052 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163; 50 U.S.C. 2301 note), known as the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack, is hereby reestablished.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Service on the Commission is voluntary, and Commissioners may elect to terminate their service on the Commission. If a Commissioner is unwilling or unable to serve on the Commission, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall appoint a new member to fill that vacancy.

(c) **COMMISSION CHARTER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “Commission charter” means title XIV of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 114 Stat. 1654A-345 et seq.), as amended by section 1052 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163; 50 U.S.C. 2301 note) and section 1073 of the John Warner National Defense Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2403).

(d) **EXPANDED PURPOSE.**—Section 1401(b) of the Commission charter (114 Stat. 1654A-345) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, from non-nuclear EMP weapons, from natural EMP generated by geomagnetic storms, and from proposed uses in the military doctrines of potential adversaries of using EMP weapons in combination with other attack vectors.”.

(e) **DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**—Section 1402 of the Commission charter (114 Stat. 1654A-346) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1402. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

“The Commission shall assess the following:

“(1) The vulnerability of electric-dependent military systems in the United States to a man-made or natural EMP event, giving special attention to the progress made by the Department of Defense, other Government departments and agencies of the United States, and entities of the private sector in taking steps to protect such systems from such an event.

“(2) The evolving current and future threat from state and non-state actors of a manmade EMP attack employing nuclear or non-nuclear weapons.

“(3) New technologies, operational procedures, and contingency planning that can protect electronics and military systems from the effects of a manmade or natural EMP event.

“(4) Among the States, if State grids are protected against manmade or natural EMP, which States should receive highest priority for protecting critical defense assets.

“(5) The degree to which vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure systems create cascading vulnerabilities for military systems.”.

(f) **REPORT.**—Section 1403 of the Commission charter (114 Stat. 1654A-345) is amended by striking “September 30, 2007” and inserting “June 30, 2017”.

(g) **TERMINATION.**—Section 1049 of the Commission charter (114 Stat. 1654A-348) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016”.

SEC. 1090. MINE COUNTERMEASURES MASTER PLAN AND REPORT.

(a) **MASTER PLAN REQUIRED.**—

(1) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—At the same time the budget is submitted to Congress for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a mine countermeasures (in this section referred to as “MCM”) master plan.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each MCM master plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall include each of the following:

(A) An evaluation of the capabilities, capacities, requirements, and readiness levels of the defensive capabilities of the Navy for MCM, including an assessment of—

(i) the dedicated MCM force; and
(ii) the capabilities of ships, aircraft, and submarines that are not yet dedicated to MCM but could be modified to carry MCM capabilities.

(B) An evaluation of the ability of commanders—

(i) to properly command and control air and surface MCM forces from the fleet to the unit level; and

(ii) to provide necessary operational and tactical control and awareness of such forces to facilitate mission accomplishment and defense.

(C) An assessment of—

(i) technologies having promising potential to improve MCM; and

(ii) programs for transitioning such technologies from the testing and evaluation phases to procurement.

(D) A fiscal plan to support the master plan through the Future Years Defense Plan.

(E) A plan for inspection of each asset with MCM responsibilities, requirements, and capabilities, which shall include proposed methods to ensure the material readiness of each asset and the training level of the force, a general summary, and readiness trends.

(3) **FORM OF SUBMISSION.**—Each MCM master plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex addressing the capability and capacity to meet operational plans and contingency requirements.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains the recommendations of the Secretary—

(A) regarding MCM force structure; and

(B) ensuring the operational effectiveness of the surface MCM force through 2025 based on current capabilities and capacity, replacement schedules, and service life extensions or retirement schedules.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the MCM vessels, including the decommissioned MCM-1 and MCM-2 ships and the potential of such ships for reserve operating status.

(B) An assessment of the Littoral Combat Ship MCM mission package increment one performance against the initial operational test and evaluation criteria.

(C) An assessment of other commercially available MCM systems that could supplement or supplant Littoral Combat Ship MCM mission package systems.

SEC. 1091. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND BRIEFING REQUIREMENT ON ORDERED EVACUATIONS OF UNITED STATES EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES INVOLVING SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall provide notification to the appropriate congressional committees as soon as practicable upon the initiation of an ordered evacuation of a United States embassy or consulate involving support provided by the Department of Defense.

(b) **BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days after the initiation of an ordered evacuation of a United States embassy or consulate involving support provided by the Department of Defense.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and
(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1092. INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDINATOR.

(a) **INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDINATOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate an existing Federal official to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States persons who are hostages held abroad. For purposes of carrying out the duties described in paragraph (2), such official shall have the title of “Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator”.

(2) **DUTIES.**—The Coordinator shall have the following duties:

(A) Coordinate activities of the Federal Government relating to each hostage situation described in paragraph (1) to ensure efforts to secure the release of hostages are properly resourced and correct lines of authority are established and maintained.

(B) Chair a fusion cell consisting of appropriate personnel of the Federal Government with purview over each hostage situation described in paragraph (1).

(C) Ensure sufficient representation of each Federal agency and department at each fusion cell established under subparagraph (B) and issue procedures for adjudication and appeal.

(D) Develop processes and procedures to keep family members of hostages described in paragraph (1) informed of the status of such hostages, inform such family members of updates that do not compromise the national security of the United States, and coordinate with the Federal Government’s family engagement coordinator or other designated senior representative.

(b) **QUARTERLY REPORT AND BRIEFING.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—On a quarterly basis, the Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a summary of each hostage situation described in subsection (a)(1).

(B) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report under this subparagraph (A) may be submitted in classified or unclassified form.

(2) **BRIEFING.**—On a quarterly basis, the Coordinator shall provide to the Senators representing the State, and the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives representing the district, where a hostage described in subsection (a)(1) resides a briefing with respect to the status of such hostage.

(3) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1093. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE INADVERTENT TRANSFER OF ANTHRAX FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the inadvertent transfer of live *Bacillus anthracis*, also known as anthrax, from an Army laboratory to numerous laboratories located in many States and several countries that was discovered in May 2015 represents a serious safety lapse;

(2) the Department of Defense, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, should continue to investigate the cause of this lapse and determine what protective protocols should be strengthened;

(3) the Department of Defense should reassess all Select Agent standards on a regular basis to ensure they are current and effective to prevent a reoccurrence; and

(4) the Department of Defense should keep Congress apprised of the investigation, any potential public health or safety risk, corrective

actions taken, and plans to regularly reassess standards.

SEC. 1094. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASE FOR A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA.

Section 601(b) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1793) is amended—

(1) by striking “IN TULSA.—” and all that follows through “In carrying out” and inserting “IN TULSA.—In carrying out”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2);

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively, and adjusting the indentation of the margin of such paragraphs, as so redesignated, two ems to the left;

(4) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking “140,000 gross square feet” and inserting “140,000 net usable square feet”;

(5) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “not more than the average” and all that follows and inserting “not more than the average of equivalent medical facility leases executed by the Department of Veterans Affairs over the last five years, plus 20 percent.”; and

(6) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking “30-year life cycle” and inserting “20-year life cycle”.

SEC. 1095. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2015, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Construction of a community living center, outpatient clinic, renovated domiciliary, and renovation of existing buildings in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$158,980,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$126,100,000.

(3) Seismic correction of 12 buildings in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$70,500,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury building and seismic corrections in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$205,840,000.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, a total of \$561,420,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

SEC. 1096. DESIGNATION OF CONSTRUCTION AGENT FOR CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement subject to subsections (b), (c), and (e) of section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, with the Army Corps of Engineers or another entity of the Federal Government to serve, on a reimbursable basis, as the construction agent for the construction, alteration, or acquisition of any medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs specifically authorized by Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act that involves a total expenditure of more than \$100,000,000, excluding any acquisition by exchange.

(b) **AGREEMENT.**—Under the agreement entered into under subsection (a), the construction agent shall provide design, procurement, and construction management services for the con-

struction, alteration, and acquisition of medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 1097. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERING UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE.

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government, develop a strategy for the Department of Defense to counter unconventional warfare threats posed by adversarial state and non-state actors.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include each of the following:

(1) An articulation of the activities that constitute unconventional warfare threats to the United States and allies.

(2) A clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Defense in providing indications and warning of, and protection against, acts of unconventional warfare.

(3) An analysis of the adequacy of current authorities and command structures necessary for countering unconventional warfare.

(4) An articulation of the goals and objectives of the Department of Defense with respect to countering unconventional warfare threats.

(5) An articulation of related or required interagency capabilities and whole-of-Government activities required by the Department of Defense to support a counter-unconventional warfare strategy.

(6) Recommendations for improving the counter-unconventional warfare capabilities, authorities, and command structures of the Department of Defense.

(7) Recommendations for improving interagency coordination and support mechanisms with respect to countering unconventional warfare threats.

(8) Recommendations for the establishment of joint doctrine to support counter-unconventional warfare capabilities within the Department of Defense.

(9) Any other matters the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(c) **SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees the strategy required by subsection (a). The strategy shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) **UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “unconventional warfare” means activities conducted to enable a resistance movement or insurgency to coerce, disrupt, or overthrow a government or occupying power by operating through or with an underground, auxiliary, or guerrilla force in a denied area.

TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

Sec. 1101. Procedures for reduction in force of Department of Defense civilian personnel.

Sec. 1102. One-year extension of temporary authority to grant allowances, benefits, and gratuities to civilian personnel on official duty in a combat zone.

Sec. 1103. Extension of rate of overtime pay for Department of the Navy employees performing work aboard or dockside in support of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier forward deployed in Japan.

Sec. 1104. Modification to temporary authorities for certain positions at Department of Defense research and engineering facilities.

Sec. 1105. Required probationary period for new employees of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1106. Delay of periodic step increase for civilian employees of the Department of Defense based upon unacceptable performance.

Sec. 1107. United States Cyber Command workforce.

Sec. 1108. One-year extension of authority to waive annual limitation on premium pay and aggregate limitation on pay for Federal civilian employees working overseas.

Sec. 1109. Pilot program on dynamic shaping of the workforce to improve the technical skills and expertise at certain Department of Defense laboratories.

Sec. 1110. Pilot program on temporary exchange of financial management and acquisition personnel.

Sec. 1111. Pilot program on enhanced pay authority for certain acquisition and technology positions in the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1112. Pilot program on direct hire authority for veteran technical experts into the defense acquisition workforce.

Sec. 1113. Direct hire authority for technical experts into the defense acquisition workforce.

SEC. 1101. PROCEDURES FOR REDUCTION IN FORCE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.

(a) **PROCEDURES.**—Section 1597 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) **REDUCTIONS BASED PRIMARILY ON PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish procedures to provide that, in implementing any reduction in force for civilian positions in the Department of Defense in the competitive service or the excepted service, the determination of which employees shall be separated from employment in the Department shall be made primarily on the basis of performance, as determined under any applicable performance management system.”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should proceed with the collaborative work with employee representatives on the “New Beginnings” performance management and workforce incentive system authorized under section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 5 U.S.C. 9902 note) and begin implementation of the new system at the earliest possible date.

SEC. 1102. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO GRANT ALLOWANCES, BENEFITS, AND GRATUITIES TO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ON OFFICIAL DUTY IN A COMBAT ZONE.

Paragraph (2) of section 1603(a) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109-234; 120 Stat. 443), as added by section 1102 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4616) and as most recently amended by section 1102 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3525), is further amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

SEC. 1103. EXTENSION OF RATE OF OVERTIME PAY FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY EMPLOYEES PERFORMING WORK ABOARD OR DOCKSIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER FORWARD DEPLOYED IN JAPAN.

Section 5542(a)(6)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 1104. MODIFICATION TO TEMPORARY AUTHORITIES FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING FACILITIES.

Section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 888) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **NONCOMPETITIVE CONVERSION TO PERMANENT APPOINTMENT.**—With respect to any student appointed by the director of an STRL under paragraph (3) to a temporary or term appointment, upon graduation from the applicable institution of higher education (as defined in such paragraph), the director may noncompetitively convert such student to a permanent appointment within the STRL without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), provided the student meets all eligibility and Office of Personnel Management qualification requirements for the position.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “3 percent” and inserting “6 percent”;

(3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “1 percent” and inserting “3 percent”;

(4) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “1 percent” and inserting “2 percent”.

SEC. 1105. REQUIRED PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR NEW EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **REQUIRED PROBATIONARY PERIOD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 81 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1599e. Probationary period for employees

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 3321 and 3393(d) of title 5, the appointment of a covered employee shall become final only after such employee has served a probationary period of two years. The Secretary concerned may extend a probationary period under this subsection at the discretion of such Secretary.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered employee’ means any individual—

“(A) appointed to a permanent position within the competitive service at the Department of Defense; or

“(B) appointed as a career appointee (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(4) of title 5) within the Senior Executive Service at the Department.

“(2) The term ‘Secretary concerned’ includes the Secretary of Defense with respect to employees of the Department of Defense who are not employees of a military department.

“(c) **EMPLOYMENT BECOMES FINAL.**—Upon the expiration of a covered employee’s probationary period under subsection (a), the supervisor of the employee shall determine whether the appointment becomes final based on regulations prescribed for such purpose by the Secretary of Defense.

“(d) **APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 75 OF TITLE 5 FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE COMPETITIVE SERVICE.**—With respect to any individual described in subsection (b)(1)(A) and to whom this section applies, section 7501(1) and section 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii) of title 5 shall be applied to such individual by substituting ‘completed 2 years’ for ‘completed 1 year’ in each instance it appears.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1599e. Probationary period for employees.”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any covered employee (as that term is defined in section 1599e of title 10, United States Code, as added by such

subsection) appointed after the date of the enactment of this section.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3321(c), by inserting at the end before the period the following: “, or any individual covered by section 1599e of title 10”;

(2) in section 3393(d), by adding at the end the following: “The preceding sentence shall not apply to any individual covered by section 1599e of title 10.”;

(3) in section 7501(1), by striking “or who” and inserting “or, except as provided in section 1599e of title 10, who”;

(4) in section 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), by inserting “except as provided in section 1599e of title 10,” before “who”;

(5) in section 7541(1)(A), by inserting “or section 1599e of title 10” after “this title”.

SEC. 1106. DELAY OF PERIODIC STEP INCREASE FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASED UPON UNACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE.

(a) **DELAY.**—Under procedures established by the Secretary of Defense, upon a determination by the Secretary that the work of an employee is not at an acceptable level of competence, the period of time during which the work of the employee is not at an acceptable level of competence shall not count toward completion of the period of service required for purposes of subsection (a) of section 5335 of title 5, United States Code, or subsection (e)(1) or (e)(2) of section 5343 of such title.

(b) **APPLICABILITY TO PERIODS OF SERVICE.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any period of service performed before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1107. UNITED STATES CYBER COMMAND WORKFORCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 81 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1105, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1599f. United States Cyber Command recruitment and retention

“(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense may—

“(A) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department of Defense as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the United States Cyber Command, including—

“(i) positions held by staff of the headquarters of the United States Cyber Command;

“(ii) positions held by elements of the United States Cyber Command enterprise relating to cyberspace operations, including elements assigned to the Joint Task Force-Department of Defense Information Networks; and

“(iii) positions held by elements of the military departments supporting the United States Cyber Command;

“(B) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

“(C) subject to the requirements of subsections (b) and (c), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

“(2) The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

“(b) **BASIC PAY.**—(1) In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under subsection (a)—

“(A) in relation to the rates of pay provided for employees in comparable positions in the Department, in which the employee occupying the comparable position performs, manages, or su-

pervises functions that execute the cyber mission of the Department; and

“(B) subject to the same limitations on maximum rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

“(2) The Secretary may—

“(A) consistent with section 5341 of title 5, adopt such provisions of that title to provide for prevailing rate systems of basic pay; and

“(B) apply those provisions to qualified positions for employees in or under which the Department may employ individuals described by section 5342(a)(2)(A) of such title.

“(c) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, INCENTIVES, AND ALLOWANCES.**—(1) The Secretary may provide employees in qualified positions compensation (in addition to basic pay), including benefits, incentives, and allowances, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5.

“(2) An employee in a qualified position whose rate of basic pay is fixed under subsection (b)(1) shall be eligible for an allowance under section 5941 of title 5 on the same basis and to the same extent as if the employee was an employee covered by such section, including eligibility conditions, allowance rates, and all other terms and conditions in law or regulation.

“(d) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED.**—The authority granted in subsection (a) shall become effective 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense provides to the congressional defense committees a plan for implementation of such authority. The plan shall include the following:

“(1) An assessment of the current scope of the positions covered by the authority.

“(2) A plan for the use of the authority.

“(3) An assessment of the anticipated workforce needs of the United States Cyber Command across the future-years defense plan.

“(4) Other matters as appropriate.

“(e) **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.**—Nothing in subsection (a) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

“(f) **REQUIRED REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

“(g) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—(1) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Secretary, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report on the administration of this section during the most recent one-year period.

(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

“(A) A discussion of the process used in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans’ preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position.

“(B) A description of the following:

“(i) How the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions.

“(ii) The measures that will be used to measure progress.

“(iii) Any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need.

“(C) A discussion of how the planning and actions taken under subparagraph (B) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department.

“(D) The metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including the following:

“(i) The number of employees in qualified positions hired, disaggregated by occupation, grade, and level or pay band.

“(ii) The placement of employees in qualified positions, disaggregated by military department, Defense Agency, or other component within the Department.

“(iii) The total number of veterans hired.

“(iv) The number of separations of employees in qualified positions, disaggregated by occupation and grade and level or pay band.

“(v) The number of retirements of employees in qualified positions, disaggregated by occupation, grade, and level or pay band.

“(vi) The number and amounts of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions, disaggregated by occupation, grade, and level or pay band.

“(E) A description of the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

“(h) **THREE-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD.**—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be three years.

“(i) **INCUMBENTS OF EXISTING COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.**—(1) An individual occupying a position on the date of the enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

“(2) After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

“(j) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘collective bargaining agreement’ has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(8) of title 5.

“(3) The term ‘excepted service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5.

“(4) The term ‘preference eligible’ has the meaning given that term in section 2108(3) of title 5.

“(5) The term ‘qualified position’ means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, in which the individual occupying such position performs, manages, or supervises functions that execute the responsibilities of the United States Cyber Command relating to cyber operations.

“(6) The term ‘Senior Executive Service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2101a of title 5.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by inserting “or” after the semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

“(iv) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Defense under section 1599f of title 10;”

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1105,

is further amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1599f. United States Cyber Command recruitment and retention.”.

SEC. 1108. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO WAIVE ANNUAL LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY AND AGGREGATE LIMITATION ON PAY FOR FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERSEAS.

Effective January 1, 2016, section 1101(a) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4615), as most recently amended by section 1101 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), is further amended by striking “through 2015” and inserting “through 2016”.

SEC. 1109. PILOT PROGRAM ON DYNAMIC SHAPING OF THE WORKFORCE TO IMPROVE THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND EXPERTISE AT CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LABORATORIES.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a pilot program to utilize the authorities specified in subsection (b) at the Department of Defense laboratories specified in subsection (c) to provide the directors of such laboratories the authority to dynamically shape the mix of technical skills and expertise in the workforces of such laboratories in order to achieve one or more of the following:

(1) To meet organizational and Department-designated missions in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

(2) To upgrade and enhance the scientific quality of the workforces of such laboratories.

(3) To shape such workforces to better respond to such missions.

(4) To reduce the average unit cost of such workforces.

(b) **WORKFORCE SHAPING AUTHORITIES.**—The authorities that shall be available for use by the director of a Department of Defense laboratory under the pilot program are the following:

(1) **FLEXIBLE LENGTH AND RENEWABLE TERM TECHNICAL APPOINTMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, authority otherwise available to the director by law (and within the available budgetary resources of the laboratory) to appoint qualified scientific and technical personnel who are not currently Department of Defense civilian employees into any scientific or technical position in the laboratory for a period of more than one year but not more than six years.

(B) **BENEFITS.**—Personnel appointed under this paragraph shall be provided with benefits comparable to those provided to similar employees at the laboratory concerned, including professional development opportunities, eligibility for all laboratory awards programs, and designation as “status applicants” for the purposes of eligibility for positions in the Federal service.

(C) **EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENTS.**—The appointment of any individual under this paragraph may be extended without limit in up to six year increments at any time during any term of service under such conditions as the director concerned shall establish for purposes of this paragraph.

(D) **CONSTRUCTION WITH CERTAIN LIMITATION.**—For purposes of determining the workforce size of a laboratory in connection with compliance with section 955 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1896; 10 U.S.C. 129a note), any individual serving in an appointment under this paragraph shall be treated as a fractional employee of the laboratory, which fraction is—

(i) the current term of appointment of the individual under this paragraph; divided by

(ii) the average length of tenure of a career employee at the laboratory, as calculated at the end of the last fiscal year ending before the date of the most recent appointment or extension of the individual under this paragraph.

(2) **REEMPLOYMENT OF ANNUITANTS.**—Authorities to authorize the director of any science and technology reinvention laboratory (in this section referred to as “STRL”) to reemploy annuitants in accordance with section 9902(g) of title 5, United States Code, except that as a condition for reemployment the director may authorize the deduction from the pay of any annuitant so reemployed of an amount up to the amount of the annuity otherwise payable to such annuitant allocable to the period of actual employment of such annuitant, which amount shall be determined in a manner specified by the director for purposes of this paragraph to ensure the most cost effective execution of designated missions by the laboratory while retaining critical technical skills.

(3) **EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVES.**—Authorities to authorize the director of any STRL to authorize voluntary early retirement of employees in accordance with section 8336 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to section 8336(d)(2)(D) or 3522 of such title, and with employees so separated voluntarily from service.

(4) **SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAY.**—Authorities to authorize the director of any STRL to pay voluntary separation pay to employees in accordance with section 8414(b)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, without regard to clause (iv) or (v) of such section or section 3522 of such title, and with—

(A) employees so separated voluntarily from service under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of the pilot program; and

(B) payments to employees so separated authorized under section 3523 of such title without regard to—

(i) the plan otherwise required by section 3522 of such title; and

(ii) paragraph (1) or (3) of section 3523(b) of such title.

(c) **LABORATORIES.**—The Department of Defense laboratories specified in this subsection are the laboratories specified in section 1105(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2486; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

(d) **EXPIRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority in this section shall expire on December 31, 2023.

(2) **CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITIES EXERCISED BEFORE TERMINATION.**—The expiration in paragraph (1) shall not be construed to effect the continuation after the date specified in paragraph (1) of any term of employment or other benefit authorized under this section before that date in accordance with the terms of such authorization.

SEC. 1110. PILOT PROGRAM ON TEMPORARY EXCHANGE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION PERSONNEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of the temporary assignment of covered employees of the Department of Defense to nontraditional defense contractors and of covered employees of such contractors to the Department.

(b) **COVERED EMPLOYEES; NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.**—

(1) **COVERED EMPLOYEES.**—An employee of the Department of Defense or a nontraditional Defense contractor is a covered employee for purposes of this section if the employee—

(A) works in the field of financial management or in the acquisition field;

(B) is considered by the Secretary of Defense to be an exceptional employee; and

(C) is compensated at not less than the GS-11 level (or the equivalent).

(2) **NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.**—For purposes of this section, the term “nontraditional defense contractor” has the meaning given that term in section 2302(9) of title 10, United States Code.

(c) **AGREEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for a written agreement among the Department of Defense, the nontraditional defense contractor concerned, and the employee concerned regarding the terms and conditions of the employee’s assignment under this section.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—An agreement under this subsection—

(A) shall require, in the case of an employee of the Department, that upon completion of the assignment, the employee will serve in the civil service for a period at least equal to three times the length of the assignment, unless the employee is sooner involuntarily separated from the service of the employee’s agency; and

(B) shall provide that if the employee of the Department or of the contractor (as the case may be) fails to carry out the agreement, or if the employee is voluntarily separated from the service of the employee’s agency before the end of the period stated in the agreement, the employee shall be liable to the United States for payment of all expenses of the assignment unless that failure or voluntary separation was for good and sufficient reason, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) **DEBT TO THE UNITED STATES.**—An amount for which an employee is liable under paragraph (2)(B) shall be treated as a debt due the United States. The Secretary may waive, in whole or in part, collection of such a debt based on a determination that the collection would be against equity and good conscience and not in the best interests of the United States.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—An assignment under this section may, at any time and for any reason, be terminated by the Department of Defense or the nontraditional defense contractor concerned.

(e) **DURATION.**—An assignment under this section shall be for a period of not less than three months and not more than one year.

(f) **STATUS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO CONTRACTORS.**—An employee of the Department of Defense who is assigned to a nontraditional defense contractor under this section shall be considered, during the period of assignment, to be on detail to a regular work assignment in the Department for all purposes. The written agreement established under subsection (c) shall address the specific terms and conditions related to the employee’s continued status as a Federal employee.

(g) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES.**—An employee of a nontraditional defense contractor who is assigned to a Department of Defense organization under this section—

(1) shall continue to receive pay and benefits from the contractor from which such employee is assigned;

(2) shall be deemed to be an employee of the Department of Defense for the purposes of—

(A) chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) sections 201, 203, 205, 207, 208, 209, 603, 606, 607, 643, 654, 1905, and 1913 of title 18, United States Code, and any other conflict of interest statute;

(C) sections 1343, 1344, and 1349(b) of title 31, United States Code;

(D) chapter 171 and section 1346(b) of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act), and any other Federal tort liability statute;

(E) the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 101 et seq.);

(F) chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code; and

(G) subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for work-related injuries; and

(3) may not have access, while the employee is assigned to a Department organization, to any trade secrets or to any other nonpublic information which is of commercial value to the contractor from which such employee is assigned.

(h) **PROHIBITION AGAINST CHARGING CERTAIN COSTS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—A nontraditional defense contractor may not charge the Department of Defense or any other agency of the Federal Government, as direct or indirect costs under a Federal contract, the costs of pay or benefits paid by the contractor to an employee assigned to a Department organization under this section for the period of the assignment.

(i) **CONSIDERATION.**—In providing for assignments of employees under this section, the Secretary of Defense shall take into consideration the question of how assignments might best be used to help meet the needs of the Department of Defense with respect to the training of employees in financial management or in acquisition.

(j) **NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.**—The number of employees of the Department of Defense who may be assigned to nontraditional defense contractors under this section at any given time may not exceed the following:

(A) Five employees in the field of financial management.

(B) Five employees in the acquisition field.

(2) **NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.**—The total number of nontraditional defense contractor employees who may be assigned to the Department under this section at any given time may not exceed 10 such employees.

(k) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNMENTS.**—No assignment of an employee may commence under this section after September 30, 2019.

SEC. 1111. PILOT PROGRAM ON ENHANCED PAY AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using the pay authority specified in subsection (d) to fix the rate of basic pay for positions described in subsection (c) in order to assist the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military departments in attracting and retaining high-quality acquisition and technology experts in positions responsible for managing and developing complex, high-cost, technological acquisition efforts of the Department of Defense.

(b) **APPROVAL REQUIRED.**—The pilot program may be carried out only with approval as follows:

(1) Approval of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, in the case of positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

(2) Approval of the Service Acquisition Executive of the military department concerned, in the case of positions in a military department.

(c) **POSITIONS.**—The positions described in this subsection are positions that—

(1) require expertise of an extremely high level in a scientific, technical, professional, or acquisition management field; and

(2) are critical to the successful accomplishment of an important acquisition or technology development mission.

(d) **RATE OF BASIC PAY.**—The pay authority specified in this subsection is authority as follows:

(1) Authority to fix the rate of basic pay for a position at a rate not to exceed 150 percent of the rate of basic pay payable for level I of the

Executive Schedule, upon the approval of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics or the Service Acquisition Executive concerned, as applicable.

(2) Authority to fix the rate of basic pay for a position at a rate in excess of 150 percent of the rate of basic pay payable for level I of the Executive Schedule, upon the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority in subsection (a) may be used only to the extent necessary to competitively recruit or retain individuals exceptionally well qualified for positions described in subsection (c).

(2) **NUMBER OF POSITIONS.**—The authority in subsection (a) may not be used with respect to more than five positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and more than five positions in each military department at any one time.

(3) **TERM OF POSITIONS.**—The authority in subsection (a) may be used only for positions having terms less than five years.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority to fix rates of basic pay for a position under this section shall terminate on October 1, 2020.

(2) **CONTINUATION OF PAY.**—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to prohibit the payment after October 1, 2020, of basic pay at rates fixed under this section before that date for positions whose terms continue after that date.

SEC. 1112. PILOT PROGRAM ON DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR VETERAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS INTO THE DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of appointing qualified veteran candidates to positions described in subsection (b) in the defense acquisition workforce of the military departments without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code. The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in each military department through the service acquisition executive of such military department.

(b) **POSITIONS.**—The positions described in this subsection are scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics positions, including technicians, within the defense acquisition workforce.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—Authority under subsection (a) may not, in any calendar year and with respect to any military department, be exercised with respect to a number of candidates greater than the number equal to 1 percent of the total number of positions in the acquisition workforce of that military department that are filled as of the close of the fiscal year last ending before the start of such calendar year.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “employee” has the meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority to appoint candidates to positions under the pilot program shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **EFFECT ON EXISTING APPOINTMENTS.**—The termination by paragraph (1) of the authority in subsection (a) shall not affect any appointment made under that authority before the termination date specified in paragraph (1) in accordance with the terms of such appointment.

SEC. 1113. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS INTO THE DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Each Secretary of a military department may appoint qualified candidates possessing a scientific or engineering degree to

positions described in subsection (b) for that military department without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—Positions described in this subsection are scientific and engineering positions within the defense acquisition workforce.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—Authority under this section may not, in any calendar year and with respect to any military department, be exercised with respect to a number of candidates greater than the number equal to 5 percent of the total number of scientific and engineering positions within the acquisition workforce of that military department that are filled as of the close of the fiscal year last ending before the start of such calendar year.

(d) **NATURE OF APPOINTMENT.**—Any appointment under this section shall be treated as an appointment on a full-time equivalent basis, unless such appointment is made on a term or temporary basis.

(e) **EMPLOYEE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “employee” has the meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to make appointments under this section shall not be available after December 31, 2020.

TITLE XII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

Subtitle A—Assistance and Training

- Sec. 1201. One-year extension of logistical support for coalition forces supporting certain United States military operations.
- Sec. 1202. Strategic framework for Department of Defense security cooperation.
- Sec. 1203. Redesignation, modification, and extension of National Guard State Partnership Program.
- Sec. 1204. Extension of authority for non-reciprocal exchanges of defense personnel between the United States and foreign countries.
- Sec. 1205. Monitoring and evaluation of overseas humanitarian, disaster, and civic aid programs of the Department of Defense.
- Sec. 1206. One-year extension of funding limitations for authority to build the capacity of foreign security forces.
- Sec. 1207. Authority to provide support to national military forces of allied countries for counterterrorism operations in Africa.
- Sec. 1208. Reports on training of foreign military intelligence units provided by the Department of Defense.
- Sec. 1209. Prohibition on security assistance to entities in Yemen controlled by the Houthi movement.

Subtitle B—Matters Relating to Afghanistan and Pakistan

- Sec. 1211. Extension and modification of Commanders’ Emergency Response Program.
- Sec. 1212. Extension and modification of authority for reimbursement of certain coalition nations for support provided to United States military operations.
- Sec. 1213. Additional matter in semiannual report on enhancing security and stability in Afghanistan.
- Sec. 1214. Extension of authority to acquire products and services produced in countries along a major route of supply to Afghanistan.
- Sec. 1215. Extension of authority to transfer defense articles and provide defense services to the military and security forces of Afghanistan.

Sec. 1216. Modification of protection for Afghan allies.

Subtitle C—Matters Relating to Syria and Iraq

- Sec. 1221. Extension of authority to support operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq.
- Sec. 1222. Strategy for the Middle East and to counter violent extremism.
- Sec. 1223. Modification of authority to provide assistance to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.
- Sec. 1224. Reports on United States Armed Forces deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.
- Sec. 1225. Matters relating to support for the vetted Syrian opposition.
- Sec. 1226. Support to the Government of Jordan and the Government of Lebanon for border security operations.
- Sec. 1227. Sense of Congress on the security and protection of Iranian dissidents living in Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Subtitle D—Matters Relating to Iran

- Sec. 1231. Modification and extension of annual report on the military power of Iran.
- Sec. 1232. Sense of Congress on the Government of Iran’s malign activities.
- Sec. 1233. Report on military-to-military engagements with Iran.
- Sec. 1234. Security guarantees to countries in the Middle East.
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Subtitle E—Matters Relating to the Russian Federation

- Sec. 1241. Notifications relating to testing, production, deployment, and sale or transfer to other states or non-state actors of the Club-K cruise missile system by the Russian Federation.
 - Sec. 1242. Notifications of deployment of nuclear weapons by Russian Federation to territory of Ukrainian Republic or Russian territory of Kaliningrad.
 - Sec. 1243. Measures in response to non-compliance by the Russian Federation with its obligations under the INF Treaty.
 - Sec. 1244. Modification of notification and assessment of proposal to modify or introduce new aircraft or sensors for flight by the Russian Federation under the Open Skies Treaty.
 - Sec. 1245. Prohibition on availability of funds relating to sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea.
 - Sec. 1246. Limitation on military cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation.
 - Sec. 1247. Report on implementation of the New START Treaty.
 - Sec. 1248. Additional matters in annual report on military and security developments involving the Russian Federation.
 - Sec. 1249. Report on alternative capabilities to procure and sustain nonstandard rotary wing aircraft historically procured through Rosoboronexport.
 - Sec. 1250. Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.
 - Sec. 1251. Training for Eastern European national military forces in the course of multilateral exercises.
- ### **Subtitle F—Matters Relating to the Asia-Pacific Region**
- Sec. 1261. Strategy to promote United States interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Sec. 1262. Requirement to submit Department of Defense policy regarding foreign disclosure or technology release of Aegis Ashore capability to Japan.

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Subtitle G—Other Matters

- Sec. 1271. Two-year extension and modification of authorization for non-conventional assisted recovery capabilities.
- Sec. 1272. Amendment to the annual report under Arms Control and Disarmament Act.
- Sec. 1273. Extension of authorization to conduct activities to enhance the capability of foreign countries to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.
- Sec. 1274. Modification of authority for support of special operations to combat terrorism.
- Sec. 1275. Limitation on availability of funds to implement the Arms Trade Treaty.
- Sec. 1276. Report on the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus.
- Sec. 1277. Sense of Congress on European defense and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- Sec. 1278. Briefing on the sale of certain fighter aircraft to Qatar.
- Sec. 1279. United States-Israel anti-tunnel cooperation.
- Sec. 1280. NATO Special Operations Headquarters.
- Sec. 1281. Increased presence of United States ground forces in Eastern Europe to deter aggression on the border of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Subtitle A—Assistance and Training

SEC. 1201. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR COALITION FORCES SUPPORTING CERTAIN UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Section 1234 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 394), as most recently amended by section 1223(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3548), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “during the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on December 31, 2015” and inserting “during the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2016”; and

(3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 1202. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION.

(a) **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall develop and issue to the Department of Defense a strategic framework for Department of Defense security cooperation to guide prioritization of resources and activities.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategic framework required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Discussion of the strategic goals of Department of Defense security cooperation programs, overall and by combatant command, and the extent to which these programs—

(i) support broader strategic priorities of the Department of Defense; and

(ii) complement and are coordinated with Department of State security assistance programs to achieve United States Government goals globally, regionally, and, if appropriate, within specific programs.

(B) Identification of the primary objectives, priorities, and desired end-states of Department of Defense security cooperation programs.

(C) Identification of challenges to achieving the primary objectives, priorities, and desired end-states identified under subparagraph (B), including—

(i) constraints on Department of Defense resources, authorities, and personnel;

(ii) partner nation variables and conditions, such as political will, absorptive capacity, corruption, and instability risk, that impact the likelihood of a security cooperation program achieving its primary objectives, priorities, and desired end-states;

(iii) constraints or limitations due to bureaucratic impediments, interagency processes, or congressional requirements;

(iv) validation of requirements; and

(v) assessment, monitoring, and evaluation.

(D) A methodology for assessing the effectiveness of Department of Defense security cooperation programs in making progress toward achieving the primary objectives, priorities, and desired end-states identified under subparagraph (B), including an identification of key benchmarks for such progress.

(E) Any other matters the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(3) **FREQUENCY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall, at a minimum, update the strategic framework required by paragraph (1) on a biennial basis and shall update or supplement the strategic framework as appropriate to address emerging priorities.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a biennial basis thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the strategic framework required by subsection (a).

(2) **FORM.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(3) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(c) **SUNSET.**—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1203. REDESIGNATION, MODIFICATION, AND EXTENSION OF NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—The heading of section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 897; 32 U.S.C. 107 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1205. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.”

(b) **SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (a) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “a program of exchanges” and all that follows and inserting “a program of activities described in paragraph (2), to support the security cooperation objectives of the United States, between members of the National Guard of a State or territory and any of the following:

“(A) The military forces of a foreign country.

“(B) The security forces of a foreign country.

“(C) Governmental organizations of a foreign country whose primary functions include disaster response or emergency response.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) **STATE PARTNERSHIP.**—Each program established under this subsection shall be known as a ‘State Partnership.’”.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking “activity under a program” and all that follows through “State or territory,” and inserting “activity with forces referred to in subsection (a)(1)(B) or organizations described in subsection (a)(1)(C) under a program established under subsection (a)”.

(d) **COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (g) as subsections (d) through (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) **COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.**—The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall designate a director for each State and territory to be responsible for the coordination of activities under a program established under subsection (a) for such State or territory and reporting on activities under the program.”.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Paragraph (2)(B) of subsection (f) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (d)(1) of this section, is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by inserting “or other government organizations” after “and security forces”;

(2) in clause (iv), by adding before the period at the end the following: “and country”;

(3) in clause (v), by striking “training” and inserting “activities”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) An assessment of the extent to which the activities conducted during the previous year met the objectives described in clause (v).”.

(f) **STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUND.**—

(1) **ASSESSMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a joint assessment of the feasibility and advisability of establishing a central fund to manage funds for programs and activities under the Department of Defense State Partnership Program under section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, as amended by this section.

(2) **RECOMMENDATION FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION.**—If the report under paragraph (1) concludes that the establishment of a fund as described in that paragraph is feasible and advisable, the Secretary of Defense shall include with the materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the President for fiscal year 2017 pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a recommendation for such legislation as the Secretary considers appropriate to establish the fund.

(g) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Paragraph (2)(A) of subsection (f) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (d)(1) of this section, is amended—

(1) by striking “a program” and inserting “each program”; and

(2) by striking “the program” and inserting “such program”.

(h) **RECIPIENTS OF REPORTS AND NOTIFICATIONS.**—Paragraph (1) of subsection (h) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (d)(1) of this section, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following new subparagraphs (A) and (B):

“(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.”.

(i) **FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION.**—Subsection (i) of such section is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2021”.

SEC. 1204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR NON-RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Section 1207(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2514; 10 U.S.C. 168 note), as amended by section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1980), is further amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2021”.

SEC. 1205. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act for Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to use up to 5 percent of such amounts to conduct monitoring and evaluation of programs that are funded using such amounts during fiscal year 2016.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on mechanisms to evaluate the programs conducted pursuant to the authorities listed in subsection (a).

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1206. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF FUNDING LIMITATIONS FOR AUTHORITY TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES.

Section 1205(d) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3536) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “for fiscal year 2015” and all that follows through “section 4301” and inserting “for fiscal year 2015 or 2016 for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance”; and

(B) by inserting “, in such fiscal year” before the period; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “for fiscal year 2015” and inserting “for a fiscal year specified in that paragraph”.

SEC. 1207. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL MILITARY FORCES OF ALLIED COUNTRIES FOR COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS IN AFRICA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide, on a nonreimbursable basis, logistic support, supplies, and services to the national military forces of an allied country conducting counterterrorism operations in Africa if the Secretary of Defense determines that the provision of such logistic support, supplies, and services, on a nonreimbursable basis, is—

(1) in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) critical to the timely and effective participation of such national military forces in such operations.

(b) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS ON SUPPORT PROVIDED.**—Not later than 15 days after providing logistic support, supplies, or services under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notice setting forth the following:

(1) The determination of the Secretary specified in subsection (a).

(2) The type of logistic support, supplies, or services provided.

(3) The national military forces supported.

(4) The purpose of the operations for which such support was provided, and the objectives of such support.

(5) The estimated cost of such support.

(6) The intended duration of such support.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may not use the authority in subsection (a) to provide any type of support that is otherwise prohibited by any other provision of law.

(2) AMOUNT.—The aggregate amount of logistic support, supplies, and services provided under subsection (a) in any fiscal year may not exceed \$100,000,000.

(d) REPORTS.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six months thereafter through the expiration date in subsection (f) of the authority provided by this section, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a description of the use of the authority provided by this section during the six-month period ending on the date of such report. Each report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the extent to which the support provided under this section during the period covered by such report facilitated the national military forces of allied countries so supported in conducting counterterrorism operations in Africa.

(2) A description of any efforts by countries that received such support to address, as practicable, the requirements of their forces for logistics support, supplies, or services for conducting counterterrorism operations in Africa, including under acquisition and cross-servicing agreements.

(e) LOGISTIC SUPPORT, SUPPLIES, AND SERVICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “logistic support, supplies, and services” has the meaning given that term in section 2350(1) of title 10, United States Code.

(f) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this section may not be exercised after September 30, 2018.

SEC. 1208. REPORTS ON TRAINING OF FOREIGN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNITS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after each calendar half-year beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending with the second calendar half-year of 2017, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence shall submit to the Committees of Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the following:

(1) All the training of foreign military intelligence units provided by the Department during the calendar half-year covered by such report.

(2) The authority or authorities under which the training described in paragraph (1) was provided.

(b) FORM.—Each report under subsection (a) should be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 1209. PROHIBITION ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ENTITIES IN YEMEN CONTROLLED BY THE HOUTHI MOVEMENT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense by this Act may be used to provide security assistance to an entity in Yemen that is controlled by members of the Houthi movement.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of Defense determines, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, that the provision of security assistance as described in that subsection is important to the national security interests of the United States.

(2) NOTICE AND WAIT.—If security assistance as described in subsection (a) is provided pursu-

ant to an exception under paragraph (1), not later than 15 days before such assistance is so provided, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a notice on the provision of such assistance, together with an assessment by the Director of National Intelligence on whether any entity controlled by members of the Houthi movement to be provided such assistance is also receiving direct assistance from the Government of Iran.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle B—Matters Relating to Afghanistan and Pakistan

SEC. 1211. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF COMMANDERS' EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.

(a) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION.—Section 1201 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1619), as most recently amended by section 1221 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3546), is further amended by striking “fiscal year 2015” in subsections (a), (b), and (f) and inserting “fiscal year 2016”.

(b) RESTRICTION ON AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—Subsection (e) of such section 1201, as so amended, is further amended by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

(c) SUBMITTAL OF REVISED GUIDANCE.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a copy of the guidance issued by the Secretary to the Armed Forces concerning the Commanders' Emergency Response Program in Afghanistan as revised to take into account the amendments made by this section.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PAYMENTS TO REDRESS INJURY AND LOSS IN IRAQ.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year 2016, amounts available pursuant to section 1201 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, as amended by this section, shall also be available for ex gratia payments for damage, personal injury, or death that is incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) NOTICE AND WAIT.—The authority in this subsection may not be used until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(A) The amount that will be used for payments pursuant to this subsection.

(B) The manner in which claims for payments shall be verified.

(C) The officers or officials who shall be authorized to approve claims for payments.

(D) The manner in which payments shall be made.

(3) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE.—The total amount of payments made pursuant to this subsection in fiscal year 2016 may not exceed \$5,000,000.

(4) AUTHORITIES APPLICABLE TO PAYMENT.—Any payment made pursuant to this subsection shall be made in accordance with the authorities and limitations in section 8121 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113–235), other than subsection (h) of such section.

(5) CONSTRUCTION WITH RESTRICTION ON AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of the ap-

plication of subsection (e) of such section 1201, as so amended, to any payment pursuant to this subsection, such payment shall be deemed to be a project described by such subsection (e).

SEC. 1212. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN COALITION NATIONS FOR SUPPORT PROVIDED TO UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATIONS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (a) of section 1233 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 393), as most recently amended by section 1222 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3547), is further amended by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”.

(b) LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section, as so amended, is further amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by striking “during fiscal year 2015 may not exceed \$1,200,000,000” and inserting “during fiscal year 2016 may not exceed \$1,260,000,000”; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “during fiscal year 2015 may not exceed \$1,000,000,000” and inserting “during fiscal year 2016 may not exceed \$900,000,000”.

(c) EXTENSION OF NOTICE REQUIREMENT RELATING TO REIMBURSEMENT OF PAKISTAN FOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY PAKISTAN.—Section 1232(b)(6) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (122 Stat. 393), as most recently amended by section 1222(d) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (128 Stat. 3548), is further amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

(d) EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT OF PAKISTAN PENDING CERTIFICATION ON PAKISTAN.—Section 1227(d)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2001), as most recently amended by section 1222(e) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (128 Stat. 3548), is further amended by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”.

(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT OF PAKISTAN PENDING CERTIFICATION ON PAKISTAN.—Of the total amount of reimbursements and support authorized for Pakistan during fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the third sentence of section 1233(d)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (as amended by subsection (b)(2)), \$350,000,000 shall not be eligible for the waiver under section 1227(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (126 Stat. 2001) unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that—

(1) Pakistan continues to conduct military operations in North Waziristan that are contributing to significantly disrupting the safe haven and freedom of movement of the Haqqani Network in Pakistan;

(2) Pakistan has taken steps to demonstrate its commitment to prevent the Haqqani Network from using North Waziristan as a safe haven; and

(3) the Government of Pakistan actively coordinates with the Government of Afghanistan to restrict the movement of militants, such as the Haqqani Network, along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

(f) AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR STABILITY ACTIVITIES IN FATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the total amount of reimbursements and support authorized for Pakistan during fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the third sentence of section 1233(d)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (as so amended), of the total

amount of funds made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for overseas contingency operations for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide activities, \$100,000,000 may be available for stability activities undertaken by Pakistan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), including the provision of funds to the Pakistan military and the Pakistan Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for activities undertaken in support of the following:

(A) Building and maintaining border outposts.
(B) Strengthening cooperative efforts between the Pakistan military and the Afghan National Defense Security Forces in activities that include—

(i) bilateral meetings to enhance border security coordination;

(ii) sustaining critical infrastructure within the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, such as maintaining key ground lines of communication;

(iii) increasing training for the Pakistan Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and

(iv) training to improve interoperability between the Pakistan military and the Pakistan Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

(2) LIMITATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds available under paragraph (1) may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that the conditions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 1227(d)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (126 Stat. 2001), as amended by subsection (d), have been met.

(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees in writing that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States and includes with such certification a justification for the waiver.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the expenditure of funds available under paragraph (1), including a description of the following:

(A) The purpose for which such funds were expended.

(B) Each organization on whose behalf such funds were expended, including the amount expended on such organization and the number of members of such organization trained with such amount.

(C) Any limitation imposed on the expenditure of funds under that paragraph, including on any recipient of funds or any use of funds expended.

(4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given that term in section 1233(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SEC. 1213. ADDITIONAL MATTER IN SEMIANNUAL REPORT ON ENHANCING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.

Section 1225(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3550) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) ASSESSMENT OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DRAWDOWN OF UNITED STATES FORCES.—An assessment of the risks to the mission in Afghanistan associated with any drawdown of United States forces that occurred during the period covered by such report.”.

SEC. 1214. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PRODUCED IN COUNTRIES ALONG A MAJOR ROUTE OF SUPPLY TO AFGHANISTAN.

Section 801(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2399), as most recently amended by section 832(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 814), is further amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 1215. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER DEFENSE ARTICLES AND PROVIDE DEFENSE SERVICES TO THE MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES OF AFGHANISTAN.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (h) of section 1222 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1992), as amended by section 1231 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3556), is further amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Subsection (f)(1) of such section, as so amended, is further amended by striking “March 31, 2016” and inserting “March 31, 2017”.

(c) EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—Subsection (i)(2) of such section, as so amended, is further amended by striking “and 2015” each place it appears and inserting “, 2015, and 2016”.

SEC. 1216. MODIFICATION OF PROTECTION FOR AFGHAN ALLIES.

(a) COVERED AFGHANS.—

(1) TERM OF EMPLOYMENT.—Clause (ii) of section 602(b)(2)(A) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by striking “year—” and inserting “year, or, if submitting a petition after September 30, 2015, for a period of not less than 2 years—”.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) SUCCESSOR NAME FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE.—Subclause (II) of section 602(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(i) in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking “Force” and inserting “Force (or any successor name for such Force)”;

(ii) in item (aa), by striking “Force,” and inserting “Force (or any successor name for such Force),”; and

(iii) in item (bb), by striking “Force;” and inserting “Force (or any successor name for such Force);”.

(B) SHORT TITLE.—Section 601 of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 is amended by striking “This Act” and inserting “This title”.

(C) EXECUTIVE AGENCY REFERENCE.—Section 602(c)(4) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 is amended by striking “section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403)” and inserting “section 133 of title 41, United States Code”.

(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Subparagraph (F) of section 602(b)(3) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “2015 AND 2016” and inserting “2015, 2016, AND 2017”;

(2) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) by striking “and ending on September 30, 2016”, and inserting “until such time that available special immigrant visas under subparagraphs (D) and (E) and this subparagraph are exhausted,” and

(B) by striking “4,000.” and inserting “7,000.”;

(3) in clause (i), by striking “September 30, 2015;” and inserting “December 31, 2016;”;

(4) in clause (ii), by striking “December 31, 2015;” and inserting “December 31, 2016;”;

(5) in clause (iii), by striking “March 31, 2017.” and inserting “the date such visas are exhausted.”.

(c) REPORTS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(15) REPORTS INFORMING THE CONCLUSION OF THE AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM.—Not later than June 1, 2016, and every six months thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

“(A) a description of the United States force presence in Afghanistan during the previous 6 months;

“(B) a description of the projected United States force presence in Afghanistan;

“(C) the number of citizens or nationals of Afghanistan who were employed by or on behalf of the entities described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) during the previous 6 months; and

“(D) the projected number of such citizens or nationals who will be employed by or on behalf of such entities.

“(16) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the necessity of providing special immigrant status under this subsection should be assessed at regular intervals by the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, taking into account the scope of the current and planned presence of United States troops in Afghanistan, the current and prospective numbers of citizens and nationals of Afghanistan employed by or on behalf of the entities described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), and the security climate in Afghanistan.”.

Subtitle C—Matters Relating to Syria and Iraq

SEC. 1221. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF SECURITY COOPERATION IN IRAQ.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (f)(1) of section 1215 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”.

(b) AMOUNT AVAILABLE.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “fiscal year 2015” and all that follows and inserting “fiscal year 2016 may not exceed \$80,000,000.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”.

(c) SUPERSEDING REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(g) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2015, and every 180 days thereafter until the authority in this section expires, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of State, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

“(A) A current description of capability gaps in the security forces of Iraq, including capability gaps relating to intelligence matters, protection of Iraq airspace, and logistics and maintenance, and a current description of the extent, if any, to which the Government of Iraq has requested assistance in addressing such capability gaps.

“(B) A current description of the activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq and the extent, if any, to which the programs conducted by the Office in conjunction with other

United States programs (such as the Foreign Military Financing program, the Foreign Military Sales program, and the assistance provided pursuant to section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291)) will address the capability gaps described pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(C) A current description of how the activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq are coordinated with, and complement and enhance, the assistance provided pursuant to section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

“(D) A current description of end use monitoring programs, and any other programs or procedures, used to improve accountability for equipment provided to the Government of Iraq.

“(E) A current description of the measures of effectiveness used to evaluate the activities of the Office of the Security Cooperation in Iraq, and an analysis of any determinations to expand, alter, or terminate specific activities of the Office based on such evaluations.

“(F) A current evaluation of the effectiveness of the training described in subsection (f)(2) in promoting respect for human rights, military professionalism, and respect for legitimate civilian authority in Iraq.

“(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.”.

SEC. 1222. STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than February 15, 2016, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy for the Middle East and to counter violent extremism.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the objectives and end state for the United States in the Middle East and with respect to violent extremism.

(2) A description of the roles and responsibilities of the Department of State in the strategy.

(3) A description of the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Defense in the strategy.

(4) A description of actions to prevent the weakening and failing of states in the Middle East.

(5) A description of actions to counter violent extremism.

(6) A description of the resources required by the Department of Defense to counter ISIL's illicit oil revenues.

(7) A list of the state and non-state actors that must be engaged to counter violent extremism.

(8) A description of the coalition required to carry out the strategy, and the expected lines of effort of such a coalition.

(9) An assessment of United States efforts to disrupt and prevent foreign fighters traveling to Syria and Iraq and to disrupt and prevent foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq traveling to the United States.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In the section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1223. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses an acute threat to the people and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Iraqi Sunni communities, and Iraq's religious and ethnic minorities, and to the security and stability of the Middle East and beyond the region;

(2) defeating ISIL is critical to maintaining a unified Iraq in which all faiths, sects, and ethnicities are afforded equal protection and full integration into the Government and society of Iraq; and

(3) the United States should, in coordination with coalition partners, provide, in an expeditious and responsive manner and without undue delay, the military and other security forces of or associated with the Government of Iraq, including Kurdish and tribal security forces and other local security forces, with a national security mission, with defense articles, defense services, and related training to more effectively partner with the United States and other international coalition members to defeat ISIL.

(b) QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3559) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “30 days” and inserting “90 days”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) A list of the forces or elements of forces that are restricted from receiving assistance under subsection (a), other than the forces or elements of forces with respect to which the Secretary of Defense has exercised the waiver authority under subsection (j), as a result of vetting required by subsection (e) or section 2249e of title 10, United States Code, and a detailed description of the reasons for such restriction, including for each force or element, as applicable, the following:

“(A) Information relating to gross violation of human rights committed by such force or element, including the time-frame of the alleged violation.

“(B) The source of the information described in subparagraph (A) and an assessment of the veracity of the information.

“(C) The association of such force or element with terrorist groups or groups associated with the Government of Iran.

“(D) The amount and type of any assistance provided to such force or element by the Government of Iran.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to reports required to be submitted pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as so amended, on or after such date of enactment.

(c) FUNDING.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 for Overseas Contingency Operations in title XV for fiscal year 2016, there are authorized to be appropriated \$715,000,000 to carry out this section.”.

(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Subsection (j) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking by striking “Sections 40 and 40A” and inserting “Section 40A”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ADDITIONAL WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the provision of assistance described in subsection (1)(2), the Secretary of Defense may waive any provision of law described in clause (ii) if the Secretary satisfies the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to such waiver.

“(ii) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law described in this clause are the following:

“(I) Any provision of law described in subparagraph (B).

“(II) Any eligibility requirement under section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753).

“(III) Any eligibility requirement under chapter 2 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.);” and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “For purposes” and all that follows through “described in paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “The President may waive any provision of law other than a provision of law described in paragraph (1)(B) for purposes of the provision of assistance pursuant to subsection (a) and any provision of law other than a provision of law described in subsection (1)(C) for purposes of the provision of assistance described in subsection (1)(2)”.

(e) ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORITY TO ASSIST DIRECTLY CERTAIN COVERED GROUPS.—Such section, as so amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORITY TO ASSIST DIRECTLY CERTAIN COVERED GROUPS.—

“(I) ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of the extent to which the Government of Iraq is increasing political inclusiveness, addressing the grievances of ethnic and sectarian minorities, and enhancing minority integration in the political and military structures in Iraq.

“(B) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN MAKING ASSESSMENT.—In making the assessment described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall consider the following factors:

“(i) The extent to which the Government of Iraq is taking steps to reduce support among the Iraqi people for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and improve stability in Iraq.

“(ii) The progress of efforts to enact legislation establishing the Iraqi National Guard, particularly in predominantly Sunni regions.

“(iii) The extent to which the Government of Iraq is expanding the representation of minorities in adequate numbers in government security organizations and providing for the training and equipping of such forces.

“(iv) Whether the Government of Iraq is ending support for Shia militias under the command and control of, or associated with, the Government of Iran, and stopping abuses of elements of the Iraqi population by such militias.

“(v) Whether the Government of Iraq is ensuring that supplies, equipment, and weaponry supplied by the United States are appropriately distributed to security forces with a national security mission in Iraq, including the Kurdish Peshmerga, Sunni tribal security forces and local security forces with a national security mission, and, once established, the Iraqi Sunni National Guard.

“(vi) Whether the Government of Iraq is addressing grievances regarding the arrest and detention without trial of ethnic and sectarian minorities or is taking steps to prosecute such individuals that are detained in a fair, transparent, and prompt manner.

“(vii) Such other factors as the Secretaries consider appropriate.

“(C) UPDATE.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an update of the assessment required under subparagraph (A) not later than 180 days after the date on which the assessment is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees under subparagraph (A).

“(D) SUBMISSION.—The assessment required under subparagraph (A) and the update of the assessment authorized under subparagraph (C) may be submitted as part of the quarterly report required under subsection (d).

“(2) ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO CERTAIN COVERED GROUPS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the President, taking into account the results of the assessment required under paragraph (1)(A) or the update required under paragraph (1)(C), determines and notifies the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iraq has failed to take substantial action to increase political inclusiveness, address the grievances of ethnic and sectarian minorities, and enhance minority integration in the political and military structures in Iraq, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide, in coordination to the extent practicable with the Government of Iraq, assistance under the authority of subsection (a) directly to the groups described in subparagraph (D) for the purpose of supporting international coalition efforts against ISIL.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense may—

“(i) re-allocate the amount of assistance authorized under subsection (a) to increase the share of such assistance provided to the groups described in subparagraph (D); and

“(ii) exercise the waiver authority provided in subsection (j)(1)(C) with respect to providing assistance to the groups described in subparagraph (D).

“(C) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT INAPPLICABLE.—The cost-sharing requirement of subsection (k) shall not apply with respect to funds that are obligated or expended under this subsection for assistance provided directly to the groups described in subparagraph (D).

“(D) COVERED GROUPS.—The groups described in this subparagraph are—

“(i) the Kurdish Peshmerga; and

“(ii) Sunni tribal security forces, or other local security forces, with a national security mission.”.

(f) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE AND REPORT ON EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES TRANSFERRED TO OR ACQUIRED BY VIOLENT EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Assistance authorized under section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3558), as so amended, may not be provided to the Government of Iraq after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, after the date of the enactment of this Act, that the Government of Iraq has taken such actions as may be reasonably necessary to safeguard against such assistance being transferred to or acquired by violent extremist organizations.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense makes any determination that equipment or supplies provided pursuant to section 1236(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3558), as so amended, have been transferred to or acquired by a violent extremist organization, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a description of the determination of the Secretary and the transfer to or acquisition by the violent extremist organization.

(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the transfer covered by the report, the following:

(i) An assessment of the type and quantity of equipment or supplies transferred to the violent extremist organization.

(ii) A description of the criteria used to determine that the organization is a violent extremist organization.

(iii) A description, if known, of how the equipment or supplies were transferred to or acquired by the violent extremist organization.

(iv) If the equipment or supplies are determined to remain under the current control of the violent extremist organization, a description of the organization, including its relationship, if any, to the security forces of the Government of Iraq.

(v) A description of the end use monitoring or other policies and procedures in place in order to prevent equipment or supplies to be transferred to or acquired by violent extremist organizations.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the congressional defense committees; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(B) VIOLENT EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION.—The term “violent extremist organization” means an organization that—

(i) is a foreign terrorist organization designated by the Secretary of State under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) or is associated with a foreign terrorist organization; or

(ii) is known to be under the command and control of, or is associated with, the Government of Iran.

SEC. 1224. REPORTS ON UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on United States Armed Forces deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The total number of members of the United States Armed Forces deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve for the most recent month for which data is available, delineated by Armed Force and component (including whether regular, National Guard, or Reserve).

(2) An estimate for the three-month period following the date on which the report is submitted of the total number of members of the United States Armed Forces expected to be deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, delineated by Armed Force and component (including whether regular, National Guard, or Reserve).

(3) A description of the authorities and limitations on the number of United States Armed Forces deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

(4) A description of military functions that are and are not subject to the authorities and limitations described in paragraph (3).

(5) Any changes to the authorities and limitations described in paragraph (3) and the rationale for such changes.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) SUNSET.—The requirement to submit reports under this section shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which Operation Inherent Resolve terminates; or

(2) the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1225. MATTERS RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR THE VETTED SYRIAN OPPOSITION.

(a) REPORT ON POTENTIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth a description of the military support the Secretary considers necessary to provide to recipients of assistance under section 1209 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3541) upon their return to Syria to ensure their ability to meet the intended purposes of such assistance.

(2) COVERED POTENTIAL SUPPORT.—The support the Secretary may consider necessary to provide for purposes of the report required by paragraph (1) is the following:

(A) Logistical support.

(B) Defensive supportive fire.

(C) Intelligence.

(D) Medical support.

(E) Any other support the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of the report.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) For each type of support the Secretary considers necessary to provide as described in paragraph (1), a description of the actions to be taken by the Secretary to ensure that such support would not benefit any of the following:

(i) The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Jabhat Al-Nusra Front, al-Qaeda, the Khorasan Group, or any other violent extremist organization

(ii) The Syrian Arab Army or any group or organization supporting President Bashar Assad.

(B) An estimate of the cost of providing such support.

(b) STRATEGY FOR SYRIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy for Syria.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the means by which assistance provided to appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and other appropriately vetted Syrian groups and individuals will achieve the purposes set forth in section 1209(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

(B) A description of the political and military objectives and end states for Syria.

(C) A description of means by which the assistance will support the political and military objectives and end states for Syria.

(D) An explanation of the manner in which the military campaign in Syria and Iraq is integrated.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In subsections (a) and (b), the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given that term in section 1209(e)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

(d) ADDITIONAL MATTERS FOR QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE VETTED OPPOSITION.—

(1) **ADDITIONAL MATTERS.**—Subsection (d) of section 1209 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (11) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(12) a description of support, if any, provided to appropriately vetted recipients pursuant to subsection (a) while those forces are located in Syria, including—

“(A) logistics support;

“(B) defense supporting fire;

“(C) intelligence; and

“(D) medical support; and

“(13) a description of the number of appropriately vetted recipients located in Syria, the approximate locations in which they are operating, and the number of known casualties among such recipients.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to quarterly reports submitted under subsection (d) of section 1209 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 after that date.

(e) **INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING REPROGRAMMING REQUESTS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary of Defense” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) **INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING REPROGRAMMING REQUESTS.**—Each request under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The amount, type, and purpose of assistance to be funded pursuant to such request.

“(B) The budget, implementation timeline with milestones, and anticipated delivery schedule for such assistance.”.

SEC. 1226. SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON FOR BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide support on a reimbursement basis to the Government of Jordan and the Government of Lebanon for purposes of supporting and enhancing efforts of the armed forces of Jordan and the armed forces of Lebanon to increase security and sustain increased security along the border of Jordan and the border of Lebanon with Syria and Iraq, as applicable.

(2) **FREQUENCY.**—Support may be provided under this subsection on a quarterly basis.

(b) **FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUPPORT.**—The following amounts made be used to provide support under the authority of subsection (a):

(1) Amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 and available for reimbursement of certain coalition nations for support provided to United States military operations pursuant to section 1233 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 393).

(2) Amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund pursuant to section 1534 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3616).

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.**—The total amount of support provided under the authority

of subsection (a) may not exceed \$150,000,000 for any country specified in subsection (a) in any fiscal year.

(2) **SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON.**—Support provided under the authority of subsection (a) to the Government of Lebanon may be used only for the armed forces of Lebanon, and may not be used for or to reimburse Hezbollah or any forces other than the armed forces of Lebanon.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into any contractual obligation to provide support under the authority of subsection (a).

(4) **DETERMINATION REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense may not provide support to a country specified in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that the government of such country fails to increase security and sustain increased security along the border of Jordan and the border of Lebanon with Syria and Iraq, as applicable.

(d) **NOTICE BEFORE EXERCISE.**—Not later than 15 days before providing support under the authority of subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report setting forth a full description of the support to be provided, including the amount of support to be provided, and the timeline for the provision of such support.

(e) **SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—In the section, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(f) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**—No support may be provided under the authority of subsection (a) after December 31, 2018.

SEC. 1227. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF IRANIAN DISSIDENTS LIVING IN CAMP LIBERTY, IRAQ.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) take prompt and appropriate steps in accordance with international agreements to promote the physical security and protection of residents of Camp Liberty, Iraq;

(2) urge the Government of Iraq to uphold its commitments to the United States to ensure the safety and well-being of those living in Camp Liberty;

(3) urge the Government of Iraq to ensure continued and reliable access to food, clean water, medical assistance, electricity and other energy needs, and any other equipment and supplies necessary to sustain the residents during periods of attack or siege by external forces;

(4) oppose the extradition of Camp Liberty residents to Iran;

(5) assist the international community in implementing a plan to provide for the safe, secure, and permanent relocation of Camp Liberty residents, including a detailed outline of steps that would need to be taken by recipient countries, the United States, the Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Camp residents to relocate residents to other countries;

(6) encourage continued close cooperation between the residents of Camp Liberty and the authorities in the relocation process; and

(7) assist the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in expediting the ongoing resettlement of all residents of Camp Liberty to safe locations outside Iraq.

Subtitle D—Matters Relating to Iran

SEC. 1231. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON THE MILITARY POWER OF IRAN.

(a) **ELEMENT ON CYBER CAPABILITIES IN DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY.**—Paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2542) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) Iranian strategy regarding offensive cyber capabilities and defensive cyber capabilities.”.

(b) **ELEMENTS ON CYBER CAPABILITIES IN ASSESSMENTS OF UNCONVENTIONAL FORCES.**—Paragraph (3) of such subsection, as amended by section 1232(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 920), is further amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(F) offensive cyber capabilities and defensive cyber capabilities; and

“(G) Iranian ability to manipulate the information environment both domestically and against the interests of the United States and its allies.”.

(c) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—Such subsection is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) An assessment of transfers to Iran of military equipment, technology, and training from non-Iranian sources.”.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—Subsection (d) of such section 1245, as amended by section 1277 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3592), is further amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2025”.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to reports required to be submitted under section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, as so amended, after that date.

SEC. 1232. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN’S MALIGN ACTIVITIES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Iran continues to conduct a range of malign military and intelligence activities in the region and around the globe which constitute a significant threat to regional stability and the national security interests of the United States and our allies and partners;

(2) Iran continues funding its conventional and unconventional military development, including its ballistic missile development programs, and its acquisition of destabilizing conventional weapons, which requires the United States to continue to support and build the collective capacity of our allies and partners in the region to address threats;

(3) the sale of advanced weaponry, including advance air defense systems, to the Government of Iran increases the risk of further destabilizing the region;

(4) Iran’s malign activities, continued state sponsorship of terrorism, and the violation of the human rights of the Iranian people justify continued pressure by the United States; and

(5) the United States should continue to enhance the region’s security architecture, build our partners’ capacity to respond to external aggression, increase the interoperability of our respective military forces, and continue to better integrate their advanced capabilities.

SEC. 1233. REPORT ON MILITARY-TO-MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS WITH IRAN.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) any military-to-military engagements conducted by the Armed Forces or Department of Defense civilians with representatives of the military or paramilitary forces (including the IRGC Quds Force) of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the one-year period ending on the date of the submission of the report; and

(2) any policy changes to such military-to-military engagements with the armed forces of Iran.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (1) the congressional defense committees; and
- (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1234. SECURITY GUARANTEES TO COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that summarizes any agreement, in effect as of the date that is 15 days before the date of the submittal of the report, that provides security commitments by the United States to any country in the Middle East, including the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

(b) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall provide the Secretary of Defense with an analysis of the United States military force structure and posture required to meet any current agreement that provides security commitments in the Middle East, including to member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Secretary shall include such analysis, without revision, in the report required by subsection (a), together with such additional views as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and
- (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1235. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the use of force against Iran.

Subtitle E—Matters Relating to the Russian Federation

SEC. 1241. NOTIFICATIONS RELATING TO TESTING, PRODUCTION, DEPLOYMENT, AND SALE OR TRANSFER TO OTHER STATES OR NON-STATE ACTORS OF THE CLUB-K CRUISE MISSILE SYSTEM BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) NOTIFICATIONS.—Not later than seven days after the Secretary determines that there is reasonable grounds to believe that the Russian Federation has tested, initially deployed, or sold or transferred to another state or non-state actor the Club-K cruise missile system, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a notification of such determination.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLANNING.—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall include in military planning options for responding to the military threat posed by the Russian Federation testing, deployment, or sale or transfer to other states or non-state actors the Club-K cruise missile system.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

- (A) the congressional defense committees; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CLUB-K CRUISE MISSILE SYSTEM.—The term “Club-K cruise missile system” means the Club-K cruise missile “container launcher” weapons system.

(d) SUNSET.—The provisions of this section shall not be in effect on and after the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1242. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO TERRITORY OF UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC OR RUSSIAN TERRITORY OF KALININGRAD.

(a) NOTIFICATIONS.—

(1) UPON DEPLOYMENT.—Not later than seven days after the Secretary of Defense determines that there is reasonable grounds to believe that the Russian Federation has deployed covered weapons systems onto the territory of the Ukrainian Republic, or has deployed covered weapons systems onto the Russian territory of Kaliningrad, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of such determination.

(2) FORM.—A notification required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLANNING.—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall include in military planning options for responding to the military threat posed by the Russian Federation deploying covered weapons systems onto the territory of the Ukrainian Republic, or deploying covered weapons system onto the Russian territory of Kaliningrad, including opportunities for allied cooperation in developing such responses based on consultation with such allies.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (A) the congressional defense committees; and
- (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED WEAPONS SYSTEMS.—The term “covered weapons systems” means weapons systems that can perform both conventional and nuclear missions, nuclear weapon delivery systems, and nuclear warheads.

(d) SUNSET.—The provisions of this section shall not be in effect on and after the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1243. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INF TREATY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the development and deployment of a nuclear ground-launched cruise missile by the Russian Federation is in violation of the INF Treaty, and the Russian Federation should return to compliance with the INF Treaty;

(2) the increasing role for nuclear weapons in the Russian Federation’s military strategy, and the continuing violation of the INF Treaty threatens the viability of the INF Treaty;

(3) efforts taken by the President to compel the Russian Federation to return to compliance with the INF Treaty, including by developing military and nonmilitary options, must be persistent and are in the best interests of the United States, but cannot be open-ended;

(4) not only should the Russian Federation end its cheating with respect to the INF Treaty, but also its illegal occupation of the sovereign territory of another nation, its plans for stationing nuclear weapons on that nation’s terri-

tory, and its cheating and violation of as many as eight of its 12 arms control obligations and agreements; and

(5) there are several United States military requirements that would be addressed by the development and deployment of systems currently prohibited by the INF Treaty.

(b) NOTIFICATIONS OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION VIOLATIONS OF INF TREATY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of—

(A) whether the Russian Federation has flight-tested, deployed, or possesses a military system that has achieved an initial operating capability that is either a ground-launched ballistic missile or ground-launched cruise missile with a flight-tested range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers; and

(B) whether the Russian Federation has begun steps to return to full compliance with the INF Treaty, including by agreeing to inspections and verification measures necessary to achieve high confidence that any missile described in subparagraph (A) will be eliminated, as required by the INF Treaty upon its entry into force.

(2) DEADLINE.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not later than 30 days after the date on which the Russian Federation meets any of the conditions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

(3) FORM.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF COORDINATION WITH ALLIES REGARDING INF TREATY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment, and every 120-day period thereafter for a period of 5 years, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall jointly, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification on the status and content of updates provided to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and allies of the United States in East Asia, on the Russian Federation’s flight testing, operating capability and deployment of ground launched ballistic missiles or ground-launched cruise missiles with a flight-tested range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, including updates on the status and a description of efforts with such allies to develop collective responses (including economic and military responses) to arms control violations of the Russian Federation (including violations of the INF Treaty).

(2) FORM.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) MILITARY RESPONSE OPTIONS TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION VIOLATION OF INF TREATY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Russian Federation has not begun taking measures to return to full compliance with the INF Treaty, including by agreeing to verification measures necessary to achieve high confidence that any ground-launched ballistic missile or ground-launched cruise missile with a flight-tested range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers will be eliminated, the Secretary of Defense shall, not later than 120 days after that date, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for the development of the following military capabilities:

(A) Counterforce capabilities to prevent intermediate-range ground-launched ballistic missile and cruise missile attacks, whether or not such capabilities are in compliance with the INF Treaty and including capabilities that may be acquired from allies of the United States.

(B) Countervailing strike capabilities to enhance the forces of the United States or allies of the United States, whether or not such capabilities are in compliance with the INF Treaty and including capabilities that may be acquired from allies of the United States.

(C) Active defenses to defend against intermediate-range ground-launched cruise missile attacks.

(2) **COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall include in the plan required by paragraph (1), with respect to each military capability described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of that paragraph, an estimate of cost and the approximate time for achieving a Milestone A decision, if such a decision is required.

(3) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Using amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 201 and available for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, or otherwise made available, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out the development of capabilities pursuant to paragraph (1) that are recommended by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to meet military requirements and current capability gaps with respect to missiles described in paragraph (1). In making such a recommendation, the Chairman shall give priority to such capabilities that the Chairman determines could be tested and fielded most expeditiously, with the most priority given to capabilities that the Chairman determines could be fielded in two years.

(4) **OTHER RESPONSE OPTIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall also include in the plan required by paragraph (1) such other options as the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of State consider useful to encourage the Russian Federation to return to full compliance with the INF Treaty or necessary to respond to the failure of the Russian Federation to return to full compliance with the INF Treaty.

(5) **REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—During each 180-day period beginning on the date on which funds are first obligated to develop capabilities under paragraph (1), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on such capabilities, including the costs of development (and estimated total costs of each system if pursued to deployment) and the time for development flight testing and deployment.

(B) **SUNSET.**—The provisions of subparagraph (A) shall not be in effect after the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the INF Treaty is no longer in force or the Russian Federation has fully returned to compliance with its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(6) **REPORT ON DEPLOYMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

(A) Potential deployment locations of the military capabilities described in paragraph (1) in East Asia and Eastern Europe, including any potential basing agreements that may be required to facilitate such deployments.

(B) Any required safety and security measures, estimates of potential costs of deployments described in subparagraph (A) and an assessment of whether or not such deployments in Eastern Europe may require a decision of the North Atlantic Council.

(C) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee

on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **INF TREATY.**—The term “INF Treaty” means the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, commonly referred to as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed at Washington, December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988.

SEC. 1244. MODIFICATION OF NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL TO MODIFY OR INTRODUCE NEW AIRCRAFT OR SENSORS FOR FLIGHT BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION UNDER THE OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1242(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3563) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “30 days” and inserting “90 days”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph caption, by striking “ELEMENT” and inserting “ELEMENTS”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The assessment shall also include an assessment of the proposal by the commander of each combatant command potentially affected by the proposal, including an assessment of the potential effects of the proposal on operations and any potential vulnerabilities raised by the proposal.”.

(b) **LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Not more than 75 percent of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Air Force, for arms control implementation (PE 0305145F) may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the following:

(1) A description of any meetings of the Open Skies Consultative Commission during the prior year.

(2) A description of any agreements entered into during such meetings of the Open Skies Consultative Commission.

(3) A description of any future year proposals for modifications to the aircraft or sensors of any State Party to the Open Skies Treaty that will be subject to the Open Skies Treaty.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “Open Skies Treaty” means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SEC. 1245. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS RELATING TO SOVEREIGNTY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OVER CRIMEA.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to implement any activity that recognizes the sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary of Defense may waive the restriction on the obligation or ex-

penditure of funds required by subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(1) determines that to do so is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) submits to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a notification of the waiver at the time the waiver is invoked.

SEC. 1246. LIMITATION ON MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be used for any bilateral military-to-military cooperation between the Governments of the United States and the Russian Federation until the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Russian Federation has ceased its occupation of Ukrainian territory and its aggressive activities that threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

(2) the Russian Federation is abiding by the terms of and taking steps in support of the Minsk Protocols regarding a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine.

(b) **NONAPPLICABILITY.**—The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(1) any activities necessary to ensure the compliance of the United States with its obligations or the exercise of rights of the United States under any bilateral or multilateral arms control or nonproliferation agreement or any other treaty obligation of the United States; and

(2) any activities required to provide logistical or other support to the conduct of United States or North Atlantic Treaty Organization military operations in Afghanistan or the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

(c) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) a notification that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States and a description of the national security interest covered by the waiver; and

(B) a report explaining why the Secretary of Defense cannot make the certification under subsection (a).

(d) **EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY BASES.**—The certification requirement specified in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall not apply to military bases of the Russian Federation in Ukraine’s Crimean peninsula operating in accordance with its 1997 agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet Stationing on the Territory of Ukraine.

(e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1247. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW START TREATY.

(a) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During each year described in paragraph (2), the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report explaining the reasons that the continued implementation of the New START Treaty is in the national security interests of the United States.

(2) **YEAR DESCRIBED.**—A year described in this paragraph is a year in which the President implements the New START Treaty and determines that any of the following circumstances apply:

(A) The Russian Federation illegally occupies Ukrainian territory.

(B) The Russian Federation is not respecting the sovereignty of all Ukrainian territory.

(C) The Russian Federation is not in full compliance with the INF treaty.

(D) The Russian Federation is not in compliance with the CFE Treaty and has not lifted its suspension of Russian observance of its treaty obligations.

(E) The Russian Federation is not reducing its deployed strategic delivery vehicles.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CFE TREATY.**—The term “CFE Treaty” means the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, signed at Paris November 19, 1990, and entered into force July 17, 1992.

(3) **INF TREATY.**—The term “INF Treaty” means the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, commonly referred to as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988.

(4) **NEW START TREATY.**—The term “New START Treaty” means the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on April 8, 2010, and entered into force on February 5, 2011.

SEC. 1248. ADDITIONAL MATTERS IN ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) **ADDITIONAL MATTERS.**—Subsection (b) of section 1245 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3566) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (15) as paragraphs (7) through (18), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraphs (4), (5), and (6):

“(4) An assessment of the force structure and capabilities of Russian military forces stationed in each of the Arctic, Kaliningrad, and Crimea, including a description of any changes to such force structure or capabilities during the one-year period ending on the date of such report and with a particular emphasis on the anti-access and area denial capabilities of such forces.

“(5) An assessment of Russian military strategy and objectives for the Arctic region.

“(6) A description of the status of testing, production, deployment, and sale or transfer to other states or non-state actors of the Club-K cruise missile system by the Russian Federation.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to reports submitted under section 1245 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 after that date.

SEC. 1249. REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE CAPABILITIES TO PROCURE AND SUSTAIN NONSTANDARD ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT HISTORICALLY PROCURED THROUGH ROSOBORONEXPORT.

(a) **REPORT ON ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE CAPABILITIES.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment, obtained by the Under Secretary for purposes of the report, of the feasibility and advisability of using alternative industrial base capabilities to procure and sustain, with parts and service, non-standard rotary wing aircraft historically acquired through Rosoboronexport, or non-standard rotary wing aircraft that are in whole or in part reliant upon Rosoboronexport for continued sustainment, in order to benefit United States national security interests.

(b) **INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.**—The assessment obtained for purposes of subsection (a) shall be conducted by a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), or another appropriate independent entity with expertise in the procurement and sustainment of complex weapon systems, selected by the Under Secretary for purposes of the assessment.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment obtained for purposes of subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification and assessment of international industrial base capabilities, other than Rosoboronexport, to provide one or more of the following:

(A) Means of procuring nonstandard rotary wing aircraft historically procured through Rosoboronexport.

(B) Reliable and timely supply of required and appropriate parts, spares, and consumables of such aircraft.

(C) Certifiable maintenance of such aircraft, including major periodic overhauls, damage repair, and modifications.

(D) Access to required reference data on such aircraft, including technical manuals and service bulletins.

(E) Credible certification of airworthiness of such aircraft through physical inspection, notwithstanding any current administrative requirements to the contrary.

(2) An assessment (including an assessment of associated costs and risks) of alterations to administrative processes of the United States Government that may be required to procure any of the capabilities specified in paragraph (1), including waivers to Department of Defense or Department of State requirements applicable to foreign military sales or alterations to procedures for approval of airworthiness certificates.

(3) An assessment of the potential economic impact to Rosoboronexport of procuring non-standard rotary wing aircraft described in paragraph (1)(A) through entities other than Rosoboronexport.

(4) An assessment of the risks and benefits of using the entities identified pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) to procure aircraft described in that paragraph.

(5) Such other matters as the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) **USE OF PREVIOUS STUDIES.**—The entity conducting the assessment for purposes of subsection (a) may use and incorporate information from previous studies on matters appropriate to the assessment.

(e) **FORM OF REPORT.**—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1250. UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for

fiscal year 2016 by title XV and available for overseas contingency operations as specified in the funding tables in division D, \$300,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide appropriate security assistance and intelligence support, including training, equipment, and logistics support, supplies and services, to military and other security forces of the Government of Ukraine for the purposes as follows:

(1) To enhance the capabilities of the military and other security forces of the Government of Ukraine to defend against further aggression.

(2) To assist Ukraine in developing the combat capability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(3) To support the Government of Ukraine in defending itself against actions by Russia and Russian-backed separatists that violate the ceasefire agreements of September 4, 2014, and February 11, 2015.

(b) **APPROPRIATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT.**—For purposes of subsection (a), appropriate security assistance and intelligence support includes the following:

(1) Real time or near real time actionable intelligence, including by lease of such capabilities from United States commercial entities.

(2) Lethal assistance such as anti-armor weapon systems, mortars, crew-served weapons and ammunition, grenade launchers and ammunition, and small arms and ammunition.

(3) Counter-artillery radars, including medium-range and long-range counter-artillery radars that can detect and locate long-range artillery.

(4) Unmanned aerial tactical surveillance systems.

(5) Cyber capabilities.

(6) Counter-electronic warfare capabilities such as secure communications equipment and other electronic protection systems.

(7) Other electronic warfare capabilities.

(8) Training required to maintain and employ systems and capabilities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

(9) Training for critical combat operations such as planning, command and control, small unit tactics, counter-artillery tactics, logistics, countering improvised explosive devices, battlefield first aid, post-combat treatment, and medical evacuation.

(c) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **TRAINING.**—Up to 20 percent of the amount available pursuant to subsection (a) may be used to support training pursuant to section 1207 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note), relating to the Global Security Contingency Fund.

(2) **DEFENSIVE LETHAL ASSISTANCE.**—Subject to paragraph (3), of the amount available pursuant to subsection (a), \$50,000,000 shall be available only for lethal assistance described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b).

(3) **OTHER PURPOSES.**—The amount described in paragraph (2) shall be available for purposes other than lethal assistance referred to in that paragraph commencing on the date that is six months after the date of the enactment of this Act if the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, certifies to the congressional defense committees that the use of such amount for purposes of such lethal assistance is not in the national security interests of the United States. The purposes for which the amount may be used pursuant to this paragraph include the following:

(A) Assistance or support to national-level security forces of other Partnership for Peace nations that the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate to assist in preserving their sovereignty and territorial integrity against Russian aggression.

(B) Exercises and training support of national-level security forces of Partnership for

Peace nations or the Government of Ukraine that the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate to assist in preserving their sovereignty and territorial integrity against Russian aggression.

(d) UNITED STATES INVENTORY AND OTHER SOURCES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to any assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense is authorized, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to make available to the Government of Ukraine weapons and other defense articles, from the United States inventory and other sources, and defense services, in such quantity as the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate to achieve the purposes specified in subsection (a).

(2) **REPLACEMENT.**—Amounts for the replacement of any items provided to the Government of Ukraine pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be derived from the amount available pursuant to subsection (a) or amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for overseas contingency operations for weapons procurement.

(e) **CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORIZATION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to constitute a specific statutory authorization for the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein hostilities are clearly indicated by the circumstances.

(f) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Assistance may not be provided under the authority in this section after December 31, 2017.

(g) **EXTENSION OF REPORTS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE.**—Section 1275(e) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3592) is amended by striking “January 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

SEC. 1251. TRAINING FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONAL MILITARY FORCES IN THE COURSE OF MULTILATERAL EXERCISES.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may provide the training specified in subsection (b), and pay the incremental expenses incurred by a country as the direct result of participation in such training, for the national military forces provided for under subsection (c).

(b) **TYPES OF TRAINING.**—The training provided to the national military forces of a country under subsection (a) shall be limited to training that is—

(1) provided in the course of the conduct of a multilateral exercise in which the United States Armed Forces are a participant;

(2) comparable to or complimentary of the types of training the United States Armed Forces receive in the course of such multilateral exercise; and

(3) for any purpose as follows:

(A) To enhance and increase the interoperability of the military forces to be trained to increase their ability to participate in coalition efforts led by the United States or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(B) To increase the capacity of such military forces to respond to external threats.

(C) To increase the capacity of such military forces to respond to hybrid warfare.

(D) To increase the capacity of such military forces to respond to calls for collective action within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(c) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Training may be provided under subsection (a) to the national military forces of the countries determined by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to be appropriate recipients of such training from among the countries as follows:

(A) Countries that are a signatory to the Partnership for Peace Framework Documents, but

not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(B) Countries that became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization after January 1, 1999.

(2) **ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.**—Before providing training under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a list of the countries determined pursuant to paragraph (1) to be eligible for the provision of training under subsection (a).

(d) FUNDING OF INCREMENTAL EXPENSES.—

(1) **ANNUAL FUNDING.**—Of the amounts specified in paragraph (2) for a fiscal year, up to a total of \$28,000,000 may be used to pay incremental expenses under subsection (a) in that fiscal year.

(2) **AMOUNTS.**—The amounts specified in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for operation and maintenance, Army, and available for the Combatant Commands Direct Support Program for that fiscal year.

(B) Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide, and available for the Wales Initiative Fund for that fiscal year.

(3) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ACTIVITIES ACROSS FISCAL YEARS.**—Amounts available in a fiscal year pursuant to this subsection may be used for incremental expenses of training that begins in that fiscal year and ends in the next fiscal year.

(e) **BRIEFING TO CONGRESS ON USE OF AUTHORITY.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year in which the authority in subsection (a) is used, the Secretary shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the use of the authority during such fiscal year, including each country with which training under the authority was conducted and the types of training provided.

(f) **CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided in subsection (a) is in addition to any other authority provided by law authorizing the provision of training for the national military forces of a foreign country, including section 2282 of title 10, United States Code.

(g) **INCREMENTAL EXPENSES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “incremental expenses” means the reasonable and proper cost of the goods and services that are consumed by a country as a direct result of that country’s participation in training under the authority of this section, including rations, fuel, training ammunition, and transportation. Such term does not include pay, allowances, and other normal costs of a country’s personnel.

(h) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2017. Any activity under this section initiated before that date may be completed, but only using funds available for fiscal years 2016 through 2017.

Subtitle F—Matters Relating to the Asia-Pacific Region

SEC. 1261. STRATEGY TO PROMOTE UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN THE INDO-ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

(a) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than March 1, 2017, the President shall develop an overall strategy to promote United States interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Such strategy shall be informed by, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The national security strategy of the United States for 2015 set forth in the national security strategy report required under section 108(a)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 5043(a)(3)), as such strategy relates to

United States interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

(2) The 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, as it relates to United States interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

(3) The 2015 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, as it relates to United States interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

(4) The strategy to prioritize United States defense interests in the Asia-Pacific region as contained in the report required by section 1251(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

(5) The integrated, multi-year planning and budget strategy for a rebalancing of United States policy in Asia submitted to Congress pursuant to section 7043(a) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76)).

(b) **PRESIDENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVE.**—The President shall issue a Presidential Policy Directive to appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government that contains the strategy developed under subsection (a) and includes implementing guidance to such departments and agencies.

(c) RELATION TO AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS AND ANNUAL BUDGET.—

(1) **AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS.**—In identifying agency priority goals under section 1120(b) of title 31, United States Code, for each appropriate department and agency of the United States Government, the head of such department or agency, or as otherwise determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall take into consideration the strategy developed under subsection (a) and the Presidential Policy Directive issued under subsection (b).

(2) **ANNUAL BUDGET.**—The President, acting through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall ensure that the annual budget submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, includes a separate section that clearly highlights programs and projects that are being funded in the annual budget that relate to the strategy developed under subsection (a) and the Presidential Policy Directive issued under subsection (b).

SEC. 1262. REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY REGARDING FOREIGN DISCLOSURE OR TECHNOLOGY RELEASE OF AEGIS ASHORE CAPABILITY TO JAPAN.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that a decision by the Government of Japan to purchase Aegis Ashore for its self-defense, given that it already possesses sea-based Aegis weapons system-equipped naval vessels, could create a significant opportunity for promoting interoperability and integration of air- and missile defense capability, could provide for force multiplication benefits, and could potentially alleviate force posture requirements on multi-mission assets.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT POLICY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the Department of Defense policy regarding foreign disclosure or technology release of Aegis Ashore capability to Japan.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1263. SOUTH CHINA SEA INITIATIVE.

(a) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, for the purpose of increasing

maritime security and maritime domain awareness of foreign countries along the South China Sea—

(A) to provide assistance to national military or other security forces of such countries that have among their functional responsibilities maritime security missions; and

(B) to provide training to ministry, agency, and headquarters level organizations for such forces.

(2) **DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**—The provision of assistance and training under this section may be referred to as the “South China Sea Initiative”.

(b) **RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.**—The foreign countries that may be provided assistance and training under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Indonesia.

(2) Malaysia.

(3) The Philippines.

(4) Thailand.

(5) Vietnam.

(c) **TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZED ELEMENTS OF ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance provided under subsection (a)(1)(A) may include the provision of equipment, supplies, training, and small-scale military construction.

(2) **REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**—Assistance and training provided under subsection (a) shall include elements that promote the following:

(A) Observance of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(B) Respect for legitimate civilian authority within the country to which the assistance is provided.

(d) **PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**—In developing programs for assistance or training to be provided under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall accord a priority to assistance, training, or both that will enhance the maritime capabilities of the recipient foreign country, or a regional organization of which the recipient country is a member, to respond to emerging threats to maritime security.

(e) **INCREMENTAL EXPENSES OF PERSONNEL OF CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES FOR TRAINING.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT.**—If the Secretary of Defense determines that the payment of incremental expenses in connection with training described in subsection (a)(1)(B) will facilitate the participation in such training of organization personnel of foreign countries specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary may use amounts available under subsection (f) for assistance and training under subsection (a) for the payment of such incremental expenses.

(2) **COVERED COUNTRIES.**—The foreign countries specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Brunei.

(B) Singapore.

(C) Taiwan.

(f) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense, \$50,000,000 may be available for the provision of assistance and training under subsection (a).

(2) **NOTICE ON SOURCE OF FUNDS.**—If the Secretary of Defense uses funds available to the Department pursuant to paragraph (1) to provide assistance and training under subsection (a) during a fiscal half-year of fiscal year 2016, not later than 30 days after the end of such fiscal half-year, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notice on the account or accounts providing such funds.

(g) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS ON ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 15 days before exercising the authority under subsection (a) or (e) with respect to a recipient foreign country,

the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a notification containing the following:

(A) The recipient foreign country.

(B) A detailed justification of the program for the provision of the assistance or training concerned, and its relationship to United States security interests.

(C) The budget for the program, including a timetable of planned expenditures of funds to implement the program, an implementation timeline for the program with milestones (including anticipated delivery schedules for any assistance under the program), the military department or component responsible for management of the program, and the anticipated completion date for the program.

(D) A description of the arrangements, if any, to support host nation sustainment of any capability developed pursuant to the program, and the source of funds to support sustainment efforts and performance outcomes to be achieved under the program beyond its completion date, if applicable.

(E) A description of the program objectives and an assessment framework to be used to develop capability and performance metrics associated with operational outcomes for the recipient force.

(F) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(h) **EXPIRATION.**—Assistance and training may not be provided under this section after September 30, 2020.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

SEC. 1271. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ASSISTED RECOVERY CAPABILITIES.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (h) of section 943 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4579), as most recently amended by section 1261(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), is further amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2018”.

(b) **REVISION TO ANNUAL LIMITATION ON FUNDS.**—Subsection (a) of such section 943 is amended—

(1) by striking “Upon” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon”;

(2) by striking “an amount” and all that follows through “may be” and inserting “amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) **ANNUAL LIMIT.**—The total amount made available for support of non-conventional assisted recovery activities under this subsection in any fiscal year may not exceed \$25,000,000.”.

(c) **OVERSIGHT.**—Subsection (b) of such section 943 is amended—

(1) by striking “(b) **PROCEDURES.**—The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(b) **PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT.**—

“(1) **PROCEDURES.**—The Secretary”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) **PROGRAMMATIC AND POLICY OVERSIGHT.**—The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special

Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict shall have primary programmatic and policy oversight of non-conventional assisted recovery activities authorized by this section.”.

SEC. 1272. AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL REPORT UNDER ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ACT.

Subsection (e) of section 403 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act (22 U.S.C. 2593a) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than June 15 of each year described in paragraph (2), the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a detailed assessment, consistent with the provision of classified information and intelligence sources and methods, of the adherence of other nations to obligations undertaken in all arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament agreements or commitments to which the United States is a party, including information of cases in which any such nation has behaved inconsistently with respect to its obligations undertaken in such agreements or commitments.

“(2) **COVERED YEAR.**—A year described in this paragraph is a year in which the President fails to submit the report required by subsection (a) by not later than April 15 of such year.

“(3) **FORM.**—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.”.

SEC. 1273. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

Section 1204(h) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 897; 10 U.S.C. 401 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

SEC. 1274. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (a) of section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375; 118 Stat. 2086), as most recently amended by section 1208(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3541), is further amended by striking “\$75,000,000” and inserting “\$85,000,000”.

(b) **NOTIFICATION.**—Subsection (c)(1) of such section 1208, as most recently amended by section 1202(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2511), is further amended—

(1) by striking “Upon using” and inserting “Not later than 15 days before exercising”;

(2) by striking “for support” and inserting “to initiate support”;

(3) by inserting after “for such an operation,” the following: “or not later than 48 hours after exercising such authority provided in subsection (a) if the Secretary of Defense determines that extraordinary circumstances that impact the national security of the United States exist.”; and

(4) by striking “expeditiously, and in any event within 48 hours.”.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Subsection (f)(1) of such section 1208, as most recently amended by section 1202(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2512), is further amended by striking “Not later than 120 days after the close of each fiscal year during which subsection (a) is in effect” and inserting “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, and every 180 days thereafter”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to each fiscal year that begins on or after such date of enactment.

SEC. 1275. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE ARMS TRADE TREATY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, or to make any change to existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress in furtherance of, pursuant to, or otherwise to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, unless the Arms Trade Treaty has received the advice and consent of the Senate and has been the subject of implementing legislation, as required, by Congress.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the Department of Defense from assisting foreign countries in bringing their laws and regulations up to United States standards.

SEC. 1276. REPORT ON THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of ongoing military and security cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus.

(2) A discussion of potential steps for enhancing the bilateral security relationship between the United States and Cyprus, including steps to enhance the military and security capabilities of the Republic of Cyprus.

(3) An analysis of the effect on the bilateral security relationship of the United States policy to deny applications for licenses and other approvals for the export of defense articles and defense services to the armed forces of Cyprus.

(4) An analysis of the extent to which such United States policy is consistent with overall United States security and policy objectives in the region.

(5) An assessment of the potential impact of lifting such United States policy.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1277. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is in the national security and fiscal interests of the United States that prompt efforts should be undertaken by North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies to meet defense budget commitments made in Declaration 14 of the Wales Summit Declaration of September 2014;

(2) thoughtful and coordinated defense investments by European allies in military capabilities would add deterrence value to the posture of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against Russian aggression and terrorist organizations and more appropriately balance the share of Atlantic defense spending;

(3) the United States Government should continue to support the open-door policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, declared at

the 2014 Summit in Wales that “NATO’s open-door will remain open to all European democracies which share the values of our Alliance, which are willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, which are in a position to further the principles of the Treaty, and whose inclusion will contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area”; and

(4) the United States Government should—

(A) continue to work with aspirant countries to prepare such countries for entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(B) work with the Republic of Kosovo to prepare the country for entrance into the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program;

(C) continue supporting a Membership Action Plan (MAP) for Georgia;

(D) encourage leaders of Macedonia and Greece to find a mutually agreeable solution to the name dispute between the two countries; and

(E) support North Atlantic Treaty Organization membership for Montenegro.

SEC. 1278. BRIEFING ON THE SALE OF CERTAIN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO QATAR.

(a) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, shall, in consultation with the Secretary of State, provide the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on the risks and benefits of the sale of fighter aircraft to Qatar pursuant to the July 2013 Letter of Request from the Government of Qatar.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The briefing required by subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of the assumptions regarding the increase to Qatar air force capabilities as a result of the sale described in subsection (a).

(2) A description of the assumptions regarding the impact of the items sold to Qatar pursuant to the sale on the preservation by Israel of a qualitative military edge.

(3) An estimated timeline for final adjudication of the decision to approve the sale.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1279. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ANTI-TUNNEL COOPERATION.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ANTI-TUNNEL CAPABILITIES PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, upon request of the Ministry of Defense of Israel and in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, is authorized to carry out research, development, test, and evaluation, on a joint basis with Israel, to establish anti-tunnel capabilities to detect, map, and neutralize underground tunnels that threaten the United States or Israel. Any activities carried out pursuant to such authority shall be conducted in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive information and United States and Israel national security interests.

(2) **REPORT.**—The activities described in paragraph (1) and subsection (b) may be carried out after the Secretary of Defense submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the following:

(A) A memorandum of agreement between the United States and Israel regarding sharing of research and development costs for the capabilities described in paragraph (1), and any supporting documents.

(B) A certification that the memorandum of agreement—

(i) requires sharing of costs of projects, including in-kind support, between the United States and Israel;

(ii) establishes a framework to negotiate the rights to any intellectual property developed under the memorandum of agreement; and

(iii) requires the United States Government to receive semiannual reports on expenditure of funds, if any, by the Government of Israel, including a description of what the funds have been used for, when funds were expended, and an identification of entities that expended the funds.

(b) **SUPPORT IN CONNECTION WITH PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to provide maintenance and sustainment support to Israel for the anti-tunnel capabilities research, development, test, and evaluation activities authorized in subsection (a)(1). Such authority includes authority to install equipment necessary to carry out such research, development, test, and evaluation.

(2) **REPORT.**—Support may not be provided under paragraph (1) until 15 days after the Secretary submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth a detailed description of the support to be provided.

(3) **MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.**—Support may not be provided under this subsection unless the Government of Israel contributes an amount not less than the amount of support to be so provided to the program, project, or activity for which the support is to be so provided.

(4) **ANNUAL LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.**—The amount of support provided under this subsection in any year may not exceed \$25,000,000.

(c) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall designate an appropriate research and development entity of a military department as the lead agency of the Department of Defense in carrying out this section.

(d) **SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress on a semiannual basis a report that contains a copy of the most recent semiannual report provided by the Government of Israel to the Committee of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(B)(iii).

(e) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(f) **SUNSET.**—The authority in this section to carry out activities described in subsection (a), and to provide support described in subsection (b), shall expire on December 31, 2018.

SEC. 1280. NATO SPECIAL OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS.

Section 1244(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2541), as most recently amended by section 1272(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2023), is further amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2020”.

SEC. 1281. INCREASED PRESENCE OF UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES IN EASTERN EUROPE TO DETER AGGRESSION ON THE BORDER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of State, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth an assessment of options for expanding the presence of United States ground forces of the size of a Brigade Combat Team in Eastern Europe to respond, along with European allies and partners, to the security challenges posed by Russia and increase the combat capability of forces able to respond to unconventional or hybrid warfare tactics such as those used by the Russian Federation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under this section shall include the following:

(1) An evaluation of the optimal location or locations of the enhanced ground force presence described in subsection (a) that considers such factors as—

(A) proximity, suitability, and availability of maneuver and gunnery training areas;

(B) transportation capabilities;

(C) availability of facilities, including for potential equipment storage and prepositioning;

(D) ability to conduct multinational training and exercises;

(E) a site or sites for prepositioning of equipment, a rotational presence or permanent presence of troops, or a combination of options; and

(F) costs.

(2) A description of any initiatives by other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or other European allies and partners, for enhancing force presence on a permanent or rotational basis in Eastern Europe to match or exceed the potential increased presence of United States ground forces in the region.

(c) **ADDITIONAL ELEMENT ON REDUCTION IN TROOP LEVELS OR MATERIEL.**—In addition to the matters specified in subsection (b), the report under this section shall also include an assessment of any impacts on United States national security interests in Europe of any proposed Brigade-sized or other significant reduction in United States troop levels or materiel in Europe.

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

TITLE XIII—COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION

Sec. 1301. Specification of Cooperative Threat Reduction funds.

Sec. 1302. Funding allocations.

SEC. 1301. SPECIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION FUNDS.

(a) **FISCAL YEAR 2016 COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION FUNDS DEFINED.**—In this title, the term “fiscal year 2016 Cooperative Threat Reduction funds” means the funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 301 and made available by the funding table in section 4301 for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program established under section 1321 of the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act (50 U.S.C. 3711).

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 1504 and made available by the funding table in section 4303 for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program shall be available for obligation for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

SEC. 1302. FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.

Of the \$358,496,000 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 in section 301 and made available by the funding table in section 4301 for the Depart-

ment of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program established under section 1321 of the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act (50 U.S.C. 3711), the following amounts may be obligated for the purposes specified:

(1) For strategic offensive arms elimination, \$1,289,000.

(2) For chemical weapons destruction, \$942,000.

(3) For global nuclear security, \$20,555,000.

(4) For cooperative biological engagement, \$264,618,000.

(5) For proliferation prevention, \$38,945,000.

(6) For threat reduction engagement, \$2,827,000.

(7) For activities designated as Other Assessments/Administrative Costs, \$29,320,000.

TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Military Programs

Sec. 1401. Working capital funds.

Sec. 1402. National Defense Sealift Fund.

Sec. 1403. Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense.

Sec. 1404. Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide.

Sec. 1405. Defense Inspector General.

Sec. 1406. Defense Health Program.

Sec. 1407. National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund.

Subtitle B—National Defense Stockpile

Sec. 1411. Extension of date for completion of destruction of existing stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions.

Subtitle C—Working-Capital Funds

Sec. 1421. Limitation on cessation or suspension of distribution of funds from Department of Defense working-capital funds.

Sec. 1422. Working-capital fund reserve account for petroleum market price fluctuations.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

Sec. 1431. Authority for transfer of funds to Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois.

Sec. 1432. Authorization of appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home.

Subtitle A—Military Programs

SEC. 1401. WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds, as specified in the funding table in section 4501.

SEC. 1402. NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the National Defense Sealift Fund, as specified in the funding table in section 4501.

SEC. 1403. CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION, DEFENSE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense, as specified in the funding table in section 4501.

(b) **USE.**—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) are authorized for—

(1) the destruction of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521); and

(2) the destruction of chemical warfare materiel of the United States that is not covered by section 1412 of such Act.

SEC. 1404. DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide, as specified in the funding table in section 4501.

SEC. 1405. DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, as specified in the funding table in section 4501.

SEC. 1406. DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Defense Health Program, as specified in the funding table in section 4501, for use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense in providing for the health of eligible beneficiaries.

SEC. 1407. NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017.

Subtitle B—National Defense Stockpile

SEC. 1411. EXTENSION OF DATE FOR COMPLETION OF DESTRUCTION OF EXISTING STOCKPILE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS.

Section 1412(b)(3) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (Public Law 99-145; 50 U.S.C. 1521) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2023”.

Subtitle C—Working-Capital Funds

SEC. 1421. LIMITATION ON CESSATION OR SUSPENSION OF DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WORKING-CAPITAL FUNDS.

Section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(s) **LIMITATION ON CESSATION OR SUSPENSION OF DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN WORKLOAD.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department is not authorized—

“(A) to suspend the employment of indirectly funded Government employees of the Department of Defense who are paid for out of working-capital funds by ceasing or suspending the distribution of such funds; or

“(B) to cease or suspend the distribution of funds from a working-capital fund for a current project undertaken to carry out the functions or activities of the Department.

“(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a working-capital fund if—

“(A) the working-capital fund is insolvent; or

“(B) there are insufficient funds in the working-capital fund to pay labor costs for the current project concerned.

“(3) The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may waive the limitation in paragraph (1) if such Secretary determines that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(4) This subsection shall not be construed to provide for the exclusion of any particular category of employees of the Department of Defense from furlough due to absence of or inadequate funding.”.

SEC. 1422. WORKING-CAPITAL FUND RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR PETROLEUM MARKET PRICE FLUCTUATIONS.

Section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1421, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(t) **MARKET FLUCTUATION ACCOUNT.**—(1) From amounts available for Working Capital

Fund, Defense, the Secretary shall reserve up to \$1,000,000,000, to remain available without fiscal year limitation, for petroleum market price fluctuations. Such amounts may only be disbursed if the Secretary determines such a disbursement is necessary to absorb volatile market changes in fuel prices without affecting the standard price charged for fuel.

“(2) A budget request for the anticipated costs of fuel may not take into account the availability of funds reserved under paragraph (1).”.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 1431. AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND FOR CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL HEALTH CARE CENTER, ILLINOIS.

(a) **AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated for section 1406 and available for the Defense Health Program for operation and maintenance, \$120,387,000 may be transferred by the Secretary of Defense to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund established by subsection (a)(1) of section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571). For purposes of subsection (a)(2) of such section 1704, any funds so transferred shall be treated as amounts authorized and appropriated specifically for the purpose of such a transfer.

(b) **USE OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.**—For the purposes of subsection (b) of such section 1704, facility operations for which funds transferred under subsection (a) may be used are operations of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility under an operational agreement covered by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500).

SEC. 1432. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund the sum of \$64,300,000 for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

TITLE XV—AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 1501. Purpose and treatment of certain authorizations of appropriations.

Sec. 1502. Procurement.

Sec. 1503. Research, development, test, and evaluation.

Sec. 1504. Operation and maintenance.

Sec. 1505. Military personnel.

Sec. 1506. Working capital funds.

Sec. 1507. Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide.

Sec. 1508. Defense Inspector General.

Sec. 1509. Defense Health program.

Sec. 1510. Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

Subtitle B—Financial Matters

Sec. 1521. Treatment as additional authorizations.

Sec. 1522. Special transfer authority.

Subtitle C—Limitations, Reports, and Other Matters

Sec. 1531. Afghanistan Security Forces Fund.

Sec. 1532. Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.

Sec. 1533. Availability of Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund for training of foreign security forces to defeat improvised explosive devices.

Sec. 1534. Comptroller General report on use of certain funds provided for operation and maintenance.

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 1501. PURPOSE AND TREATMENT OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this subtitle is to authorize appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 to provide additional funds—

(1) for overseas contingency operations being carried out by the Armed Forces, in such amounts as may be designated as provided in section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; and

(2) pursuant to section 1504, for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, as specified in the funding table in section 4303.

(b) **SUPPORT OF BASE BUDGET REQUIREMENTS; TREATMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds identified in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) are being authorized to be appropriated in support of base budget requirements as requested by the President for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(2) **APPORTIONMENT.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall apportion the funds identified in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) to the Department of Defense without restriction, limitation, or constraint on the execution of such funds in support of base requirements, including any restriction, limitation, or constraint imposed by, or described in, the document entitled “Criteria for War/Overseas Contingency Operations Funding Requests” transmitted by the Director to the Department of Defense on September 9, 2010, or any successor or related guidance.

(3) **EXECUTION AND USE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall apportion, use, and execute the funds apportioned by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as described in paragraph (2) of this subsection without restriction, limitation, or constraint on the execution of such funds in support of base requirements, including any restriction, limitation, or constraint specifically described in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(c) **EFFECT OF ENACTMENT OF ACT REVISING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the event of the enactment of an Act revising discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2016, the amount that is authorized to be appropriated by section 1504, as specified in the funding table in section 4303, and is not greater than the amount of the increase in the discretionary spending limit for revised security activities by that Act, shall be deemed to have been authorized to be appropriated by section 301 rather than section 1504.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) The term “Act revising discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2016” means an Act enacted after the date of enactment of this Act that, at a minimum and in a bi-partisan manner, increases the discretionary spending limits set in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) for fiscal year 2016.

(B) The terms “discretionary spending limit” and “revised security category” have the meanings given those terms in section 250 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900).

SEC. 1502. PROCUREMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for procurement ac-

counts for the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and Defense-wide activities, as specified in the funding table in section 4102.

SEC. 1503. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation, as specified in the funding table in section 4202.

SEC. 1504. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, as specified in—

(1) the funding table in section 4302, or

(2) the funding table in section 4303.

SEC. 1505. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for military personnel, as specified in the funding table in section 4402.

SEC. 1506. WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1507. DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1508. DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1509. DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Defense Health Program, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1510. COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

(b) **DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) shall remain available for obligation through September 30, 2017.

Subtitle B—Financial Matters

SEC. 1521. TREATMENT AS ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS.

The amounts authorized to be appropriated by this title are in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 1522. SPECIAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY.**—Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may transfer amounts of authorizations made available to the Department of Defense in this

title for fiscal year 2016 between any such authorizations for that fiscal year (or any subdivisions thereof).

(2) **EFFECT OF TRANSFER.**—Amounts of authorizations transferred under this subsection shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes as the authorization to which transferred.

(3) **LIMITATIONS.**—The total amount of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of this subsection may not exceed \$3,500,000,000.

(4) **EXCEPTION.**—In the case of the authorization of appropriations contained in section 1504 that is provided for the purpose specified in section 1501(a)(2), the transfer authority provided under section 1001, rather than the transfer authority provided by this subsection, shall apply to any transfer of amounts of such authorization.

(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Transfers under this section shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as transfers under section 1001.

(c) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—The transfer authority provided by this section is in addition to the transfer authority provided under section 1001.

Subtitle C—Limitations, Reports, and Other Matters

SEC. 1531. AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND.

(a) **CONTINUATION OF PRIOR AUTHORITIES AND NOTICE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Funds available to the Department of Defense for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund for fiscal year 2016 shall be subject to the conditions contained in subsections (b) through (g) of section 1513 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 428), as amended by section 1531(b) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 124 Stat. 4424).

(b) **EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION.**—

(1) **ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may accept equipment that is procured using amounts in the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund authorized under this Act and is intended for transfer to the security forces of Afghanistan, but is not accepted by such security forces.

(2) **CONDITIONS ON ACCEPTANCE OF EQUIPMENT.**—Before accepting any equipment under the authority provided by paragraph (1), the Commander of United States forces in Afghanistan shall make a determination that the equipment was procured for the purpose of meeting requirements of the security forces of Afghanistan, as agreed to by both the Government of Afghanistan and the United States, but is no longer required by such security forces or was damaged before transfer to such security forces.

(3) **ELEMENTS OF DETERMINATION.**—In making a determination under paragraph (2) regarding equipment, the Commander of United States forces in Afghanistan shall consider alternatives to Secretary of Defense acceptance of the equipment. An explanation of each determination, including the basis for the determination and the alternatives considered, shall be included in the relevant quarterly report required under paragraph (5).

(4) **TREATMENT AS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STOCKS.**—Equipment accepted under the authority provided by paragraph (1) may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense upon notification to the congressional defense committees of such treatment.

(5) **QUARTERLY REPORTS ON EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 90-day period thereafter during which the authority provided by paragraph (1) is exercised, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congres-

sional defense committees a report describing the equipment accepted under this subsection, section 1531(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 938; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note), and section 1532(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3612) during the period covered by the report. Each report shall include a list of all equipment that was accepted during the period covered by the report and treated as stocks of the Department and copies of the determinations made under paragraph (2), as required by paragraph (3).

(c) **PLAN TO PROMOTE SECURITY OF AFGHAN WOMEN.**—

(1) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall include in the report required under section 1225 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3550)—

(A) an assessment of the security of Afghan women and girls, including information regarding efforts to increase the recruitment and retention of women in the Afghan National Security Forces; and

(B) an assessment of the implementation of the plans for the recruitment, integration, retention, training, treatment, and provision of appropriate facilities and transportation for women in the Afghan National Security Forces, including the challenges associated with such implementation and the steps being taken to address those challenges.

(2) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall support, to the extent practicable, the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls during and after the security transition process through the development and implementation by the Government of Afghanistan of an Afghanistan plan that should include the elements described in this paragraph.

(B) **TRAINING.**—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and working with the NATO-led Resolute Support mission, should encourage the Government of Afghanistan to develop—

(i) measures for the evaluation of the effectiveness of existing training for Afghan National Security Forces on this issue;

(ii) a plan to increase the number of female security officers specifically trained to address cases of gender-based violence, including ensuring the Afghan National Police's Family Response Units have the necessary resources and are available to women across Afghanistan;

(iii) mechanisms to enhance the capacity for units of National Police's Family Response Units to fulfill their mandate as well as indicators measuring the operational effectiveness of these units;

(iv) a plan to address the development of accountability mechanisms for Afghanistan National Army and Afghanistan National Police personnel who violate codes of conduct related to the human rights of women and girls, including female members of the Afghan National Security Forces; and

(v) a plan to develop training for the Afghanistan National Army and the Afghanistan National Police to increase awareness and responsiveness among Afghanistan National Army and Afghanistan National Police personnel regarding the unique security challenges women confront when serving in those forces.

(C) **ENROLLMENT AND TREATMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in cooperation with the

Afghan Ministries of Defense and Interior, shall seek to assist the Government of Afghanistan in including as part of the plan developed under subparagraph (A) the development and implementation of a plan to increase the number of female members of the Afghanistan National Army and the Afghanistan National Police and to promote their equal treatment, including through such steps as providing appropriate equipment, modifying facilities, and ensuring literacy and gender awareness training for recruits.

(D) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the funds available to the Department of Defense for the Afghan Security Forces Fund for fiscal year 2016, it is the goal that \$25,000,000, but in no event less than \$10,000,000, shall be used for—

(I) the recruitment, integration, retention, training, and treatment of women in the Afghan National Security Forces; and

(II) the recruitment, training, and contracting of female security personnel for future elections.

(ii) **TYPES OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**—Such programs and activities may include—

(I) efforts to recruit women into the Afghan National Security Forces, including the special operations forces;

(II) programs and activities of the Afghan Ministry of Defense Directorate of Human Rights and Gender Integration and the Afghan Ministry of Interior Office of Human Rights, Gender and Child Rights;

(III) development and dissemination of gender and human rights educational and training materials and programs within the Afghan Ministry of Defense and the Afghan Ministry of Interior;

(IV) efforts to address harassment and violence against women within the Afghan National Security Forces;

(V) improvements to infrastructure that address the requirements of women serving in the Afghan National Security Forces, including appropriate equipment for female security and police forces, and transportation for policewomen to their station

(VI) support for Afghanistan National Police Family Response Units; and

(VII) security provisions for high-profile female police and army officers.

SEC. 1532. JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND.

(a) **USE AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—Subsections (b) and (c) of section 1514 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2439), as in effect before the amendments made by section 1503 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4649), shall apply to the funds made available for fiscal year 2016 to the Department of Defense for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.

(b) **EXTENSION OF INTERDICTION OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PRECURSOR CHEMICALS AUTHORITY.**—Section 1532(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2057) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and for fiscal year 2016,” after “fiscal year 2013”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), as most recently amended by section 1533(c) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3615), by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(c) **PLAN FOR TRANSITION.**—Not later than January 31, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan and timeline for each of the following:

(1) The full and complete transition of the activities, functions, and resources of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency to an office

under the authority, direction, and control of a military department or a Defense Agency in existence as of October 1, 2015.

(2) The transition of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund to a successor fund that provides for the continuation of current flexibility in funding the activities supported and enabled by the Fund.

(3) The transition of the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Operations/Intelligence Integration Center of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency to an element of a military department or a Defense Agency in existence as of October 1, 2015.

(4) The transition of the research, development, and acquisition activities of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency to an element of a military department or a Defense Agency in existence as of October 1, 2015.

(d) **FINAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND TIMELINE.**—

(1) **PLAN AND TIMELINE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan and timeline that—

(A) incorporates the plans and timelines required by paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (c); and

(B) provides for the completion of the implementation of such plans by not later than September 30, 2016.

(2) **SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NECESSARY ACTIONS.**—In submitting the plan and timeline required by this subsection, the Secretary shall also submit a summary description of the actions to be taken by the Department of Defense to complete implementation of the plans and timelines required by paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (c) by September 30, 2016.

(3) **COMPLIANCE WITH DEADLINES.**—

(A) **LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if the Secretary does not submit the plan and timeline required by paragraph (1) before the deadline specified in that paragraph, or does not complete implementation of such plan before the deadline specified in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph, none of the funds available to the Department of Defense for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund may be obligated after September 30, 2016.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the obligation of funds referred to in such subparagraph after September 30, 2016, for operations or operational support activities determined by the Secretary to be critical to force protection in overseas contingency operations.

(e) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF COMBAT SUPPORT AGENCY DETERMINATION.**—

(1) **PROHIBITION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to implement administrative, organizational, facility, or non-operational changes necessary to carry out the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency transition and consolidation.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to mean that ongoing activities directly supporting overseas contingency operations must be halted.

SEC. 1533. AVAILABILITY OF JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND FOR TRAINING OF FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES TO DEFEAT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund, or a successor fund, up to \$30,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of Defense to provide training to foreign security forces to defeat improvised explosive devices under authority pro-

vided the Department of Defense under any other provision of law.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF CONTINGENT LIMITATION.**—The availability of funds under this subsection is subject to the contingent limitation on the availability of amounts in the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund after September 30, 2016, in section 1532(g).

(b) **CONSTRUCTION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—The availability of funds under subsection (a) shall not be construed as authority in and of itself for the provision of training as described in that subsection.

(c) **GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATION.**—Training may be provided using funds available under subsection (a) only—

(1) in locations in which the Department is conducting a named operation; or

(2) in geographic areas in which the Secretary of Defense has determined that a foreign security force is facing a significant threat from improvised explosive devices.

(d) **COORDINATION WITH GEOGRAPHIC COMBATANT COMMANDS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate the provision of training using funds available under subsection (a) with requests received from the commanders of the geographic combatant commands.

(e) **EXPIRATION.**—The authority to use funds described in subsection (a) in accordance with this section shall expire on September 30, 2018.

SEC. 1534. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS PROVIDED FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report specifying how all funds made available pursuant to section 1504 for operation and maintenance, as specified in the funding table in section 4303, are ultimately used.

TITLE XVI—STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, CYBER, AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Space Activities

Sec. 1601. Major force program and budget for national security space programs.

Sec. 1602. Principal advisor on space control.

Sec. 1603. Council on Oversight of the Department of Defense Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Enterprise.

Sec. 1604. Modification to development of space science and technology strategy.

Sec. 1605. Delegation of authority regarding purchase of Global Positioning System user equipment.

Sec. 1606. Rocket propulsion system development program.

Sec. 1607. Exception to the prohibition on contracting with Russian suppliers of rocket engines for the evolved expendable launch vehicle program.

Sec. 1608. Acquisition strategy for evolved expendable launch vehicle program.

Sec. 1609. Allocation of funding for evolved expendable launch vehicle program.

Sec. 1610. Consolidation of acquisition of wide-band satellite communications.

Sec. 1611. Analysis of alternatives for wide-band communications.

Sec. 1612. Expansion of goals and modification of pilot program for acquisition of commercial satellite communication services.

Sec. 1613. Integrated policy to deter adversaries in space.

Sec. 1614. Prohibition on reliance on China and Russia for space-based weather data.

Sec. 1615. Limitation on availability of funds for weather satellite follow-on system.

Sec. 1616. Limitations on availability of funds for the Defense Meteorological Satellite program.

Sec. 1617. Streamline of commercial space launch activities.

Sec. 1618. Plan on full integration and exploitation of overhead persistent infrared capability.

Sec. 1619. Options for rapid space reconstitution.

Sec. 1620. Evaluation of exploitation of space-based infrared system against additional threats.

Sec. 1621. Quarterly reports on Global Positioning System III space segment, Global Positioning System operational control segment, and Military Global Positioning System user equipment acquisition programs.

Sec. 1622. Sense of Congress on missile defense sensors in space.

Subtitle B—Defense Intelligence and Intelligence-Related Activities

Sec. 1631. Executive agent for open-source intelligence tools.

Sec. 1632. Waiver and congressional notification requirements related to facilities for intelligence collection or for special operations abroad.

Sec. 1633. Prohibition on National Intelligence Program consolidation.

Sec. 1634. Limitation on availability of funds for Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

Sec. 1635. Department of Defense intelligence needs.

Sec. 1636. Report on management of certain programs of Defense intelligence elements.

Sec. 1637. Report on Air National Guard contributions to the RQ-4 Global Hawk mission.

Sec. 1638. Government Accountability Office review of intelligence input to the defense acquisition process.

Subtitle C—Cyberspace-Related Matters

Sec. 1641. Codification and addition of liability protections relating to reporting on cyber incidents or penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors.

Sec. 1642. Authorization of military cyber operations.

Sec. 1643. Limitation on availability of funds pending the submission of integrated policy to deter adversaries in cyberspace.

Sec. 1644. Authorization for procurement of relocatable Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility.

Sec. 1645. Designation of military department entity responsible for acquisition of critical cyber capabilities.

Sec. 1646. Assessment of capabilities of United States Cyber Command to defend the United States from cyber attacks.

Sec. 1647. Evaluation of cyber vulnerabilities of major weapon systems of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1648. Comprehensive plan and biennial exercises on responding to cyber attacks.

Sec. 1649. Sense of Congress on reviewing and considering findings and recommendations of Council of Governors on cyber capabilities of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle D—Nuclear Forces

Sec. 1651. Assessment of threats to National Leadership Command, Control, and Communications System.

Sec. 1652. Organization of nuclear deterrence functions of the Air Force.

Sec. 1653. Procurement authority for certain parts of intercontinental ballistic missile fuzes.

Sec. 1654. Prohibition on availability of funds for de-alerting intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Sec. 1655. Assessment of global nuclear environment.

Sec. 1656. Annual briefing on the costs of forward-deploying nuclear weapons in Europe.

Sec. 1657. Report on the number of planned long-range standoff weapons.

Sec. 1658. Review of Comptroller General of the United States on recommendations relating to nuclear enterprise of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1659. Sense of Congress on organization of Navy for nuclear deterrence mission.

Sec. 1660. Sense of Congress on the nuclear force improvement program of the Air Force.

Sec. 1661. Senses of Congress on importance of cooperation and collaboration between United States and United Kingdom on nuclear issues and on 60th anniversary of Fleet Ballistic Missile Program.

Sec. 1662. Sense of Congress on plan for implementation of Nuclear Enterprise Reviews.

Sec. 1663. Sense of Congress and report on milestone A decision on long-range standoff weapon.

Sec. 1664. Sense of Congress on policy on the nuclear triad.

Sec. 1665. Report relating to the costs associated with extending the life of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile.

Subtitle E—Missile Defense Programs and Other Matters

Sec. 1671. Prohibitions on providing certain missile defense information to Russian Federation.

Sec. 1672. Prohibition on integration of missile defense systems of Russian Federation into missile defense systems of United States.

Sec. 1673. Prohibition on integration of missile defense systems of China into missile defense systems of United States.

Sec. 1674. Limitations on availability of funds for Patriot lower tier air and missile defense capability of the Army.

Sec. 1675. Integration and interoperability of air and missile defense capabilities of the United States.

Sec. 1676. Integration and interoperability of allied missile defense capabilities.

Sec. 1677. Missile defense capability in Europe.

Sec. 1678. Availability of funds for Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system.

Sec. 1679. Israeli cooperative missile defense program codevelopment and co-production.

Sec. 1680. Boost phase defense system.

Sec. 1681. Development and deployment of multiple-object kill vehicle for missile defense of the United States homeland.

Sec. 1682. Requirement to replace capability enhancement I exoatmospheric kill vehicles.

Sec. 1683. Designation of preferred location of additional missile defense site in the United States and plan for expediting deployment time of such site.

Sec. 1684. Additional missile defense sensor coverage for protection of United States homeland.

Sec. 1685. Concept development of space-based missile defense layer.

Sec. 1686. Aegis Ashore capability development.

Sec. 1687. Development of requirements to support integrated air and missile defense capabilities.

Sec. 1688. Extension of requirement for Comptroller General of the United States review and assessment of missile defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 1689. Report on medium range ballistic missile defense sensor alternatives for enhanced defense of Hawaii.

Sec. 1690. Sense of Congress and report on validated military requirement and Milestone A decision on prompt global strike weapon system.

Subtitle A—Space Activities

SEC. 1601. MAJOR FORCE PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAMS.

(a) BUDGET MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§239. National security space programs: major force program and budget assessment

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJOR FORCE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a unified major force program for national security space programs pursuant to section 222(b) of this title to prioritize national security space activities in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Defense and national security.

“(b) BUDGET ASSESSMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall include with the defense budget materials for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020 a report on the budget for national security space programs of the Department of Defense.

“(2) Each report on the budget for national security space programs of the Department of Defense under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An overview of the budget, including—

“(i) a comparison between that budget, the previous budget, the most recent and prior future-years defense program submitted to Congress under section 221 of this title, and the amounts appropriated for such programs during the previous fiscal year; and

“(ii) the specific identification, as a budgetary line item, for the funding under such programs.

“(B) An assessment of the budget, including significant changes, priorities, challenges, and risks.

“(C) Any additional matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) Each report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘budget’, with respect to a fiscal year, means the budget for that fiscal year that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31.

“(2) The term ‘defense budget materials’, with respect to a fiscal year, means the materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense in support of the budget for that fiscal year.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 238 the following new item:

“239. National security space programs: major force program and budget assessment.”.

(b) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to carry out the unified major force program designation required by section 239(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), including any rec-

ommendations for legislative action the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 1602. PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON SPACE CONTROL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 135 of title 10, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§2279a. Principal Advisor on Space Control

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall designate a senior official of the Department of Defense or a military department to serve as the Principal Space Control Advisor, who, in addition to the other duties of such senior official, shall act as the principal advisor to the Secretary on space control activities.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Principal Space Control Advisor shall be responsible for the following:

“(1) Supervision of space control activities related to the development, procurement, and employment of, and strategy relating to, space control capabilities.

“(2) Oversight of policy, resources, personnel, and acquisition and technology relating to space control activities.

“(c) CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAM.—The Principal Space Control Advisor shall integrate the space control expertise and perspectives of appropriate organizational entities of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the military departments, the Defense Agencies, and the combatant commands, by establishing and maintaining a cross-functional team of subject-matter experts who are otherwise assigned or detailed to those entities.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2279 the following new item:

“2279a. Principal Advisor on Space Control.”.

SEC. 1603. COUNCIL ON OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POSITIONING, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING ENTERPRISE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 135 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1602, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§2279b. Council on Oversight of the Department of Defense Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Enterprise

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is within the Department of Defense a council to be known as the ‘Council on Oversight of the Department of Defense Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Enterprise’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Council’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the Council shall be as follows:

“(1) The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

“(2) The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

“(3) The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“(4) The Commander of the United States Strategic Command.

“(5) The Commander of the United States Northern Command.

“(6) The Commander of United States Cyber Command.

“(7) The Director of the National Security Agency.

“(8) The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

“(9) The Secretaries of the military departments, who shall be ex officio members.

“(10) Such other officers of the Department of Defense as the Secretary may designate.

“(c) CO-CHAIR.—The Council shall be co-chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“(d) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—(1) The Council shall be responsible for oversight of the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise, including positioning, navigation, and timing services provided to civil, commercial, scientific, and international users.

“(2) In carrying out the responsibility for oversight of the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise as specified in paragraph (1), the Council shall be responsible for the following:

“(A) Oversight of performance assessments (including interoperability).

“(B) Vulnerability identification and mitigation.

“(C) Architecture development.

“(D) Resource prioritization.

“(E) Such other responsibilities as the Secretary of Defense shall specify for purposes of this section.

“(e) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—At the same time each year that the budget of the President is submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, the Council shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the activities of the Council. Each report shall include the following:

“(1) A description and assessment of the activities of the Council during the previous fiscal year.

“(2) A description of the activities proposed to be undertaken by the Council during the period covered by the current future-years defense program under section 221 of this title.

“(3) Any changes to the requirements of the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise made during the previous year, along with an explanation for why the changes were made and a description of the effects of the changes to the capability of such enterprise.

“(4) A breakdown of each program element in such budget that relates to the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise, including how such program element relates to the operation and sustainment, research and development, procurement, or other activity of such enterprise.

“(f) **BUDGET AND FUNDING MATTERS.**—(1) Not later than 30 days after the President submits to Congress the budget for a fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31, the Commander of the United States Strategic Command shall submit to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff an assessment of—

“(A) whether such budget allows the Federal Government to meet the required capabilities of the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise during the fiscal year covered by the budget and the four subsequent fiscal years; and

“(B) if the Commander determines that such budget does not allow the Federal Government to meet such required capabilities, a description of the steps being taken to meet such required capabilities.

“(2) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff receives the assessment of the Commander of the United States Strategic Command under paragraph (1), the Chairman shall submit to the congressional defense committees—

“(A) such assessment as it was submitted to the Chairman; and

“(B) any comments of the Chairman.

“(3) If a House of Congress adopts a bill authorizing or appropriating funds for the activities of the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise that, as determined by the Council, provides insufficient funds for such activities for the period covered by such bill, the Council shall notify the congressional defense committees of the determination.

“(g) **NOTIFICATION OF ANOMALIES.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees written notification of an anomaly in the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise that is reported to the Secretary or the Council by not later than 14 days after the date on which the Secretary or the Council learns of such anomaly, as the case may be.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘anomaly’ means any unplanned, irregular, or abnormal event, whether unexplained or caused intentionally or unintentionally by a person or a system.

“(h) **TERMINATION.**—The Council shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 1602, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2279a the following new item:

“2279b. Council on Oversight of the Department of Defense Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Enterprise.”

SEC. 1604. MODIFICATION TO DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY.

Section 2272 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§2272. Space science and technology strategy: coordination

“The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall jointly develop and implement a space science and technology strategy and shall review and, as appropriate, revise the strategy biennially. Functions of the Secretary under this section shall be carried out jointly by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the official of the Department of Defense designated as the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Space.”

SEC. 1605. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY REGARDING PURCHASE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM USER EQUIPMENT.

Section 913 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (10 U.S.C. 2281 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **LIMITATION ON DELEGATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may not delegate the authority to make a waiver under subsection (c) to an official below the level of the Secretaries of the military departments or the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.”

SEC. 1606. ROCKET PROPULSION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **STREAMLINED ACQUISITION.**—Section 1604 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3623; 10 U.S.C. 2273 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) **STREAMLINED ACQUISITION.**—In developing the rocket propulsion system required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) use a streamlined acquisition approach, including tailored documentation and review processes, that enables the effective, efficient, and expedient transition from the use of non-allied space launch engines to a domestic alternative for national security space launches; and

“(2) prior to establishing such acquisition approach, establish well-defined requirements with a clear acquisition strategy.”

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with paragraph (2), of the funds authorized to be appro-

priated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the rocket propulsion system required by section 1604 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the Secretary of Defense may obligate or expend such funds only for the development of such system, and the necessary interfaces to, or integration of, the launch vehicle, to replace non-allied space launch engines by 2019 as required by such section.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The funds specified in paragraph (1)—

(A) may be used for the integration of the rocket propulsion system covered by such paragraph with an existing or new launch vehicle; and

(B) may not be used to develop or procure a new launch vehicle or related infrastructure.

(c) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committee a briefing on—

(1) the streamlined acquisition approach, requirements, and acquisition strategy required under subsection (c) of section 1604 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) the plan for the development and fielding of a full-up rocket propulsion system pursuant to such section 1604.

SEC. 1607. EXCEPTION TO THE PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH RUSSIAN SUPPLIERS OF ROCKET ENGINES FOR THE EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM.

Paragraph (1) of section 1608(c) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3626; 10 U.S.C. 2271 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any of the following:

“(A) The placement of orders or the exercise of options under the contract numbered FA8811–13–C–0003 and awarded on December 18, 2013.

“(B) Subject to paragraph (2), contracts awarded for the procurement of property or services for space launch activities that include the use of not more than a total of five rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation that prior to February 1, 2014, were either fully paid for by the contractor or covered by a legally binding commitment of the contractor to fully pay for such rocket engines.

“(C) Contracts not covered under subparagraph (A) or (B) that are awarded for the procurement of property or services for space launch activities that include the use of not more than a total of four additional rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation.”

SEC. 1608. ACQUISITION STRATEGY FOR EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM.

(a) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ARRANGEMENT.**—

(1) **DISCONTINUATION.**—The Secretary of the Air Force shall discontinue the evolved expendable launch vehicle launch capability arrangement, as structured as of the date of the enactment of this Act, for—

(A) existing contracts using rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation by not later than December 31, 2019; and

(B) existing contracts using domestic rocket engines by not later than December 31, 2020.

(2) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive paragraph (1) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that such waiver is necessary for the national security interests of the United States;

(B) notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver; and

(C) a period of 90 days has elapsed following the date of such notification.

(b) **CONSISTENT STANDARDS.**—In accordance with section 2306a of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary shall—

(1) apply consistent and appropriate standards to certified evolved expendable launch vehicle providers with respect to certified cost and pricing data; and

(2) conduct the appropriate audits.

(c) **ACQUISITION STRATEGY.**—In accordance with subsections (a) and (b) and section 2273 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary shall develop and carry out a 10-year phased acquisition strategy, including near and long term, for the evolved expendable launch vehicle program.

(d) **ELEMENTS.**—The acquisition strategy under subsection (c) for the evolved expendable launch vehicle program shall—

(1) provide the necessary—

(A) stability in budgeting and acquisition of capabilities;

(B) flexibility to the Federal Government; and

(C) procedures for fair competition; and

(2) specifically take into account, as appropriate per competition, the effect of—

(A) contracts or agreements for launch services or launch capability entered into by the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with certified evolved expendable launch vehicle providers;

(B) the requirements of the Department of Defense, including with respect to launch capabilities and pricing data, that are met by such providers;

(C) the cost of integrating a satellite onto a launch vehicle; and

(D) any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) **COMPETITION.**—In awarding any contract for launch services in a national security space mission pursuant to a competitive acquisition, the evaluation shall account for the value of the evolved expendable launch vehicle launch capability arrangement per contract line item numbers in the bid price of the offeror as appropriate per launch.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report on the acquisition strategy developed under subsection (c).

SEC. 1609. ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM.

(a) **CERTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION.**—Together with the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) a certification that the cost share between the Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office for the evolved expendable launch vehicle launch capability program equitably reflects the appropriate allocation of funding for the Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office, respectively, based on the launch schedule and national mission forecast; and

(2) sufficient rationale to justify such cost share.

(b) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 1610. CONSOLIDATION OF ACQUISITION OF WIDEBAND SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) **PLAN.**—

(1) **CONSOLIDATION.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the consolidation, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the plan is submitted, of the acquisition of wideband satellite communications necessary to meet the requirements of the Department of Defense for such communications, including with respect to military and commercial satellite communications.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the management and overhead costs relating to the acquisition of commercial satellite communications services across the Department of Defense;

(B) an estimate of—

(i) the costs of implementing the consolidation of the acquisition of such services described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) the projected savings of the consolidation;

(C) the identification and designation of a single acquisition agent pursuant to paragraph (3)(A); and

(D) the roles and responsibilities of officials of the Department, including pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) **SINGLE ACQUISITION AGENT.**—

(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), under the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall identify and designate a single senior official of the Department of Defense to procure wideband satellite communications necessary to meet the requirements of the Department of Defense for such communications, including with respect to military and commercial satellite communications.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), under the plan under paragraph (1), an official described in subparagraph (C) may carry out the procurement of commercial wideband satellite communications if the official determines that such procurement is required to meet an urgent need.

(C) An official described in this subparagraph is any of the following:

(i) A Secretary of a military department.

(ii) The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

(iii) The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

(iv) A commander of a combatant command.

(4) **VALIDATION.**—The Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation shall validate the assessment required by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) and the estimates required by subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense shall complete the implementation of the plan under subsection (a) by not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan under such paragraph.

(2) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the implementation of the plan under subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that—

(i) such implementation will require significant additional funding; or

(ii) such waiver is in the interests of national security; and

(B) submits to the congressional defense committees notice of such waiver and the justifications for such waiver.

SEC. 1611. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES FOR WIDEBAND COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an analysis of alternatives for a follow-on wide-band communications system to the Wideband Global SATCOM System that includes space, air, and ground layer communications capabilities of the Department of Defense.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than March 31, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the analysis conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 1612. EXPANSION OF GOALS AND MODIFICATION OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION OF COMMERCIAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

(a) **CARRYING OUT OF PILOT PROGRAM.**—Subsection (a) of section 1605 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3623; 10 U.S.C. 2208 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “may develop” and all that follows through “funds by the Secretary” and inserting “shall develop and carry out a pilot program”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) **METHODS.**—In carrying out the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may use a variety of methods authorized by law to effectively and efficiently acquire commercial satellite communications services, including by carrying out multiple pathfinder activities under the pilot program.”.

(b) **GOALS.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) demonstrates the potential to achieve order-of-magnitude improvements in satellite communications capability.”.

(c) **REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.**—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “REPORTS.” and inserting “REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “90 days” and inserting “270 days”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; or” and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) a description of the appropriate metrics established by the Secretary to meet the goals of the pilot program.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) **BRIEFING.**—At the same time as the President submits to Congress the budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020, the Secretary shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the pilot program.”; and

(5) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “expanding the use of working capital funds to effectively and efficiently acquire” and inserting “the pilot program and whether the pilot program effectively and efficiently acquires”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “working capital funds as described in subparagraph (A)” and inserting “the pilot program”.

SEC. 1613. INTEGRATED POLICY TO DETER ADVERSARIES IN SPACE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall establish an interagency process to provide for the development of a policy to deter adversaries in space—

(1) with the objectives of—

(A) reducing risks to the United States and allies of the United States in space; and

(B) protecting and preserving the rights, access, capabilities, use, and freedom of action of the United States in space and the right of the

United States to respond to an attack in space and, if necessary, deny adversaries the use of space capabilities hostile to the national interests of the United States; and

(2) that integrates the interests and responsibilities of the agencies participating in the process.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the policy developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) **FUNDING RESTRICTION.**—If the President has not submitted the policy developed under subsection (a) and the answers to Enclosure 1, regarding space control policy, of the classified annex to this Act, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by the date required by paragraph (1), an amount equal to \$10,000,000 of the amount authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 to provide support services to the Executive Office of the President shall be withheld from obligation or expenditure until the policy and such answers are submitted to such Committees.

(3) **FORM OF REPORT.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1614. PROHIBITION ON RELIANCE ON CHINA AND RUSSIA FOR SPACE-BASED WEATHER DATA.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Department of Defense does not rely on, or in the future plan to rely on, space-based weather data provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Russian Federation, or an entity owned or controlled by either such government for national security purposes.

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification that the Secretary is in compliance with the prohibition under subsection (a).

SEC. 1615. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR WEATHER SATELLITE FOLLOW-ON SYSTEM.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Air Force, for the weather satellite follow-on system, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which—

(1) the Secretary of Defense provides to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the plan developed under subsection (b); and

(2) the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certifies to the congressional defense committees that such plan will—

(A) meet the requirements of the Department of Defense for cloud characterization and theater weather imagery; and

(B) not negatively affect the commanders of the combatant commands.

(b) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—The Secretary shall develop a plan to address the requirements of the Department of Defense for cloud characterization and theater weather imagery.

SEC. 1616. LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE DEFENSE METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE PROGRAM.

(a) LIMITATION.—

(1) **FISCAL YEAR 2016 FUNDS.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Defense Meteorological Satellite program or for the launch of Defense Meteorological Satellite program satellite #20 (in this section re-

ferred to as “DMSP20”) may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly submit to the congressional defense committees the certification described in subsection (b).

(2) **REMAINING FISCAL YEAR 2015 FUNDS.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2015 for the Defense Meteorological Satellite program or the launch of DMSP20 that remain available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly submit to the congressional defense committees the certification described in subsection (b).

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—The certification described in this subsection is a certification that—

(1) the Joint Requirements Oversight Council has conducted a recent review and certification of the space-based environmental monitoring requirements while taking into consideration the changes in international allied plans and the feedback of the military departments and Defense Agencies (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code);

(2) relying on civil and international contributions to meet space-based environmental monitoring requirements is insufficient or is a risk to national security and launching DMSP20 will meet those requirements;

(3) launching DMSP20 is the most affordable solution to meeting requirements validated by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council; and

(4) nonmaterial solutions within the Department of Defense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are incapable of meeting the cloud characterization and theater weather requirements validated by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council.

(c) **COMPARATIVE COST AND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT.**—If the Secretary and the Chairman determine that a material solution is required to meet the cloud characterization and theater weather requirements validated by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, the Secretary and the Chairman shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a cost and capability assessment that compares the cost of meeting those requirements with DMSP20 and with an alternate material solution that includes electro-optical infrared weather imaging or other comparable solutions.

SEC. 1617. STREAMLINE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH ACTIVITIES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that eliminating duplicative requirements and approvals for commercial launch and reentry operations will promote and encourage the development of the commercial space sector.

(b) **REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**—Congress reaffirms that the Secretary of Transportation, in overseeing and coordinating commercial launch and reentry operations, should—

(1) promote commercial space launches and reentries by the private sector;

(2) facilitate Government, State, and private sector involvement in enhancing United States launch sites and facilities;

(3) protect public health and safety, safety of property, national security interests, and foreign policy interests of the United States; and

(4) consult with the head of another executive agency, including the Secretary of Defense or the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as necessary to provide consistent application of licensing requirements under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation under section 50918 of title 51, United States Code, and subject to section 50905(b)(2)(C) of that title, shall consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the heads of other executive agencies, as appropriate—

(A) to identify all requirements that are imposed to protect the public health and safety, safety of property, national security interests, and foreign policy interests of the United States relevant to any commercial launch of a launch vehicle or commercial reentry of a reentry vehicle; and

(B) to evaluate the requirements identified in subparagraph (A) and, in coordination with the licensee or transferee and the heads of the relevant executive agencies—

(i) determine whether the satisfaction of a requirement of one agency could result in the satisfaction of a requirement of another agency; and

(ii) resolve any inconsistencies and remove any outmoded or duplicative requirements or approvals of the Federal Government relevant to any commercial launch of a launch vehicle or commercial reentry of a reentry vehicle.

(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the Secretary of Transportation determines no outmoded or duplicative requirements or approvals of the Federal Government exist, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the commercial space sector, and the heads of other executive agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(A) A description of the process for the application for and approval of a permit or license under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, for the commercial launch of a launch vehicle or commercial reentry of a reentry vehicle, including the identification of—

(i) any unique requirements for operating on a United States Government launch site, reentry site, or launch property; and

(ii) any inconsistent, outmoded, or duplicative requirements or approvals.

(B) A description of current efforts, if any, to coordinate and work across executive agencies to define interagency processes and procedures for sharing information, avoiding duplication of effort, and resolving common agency requirements.

(C) Recommendations for legislation that may further—

(i) streamline requirements in order to improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary costs, resolve inconsistencies, remove duplication, and minimize unwarranted constraints; and

(ii) consolidate or modify requirements across affected agencies into a single application set that satisfies the requirements identified in paragraph (1)(A).

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) any applicable definitions set forth in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, shall apply;

(B) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the congressional defense committees;

(ii) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(C) the terms “launch”, “reenter”, and “reentry” include landing of a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle; and

(D) the terms “United States Government launch site” and “United States Government re-entry site” include any necessary facility, at that location, that is commercially operated on United States Government property.

SEC. 1618. PLAN ON FULL INTEGRATION AND EXPLOITATION OF OVERHEAD PERSISTENT INFRARED CAPABILITY.

(a) **PLAN.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commander of the United States Strategic Command and the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for the integration of overhead persistent infrared capabilities to support the missions specified in subsection (b)(1).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan under subsection (a) shall—

(1) ensure that all overhead persistent infrared capabilities of the United States, including such capabilities that are planned to be developed, are integrated to allow for such capabilities to be exploited to support the requirements of the missions of the Department of Defense relating to—

- (A) strategic and theater missile warning;
- (B) ballistic and cruise missile defense, including with respect to missile tracking, fire control, and kill assessment;
- (C) technical intelligence supporting missile warning;
- (D) battlespace awareness;
- (E) other technical intelligence;
- (F) civil and environmental missions, including with respect to the collection of weather data; and
- (G) battle damage assessments; and

(2) establish clear benchmarks by which to establish acquisition plans, manning, and budget requirements.

(c) **ANNUAL DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary of Defense shall include, together with, or not later than 30 days after, the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department of Defense for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), a written determination of how the plan under subsection (a) is being implemented.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (1) the congressional defense committees; and
- (2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 1619. OPTIONS FOR RAPID SPACE RECONSTITUTION.

(a) **EVALUATION.**—The Secretary of Defense shall evaluate options for the use of current assets of the Department of Defense for the purpose of rapid reconstitution of critical space-based warfighter enabling capabilities.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than March 31, 2016, the Secretary shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a), including development timelines, a test plan, and technology readiness levels of key systems and technologies.

SEC. 1620. EVALUATION OF EXPLOITATION OF SPACE-BASED INFRARED SYSTEM AGAINST ADDITIONAL THREATS.

(a) **EVALUATION.**—The Commander of the United States Strategic Command, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Commander of the United States Northern Command, shall conduct an evaluation of space-based infrared systems to detect, track, and target, or to develop the capability to detect, track, and target, the full range

of threats to the United States, deployed members of the Armed Forces, and allies of the United States.

(b) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than December 31, 2016, the Commander of the United States Strategic Command shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate the evaluation under subsection (a).

SEC. 1621. QUARTERLY REPORTS ON GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM III SPACE SEGMENT, GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM OPERATIONAL CONTROL SEGMENT, AND MILITARY GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM USER EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report and supporting documentation on the Global Positioning System III space segment, the Global Positioning System operational control segment, and the Military Global Positioning System user equipment acquisition programs.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include, with respect to an acquisition program specified in that subsection, the following:

- (1) A statement of the status of the program with respect to cost, schedule, and performance.
- (2) A description of any changes to the requirements of the program.
- (3) A description of any technical risks impacting the cost, schedule, and performance of the program.
- (4) An assessment of how such risks are to be addressed and the costs associated with such risks.
- (5) An assessment of the extent to which the segments of the program are synchronized.

(c) **BRIEFINGS BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on a report submitted under subsection (a)—

- (1) in the case of the first such report, not later than 30 days after receiving that report; and
- (2) as the Comptroller General considers appropriate thereafter.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—The requirement under subsection (a) shall terminate with respect to an acquisition program specified in that subsection on the date on which that program reaches initial operational capability.

SEC. 1622. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MISSILE DEFENSE SENSORS IN SPACE.

It is the sense of Congress that a robust multi-mission space sensor network will be vital to ensuring a strong missile defense system.

Subtitle B—Defense Intelligence and Intelligence-Related Activities

SEC. 1631. EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR OPEN-SOURCE INTELLIGENCE TOOLS.

(a) **EXECUTIVE AGENT.**—Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1083, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§430b. Executive agent for open-source intelligence tools

“(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall designate a senior official of the Department of Defense to serve as the executive agent for the Department for open-source intelligence tools.

“(b) **ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITIES.**—(1) Not later than July 1, 2016, in accordance with Directive 5101.1, the Secretary shall prescribe the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the executive agent designated under subsection (a).

“(2) The roles and responsibilities of the executive agent designated under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(A) Developing and maintaining a comprehensive list of open-source intelligence tools and technical standards.

“(B) Establishing priorities for the development, acquisition, and integration of open-source intelligence tools into the intelligence enterprise, and other command and control systems as needed.

“(C) Certifying all open-source intelligence tools with respect to compliance with the standards required by the framework and guidance for the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise, the Defense Intelligence Information Enterprise, and the Joint Information Environment.

“(D) Assessing and making recommendations regarding the protection of privacy in the acquisition, analysis, and dissemination of open-source information available around the world.

“(E) Performing such other assessments or analyses as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(c) **SUPPORT WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**—In accordance with Directive 5101.1, the Secretary shall ensure that the military departments, the Defense Agencies, and other elements of the Department of Defense provide the executive agent designated under subsection (a) with the appropriate support and resources needed to perform the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the executive agent.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘Directive 5101.1’ means Department of Defense Directive 5101.1, or any successor directive relating to the responsibilities of an executive agent of the Department of Defense.

“(2) The term ‘executive agent’ has the meaning given the term ‘DoD Executive Agent’ in Directive 5101.1.

“(3) The term ‘open-source intelligence tools’ means tools for the systematic collection, processing, and analysis of publicly available information for known or anticipated intelligence requirements.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 430a, as added by section 1083, the following new item:

“430b. Executive agent for open-source intelligence tools.”

SEC. 1632. WAIVER AND CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO FACILITIES FOR INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION OR FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS ABROAD.

(a) **ADDITION OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—Section 2682(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary of Defense”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) Not later than 48 hours after using the waiver authority under paragraph (1) for any facility for intelligence collection conducted under the authorities of the Department of Defense or special operations activity, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees written notification of the use of the authority, including the justification for the waiver and the estimated cost of the project for which the waiver applies.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the following:

“(A) With respect to a waiver regarding special operations activities, the congressional defense committees.

“(B) With respect to a waiver regarding intelligence collection conducted under the authorities of the Department of Defense—

“(i) the congressional defense committees; and
 “(ii) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) CODIFICATION OF SUNSET PROVISION.—

(1) CODIFICATION.—Section 2682(c) of title 10, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after paragraph (3), as added by subsection (a)(2), the following new paragraph:

“(4) The waiver authority provided by paragraph (1) expires December 31, 2020.”.

(2) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (b) of section 926 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1541; 10 U.S.C. 2682 note) is repealed.

SEC. 1633. PROHIBITION ON NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense may be used during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2016, to execute—

(1) the separation of the National Intelligence Program budget from the Department of Defense budget;

(2) the consolidation of the National Intelligence Program budget within the Department of Defense budget; or

(3) the establishment of a new appropriations account or appropriations account structure for the National Intelligence Program budget.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.—The term “National Intelligence Program” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(2) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM BUDGET.—The term “National Intelligence Program budget” means the portions of the Department of Defense budget designated as part of the National Intelligence Program.

SEC. 1634. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended for such Office until the Secretary of Defense identifies the intelligence gaps and establishes the written policy required by section 922 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 828).

SEC. 1635. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NEEDS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the congressional intelligence committees a report on how the Director ensures that the National Intelligence Program budgets for the elements of the intelligence community that are within the Department of Defense are adequate to satisfy the national intelligence needs of the Department as required under section 102A(p) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(p)). Such report shall include a description of how the Director incorporates the needs of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of the unified and specified commands into the metrics used to evaluate the performance of the elements of the intelligence community that are within the Department of Defense in conducting intelligence activities funded under the National Intelligence Program.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “congressional intelligence committees”, “intel-

ligence community”, and “National Intelligence Program” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

SEC. 1636. REPORT ON MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the management of science and technology research and development programs and foreign materiel exploitation programs of Defense intelligence elements.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the management of each Defense intelligence element that is responsible for work relating to the programs described in subsection (a), including with respect to the policies, procedures, and organizational structures of such element relating to the management and coordination of such work across such elements.

(2) Recommendations to improve the coordination and organization of such elements.

(3) Identification of options for realigning such elements within the Department of Defense to better meet the needs of the Department and reduce unnecessary overhead.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) The term “Defense intelligence element” has the meaning given that term in section 429(e) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 1637. REPORT ON AIR NATIONAL GUARD CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RQ-4 GLOBAL HAWK MISSION.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of using the Air National Guard in association with the active duty Air Force to operate and maintain the RQ-4 Global Hawk.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the costs, training requirements, and personnel required to create an association for the Global Hawk mission consisting of members of the Air Force serving on active duty and members of the Air National Guard.

(2) The capacity of the Air National Guard to support an association described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 1638. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE INPUT TO THE DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROCESS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a comprehensive review of the processes and procedures for the integration of intelligence into the defense acquisition process, consistent with the provision of classified information, and intelligence sources and methods.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify processes and procedures for the integration of intelligence into the decision process, including with respect to the staffing and training of Defense intelligence personnel assigned to program offices, for the acquisition of weapon systems from initial requirements through the milestones process and upon final delivery; and

(2) include a review of processes and procedures for—

(A) the integration of intelligence on foreign capabilities into the acquisition process from initial requirement through deployment;

(B) identifying opportunities for weapons systems to collect intelligence, without regard to whether that is the primary mission of such systems, and the plans for exploiting the collection of such intelligence; and

(C) assessing the requirements weapon systems will place on the Defense Intelligence Enterprise once the weapons systems are deployed.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the review required by subsection (a).

Subtitle C—Cyberspace-Related Matters

SEC. 1641. CODIFICATION AND ADDITION OF LIABILITY PROTECTIONS RELATING TO REPORTING ON CYBER INCIDENTS OR PENETRATIONS OF NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTORS.

(a) CODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT.—Section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1889; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) is transferred to chapter 19 of title 10, United States Code, inserted so as to appear after section 392, redesignated as section 393, and amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

“§393. Reporting on penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors”;

(2) by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (c) and inserting the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall limit the dissemination of information obtained or derived through such procedures to entities—

“(A) with missions that may be affected by such information;

“(B) that may be called upon to assist in the diagnosis, detection, or mitigation of cyber incidents;

“(C) that conduct counterintelligence or law enforcement investigations; or

“(D) for national security purposes, including cyber situational awareness and defense purposes.”; and

(3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following new subsection (d):

“(d) PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY OF CLEARED DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.—(1) No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any cleared defense contractor, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, for compliance with this section that is conducted in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a).

“(2)(A) Nothing in this section shall be construed—

“(i) to require dismissal of a cause of action against a cleared defense contractor that has engaged in willful misconduct in the course of complying with the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a); or

“(ii) to undermine or limit the availability of otherwise applicable common law or statutory defenses.

“(B) In any action claiming that paragraph (1) does not apply due to willful misconduct described in subparagraph (A), the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the willful misconduct by each cleared defense contractor subject to such claim and that such willful misconduct proximately caused injury to the plaintiff.

“(C) In this subsection, the term ‘willful misconduct’ means an act or omission that is taken—

“(i) intentionally to achieve a wrongful purpose;

“(ii) knowingly without legal or factual justification; and

“(iii) in disregard of a known or obvious risk that is so great as to make it highly probable that the harm will outweigh the benefit.”.

(b) ADDITION OF LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR REPORTING ON CYBER INCIDENTS.—Section 391 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY OF OPERATIONALLY CRITICAL CONTRACTORS.—(1) No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any operationally critical contractor, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, for compliance with this section that is conducted in accordance with procedures established pursuant to subsection (b).

“(2)(A) Nothing in this section shall be construed—

“(i) to require dismissal of a cause of action against an operationally critical contractor that has engaged in willful misconduct in the course of complying with the procedures established pursuant to subsection (b); or

“(ii) to undermine or limit the availability of otherwise applicable common law or statutory defenses.

“(B) In any action claiming that paragraph (1) does not apply due to willful misconduct described in subparagraph (A), the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the willful misconduct by each operationally critical contractor subject to such claim and that such willful misconduct proximately caused injury to the plaintiff.

“(C) In this subsection, the term ‘willful misconduct’ means an act or omission that is taken—

“(i) intentionally to achieve a wrongful purpose;

“(ii) knowingly without legal or factual justification; and

“(iii) in disregard of a known or obvious risk that is so great as to make it highly probable that the harm will outweigh the benefit.”.

(c) CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 391 of title 10, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a) by striking “and with section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 2224 note)” and inserting “and section 393 of this title”.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 19 of such title is amended—

(A) by amending the item relating to section 391 to read as follows:

“391. Reporting on cyber incidents with respect to networks and information systems of operationally critical contractors and certain other contractors.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new item:

“393. Reporting on penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors.”.

SEC. 1642. AUTHORIZATION OF MILITARY CYBER OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 130g. Authorities concerning military cyber operations

“The Secretary of Defense shall develop, prepare, and coordinate; make ready all armed

forces for purposes of; and, when appropriately authorized to do so, conduct, a military cyber operation in response to malicious cyber activity carried out against the United States or a United States person by a foreign power (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801)).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“130g. Authorities concerning military cyber operations.”.

SEC. 1643. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS PENDING THE SUBMISSION OF INTEGRATED POLICY TO DETER ADVERSARIES IN CYBERSPACE.

Until the President submits to the congressional defense committees the report required by section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 837), \$10,000,000 of the unobligated balance of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense to provide support services to the Executive Office of the President may not be obligated or expended.

SEC. 1644. AUTHORIZATION FOR PROCUREMENT OF RELOCATABLE SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITY.

Of the unobligated amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for procurement for the Army, not more than \$10,600,000 may be used for the procurement of a relocatable Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility for the Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Georgia, as described in the reprogramming action prior approval request submitted by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to Congress on February 6, 2015.

SEC. 1645. DESIGNATION OF MILITARY DEPARTMENT ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACQUISITION OF CRITICAL CYBER CAPABILITIES.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall designate an entity within a military department to be responsible for the acquisition of each critical cyber capability described in paragraph (2).

(2) CRITICAL CYBER CAPABILITIES DESCRIBED.—The critical cyber capabilities described in this paragraph are the cyber capabilities that the Secretary considers critical to the mission of the Department of Defense, including the following:

(A) The Unified Platform described in the Department of Defense document titled “The Department of Defense Cyber Strategy” dated April 15, 2015.

(B) A persistent cyber training environment.

(C) A cyber situational awareness and battle management system.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the information described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following with respect to the critical cyber capabilities described in subsection (a)(2):

(A) Identification of each critical cyber capability and the entity of a military department responsible for the acquisition of the capability.

(B) Estimates of the funding requirements and acquisition timelines for each critical cyber capability.

(C) An explanation of whether critical cyber capabilities could be acquired more quickly with changes to acquisition authorities.

(D) Such recommendations as the Secretary may have for legislation or administrative action to improve the acquisition of, or to acquire more quickly, the critical cyber capabilities for which designations are made under subsection (a).

SEC. 1646. ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES OF UNITED STATES CYBER COMMAND TO DEFEND THE UNITED STATES FROM CYBER ATTACKS.

(a) WAR GAMES.—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in consultation with the Principal Cyber Advisor, shall conduct a series of war games through the warfighting analysis division of the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate to assess the strategy, assumptions, and capabilities of the United States Cyber Command to prevent large-scale cyber attacks, by foreign powers with cyber attack capabilities comparable to the capabilities that China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia are expected to achieve in the years 2020 and 2025, from reaching United States targets.

(b) FINDINGS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall convey to the congressional defense committees the findings of the Chairman with respect to the war games conducted under subsection (a).

(c) FOREIGN POWER DEFINED.—In this section, the term “foreign power” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

SEC. 1647. EVALUATION OF CYBER VULNERABILITIES OF MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in accordance with the plan under subsection (b), complete an evaluation of the cyber vulnerabilities of each major weapon system of the Department of Defense by not later than December 31, 2019.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1) with respect to a weapon system or complete the evaluation of a weapon system required by such paragraph after the date specified in such paragraph if the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees before that date that all known cyber vulnerabilities in the weapon system have minimal consequences for the capability of the weapon system to meet operational requirements or otherwise satisfy mission requirements.

(b) PLAN FOR EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees the plan of the Secretary for the evaluations of major weapon systems under subsection (a), including an identification of each of the weapon systems to be evaluated and an estimate of the funding required to conduct the evaluations.

(2) PRIORITY IN EVALUATIONS.—The plan under paragraph (1) shall accord a priority among evaluations based on the criticality of major weapon systems, as determined by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff based on an assessment of employment of forces and threats.

(3) INTEGRATION WITH OTHER EFFORTS.—The plan under paragraph (1) shall build upon existing efforts regarding the identification and mitigation of cyber vulnerabilities of major weapon systems, and shall not duplicate similar ongoing efforts such as Task Force Cyber Awakening of the Navy or Task Force Cyber Secure of the Air Force.

(c) STATUS ON PROGRESS.—The Secretary shall inform the congressional defense committees of the activities undertaken in the evaluation of major weapon systems under this section as part of the quarterly cyber operations briefings under section 484 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) **RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES.**—As part of the evaluation of cyber vulnerabilities of major weapon systems of the Department under this section, the Secretary shall develop strategies for mitigating the risks of cyber vulnerabilities identified in the course of such evaluations.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, not more than \$200,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to conduct the evaluations under subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 1648. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND BIENNIAL EXERCISES ON RESPONDING TO CYBER ATTACKS.

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO SUPPORT CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN RESPONSE TO CYBER ATTACKS BY FOREIGN POWERS.**—

(1) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop a comprehensive plan for the United States Cyber Command to support civil authorities in responding to cyber attacks by foreign powers (as defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801)) against the United States or a United States person.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A plan for internal Department of Defense collective training activities that are integrated with exercises conducted with other agencies and State and local governments.

(ii) Plans for coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies and State and local governments pursuant to the exercises required under clause (i).

(iii) A list of any other exercises previously conducted that are used in the formulation of the plan required by subparagraph (A), such as Operation Noble Eagle.

(iv) Descriptions of the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of Federal, State, and local authorities as the Secretary understands them.

(v) Descriptions of the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the active components and reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(vi) A description of such legislative and administrative action as may be necessary to carry out the plan required by subparagraph (A).

(2) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF PLAN.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review the plan developed under paragraph (1)(A).

(b) **BIENNIAL EXERCISES ON RESPONDING TO CYBER ATTACKS AGAINST CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**—

(1) **BIENNIAL EXERCISES REQUIRED.**—Not less frequently than once every two years until the date that is six years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the heads of the critical infrastructure sector-specific agencies designated under Presidential Policy Directive-21 (titled “Critical Infrastructure Security Resilience” and dated February 12, 2013) and in consultation with Governors of the States and the owners and operators of critical infrastructure, organize and execute one or more exercises based on scenarios in which—

(A) critical infrastructure of the United States is attacked through cyberspace; and

(B) the President directs the Secretary of Defense to—

(i) defend the United States; and

(ii) provide support to civil authorities in responding to and recovering from cyber attacks, while exercising any guidance derived from the

plan developed under subsection (a) or any subsequent updates to that plan.

(2) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the exercises required by paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) To exercise command and control, coordination, communications, and information sharing capabilities under the stressing conditions of an ongoing cyber attack.

(B) To identify gaps and problems that require new enhanced training, capabilities, procedures, or authorities.

(C) To identify—

(i) interdependencies;

(ii) strengths that should be leveraged; and

(iii) weaknesses that need to be mitigated.

(3) **REQUIREMENT FOR VARIATION OF ASSUMPTIONS AND CONDITIONS.**—In conducting the exercises required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that there is an appropriate degree of variation from exercise to exercise of the following:

(A) The size, scope, duration, and sophistication of the cyber attacks.

(B) The degree of warning and knowledge that is available to the Department of Defense about the attack, the means used in the attack, and the degree of delegation of authority from the President to react, including with pre-planned responses.

(C) The effectiveness of the National Mission Force of the United States Cyber Command in preempting and defeating the attack.

(D) The effectiveness of the attacks on critical infrastructure in general and particularly in specific industry sectors.

(E) The effectiveness of resilience and recovery mechanisms.

(4) **COST-SHARING AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary shall coordinate with those with whom the Secretary is required to coordinate under paragraph (1) to develop equitable cost-sharing agreements to defray the expenses of the exercises required by paragraph (1).

SEC. 1649. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REVIEWING AND CONSIDERING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS ON CYBER CAPABILITIES OF THE ARMED FORCES.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should review and consider any findings and recommendations of the Council of Governors established under section 1822 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 500; 32 U.S.C. 104 note) pertaining to cyber mission force requirements and any proposed reductions in and synchronization of the cyber capabilities of active or reserve components of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle D—Nuclear Forces

SEC. 1651. ASSESSMENT OF THREATS TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

Section 171a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h), as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

“(f) **COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS ON CERTAIN THREATS.**—The Council shall collect and assess (consistent with the provision of classified information and intelligence sources and methods) all reports and assessments otherwise conducted by the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)) regarding foreign threats, including cyber threats, to the command, control, and communications system for the national leadership of the United States and the vulnerabilities of such system to such threats.”;

(3) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) An assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities described in the reports and assessments collected under subsection (f) during the previous year, including any plans to address such threats and vulnerabilities.”.

SEC. 1652. ORGANIZATION OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE FUNCTIONS OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) **OVERSIGHT OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE MISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 805 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§8040. Oversight of nuclear deterrence mission

“(a) **OVERSIGHT OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE MISSION.**—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force shall be responsible for overseeing the safety, security, reliability, effectiveness, and credibility of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force.

“(b) **DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Chief of Staff shall designate a Deputy Chief of Staff to carry out the following duties:

“(1) Provide direction, guidance, integration, and advocacy regarding the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force.

“(2) Conduct monitoring and oversight activities regarding the safety, security, reliability, effectiveness, and credibility of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force.

“(3) Conduct periodic comprehensive assessments of all aspects of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force and provide such assessments to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 8039 the following new item:

“8040. Oversight of nuclear deterrence mission.”.

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 8033(d)(5) of such title is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, including pursuant to section 8040 of this title”.

(d) **CONSOLIDATION.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Air Force should—

(A) consolidate, to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, under a major command commanded by a single general officer the responsibility, authority, accountability, and resources for carrying out all aspects of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force, including with respect to nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon delivery systems, and the nuclear command, control, and communications system; and

(B) issue, including through the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and other elements of the Air Force, guidance, directives, and orders to carry out such consolidation.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than February 28, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on any actions taken or planned to be taken by the Secretary to reorganize, streamline, and clarify the responsibilities, authorities, accountabilities, and resources for carrying out the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force. Such report shall include the following:

(A) How elements of the Air Force will coordinate and integrate to carry out such mission.

(B) What guidance, directives, and orders have been or will be issued by the Secretary, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, or other elements of the Air Force to ensure roles, responsibilities, authorities, and accountabilities are clear and institutionalized with respect to such mission.

SEC. 1653. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PARTS OF INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE FUZES.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Notwithstanding section 1502(a) of title 31, United States Code, of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 101 and available for Missile Procurement, Air Force, as specified in the funding table in section 4101, \$13,700,000 shall be available for the procurement of covered parts pursuant to contracts entered into under section 1645(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3651).

(b) **COVERED PARTS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered parts” means commercially available off-the-shelf items as defined in section 104 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 1654. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEALERTING INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Except as provided by subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to reduce, or prepare to reduce, the responsiveness or alert level of the intercontinental ballistic missiles of the United States.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any of the following activities:

(1) The maintenance or sustainment of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(2) Ensuring the safety, security, or reliability of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(3) Reductions in the number of deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles that are carried out in compliance with—

(A) the limitations of the New START Treaty (as defined in section 494(a)(2)(D) of title 10, United States Code); and

(B) section 1644 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3651; 10 U.S.C. 494 note).

SEC. 1655. ASSESSMENT OF GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENVIRONMENT.

(a) **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—The Director of Net Assessment of the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Commander of the United States Strategic Command, shall conduct an assessment of the global environment with respect to nuclear weapons and the role of the nuclear forces, policy, and strategy of the United States in that environment.

(b) **OBJECTIVES.**—The objectives of the assessment required by subsection (a) are to inform the long-term planning of the Department of Defense and policies relating to regional nuclear crises and operations that may involve the escalation of nuclear competition among countries.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In conducting the assessment required by subsection (a), the Director shall develop and analyze a range of contingencies and scenarios, including crises that may emerge from nuclear competition during the 10- to 20-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act that involve the following:

(A) The United States and one other country that possesses a nuclear weapon.

(B) The United States and multiple such countries.

(C) Two other such countries.

(D) Three or more other such countries.

(E) Regional and cross-regional geography, including contingencies and scenarios in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia, and contingencies and scenarios that transcend regions.

(F) The long-term geopolitical and military-technical competition as it relates to nuclear weapons and strategic warfare.

(2) **ANALYSIS OF COMPETITIVE DISCONTINUITIES.**—In analyzing the long-term geopolitical and military-technical competition as it relates to nuclear weapons and strategic warfare under paragraph (1)(F), the Director shall identify—

(A) prospective discontinuities in that competition; and

(B) strategies and capabilities the United States could adopt to improve its competitive position following such discontinuities.

(d) **STAFFING.**—In conducting the assessment required by subsection (a), the Director shall engage the best talent available, with particular emphasis on engaging individuals and independent entities with demonstrated expertise in strategy and net assessment methodology.

(e) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than November 15, 2016, the Director shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the assessment required by subsection (a).

SEC. 1656. ANNUAL BRIEFING ON THE COSTS OF FORWARD-DEPLOYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress the budget for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the costs of forward-deploying nuclear weapons in Europe (not including costs relating to the life extension program for the B61 nuclear bomb).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(1) The contributions of the United States, including with respect to sustainment (operations and maintenance) and manpower, to support forward-deployed nuclear weapons in Europe, but not costs that are attributed to non-nuclear missions, during the fiscal year following the date of the briefing and the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted to Congress under section 221 of title 10, United States Code, for that fiscal year.

(2) Contributions made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or member states of NATO relating to the extended deterrence mission.

(3) Recent or planned contributions of the United States for security enhancements (site-by-site) relating to support for such forward-deployed nuclear weapons and any other contributions, including burden-share costs by the United States, for other security enhancements and upgrades relating to such forward-deployed nuclear weapons, including infrastructure upgrades at weapons storage sites in Europe.

SEC. 1657. REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF PLANNED LONG-RANGE STANDOFF WEAPONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the justification of the number of planned nuclear-armed cruise missiles, known as the long-range standoff weapon, of the United States. The report shall include—

(1) the rationale for procuring such planned number of cruise missiles;

(2) how such planned number of cruise missiles aligns with the nuclear employment strategy of the United States;

(3) an estimate of the annual and total cost for research, development, test, and evaluation and procurement for such planned number of cruise missiles; and

(4) an estimate of the proportional annual cost of such cruise missiles as compared to the annual cost of the nuclear triad and annual defense spending.

SEC. 1658. REVIEW OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ON RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—During each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the process of the Department of Defense for addressing the recommendations of the Department of Defense Internal Nuclear Enterprise Review, the Independent Review of the Department of Defense Nuclear Enterprise, and the Nuclear Deterrence Enterprise Review Group that are evaluated by the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation.

(b) **BRIEFING.**—After conducting each review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the review.

SEC. 1659. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ORGANIZATION OF NAVY FOR NUCLEAR DETERRENCE MISSION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the nuclear deterrent of the United States is a vital national security priority.

(2) Nuclear weapons require special consideration because of the political and military importance of the weapons, the destructive power of the weapons, and the potential consequences of an accident or unauthorized act involving the weapons.

(3) The assured safety, security, and control of nuclear weapons and related systems are of paramount importance.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Navy has repeatedly demonstrated the commitment and prioritization of the Navy to the nuclear deterrence mission of the Navy;

(2) the emphasis of the Navy on ensuring a safe, secure, reliable, and credible sea-based nuclear deterrent force has been matched by an equal emphasis on ensuring the assured safety, security, and control of nuclear weapons and related systems ashore; and

(3) the Navy is commended for the actions the Navy has taken subsequent to the 2014 Nuclear Enterprise Review to ensure continued focus on the nuclear deterrent mission by all ranks within the Navy, including the clarification and assignment of specific responsibilities and authorities within the Navy contained in OPNAV Instruction 8120.1 and SECNAV Instruction 8120.1B.

SEC. 1660. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NUCLEAR FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) On February 6, 2014, Air Force Global Strike Command initiated a force improvement program for the intercontinental ballistic missile force designed to improve mission effectiveness, strengthen culture and morale, and identify areas in need of investment by soliciting input from airmen performing intercontinental ballistic missile operations.

(2) The intercontinental ballistic missile force improvement program generated more than 300 recommendations to strengthen intercontinental ballistic missile operations and served as a model for subsequent force improvement programs in other mission areas, such as bomber operations and sustainment.

(3) On May 28, 2014, as part of the nuclear force improvement program, the Air Force announced it would make immediate improvements in the nuclear mission of the Air Force, including enhancing career opportunities for airmen in the nuclear career field, ensuring training activities focused on performing the mission in the field, reforming the personnel reliability program, establishing special pay rates for positions in the nuclear career field, and creating a new service medal for nuclear deterrence operations.

(4) Chief of Staff of the Air Force Mark Welsh has said that, as part of the nuclear force improvement program, the Air Force will increase nuclear-manning levels and strengthen professional development for the members of the Air Force supporting the nuclear mission of the Air Force in order “to address shortfalls and offer our airmen more stable work schedule and better quality of life”.

(5) Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, in recognition of the importance of the nuclear mission of the Air Force, proposed elevating the grade of the commander of the Air Force Global Strike Command from lieutenant general to general, and on March 30, 2015, the Senate confirmed a general as commander of that command.

(6) The Air Force redirected more than \$160,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 to alleviate urgent, near-term shortfalls within the nuclear mission of the Air Force as part of the nuclear force improvement program.

(7) The Air Force plans to spend more than \$200,000,000 on the nuclear force improvement program in fiscal year 2015, and requested more than \$130,000,000 for the program for fiscal year 2016.

(8) Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said on November 14, 2014, that “[t]he nuclear mission plays a critical role in ensuring the Nation’s safety. No other enterprise we have is more important”.

(9) Secretary Hagel also said that the budget for the nuclear mission of the Air Force should increase by 10 percent over a five-year period.

(10) Section 1652 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3654; 10 U.S.C. 491 note) declares it the policy of the United States “to ensure that the members of the Armed Forces who operate the nuclear deterrent of the United States have the training, resources, and national support required to execute the critical national security mission of the members”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the nuclear mission of the Air Force should be a top priority for the Department of the Air Force and for Congress;

(2) the members of the Air Force who operate and maintain the nuclear deterrent of the United States perform work that is vital to the security of the United States;

(3) the nuclear force improvement program of the Air Force has made significant near-term improvements for the members of the Air Force in the nuclear career field of the Air Force;

(4) Congress should support long-term investments in the Air Force nuclear enterprise that sustain the progress made under the nuclear force improvement program;

(5) the Air Force should—

(A) regularly inform Congress on the progress being made under the nuclear force improvement program and its efforts to strengthen the nuclear enterprise; and

(B) make Congress aware of any additional actions that should be taken to optimize performance of the nuclear mission of the Air Force and maximize the strength of the strategic deterrent of the United States; and

(6) future budgets for the Air Force should reflect the importance of the nuclear mission of the Air Force and the need to provide members of the Air Force assigned to the nuclear mission the best possible support and quality of life.

SEC. 1661. SENSES OF CONGRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM ON NUCLEAR ISSUES AND ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM.

(a) COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) cooperation and collaboration under the 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement and the 1963 Polaris Sales Agreement are fundamental elements of the security of the United States and the United Kingdom as well as international stability;

(2) the recent renewal of the Mutual Defense Agreement and the continued work under the Polaris Sales Agreement underscore the enduring and long-term value of the agreements to both countries; and

(3) the vital efforts performed under the purview of both the Mutual Defense Agreement and the Polaris Sales Agreement are critical to sustaining and enhancing the capabilities and knowledge base of both countries regarding nuclear deterrence, nuclear nonproliferation and counterproliferation, and naval nuclear propulsion.

(b) 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) November 2015 marks the 60th anniversary of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Program of the Navy, which evolved from the Special Project Office established under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and has provided credible, reliable, and affordable strategic deterrence solutions to the warfighter by producing more than 3,600 missiles over six different generations;

(2) The current Trident II D5 missile system has provided a reliable deterrent for nearly 25 years onboard Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines and has demonstrated reliability that is second-to-none as evidenced by more than two decades of annual, operationally representative flight testing;

(3) Congress congratulates the men and women of Strategic Systems Programs, their industry partners, and the Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen who stand watch ensuring the safety, security, and credibility of the strategic weapons of the United States; and

(4) Strategic Systems Programs, and the strategic weapon system the programs provide, are a vital and esteemed cornerstone of the security and defense of the United States and will remain so well into the future.

SEC. 1662. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE REVIEWS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of Defense should develop a plan regarding how the Secretary plans to implement the recommendations of the two nuclear enterprise reviews, one of which was led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Madelyn Crendon and Rear Admiral Peter Fanta and one of which was led by General Larry Welch (retired) and Admiral John Harvey, Jr. (retired); and

(2) such plan should include a timeline for when each recommendation will be implemented and how any additional manpower resulting from such recommendations will be allocated.

SEC. 1663. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON MILESTONE A DECISION ON LONG-RANGE STANDOFF WEAPON.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that, to support the nuclear deterrence requirements of the United States Strategic Command and ensure the credibility and reliability of the nuclear-capable air launched cruise missiles of the United States, Congress supports efforts by the Secretary of Defense to validate military requirements and make a Milestone A decision on the long-range standoff weapon.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than May 31, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the outcome of Milestone A decision for the long-range standoff weapon.

SEC. 1664. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON POLICY ON THE NUCLEAR TRIAD.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems plays a critical role in ensuring the national security of the United States; and

(2) retaining all three legs of the nuclear triad is among the highest priorities of the Department of Defense and will best maintain strategic stability at a reasonable cost, while hedging against potential technical problems and vulnerabilities.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to operate, sustain, and modernize or replace the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems consisting of—

(A) heavy bombers equipped with nuclear gravity bombs and air-launched nuclear cruise missiles;

(B) land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles equipped with nuclear warheads that are capable of carrying multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles; and

(C) ballistic missile submarines equipped with submarine launched ballistic missiles and multiple nuclear warheads;

(2) to operate, sustain, and modernize or replace a capability to forward-deploy nuclear weapons and dual-capable fighter-bomber aircraft;

(3) to deter potential adversaries and assure allies and partners of the United States through strong and long-term commitment to the nuclear deterrent of the United States and the personnel, systems, and infrastructure that comprise such deterrent;

(4) to ensure that the members of the Armed Forces who operate the nuclear deterrent of the United States have the training, resources, and national support required to execute the critical national security mission of the members; and

(5) to achieve a modern and responsive nuclear infrastructure to support the full spectrum of deterrence requirements.

SEC. 1665. REPORT RELATING TO THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE MINUTEMAN III INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report examining the costs associated with extending the life of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile compared to the costs associated with procuring a new ground-based strategic deterrent.

Subtitle E—Missile Defense Programs and Other Matters

SEC. 1671. PROHIBITIONS ON PROVIDING CERTAIN MISSILE DEFENSE INFORMATION TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 1642, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§130h. Prohibitions on providing certain missile defense information to Russian Federation

“(a) CERTAIN ‘HIT-TO-KILL’ TECHNOLOGY AND TELEMETRY DATA.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year for the Department of Defense may be used to provide the Russian Federation with ‘hit-to-kill’ technology and telemetry data for missile defense interceptors or target vehicles.

“(b) OTHER SENSITIVE MISSILE DEFENSE INFORMATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year for the Department of Defense may be used to provide the Russian Federation with—

“(1) information relating to velocity at burn-out of missile defense interceptors or targets of the United States; or

“(2) classified or otherwise controlled missile defense information.

“(c) EXCEPTION.—The prohibitions in subsection (a) and (b) shall not apply to the United States providing to the Russian Federation information regarding ballistic missile early warning.

“(d) SUNSET.—The prohibitions in subsection (a) and (b) shall expire on January 1, 2017.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 1243 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3568), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 130g the following new item:

“130h. Prohibitions on providing certain missile defense information to Russian Federation.”.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 1246 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 922), as amended by section 1243 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3568), is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) in the heading, by striking “AND LIMITATIONS” and all that follows through “FEDERATION”.

SEC. 1672. PROHIBITION ON INTEGRATION OF MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION INTO MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF UNITED STATES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal years 2016 or 2017 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to integrate a missile defense system of the Russian Federation into any missile defense system of the United States.

SEC. 1673. PROHIBITION ON INTEGRATION OF MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF CHINA INTO MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF UNITED STATES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to integrate a missile defense system of the People's Republic of China into any missile defense system of the United States.

SEC. 1674. LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PATRIOT LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF THE ARMY.

(a) LIMITATION.—Except as provided by subsection (c), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for any program described in subsection (b) may be obligated or expended unless—

(1) the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that the analysis of alternatives regarding the Patriot lower tier air and missile defense capability of the Army has been submitted to such committees;

(2) a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary makes the certification under paragraph (1); and

(3) the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics certifies to such committees that such obligation or expenditure of funds on such programs is consistent with the findings of the analysis of alternatives described in paragraph (1) to modernize the Patriot lower tier air and missile defense capability of the Army.

(b) PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—A program described in this subsection are the following components and capabilities of the Patriot air and missile defense system:

(1) Radar capability development, radar improvements, the digital sidelobe canceller, or the radar digital processor of the lower tier air and missile defense program of the Army.

(2) The enhanced launcher electronic system.

(c) WAIVER.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics may waive the limitations in subsection (a) if the Under Secretary—

(1) determines that such waiver—

(A) is caused by the delay of the analysis of alternatives described in paragraph (1) of such subsection; and

(B) is necessary to avoid an unacceptable risk to mission performance;

(2) notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver; and

(3) pursuant to such waiver, obligates or expends funds only in amounts necessary to avoid such unacceptable risk to mission performance.

SEC. 1675. INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) INTEROPERABILITY OF MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acting through the Missile Defense Executive Board, shall ensure the interoperability and integration of the covered air and missile defense capabilities of the United States, including by carrying out operational testing.

(b) ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Director of the Missile Defense Agency and the Secretary of the Army shall jointly ensure that not less than one intercept or flight test is carried out each year that demonstrates interoperability and integration among the covered air and missile defense capabilities of the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The Director and the Secretary may waive the requirement in paragraph (1) with respect to an intercept or flight test carried out during the year covered by the waiver if the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics—

(A) determines that such waiver is necessary for such year; and

(B) submits to the congressional defense committees notification of such waiver, including an explanation for how such waiver will not negatively affect demonstrating the interoperability and integration among the covered air and missile defense capabilities of the United States.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered air and missile defense capabilities” means Patriot air and missile defense batteries and associated interceptors and systems, Aegis ships and associated ballistic missile interceptors (including Aegis Ashore capability), AN/TPY-2 radars, or terminal high altitude area defense batteries and interceptors.

SEC. 1676. INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF ALLIED MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each covered commander shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff an assessment on opportunities for the integration and interoperability of covered air and missile defense capabilities of the United States with such capabilities of allies of the United States located in the area of responsibility of the commander, particularly with respect to such allies who acquired such capabilities through foreign military sales by the United States. Each assessment shall include an assessment of the key technology, security, command and control, and policy requirements necessary to achieve such an integrated and interoperable air and missile defense capability in a manner that ensures burden sharing and furthers the force multiplication goals of the United States.

(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a covered commander submits to the Secretary and the Chairman an assess-

ment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing such assessment, without change.

(b) INTEGRATION, INTEROPERABILITY, AND COMMAND-AND-CONTROL.—The Secretary and the Chairman, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Chief of Naval Operations, shall carry out the planning, risk assessments, policy development, and concepts of operations necessary for each covered commander to ensure that the integration (to the extent that specific integration arrangements are agreeable to the partner nation or among the partner nations involved in such arrangements), interoperability, and command-and-control of air and missile defense capabilities described in subsection (a)(1) occur by not later than December 31, 2017.

(c) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2017, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a report that describes the progress made by the Secretary, the Chairman, and the covered commanders with respect to carrying out subsection (b), including an identification of each required action that has not been taken as of the date of the report.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered air and missile defense capabilities” means Patriot air and missile defense batteries and associated interceptors and systems, Aegis ships and associated ballistic missile interceptors (including Aegis Ashore capability), AN/TPY-2 radars, or terminal high altitude area defense batteries and interceptors.

(2) The term “covered commander” means the following:

(A) The Commander of the United States European Command.

(B) The Commander of the United States Central Command.

(C) The Commander of the United States Pacific Command.

SEC. 1677. MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITY IN EUROPE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the relevant combatant command, should ensure that arrangements are in place, including support from other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the host nations, to provide anti-air defense capability at the Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland by not later than June 1, 2019.

(b) REQUEST TO NATO.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to NATO a request for NATO Security Investment Programme support for an air defense capability at the Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees as to whether NATO has agreed in principle to providing the support described in paragraph (1).

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(c) REPORT ON AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing—

(A) the plan and budget profile to provide the air defense capability described in subsection (b)(1);

(B) an assessment of any changes to the hosting agreements between the respective host nations and the United States;

(C) an evaluation of the feasibility, benefit, and cost of using the evolved sea sparrow missile, the standard missile 2, or other options as determined by the Secretary to provide such air defense capability; and

(D) an assessment of the air and ballistic missile threat to the military installations of the United States in Europe, including the Naval Shore Facility in Devesulu, Romania, and the planned facility in Redzikowo, Poland.

(2) **FORM.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) **CAPABILITIES IN EUROPEAN COMMAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.**—

(1) **ROTATIONAL DEPLOYMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that a terminal high altitude area defense battery is available for rotational deployment to the area of responsibility of the United States European Command unless the Secretary notifies the congressional defense committees that such battery is needed in the area of responsibility of another combatant command.

(2) **PRE-POSITIONING SITES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall examine potential sites in the area of responsibility of the United States European Command to pre-position a terminal high altitude area defense battery.

(3) **STUDIES.**—

(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct studies to evaluate—

(i) not fewer than three sites in the area of responsibility of the United States European Command for the deployment of a terminal high altitude area defense battery in the event that the deployment of such a battery is determined to be necessary; and

(ii) not fewer than three sites in such area for the deployment of a Patriot air and missile defense battery in the event that such a deployment is determined to be necessary.

(B) In evaluating sites under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall determine which sites are best for defending—

(i) the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(ii) the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(4) **AGREEMENTS.**—If the Secretary of Defense determines that a deployment described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (3)(A) is necessary and the appropriate host nation requests such a deployment, the President shall seek to enter into the necessary agreements with the host nation to carry out such deployment.

(e) **IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN DIRECTION.**—The Secretary shall implement the direction relating to this section contained in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

SEC. 1678. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR IRON DOME SHORT-RANGE ROCKET DEFENSE SYSTEM.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by section 1502 for procurement, Defense-wide, and available for the Missile Defense Agency, not more than \$41,400,000 may be provided to the Government of Israel to procure radars for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system as specified in the funding table in section 4102, including for coproduction of such radars in the United States by industry of the United States.

(b) **CONDITIONS.**—

(1) **AGREEMENT.**—Funds described in subsection (a) to produce the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense program shall be available subject to the terms and conditions in the Agreement Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of

Defense of the State of Israel Concerning Iron Dome Defense System Procurement, signed on March 5, 2014, subject to an amended agreement for coproduction for radar components. In negotiations by the Missile Defense Agency and the Missile Defense Organization of the Government of Israel regarding such production, the goal of the United States is to maximize opportunities for coproduction of the radars described in subsection (a) in the United States by industry of the United States.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 30 days prior to the initial obligation of funds described in subsection (a), the Director of the Missile Defense Agency and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) a certification that the agreement specified in paragraph (1) is being implemented as provided in such agreement; and

(B) an assessment detailing any risks relating to the implementation of such agreement.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1679. ISRAELI COOPERATIVE MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAM CODEVELOPMENT AND COPRODUCTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), of the funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for procurement, Defense-wide, and available for the Missile Defense Agency—

(1) not more than \$150,000,000 may be provided to the Government of Israel to procure the David's Sling Weapon System, including for coproduction of parts and components in the United States by United States industry; and

(2) not more than \$15,000,000 may be provided to the Government of Israel for the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program, including for coproduction of parts and components in the United States by United States industry.

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—

(1) **CRITERIA.**—Except as provided by subsection (c), the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that—

(A) the Government of Israel has demonstrated the successful completion of the knowledge points, technical milestones, and production readiness reviews required by the research, development, and technology agreements for the David's Sling Weapon System and the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Development Program, respectively;

(B) such funds will be provided on the basis of a one-for-one cash match made by Israel for such respective systems or in another matching amount that otherwise meets best efforts (as mutually agreed to by the United States and Israel);

(C) the United States has entered into a bilateral agreement with Israel that establishes—

(i) in accordance with subparagraph (D), the terms of coproduction of parts and components of such respective systems on the basis of the greatest practicable coproduction of parts, components, and all-up rounds (if appropriate) by United States industry and minimizes non-recurring engineering and facilitization expenses;

(ii) complete transparency on the requirement of Israel for the number of interceptors and batteries of such respective systems that will be procured, including with respect to the procurement plans, acquisition strategy, and funding profiles of Israel;

(iii) technical milestones for coproduction of parts and components and procurement of such respective systems; and

(iv) joint approval processes for third-party sales of such respective systems and the components of such respective systems; and

(D) the level of coproduction described in subparagraph (C)(i) for the David's Sling Weapon System is equal to or greater than 50 percent.

(2) **NUMBER.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Under Secretary may submit—

(A) one certification covering both the David's Sling Weapon System and the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program; or

(B) separate certifications for each such respective system.

(3) **TIMING.**—The Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees the certification under paragraph (1) by not later than 60 days before the funds specified in subsection (a) for the respective system covered by the certification are provided to the Government of Israel.

(c) **WAIVER.**—The Under Secretary may waive the certification required by subsection (b) if the Under Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Under Secretary has received sufficient data from the Government of Israel to demonstrate—

(1) the funds specified in paragraph (1) and (2) of subsection (a) are provided to Israel solely for funding the procurement of long-lead components in accordance with a production plan, including a funding profile detailing Israeli contributions for production, including long-lead production, of either David's Sling Weapon System or the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program;

(2) such long-lead components have successfully completed knowledge points, technical milestones, and production readiness reviews; and

(3) the long-lead procurement will be conducted in a manner that maximizes coproduction in the United States without incurring additional nonrecurring engineering activity or cost.

(d) **PLAN ON COPRODUCTION OF DAVID'S SLING WEAPON SYSTEM.**—At the same time that the President submits to Congress the budget for fiscal year 2017 under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency and the Under Secretary shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan to achieve a rate of coproduction by United States industry of parts and components of the David's Sling Weapon System at a level that is not less than 50 percent. Such plan shall include—

(1) a timeline for achieving such a level of coproduction;

(2) any nonrecurring engineering or facilitization costs related to such coproduction, costs for additional testing and training, and other additional associated costs;

(3) a recommendation for whether carrying out such plan is in the national interest of the United States; and

(4) any other matter the Director and Under Secretary consider appropriate.

(e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1680. BOOST PHASE DEFENSE SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) prioritize technology investments in the Department of Defense to support feasible and cost-effective efforts by the Missile Defense

Agency to develop and field an airborne boost phase defense system by not later than fiscal year 2025;

(2) ensure that development and fielding of a boost phase missile defense layer to the ballistic missile defense system supports multiple warfighter missile defense requirements, including, specifically, protection of the United States homeland and allies of the United States against ballistic missiles, particularly in the boost phase;

(3) continue development and fielding of high-energy lasers, electromagnetic and other railgun technology, high-power microwave systems, and other advanced technologies as part of a layered architecture to defend ships and theater bases against air and cruise missile strikes;

(4) encourage collaboration among the military departments and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency with respect to high energy laser efforts carried out in support of the Missile Defense Agency; and

(5) ensure cooperation and coordination between the Missile Defense Agency with respect to the plans of the Missile Defense Agency to develop an airborne laser and the requirements of the Air Force for unmanned aerial vehicles.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the efforts of the Department of Defense to develop and deploy an airborne or other boost phase defense system for missile defense by fiscal year 2025.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Such schedules, costs, warfighter requirements, operational concept, constraints, potential alternative boost phase approaches, and other information regarding the efforts described in paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(B) Analyses of the efforts described in paragraph (1) with respect to the following cases:

(i) A case in which the Department is under no funding constraints with respect to such efforts and progress is based on the state of the technology.

(ii) A case in which the Department is under funding constraints and the efforts are carried out in accordance with a moderately aggressive schedule and are subject to moderate technical risk.

(iii) A case in which the Department is under funding constraints and the efforts are carried out in accordance with a less aggressive schedule and are subject to less technical risk.

(C) An update on related efforts of the Department to develop high energy lasers, electromagnetic and other railguns, high power microwave systems, and other advanced technologies to defend ships and theater bases against air and cruise missile strikes and to protect the homeland of the United States and protect allies of the United States.

(D) An evaluation of recommendations, including a listing of the recommendations, from industry on emerging technologies that could be applied for boost phase missile defense.

(E) Such recommendations as the Secretary may have for legislative or administrative action to enable more rapid fielding of a directed-energy based missile defense system.

(3) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1681. DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF MULTIPLE-OBJECT KILL VEHICLE FOR MISSILE DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES HOMELAND.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the defense of the United States homeland against the threat of limited ballistic missile at-

tack (whether accidental, unauthorized, or deliberate) is the highest priority of the Missile Defense Agency;

(2) the Missile Defense Agency is appropriately prioritizing the design, development, and deployment of the redesigned kill vehicle; and

(3) the multiple-object kill vehicle could contribute critical capabilities to the future of the ballistic missile defense of the United States homeland.

(b) MULTIPLE-OBJECT KILL VEHICLE.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall develop a highly reliable multiple-object kill vehicle for the ground-based midcourse defense system using sound acquisition practices.

(2) DEPLOYMENT.—The Director shall—

(A) conduct rigorous flight testing of the multiple-object kill vehicle developed under paragraph (1) by not later than 2020; and

(B) recognizing the primacy of developing the redesigned kill vehicle, produce and deploy the multiple-object kill vehicle as early as practicable after the date on which the Director carries out subparagraph (A).

(c) CAPABILITIES AND CRITERIA.—The Director shall ensure that the multiple-object kill vehicle developed under subsection (b)(1) meets, at a minimum, the following capabilities and criteria:

(1) Vehicle-to-vehicle communications.

(2) Vehicle-to-ground communications.

(3) Kill assessment capability.

(4) The ability to counter advanced counter measures, decoys, and penetration aids.

(5) Producibility and manufacturability.

(6) Use of technology involving high technology readiness levels.

(7) Options to be integrated onto other missile defense interceptor vehicles other than the ground-based interceptors of the ground-based midcourse defense system.

(8) Sound acquisition processes.

(d) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The management of the multiple-object kill vehicle program under subsection (b) shall report directly to the Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency.

(e) REPORT ON FUNDING PROFILE.—The Director shall include with the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2017 (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a report on the funding profile necessary for the multiple-object kill vehicle program to meet the objectives under subsection (b).

SEC. 1682. REQUIREMENT TO REPLACE CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT I EXOATMOSPHERIC KILL VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all remaining ground-based interceptors of the ground-based midcourse defense system that are armed with the capability enhancement I exoatmospheric kill vehicle are replaced with the redesigned exoatmospheric kill vehicle before September 30, 2022.

(b) CONDITION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Director determines that flight and intercept testing of the redesigned exoatmospheric kill vehicle is not successful.

SEC. 1683. DESIGNATION OF PREFERRED LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SITE IN THE UNITED STATES AND PLAN FOR EXPEDITING DEPLOYMENT TIME OF SUCH SITE.

(a) SITE DESIGNATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense publishes the draft environmental impact statement pursuant to subsection (b) of section 227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat.

1678), the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in consultation with the Commander of the United States Northern Command, shall designate, from among the sites evaluated under subsection (a) of such section 227, the preferred site in the United States for the future deployment of an interceptor capable of protecting the homeland, as informed by—

(1) such environmental impact statement; and

(2) the operational effectiveness and cost effectiveness of such evaluated sites.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense makes the congressional notification of the finalization of the environmental impact statement prepared pursuant to section 227(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a plan for expediting the deployment time for the site designated under subsection (a) by at least two years, if the decision is made to proceed with such deployment; and

(B) submit to the congressional defense committees such plan and any update, as may be necessary, to the designation made under subsection (a).

(2) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The plan under paragraph (1)(A) shall include the following:

(A) Estimates of the costs of carrying out the plan and a schedule for carrying out the plan.

(B) An assessment of any risks associated with decreasing the deployment time of the site designated under subsection (a), including with respect to cost and the operational effectiveness and reliability of interceptors.

(C) Identification of any deviation in the plan from sound acquisition processes, including with respect to testing prior to full operational capability designation.

(D) A description of such legislative or administrative action as may be necessary to carry out the plan.

(c) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for military construction for the East Coast missile site planning and design, as specified in the funding table in section 4601, may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense publishes the final environmental impact statement pursuant to section 227(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

(d) ASSESSMENT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan under subsection (b)(1)(B), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) complete a review of the plan; and

(2) submit to the congressional defense committees a report on such review that includes the findings and recommendations of the Comptroller General.

SEC. 1684. ADDITIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR COVERAGE FOR PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES HOMELAND.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that additional missile defense sensor discrimination capabilities are needed to enhance the protection of the United States homeland against potential long-range ballistic missiles from Iran that, according to the Department of Defense, could soon be obtained by Iran as a result of its active space launch program.

(b) STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS ON HOMEPORT OF SEA-BASED X-BAND RADAR.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall commence any siting studies, environmental impact assessments or statements required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) that have not otherwise been prepared, homeport

agreements for sea-based X-band radar support, evaluations of any needed pier modifications, and evaluations of any communications capabilities or other requirements to carry out the reassignment of the homeport of the sea-based X-band radar to a homeport on the East Coast of the United States.

(c) **POTENTIAL FUTURE MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR SITES.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—Not later than March 31, 2016, the Director shall commence a study to evaluate at least three possible additional locations (in or outside the United States), selected by the Director, that would be best suited for future deployment of an advanced missile defense sensor site optimized against threats from Iran.

(2) **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.**—Except as provided by paragraph (3), the evaluation under paragraph (1) shall include an environmental impact statement or other analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for each location included in the evaluation.

(3) **EXCEPTION.**—If an environmental impact statement or other analysis described in paragraph (2) has already been prepared, or is not required by law, for a location included in the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall not be required to carry out paragraph (2) with respect to such location.

(d) **DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.**—

(1) **DEPLOYMENT.**—Not later than December 31, 2020, the Director, in cooperation with the relevant combatant command, shall deploy a long-range discrimination radar or other appropriate sensor capability in a location optimized to support the defense of the homeland of the United States from emerging long-range ballistic missile threats from Iran.

(2) **SEA-BASED X-BAND RADAR.**—If the Director carries out paragraph (1) by reassigning the homeport of the sea-based X-band radar, the Director and the Secretary of the Navy may not carry out such reassignment until the date on which the Director certifies to the congressional defense committees that Hawaii will have adequate missile defense coverage prior to such reassignment.

(e) **SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than December 31, 2018, the Director shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the following:

(A) The findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1) of subsection (c), including any environmental impact statements or analyses required by paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(B) Notification of the manner in which Hawaii is being provided ballistic missile defense coverage.

(2) **PLAN.**—In the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020 submitted by the President to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Director shall include—

(A) the plan of the Director to carry out subsection (d); and

(B) an update on the progress of the Director in implementing subsections (b) and (c).

SEC. 1685. CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE-BASED MISSILE DEFENSE LAYER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force and the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, shall commence the concept definition of a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer to the ballistic missile defense system that provides—

(1) a boost-phase layer for missile defense; or

(2) additional defensive options against direct ascent anti-satellite weapons, hypersonic glide vehicles, and maneuvering reentry vehicles.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The activities carried out under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Draft operation concepts for how a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer would function in the context of a multi-layer missile defense architecture.

(2) An assessment of how such a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer could contribute to the defense of the United States against intercontinental ballistic missiles with varying degrees of effectiveness.

(3) An assessment of the required architecture and components (including hardware, software, and related command and control systems) and the maturity of critical technologies necessary to make such a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer operational.

(4) An assessment of how such a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer could protect the satellites of the United States against adversary anti-satellite weapons.

(5) An assessment of the effort required to integrate and make interoperable such a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer with the ground-based missile defense system.

(6) Any other matters the Director of the Missile Defense Agency considers appropriate.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes—

(1) the findings of the concept development required by subsection (a);

(2) a plan for developing one or more programs of record for a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer, including estimates of the appropriate identifiable costs of each such potential program of record; and

(3) the views of the Director regarding such findings and plan.

SEC. 1686. AEGIS ASHORE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **EVALUATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in coordination with the Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Staff of the Army, shall evaluate the role, feasibility, cost, cost benefit, and operational effectiveness of additional Aegis Ashore sites and upgrades to current ballistic missile defense system sensors to offset capacity demands on current Aegis ships, Aegis Ashore sites, and Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense capability and to meet the requirements of the combatant commanders.

(2) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall—

(A) review the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) submit to the congressional defense committees such evaluation and the results of such review, including recommendations for potential future locations of Aegis Ashore sites.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF FMS OBSTACLES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Secretary of State shall jointly identify any obstacles to foreign military sales of Aegis Ashore or cofinancing of additional Aegis Ashore sites. Such evaluation shall include, with coordination with other agencies and departments of the Federal Government as appropriate, the feasibility of host nation manning or dual manning with the United States and such host nation.

(2) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the identification of obstacles under paragraph (1).

SEC. 1687. DEVELOPMENT OF REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with the memorandum of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of January 27, 2014, regarding joint integrated air and missile defense, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall oversee the development of warfighter requirements for persistent and survivable capabilities to detect, identify, determine the status, track, and support engagement of strategically important mobile or relocatable assets in all phases of conflict in order to achieve the objective of preventing the effective employment of such assets, including through offensive actions against such assets prior to their use.

(b) **PURPOSE OF REQUIREMENTS.**—The requirements developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be used and updated, as appropriate, for the purpose of informing applicable acquisition programs and systems-of-systems architecture planning that are funded through the Military Intelligence Program, the National Intelligence Program, and non-intelligence programs.

(c) **SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES.**—The Vice Chairman shall also oversee the development of the enabling framework for intelligence support for integrated air and missile defense, including concepts for the integrated operation of multiple systems, and, as appropriate, the development of requirements for capabilities to be acquired to achieve such integrated operations.

(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that new acquisition programs for applicable major systems or capabilities, or for upgrades to existing systems, should not be undertaken until the applicable requirements described in subsections (a) and (c) have been developed and incorporated into programmatic decision-making.

SEC. 1688. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF MISSILE DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

Section 232(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1339) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “through 2015” and inserting “through 2020”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), in the first sentence, by striking “through 2016” and inserting “through 2021”.

SEC. 1689. REPORT ON MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR ALTERNATIVES FOR ENHANCED DEFENSE OF HAWAII.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) expanding persistent midcourse and terminal ballistic missile defense system discrimination capability is critically important to the defense of the United States;

(2) such discrimination capability is needed to respond to emerging ballistic missile threats involving countermeasures and decoys; and

(3) the Department of Defense should take all appropriate steps to ensure Hawaii has adequate missile defense coverage.

(b) **EVALUATION AND REPORT.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—The Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall conduct an evaluation of potential options for fielding a medium range ballistic missile defense sensor for the defense of Hawaii, including—

(A) the use of the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex land-based system at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii;

(B) the use of existing sensor assets in the region; and

(C) other options the Director determines appropriate.

(2) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Director shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the options for augmenting the missile defense of Hawaii, including—

(A) a summary of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1);

(B) estimated acquisition and operating costs for each sensor option; and

(C) estimated timelines for the deployment of each sensor option.

SEC. 1690. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON VALIDATED MILITARY REQUIREMENT AND MILESTONE A DECISION ON PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE WEAPON SYSTEM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of the Congress that the United States must continue to develop the conventional prompt global strike capability to strike high-value, time-sensitive, and defended targets from ranges outside of current conventional technology while addressing and preventing any risk of ambiguity.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the outcome of the military requirements process and Milestone A decision for at least one conventional prompt global strike weapons system.

DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016”.

SEC. 2002. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS AND AMOUNTS REQUIRED TO BE SPECIFIED BY LAW.

(a) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS AFTER THREE YEARS.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), all authorizations contained in titles XXI through XXVII for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, and contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (and authorizations of appropriations therefor) shall expire on the later of—

(1) October 1, 2018; or

(2) the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2019.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to authorizations for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, and contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (and authorizations of appropriations therefor), for which appropriated funds have been obligated before the later of—

(1) October 1, 2018; or

(2) the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for fiscal year 2019 for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, or contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.

SEC. 2003. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Titles XXI through XXVII shall take effect on the later of—

(1) October 1, 2015; or

(2) the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE XXI—ARMY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2101. Authorized Army construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2102. Family housing.

Sec. 2103. Improvements to military family housing units.

Sec. 2104. Authorization of appropriations, Army.

Sec. 2105. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2013 project.

Sec. 2106. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects.

Sec. 2107. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects.

Sec. 2108. Additional authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2016 project.

SEC. 2101. AUTHORIZED ARMY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) **INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alaska	Fort Greely	\$7,800,000
California	Concord	\$98,000,000
Colorado	Fort Carson	\$5,800,000
Georgia	Fort Gordon	\$90,000,000
Maryland	Fort Meade	\$34,500,000
New York	Fort Drum	\$19,000,000
	United States Military Academy	\$70,000,000
Oklahoma	Fort Sill	\$69,400,000
Texas	Corpus Christi	\$85,000,000
Virginia	Arlington National Cemetery	\$30,000,000
	Fort Lee	\$33,000,000

(b) **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a) and available for military construction projects out-

side the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out the military construction project for the instal-

lation or location outside the United States, and in the amount, set forth in the following table:

Army: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Germany	Grafenwoehr	\$51,000,000

SEC. 2102. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) **CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a) and

available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may construct or acquire family housing units (including land ac-

quisition and supporting facilities) at the installations or locations, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Army: Family Housing

State/Country	Installation or Location	Units	Amount
Florida	Camp Rudder	Family Housing New Construction	\$8,000,000
Illinois	Rock Island	Family Housing New Construction	\$20,000,000
Korea	Camp Walker	Family Housing New Construction	\$61,000,000

(b) **PLANNING AND DESIGN.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Sec-

retary of the Army may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed \$7,195,000.

SEC. 2103. IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations

in section 2104(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000.

SEC. 2104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, ARMY.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Army as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all

projects carried out under section 2101 of this Act may not exceed the total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2105. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2119) for the United States Military Academy, New York, for construction of a Cadet barracks building at the installation, the Secretary of the Army may install mechanical equipment and distribution lines sufficient to provide chilled water for air conditioning the nine existing historical Cadet barracks which are being renovated through the Cadet Barracks Upgrade Program.

SEC. 2106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1660), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2101 of that Act (125 Stat. 1661) and extended by section 2107 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3673), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2012 Project Authorizations

State	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
Georgia	Fort Benning	Land Acquisition	\$5,100,000
	Fort Benning	Land Acquisition	\$25,000,000
Virginia	Fort Belvoir	Road and Infrastructure Improvements	\$25,000,000

SEC. 2107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2118), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2101 of that Act (126 Stat. 2119) shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the

date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2013 Project Authorizations

State or Country	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
District of Columbia	Fort McNair	Vehicle Storage Building, Installation	\$7,191,000
Kansas	Fort Riley	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Complex	\$12,184,000
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	Aerial Gunnery Range	\$41,945,000
Texas	Joint Base San Antonio	Barracks	\$20,971,000
Virginia	Fort Belvoir	Secure Admin/Operations Facility	\$93,876,000
Italy	Camp Ederle	Barracks	\$35,952,000
Japan	Sagami	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$17,976,000

SEC. 2108. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2016 PROJECT.

(a) **PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of the Army may carry out a military construction project to construct a vehicle bridge and traffic circle to facilitate traffic flow to and from the Medical Center at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany, in the amount of \$12,400,000.

(b) **USE OF HOST-NATION PAYMENT-IN-KIND FUNDS.**—The Secretary may use available host-nation payment-in-kind funding for the project described in subsection (a).

TITLE XXII—NAVY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2201. Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2202. Family housing.

Sec. 2203. Improvements to military family housing units.

Sec. 2204. Authorization of appropriations, Navy.

Sec. 2205. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects.

Sec. 2206. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects.

SEC. 2201. AUTHORIZED NAVY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) **INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Inside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Arizona	Yuma	\$50,635,000
California	Camp Pendleton	\$44,540,000
	Coronado	\$4,856,000
	Lemoore	\$71,830,000
	Miramar	\$11,200,000
	Point Mugu	\$22,427,000
	San Diego	\$37,366,000
	Twentynine Palms	\$9,160,000
Florida	Jacksonville	\$16,751,000
	Mayport	\$16,159,000
	Pensacola	\$18,347,000
	Whiting Field	\$10,421,000
Georgia	Albany	\$7,851,000
	Kings Bay	\$8,099,000

Navy: Inside the United States—Continued

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
	Townsend	\$43,279,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	\$181,768,000
Hawaii	Barking Sands	\$30,623,000
	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	\$14,881,000
	Kaneohe Bay	\$106,618,000
	Marine Corps Base Hawaii	\$12,800,000
Maryland	Patuxent River	\$40,935,000
North Carolina	Camp Lejeune	\$54,849,000
	Cherry Point	\$57,726,000
	New River	\$8,230,000
South Carolina	Parris Island	\$27,075,000
Virginia	Dam Neck	\$23,066,000
	Norfolk	\$126,677,000
	Portsmouth	\$45,513,000
	Quantico	\$58,199,000
Washington	Bangor	\$34,177,000
	Bremerton	\$22,680,000
	Indian Island	\$4,472,000

(b) **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a) and available for military construction projects out-

side the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installa-

tions or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Bahrain Island	Southwest Asia	\$89,791,000
Italy	Sigonella	\$102,943,000
Japan	Camp Butler	\$11,697,000
	Iwakuni	\$17,923,000
	Kadena Air Base	\$23,310,000
	Yokosuka	\$13,846,000
Poland	RedziKowo Base	\$51,270,000

SEC. 2202. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) **CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a) and

available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may construct or acquire family housing units (including land ac-

quisition and supporting facilities) at the installation or location, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Navy: Family Housing

State	Installation or Location	Units	Amount
Virginia	Wallops Island	Family Housing New Construction	\$438,000

(b) **PLANNING AND DESIGN.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed \$4,588,000.

SEC. 2203. IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may improve existing military family

housing units in an amount not to exceed \$11,515,000.

SEC. 2204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NAVY.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Navy, as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2201 of this Act may not exceed the total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2205. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1660), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2201 of that Act (125 Stat. 1666) and extended by section 2208 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3678), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Navy: Extension of 2012 Project Authorizations

State	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
California	Camp Pendleton	Infantry Squad Defense Range	\$29,187,000
Florida	Jacksonville	P-8A Hangar Upgrades	\$6,085,000
Georgia	Kings Bay	Crab Island Security Enclave	\$52,913,000

SEC. 2206. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2118), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2201 of that Act (126 Stat. 2122), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the

date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Navy: Extension of 2013 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
California	Camp Pendleton	Comm. Information Systems Ops Complex	\$78,897,000
	Coronado	Bachelor Quarters	\$76,063,000
	Twentynine Palms	Land Expansion Phase 2	\$47,270,000
Greece	Souda Bay	Intermodal Access Road	\$4,630,000
South Carolina	Beaufort	Recycling/Hazardous Waste Facility	\$3,743,000
Virginia	Quantico	Infrastructure—Widen Russell Road	\$14,826,000
Worldwide Unspecified	Various Worldwide Locations	BAMS Operational Facilities	\$34,048,000

TITLE XXIII—AIR FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2301. Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2302. Family housing.

Sec. 2303. Improvements to military family housing units.

Sec. 2304. Authorization of appropriations, Air Force.

Sec. 2305. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2010 project.

Sec. 2306. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2014 project.

Sec. 2307. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2015 project.

Sec. 2308. Extension of authorization of certain fiscal year 2012 project.

Sec. 2309. Extension of authorization of certain fiscal year 2013 project.

Sec. 2310. Certification of optimal location for Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex and plan for rotation of forces at Lajes Field, Azores.

SEC. 2301. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) **INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alaska	Eielson Air Force Base	\$71,400,000
Arizona	Davis-Monthan Air Force Base	\$16,900,000
	Luke Air Force Base	\$77,700,000
Colorado	Air Force Academy	\$10,000,000
Florida	Cape Canaveral Air Force Station	\$21,000,000
	Eglin Air Force Base	\$8,700,000
	Hurlburt Field	\$14,200,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	\$50,800,000
Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	\$46,000,000
Kansas	McConnell Air Force Base	\$4,300,000
Missouri	Whiteman Air Force Base	\$29,500,000
Montana	Malstrom Air Force Base	\$19,700,000
Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	\$21,000,000
Nevada	Nellis Air Force Base	\$68,950,000
New Mexico	Cannon Air Force Base	\$7,800,000
	Holloman Air Force Base	\$3,000,000
	Kirtland Air Force Base	\$12,800,000
North Carolina	Seymour Johnson Air Force Base	\$17,100,000
Oklahoma	Altus Air Force Base	\$28,400,000
	Tinker Air Force Base	\$49,900,000
South Dakota	Ellsworth Air Force Base	\$23,000,000
Texas	Joint Base San Antonio	\$106,000,000
Utah	Hill Air Force Base	\$38,400,000
Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	\$95,000,000
CONUS Classified	Classified Location	\$77,130,000

(b) **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(a) and available for military construction projects out-

side the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out the military construction projects for the instal-

lations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Greenland	Thule Air Base	\$41,965,000

Air Force: Outside the United States—Continued

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Japan	Kadena Air Base	\$3,000,000
	Yokota Air Base	\$8,461,000
Niger	Agadez	\$50,000,000
Oman	Al Musannah Air Base	\$25,000,000
United Kingdom	Croughton Royal Air Force	\$130,615,000

SEC. 2302. FAMILY HOUSING.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed \$9,849,000.

SEC. 2303. IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed \$150,649,000.

SEC. 2304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, AIR FORCE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Air Force, as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2301 of this Act may not exceed the sum of the following:

(1) The total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(2) \$21,000,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 992) for the CYBERCOM Joint Operations Center at Fort Meade, Maryland).

SEC. 2305. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2010 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (division B of Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2636), for Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, for construction of a ground control tower at the installation, the Secretary of the Air Force may install communications cabling.

SEC. 2306. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROJECT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2301(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 993) for Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, for construction of a Guardian Angel Operations Facility at the installation, the Secretary of the Air Force may construct the facility at an unspecified location within the United States European Command's area of responsibility.

(b) **NOTICE AND WAIT REQUIREMENT.**—Before the Secretary of the Air Force commences construction of the Guardian Angel Operations Facility at an alternative location, as authorized by subsection (a)—

(1) the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing a description of the project, including the rationale for selection of the project location; and

(2) a period of 14 days has expired following the date on which the report is received by the committees or, if over sooner, a period of 7 days has expired following the date on which a copy of the report is provided in an electronic medium pursuant to section 480 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 2307. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3679) for McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, for construction of a KC-46A Alter Composite Maintenance Shop at the installation, the Secretary of the Air Force may construct a 696 square meter (7,500 square foot) facility consistent with Air Force guidelines for composite maintenance shops.

SEC. 2308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1660), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2301 of that Act (125 Stat. 1670) and extended by section 2305 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3680), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2012 Project Authorization

Country	Installation	Project	Amount
Italy	Sigonella Naval Air Station	UAS SATCOM Relay Pads and Facility	\$15,000,000

SEC. 2309. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2118), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2301 of that Act (126 Stat. 2126), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the

date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2013 Project Authorization

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
Portugal	Lajes Field	Sanitary Sewer Lift/Pump Station	\$2,000,000

SEC. 2310. CERTIFICATION OF OPTIMAL LOCATION FOR JOINT INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS COMPLEX AND PLAN FOR ROTATION OF FORCES AT LAJES FIELD, AZORES.

(a) **JOINT INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS COMPLEX CERTIFICATION.**—No amounts may be expended for the construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 2, at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, as authorized by section 2301(b), until the Sec-

retary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Secretary has determined, based on an analysis of United States operational requirements, that Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, remains the optimal location for recapitalization of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex. The certification shall include an explanation of the basis for the certification.

(b) **LAJES FIELD UTILIZATION.**—

(1) **DETERMINATION.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a determination of the operational viability of the use of Lajes Field, Azores, for—

(A) Department of Defense intelligence functions; or

(B) the rotational presence of—

(i) fighter aircraft for air-to-air training; or

(ii) naval forces.

(2) **BASIS OF DETERMINATION.**—The submission to the congressional defense committees under paragraph (1) shall include an explanation of the basis for the determination.

(3) **PLAN.**—If the Secretary of Defense determines that Lajes Field is a viable option for one or more of the uses specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than April 1, 2016, a plan for such uses that includes the following:

(A) The types and number of naval forces or air-to-air training fighter aircraft considered for rotational assignment at Lajes Field or a description of the Department of Defense intelligence functions to be assigned, as applicable.

(B) The duration and frequency of such assignment.

(C) Any additional infrastructure investment required to support such assignment.

(D) The impact to permanent manpower levels necessary to support such assignment.

TITLE XXIV—DEFENSE AGENCIES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2401. Authorized Defense Agencies construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2402. Authorized energy conservation projects.

Sec. 2403. Authorization of appropriations, Defense Agencies.

Sec. 2404. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2012 project.

Sec. 2405. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects.

Sec. 2406. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects.

Sec. 2407. Modification and extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2014 project.

Sec. 2408. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2015 project.

SEC. 2401. AUTHORIZED DEFENSE AGENCIES CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) **INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Defense Agencies: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alabama	Fort Rucker	\$46,787,000
Arizona	Maxwell Air Force Base	\$32,968,000
California	Fort Huachuca	\$3,884,000
Colorado	Camp Pendleton	\$20,552,000
CONUS Classified	Coronado	\$47,218,000
Delaware	Fresno Yosemite IAP ANG	\$10,700,000
Florida	Fort Carson	\$8,243,000
Georgia	Classified Location	\$20,065,000
Hawaii	Dover Air Force Base	\$21,600,000
Kentucky	Hurlburt Field	\$17,989,000
Maryland	MacDill Air Force Base	\$39,142,000
Nevada	Moody Air Force Base	\$10,900,000
New Mexico	Kaneohe Bay	\$122,071,000
New York	Schofield Barracks	\$123,838,000
North Carolina	Fort Campbell	\$12,553,000
Ohio	Fort Knox	\$23,279,000
Oregon	Fort Meade	\$816,077,000
Pennsylvania	Nellis Air Force Base	\$39,900,000
South Carolina	Cannon Air Force Base	\$45,111,000
Texas	West Point	\$55,778,000
Virginia	Camp Lejeune	\$69,006,000
	Fort Bragg	\$168,811,000
	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	\$6,623,000
	Klamath Falls IAP	\$2,500,000
	Philadelphia	\$49,700,000
	Fort Jackson	\$26,157,000
	Joint Base San Antonio	\$61,776,000
	Fort Belvoir	\$9,500,000
	Joint Base Langley-Eustis	\$28,000,000
	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Story	\$23,916,000

(b) **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for military construction projects out-

side the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installa-

tions or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following:

Defense Agencies: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Djibouti	Camp Lemonier	\$43,700,000
Germany	Garmisch	\$14,676,000
	Grafenwoehr	\$38,138,000
	Spangdahlem Air Base	\$39,571,000
	Stuttgart-Patch Barracks	\$49,413,000
Japan	Kadena Air Base	\$37,485,000
Poland	RedziKowo Base	\$169,153,000
Spain	Rota	\$13,737,000

SEC. 2402. AUTHORIZED ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) **INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and

available for energy conservation projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may carry out energy conservation projects

under chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Energy Conservation Projects: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
American Samoa	Wake Island	\$5,331,000
California	Edwards Air Force Base	\$4,550,000
	Fort Hunter Liggett	\$22,000,000
Colorado	Schriever Air Force Base	\$4,400,000
District of Columbia	NSA Washington/Naval Research Lab	\$10,990,000
Guam	Naval Base Guam	\$5,330,000
Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	\$13,780,000
	Marine Corps Recruiting Command Kaneohe Bay	\$5,740,000
Idaho	Mountain Home Air Force Base	\$6,471,000
Montana	Malmstrom Air Force Base	\$4,260,000
Virginia	Pentagon	\$4,528,000
Washington	Joint Base Lewis-McChord	\$14,770,000
Various locations	Various locations	\$25,809,000

(b) **OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for energy conservation projects out-

side the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may carry out energy conservation projects under chapter 173 of title 10, United

States Code, for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Energy Conservation Projects: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Bahamas	Ascension Aux Airfield St. Helena	\$5,500,000
Japan	Yokoska	\$12,940,000
Various locations	Various locations	\$3,600,000

SEC. 2403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE AGENCIES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2401 of this Act may not exceed the sum of the following:

(1) The total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(2) \$747,435,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(a) of this Act for an operations facility at Fort Meade, Maryland).

(3) \$441,134,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1673) for a hospital at the Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany).

(4) \$91,441,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (division B of Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2640) for a hospital at Fort Bliss, Texas).

SEC. 2404. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization in the table in section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1672), as amended by section 2404(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2131), for Fort Meade, Maryland, for construction of the High Performance Computing Center at the

installation, the Secretary of Defense may construct a generator plant capable of producing up to 60 megawatts of back-up electrical power in support of the 60 megawatt technical load.

SEC. 2405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1660), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2401 of that Act (125 Stat. 1672) and as amended by section 2405 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3685), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2012 Project Authorizations

State	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
California	Naval Base Coronado	SOF Support Activity Operations Facility ...	\$38,800,000
Virginia	Pentagon Reservation	Heliport Control Tower and Fire Station	\$6,457,000
		Pedestrian Plaza	\$2,285,000

SEC. 2406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2118), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2401 of that Act (126 Stat. 2127), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the

date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2013 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
California	Naval Base Coronado	SOF Mobile Communications Detachment Support Facility	\$9,327,000
Colorado	Pikes Peak	High Altitude Medical Research Center	\$3,600,000
Germany	Ramstein AB	Replace Vogelweh Elementary School	\$61,415,000
Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	SOF SDVT-1 Waterfront Operations Facility	\$22,384,000

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2013 Project Authorizations—Continued

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
Japan	CFAS Sasebo	Replace Sasebo Elementary School	\$35,733,000
	Camp Zama	Renovate Zama High School	\$13,273,000
Pennsylvania	DEF Distribution Depot New Cumberland	Replace reservoir	\$4,300,000
United Kingdom	RAF Feltwell	Feltwell Elementary School Addition	\$30,811,000

SEC. 2407. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 995) for Fort Knox, Kentucky, for construction of an Ambulatory Care Center at that location, subsequently cancelled by the Department of Defense, substitute authorization is provided for a 102,000-square foot Medical Clinic Replacement at that location in the amount of \$80,000,000, using appropriations available for the original project pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403 of such Act (127 Stat. 997). This substitute authorization shall remain in effect until October 1, 2018, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 2408. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROJECT.

In the case of the authorization contained in section 2401(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3682), for Brussels, Belgium, for construction of an elementary/high school, the Secretary of Defense may acquire approximately 7.4 acres of land adjacent to the existing Sterrebeek Dependent School site and construct a multi-sport athletic field, track, perimeter road, parking, and fencing.

TITLE XXV—NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2501. Authorized NATO construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2502. Authorization of appropriations, NATO.

SEC. 2501. AUTHORIZED NATO CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

The Secretary of Defense may make contributions for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program as provided in section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, in an amount not to exceed the sum of the amount authorized to be appropriated for this purpose in section 2502 and the amount collected from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a result of construction previously financed by the United States.

SEC. 2502. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NATO.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for contributions by the Secretary of Defense under section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, for the share of the United States of the cost of projects for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program authorized by section 2501 as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

TITLE XXVI—GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES FACILITIES

Subtitle A—Project Authorizations and Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 2601. Authorized Army National Guard construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2602. Authorized Army Reserve construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2603. Authorized Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2604. Authorized Air National Guard construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2605. Authorized Air Force Reserve construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2606. Authorization of appropriations, National Guard and Reserve.

Subtitle B—Other Matters

Sec. 2611. Modification and extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2013 project.

Sec. 2612. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2015 projects.

Sec. 2613. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects.

Sec. 2614. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects.

Subtitle A—Project Authorizations and Authorization of Appropriations**SEC. 2601. AUTHORIZED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.**

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Army National Guard locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army National Guard

State	Location	Amount
Alabama	Camp Foley	\$4,500,000
Connecticut	Camp Hartell	\$11,000,000
Florida	Palm Coast	\$18,000,000
Georgia	Fort Stewart	\$6,800,000
Illinois	Sparta	\$1,900,000
Kansas	Salina	\$6,700,000
Maryland	Easton	\$13,800,000
Mississippi	Gulfport	\$40,000,000
Nevada	Reno	\$8,000,000
Ohio	Camp Ravenna	\$3,300,000
Oregon	Salem	\$16,500,000
Pennsylvania	Fort Indiantown Gap	\$16,000,000
Vermont	North Hyde Park	\$7,900,000
Virginia	Richmond	\$29,000,000

SEC. 2602. AUTHORIZED ARMY RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) **INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the author-

ization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real

property and carry out military construction projects for the Army Reserve locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army Reserve: Inside the United States

State	Location	Amount
California	Miramar	\$24,000,000
Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	\$55,000,000
New York	Orangeburg	\$4,200,000

Army Reserve: Inside the United States—Continued

State	Location	Amount
Pennsylvania	Conneaut Lake	\$5,000,000
Virginia	A.P. Hill	\$24,000,000

(b) *OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.*—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as

specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out a military construction project for the Army Reserve location outside

the United States, and in the amount, set forth in the following table:

Army Reserve: Outside the United States

Country	Location	Amount
Puerto Rico	Fort Buchanan	\$10,200,000

SEC. 2603. AUTHORIZED NAVY RESERVE AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606

and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve loca-

tions inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve

State	Location	Amount
Nevada	Fallon	\$11,480,000
New York	Brooklyn	\$2,479,000
Virginia	Dam Neck	\$18,443,000

SEC. 2604. AUTHORIZED AIR NATIONAL GUARD CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606

and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the

Air National Guard locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air National Guard

State	Location	Amount
Alabama	Dannelly Field	\$7,600,000
California	Moffett Field	\$6,500,000
Colorado	Buckley Air Force Base	\$5,100,000
Florida	Cape Canaveral Air Force Station	\$6,100,000
Georgia	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport	\$9,000,000
Iowa	Des Moines Municipal Airport	\$6,700,000
Kansas	Smokey Hill Range	\$2,900,000
Louisiana	New Orleans	\$10,000,000
Maine	Bangor International Airport	\$7,200,000
New Hampshire	Pease International Trade Port	\$2,800,000
New Jersey	Atlantic City International Airport	\$10,200,000
New York	Niagara Falls International Airport	\$7,700,000
North Carolina	Charlotte/Douglas International Airport	\$9,000,000
North Dakota	Hector International Airport	\$7,300,000
Oklahoma	Will Rogers World Airport	\$7,600,000
Oregon	Klamath Falls International Airport	\$7,200,000
West Virginia	Yeager Airport	\$3,900,000

SEC. 2605. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606

and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construc-

tion projects for the Air Force Reserve locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force Reserve

State	Location	Amount
California	March Air Force Base	\$4,600,000
Florida	Patrick Air Force Base	\$3,400,000
Georgia	Dobbins Air Reserve Base	\$10,400,000
Ohio	Youngstown	\$9,400,000

Air Force Reserve—Continued

State	Location	Amount
Texas	Joint Base San Antonio	\$9,900,000

SEC. 2606. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for the costs of acquisition, architectural and engineering services, and construction of facilities for the Guard and Reserve Forces, and for contributions therefor, under chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code (including the cost of acquisition of land for those facilities), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

Subtitle B—Other Matters**SEC. 2611. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECT.**

(a) **MODIFICATION.**—In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2602 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2135) for Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, for construction of an Army Reserve Center at that location, the Secretary of the Army may construct a new facility in the vicinity of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

(b) **DURATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2118), the authorization set forth in subsection (a) shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

SEC. 2612. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROJECTS.

(a) **DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE.**—In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2605 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3689) for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, for construction of a Guardian Angel Operations facility at that location, the Secretary of the Air Force may construct a new 5,913 square meter (63,647 square foot) facility in the amount of \$18,200,000.

(b) **FORT SMITH.**—In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2604 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3689) for Fort Smith Municipal Airport, Arkansas, for construction of a consolidated Secure Compartmented Information Facility at that location, the Secretary of the Air Force may construct a new facility in the amount of \$15,200,000.

SEC. 2613. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1660), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2602 of that Act (125 Stat. 1678), and extended by section 2611 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3690), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Extension of 2012 Army Reserve Project Authorizations

State	Location	Project	Amount
Kansas	Kansas City	Army Reserve Center	\$13,000,000
Massachusetts	Attleboro	Army Reserve Center	\$22,000,000

SEC. 2614. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROJECTS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2118), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in sections 2601, 2602, and 2603 of that Act (126 Stat. 2134, 2135) shall remain in effect until Oc-

tober 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

(b) **TABLE.**—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Extension of 2013 National Guard and Reserve Project Authorizations

State	Installation or Location	Project	Amount
Arizona	Yuma	Reserve Training Facility	\$5,379,000
California	Tustin	Army Reserve Center	\$27,000,000
Iowa	Fort Des Moines	Joint Reserve Center	\$19,162,000
Louisiana	New Orleans	Transient Quarters	\$7,187,000
New York	Camp Smith (Stormville)	Combined Support Maintenance Shop Phase 1	\$24,000,000

TITLE XXVII—BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 2701. Authorization of appropriations for base realignment and closure activities funded through Department of Defense base closure account.

Sec. 2702. Prohibition on conducting additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

SEC. 2701. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2015, for base realignment and closure activities, including real property acquisition and military construction projects, as authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) and funded through the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established by section 2906 of such

Act (as amended by section 2711 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2140)), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2702. PROHIBITION ON CONDUCTING ADDITIONAL BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) ROUND.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

TITLE XXVIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PROVISIONS**Subtitle A—Military Construction Program and Military Family Housing Changes**

Sec. 2801. Revision of congressional notification thresholds for reserve facility expenditures and contributions to reflect congressional notification thresholds for minor construction and repair projects.

Sec. 2802. Extension of temporary, limited authority to use operation and maintenance funds for construction projects outside the United States.

Sec. 2803. Defense laboratory modernization pilot program.

Sec. 2804. Temporary authority for acceptance and use of contributions for certain construction, maintenance, and repair projects mutually beneficial to the Department of Defense and Kuwait military forces.

Sec. 2805. Conveyance to Indian tribes of relocatable military housing units at military installations in the United States.

Subtitle B—Real Property and Facilities Administration

Sec. 2811. Protection of Department of Defense installations.

Sec. 2812. Enhancement of authority to accept conditional gifts of real property on behalf of military service academies.

Sec. 2813. Utility system conveyance authority.

Sec. 2814. Leasing of non-excess property of military departments and Defense Agencies; treatment of value provided by local education agencies and elementary and secondary schools.

Sec. 2815. Force-structure plan and infrastructure inventory and assessment of infrastructure necessary to support the force structure.

Sec. 2816. Temporary reporting requirements related to main operating bases, forward operating sites, and cooperative security locations.

Sec. 2817. Exemption of Army off-site use and off-site removal only non-mobile properties from certain excess property disposal requirements.

Subtitle C—Provisions Related to Asia-Pacific Military Realignment

Sec. 2821. Limited exception to restriction on development of public infrastructure in connection with realignment of Marine Corps forces in Asia-Pacific region.

Sec. 2822. Annual report on Government of Japan contributions toward realignment of Marine Corps forces in Asia-Pacific region.

Subtitle D—Land Conveyances

Sec. 2831. Release of reversionary interest retained as part of conveyance to the Economic Development Alliance of Jefferson County, Arkansas.

Sec. 2832. Land exchange authority, Mare Island Army Reserve Center, Vallejo, California.

Sec. 2833. Land exchange, Navy Outlying Landing Field, Naval Air Station, Whiting Field, Florida.

Sec. 2834. Release of property interests retained in connection with land conveyance, Camp Villere, Louisiana.

Sec. 2835. Release of property interests retained in connection with land conveyance, Fort Bliss Military Reservation, Texas.

Subtitle E—Military Land Withdrawals

Sec. 2841. Additional withdrawal and reservation of public land, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 2851. Modification of Department of Defense guidance on use of airfield pavement markings.

Sec. 2852. Extension of authority for establishment of commemorative work in honor of Brigadier General Francis Marion.

Subtitle A—Military Construction Program and Military Family Housing Changes

SEC. 2801. REVISION OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION THRESHOLDS FOR RESERVE FACILITY EXPENDITURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO REFLECT CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION THRESHOLDS FOR MINOR CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR PROJECTS.

Section 18233a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “in an amount in excess of \$750,000” and inserting “in excess of the amount specified in section 2805(b)(1) of this title”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “section 2811(e) of this title” that costs less than

\$7,500,000” and inserting “subsection (e) of section 2811 of this title” that costs less than the amount specified in subsection (d) of such section”.

SEC. 2802. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY, LIMITED AUTHORITY TO USE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (h) of section 2808 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (division B of Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1723), as most recently amended by section 2806 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3699), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “fiscal year 2016” and inserting “fiscal year 2017”.

(b) **LIMITATION ON USE OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “October 1, 2014” and inserting “October 1, 2015”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”; and

(3) by striking “fiscal year 2016” and inserting “fiscal year 2017”.

(c) **ELIMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Such section is further amended by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 2803. DEFENSE LABORATORY MODERNIZATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO USE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FUNDS.**—Using amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation, the Secretary of Defense may fund a military construction project described in subsection (d) at any of the following:

(1) A Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory (as designated by section 1105(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

(2) A Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Center that functions primarily as a research laboratory.

(3) A Department of Defense facility in support of a technology development program that is consistent with the fielding of offset technologies as described in section 218 of this Act.

(b) **CONDITION ON AND SCOPE OF PROJECT AUTHORITY.**—Subject to the condition that a military construction project under this section be authorized in a Military Construction Authorization Act, the authority to carry out the military construction project includes authority for—

(1) surveys, site preparation, and advanced planning and design;

(2) acquisition, conversion, rehabilitation, and installation of facilities;

(3) acquisition and installation of equipment and appurtenances integral to the project; acquisition and installation of supporting facilities (including utilities) and appurtenances incident to the project; and

(4) planning, supervision, administration, and overhead expenses incident to the project.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION OF PROJECT REQUESTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall include military construction projects proposed to be carried out under this section in the budget justification documents for the Department of Defense submitted to Congress in connection with the budget for a fiscal year submitted under 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) **NOTIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not less than 14 days prior to the first obligation of

funds described in subsection (a) for a military construction project to be carried out under this section, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a notification to the congressional defense committees providing an updated construction description, cost, and schedule for the project and any other matters regarding the project as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) **AUTHORIZED PROJECTS DESCRIBED.**—The authority provided by this section to fund military construction projects using amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for research, development, test, and evaluation is limited to military construction projects that the Secretary of Defense, in the budget justification documents exhibits submitted pursuant to subsection (c)(1), determines—

(1) will support research and development activities at laboratories described in subsection (a);

(2) will establish facilities that will have significant potential for use by entities outside the Department of Defense, including universities, industrial partners, and other Federal agencies;

(3) are endorsed for funding by more than one military department or Defense Agency; and

(4) cannot be fully funded within the thresholds specified in section 2805 of title 10, United States Code.

(e) **FUNDING LIMITATION.**—The maximum amount of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for research, development, test, and evaluation that may be obligated in any fiscal year for military construction projects under this section is \$150,000,000.

(f) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided by this section to fund military construction projects using funds appropriated or otherwise made available for research, development, test, and evaluation shall terminate on October 1, 2020.

SEC. 2804. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR PROJECTS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND KUWAIT MILITARY FORCES.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of State, may accept cash contributions from the government of Kuwait for the purpose of paying for the costs of construction (including military construction not otherwise authorized by law), maintenance, and repair projects mutually beneficial to the Department of Defense and Kuwait military forces.

(b) **ACCOUNTING.**—Contributions accepted under subsection (a) shall be placed in an account established by the Secretary of Defense and shall remain available until expended as provided in such subsection.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO OFFSET BURDEN SHARING CONTRIBUTIONS.**—Contributions accepted under subsection (a) may not be used to offset any burden sharing contributions made by the government of Kuwait.

(d) **NOTICE.**—When a decision is made to carry out a project using contributions accepted under subsection (a) and the estimated cost of the project will exceed the thresholds prescribed by section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives written notice of decision, the justification for the project, and the estimated cost of the project.

(e) **MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DEFINED.**—A project described in subsection (a) shall be considered to be “mutually beneficial” if—

(1) the project is in support of a bilateral defense cooperation agreement between the United States and the government of Kuwait; or

(2) the Secretary of Defense determines that the United States may derive a benefit from the project, including—

(A) access to and use of facilities of the Kuwait military forces;

(B) ability or capacity for future force posture; and

(C) increased interoperability between the Department of Defense and Kuwait military forces.

(f) EXPIRATION OF PROJECT AUTHORITY.—The authority to carry out projects under this section expires on September 30, 2020. The expiration of the authority does not prevent the continuation of any project commenced before that date.

SEC. 2805. CONVEYANCE TO INDIAN TRIBES OF RELOCATABLE MILITARY HOUSING UNITS AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of Walking Shield, Inc.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian tribe included on the list published by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.479a–1).

(b) REQUESTS FOR CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director may submit to the Secretary of the military department concerned, on behalf of any Indian tribe, a request for conveyance of any relocatable military housing unit located at a military installation in the United States.

(2) CONFLICTS.—The Executive Director shall resolve any conflict among requests of Indian tribes for housing units described in paragraph (1) before submitting a request to the Secretary of the military department concerned under this subsection.

(c) CONVEYANCE BY A SECRETARY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on receipt of a request under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of the military department concerned may convey to the Indian tribe that is the subject of the request, at no cost to such military department and without consideration, any relocatable military housing unit described in subsection (b)(1) that, as determined by such Secretary, is in excess of the needs of the military.

Subtitle B—Real Property and Facilities Administration

SEC. 2811. PROTECTION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS.

(a) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITY.—Chapter 159 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2671 the following new section:

“§2672. Protection of buildings, grounds, property, and persons

“(a) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary of Defense shall protect the buildings, grounds, and property that are under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense and the persons on that property.

“(b) DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS AND AGENTS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may designate military or civilian personnel of the Department of Defense as officers and agents to perform the functions of the Secretary under subsection (a), including, with regard to civilian officers and agents, duty in areas outside the property specified in that subsection to the extent necessary to protect that property and persons on that property.

“(2) A designation under paragraph (1) may be made by individual, by position, by installation, or by such other category of personnel as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) In making a designation under paragraph (1) with respect to any category of per-

sonnel, the Secretary shall specify each of the following:

“(A) The personnel or positions to be included in the category.

“(B) The authorities provided for in subsection (c) that may be exercised by personnel in that category.

“(C) In the case of civilian personnel in that category—

“(i) the authorities provided for in subsection (c), if any, that are authorized to be exercised outside the property specified in subsection (a); and

“(ii) with respect to the exercise of any such authorities outside the property specified in subsection (a), the circumstances under which coordination with law enforcement officials outside of the Department of Defense should be sought in advance.

“(4) The Secretary may make a designation under paragraph (1) only if the Secretary determines, with respect to the category of personnel to be covered by that designation, that—

“(A) the exercise of each specific authority provided for in subsection (c) to be delegated to that category of personnel is necessary for the performance of the duties of the personnel in that category and such duties cannot be performed as effectively without such authorities; and

“(B) the necessary and proper training for the authorities to be exercised is available to the personnel in that category.

“(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Subject to subsection (i) and to the extent specifically authorized by the Secretary of Defense, while engaged in the performance of official duties pursuant to this section, an officer or agent designated under subsection (b) may—

“(1) enforce Federal laws and regulations for the protection of persons and property;

“(2) carry firearms;

“(3) make arrests—

“(A) without a warrant for any offense against the United States committed in the presence of the officer or agent; or

“(B) for any felony cognizable under the laws of the United States if the officer or agent has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing a felony;

“(4) serve warrants and subpoenas issued under the authority of the United States; and

“(5) conduct investigations, on and off the property in question, of offenses that may have been committed against property under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense or persons on such property.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may prescribe regulations, including traffic regulations, necessary for the protection and administration of property under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense and persons on that property. The regulations may include reasonable penalties, within the limits prescribed in paragraph (2), for violations of the regulations. The regulations shall be posted and remain posted in a conspicuous place on the property to which they apply.

“(2) A person violating a regulation prescribed under this subsection shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both.

“(e) LIMITATION ON DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary of Defense under subsections (b), (c), and (d) may be exercised only by the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

“(f) DISPOSITION OF PERSONS ARRESTED.—A person who is arrested pursuant to authority exercised under subsection (b) may not be held in a military confinement facility, other than in the case of a person who is subject to chapter 47 of this title (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

“(g) FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—In implementing this section, when the Secretary of Defense determines it to be economical and in the public interest, the Secretary may utilize the facilities and services of Federal, State, Indian tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, with the consent of those agencies, and may reimburse those agencies for the use of their facilities and services. Such services of State, Indian tribal, and local law enforcement, including application of their powers of law enforcement, may be provided notwithstanding that the property is subject to the legislative jurisdiction of the United States.

“(h) AUTHORITY OUTSIDE FEDERAL PROPERTY.—For the protection of property under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense and persons on that property, the Secretary of Defense may enter into agreements with Federal agencies and with State, Indian tribal, and local governments to obtain authority for civilian officers and agents designated under this section to enforce Federal laws and State, Indian tribal, and local laws concurrently with other Federal law enforcement officers and with State, Indian tribal, and local law enforcement officers.

“(i) ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL.—The powers granted pursuant to subsection (c) to officers and agents designated under subsection (b) shall be exercised in accordance with guidelines approved by the Attorney General. Such guidelines may include specification of the geographical extent of property outside of the property specified in subsection (a) within which those powers may be exercised.

“(j) LIMITATION WITH REGARD TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for the protection of facilities (including the buildings, grounds, and properties of the General Services Administration) that are under the jurisdiction, custody, or control, in whole or in part, of a Federal agency other than the Department of Defense and that are located off of a military installation.

“(k) COOPERATION WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—Before authorizing civilian officers and agents to perform duty in areas outside the property specified in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with, and is encouraged to enter into agreements with, local law enforcement agencies exercising jurisdiction over such areas for the purposes of avoiding conflicts of jurisdiction, promoting notification of planned law enforcement actions, and otherwise facilitating productive working relationships.

“(l) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

“(1) to preclude or limit the authority of any Federal law enforcement agency;

“(2) to restrict the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 or of the Administrator of General Services, including the authority to promulgate regulations affecting property under the custody and control of that Secretary or the Administrator, respectively;

“(3) to expand or limit section 21 of the Internal Security Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 797);

“(4) to affect chapter 47 of this title;

“(5) to restrict any other authority of the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department; or

“(6) to restrict the authority of the Director of the National Security Agency under section 11 of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 3609).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 159 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2671 the following new item:

"2672. Protection of buildings, grounds, property, and persons."

SEC. 2812. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CONDITIONAL GIFTS OF REAL PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES.

Section 2601 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

"(e) **ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY GIFTS; NAMING RIGHTS.**—(1) The Secretary concerned may accept a gift under subsection (a) or (b) consisting of the provision, acquisition, enhancement, or construction of real property offered to the United States Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, or the Coast Guard Academy even though the gift will be subject to the condition that the real property, or a portion thereof, bear a specified name.

"(2) The authority conferred by this subsection may be delegated by the Secretary concerned only to a civilian official appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"(3) A gift may not be accepted under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) the acceptance of the gift or the imposition of the naming-rights condition would reflect unfavorably upon the United States, as provided in subsection (d)(2); or

"(B) the real property to be subject to the condition, or portion thereof, has been named by an act of Congress.

"(4) The Secretaries concerned shall issue uniform regulations governing the circumstances under which gifts conditioned on naming rights may be accepted, appropriate naming conventions, and suitable display standards."

SEC. 2813. UTILITY SYSTEM CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 2688(j) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking "CONSTRUCTION OF" and inserting "CONVEYANCE OF ADDITIONAL"; and

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (C);

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (A) and, in such subparagraph, by striking "utility system;" and inserting the following: "utility system or operation of the additional utility infrastructure by the utility or entity would be in the best interest of the Government; and"; and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (B) and, in such subparagraph, by striking "amount equal to the fair market value of" and inserting "amount for".

SEC. 2814. LEASING OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS AND DEFENSE AGENCIES; TREATMENT OF VALUE PROVIDED BY LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES AND ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) **LEASES FOR EDUCATION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(4), the Secretary concerned may accept consideration in an amount that is less than the fair market value of the lease, if the lease is to a local education agency or an elementary or secondary school (as those terms are defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801))."

SEC. 2815. FORCE-STRUCTURE PLAN AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE FORCE STRUCTURE.

(a) **PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF FORCE-STRUCTURE PLANS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY.**—Not later than the date on which the budget of the President for fiscal year 2017 is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees the following:

(1) A force-structure plan for each of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps informed by—

(A) an assessment by the Secretary of Defense of the probable threats to United States national security; and

(B) end-strength levels and major military force units (including land force divisions, carrier and other major combatant vessels, air wings, and other comparable units) authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81).

(2) A categorical inventory of world-wide military installations for each military department, including the number and type of facilities for the regular and reserve forces of each military department.

(b) **RELATIONSHIP OF PLANS AND INVENTORY.**—Using the force-structure plans and categorical infrastructure inventory prepared under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall prepare (and include as part of the submission of such plans and inventory) the following:

(1) A description of the infrastructure necessary to support the force structure described in each force-structure plan.

(2) A discussion of categories of excess infrastructure and infrastructure capacity.

(3) An assessment of the value of retaining certain excess infrastructure to accommodate contingency, mobilization, or surge requirements.

(c) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL EVALUATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the submission of the force-structure plans and the categorical infrastructure inventory under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees an evaluation of the force-structure plans and the categorical infrastructure inventory, including an evaluation of the accuracy and analytical sufficiency of the plans and inventory.

SEC. 2816. TEMPORARY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MAIN OPERATING BASES, FORWARD OPERATING SITES, AND COOPERATIVE SECURITY LOCATIONS.

(a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than the date on which the report required by section 2687a of title 10, United States Code, is submitted for each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report specifying each location that was newly designated, or had a change in its designation, as a main operating base, forward operating site, or cooperative security location during the preceding fiscal year.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The strategic goal and operational requirements supported by the main operating base, forward operating site, or cooperative security location.

(2) The basis for and cost of any anticipated infrastructure improvements to the base, site, or location.

(3) A summary of the terms of agreements with the host nation regarding the base, site, or loca-

tion, including access agreements, status of forces agreements, or other implementing agreements, including any limitations on United States presence and operations.

(c) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex as necessary.

SEC. 2817. EXEMPTION OF ARMY OFF-SITE USE AND OFF-SITE REMOVAL ONLY NON-MOBILE PROPERTIES FROM CERTAIN EXCESS PROPERTY DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Excess or unutilized or underutilized non-mobile property of the Army that is situated on non-excess land shall be exempt from the requirements of title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411 et seq.) upon a determination by the Secretary of the Army that—

(1) the property is not feasible to relocate;

(2) the property is located in an area to which the general public is denied access in the interest of national security; and

(3) the exemption would facilitate the efficient disposal of excess property or result in more efficient real property management.

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—Before making an initial determination under the authority provided under subsection (a), and periodically thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall consult with the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness on types of non-mobile properties that may be feasible for relocation and suitable to assist the homeless.

(c) **SUNSET.**—The authority of the Secretary of the Army to make a determination under subsection (a) expires on September 30, 2017.

Subtitle C—Provisions Related to Asia-Pacific Military Realignment

SEC. 2821. LIMITED EXCEPTION TO RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN CONNECTION WITH REALIGNMENT OF MARINE CORPS FORCES IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

Notwithstanding section 2821(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3701), the Secretary of Defense may proceed with a public infrastructure project intended to improve water and wastewater systems on Guam if—

(1) the project was identified in the report prepared by the Secretary of Defense under section 2822(d)(2) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 1017); and

(2) amounts have been appropriated or made available to be expended by the Department of Defense for the project.

SEC. 2822. ANNUAL REPORT ON GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD REALIGNMENT OF MARINE CORPS FORCES IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than the date of the submission of the budget of the President for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that specifies each of the following:

(1) The total amount contributed by the Government of Japan during the most recently concluded Japanese fiscal year under section 2350k of title 10, United States Code, for deposit in the Support for United States Relocation to Guam Account.

(2) The anticipated contributions to be made by the Government of Japan under such section during the current and next Japanese fiscal years.

(3) The projects carried out on Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the previous fiscal year using

amounts in the Support for United States Relocation to Guam Account.

(4) The anticipated projects that will be carried out on Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the fiscal year covered by the budget submission using amounts in such Account.

(b) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex as necessary.

(c) **REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Subsection (e) of section 2824 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (division B of Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) is repealed.

Subtitle D—Land Conveyances

SEC. 2831. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST RETAINED AS PART OF CONVEYANCE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

(a) **RELEASE OF CONDITIONS AND RETAINED INTERESTS.**—With respect to a parcel of real property in Jefferson County, Arkansas, consisting of approximately 1,447 acres and conveyed by deed to the Economic Development Alliance of Jefferson County, Arkansas (in this section referred to as the “Economic Development Alliance”) by the United States for use as the facility known as the “Bioplex” and related activities pursuant to section 2827 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104-201), the Secretary of the Army may release subject to the conditions of subsections (b) and (d) below, the conditions of conveyance of subsection (c) of such section 2827 and the reversionary interest retained by the United States under subsection (e) of such section.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—

(1) **EFFECT OF RECONVEYANCE.**—Notwithstanding subsection (d) of such section 2827, the release authorized by subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to the condition that, if the Economic Development Alliance reconveys all or any part of the conveyed property during the 25-year period referred to in subsection (c)(2) of such section, the Economic Development Alliance shall pay to the United States, upon reconveyance, an amount equal to the fair market value of the reconveyed property as of the time of the reconveyance, excluding the value of any improvements made to the property by the Economic Development Alliance.

(2) **DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.**—The Secretary of the Army shall determine fair market value in accordance with Federal appraisal standards and procedures.

(3) **TREATMENT OF LEASES.**—The Secretary of the Army may treat a lease of the property within such 25-year period as a reconveyance if the Secretary determines that the lease is being used to avoid application of paragraph (1).

(4) **DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.**—The Secretary of the Army shall deposit any proceeds received under this subsection in the special account established pursuant to section 572(b) of title 40, United States Code.

(c) **INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE.**—The Secretary of the Army may execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument reflecting the release of conditions and retained interests under subsection (a).

(d) **PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—

(1) **PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Army shall require the Economic Development Alliance to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the release of conditions and retained interests under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs related to environmental documentation, and

other administrative costs related to the release. If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the release, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the Economic Development Alliance.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the release under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the release. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the release of conditions and retained interests under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, including provisions that the Secretary determines are necessary to preclude any use of the property that would interfere with activities at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

SEC. 2832. LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORITY, MARE ISLAND ARMY RESERVE CENTER, VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.**—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of the Army may carry out a real property exchange with Touro University California (in this section referred to as the “University”), under which the Secretary will convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 3.42 acres of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard on Azuar Drive in the City of Vallejo, California, and administered by the Secretary as part of the 63rd Regional Support Command, for the purpose of permitting the University to use the parcel for educational and administrative purposes.

(b) **CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY CONDITIONAL.**—The conveyance authority provided by subsection (a) shall take effect only if the real property exchange process initiated by the Secretary of the Army in a notice of availability (DACW05-8-15-512) issued on January 28, 2015, and involving the real property described in subsection (a) is terminated unsuccessfully.

(c) **CONVEYANCE PROCESS.**—The Secretary shall carry out the real property exchange authorized by subsection (a) using the authority available to the Secretary under section 18240 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) **FACILITIES TO BE ACQUIRED.**—In exchange for the conveyance of the real property under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army shall acquire, consistent with subsections (c) and (d) of section 18240 of title 10, United States Code, a facility, or addition to an existing facility, needed to rectify the parking shortage for the Mare Island Army Reserve Center.

(e) **PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—

(1) **PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Army shall require the University to cover costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation related to the conveyance, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the University in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the University.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received as reimbursement under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance or, if the period of availability for obligations for that appropriation has expired, to the appropriations or fund that is currently available to the Secretary for the same purpose. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(f) **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) and acquired under subsection (d) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army.

SEC. 2833. LAND EXCHANGE, NAVY OUTLYING LANDING FIELD, NAVAL AIR STATION, WHITING FIELD, FLORIDA.

(a) **LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of the Navy may convey to Escambia County, Florida (in this section referred to as the “County”), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, containing Navy Outlying Landing Field Site 8 in Escambia County associated with Naval Air Station, Whiting Field, Milton, Florida.

(b) **LAND TO BE ACQUIRED.**—In exchange for the property described in subsection (a), the County shall convey to the Secretary of the Navy land and improvements thereon in Santa Rosa County, Florida, that is acceptable to the Secretary and suitable for use as a Navy outlying landing field to replace Navy Outlying Landing Field Site 8.

(c) **PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—

(1) **PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Navy shall require the County to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the land exchange under this section, including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation, other administrative costs related to the land exchange, and all costs associated with relocation of activities and facilities from Navy Outlying Landing Field Site 8 to the replacement location. If amounts are collected from the County in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the land exchange, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the County.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received as reimbursement under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the land exchange. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be exchanged under this section shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary of the Navy.

(e) **CONVEYANCE AGREEMENT.**—The exchange of real property under this section shall be accomplished using a quit claim deed or other legal instrument and upon terms and conditions mutually satisfactory to the Secretary of the Navy and the County, including such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SEC. 2834. RELEASE OF PROPERTY INTERESTS RETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH LAND CONVEYANCE, CAMP VILLERE, LOUISIANA.

(a) **RELEASE OF RETAINED INTERESTS.**—With respect to a parcel of real property at Camp Villere, Louisiana, consisting of approximately 48.04 acres and conveyed by quit-claim deed for National Guard purposes by the United States to the State of Louisiana pursuant to section 616 of the Military Construction Authorization Act, 1975 (titles I through VI of Public Law 93-552; 88 Stat. 1768), the Secretary of the Army may release the terms and conditions imposed by the United States under subsection (b) of such section and the reversionary interest retained by the United States under subsection (c) of such section. The release of such terms and conditions and retained interests with respect to any portion of that parcel shall not be construed to alter the rights or interests retained by the United States with respect to the remainder of the real property conveyed to the State under such section.

(b) **CONDITION OF RELEASE.**—The release authorized by subsection (a) of terms and conditions and retained interests shall be subject to the condition that the State of Louisiana—

(1) transfer the parcel of real property described in such subsection from the Louisiana Military Department to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority for the purpose of permitting the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority to use the parcel for any purposes allowed by State law; and

(2) make available to the Louisiana Military Department real property to replace the transferred parcel that is suitable for use for National Guard training and operational support for emergency management and homeland defense activities.

(c) **INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The Secretary of the Army may execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument reflecting the release of terms and conditions and retained interests under subsection (a). The exact acreage and legal description of the property described in such subsection shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army.

(d) **PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—

(1) **PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Army may require the State of Louisiana to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the release of retained interests under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs related to environmental documentation, and other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the State.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the release of retained interests under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the release of retained interests. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the release of retained interests under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SEC. 2835. RELEASE OF PROPERTY INTERESTS RETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH LAND CONVEYANCE, FORT BLISS MILITARY RESERVATION, TEXAS.

(a) **RELEASE OF RETAINED INTERESTS.**—With respect to a parcel of real property in El Paso, Texas, consisting of approximately 20 acres and conveyed by deed for National Guard and military purposes by the United States to the State of Texas pursuant to section 708 of the Military Construction Authorization Act, 1972 (Public Law 92-145; 85 Stat. 412), the Secretary of the Army may release the rights reserved by the United States under subsections (d) and (e)(2) of such section and the reversionary interest retained by the United States under subsection (e)(1) of such section. The release of such rights and retained interests with respect to any portion of that parcel shall not be construed to alter the rights or interests retained by the United States with respect to the remainder of the real property conveyed to the State under such section.

(b) **CONDITION OF RELEASE.**—The release authorized by subsection (a) of rights and retained interests shall be subject to the condition that—

(1) the State of Texas sell the parcel of real property covered by the release for fair market value; and

(2) all proceeds from the sale shall be used to fund improvements or repairs for National Guard and military purposes on the remainder of the property conveyed under section 708 of the Military Construction Authorization Act, 1972 (Public Law 92-145; 85 Stat. 412) and retained by the State.

(c) **INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The Secretary of the Army may execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument reflecting the release of rights and retained interests under subsection (a). The exact acreage and legal description of the property for which rights and retained interests are released under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army.

(d) **PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—

(1) **PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Army may require the State of Texas to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the release of retained interests under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs related to environmental documentation, and other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the State.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the release of retained interests under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the release of retained interests. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the release of retained interests under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, to include necessary munitions response actions by the State of Texas in accordance with subsection (e)(3) of section 708 of the Military Construction Authorization Act, 1972 (Public Law 92-145; 85 Stat. 412).

Subtitle E—Military Land Withdrawals

SEC. 2841. ADDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF PUBLIC LAND, NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA.

Section 2971(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 1044) is amended—

(1) by striking “The public land” and inserting the following:

“(1) **INITIAL WITHDRAWAL.**—The public land”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) **ADDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL.**—
“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the public land (including interests in land) referred to in subsection (a) also includes the approximately 21,060 acres of public land in San Bernardino County, California, identified as ‘Proposed Navy Land’ on the map entitled ‘Proposed Navy Withdrawal’, dated March 10, 2015, and filed in accordance with section 2912.
“(B) **EXCLUDED LANDS.**—The withdrawal area referred to in subparagraph (A) specifically excludes section 36, township 29 south, range 43 east, San Bernardino meridian.
“(C) **EXISTING RIGHTS AND ACCESS.**—The withdrawal and reservation of public land pursuant to subparagraph (A) is subject to valid existing rights. The Secretary of the Navy shall ensure that the owners of the excluded private land identified in subparagraph (B) continue to have reasonable access to such land.”.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 2851. MODIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GUIDANCE ON USE OF AIRFIELD PAVEMENT MARKINGS.

The Secretary of Defense shall require such modifications of Unified Facilities Guide Specifications for pavement markings (UFGS 32 17 23.00 20 Pavement Markings, UFGS 32 17 24.00 10 Pavement Markings), Air Force Engineering Technical Letter ETL 97-18 (Guide Specification for Airfield and Roadway Marking), and any other Department of Defense guidance on airfield pavement markings as may be necessary to permit the use of Type III category of retro-reflective beads to reflectorize airfield markings. The Secretary shall develop appropriate policy to ensure that the determination of the category of retro-reflective beads used on an airfield is determined on an installation-by-installation basis, taking into consideration local conditions and the life-cycle maintenance costs of the pavement markings.

SEC. 2852. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS MARION.

Notwithstanding section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, the authority provided by section 331 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229; 122 Stat. 781; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall continue to apply through May 8, 2018.

DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORIZATIONS AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE XXXI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—National Security Programs Authorizations

Sec. 3101. National Nuclear Security Administration.

Sec. 3102. Defense environmental cleanup.

Sec. 3103. Other defense activities.

Sec. 3104. Nuclear energy.

Subtitle B—Program Authorizations, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 3111. Improvement to accountability of Department of Energy employees and projects.

- Sec. 3112. Stockpile responsiveness program.
- Sec. 3113. Notification of cost overruns and Selected Acquisition Reports for major alteration projects.
- Sec. 3114. Root cause analyses for certain cost overruns.
- Sec. 3115. Funding of laboratory-directed research and development programs.
- Sec. 3116. Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant contract oversight.
- Sec. 3117. Use of best practices for capital asset projects and nuclear weapon life extension programs.
- Sec. 3118. Research and development of advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium.
- Sec. 3119. Disposition of weapons-usable plutonium.
- Sec. 3120. Establishment of microlab pilot program.
- Sec. 3121. Prohibition on availability of funds for provision of defense nuclear nonproliferation assistance to Russian Federation.
- Sec. 3122. Prohibition on availability of funds for new fixed site radiological portal monitors in foreign countries.
- Sec. 3123. Limitation on availability of funds for certain arms control and nonproliferation technologies.
- Sec. 3124. Limitation on availability of funds for nuclear weapons dismantlement.
- Subtitle C—Plans and Reports
- Sec. 3131. Long-term plan for meeting national security requirements for unencumbered uranium.
- Sec. 3132. Defense nuclear nonproliferation management plan and reports.
- Sec. 3133. Plan for deactivation and decommissioning of nonoperational defense nuclear facilities.
- Sec. 3134. Assessment of emergency preparedness of defense nuclear facilities.
- Sec. 3135. Modifications to cost-benefit analyses for competition of management and operating contracts.
- Sec. 3136. Interagency review of applications for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology.
- Sec. 3137. Governance and management of nuclear security enterprise.
- Sec. 3138. Annual report on number of full-time equivalent employees and contractor employees.
- Sec. 3139. Development of strategy on risks to nonproliferation caused by additive manufacturing.
- Sec. 3140. Plutonium pit production capacity.
- Sec. 3141. Assessments on nuclear proliferation risks and nuclear nonproliferation opportunities.
- Sec. 3142. Analysis of alternatives for Mobile Guardian Transporter program.

Subtitle A—National Security Programs Authorizations

SEC. 3101. NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2016 for the activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration in carrying out programs as specified in the funding table in section 4701.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF NEW PLANT PROJECTS.**—From funds referred to in subsection (a) that are available for carrying out plant projects, the Secretary of Energy may carry out the following new plant project for the National Nuclear Security Administration:

Project 16–D–621, Substation Replacement at Technical Area 3, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, \$25,000,000.

SEC. 3102. DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2016 for defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out programs as specified in the funding table in section 4701.

SEC. 3103. OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2016 for other defense activities in carrying out programs as specified in the funding table in section 4701.

SEC. 3104. NUCLEAR ENERGY.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2016 for nuclear energy as specified in the funding table in section 4701.

Subtitle B—Program Authorizations, Restrictions, and Limitations

SEC. 3111. IMPROVEMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EMPLOYEES AND PROJECTS.

(a) **NOTIFICATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle C of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2441 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 3245. NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE PRACTICES AFFECTING NATIONAL SECURITY.

“(a) **ANNUAL NOTIFICATION.**—At or about the time that the President’s budget is submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator shall jointly notify the appropriate congressional committees of—

“(1) the number of covered employees whose security clearance was revoked during the year prior to the year in which the notification is made; and

“(2) for each employee counted under paragraph (1), the length of time such employee has been employed at the Department or the Administration, as the case may be, since such revocation.

“(b) **NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—Whenever the Secretary or the Administrator terminates the employment of a covered employee or removes and reassigns a covered employee for cause, the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such termination or reassignment by not later than 30 days after the date of such termination or reassignment.

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the congressional defense committees; and

“(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

“(2) The term ‘covered employee’ means—

“(A) an employee of the Administration; or

“(B) an employee of an element of the Department of Energy (other than the Administration) involved in nuclear security.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3244 the following new item:

“Sec. 3245. Notification of employee practices affecting national security.”.

(3) **ONE-TIME CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate

written certification that the Secretary and the Administrator possess the authorities needed to terminate the employment of an employee for cause relating to improper program management, as described in section 3246(a) of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (as added by subsection (b)(1)).

(b) **LIMITATION ON BONUSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Such subtitle, as amended by subsection (a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 3246. LIMITATION ON BONUSES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ENGAGE IN IMPROPER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

“(a) **LIMITATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Energy or the Administrator may not pay to a covered employee a bonus during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, determines that the covered employee engaged in improper program management that resulted in a notification under section 4713 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753) or significantly and detrimentally affected the cost, scope, or schedule associated with the approval of critical decision 3 in the acquisition process for a project (as defined in Department of Energy Order 413.3B (relating to program management and project management for the acquisition of capital assets)).

“(2) **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidance for the implementation of paragraph (1).

“(b) **GUIDANCE PROHIBITING BONUSES FOR ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary and the Administrator shall each issue guidance prohibiting the payment of a bonus to a covered employee during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, determines that the covered employee engaged in improper program management—

“(1) that jeopardized the health, safety, or security of employees or facilities of the Administration or another element of the Department of Energy involved in nuclear security; or

“(2) in carrying out defense nuclear nonproliferation activities.

“(c) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, may waive the limitation on the payment of a bonus under subsection (a) or (b) on a case-by-case basis if—

“(1) the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, notifies the appropriate congressional committees of such waiver; and

“(2) a period of 60 days elapses following such notification.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the congressional defense committees; and

“(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

“(2) The term ‘bonus’ means a bonus or award paid under title 5, United States Code, including under chapters 45 or 53 of such title, or any other provision of law.

“(3) The term ‘covered employee’ has the meaning given that term in section 3245.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for such Act, as amended by subsection (a)(2), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3245 the following new item:

“Sec. 3246. Limitation on bonuses for employees who engage in improper program management.”.

(c) **TREATMENT OF CONTACTOR EMPLOYEES.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Such subtitle, as amended by subsections (a)(1) and (b)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 3247. TREATMENT OF CONTRACTORS WHO ENGAGE IN IMPROPER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.”

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection (b), if the Secretary of Energy or the Administrator determines that a covered contractor engaged in improper program management that resulted in a notification under section 4713 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753) or significantly and detrimentally affected the cost, scope, or schedule associated with the approval of critical decision 3 in the acquisition process for a project (as defined in Department of Energy Order 413.3B (relating to program management and project management for the acquisition of capital assets)), the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(1) an explanation as to whether termination of the contract is an appropriate remedy;

“(2) a description of the terms of the contract regarding award fees and performance; and

“(3) a description of how the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, plans to exercise options under the contract.

“(b) EXCEPTION.—If the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, is not able to submit the information described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) by reason of a contract enforcement action, the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of such contract enforcement action and the date on which the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may be, plans to submit the information described in such paragraphs.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the congressional defense committees; and

“(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

“(2) The term ‘covered contractor’ means—

“(A) a contractor of the Administration; or

“(B) a contractor of an element of the Department of Energy (other than the Administration) involved in nuclear security.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act, as amended by subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3246 the following new item:

“Sec. 3247. Treatment of contractors who engage in improper program management.”.

SEC. 3112. STOCKPILE RESPONSIVENESS PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a modern and responsive nuclear weapons infrastructure is only one component of a nuclear posture that is agile, flexible, and responsive to change; and

(2) to ensure the nuclear deterrent of the United States remains safe, secure, reliable, credible, and responsive, the United States must continually exercise all capabilities required to conceptualize, study, design, develop, engineer, certify, produce, and deploy nuclear weapons.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XLII of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2521 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 4220. STOCKPILE RESPONSIVENESS PROGRAM.”

“(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to identify, sustain, en-

hance, integrate, and continually exercise all capabilities required to conceptualize, study, design, develop, engineer, certify, produce, and deploy nuclear weapons to ensure the nuclear deterrent of the United States remains safe, secure, reliable, credible, and responsive.

“(b) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out a stockpile responsiveness program, along with the stockpile stewardship program under section 4201 and the stockpile management program under section 4204, to identify, sustain, enhance, integrate, and continually exercise all capabilities required to conceptualize, study, design, develop, engineer, certify, produce, and deploy nuclear weapons.

“(c) OBJECTIVES.—The program under subsection (b) shall have the following objectives:

“(1) Identify, sustain, enhance, integrate, and continually exercise all of the capabilities, infrastructure, tools, and technologies across the science, engineering, design, certification, and manufacturing cycle required to carry out all phases of the joint nuclear weapons life cycle process, with respect to both the nuclear security enterprise and relevant elements of the Department of Defense.

“(2) Identify, enhance, and transfer knowledge, skills, and direct experience with respect to all phases of the joint nuclear weapons life cycle process from one generation of nuclear weapon designers and engineers to the following generation.

“(3) Periodically demonstrate stockpile responsiveness throughout the range of capabilities required, including prototypes, flight testing, and development of plans for certification without the need for nuclear explosive testing.

“(4) Shorten design, certification, and manufacturing cycles and timelines to minimize the amount of time and costs leading to an engineering prototype and production.

“(5) Continually exercise processes for the integration and coordination of all relevant elements and processes of the Administration and the Department of Defense required to ensure stockpile responsiveness.

“(d) JOINT NUCLEAR WEAPONS LIFE CYCLE PROCESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘joint nuclear weapons life cycle process’ means the process developed and maintained by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy for the development, production, maintenance, and retirement of nuclear weapons.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4219 the following new item:

“Sec. 4220. Stockpile responsiveness program.”.

(c) INCLUSION IN STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4203 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 2523) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “INFRASTRUCTURE” and inserting “RESPONSIVENESS”;

(B) in subsection (a), by inserting “stockpile responsiveness,” after “stockpile management,”;

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

“(5) A summary of the status, plans, and budgets for carrying out the stockpile responsiveness program under section 4220.”;

(D) in subsection (d)(1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “stewardship and management” and inserting “stewardship, stockpile management, and stockpile responsiveness”;

(ii) in subparagraph (K), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (L), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(M) the status, plans, activities, budgets, and schedules for carrying out the stockpile responsiveness program under section 4220; and

“(N) for each of the five fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, an identification of the funds needed to carry out the program required under section 4220.”; and

(E) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) whether the plan supports the stockpile responsiveness program under section 4220 in a manner that meets the objectives of such program and an identification of any improvements that may be made to the plan to better carry out such program.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 4203 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 4203. Nuclear weapons stockpile stewardship, management, and responsiveness plan.”.

(d) REPORT BY STRATCOM.—Section 4205(e)(4) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 2525(e)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) the views of the Commander on the stockpile responsiveness program under section 4220, the activities conducted under such program, and any suggestions to improve such program.”.

SEC. 3113. NOTIFICATION OF COST OVERRUNS AND SELECTED ACQUISITION REPORTS FOR MAJOR ALTERATION PROJECTS.

(a) NOTIFICATION OF COST OVERRUNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4713(a) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753(a)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) MAJOR ALTERATION PROJECTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a cost and schedule baseline for each major alteration project.

“(B) PER UNIT COST.—The cost baseline developed under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to each major alteration project, an estimated cost for each warhead in the project.

“(C) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—Not later than 30 days after establishing a cost and schedule baseline under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit the cost and schedule baseline to the congressional defense committees.

“(D) MAJOR ALTERATION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘major alteration project’ means a nuclear weapon system alteration project of the Administration the cost of which exceeds \$750,000,000.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 4713 of such Act is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “or (3)” and inserting “(3), or (4)”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by inserting “or a major alteration project referred to in subsection (a)(2)” after “subsection (a)(1)”;

(II) by inserting “or (a)(2)(B), as applicable,”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by inserting “or a major alteration project referred to in subsection (a)(2)” after “subsection (a)(1)”.

(b) **INCLUSION OF MAJOR ALTERATION PROJECTS IN SELECTED ACQUISITION REPORTS AND INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4217 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 2537) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “or a major alteration project (as defined in section 4713(a)(2))” after “life extension”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iv) Each nuclear weapons system undergoing a major alteration project (as defined in section 4713(a)(2)).”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) The section heading for section 4217 of such Act is amended by striking “**LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND NEW NUCLEAR FACILITIES**” and inserting “**CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES**”.

(B) The table of contents for such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 4217 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 4217. Selected Acquisition Reports and independent cost estimates and reviews of certain programs and facilities.”.

SEC. 3114. ROOT CAUSE ANALYSES FOR CERTAIN COST OVERRUNS.

Section 4713(c) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753(c)), as amended by section 3113, is further amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “**AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSES**” after “**PROJECTS**”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

(3) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

“(3) submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of the root cause or causes of the growth in the total cost of the project, including the contribution of any shortcomings in cost, schedule, or performance of the program, including the role, if any, of—

“(A) unrealistic performance expectations;

“(B) unrealistic baseline estimates for cost or schedule;

“(C) immature technologies or excessive manufacturing or integration risk;

“(D) unanticipated design, engineering, manufacturing, or technology integration issues arising during program performance;

“(E) changes in procurement quantities;

“(F) inadequate program funding or funding instability;

“(G) poor performance by personnel of the Federal Government or contractor personnel responsible for program management; or

“(H) any other matters.”.

SEC. 3115. FUNDING OF LABORATORY-DIRECTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4811(c) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2791(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “to such laboratories” and inserting “to a national security laboratory”;

(2) by striking “not to exceed 6 percent” and inserting “of not less than 5 percent and not more than 7 percent”; and

(3) by striking “by such laboratories” and inserting “by the laboratory”.

(b) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—Not later than February 28, 2016, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees on—

(1) all recent or ongoing reviews of the laboratory-directed research and development pro-

gram, including such reviews initiated by the Secretary of Energy;

(2) costs and accounting practices associated with laboratory-directed research and development; and

(3) how laboratory-directed research and development projects support the mission of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SEC. 3116. HANFORD WASTE TREATMENT AND IMMOBILIZATION PLANT CONTRACT OVERSIGHT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle C of title XLIV of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 4446. HANFORD WASTE TREATMENT AND IMMOBILIZATION PLANT CONTRACT OVERSIGHT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, the Secretary of Energy shall arrange to have an owner’s agent advise the Secretary in carrying out the oversight responsibilities of the Secretary with respect to the contract described in subsection (b).

“(b) **CONTRACT DESCRIBED.**—The contract described in this subsection is the contract between the Office of River Protection of the Department of Energy and Bechtel National, Inc., or its successor relating to the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (contract number DE-AC27-01RV14136).

“(c) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the owner’s agent under subsection (a) shall include advising the Secretary with respect to the following:

“(1) Performing design, construction, nuclear safety, and operability oversight of each facility covered by the contract described in subsection (b).

“(2) Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, ensuring that the preliminary documented safety analyses for all facilities covered by the contract meet the requirements of all applicable Department of Energy regulations and guidance, including section 830.206 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, and the Department of Energy Standard on the Integration of Safety into the Design Process (DOE-STD-1189-2008).

“(3) Ensuring that, until the Secretary approves the documented safety analysis for each facility covered by the contract, the contractor ensures that each preliminary documented safety analysis is current.

“(4) Ensuring that the contractor acts to promptly resolve any unreviewed safety questions.

“(d) **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF OWNER’S AGENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, and every 180 days thereafter, the owner’s agent specified in subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary a report on the advice provided by the owner’s agent to the Secretary under that subsection with respect to oversight of the contract described in subsection (b).

“(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Information on the status of, and the plan for resolving, each unreviewed safety question at each facility covered by the contract described in subsection (b).

“(B) An identification of each instance of disagreement between the owner’s agent and the contractor with respect to whether an unreviewed safety question exists and the plan for resolution of the disagreement.

“(C) An identification of each aspect of each preliminary documented safety analysis that is not current, the plan for making that aspect current, and the status of the corrective efforts.

“(D) Information on the status of, and the plan for resolving, each unreviewed technical issue at each facility covered by the contract, and the status of corrective efforts.

“(3) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall transmit to the congressional defense committees the report required by paragraph (1) and any views of the Secretary with respect to the report.

“(e) **REPORT ON SELECTION OF THE OWNER’S AGENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the selection of the owner’s agent under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the process used to select the owner’s agent to ensure that the owner’s agent does not have a conflict of interest.

“(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘contractor’ means Bechtel National, Inc.

“(2) The term ‘current’, with respect to a documented safety analysis, means that the documented safety analysis includes any design changes approved by the contractor and any safety evaluation reports issued by the Secretary with respect to the facility covered by the analysis before the date that is 60 days before the date of the analysis.

“(3) The terms ‘documented safety analysis’, ‘safety evaluation report’, and ‘unreviewed safety question’ have the meanings given those terms in section 830.3 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar ruling or regulation).

“(4) The term ‘owner’s agent’ means a private third-party entity with nuclear safety management expertise.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4445 the following new item:

“Sec. 4446. Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant contract oversight.”.

SEC. 3117. USE OF BEST PRACTICES FOR CAPITAL ASSET PROJECTS AND NUCLEAR WEAPON LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAMS.

(a) **ANALYSES OF ALTERNATIVES.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the Administrator for Nuclear Security, shall ensure that analyses of alternatives are conducted (including through contractors, as appropriate) in accordance with best practices for capital asset projects and life extension programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and capital asset projects relating to defense environmental management.

(b) **COST ESTIMATES.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall develop cost estimates in accordance with cost estimating best practices for capital asset projects and life extension programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and capital asset projects relating to defense environmental management.

(c) **REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT ORDER AND NUCLEAR WEAPON LIFE EXTENSION REQUIREMENTS.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but not later than two years after such date of enactment, the Secretary shall revise—

(1) the capital asset project management order of the Department of Energy to require the use of best practices for preparing cost estimates and for conducting analyses of alternatives for National Nuclear Security Administration and defense environmental management capital asset projects; and

(2) the nuclear weapon life extension program procedures of the Department to require the use of use of best practices for preparing cost estimates and conducting analyses of alternatives

for National Nuclear Security Administration life extension programs.

SEC. 3118. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED NAVAL NUCLEAR FUEL SYSTEM BASED ON LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for defense nuclear nonproliferation for material management and minimization, as specified in the funding table in section 4701, not more than \$5,000,000 shall be made available to the Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors for initial planning and early research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium.

(b) **CONCEPTUAL PROGRAM PLAN.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Deputy Administrator shall submit to the congressional defense committees a conceptual plan for a program for research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium to meet military requirements. Such plan shall include the following:

- (1) Timelines.
- (2) Costs (including an analysis of the cost of such research and development as compared to the cost of maintaining current naval nuclear reactor technology).
- (3) Milestones, including an identification of decision points in which the Deputy Administrator shall determine whether further research and development of a low-enriched uranium naval nuclear fuel system is warranted.
- (4) Identification of any benefits or risks for nuclear nonproliferation of such research and development and eventual deployment.
- (5) Identification of any military benefits or risks of such research and development and eventual deployment.
- (6) A discussion of potential security cost savings from using low-enriched uranium in future naval nuclear fuels, including for transporting and using low-enriched uranium fuel, and how such cost savings relate to the cost of fuel fabrication.

(7) The distinguishment between requirements for aircraft carriers from submarines.

(8) Any other matters the Deputy Administrator determines appropriate.

(c) DETERMINATION OF CONTINUED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) **DETERMINATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Deputy Administrator submits the conceptual plan to the congressional defense committees under subsection (b), the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Navy shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees the determination of the Secretaries as to whether the United States should continue to pursue research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium.

(2) **BUDGET REQUEST.**—If the Secretaries determine under paragraph (1) that research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium should continue, the Secretaries shall ensure that the budget of the President for fiscal year 2018 (and for fiscal year 2017, if feasible) submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, includes in the budget line item for the “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” account for material management and minimization amounts necessary to carry out the conceptual plan under subsection (b).

(d) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—If the Secretaries determine under subsection (c)(1) that research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium should continue, not later than 60 days after such determination, the Deputy Administrator shall enter into a memorandum of under-

standing with the Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation regarding such research and development, including with respect to how funding for such research and development will be requested for the “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” account for material management and minimization and provided to the “Naval Reactors” account to carry out the program.

SEC. 3119. DISPOSITION OF WEAPONS-USABLE PLUTONIUM.

(a) MIXED-OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds described in paragraph (3), the Secretary of Energy shall carry out construction and project support activities relating to the MOX facility.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), not more than \$5,000,000 of the funds described in paragraph (3) may be obligated or expended to conduct an analysis of alternative options for carrying out the plutonium disposition program.

(3) **FUNDS DESCRIBED.**—The funds described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration for the MOX facility for construction and project support activities.

(B) Funds authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration for the MOX facility for construction and project support activities that are unobligated as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **UPDATED PERFORMANCE BASELINE.**—The Secretary shall include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department of Energy budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) for fiscal year 2017 an updated performance baseline for construction and project support activities relating to the MOX facility conducted in accordance with Department of Energy Order 413.3B (relating to program and project management for the acquisition of capital assets).

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **MOX FACILITY.**—The term “MOX facility” means the mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility at the Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina.

(2) **PROJECT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.**—The term “project support activities” means activities that support the design, long-lead equipment procurement, and site preparation of the MOX facility.

SEC. 3120. ESTABLISHMENT OF MICROLAB PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the directors of the national security laboratories, may establish a microlab pilot program under which the Secretary establishes a microlab for the purposes of—

(1) enhancing collaboration with regional research groups, such as institutions of higher education and industry groups;

(2) accelerating technology transfer from national security laboratories to the marketplace; and

(3) promoting regional workforce development through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction and training.

(b) **CRITERIA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In determining the placement of a microlab under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the interest of a national security laboratory in establishing a microlab;

(B) the existence of an available facility that has the capability to house a microlab;

(C) whether employees of a national security laboratory and persons from academia, indus-

try, and government are available to be assigned to the microlab; and

(D) cost-sharing or in-kind contributions from State and local governments and private industry.

(2) **COST-SHARING.**—The Secretary shall, to the extent feasible, require cost-sharing or in-kind contributions described in paragraph (1)(D) to cover the full cost of the microlab under subsection (a).

(c) **TIMING.**—If the Secretary, in consultation with the directors of the national security laboratories, elects to establish a microlab pilot program under this section, the Secretary, in collaboration with such directors, shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, begin the process of determining the placement of the microlab under subsection (a); and

(2) not later than one year after such date of enactment, implement the microlab pilot program under this section.

(d) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—If the Secretary, in consultation with the directors of the national security laboratories, elects to establish a microlab pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of the implementation of the program, a report that provides an update on the implementation of the program; and

(2) not later than one year after the date of the implementation of the program, a report on the program, including findings and recommendations of the Secretary with respect to the program.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) **MICROLAB.**—The term “microlab” means a facility that is—

(A) in close proximity to, but outside the perimeter of, a national security laboratory;

(B) an extension of or affiliated with a national security laboratory; and

(C) accessible to the public.

(3) **NATIONAL SECURITY LABORATORY.**—The term “national security laboratory” has the meaning given that term in section 3281 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2471).

SEC. 3121. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PROVISION OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities may be obligated or expended to enter into a contract with, or otherwise provide assistance to, the Russian Federation.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary of Energy, without delegation, may waive the prohibition in subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(1) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing—

(A) notification that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) justification for such a waiver; and

(2) a period of 15 days elapses following the date on which the Secretary submits such report.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3122. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR NEW FIXED SITE RADIOLOGICAL PORTAL MONITORS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration may be obligated or expended for the installation, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, of fixed site radiological portal monitors or equipment in foreign countries until the date on which the Director of National Intelligence submits to the Administrator for Nuclear Security and the appropriate congressional committees, consistent with the provision of classified information and protection of sources and methods, a report containing an assessment of—

(1) whether and the extent to which fixed site and mobile radiological monitors address nuclear nonproliferation and smuggling threats;

(2) the contribution of other threat reduction programs and how well such programs address nuclear nonproliferation and smuggling threats;

(3) which programs have the greatest impact and cost-benefit for addressing nuclear nonproliferation and smuggling threats; and

(4) such other matters as the Director considers appropriate.

(b) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for transitioning fixed site radiological portal monitors installed in foreign countries before or after the date of the enactment of this Act to being sustained, to the greatest extent possible, by the countries in which such monitors are located.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) timelines for the transition of the radiological portal monitors described in paragraph (1) to being sustained by the countries in which such monitors are located; and

(B) an estimate of the costs expected to be incurred by the United States before the transition is complete.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3123. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control of the National Nuclear Security Administration may be obligated or expended to test and validate arms control and nonproliferation verification and monitoring technologies designed to be used to verify and monitor obligations under arms control treaties or other international agreements to which the United States is not a signatory until the Administrator for Nuclear Security submits to the congressional defense committees a comprehensive review of all arms control and nonproliferation verification and monitoring technologies that are in research and development or production as of the date of the enactment of this Act under the defense nuclear nonproliferation programs of the Administration.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The review required by subsection (a) shall include, with respect to each arms control and nonproliferation verification and monitoring technology covered by the review, a statement of—

(1) the technology readiness level of the technology;

(2) the obligation under a treaty or other international agreement supported by the technology; and

(3) the purpose for which the technology is being developed or produced.

SEC. 3124. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS DISMANTLEMENT.

(a) **LIMITATION ON MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR DISMANTLEMENT.**—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, not more than \$50,000,000 may be obligated or expended to carry out the nuclear weapons dismantlement and disposition activities of the Administration.

(b) **LIMITATION ON DISMANTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CRUISE MISSILE WARHEADS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by paragraph (2), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration may be obligated or expended to dismantle or dispose of a W84 nuclear weapon.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The limitation in paragraph (1) shall not apply to activities necessary to conduct maintenance or surveillance of the nuclear weapons stockpile or activities to ensure the safety or reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile.

Subtitle C—Plans and Reports

SEC. 3131. LONG-TERM PLAN FOR MEETING NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR UNENCUMBERED URANIUM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle A of title XLII of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2521 et seq.), as amended by section 3112, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 4221. LONG-TERM PLAN FOR MEETING NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR UNENCUMBERED URANIUM.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Concurrent with the submission to Congress of the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, in each even-numbered year beginning in 2016 and ending in 2026, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for meeting national security requirements for unencumbered uranium through 2065.

“(b) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) An inventory of unencumbered uranium (other than depleted uranium), by program source and enrichment level, that, as of the date of the plan, is allocated to national security requirements.

“(2) An inventory of unencumbered uranium (other than depleted uranium), by program source and enrichment level, that, as of the date of the plan, is not allocated to national security requirements but could be allocated to such requirements.

“(3) An identification of national security requirements for unencumbered uranium, by program source and enrichment level.

“(4) A description of any shortfall in obtaining unencumbered uranium to meet national security requirements and an assessment of whether that shortfall could be mitigated through the blending down of uranium that is of a higher enrichment level.

“(5) An inventory of unencumbered depleted uranium, an assessment of the portion of that uranium that could be allocated to national se-

curity requirements through re-enrichment, and an estimate of the costs of re-enriching that uranium.

“(6) A description of the swap and barter agreements involving unencumbered uranium needed to meet national security requirements that are in effect on the date of the plan.

“(7) An assessment of whether additional enrichment of uranium will be required to meet national security requirements and an estimate of the time for production operations and the cost for each type of enrichment being considered.

“(8) A description of changes in policy that would mitigate any shortfall in obtaining unencumbered uranium to meet national security requirements and the implications of those changes.

“(c) **FORM OF PLAN.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘depleted’, with respect to uranium, means that the uranium is depleted in uranium-235 compared with natural uranium.

“(2) The term ‘unencumbered’, with respect to uranium, means that the United States has no obligation to foreign governments to use the uranium for only peaceful purposes.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for such Act, as amended by section 3112, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4220 the following new item:

“Sec. 4221. Long-term plan for meeting national security requirements for unencumbered uranium.”

SEC. 3132. DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REPORTS.

(a) **DEFENSE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Title XLIII of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2563 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 4309. DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Concurrent with the submission to Congress of the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, in each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the congressional defense committees a five-year management plan for activities associated with the defense nuclear nonproliferation programs of the Administration to prevent and counter the proliferation of materials, technology, equipment, and expertise related to nuclear and radiological weapons in order to minimize and address the risk of nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of such weapons.

“(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include, with respect to each defense nuclear nonproliferation program of the Administration, the following:

“(1) A description of the policy context in which the program operates, including—

“(A) a list of relevant laws, policy directives issued by the President, and international agreements; and

“(B) nuclear nonproliferation activities carried out by other Federal agencies.

“(2) A description of the objectives and priorities of the program during the year preceding the submission of the plan required by subsection (a).

“(3) A description of the activities carried out under the program during that year.

“(4) A description of the accomplishments and challenges of the program during that year, based on an assessment of metrics and objectives previously established to determine the effectiveness of the program.

“(5) A description of any gaps that remain that were not or could not be addressed by the program during that year.

“(6) An identification and explanation of uncommitted or uncosted balances for the program, as of the date of the submission of the plan required by subsection (a), that are greater than the acceptable carryover thresholds, as determined by the Secretary of Energy.

“(7) An identification of funds for the program received through contributions from or cost-sharing agreements with foreign governments consistent section 3132(f) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (50 U.S.C. 2569(f)) during the year preceding the submission of the plan required by subsection (a) and an explanation of such contributions and agreements.

“(8) A description and assessment of activities carried out under the program during that year that were coordinated with other elements of the Department of Energy, with the Department of Defense, and with other Federal agencies, to maximize efficiency and avoid redundancies.

“(9) Plans for activities of the program during the five-year period beginning on the date on which the plan required by subsection (a) is submitted, including activities with respect to the following:

“(A) Preventing nuclear and radiological proliferation and terrorism, including through—

“(i) material management and minimization, particularly with respect to removing or minimizing the use of highly enriched uranium, plutonium, and radiological materials worldwide (and identifying the countries in which such materials are located), efforts to dispose of surplus material, converting reactors from highly enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium (and identifying the countries in which such reactors are located);

“(ii) global nuclear material security, including securing highly enriched uranium, plutonium, and radiological materials worldwide (and identifying the countries in which such materials are located), and providing radiation detection capabilities at foreign ports and borders;

“(iii) nonproliferation and arms control, including nuclear verification and safeguards;

“(iv) defense nuclear research and development, including a description of activities related to developing and improving technology to detect the proliferation and detonation of nuclear weapons, verifying compliance of foreign countries with commitments under treaties and agreements relating to nuclear weapons, and detecting the diversion of nuclear materials (including safeguards technology); and

“(v) nonproliferation construction programs, including activities associated Department of Energy Order 413.1 (relating to program management controls).

“(B) Countering nuclear and radiological proliferation and terrorism.

“(C) Responding to nuclear and radiological proliferation and terrorism, including through—

“(i) crisis operations;

“(ii) consequences management; and

“(iii) emergency management, including international capacity building.

“(10) A threat assessment, carried out by the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))), with respect to the risk of nuclear and radiological proliferation and terrorism and a description of how each activity carried out under the program will counter the threat during the five-year period beginning on the date on which the plan required by subsection (a) is submitted and, as appropriate, in the longer term.

“(11) A plan for funding the program during that five-year period.

“(12) An identification of metrics and objectives for determining the effectiveness of each activity carried out under the program during that five-year period.

“(13) A description of the activities to be carried out under the program during that five-year period and a description of how the program will be prioritized relative to other defense nuclear nonproliferation programs of the Administration during that five-year period to address the highest priority risks and requirements, as informed by the threat assessment carried out under paragraph (10).

“(14) A description of funds for the program expected to be received during that five-year period through contributions from or cost-sharing agreements with foreign governments consistent section 3132(f) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (50 U.S.C. 2569(f)).

“(15) A description and assessment of activities to be carried out under the program during that five-year period that will be coordinated with other elements of the Department of Energy, with the Department of Defense, and with other Federal agencies, to maximize efficiency and avoid redundancies.

“(16) Such other matters as the Administrator considers appropriate.

“(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4308 the following new item:

“Sec. 4309. Defense nuclear nonproliferation management plan.”

(b) EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN ANNUAL REPORTS ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION.—Section 3122 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1710) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively;

(3) in subsection (a), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2016” and inserting “2020”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “world,” the following: “including an identification of such uranium that is obligated by the United States.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) A list, by country and site, reflecting the total amount of separated plutonium around the world, including an identification of such plutonium that is obligated by the United States, and an assessment of the vulnerability of the plutonium to theft or diversion.”; and

(4) in paragraph (2) of subsection (b), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (c)(2)” and inserting “paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a)”.

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 3145 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2197) is repealed.

SEC. 3133. PLAN FOR DEACTIVATION AND DECOMMISSIONING OF NONOPERATIONAL DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title XLIV of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2602 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 4423. PLAN FOR DEACTIVATION AND DECOMMISSIONING OF NONOPERATIONAL DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall, during each even-numbered year beginning in 2016, develop and subsequently carry out a plan for the activities of the Department of Energy relating to the deactivation and de-

commissioning of nonoperational defense nuclear facilities.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) A list of nonoperational defense nuclear facilities, prioritized for deactivation and decommissioning based on the potential to reduce risks to human health, property, or the environment and to maximize cost savings.

“(2) An assessment of the life cycle costs of each nonoperational defense nuclear facility during the period beginning on the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (d) and ending on the earlier of—

“(A) the date that is 25 years after the date on which the plan is submitted; or

“(B) the estimated date for deactivation and decommissioning of the facility.

“(3) An estimate of the cost and time needed to deactivate and decommission each nonoperational defense nuclear facility.

“(4) A schedule for when the Office of Environmental Management will accept each nonoperational defense nuclear facility for deactivation and decommissioning.

“(5) An estimate of costs that could be avoided by—

“(A) accelerating the cleanup of nonoperational defense nuclear facilities; or

“(B) other means, such as reusing such facilities for another purpose.

“(c) PLAN FOR TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall, during 2016, develop and subsequently carry out a plan under which the Administrator shall transfer, by March 31, 2019, to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management the responsibility for decontaminating and decommissioning facilities of the Administration that the Secretary determines—

“(1) are nonoperational as of September 30, 2015; and

“(2) meet the requirements of the Office of Environmental Management for such transfer.

“(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 31 of each even-numbered year beginning in 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

“(1) the plan required by subsection (a);

“(2) a description of the deactivation and decommissioning actions expected to be taken during the following fiscal year pursuant to the plan;

“(3) in the case of the report submitting during 2016, the plan required by subsection (c); and

“(4) in the case of a report submitted during 2018 or any year thereafter, a description of the deactivation and decommissioning actions taken at each nonoperational defense nuclear facility during the preceding fiscal year.

“(e) TERMINATION.—The requirements of this section shall terminate after the submission to the appropriate congressional committees of the report required by subsection (d) to be submitted not later than March 31, 2026.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the congressional defense committees; and

“(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘life cycle costs’, with respect to a facility, means—

“(A) the present and future costs of all resources and associated cost elements required to develop, produce, deploy, or sustain the facility; and

“(B) the present and future costs to deactivate, decommission, and deconstruct the facility.

“(3) The term ‘nonoperational defense nuclear facility’ means a production facility or utilization facility (as those terms are defined in section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014)) under the control or jurisdiction of the Secretary of Energy and operated for national security purposes that is no longer needed for the mission of the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4422 the following new item:

“Sec. 4423. Plan for deactivation and decommissioning of nonoperational defense nuclear facilities.”.

SEC. 3134. ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XLVIII of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2781 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4802 the following new section:

“SEC. 4802A. ASSESSMENTS OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

“The Secretary of Energy shall include, in each award-fee evaluation conducted under section 16.401 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, of a management and operating contract for a Department of Energy defense nuclear facility in 2016 or any even-numbered year thereafter, an assessment of the adequacy of the emergency preparedness of that facility, including an assessment of the seniority level of management and operating contractor employees that participate in emergency preparedness exercises at that facility.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4802 the following new item:

“Sec. 4802A. Assessments of emergency preparedness of defense nuclear facilities.”.

SEC. 3135. MODIFICATIONS TO COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES FOR COMPETITION OF MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3121 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2175), as amended by section 3124 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 1062), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

(2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(b) REPORT DESCRIBED.—A report described in this subsection is a report on a contract described by subsection (a) that includes—

“(1) a clear and complete description of the cost savings the Administrator expects to result from the competition for the contract over the life of the contract, including associated analyses, assumptions, and information sources used to determine such expected cost savings;

“(2) a description of any key limitations or uncertainties that could affect such costs savings, including costs savings that are anticipated but not fully known;

“(3) the costs of the competition for the contract, including the immediate costs of conducting the competition and any increased costs over the life of the contract;

“(4) a description of any disruptions or delays in mission activities or deliverables resulting from the competition for the contract;

“(5) a clear and complete description of the benefits expected by the Administrator with respect to mission performance or operations resulting from the competition;

“(6) how the competition for the contract compares with the Federal Acquisition Regulation regarding federally funded research and development centers, if applicable;

“(7) the factors considered and processes used by the Administrator to determine—

“(A) whether to compete or extend the contract; and

“(B) which activities at the facility should be covered under the contract rather than under a different contract;

“(8) with respect to the matters included under paragraphs (1) through (7), a detailed description of the analyses conducted by the Administrator to reach the conclusions presented in the report, including any assumptions, limitations, and uncertainties relating to such conclusions; and

“(9) any other matters the Administrator considers appropriate.

“(c) INFORMATION QUALITY.—A report required by subsection (a) shall be prepared in accordance with—

“(1) the information quality guidelines of the Department of Energy that are relevant to the clear and complete presentation of information on each matter required to be included in the report under subsection (b); and

“(2) best practices of the Government Accountability Office and relevant industries for cost estimating, if appropriate.

“(d) REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—

“(1) INITIAL REVIEW.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees that includes a review of each report required by subsection (a) not later than 180 days after the report is submitted to such committees.

“(2) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a review of each report required by subsection (a) with respect to a contract not later than 3 years after the report is submitted to such committees that includes an assessment, based on the most current information available, of the following:

“(A) The actual cost savings achieved compared to cost savings estimated under subsection (b)(1), and any increased costs incurred under the contract that were unexpected or uncertain at the time the contract was awarded.

“(B) Any disruptions or delays in mission activities or deliverables resulting from the competition for the contract compared to the disruptions and delays estimated under subsection (b)(4).

“(C) Whether expected benefits of the competition with respect to mission performance or operations have been achieved.

“(D) Such other matters as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The Comptroller General may not conduct a review under paragraph (1) or (2) of a report relating to a contract to manage and operate a facility of the National Nuclear Security Administration while a protest described in subsection (a)(2) is pending with respect to that contract.”; and

(3) in subsection (e), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2017” and inserting “2020”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by striking “and (d)(2)”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) in the past decade, competition of the management and operating contracts for the national security laboratories has resulted in sig-

nificant increases in fees paid to the contractors—funding that otherwise could be used to support program and mission activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration;

(2) competition of the management and operating contracts of the nuclear security enterprise is an important mechanism to help realize cost savings, seek efficiencies, improve performance, and hold contractors accountable;

(3) when the Administrator for Nuclear Security considers it appropriate to achieve those goals, the Administrator should conduct competition of such contracts while recognizing the unique nature of federally funded research and development centers; and

(4) the Administrator should ensure that fixed fees and performance-based fees contained in management and operating contracts are as low as possible to maintain a focus on national service while attracting high-quality contractors and achieving the goals of the competition.

SEC. 3136. INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF UNITED STATES CIVIL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

(a) REPORT ON TRANSFERS TO COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Not less frequently than every 90 days, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a description of the authorizations under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) to transfer United States civil nuclear technology to a covered foreign country during the preceding 90 days; and

(2) a statement of whether any agency required to be consulted under that section or pursuant to regulation objected to or sought conditions on each such transfer.

(b) DETERMINATION OF TECHNOLOGIES TO BE PROTECTED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(A) in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, determine the critical United States civil nuclear technologies that should be protected from diversion to a military program of a covered foreign country, including with respect to a naval propulsion or weapons program; and

(B) notify the appropriate congressional committees with respect to the determination and the technologies covered by the determination.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than 14 days before making an authorization under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) for the transfer of a technology covered by a determination under paragraph (1) to a covered foreign country, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(i) a notification of the intention of the Secretary to make the authorization for the transfer of such technology; and

(ii) a statement of whether any agency required to be consulted under such section 57 b. or pursuant to regulation objected to or sought conditions on the transfer.

(B) WAIVER OF DEADLINE.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) to submit the report required by that subparagraph not later than 14 days before making an authorization for the transfer of a technology covered by a determination under paragraph (1) to a covered foreign country if the Secretary—

(i) determines that an imminent radiological hazard exists; and

(ii) not later than 7 days after determining that such hazard exists, submits to the appropriate congressional committees—

(I) a certification that the hazard exists;
 (II) a justification for the waiver; and
 (III) the notification required by clause (i) of subparagraph (A) and the statement required by clause (ii) of that subparagraph.

(c) CONSULTATIONS WITH INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Energy shall expeditiously revise part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, to ensure that the Director of National Intelligence—

(A) is consulted with respect to the views of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) with respect to each authorization issued under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology to a covered foreign country before the determination to approve or disapprove the request for the authorization; and

(B) is provided with an opportunity to present the views of the Director and the intelligence community on the national security risks of the transfer, if any.

(2) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of Energy, jointly with the Director of National Intelligence, shall include the results of consultations conducted under paragraph (1) in each report under subsection (a) and each notification under subsection (b)(2).

(d) **REPORT ON COMPLIANCE OF COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND END-USERS.**—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of whether each covered foreign country is in compliance with its obligations under any authorization for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b));

(2) with respect to any covered foreign country that is not in compliance with such obligations—

(A) a description of the efforts of the United States to bring the country into compliance;

(B) an evaluation of the result of such efforts; and

(C) an assessment of the options available to the Secretary as a result of the country not being in compliance;

(3) an assessment of whether each end-user to which United States civil nuclear technology is transferred pursuant to an authorization under such section 57 b. is in compliance with the obligations of the end-user under that authorization; and

(4) a description of any consequences for the end-user or the exporter of the technology if the end-user is not in compliance with such obligations.

(e) REPORT ON TRANSFERS TO ALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Concurrent with the submission to Congress of the budget of the President for a fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the activities of the Department of Energy associated with the review of applications for authorization under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) to transfer United States civil nuclear technology to any foreign country.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of applications for authorization under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) to transfer United States civil nuclear technology to a foreign country submitted during the year preceding the submission of the report;

(B) the length of time each such application was under review;

(C) the number of such applications that were granted; and

(D) a description of efforts to streamline the review of such applications, taking into account the proliferation and diversion potential of end-users in the country to which United States civil nuclear technology would be transferred pursuant to such applications.

(f) **NOTIFICATIONS OF POTENTIAL DIVERSIONS.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the Department of Energy and the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director determines that there is credible intelligence that United States civil nuclear technology is being or has been diverted—

(1) to a military program in a foreign country to which the transfer of the technology was authorized under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)); or

(2) to a foreign country to which the transfer of the technology was not so authorized.

(g) **GUIDELINES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall issue guidance with respect to the use of the clear and intended authority of the Secretary under section 234 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2282) to impose civil penalties, including fines and debarment, and to make referrals to the Attorney General for prosecution, for violations of the terms of authorizations for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology issued under section 57 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)).

(h) REPORT ON TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE ITEMS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(A) describing the efforts of covered foreign countries to prevent the transfer of sensitive items, including efforts to improve the prevention of the transfer of such items; and

(B) assessing the adequacy of such efforts.

(2) **SENSITIVE ITEMS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “sensitive items” means goods, services, and technologies described in section 2(a) of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Non-proliferation Act (Public Law 106-178; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.**—The term “covered foreign country” means a foreign country that is a nuclear-weapon state, as defined by Article IX(3) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, but does not include the United States, the United Kingdom, or France.

SEC. 3137. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF NUCLEAR SECURITY ENTERPRISE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) correcting the longstanding problems with the governance and management of the nuclear security enterprise will require robust, personal, and long-term engagement by the President, the Secretary of Energy, the Administrator for Nuclear Security, and leaders from the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) recent and past studies of the governance and management of the nuclear security enterprise have provided a list of reasonable, practical, and actionable steps that the Secretary and the Administrator should take to make the nuclear security enterprise more efficient and more effective; and

(3) lasting and effective change to the nuclear security enterprise will require personal engagement by senior leaders, a clear plan, and mechanisms for ensuring follow-through and accountability.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION ACTION TEAM.**—(A) The Secretary and the Administrator shall jointly establish a team of senior officials from the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration to develop and carry out an implementation plan to reform the governance and management of the nuclear security enterprise to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the nuclear security enterprise. Such plan shall be developed and implemented in accordance with the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2401 et seq.), the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), and any other provision of law.

(B) The team established under paragraph (1) shall be co-chaired by the Deputy Secretary of Energy and the Administrator.

(C) In developing and carrying out the implementation plan, the team shall consult with the implementation assessment panel established under subsection (c)(1).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The implementation plan developed under paragraph (1)(A) shall address all recommendations contained in the covered study (except such recommendations that require legislative action to carry out) by identifying specific actions, milestones, timelines, and responsible personnel to implement such plan.

(3) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than March 31, 2016, the Secretary and the Administrator shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees the implementation plan developed under paragraph (1)(A).

(c) IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT PANEL.—

(1) **AGREEMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall seek to enter into a joint agreement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration to establish a panel of external, independent experts to evaluate the implementation plan developed under subsection (b)(1)(A) and the implementation of such plan.

(2) **DUTIES.**—The panel established under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide guidance to the Secretary and the Administrator with respect to the implementation plan developed under subsection (b)(1)(A), including how such plan compares or contrasts with the covered study;

(B) track the implementation of such plan; and

(C) assess the effectiveness of such plan.

(3) **REPORTS.**—(A) Not later than July 1, 2016, the panel established under paragraph (1) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary, and the Administrator an initial assessment of the implementation plan developed under subsection (b)(1)(A), including with respect to the completeness of the plan, how the plan aligns with the intent and recommendations made by the covered study, and the prospects for success for the plan.

(B) Beginning February 28, 2017, and semi-annually thereafter through 2020, the panel established under paragraph (1) shall brief the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary, and the Administrator on the efforts of the Secretary and the Administrator to implement the implementation plan developed under subsection (b)(1)(A).

(C) Not later than September 30, 2020, the panel established under paragraph (1) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary, and the Administrator a final report on the efforts of the Secretary and the Administrator to implement the implementation plan developed under subsection (b)(1)(A), including an assessment of the effectiveness of the reform efforts under such plan and whether further action is needed.

(4) COOPERATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall provide to the panel established under paragraph (1) full and timely access to all information, personnel, and systems of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration that the panel determines necessary to carry out this subsection.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED STUDY.—The term “covered study” means the following:

(A) The final report of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise established by section 3166 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2208).

(B) Any other study not conducted by the Secretary or the Administrator that the Secretary determines appropriate for purposes of this section.

(3) NUCLEAR SECURITY ENTERPRISE.—The term “nuclear security enterprise” has the meaning given that term in section 4002(6) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501(6)).

(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any action—

(1) in contravention of section 3220 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2410); or

(2) that would undermine or weaken health, safety, or security.

SEC. 3138. ANNUAL REPORT ON NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.

Section 3241A of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2441a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Administration for each fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a report containing the following information as of the date of the report:

“(1) The number of full-time equivalent employees of the Office of the Administrator, as counted under subsection (a).

“(2) The number of service support contracts of the Administration and whether such contracts are funded using program or program disbursement funds.

“(3) The number of full-time equivalent contractor employees working under each contract identified under paragraph (2).

“(4) The number of full-time equivalent contractor employees described in paragraph (3) that have been employed under such a contract for a period greater than two years.”.

SEC. 3139. DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY ON RISKS TO NONPROLIFERATION CAUSED BY ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING.

(a) STRATEGY.—The President shall develop and pursue a strategy to address the risks to the goals and policies of the United States regarding nuclear nonproliferation that are caused by the increased use of additive manufacture technology (commonly referred to as “3D printing”), including such technology that does not originate in the United States.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than March 31, 2016, and the end of each 120-day period thereafter through January 1, 2019, the President shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the strategy developed under subsection (a).

(c) PURSUIT OF STRATEGY.—The President shall pursue the strategy developed under subsection (a) at the Nuclear Security Summit in Chicago, Illinois, in 2016.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 3140. PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION CAPACITY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the requirement to create a modern, responsive nuclear infrastructure that includes the capability and capacity to produce, at minimum, 50 to 80 pits per year, is a national security priority;

(2) delaying creation of a modern, responsive nuclear infrastructure until the 2030s is an unacceptable risk to the nuclear deterrent and the national security of the United States; and

(3) timelines for creating certain capacities for production of plutonium pits and other nuclear weapons components must be driven by the requirement to hedge against technical and geopolitical risk and not solely by the needs of life extension programs.

(b) BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council established under section 179 of title 10, United States Code, in consultation with the Administrator for Nuclear Security and the Commander of the United States Strategic Command, shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the annual plutonium pit production capacity of the nuclear security enterprise (as defined in section 4002(6) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501(6))).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing under paragraph (1) shall describe the following:

(A) The pit production capacity requirement, including the numbers of pits produced that are needed for nuclear weapons life extension programs.

(B) The annual pit production requirement, including the numbers of pits produced, to support a responsive nuclear weapons infrastructure to hedge against technical and geopolitical risk.

SEC. 3141. ASSESSMENTS ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION RISKS AND NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) REPORTS.—Not later than March 1, 2016, and each year thereafter through 2020, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, consistent with the provision of classified information and intelligence sources and methods, containing—

(1) an assessment and prioritization of international nuclear proliferation risks and nuclear nonproliferation opportunities; and

(2) an assessment of the effectiveness of various means and programs for addressing such risks and opportunities.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(3) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 3142. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES FOR MOBILE GUARDIAN TRANSPORTER PROGRAM.

(a) SUBMISSION OF ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing a full and comprehensive analysis of alternatives conducted by the Administrator for the Mobile Guardian Transporter program.

(b) IDENTIFICATION IN BUDGET MATERIALS.—The Secretary of Energy shall include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department of Energy budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) for any fiscal year in which the Mobile Guardian Transporter program is carried out a separate, dedicated program element for such program.

TITLE XXXII—DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Sec. 3201. Authorization.

Sec. 3202. Administration of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

SEC. 3201. AUTHORIZATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016, \$29,150,000 for the operation of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board under chapter 21 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2286 et seq.).

SEC. 3202. ADMINISTRATION OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD.

(a) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD MEMBERS.—Section 311(c) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2286(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraphs (5), (6), and (7)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) In carrying out paragraph (5)(B), the Chairman may not withhold from any member of the Board any information that is made available to the Chairman regarding the Board’s functions, powers, and mission (including with respect to the management and evaluation of employees of the Board).”.

(b) SENIOR EMPLOYEES.—

(1) APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL.—Such section 311(c), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7)(A) The Chairman, subject to the approval of the Board, shall appoint the senior employees described in subparagraph (C).

“(B) The Chairman, subject to the approval of the Board, may remove a senior employee described in subparagraph (C).

“(C) The senior employees described in this subparagraph are the following senior employees of the Board:

“(i) The senior employee responsible for budgetary and general administration matters.

“(ii) The general counsel.

“(iii) The senior employee responsible for technical matters.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 313(b)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2286b(b)(1)) is amended by striking “hire” and inserting “in accordance with section 311(c)(7), hire”.

TITLE XXXIV—NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES

Sec. 3401. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 3401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AMOUNT.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2016 for the purpose of carrying out activities under chapter 641 of title 10, United States Code, relating to the naval petroleum reserves.

(b) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 3501. Authorization of the Maritime Administration.

Sec. 3502. Sense of Congress regarding Maritime Security Fleet program.

Sec. 3503. Update of references to the Secretary of Transportation regarding unemployment insurance and vessel operators.

Sec. 3504. Payment for Maritime Security Fleet vessels.

Sec. 3505. Melville Hall of United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Sec. 3506. Cadet commitment agreements.

Sec. 3507. Student incentive payment agreements.

Sec. 3508. Short sea transportation defined.

SEC. 3501. AUTHORIZATION OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016, to be available without fiscal year limitation if so provided in appropriations Acts, for the use of the Department of Transportation for Maritime Administration programs associated with maintaining national security aspects of the merchant marine, as follows:

(1) For expenses necessary for operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, \$96,028,000, of which—

(A) \$71,306,000 shall remain available until expended for Academy operations; and

(B) \$24,722,000 shall remain available until expended for capital asset management at the Academy.

(2) For expenses necessary to support the State maritime academies, \$34,550,000, of which—

(A) \$2,400,000 shall remain available until expended for student incentive payments;

(B) \$3,000,000 shall remain available until expended for direct payments to such academies;

(C) \$1,800,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance payments;

(D) \$22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of State maritime academy training vessels;

(E) \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Design; and

(F) \$350,000 shall remain available until expended for improving the monitoring of graduates' service obligation.

(3) For expenses necessary to support Maritime Administration operations and programs, \$54,059,000.

(4) For expenses necessary to dispose of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, \$8,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(5) For expenses to maintain and preserve a United States-flag merchant marine to serve the national security needs of the United States under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, \$210,000,000.

(6) For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5))) of loan guarantees under the program authorized by chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, \$3,135,000, of which \$3,135,000 shall remain available until expended for administrative expenses of the program.

SEC. 3502. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MARITIME SECURITY FLEET PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that dedicated and enhanced support is necessary to stabilize and preserve the Maritime Security Fleet program, a program that provides the Department of Defense with on-demand access to world class, economical commercial sealift capacity, assures a United States-flag presence in international commerce, supports a pool of qualified United States merchant mariners needed to crew United States-flag vessels during times of war or national emergency, and serves as a critical component of our national security infrastructure.

SEC. 3503. UPDATE OF REFERENCES TO THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND VESSEL OPERATORS.

Sections 3305 and 3306(n) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking “Secretary of Commerce” each place that it appears and inserting “Secretary of Transportation”.

SEC. 3504. PAYMENT FOR MARITIME SECURITY FLEET VESSELS.

(a) PER-VESSEL AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 53106(a)(1)(C) of title 46, United States Code, and subject to the availability of appropriations, there is authorized to be paid to each contractor for an operating agreement (as those terms are used in that section) for fiscal year 2016, \$3,500,000 for each vessel that is covered by the operating agreement.

(b) REPEAL OF OTHER AUTHORIZATION.—Section 53111(3) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2016.”.

SEC. 3505. MELVILLE HALL OF UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.

(a) GIFT TO THE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.—The Maritime Administrator may accept a gift of money described in subsection (b) from the Foundation under section 51315 of title 46, United States Code, for the purpose of renovating Melville Hall on the campus of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

(b) COVERED GIFT.—A gift described in this subsection is a gift under subsection (a) that the Maritime Administrator determines exceeds the sum of—

(1) the minimum amount that is sufficient to ensure the renovation of Melville Hall in accordance with the capital improvement plan of the United States Merchant Marine Academy that was in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) 25 percent of the amount described in paragraph (1).

(c) OPERATION CONTRACTS.—Subject to subsection (d), in the case that the Maritime Administrator accepts a gift of money described in subsection (b), the Maritime Administrator may enter into a contract with the Foundation for the operation of Melville Hall to make available facilities for, among other possible uses, official academy functions, third-party catering functions, and industry events and conferences.

(d) CONTRACT TERMS.—The contract described in subsection (c) shall be for such period and on such terms as the Maritime Administrator considers appropriate, including a provision, mutually agreeable to the Maritime Administrator and the Foundation, that—

(1) requires the Foundation—

(A) at the expense solely of the Foundation through the term of the contract to maintain Melville Hall in a condition that is as good as or

better than the condition Melville Hall was in on the later of—

(i) the date that the renovation of Melville Hall was completed; or

(ii) the date that the Foundation accepted Melville Hall after it was tendered to the Foundation by the Maritime Administrator; and

(B) to deposit all proceeds from the operation of Melville Hall, after expenses necessary for the operation and maintenance of Melville Hall, into the account of the Regimental Affairs Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality or successor entity, to be used solely for the morale and welfare of the cadets of the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

(2) prohibits the use of Melville Hall as lodging or an office by any person for more than 4 days in any calendar year other than—

(A) by the United States; or

(B) for the administration and operation of Melville Hall.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONTRACT.—The term “contract” includes any modification, extension, or renewal of the contract.

(2) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, Inc.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed under section 3105 of title 41, United States Code, as requiring the Maritime Administrator to award a contract for the operation of Melville Hall to the Foundation.

SEC. 3506. CADET COMMITMENT AGREEMENTS.

Section 51306(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “must” and inserting “shall”;

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) obtain a merchant mariner license, unlimited as to horsepower or tonnage, issued by the Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certifications required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation, before graduation from the Academy;”;

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) for at least 6 years after graduation from the Academy, maintain—

“(A) a valid merchant mariner license, unlimited as to horsepower or tonnage, issued by the Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certifications required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation;

“(B) a valid transportation worker identification credential; and

“(C) a Coast Guard medical certificate;”;

(4) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) apply for, and accept if tendered, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Navy Reserve (including the Strategic Sealift Officer Program, Navy Reserve), the Coast Guard Reserve, or any other reserve component of an armed force of the United States, and, if tendered the appointment, to serve, meet the participation requirements, and maintain active status in good standing, as determined by the program manager of the appropriate military service, for at least 8 years after the date of commissioning;”.

SEC. 3507. STUDENT INCENTIVE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS.

Section 51509 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(3) AUTHORIZED USES.—” before the last sentence and indenting accordingly;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by striking “Payments” and inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), payments” and indenting accordingly; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may modify the payments made to an individual under paragraph (1), but the total amount of payments to that individual may not exceed \$32,000.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “Merchant Marine Reserve” and inserting “Strategic Sealift Officer Program”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) obtain a merchant mariner license, without limitation as to tonnage or horsepower, from the Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certification required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation, within three months of completion of the course of instruction at the academy the individual is attending;”;

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) for at least 6 years after graduation from the academy, maintain—

“(A) a valid merchant mariner license, unlimited as to horsepower or tonnage, issued by the Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certifications required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation;

“(B) a valid transportation worker identification credential; and

“(C) a Coast Guard medical certificate;”;

(C) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) apply for, and accept, if tendered, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Navy Reserve (including the Strategic Sealift Officer Program, Navy Reserve), the Coast Guard Reserve, or any other reserve component of an armed force of the United States, and, if tendered the appointment, to serve and meet the participation requirements and to maintain active status in good standing, as determined by the program manager of the appropriate military service, for at least 8 years after the date of commissioning;”;

(4) by amending subsection (e)(1) to read as follows:

“(1) ACTIVE DUTY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may order an individual to serve on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of not more than 2 years if—

“(i) the individual has attended an academy under this section for more than 2 academic years, but less than 3 academic years;

“(ii) the individual has accepted the payments described in subsection (b) in an amount totaling at least \$8,000; and

“(iii) the Secretary of Transportation has determined that the individual has failed to fulfill

the part of the agreement described in subsection (d)(1).

“(B) 3 OR MORE YEARS.—The Secretary of Defense may order an individual to serve on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of not more than 3 years if—

“(i) the individual has attended an academy under this section for 3 or more academic years;

“(ii) the individual has accepted the payments described in subsection (b) in an amount totaling at least \$16,000; and

“(iii) the Secretary of Transportation has determined that the individual has failed to fulfill the part of the agreement described in subsection (d)(1).

“(C) HARDSHIP WAIVER.—In cases of hardship as determined by the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Transportation may waive this paragraph in whole or in part.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) ALTERNATIVE SERVICE.—

“(1) SERVICE AS COMMISSIONED OFFICER.—An individual who, for the 5-year period following graduation from an academy, serves as a commissioned officer on active duty in an armed force of the United States or as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Public Health Service shall be excused from the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (5) of subsection (d).

“(2) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—The Secretary may modify or waive any of the terms and conditions set forth in subsection (d) through the imposition of alternative service requirements.”.

SEC. 3508. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION DEFINED.

Paragraph (1) of section 55605 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) shipped in discrete units or packages that are handled individually, palletized, or unitized for purposes of transportation; or

“(D) freight vehicles carried aboard commuter ferry boats; and”.

DIVISION D—FUNDING TABLES

Sec. 4001. Authorization of amounts in funding tables.

Sec. 4002. Clarification of applicability of undistributed reductions of certain operation and maintenance funding among all operation and maintenance funding.

TITLE XLI—PROCUREMENT

Sec. 4101. Procurement.

Sec. 4102. Procurement for overseas contingency operations.

TITLE XLII—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Sec. 4201. Research, development, test, and evaluation.

Sec. 4202. Research, development, test, and evaluation for overseas contingency operations.

TITLE XLIII—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Sec. 4301. Operation and maintenance.

Sec. 4302. Operation and maintenance for overseas contingency operations.

Sec. 4303. Operation and maintenance base requirements.

TITLE XLIV—MILITARY PERSONNEL

Sec. 4401. Military personnel.

Sec. 4402. Military personnel for overseas contingency operations.

TITLE XLV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 4501. Other authorizations.

Sec. 4502. Other authorizations for overseas contingency operations.

TITLE XLVI—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 4601. Military construction.

TITLE XLVII—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Sec. 4701. Department of Energy national security programs.

SEC. 4001. AUTHORIZATION OF AMOUNTS IN FUNDING TABLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever a funding table in this division specifies a dollar amount authorized for a project, program, or activity, the obligation and expenditure of the specified dollar amount for the project, program, or activity is hereby authorized, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) MERIT-BASED DECISIONS.—A decision to commit, obligate, or expend funds with or to a specific entity on the basis of a dollar amount authorized pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) be based on merit-based selection procedures in accordance with the requirements of sections 2304(k) and 2374 of title 10, United States Code, or on competitive procedures; and

(2) comply with other applicable provisions of law.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO TRANSFER AND PROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—An amount specified in the funding tables in this division may be transferred or reprogrammed under a transfer or reprogramming authority provided by another provision of this Act or by other law. The transfer or reprogramming of an amount specified in such funding tables shall not count against a ceiling on such transfers or reprogrammings under section 1001 or section 1522 of this Act or any other provision of law, unless such transfer or reprogramming would move funds between appropriation accounts.

(d) APPLICABILITY TO CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—This section applies to any classified annex that accompanies this Act.

(e) ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—No oral or written communication concerning any amount specified in the funding tables in this division shall supersede the requirements of this section.

SEC. 4002. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICABILITY OF UNDISTRIBUTED REDUCTIONS OF CERTAIN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING AMONG ALL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING.

Any undistributed reduction in funding available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance, as specified in the funding table in section 4301, that is attributable to savings in connection with foreign currency fluctuations or bulk fuel purchases, may be applied against any funds available for that fiscal year for the Department for operation and maintenance, regardless of whether available as specified in the funding table in section 4301 or available as specified in the funding table in section 4303.

TITLE XLI—PROCUREMENT

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT.

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
FIXED WING			
002	UTILITY F/W AIRCRAFT	879	879
004	MQ-1 UAV	260,436	277,436
	Extended Range Modifications		[17,000]
ROTARY			
006	HELICOPTER, LIGHT UTILITY (LUH)	187,177	187,177
007	AH-64 APACHE BLOCK IIIA REMAN	1,168,461	1,168,461
008	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	209,930	209,930
011	UH-60 BLACKHAWK M MODEL (MYP)	1,435,945	1,563,945
	Additional 8 rotorcraft for Army National Guard		[128,000]
012	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	127,079	127,079
013	UH-60 BLACK HAWK A AND L MODELS	46,641	46,641
014	CH-47 HELICOPTER	1,024,587	1,024,587
015	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	99,344	99,344
MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT			
016	MQ-1 PAYLOAD (MIP)	97,543	97,543
019	MULTI SENSOR ABN RECON (MIP)	95,725	95,725
020	AH-64 MODS	116,153	116,153
021	CH-47 CARGO HELICOPTER MODS (MYP)	86,330	86,330
022	GRCS SEMA MODS (MIP)	4,019	4,019
023	ARL SEMA MODS (MIP)	16,302	16,302
024	EMARSS SEMA MODS (MIP)	13,669	13,669
025	UTILITY/CARGO AIRPLANE MODS	16,166	16,166
026	UTILITY HELICOPTER MODS	13,793	13,793
028	NETWORK AND MISSION PLAN	112,807	112,807
029	COMMS, NAV SURVEILLANCE	82,904	82,904
030	GATM ROLLUP	33,890	33,890
031	RQ-7 UAV MODS	81,444	81,444
GROUND SUPPORT AVIONICS			
032	AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT	56,215	56,215
033	SURVIVABILITY CM	8,917	8,917
034	CMWS	78,348	104,348
	Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement		[26,000]
OTHER SUPPORT			
035	AVIONICS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	6,937	6,937
036	COMMON GROUND EQUIPMENT	64,867	64,867
037	AIRCREW INTEGRATED SYSTEMS	44,085	44,085
038	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	94,545	94,545
039	INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	1,207	1,207
040	LAUNCHER, 2.75 ROCKET	3,012	3,012
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY	5,689,357	5,860,357
MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM			
001	LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AMD)	115,075	115,075
002	MSE MISSILE	414,946	614,946
	Army UPL for Patriot PAC 3 for improved ballistic missile		[200,000]
AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM			
003	HELLFIRE SYS SUMMARY	27,975	27,975
004	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	27,738	27,738
ANTI-TANK/ASSAULT MISSILE SYS			
005	JAVELIN (AAWS-M) SYSTEM SUMMARY	77,163	168,163
	Program increase to support Unfunded Requirements		[91,000]
006	TOW 2 SYSTEM SUMMARY	87,525	87,525
008	GUIDED MLRS ROCKET (GMLRS)	251,060	251,060
009	MLRS REDUCED RANGE PRACTICE ROCKETS (RRPR)	17,428	17,428
MODIFICATIONS			
011	PATRIOT MODS	241,883	241,883
012	ATACMS MODS	30,119	15,119
	Early to need		[-15,000]
013	GMLRS MOD	18,221	18,221
014	STINGER MODS	2,216	2,216
015	AVENGER MODS	6,171	6,171
016	ITAS/TOW MODS	19,576	19,576
017	MLRS MODS	35,970	35,970
018	HIMARS MODIFICATIONS	3,148	3,148

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
019	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	33,778	33,778
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES		
020	AIR DEFENSE TARGETS	3,717	3,717
021	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (MISSILES)	1,544	1,544
022	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT	4,704	4,704
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY	1,419,957	1,695,957
	PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY		
	TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES		
001	STRYKER VEHICLE	181,245	181,245
	MODIFICATION OF TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES		
002	STRYKER (MOD)	74,085	388,085
	Lethality Upgrades		[314,000]
003	STRYKER UPGRADE	305,743	305,743
005	BRADLEY PROGRAM (MOD)	225,042	225,042
006	HOWITZER, MED SP FT 155MM M109A6 (MOD)	60,079	60,079
007	PALADIN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (PIM)	273,850	273,850
008	IMPROVED RECOVERY VEHICLE (M88A2 HERCULES)	123,629	195,629
	Additional Vehicles – Army Unfunded Requirement		[72,000]
009	ASSAULT BRIDGE (MOD)	2,461	2,461
010	ASSAULT BREACHER VEHICLE	2,975	2,975
011	M88 FOV MODS	14,878	14,878
012	JOINT ASSAULT BRIDGE	33,455	33,455
013	M1 ABRAMS TANK (MOD)	367,939	407,939
	Program Increase		[40,000]
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES		
015	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (TCV-WTCV)	6,479	6,479
	WEAPONS & OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES		
016	MORTAR SYSTEMS	4,991	4,991
017	XM320 GRENADE LAUNCHER MODULE (GLM)	26,294	26,294
018	PRECISION SNIPER RIFLE	1,984	-1,984
	Army request – schedule delay		[-1,984]
019	COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATIC SNIPER SYSTEM	1,488	-1,488
	Army request – schedule delay		[-1,488]
020	CARBINE	34,460	34,460
021	COMMON REMOTELY OPERATED WEAPONS STATION	8,367	14,750
	Army requested adjustment		[6,383]
022	HANDGUN	5,417	-5,417
	Army request – early to need and schedule delay		[-5,417]
	MOD OF WEAPONS AND OTHER COMBAT VEH		
023	MK-19 GRENADE MACHINE GUN MODS	2,777	2,777
024	M777 MODS	10,070	10,070
025	M4 CARBINE MODS	27,566	27,566
026	M2 50 CAL MACHINE GUN MODS	44,004	44,004
027	M249 SAW MACHINE GUN MODS	1,190	1,190
028	M240 MEDIUM MACHINE GUN MODS	1,424	1,424
029	SNIPER RIFLES MODIFICATIONS	2,431	980
	Army request – schedule delay		[-1,451]
030	M119 MODIFICATIONS	20,599	20,599
032	MORTAR MODIFICATION	6,300	6,300
033	MODIFICATIONS LESS THAN \$5.0M (WOCV-WTCV)	3,737	3,737
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES		
034	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (WOCV-WTCV)	391	2,848
	Army requested adjustment		[2,457]
035	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (WOCV-WTCV)	9,027	9,027
036	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS	304	304
037	SMALL ARMS EQUIPMENT (SOLDIER ENH PROG)	2,392	2,392
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY	1,887,073	2,311,573
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY		
	SMALL/MEDIUM CAL AMMUNITION		
001	CTG, 5.56MM, ALL TYPES	43,489	43,489
002	CTG, 7.62MM, ALL TYPES	40,715	40,715
003	CTG, HANDGUN, ALL TYPES	7,753	6,801
	Army request – program reduction		[-952]
004	CTG, .50 CAL, ALL TYPES	24,728	24,728
005	CTG, 25MM, ALL TYPES	8,305	8,305
006	CTG, 30MM, ALL TYPES	34,330	34,330
007	CTG, 40MM, ALL TYPES	79,972	69,972

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	Early to need		[-10,000]
	MORTAR AMMUNITION		
008	60MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	42,898	42,898
009	81MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	43,500	43,500
010	120MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	64,372	64,372
	TANK AMMUNITION		
011	CARTRIDGES, TANK, 105MM AND 120MM, ALL TYPES	105,541	105,541
	ARTILLERY AMMUNITION		
012	ARTILLERY CARTRIDGES, 75MM & 105MM, ALL TYPES	57,756	57,756
013	ARTILLERY PROJECTILE, 155MM, ALL TYPES	77,995	77,995
014	PROJ 155MM EXTENDED RANGE M982	45,518	45,518
015	ARTILLERY PROPELLANTS, FUZES AND PRIMERS, ALL	78,024	78,024
	ROCKETS		
016	SHOULDER LAUNCHED MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	7,500	7,500
017	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES	33,653	33,653
	OTHER AMMUNITION		
018	CAD/PAD, ALL TYPES	5,639	5,639
019	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	9,751	9,751
020	GRENADERS, ALL TYPES	19,993	19,993
021	SIGNALS, ALL TYPES	9,761	9,761
022	SIMULATORS, ALL TYPES	9,749	9,749
	MISCELLANEOUS		
023	AMMO COMPONENTS, ALL TYPES	3,521	3,521
024	NON-LETHAL AMMUNITION, ALL TYPES	1,700	1,700
025	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION (AMMO)	6,181	6,181
026	AMMUNITION PECULIAR EQUIPMENT	17,811	17,811
027	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION (AMMO)	14,695	14,695
	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT		
029	PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	221,703	221,703
030	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS DEMILITARIZATION	113,250	113,250
031	ARMS INITIATIVE	3,575	3,575
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY	1,233,378	1,222,426
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	TACTICAL VEHICLES		
001	TACTICAL TRAILERS/DOLLY SETS	12,855	12,855
002	SEMITRAILERS, FLATBED:	53	53
004	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE	308,336	308,336
005	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEH (FMTV)	90,040	90,040
006	FIRETRUCKS & ASSOCIATED FIREFIGHTING EQUIP	8,444	8,444
007	FAMILY OF HEAVY TACTICAL VEHICLES (FHTV)	27,549	27,549
008	PLS ESP	127,102	127,102
010	TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE PROTECTION KITS	48,292	48,292
011	MODIFICATION OF IN SVC EQUIP	130,993	130,993
012	MINE-RESISTANT AMBUSH-PROTECTED (MRAP) MODS	19,146	19,146
	NON-TACTICAL VEHICLES		
014	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	1,248	1,248
015	NONTACTICAL VEHICLES, OTHER	9,614	9,614
	COMM—JOINT COMMUNICATIONS		
016	WIN-T—GROUND FORCES TACTICAL NETWORK	783,116	643,370
	Unobligated balances		[-139,746]
017	SIGNAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	49,898	49,898
018	JOINT INCIDENT SITE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY	4,062	4,062
019	JCSE EQUIPMENT (USREDCOM)	5,008	5,008
	COMM—SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS		
020	DEFENSE ENTERPRISE WIDEBAND SATCOM SYSTEMS	196,306	196,306
021	TRANSPORTABLE TACTICAL COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS	44,998	34,998
	Program Reduction		[-10,000]
022	SHF TERM	7,629	7,629
023	NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (SPACE)	14,027	14,027
024	SMART-T (SPACE)	13,453	13,453
025	GLOBAL BRDCST SVC—GBS	6,265	6,265
026	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (TAC SAT)	1,042	1,042
027	ENROUTE MISSION COMMAND (EMC)	7,116	7,116
	COMM—C3 SYSTEM		
028	ARMY GLOBAL CMD & CONTROL SYS (AGCCS)	10,137	10,137
	COMM—COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS		
029	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM	64,640	54,640
	Unobligated balances		[-10,000]
030	MID-TIER NETWORKING VEHICULAR RADIO (MNVR)	27,762	22,762

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	<i>Excess Program Management Costs</i>		[-5,000]
031	RADIO TERMINAL SET, MIDS LVT(2)	9,422	9,422
032	AMC CRITICAL ITEMS—OPA2	26,020	26,020
033	TRACTOR DESK	4,073	4,073
034	SPIDER APLA REMOTE CONTROL UNIT	1,403	1,403
035	SPIDER FAMILY OF NETWORKED MUNITIONS INCR	9,199	9,199
036	SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM COMME/ELECTRONICS	349	349
037	TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PROTECTIVE SYSTEM	25,597	25,597
038	UNIFIED COMMAND SUITE	21,854	21,854
040	FAMILY OF MED COMM FOR COMBAT CASUALTY CARE	24,388	24,388
	COMM—INTELLIGENCE COMM		
042	CI AUTOMATION ARCHITECTURE	1,349	1,349
043	ARMY CAMISO GPF EQUIPMENT	3,695	3,695
	INFORMATION SECURITY		
045	INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY PROGRAM-ISSP	19,920	19,920
046	COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY (COMSEC)	72,257	72,257
	COMM—LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS		
047	BASE SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS	16,082	16,082
	COMM—BASE COMMUNICATIONS		
048	INFORMATION SYSTEMS	86,037	86,037
050	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	8,550	8,550
051	INSTALLATION INFO INFRASTRUCTURE MOD PROGRAM	73,496	73,496
	ELECT EQUIP—TACT INT REL ACT (TIARA)		
054	JTT/CIBS-M	881	881
055	PROPHET GROUND	63,650	48,650
	<i>Program reduction</i>		[-15,000]
057	DCGS-A (MIP)	260,268	250,268
	<i>Program reduction</i>		[-10,000]
058	JOINT TACTICAL GROUND STATION (JTAGS)	3,906	3,906
059	TROJAN (MIP)	13,929	13,929
060	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (INTEL SPT) (MIP)	3,978	3,978
061	CI HUMINT AUTO REPRTING AND COLL(CHARCS)	7,542	7,542
062	CLOSE ACCESS TARGET RECONNAISSANCE (CATR)	8,010	8,010
063	MACHINE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SYSTEM-M	8,125	8,125
	ELECT EQUIP—ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)		
064	LIGHTWEIGHT COUNTER MORTAR RADAR	63,472	63,472
065	EW PLANNING & MANAGEMENT TOOLS (EWPMT)	2,556	2,556
066	AIR VIGILANCE (AV)	8,224	8,224
067	CREW	2,960	2,960
068	FAMILY OF PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIE	1,722	1,722
069	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES	447	447
070	CI MODERNIZATION	228	228
	ELECT EQUIP—TACTICAL SURV. (TAC SURV)		
071	SENTINEL MODS	43,285	43,285
072	NIGHT VISION DEVICES	124,216	124,216
074	SMALL TACTICAL OPTICAL RIFLE MOUNTED MLRF	23,216	23,216
076	INDIRECT FIRE PROTECTION FAMILY OF SYSTEMS	60,679	60,679
077	FAMILY OF WEAPON SIGHTS (FWS)	53,453	53,453
078	ARTILLERY ACCURACY EQUIP	3,338	3,338
079	PROFILER	4,057	4,057
081	JOINT BATTLE COMMAND—PLATFORM (JBC-P)	133,339	133,339
082	JOINT EFFECTS TARGETING SYSTEM (JETS)	47,212	47,212
083	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (LLDR)	22,314	22,314
084	COMPUTER BALLISTICS: LHMBC XM32	12,131	12,131
085	MORTAR FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM	10,075	10,075
086	COUNTERFIRE RADARS	217,379	167,379
	<i>Unobligated balances</i>		[-50,000]
	ELECT EQUIP—TACTICAL C2 SYSTEMS		
087	FIRE SUPPORT C2 FAMILY	1,190	1,190
090	AIR & MSL DEFENSE PLANNING & CONTROL SYS	28,176	28,176
091	IAMD BATTLE COMMAND SYSTEM	20,917	15,917
	<i>Program Reduction</i>		[-5,000]
092	LIFE CYCLE SOFTWARE SUPPORT (LCSS)	5,850	5,850
093	NETWORK MANAGEMENT INITIALIZATION AND SERVICE	12,738	12,738
094	MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM (MCS)	145,405	145,405
095	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM-ARMY (GCSS-A)	162,654	146,654
	<i>Program growth</i>		[-16,000]
096	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM-ARMY (IPP)	4,446	4,446
098	RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEYING INSTRUMENT SET	16,218	16,218
099	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIPMENT (ENFIRE)	1,138	1,138

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	ELECT EQUIP—AUTOMATION		
100	ARMY TRAINING MODERNIZATION	12,089	12,089
101	AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING EQUIP	105,775	105,775
102	GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEMS FAM	18,995	18,995
103	HIGH PERF COMPUTING MOD PGM (HPCMP)	62,319	62,319
104	RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYS (RCAS)	17,894	17,894
	ELECT EQUIP—AUDIO VISUAL SYS (A/V)		
106	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5M (SURVEYING EQUIPMENT)	4,242	4,242
	ELECT EQUIP—SUPPORT		
107	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (C-E)	425	425
108	BCT EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES	7,438	7,438
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
108A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	6,467	6,467
	CHEMICAL DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT		
109	PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS	248	248
110	FAMILY OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT (FNLE)	1,487	1,487
112	CBRN DEFENSE	26,302	26,302
	BRIDGING EQUIPMENT		
113	TACTICAL BRIDGING	9,822	9,822
114	TACTICAL BRIDGE, FLOAT-RIBBON	21,516	21,516
115	BRIDGE SUPPLEMENTAL SET	4,959	4,959
116	COMMON BRIDGE TRANSPORTER (CBT) RECAP	52,546	52,546
	ENGINEER (NON-CONSTRUCTION) EQUIPMENT		
117	GRND STANDOFF MINE DETECTN SYSM (GSTAMIDS)	58,682	58,682
118	HUSKY MOUNTED DETECTION SYSTEM (HMDS)	13,565	13,565
119	ROBOTIC COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM (RCSS)	2,136	2,136
120	EOD ROBOTICS SYSTEMS RECAPITALIZATION	6,960	6,960
121	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQPMT (EOD EQPMT)	17,424	17,424
122	REMOTE DEMOLITION SYSTEMS	8,284	8,284
123	<\$5M, COUNTERMINE EQUIPMENT	5,459	5,459
124	FAMILY OF BOATS AND MOTORS	8,429	8,429
	COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
125	HEATERS AND ECU'S	18,876	18,876
127	SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT	2,287	2,287
128	PERSONNEL RECOVERY SUPPORT SYSTEM (PRSS)	7,733	7,733
129	GROUND SOLDIER SYSTEM	49,798	49,798
130	MOBILE SOLDIER POWER	43,639	43,639
132	FIELD FEEDING EQUIPMENT	13,118	13,118
133	CARGO AERIAL DEL & PERSONNEL PARACHUTE SYSTEM	28,278	28,278
135	FAMILY OF ENGR COMBAT AND CONSTRUCTION SETS	34,544	34,544
136	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5M (ENG SPT)	595	595
	PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT		
137	QUALITY SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT	5,368	5,368
138	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, PETROLEUM & WATER	35,381	35,381
	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT		
139	COMBAT SUPPORT MEDICAL	73,828	73,828
	MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT		
140	MOBILE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS	25,270	25,270
141	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (MAINT EQ)	2,760	2,760
	CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT		
142	GRADER, ROAD MTZD, HVY, 6X4 (CCE)	5,903	5,903
143	SCRAPERS, EARTHMOVING	26,125	26,125
146	TRACTOR, FULL TRACKED	27,156	27,156
147	ALL TERRAIN CRANES	16,750	16,750
148	PLANT, ASPHALT MIXING	984	984
149	HIGH MOBILITY ENGINEER EXCAVATOR (HMEE)	2,656	2,656
150	ENHANCED RAPID AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION CAPAP	2,531	2,531
151	FAMILY OF DIVER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	446	446
152	CONST EQUIP ESP	19,640	19,640
153	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (CONST EQUIP)	5,087	5,087
	RAIL FLOAT CONTAINERIZATION EQUIPMENT		
154	ARMY WATERCRAFT ESP	39,772	39,772
155	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (FLOAT/RAIL)	5,835	5,835
	GENERATORS		
156	GENERATORS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIP	166,356	166,356
157	TACTICAL ELECTRIC POWER RECAPITALIZATION	11,505	11,505
	MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
159	FAMILY OF FORKLIFTS	17,496	17,496
	TRAINING EQUIPMENT		
160	COMBAT TRAINING CENTERS SUPPORT	74,916	74,916

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
161	TRAINING DEVICES, NONSYSTEM	303,236	278,236
	Program reduction		[-25,000]
162	CLOSE COMBAT TACTICAL TRAINER	45,210	45,210
163	AVIATION COMBINED ARMS TACTICAL TRAINER	30,068	30,068
164	GAMING TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORT OF ARMY TRAINING	9,793	9,793
	TEST MEASURE AND DIG EQUIPMENT (TMD)		
165	CALIBRATION SETS EQUIPMENT	4,650	4,650
166	INTEGRATED FAMILY OF TEST EQUIPMENT (IFTE)	34,487	34,487
167	TEST EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION (TEMOD)	11,083	11,083
	OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
169	RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	17,937	17,937
170	PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEMS (OPA3)	52,040	52,040
171	BASE LEVEL COMMON EQUIPMENT	1,568	1,568
172	MODIFICATION OF IN-SVC EQUIPMENT (OPA-3)	64,219	64,219
173	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (OTH)	1,525	1,525
174	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR USER TESTING	3,268	3,268
176	TRACTOR YARD	7,191	7,191
	OPA2		
177	INITIAL SPARES—C&E	48,511	48,511
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY	5,899,028	5,613,282
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	COMBAT AIRCRAFT		
002	F/A-18E/F (FIGHTER) HORNET		978,750
	Additional 12 Aircraft—Navy Unfunded Requirement		[978,750]
003	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER CV	897,542	873,042
	Anticipated contract savings		[-7,700]
	Cost growth for support equipment		[-16,800]
004	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	48,630	48,630
005	JSF STOVL	1,483,414	2,329,414
	Additional 6 Aircraft—Marine Corps Unfunded Requirement		[846,000]
006	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	203,060	203,060
007	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	41,300	41,300
008	V-22 (MEDIUM LIFT)	1,436,355	1,421,355
	Support funding carryover		[-15,000]
009	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	43,853	43,853
010	H-1 UPGRADES (UH-1Y/AH-1Z)	800,057	800,057
011	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	56,168	56,168
012	MH-60S (MYP)	28,232	28,232
014	MH-60R (MYP)	969,991	964,991
	Poor justification of production line shutdown funds		[-5,000]
016	P-8A POSEIDON	3,008,928	3,008,928
017	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	269,568	250,568
	Advance procurement cost growth		[-19,000]
018	E-2D ADV HAWKEYE	857,654	857,654
019	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	195,336	195,336
	TRAINER AIRCRAFT		
020	JPATS	8,914	8,914
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
021	KC-130J	192,214	192,214
022	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	24,451	24,451
023	MQ-4 TRITON	494,259	559,259
	Additional Air Vehicle		[65,000]
024	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	54,577	54,577
025	MQ-8 UAV	120,020	156,020
	MQ-8 UAV—Additional three air vehicles		[36,000]
026	STUASLO UAV	3,450	3,450
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT		
028	EA-6 SERIES	9,799	9,799
029	AEA SYSTEMS	23,151	38,151
	Additional Low Band Transmitter Modifications		[15,000]
030	AV-8 SERIES	41,890	45,190
	AV-8B Link 16 upgrades, unfunded requirement		[3,300]
031	ADVERSARY	5,816	5,816
032	F-18 SERIES	978,756	968,456
	Unjustified request		[-10,300]
034	H-53 SERIES	46,887	46,887
035	SH-60 SERIES	107,728	107,728
036	H-1 SERIES	42,315	40,565
	Unjustified growth—installation funding		[-1,750]

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
037	EP-3 SERIES	41,784	41,784
038	P-3 SERIES	3,067	3,067
039	E-2 SERIES	20,741	20,741
040	TRAINER A/C SERIES	27,980	27,980
041	C-2A	8,157	8,157
042	C-130 SERIES	70,335	69,041
	Unjustified growth—installation funding		[-1,294]
043	FEWSG	633	633
044	CARGO/TRANSPORT A/C SERIES	8,916	8,916
045	E-6 SERIES	185,253	185,253
046	EXECUTIVE HELICOPTERS SERIES	76,138	72,338
	Unjustified growth—installation funding		[-3,800]
047	SPECIAL PROJECT AIRCRAFT	23,702	23,702
048	T-45 SERIES	105,439	105,439
049	POWER PLANT CHANGES	9,917	9,917
050	JPATS SERIES	13,537	13,537
051	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT	131,732	131,732
052	COMMON AVIONICS CHANGES	202,745	202,745
053	COMMON DEFENSIVE WEAPON SYSTEM	3,062	3,062
054	ID SYSTEMS	48,206	48,206
055	P-8 SERIES	28,492	28,492
056	MAGTF EW FOR AVIATION	7,680	7,680
057	MQ-8 SERIES	22,464	22,464
058	RQ-7 SERIES	3,773	3,773
059	V-22 (TILT/ROTOR ACFT) OSPREY	121,208	144,208
	MV-22 Ballistic Protection		[8,000]
	MV-22 integrated aircraft survivability—MC UFR		[15,000]
060	F-35 STOVL SERIES	256,106	256,106
061	F-35 CV SERIES	68,527	68,527
062	QRC	6,885	6,885
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
063	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	1,563,515	1,478,515
	Program decrease		[-85,000]
	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIP & FACILITIES		
064	COMMON GROUND EQUIPMENT	450,959	450,959
065	AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	24,010	24,010
066	WAR CONSUMABLES	42,012	42,012
067	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES	2,455	2,455
068	SPECIAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	50,859	50,859
069	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION	1,801	1,801
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY	16,126,405	17,927,811
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	MODIFICATION OF MISSILES		
001	TRIDENT II MODS	1,099,064	1,099,064
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES		
002	MISSILE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	7,748	7,748
	STRATEGIC MISSILES		
003	TOMAHAWK	184,814	214,814
	Minimum Sustaining Rate Increase		[30,000]
	TACTICAL MISSILES		
004	AMRAAM	192,873	207,873
	Additional captive air training missiles		[15,000]
005	SIDEWINDER	96,427	96,427
006	JSOW	21,419	21,419
007	STANDARD MISSILE	435,352	435,352
008	RAM	80,826	80,826
011	STAND OFF PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS (SOPGM)	4,265	4,265
012	AERIAL TARGETS	40,792	40,792
013	OTHER MISSILE SUPPORT	3,335	3,335
	MODIFICATION OF MISSILES		
014	ESSM	44,440	44,440
015	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	54,462	54,462
016	HARM MODS	122,298	122,298
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES		
017	WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	2,397	2,397
018	FLEET SATELLITE COMM FOLLOW-ON	39,932	39,932
	ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
019	ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	57,641	61,309
	Classified Program		[3,668]

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<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	TORPEDOES AND RELATED EQUIP		
020	SSTD	7,380	7,380
021	MK-48 TORPEDO	65,611	65,611
022	ASW TARGETS	6,912	6,912
	MOD OF TORPEDOES AND RELATED EQUIP		
023	MK-54 TORPEDO MODS	113,219	113,219
024	MK-48 TORPEDO ADCAP MODS	63,317	63,317
025	QUICKSTRIKE MINE	13,254	13,254
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
026	TORPEDO SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	67,701	67,701
027	ASW RANGE SUPPORT	3,699	3,699
	DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION		
028	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION	3,342	3,342
	GUNS AND GUN MOUNTS		
029	SMALL ARMS AND WEAPONS	11,937	11,937
	MODIFICATION OF GUNS AND GUN MOUNTS		
030	CIWS MODS	53,147	53,147
031	COAST GUARD WEAPONS	19,022	19,022
032	GUN MOUNT MODS	67,980	67,980
033	AIRBORNE MINE NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEMS	19,823	19,823
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
035	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	149,725	149,725
	TOTAL WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY	3,154,154	3,202,822
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC		
	NAVY AMMUNITION		
001	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	101,238	101,238
002	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	67,289	67,289
003	MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION	20,340	20,340
004	PRACTICE BOMBS	40,365	40,365
005	CARTRIDGES & CART ACTUATED DEVICES	49,377	49,377
006	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES	59,651	59,651
007	JATOS	2,806	2,806
008	LRLAP 6" LONG RANGE ATTACK PROJECTILE	11,596	11,596
009	5 INCH/54 GUN AMMUNITION	35,994	35,994
010	INTERMEDIATE CALIBER GUN AMMUNITION	36,715	36,715
011	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION	45,483	45,483
012	SMALL ARMS & LANDING PARTY AMMO	52,080	52,080
013	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION	10,809	10,809
014	AMMUNITION LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	4,469	4,469
	MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION		
015	SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION	46,848	46,848
016	LINEAR CHARGES, ALL TYPES	350	350
017	40 MM, ALL TYPES	500	500
018	60MM, ALL TYPES	1,849	1,849
019	81MM, ALL TYPES	1,000	1,000
020	120MM, ALL TYPES	13,867	13,867
022	GRENADES, ALL TYPES	1,390	1,390
023	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	14,967	14,967
024	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES	45,219	45,219
026	FUZE, ALL TYPES	29,335	29,335
027	NON LETHALS	3,868	3,868
028	AMMO MODERNIZATION	15,117	15,117
029	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	11,219	11,219
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC	723,741	723,741
	SHIPBUILDING & CONVERSION, NAVY		
	OTHER WARSHIPS		
001	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	1,634,701	1,634,701
002	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	874,658	874,658
003	VIRGINIA CLASS SUBMARINE	3,346,370	3,346,370
004	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	1,993,740	1,993,740
005	CVN REFUELING OVERHAULS	678,274	678,274
006	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	14,951	14,951
007	DDG 1000	433,404	433,404
008	DDG-51	3,149,703	3,549,703
	Incremental funding for one DDG-51		[400,000]
010	LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP	1,356,991	1,356,991
	AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS		
012	LPD-17	550,000	550,000

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
013	AFLOAT FORWARD STAGING BASE		97,000
	Accelerate shipbuilding funding		[97,000]
014A	LX(R) ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		250,000
	LX(R) Acceleration		[250,000]
015	LHA REPLACEMENT ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	277,543	476,543
	Accelerate LHA-8 advanced procurement		[199,000]
016A	LCU Replacement		34,000
	Accelerate LCU replacement		[34,000]
	AUXILIARIES, CRAFT AND PRIOR YR PROGRAM COST		
017	TAO FLEET OILER	674,190	674,190
019	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	138,200	138,200
020	OUTFITTING	697,207	673,207
	Program decrease		[-24,000]
021	SHIP TO SHORE CONNECTOR	255,630	255,630
022	SERVICE CRAFT	30,014	30,014
023	LCAC SLEP	80,738	80,738
024	YP CRAFT MAINTENANCE/ROH/SLEP	21,838	21,838
025	COMPLETION OF PY SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMS	389,305	389,305
025A	T-ATS(X) Fleet Tug		75,000
	Accelerate T-ATS(X)		[75,000]
	TOTAL SHIPBUILDING & CONVERSION, NAVY	16,597,457	17,628,457
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	SHIP PROPULSION EQUIPMENT		
001	LM-2500 GAS TURBINE	4,881	4,881
002	ALLISON 501K GAS TURBINE	5,814	5,814
003	HYBRID ELECTRIC DRIVE (HED)	32,906	32,906
	GENERATORS		
004	SURFACE COMBATANT HM&E	36,860	36,860
	NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT		
005	OTHER NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT	87,481	87,481
	PERISCOPES		
006	SUB PERISCOPES & IMAGING EQUIP	63,109	63,109
	OTHER SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT		
007	DDG MOD	364,157	424,157
	Additional DDG Modification-Unfunded Requirement		[60,000]
008	FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT	16,089	16,089
009	COMMAND AND CONTROL SWITCHBOARD	2,255	2,255
010	LHA/LHD MIDLIFE	28,571	28,571
011	LCC 19/20 EXTENDED SERVICE LIFE PROGRAM	12,313	12,313
012	POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT	16,609	16,609
013	SUBMARINE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	10,498	10,498
014	VIRGINIA CLASS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	35,747	35,747
015	LCS CLASS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	48,399	48,399
016	SUBMARINE BATTERIES	23,072	23,072
017	LPD CLASS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	55,283	55,283
018	STRATEGIC PLATFORM SUPPORT EQUIP	18,563	18,563
019	DSSP EQUIPMENT	7,376	7,376
021	LCAC	20,965	20,965
022	UNDERWATER EOD PROGRAMS	51,652	51,652
023	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	102,498	102,498
024	CHEMICAL WARFARE DETECTORS	3,027	3,027
025	SUBMARINE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM	7,399	7,399
	REACTOR PLANT EQUIPMENT		
027	REACTOR COMPONENTS	296,095	296,095
	OCEAN ENGINEERING		
028	DIVING AND SALVAGE EQUIPMENT	15,982	15,982
	SMALL BOATS		
029	STANDARD BOATS	29,982	29,982
	TRAINING EQUIPMENT		
030	OTHER SHIPS TRAINING EQUIPMENT	66,538	66,538
	PRODUCTION FACILITIES EQUIPMENT		
031	OPERATING FORCES IPE	71,138	71,138
	OTHER SHIP SUPPORT		
032	NUCLEAR ALTERATIONS	132,625	132,625
033	LCS COMMON MISSION MODULES EQUIPMENT	23,500	23,500
034	LCS MCM MISSION MODULES	85,151	85,151
035	LCS SUW MISSION MODULES	35,228	35,228
036	REMOTE MINEHUNTING SYSTEM (RMS)	87,627	53,077
	Procurement in excess of need ahead of satisfactory testing		[-34,550]

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<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	LOGISTIC SUPPORT		
037	LSD MIDLIFE	2,774	2,774
	SHIP SONARS		
038	SPQ-9B RADAR	20,551	20,551
039	AN/SQQ-89 SURF ASW COMBAT SYSTEM	103,241	103,241
040	SSN ACOUSTICS	214,835	234,835
	Submarine Towed Array-Unfunded Requirement		[20,000]
041	UNDERSEA WARFARE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	7,331	7,331
042	SONAR SWITCHES AND TRANSDUCERS	11,781	11,781
	ASW ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		
044	SUBMARINE ACOUSTIC WARFARE SYSTEM	21,119	21,119
045	SSTD	8,396	8,396
046	FIXED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	146,968	146,968
047	SURTASS	12,953	12,953
048	MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE	13,725	13,725
	ELECTRONIC WARFARE EQUIPMENT		
049	AN/SLQ-32	324,726	324,726
	RECONNAISSANCE EQUIPMENT		
050	SHIPBOARD IW EXPLOIT	148,221	148,221
051	AUTOMATED IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)	152	152
	SUBMARINE SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT		
052	SUBMARINE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT PROG	79,954	79,954
	OTHER SHIP ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		
053	COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT CAPABILITY	25,695	25,695
054	TRUSTED INFORMATION SYSTEM (TIS)	284	284
055	NAVAL TACTICAL COMMAND SUPPORT SYSTEM (NTCSS)	14,416	14,416
056	ATDLS	23,069	23,069
057	NAVY COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NCCS)	4,054	4,054
058	MINESWEEPING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT	21,014	21,014
059	SHALLOW WATER MCM	18,077	18,077
060	NAVSTAR GPS RECEIVERS (SPACE)	12,359	12,359
061	AMERICAN FORCES RADIO AND TV SERVICE	4,240	4,240
062	STRATEGIC PLATFORM SUPPORT EQUIP	17,440	17,440
	TRAINING EQUIPMENT		
063	OTHER TRAINING EQUIPMENT	41,314	41,314
	AVIATION ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		
064	MATCALS	10,011	10,011
065	SHIPBOARD AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	9,346	9,346
066	AUTOMATIC CARRIER LANDING SYSTEM	21,281	21,281
067	NATIONAL AIR SPACE SYSTEM	25,621	25,621
068	FLEET AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS	8,249	8,249
069	LANDING SYSTEMS	14,715	14,715
070	ID SYSTEMS	29,676	29,676
071	NAVAL MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS	13,737	13,737
	OTHER SHORE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		
072	DEPLOYABLE JOINT COMMAND & CONTROL	1,314	1,314
074	TACTICAL/MOBILE C4I SYSTEMS	13,600	13,600
075	DCGS-N	31,809	31,809
076	CANES	278,991	278,991
077	RADIAC	8,294	8,294
078	CANES-INTELL	28,695	28,695
079	GPETE	6,962	6,962
080	MASF	290	290
081	INTEG COMBAT SYSTEM TEST FACILITY	14,419	14,419
082	EMI CONTROL INSTRUMENTATION	4,175	4,175
083	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	44,176	44,176
	SHIPBOARD COMMUNICATIONS		
084	SHIPBOARD TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS	8,722	8,722
085	SHIP COMMUNICATIONS AUTOMATION	108,477	108,477
086	COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS UNDER \$5M	16,613	16,613
	SUBMARINE COMMUNICATIONS		
087	SUBMARINE BROADCAST SUPPORT	20,691	20,691
088	SUBMARINE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT	60,945	60,945
	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS		
089	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	30,892	30,892
090	NAVY MULTIBAND TERMINAL (NMT)	118,113	118,113
	SHORE COMMUNICATIONS		
091	JCS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT	4,591	4,591
092	ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS	1,403	1,403
	CRYPTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT		

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<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
093	INFO SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM (ISSP)	135,687	135,687
094	MIO INTEL EXPLOITATION TEAM	970	970
	CRYPTOLOGIC EQUIPMENT		
095	CRYPTOLOGIC COMMUNICATIONS EQUIP	11,433	11,433
	OTHER ELECTRONIC SUPPORT		
096	COAST GUARD EQUIPMENT	2,529	2,529
	SONOBUOYS		
097	SONOBUOYS—ALL TYPES	168,763	168,763
	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
098	WEAPONS RANGE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	46,979	46,979
100	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	123,884	123,884
103	METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT	15,090	15,090
104	DCRS/DPL	638	638
106	AIRBORNE MINE COUNTERMEASURES	14,098	14,098
111	AVIATION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	49,773	49,773
	SHIP GUN SYSTEM EQUIPMENT		
112	SHIP GUN SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT	5,300	5,300
	SHIP MISSILE SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT		
115	SHIP MISSILE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	298,738	298,738
120	TOMAHAWK SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	71,245	71,245
	FBM SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
123	STRATEGIC MISSILE SYSTEMS EQUIP	240,694	240,694
	ASW SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
124	SSN COMBAT CONTROL SYSTEMS	96,040	96,040
125	ASW SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	30,189	30,189
	OTHER ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
129	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQUIP	22,623	22,623
130	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	9,906	9,906
	OTHER EXPENDABLE ORDNANCE		
134	TRAINING DEVICE MODS	99,707	99,707
	CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
135	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	2,252	2,252
136	GENERAL PURPOSE TRUCKS	2,191	2,191
137	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE EQUIP	2,164	2,164
138	FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT	14,705	14,705
139	TACTICAL VEHICLES	2,497	2,497
140	AMPHIBIOUS EQUIPMENT	12,517	12,517
141	POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT	3,018	3,018
142	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION	14,403	14,403
143	PHYSICAL SECURITY VEHICLES	1,186	1,186
	SUPPLY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
144	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT	18,805	18,805
145	OTHER SUPPLY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	10,469	10,469
146	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION	5,720	5,720
147	SPECIAL PURPOSE SUPPLY SYSTEMS	211,714	211,714
	TRAINING DEVICES		
148	TRAINING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	7,468	7,468
	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
149	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	36,433	36,433
150	EDUCATION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	3,180	3,180
151	MEDICAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	4,790	4,790
153	NAVAL MIP SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	4,608	4,608
154	OPERATING FORCES SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	5,655	5,655
155	C4ISR EQUIPMENT	9,929	9,929
156	ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	26,795	26,795
157	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	88,453	88,453
159	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	99,094	99,094
	OTHER		
160	NEXT GENERATION ENTERPRISE SERVICE	99,014	99,014
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
160A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	21,439	21,439
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
161	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	328,043	328,043
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY	6,614,715	6,660,165
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS		
	TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES		
001	AAV7A1 PIP	26,744	26,744
002	LAV PIP	54,879	54,879
	ARTILLERY AND OTHER WEAPONS		

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
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<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
003	EXPEDITIONARY FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEM	2,652	2,652
004	155MM LIGHTWEIGHT TOWED HOWITZER	7,482	7,482
005	HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEM	17,181	17,181
006	WEAPONS AND COMBAT VEHICLES UNDER \$5 MILLION	8,224	8,224
	OTHER SUPPORT		
007	MODIFICATION KITS	14,467	14,467
008	WEAPONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM	488	488
	GUIDED MISSILES		
009	GROUND BASED AIR DEFENSE	7,565	7,565
010	JAVELIN	1,091	51,091
	Program increase to support Unfunded Requirements		[50,000]
011	FOLLOW ON TO SMAW	4,872	4,872
012	ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS SYSTEM-HEAVY (AAWS-H)	668	668
	OTHER SUPPORT		
013	MODIFICATION KITS	12,495	152,495
	Additional missiles		[140,000]
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS		
014	UNIT OPERATIONS CENTER	13,109	13,109
015	COMMON AVIATION COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (C	35,147	32,956
	Procurement early to need		[-2,191]
	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT		
016	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT	21,210	21,210
	OTHER SUPPORT (TEL)		
017	COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	792	792
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NON-TEL)		
019	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION (COMM & ELEC)	3,642	3,642
020	AIR OPERATIONS C2 SYSTEMS	3,520	3,520
	RADAR + EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
021	RADAR SYSTEMS	35,118	35,118
022	GROUND/AIR TASK ORIENTED RADAR (G/ATOR)	130,661	98,546
	Delay in IOTE		[-32,115]
023	RQ-21 UAS	84,916	84,916
	INTELL/COMM EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
024	FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEM	9,136	9,136
025	INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	29,936	29,936
028	DCGS-MC	1,947	1,947
	OTHER COMM/ELEC EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
031	NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT	2,018	2,018
	OTHER SUPPORT (NON-TEL)		
032	NEXT GENERATION ENTERPRISE NETWORK (NGEN)	67,295	67,295
033	COMMON COMPUTER RESOURCES	43,101	40,101
	Marine Corps common hardware suite contract delay		[-3,000]
034	COMMAND POST SYSTEMS	29,255	29,255
035	RADIO SYSTEMS	80,584	80,584
036	COMM SWITCHING & CONTROL SYSTEMS	66,123	66,123
037	COMM & ELEC INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT	79,486	79,486
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
037A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	2,803	2,803
	ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLES		
038	COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLES	3,538	3,538
039	COMMERCIAL CARGO VEHICLES	22,806	22,806
	TACTICAL VEHICLES		
041	MOTOR TRANSPORT MODIFICATIONS	7,743	7,743
043	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE	79,429	79,429
044	FAMILY OF TACTICAL TRAILERS	3,157	3,157
	OTHER SUPPORT		
045	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	6,938	6,938
	ENGINEER AND OTHER EQUIPMENT		
046	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL EQUIP ASSORT	94	94
047	BULK LIQUID EQUIPMENT	896	896
048	TACTICAL FUEL SYSTEMS	136	136
049	POWER EQUIPMENT ASSORTED	10,792	10,792
050	AMPHIBIOUS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	3,235	3,235
051	EOD SYSTEMS	7,666	7,666
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
052	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	33,145	33,145
053	GARRISON MOBILE ENGINEER EQUIPMENT (GMEE)	1,419	1,419
	GENERAL PROPERTY		
057	TRAINING DEVICES	24,163	24,163
058	CONTAINER FAMILY	962	962

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
059	FAMILY OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT	6,545	6,545
060	FAMILY OF INTERNALLY TRANSPORTABLE VEH (ITV)	7,533	7,533
	OTHER SUPPORT		
062	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	4,322	4,322
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
063	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	8,292	8,292
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS	1,131,418	1,284,112
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	TACTICAL FORCES		
001	F-35	5,260,212	5,161,112
	Efficiencies and excess cost growth		[-99,100]
002	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	460,260	460,260
	TACTICAL AIRLIFT		
003	KC-46A TANKER	2,350,601	2,326,601
	Program Decrease		[-24,000]
	OTHER AIRLIFT		
004	C-130J	889,154	848,354
	Unit cost growth and contract delays		[-40,800]
005	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	50,000	50,000
006	HC-130J	463,934	453,934
	Unit cost growth		[-10,000]
007	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	30,000	30,000
008	MC-130J	828,472	797,572
	Program efficiencies		[-30,900]
009	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	60,000	60,000
	MISSION SUPPORT AIRCRAFT		
011	CIVIL AIR PATROL A/C	2,617	2,617
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
012	TARGET DRONES	132,028	132,028
014	RQ-4	37,800	37,800
015	MQ-9	552,528	702,528
	Accelerating procurement schedule to meet CCDR demand		[160,000]
	Restrain growth in government costs		[-10,000]
	STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT		
017	B-2A	32,458	32,458
018	B-1B	114,119	114,119
019	B-52	148,987	148,987
020	LARGE AIRCRAFT INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES	84,335	84,335
022	F-15	464,367	692,071
	F-15 MIDS JTRS transfer to RDT&E		[-12,796]
	F-15C AESA radars		[48,000]
	F-15D AESA radars		[192,500]
023	F-16	17,134	17,134
024	F-22A	126,152	126,152
025	F-35 MODIFICATIONS	70,167	70,167
026	INCREMENT 3.2B	69,325	69,325
	AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT		
028	C-5	5,604	5,604
030	C-17A	46,997	46,997
031	C-21	10,162	10,162
032	C-32A	44,464	44,464
033	C-37A	10,861	10,861
	TRAINER AIRCRAFT		
034	GLIDER MODS	134	134
035	T-6	17,968	17,968
036	T-1	23,706	23,706
037	T-38	30,604	30,604
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
038	U-2 MODS	22,095	22,095
039	KC-10A (ATCA)	5,611	5,611
040	C-12	1,980	1,980
042	VC-25A MOD	98,231	98,231
043	C-40	13,171	13,171
044	C-130	7,048	146,248
	C-130 AMP increase		[75,000]
	C-130H Electronic Prop Control System – UPL		[13,500]
	C-130H In-flight Prop Balancing System – UPL		[1,500]
	Eight-Bladed Propeller		[16,000]
	T-56 3.5 Engine Mod		[33,200]

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<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
045	C-130J MODS	29,713	29,713
046	C-135	49,043	49,043
047	COMPASS CALL MODS	68,415	97,115
	EC-130H Force Structure Restoration		[28,700]
048	RC-135	156,165	156,165
049	E-3	13,178	13,178
050	E-4	23,937	23,937
051	E-8	18,001	18,001
052	AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM	183,308	183,308
053	FAMILY OF BEYOND LINE-OF-SIGHT TERMINALS	44,163	44,163
054	H-1	6,291	6,291
055	UH-1N REPLACEMENT	2,456	2,456
056	H-60	45,731	45,731
057	RQ-4 MODS	50,022	50,022
058	HC/MC-130 MODIFICATIONS	21,660	21,660
059	OTHER AIRCRAFT	117,767	115,521
	C2ISR TDL transfer to COMSEC equipment		[-2,246]
060	MQ-1 MODS	3,173	3,173
061	MQ-9 MODS	115,226	115,226
063	CV-22 MODS	58,828	58,828
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
064	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS	656,242	656,242
	COMMON SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
065	AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT SUPPORT EQUIP	33,716	33,716
	POST PRODUCTION SUPPORT		
067	B-2A	38,837	38,837
068	B-52	5,911	5,911
069	C-17A	30,108	30,108
070	CV-22 POST PRODUCTION SUPPORT	3,353	3,353
071	C-135	4,490	4,490
072	F-15	3,225	3,225
073	F-16	14,969	8,969
	Unobligated balances		[-6,000]
074	F-22A	971	971
076	MQ-9	5,000	5,000
	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS		
077	INDUSTRIAL RESPONSIVENESS	18,802	18,802
	WAR CONSUMABLES		
078	WAR CONSUMABLES	156,465	156,465
	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES		
079	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES	1,052,814	1,111,900
	Transfer from RDT&E for NATO AWACS		[59,086]
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
079A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	42,503	42,503
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	15,657,769	16,049,413
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	MISSILE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT—BALLISTIC		
001	MISSILE REPLACEMENT EQ-BALLISTIC	94,040	94,040
	TACTICAL		
003	JOINT AIR-SURFACE STANDOFF MISSILE	440,578	430,578
	Unit cost efficiencies		[-10,000]
004	SIDEWINDER (AIM-9X)	200,777	200,777
005	AMRAAM	390,112	381,728
	Joint program unit cost variance		[-8,384]
006	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	423,016	423,016
007	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB	133,697	133,697
	INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		
008	INDUSTR'L PREPAREDNS/POL PREVENTION	397	397
	CLASS IV		
009	MM III MODIFICATIONS	50,517	50,517
010	AGM-65D MAVERICK	9,639	9,639
011	AGM-88A HARM	197	197
012	AIR LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM)	25,019	25,019
	MISSILE SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
014	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS	48,523	48,523
	SPECIAL PROGRAMS		
028	SPECIAL UPDATE PROGRAMS	276,562	276,562
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
028A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	893,971	893,971

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	2,987,045	2,968,661
	SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	SPACE PROGRAMS		
001	ADVANCED EHF	333,366	333,366
002	WIDEBAND GAFILLER SATELLITES(SPACE)	53,476	74,476
	SATCOM pathfinder		[26,000]
	Unjustified support growth		[-5,000]
003	GPS III SPACE SEGMENT	199,218	199,218
004	SPACEBORNE EQUIP (COMSEC)	18,362	18,362
005	GLOBAL POSITIONING (SPACE)	66,135	66,135
006	DEF METEOROLOGICAL SAT PROG(SPACE)	89,351	40,000
	Minimum sustainment of DMSP-20 program		[-49,351]
007	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH CAPABILITY	571,276	571,276
008	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEH(SPACE)	800,201	800,201
009	SBIR HIGH (SPACE)	452,676	452,676
	TOTAL SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	2,584,061	2,555,710
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE		
	ROCKETS		
001	ROCKETS	23,788	23,788
	CARTRIDGES		
002	CARTRIDGES	131,102	169,602
	Increase to match size of A-10 fleet		[38,500]
	BOMBS		
003	PRACTICE BOMBS	89,759	89,759
004	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	637,181	637,181
005	MASSIVE ORDNANCE PENETRATOR (MOP)	39,690	39,690
006	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION	374,688	354,688
	Program reduction		[-20,000]
	OTHER ITEMS		
007	CAD/PAD	58,266	58,266
008	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)	5,612	5,612
009	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	103	103
010	MODIFICATIONS	1,102	1,102
011	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	3,044	3,044
	FLARES		
012	FLARES	120,935	120,935
	FUZES		
013	FUZES	213,476	213,476
	SMALL ARMS		
014	SMALL ARMS	60,097	60,097
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE	1,758,843	1,777,343
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		
001	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	8,834	8,834
	CARGO AND UTILITY VEHICLES		
002	MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE	58,160	58,160
003	CAP VEHICLES	977	977
004	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	12,483	12,483
	SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES		
005	SECURITY AND TACTICAL VEHICLES	4,728	4,728
006	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	4,662	4,662
	FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT		
007	FIRE FIGHTING/CRASH RESCUE VEHICLES	10,419	10,419
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
008	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	23,320	23,320
	BASE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT		
009	RUNWAY SNOW REMOV & CLEANING EQUIP	6,215	6,215
010	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	87,781	87,781
	COMM SECURITY EQUIPMENT(COMSEC)		
011	COMSEC EQUIPMENT	136,998	139,244
	Transfer for Link 16 Upgrades		[2,246]
012	MODIFICATIONS (COMSEC)	677	677
	INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS		
013	INTELLIGENCE TRAINING EQUIPMENT	4,041	4,041
014	INTELLIGENCE COMM EQUIPMENT	22,573	22,573
015	MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS	14,456	14,456
	ELECTRONICS PROGRAMS		

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
016	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL & LANDING SYS	31,823	31,823
017	NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM	5,833	5,833
018	BATTLE CONTROL SYSTEM—FIXED	1,687	1,687
019	THEATER AIR CONTROL SYS IMPROVEMENTS	22,710	22,710
020	WEATHER OBSERVATION FORECAST	21,561	21,561
021	STRATEGIC COMMAND AND CONTROL	286,980	286,980
022	CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN COMPLEX	36,186	36,186
024	INTEGRATED STRAT PLAN & ANALY NETWORK (ISPAN)	9,597	9,597
	SPCL COMM-ELECTRONICS PROJECTS		
025	GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	27,403	27,403
026	AF GLOBAL COMMAND & CONTROL SYS	7,212	7,212
027	MOBILITY COMMAND AND CONTROL	11,062	30,962
	Additional battlefield air operations kits to meet need		[19,900]
028	AIR FORCE PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEM	131,269	131,269
029	COMBAT TRAINING RANGES	33,606	33,606
030	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMM N	5,232	5,232
031	C3 COUNTERMEASURES	7,453	7,453
032	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM	3,976	3,976
033	GCSS-AF FOS	25,515	16,515
	LOGIT—prioritize FIAR projects		[–9,000]
034	DEFENSE ENTERPRISE ACCOUNTING AND MGMT SYSTEM	9,255	9,255
035	THEATER BATTLE MGT C2 SYSTEM	7,523	7,523
036	AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS CTR-WPN SYS	12,043	12,043
037	AIR OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC) 10.2	24,246	14,846
	Fielding funds ahead of need		[–9,400]
	AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS		
038	INFORMATION TRANSPORT SYSTEMS	74,621	74,621
039	AFNET	103,748	98,748
	Restructure program		[–5,000]
041	JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT ELEMENT (JCSE)	5,199	5,199
042	USCENTCOM	15,780	15,780
	SPACE PROGRAMS		
043	FAMILY OF BEYOND LINE-OF-SIGHT TERMINALS	79,592	64,592
	Ahead of need		[–15,000]
044	SPACE BASED IR SENSOR PGM SPACE	90,190	90,190
045	NAVSTAR GPS SPACE	2,029	2,029
046	NUDET DETECTION SYS SPACE	5,095	5,095
047	AF SATELLITE CONTROL NETWORK SPACE	76,673	76,673
048	SPACELIFT RANGE SYSTEM SPACE	113,275	113,275
049	MILSATCOM SPACE	35,495	35,495
050	SPACE MODS SPACE	23,435	23,435
051	COUNTERSPACE SYSTEM	43,065	43,065
	ORGANIZATION AND BASE		
052	TACTICAL C-E EQUIPMENT	77,538	133,438
	Battlefield Airmen Kits Unfunded Requirement		[19,900]
	Joint Terminal Control Training Simulation Unfunded Requirement		[36,000]
054	RADIO EQUIPMENT	8,400	8,400
055	CCTV/AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT	6,144	6,144
056	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE	77,010	77,010
	MODIFICATIONS		
057	COMM ELECT MODS	71,800	71,800
	PERSONAL SAFETY & RESCUE EQUIP		
058	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES	2,370	2,370
059	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	79,623	79,623
	DEPOT PLANT+MTRLS HANDLING EQ		
060	MECHANIZED MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIP	7,249	7,249
	BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
061	BASE PROCURED EQUIPMENT	9,095	9,095
062	ENGINEERING AND EOD EQUIPMENT	17,866	17,866
064	MOBILITY EQUIPMENT	61,850	61,850
065	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	30,477	30,477
	SPECIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS		
067	DARP RC135	25,072	25,072
068	DCGS-AF	183,021	183,021
070	SPECIAL UPDATE PROGRAM	629,371	629,371
071	DEFENSE SPACE RECONNAISSANCE PROG.	100,663	100,663
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
071A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	15,038,333	15,038,333
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
073	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS	59,863	59,863

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<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	18,272,438	18,312,084
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE		
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DCAA		
001	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	1,488	1,488
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DCMA		
002	MAJOR EQUIPMENT	2,494	2,494
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DHRA		
003	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	9,341	9,341
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DISA		
007	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY	8,080	15,080
	SHARKSEER		[7,000]
008	TELEPORT PROGRAM	62,789	62,789
009	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	9,399	9,399
010	NET CENTRIC ENTERPRISE SERVICES (NCES)	1,819	1,819
011	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM NETWORK	141,298	141,298
012	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	12,732	12,732
013	WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATION AGENCY	64,098	64,098
014	SENIOR LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE	617,910	617,910
015	JOINT INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT	84,400	84,400
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DLA		
016	MAJOR EQUIPMENT	5,644	5,644
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DMACT		
017	MAJOR EQUIPMENT	11,208	11,208
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DODEA		
018	AUTOMATION/EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & LOGISTICS	1,298	1,298
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY		
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DSS		
020	MAJOR EQUIPMENT	1,048	1,048
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY		
021	VEHICLES	100	100
022	OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT	5,474	5,474
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY		
023	THAAD	464,067	464,067
024	AEGIS BMD	558,916	679,361
	Increase SM-3 Block IB canisters		[2,565]
	Increase SM-3 Block IB purchase		[117,880]
025	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)	147,765	-147,765
	SM-3 Block IB		[-147,765]
026	BMDS AN/TPY-2 RADARS	78,634	78,634
027	AEGIS ASHORE PHASE III	30,587	30,587
028	IRON DOME	55,000	-55,000
	Realignment of Iron Dome to Overseas Contingency Operations		[-41,400]
	Request excess of requirement		[-13,600]
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, NSA		
035	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM (ISSP)	37,177	37,177
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, OSD		
036	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, OSD	46,939	46,939
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, TJS		
038	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, TJS	13,027	13,027
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, WHS		
040	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, WHS	27,859	27,859
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
040A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	617,757	617,757
	AVIATION PROGRAMS		
041	MC-12	63,170	-63,170
	SOCOM requested realignment		[-63,170]
042	ROTARY WING UPGRADES AND SUSTAINMENT	135,985	135,985
044	NON-STANDARD AVIATION	61,275	61,275
045	U-28		63,170
	SOCOM requested realignment		[63,170]
047	RQ-11 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE	20,087	20,087
048	CV-22 MODIFICATION	18,832	18,832
049	MQ-1 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE	1,934	1,934
050	MQ-9 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE	11,726	21,726
	MQ-9 capability enhancements		[10,000]
051	STUASLO	1,514	1,514
052	PRECISION STRIKE PACKAGE	204,105	204,105
053	AC/MC-130J	61,368	61,368
054	C-130 MODIFICATIONS	66,861	31,412

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	C-130 TF/TA adjustments		[–35,449]
	SHIPBUILDING		
055	UNDERWATER SYSTEMS	32,521	32,521
	AMMUNITION PROGRAMS		
056	ORDNANCE ITEMS <\$5M	174,734	174,734
	OTHER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS		
057	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS	93,009	93,009
058	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	14,964	14,964
059	OTHER ITEMS <\$5M	79,149	79,149
060	COMBATANT CRAFT SYSTEMS	33,362	33,362
061	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	143,533	143,533
062	TACTICAL VEHICLES	73,520	73,520
063	WARRIOR SYSTEMS <\$5M	186,009	186,009
064	COMBAT MISSION REQUIREMENTS	19,693	19,693
065	GLOBAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES	3,967	3,967
066	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS INTELLIGENCE	19,225	19,225
068	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	213,252	213,252
	CBDP		
074	CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS	141,223	141,223
075	CB PROTECTION & HAZARD MITIGATION	137,487	137,487
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE	5,130,853	5,030,084
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		
001	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND	99,701	–99,701
	Program reduction		[–99,701]
	TOTAL JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND	99,701	–99,701
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT	106,967,393	110,823,998

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	FIXED WING		
003	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR (ACS) (MIP)	99,500	99,500
004	MQ-1 UAV	16,537	16,537
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT		
016	MQ-1 PAYLOAD (MIP)	8,700	8,700
023	ARL SEMA MODS (MIP)	32,000	32,000
031	RQ-7 UAV MODS	8,250	8,250
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY	164,987	164,987
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM		
003	HELLFIRE SYS SUMMARY	37,260	37,260
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY	37,260	37,260
	PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY		
	WEAPONS & OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES		
016	MORTAR SYSTEMS	7,030	7,030
021	COMMON REMOTELY OPERATED WEAPONS STATION	19,000	19,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY	26,030	26,030
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY		
	SMALL/MEDIUM CAL AMMUNITION		
004	CTG, .50 CAL, ALL TYPES	4,000	4,000
	MORTAR AMMUNITION		
008	60MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	11,700	11,700
009	81MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	4,000	4,000
010	120MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	7,000	7,000
	ARTILLERY AMMUNITION		
012	ARTILLERY CARTRIDGES, 75MM & 105MM, ALL TYPES	5,000	5,000
013	ARTILLERY PROJECTILE, 155MM, ALL TYPES	10,000	10,000
015	ARTILLERY PROPELLANTS, FUZES AND PRIMERS, ALL	2,000	2,000
	ROCKETS		

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
017	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES	136,340	136,340
	OTHER AMMUNITION		
019	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	4,000	4,000
021	SIGNALS, ALL TYPES	8,000	8,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY	192,040	192,040
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	TACTICAL VEHICLES		
005	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEH (FMTV)	243,998	243,998
009	HVY EXPANDED MOBILE TACTICAL TRUCK EXT SERV	223,276	223,276
011	MODIFICATION OF IN SVC EQUIP	130,000	130,000
012	MINE-RESISTANT AMBUSH-PROTECTED (MRAP) MODS	393,100	393,100
	COMM—SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS		
021	TRANSPORTABLE TACTICAL COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS	5,724	5,724
	COMM—BASE COMMUNICATIONS		
051	INSTALLATION INFO INFRASTRUCTURE MOD PROGRAM	29,500	29,500
	ELECT EQUIP—TACT INT REL ACT (TIARA)		
057	DCGS-A (MIP)	54,140	54,140
059	TROJAN (MIP)	6,542	6,542
061	CI HUMINT AUTO REPRTING AND COLL(CHARCS)	3,860	3,860
	ELECT EQUIP—ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)		
068	FAMILY OF PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIE	14,847	14,847
069	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES	19,535	19,535
	ELECT EQUIP—TACTICAL SURV. (TAC SURV)		
084	COMPUTER BALLISTICS: LHMBC XM32	2,601	2,601
	ELECT EQUIP—TACTICAL C2 SYSTEMS		
087	FIRE SUPPORT C2 FAMILY	48	48
094	MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM (MCS)	252	252
	ELECT EQUIP—AUTOMATION		
101	AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING EQUIP	652	652
	CHEMICAL DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT		
111	BASE DEFENSE SYSTEMS (BDS)	4,035	4,035
	COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
131	FORCE PROVIDER	53,800	53,800
133	CARGO AERIAL DEL & PERSONNEL PARACHUTE SYSTEM	700	700
	MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
159	FAMILY OF FORKLIFTS	10,486	10,486
	OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
169	RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	8,500	8,500
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY	1,205,596	1,205,596
	JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND		
	NETWORK ATTACK		
001	ATTACK THE NETWORK	219,550	215,086
	Adjustment due to low execution in prior years		[-4,464]
	JIEDDO DEVICE DEFEAT		
002	DEFEAT THE DEVICE	77,600	77,600
	FORCE TRAINING		
003	TRAIN THE FORCE	7,850	7,850
	STAFF AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
004	OPERATIONS	188,271	138,271
	Program Reduction		[-50,000]
	TOTAL JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND	493,271	438,807
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
026	STUASLO UAV	55,000	55,000
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT		
030	AV-8 SERIES	41,365	41,365
032	F-18 SERIES	8,000	8,000
037	EP-3 SERIES	6,300	6,300
047	SPECIAL PROJECT AIRCRAFT	14,198	14,198
051	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT	72,700	72,700
052	COMMON AVIONICS CHANGES	13,988	13,988
059	V-22 (TILT/ROTOR ACFT) OSPREY	4,900	4,900
	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIP & FACILITIES		
065	AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	943	943
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY	217,394	217,394
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY		

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	TACTICAL MISSILES		
010	LASER MAVERICK	3,344	3,344
	TOTAL WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY	3,344	3,344
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC		
	NAVY AMMUNITION		
001	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	9,715	9,715
002	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	11,108	11,108
003	MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION	3,603	3,603
006	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES	11,982	11,982
011	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION	4,674	4,674
012	SMALL ARMS & LANDING PARTY AMMO	3,456	3,456
013	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION	1,989	1,989
014	AMMUNITION LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	4,674	4,674
	MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION		
020	120MM, ALL TYPES	10,719	10,719
023	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	3,993	3,993
024	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES	67,200	67,200
025	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	518	518
026	FUZE, ALL TYPES	3,299	3,299
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC	136,930	136,930
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
135	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	186	186
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
160A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	12,000	12,000
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY	12,186	12,186
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS		
	GUIDED MISSILES		
010	JAVELIN	7,679	7,679
	OTHER SUPPORT		
013	MODIFICATION KITS	10,311	10,311
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS		
014	UNIT OPERATIONS CENTER	8,221	8,221
	OTHER SUPPORT (TEL)		
018	MODIFICATION KITS	3,600	3,600
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NON-TEL)		
019	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION (COMM & ELEC)	8,693	8,693
	INTELL/COMM EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
027	RQ-11 UAV	3,430	3,430
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
052	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	7,000	7,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS	48,934	48,934
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
015	MQ-9	13,500	13,500
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
044	C-130	1,410	1,410
056	H-60	39,300	39,300
058	HC/MC-130 MODIFICATIONS	5,690	5,690
061	MQ-9 MODS	69,000	69,000
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	128,900	128,900
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	TACTICAL		
006	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	280,902	280,902
007	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB	2,520	2,520
	CLASS IV		
010	AGM-65D MAVERICK	5,720	5,720
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	289,142	289,142
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE		
	CARTRIDGES		
002	CARTRIDGES	8,371	8,371
	BOMBS		
004	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	17,031	17,031
006	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION	184,412	184,412

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	FLARES		
012	FLARES	11,064	11,064
	FUZES		
013	FUZES	7,996	7,996
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE	228,874	228,874
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	SPCL COMM-ELECTRONICS PROJECTS		
025	GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	3,953	3,953
027	MOBILITY COMMAND AND CONTROL	2,000	2,000
	AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS		
042	USCENTCOM	10,000	10,000
	ORGANIZATION AND BASE		
052	TACTICAL C-E EQUIPMENT	4,065	4,065
056	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE	15,400	15,400
	PERSONAL SAFETY & RESCUE EQUIP		
058	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES	3,580	3,580
059	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	3,407	3,407
	BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
062	ENGINEERING AND EOD EQUIPMENT	46,790	46,790
064	MOBILITY EQUIPMENT	400	400
065	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	9,800	9,800
	SPECIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS		
071	DEFENSE SPACE RECONNAISSANCE PROG.	28,070	28,070
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
071A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	3,732,499	3,732,499
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	3,859,964	3,859,964
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE		
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DISA		
008	TELEPORT PROGRAM	1,940	1,940
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY		
028	IRON DOME		41,400
	Realignment of Iron Dome to Overseas Contingency Operations—Subject to Title XVI		[41,400]
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY		
028A	DAVID SLING		150,000
	David's Sling Weapon System Procurement—Subject to Title XVI		[150,000]
028B	ARROW 3		15,000
	Arrow 3 Upper Tier Procurement—Subject to Title XVI		[15,000]
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
040A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	35,482	35,482
	AVIATION PROGRAMS		
041	MC-12	5,000	5,000
	AMMUNITION PROGRAMS		
056	ORDNANCE ITEMS <\$5M	35,299	35,299
	OTHER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS		
061	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	15,160	15,160
063	WARRIOR SYSTEMS <\$5M	15,000	15,000
068	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	104,537	104,537
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE	212,418	418,818
	NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT		
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
007	MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT		420,000
	NGREA Program Increase		[420,000]
	TOTAL NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT		420,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT	7,257,270	7,829,206

TITLE XLII—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Program Element</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY		
		BASIC RESEARCH		

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Program Element</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
001	0601101A	IN-HOUSE LABORATORY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	13,018	13,018
002	0601102A	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	239,118	279,118
		Basic research program increase		[40,000]
003	0601103A	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	72,603	72,603
004	0601104A	UNIVERSITY AND INDUSTRY RESEARCH CENTERS	100,340	100,340
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	425,079	465,079
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
005	0602105A	MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY	28,314	28,314
006	0602120A	SENSORS AND ELECTRONIC SURVIVABILITY	38,374	38,374
007	0602122A	TRACTOR HIP	6,879	6,879
008	0602211A	AVIATION TECHNOLOGY	56,884	56,884
009	0602270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	19,243	19,243
010	0602303A	MISSILE TECHNOLOGY	45,053	53,053
		A2/AD Anti-Ship Missile Study		[8,000]
011	0602307A	ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	29,428	29,428
012	0602308A	ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND SIMULATION	27,862	27,862
013	0602601A	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY	68,839	68,839
014	0602618A	BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGY	92,801	92,801
015	0602622A	CHEMICAL, SMOKE AND EQUIPMENT DEFEATING TECHNOLOGY	3,866	3,866
016	0602623A	JOINT SERVICE SMALL ARMS PROGRAM	5,487	5,487
017	0602624A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY	48,340	48,340
018	0602705A	ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES	55,301	55,301
019	0602709A	NIGHT VISION TECHNOLOGY	33,807	33,807
020	0602712A	COUNTERMINE SYSTEMS	25,068	25,068
021	0602716A	HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	23,681	23,681
022	0602720A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY	20,850	20,850
023	0602782A	COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	36,160	36,160
024	0602783A	COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY	12,656	12,656
025	0602784A	MILITARY ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	63,409	63,409
026	0602785A	MANPOWER/PERSONNEL/TRAINING TECHNOLOGY	24,735	24,735
027	0602786A	WARFIGHTER TECHNOLOGY	35,795	35,795
028	0602787A	MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	76,853	76,853
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	879,685	887,685
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
029	0603001A	WARFIGHTER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	46,973	46,973
030	0603002A	MEDICAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	69,584	69,584
031	0603003A	AVIATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	89,736	89,736
032	0603004A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	57,663	57,663
033	0603005A	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	113,071	113,071
034	0603006A	SPACE APPLICATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	5,554	5,554
035	0603007A	MANPOWER, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	12,636	12,636
037	0603009A	TRACTOR HIKE	7,502	7,502
038	0603015A	NEXT GENERATION TRAINING & SIMULATION SYSTEMS	17,425	17,425
039	0603020A	TRACTOR ROSE	11,912	11,912
040	0603125A	COMBATING TERRORISM—TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	27,520	27,520
041	0603130A	TRACTOR NAIL	2,381	2,381
042	0603131A	TRACTOR EGGS	2,431	2,431
043	0603270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	26,874	26,874
044	0603313A	MISSILE AND ROCKET ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	49,449	49,449
045	0603322A	TRACTOR CAGE	10,999	10,999
046	0603461A	HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	177,159	177,159
047	0603606A	LANDMINE WARFARE AND BARRIER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	13,993	13,993
048	0603607A	JOINT SERVICE SMALL ARMS PROGRAM	5,105	5,105
049	0603710A	NIGHT VISION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	40,929	40,929
050	0603728A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	10,727	10,727
051	0603734A	MILITARY ENGINEERING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	20,145	20,145
052	0603772A	ADVANCED TACTICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE AND SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	38,163	38,163
053	0603794A	C3 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	37,816	37,816
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	895,747	895,747
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
054	0603305A	ARMY MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	10,347	10,347
055	0603308A	ARMY SPACE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	25,061	25,061
056	0603619A	LANDMINE WARFARE AND BARRIER—ADV DEV	49,636	49,636
057	0603627A	SMOKE, OBSCURANT AND TARGET DEFEATING SYS-ADV DEV	13,426	13,426
058	0603639A	TANK AND MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION	46,749	46,749
060	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	6,258	6,258
061	0603766A	TACTICAL ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM—ADV DEV	13,472	13,472

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
062	0603774A	NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	7,292	7,292
063	0603779A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY—DEM/VAL	8,813	8,813
065	0603790A	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	6,075	6,075
067	0603804A	LOGISTICS AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT—ADV DEV	21,233	21,233
068	0603807A	MEDICAL SYSTEMS—ADV DEV	31,962	31,962
069	0603827A	SOLDIER SYSTEMS—ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	22,194	22,194
071	0604100A	ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES	9,805	9,805
072	0604115A	TECHNOLOGY MATURATION INITIATIVES	40,917	40,917
073	0604120A	ASSURED POSITIONING, NAVIGATION AND TIMING (PNT)	30,058	30,058
074	0604319A	INDIRECT FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY INCREMENT 2—INTERCEPT (IFPC2)	155,361	155,361
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	498,659	498,659
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION		
076	0604201A	AIRCRAFT AVIONICS	12,939	12,939
078	0604270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	18,843	18,843
079	0604280A	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO	9,861	9,861
080	0604290A	MID-TIER NETWORKING VEHICULAR RADIO (MNV)	8,763	8,763
081	0604321A	ALL SOURCE ANALYSIS SYSTEM	4,309	4,309
082	0604328A	TRACTOR CAGE	15,138	15,138
083	0604601A	INFANTRY SUPPORT WEAPONS	74,128	80,628
		Army requested realignment		[1,500]
		Soldier Enhancement Program		[5,000]
085	0604611A	JAVELIN	3,945	3,945
087	0604633A	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	10,076	10,076
088	0604641A	TACTICAL UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE (TUGV)	40,374	40,374
089	0604710A	NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS—ENG DEV	67,582	67,582
090	0604713A	COMBAT FEEDING, CLOTHING, AND EQUIPMENT	1,763	1,763
091	0604715A	NON-SYSTEM TRAINING DEVICES—ENG DEV	27,155	27,155
092	0604741A	AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, CONTROL AND INTELLIGENCE—ENG DEV	24,569	24,569
093	0604742A	CONSTRUCTIVE SIMULATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	23,364	23,364
094	0604746A	AUTOMATIC TEST EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT	8,960	8,960
095	0604760A	DISTRIBUTIVE INTERACTIVE SIMULATIONS (DIS)—ENG DEV	9,138	9,138
096	0604780A	COMBINED ARMS TACTICAL TRAINER (CATT) CORE	21,622	21,622
097	0604798A	BRIGADE ANALYSIS, INTEGRATION AND EVALUATION	99,242	99,242
098	0604802A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS—ENG DEV	21,379	21,379
099	0604804A	LOGISTICS AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT—ENG DEV	48,339	48,339
100	0604805A	COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS—ENG DEV	2,726	2,726
101	0604807A	MEDICAL MATERIEL/MEDICAL BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE EQUIPMENT—ENG DEV	45,412	45,412
102	0604808A	LANDMINE WARFARE/BARRIER—ENG DEV	55,215	55,215
104	0604818A	ARMY TACTICAL COMMAND & CONTROL HARDWARE & SOFTWARE	163,643	163,643
105	0604820A	RADAR DEVELOPMENT	12,309	12,309
106	0604822A	GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEM (GFEB)	15,700	15,700
107	0604823A	FIREFINDER	6,243	6,243
108	0604827A	SOLDIER SYSTEMS—WARRIOR DEM/VAL	18,776	18,776
109	0604854A	ARTILLERY SYSTEMS—EMD	1,953	1,953
110	0605013A	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	67,358	67,358
111	0605018A	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM-ARMY (IPPS-A)	136,011	121,011
		Restructure program		[-15,000]
112	0605028A	ARMORED MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE (AMPV)	230,210	230,210
113	0605030A	JOINT TACTICAL NETWORK CENTER (JTNC)	13,357	13,357
114	0605031A	JOINT TACTICAL NETWORK (JTN)	18,055	18,055
115	0605032A	TRACTOR TIRE	5,677	5,677
116	0605035A	COMMON INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (CIRCM)	77,570	101,570
		Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement		[24,000]
117	0605051A	AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY DEVELOPMENT	18,112	78,112
		Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement		[60,000]
118	0605350A	WIN-T INCREMENT 3—FULL NETWORKING	39,700	39,700
119	0605380A	AMF JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM (JTRS)	12,987	12,987
120	0605450A	JOINT AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE (JAGM)	88,866	83,054
		EMD contract delays		[-5,812]
121	0605456A	PAC-3/MSE MISSILE	2,272	2,272
122	0605457A	ARMY INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AIAMD)	214,099	214,099
123	0605625A	MANNED GROUND VEHICLE	49,247	39,247
		Funding ahead of need		[-10,000]
124	0605626A	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR	2	2
125	0605766A	NATIONAL CAPABILITIES INTEGRATION (MIP)	10,599	10,599
126	0605812A	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE (JLTV) ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PH.	32,486	32,486
127	0605830A	AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	8,880	8,880
128	0210609A	PALADIN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (PIM)	152,288	152,288

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129	0303032.A	TROJAN—RH12	5,022	5,022
130	0304270.A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	12,686	12,686
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	2,068,950	2,128,638
		RDT&E MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
131	0604256.A	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	20,035	20,035
132	0604258.A	TARGET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	16,684	16,684
133	0604759.A	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	62,580	62,580
134	0605103.A	RAND ARROYO CENTER	20,853	20,853
135	0605301.A	ARMY KWAJALEIN ATOLL	205,145	205,145
136	0605326.A	CONCEPTS EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAM	19,430	19,430
138	0605601.A	ARMY TEST RANGES AND FACILITIES	277,646	277,646
139	0605602.A	ARMY TECHNICAL TEST INSTRUMENTATION AND TARGETS	51,550	51,550
140	0605604.A	SURVIVABILITY/LETHALITY ANALYSIS	33,246	33,246
141	0605606.A	AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION	4,760	4,760
142	0605702.A	METEOROLOGICAL SUPPORT TO RDT&E ACTIVITIES	8,303	8,303
143	0605706.A	MATERIEL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS	20,403	20,403
144	0605709.A	EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN ITEMS	10,396	10,396
145	0605712.A	SUPPORT OF OPERATIONAL TESTING	49,337	49,337
146	0605716.A	ARMY EVALUATION CENTER	52,694	52,694
147	0605718.A	ARMY MODELING & SIM X-CMD COLLABORATION & INTEG	938	938
148	0605801.A	PROGRAMWIDE ACTIVITIES	60,319	60,319
149	0605803.A	TECHNICAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES	28,478	28,478
150	0605805.A	MUNITIONS STANDARDIZATION, EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY	32,604	24,604
		Program reduction		[-8,000]
151	0605857.A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY MGMT SUPPORT	3,186	3,186
152	0605898.A	MANAGEMENT HQ—R&D	48,955	48,955
		SUBTOTAL RDT&E MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	1,027,542	1,019,542
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
154	0603778.A	MLRS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	18,397	18,397
155	0603813.A	TRACTOR PULL	9,461	9,461
156	0607131.A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	4,945	4,945
157	0607133.A	TRACTOR SMOKE	7,569	7,569
158	0607135.A	APACHE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	69,862	69,862
159	0607136.A	BLACKHAWK PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	66,653	66,653
160	0607137.A	CHINOOK PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	37,407	37,407
161	0607138.A	FIXED WING PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	1,151	1,151
162	0607139.A	IMPROVED TURBINE ENGINE PROGRAM	51,164	51,164
163	0607140.A	EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FROM NIE	2,481	2,481
164	0607141.A	LOGISTICS AUTOMATION	1,673	1,673
166	0607665.A	FAMILY OF BIOMETRICS	13,237	13,237
167	0607865.A	PATRIOT PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT	105,816	105,816
169	0202429.A	AEROSTAT JOINT PROJECT—COCOM EXERCISE	40,565	40,565
171	0203728.A	JOINT AUTOMATED DEEP OPERATION COORDINATION SYSTEM (JADOCs)	35,719	35,719
172	0203735.A	COMBAT VEHICLE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	257,167	354,167
		Stryker Lethality Upgrades		[97,000]
173	0203740.A	MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM	15,445	15,445
175	0203752.A	AIRCRAFT ENGINE COMPONENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	364	364
176	0203758.A	DIGITIZATION	4,361	4,361
177	0203801.A	MISSILE/AIR DEFENSE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	3,154	3,154
178	0203802.A	OTHER MISSILE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	35,951	35,951
179	0203808.A	TRACTOR CARD	34,686	34,686
180	0205402.A	INTEGRATED BASE DEFENSE—OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEV	10,750	10,750
181	0205410.A	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT	402	402
183	0205456.A	LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AMD) SYSTEM	64,159	64,159
184	0205778.A	GUIDED MULTIPLE-LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM (GMLRS)	17,527	17,527
185	0208053.A	JOINT TACTICAL GROUND SYSTEM	20,515	20,515
187	0303028.A	SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	12,368	12,368
188	0303140.A	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	31,154	31,154
189	0303141.A	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	12,274	12,274
190	0303142.A	SATCOM GROUND ENVIRONMENT (SPACE)	9,355	9,355
191	0303150.A	WWMCCS/GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	7,053	7,053
193	0305179.A	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE (IBS)	750	750
194	0305204.A	TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES	13,225	13,225
195	0305206.A	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	22,870	22,870
196	0305208.A	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	25,592	25,592
199	0305233.A	RQ-7 UAV	7,297	7,297
201	0310349.A	WIN-T INCREMENT 2—INITIAL NETWORKING	3,800	3,800
202	0708045.A	END ITEM INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES	48,442	48,442

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Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
202A	999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	4,536	4,536
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	1,129,297	1,226,297
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	6,924,959	7,121,647
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601103N	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	116,196	134,196
		Defense University Research Instrumentation Program increase		[18,000]
002	0601152N	IN-HOUSE LABORATORY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	19,126	19,126
003	0601153N	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	451,606	506,606
		Basic research program increase		[55,000]
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	586,928	659,928
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
004	0602114N	POWER PROJECTION APPLIED RESEARCH	68,723	68,723
005	0602123N	FORCE PROTECTION APPLIED RESEARCH	154,963	154,963
006	0602131M	MARINE CORPS LANDING FORCE TECHNOLOGY	49,001	49,001
007	0602235N	COMMON PICTURE APPLIED RESEARCH	42,551	42,551
008	0602236N	WARFIGHTER SUSTAINMENT APPLIED RESEARCH	45,056	45,056
009	0602271N	ELECTROMAGNETIC SYSTEMS APPLIED RESEARCH	115,051	115,051
010	0602435N	OCEAN WARFIGHTING ENVIRONMENT APPLIED RESEARCH	42,252	62,252
		Service Life Extension for the AGOR Ship		[20,000]
011	0602651M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS APPLIED RESEARCH	6,119	6,119
012	0602747N	UNDERSEA WARFARE APPLIED RESEARCH	123,750	142,350
		Accelerate undersea warfare research		[18,600]
013	0602750N	FUTURE NAVAL CAPABILITIES APPLIED RESEARCH	179,686	179,686
014	0602782N	MINE AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE APPLIED RESEARCH	37,418	37,418
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	864,570	903,170
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
015	0603114N	POWER PROJECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	37,093	37,093
016	0603123N	FORCE PROTECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	38,044	38,044
017	0603271N	ELECTROMAGNETIC SYSTEMS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	34,899	34,899
018	0603640M	USMC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION (ATD)	137,562	137,562
019	0603651M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	12,745	12,745
020	0603673N	FUTURE NAVAL CAPABILITIES ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	258,860	258,860
021	0603680N	MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	57,074	57,074
022	0603729N	WARFIGHTER PROTECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	4,807	4,807
023	0603747N	UNDERSEA WARFARE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	13,748	13,748
024	0603758N	NAVY WARFIGHTING EXPERIMENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS	66,041	66,041
025	0603782N	MINE AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	1,991	1,991
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	662,864	662,864
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
026	0603207N	AIR/OCEAN TACTICAL APPLICATIONS	41,832	41,832
027	0603216N	AVIATION SURVIVABILITY	5,404	5,404
028	0603237N	DEPLOYABLE JOINT COMMAND AND CONTROL	3,086	3,086
029	0603251N	AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	11,643	11,643
030	0603254N	ASW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	5,555	5,555
031	0603261N	TACTICAL AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE	3,087	3,087
032	0603382N	ADVANCED COMBAT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY	1,636	1,636
033	0603502N	SURFACE AND SHALLOW WATER MINE COUNTERMEASURES	118,588	113,588
		LDUUV development growth		[-5,000]
034	0603506N	SURFACE SHIP TORPEDO DEFENSE	77,385	77,385
035	0603512N	CARRIER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	8,348	8,348
036	0603525N	PILOT FISH	123,246	123,246
037	0603527N	RETRACT LARCH	28,819	28,819
038	0603536N	RETRACT JUNIPER	112,678	112,678
039	0603542N	RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL	710	710
040	0603553N	SURFACE ASW	1,096	1,096
041	0603561N	ADVANCED SUBMARINE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	87,160	93,360
		Accelerate unmanned underwater vehicle development		[10,000]
		Universal launch and recovery module unfunded outyear tail		[-3,800]
042	0603562N	SUBMARINE TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEMS	10,371	10,371
043	0603563N	SHIP CONCEPT ADVANCED DESIGN	11,888	11,888
044	0603564N	SHIP PRELIMINARY DESIGN & FEASIBILITY STUDIES	4,332	4,332
045	0603570N	ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS	482,040	482,040
046	0603573N	ADVANCED SURFACE MACHINERY SYSTEMS	25,904	25,904
047	0603576N	CHALK EAGLE	511,802	511,802

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048	0603581N	LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP (LCS)	118,416	118,416
049	0603582N	COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION	35,901	35,901
050	0603595N	OHIO REPLACEMENT	971,393	971,393
051	0603596N	LCS MISSION MODULES	206,149	206,149
052	0603597N	AUTOMATED TEST AND RE-TEST (ATRT)	8,000	8,000
053	0603609N	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS	7,678	7,678
054	0603611M	MARINE CORPS ASSAULT VEHICLES	219,082	219,082
055	0603635M	MARINE CORPS GROUND COMBAT/SUPPORT SYSTEM	623	623
056	0603654N	JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	18,260	18,260
057	0603658N	COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT	76,247	76,247
058	0603713N	OCEAN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	4,520	4,520
059	0603721N	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	20,711	20,711
060	0603724N	NAVY ENERGY PROGRAM	47,761	47,761
061	0603725N	FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT	5,226	5,226
062	0603734N	CHALK CORAL	182,771	182,771
063	0603739N	NAVY LOGISTIC PRODUCTIVITY	3,866	3,866
064	0603746N	RETRACT MAPLE	360,065	360,065
065	0603748N	LINK PLUMERIA	237,416	237,416
066	0603751N	RETRACT ELM	37,944	37,944
067	0603764N	LINK EVERGREEN	47,312	47,312
068	0603787N	SPECIAL PROCESSES	17,408	17,408
069	0603790N	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	9,359	9,359
070	0603795N	LAND ATTACK TECHNOLOGY	887	887
071	0603851M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS TESTING	29,448	29,448
072	0603860N	JOINT PRECISION APPROACH AND LANDING SYSTEMS—DEM/VAL	91,479	91,479
073	0603925N	DIRECTED ENERGY AND ELECTRIC WEAPON SYSTEMS	67,360	67,360
074	0604112N	GERALD R. FORD CLASS NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIER (CVN 78—80)	48,105	127,205
		Full ship shock trials for CVN-78		[79,100]
075	0604122N	REMOTE MINEHUNTING SYSTEM (RMS)	20,089	20,089
076	0604272N	TACTICAL AIR DIRECTIONAL INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (TADIRCM)	18,969	18,969
077	0604279N	ASE SELF-PROTECTION OPTIMIZATION	7,874	7,874
078	0604292N	MH-XX	5,298	5,298
079	0604454N	LX (R)	46,486	75,486
		LX(R) Acceleration		[29,000]
080	0604653N	JOINT COUNTER RADIO CONTROLLED IED ELECTRONIC WARFARE (JCREW)	3,817	3,817
081	0604659N	PRECISION STRIKE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	9,595	9,595
082	0604707N	SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE (SEW) ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING SUPPORT	29,581	25,246
		Maritime concept generation and development growth		[-4,335]
083	0604786N	OFFENSIVE ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE WEAPON DEVELOPMENT	285,849	285,849
084	0605812M	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE (JLTV) ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PH.	36,656	36,656
085	0303354N	ASW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT—MIP	9,835	9,835
086	0304270N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT—MIP	580	580
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	5,024,626	5,129,591
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION		
087	0603208N	TRAINING SYSTEM AIRCRAFT	21,708	21,708
088	0604212N	OTHER HELO DEVELOPMENT	11,101	11,101
089	0604214N	AV-8B AIRCRAFT—ENG DEV	39,878	39,878
090	0604215N	STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT	53,059	53,059
091	0604216N	MULTI-MISSION HELICOPTER UPGRADE DEVELOPMENT	21,358	21,358
092	0604218N	AIR/OCEAN EQUIPMENT ENGINEERING	4,515	4,515
093	0604221N	P-3 MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	1,514	1,514
094	0604230N	WARFARE SUPPORT SYSTEM	5,875	5,875
095	0604231N	TACTICAL COMMAND SYSTEM	81,553	81,553
096	0604234N	ADVANCED HAWKEYE	272,149	272,149
097	0604245N	H-1 UPGRADES	27,235	27,235
098	0604261N	ACOUSTIC SEARCH SENSORS	35,763	35,763
099	0604262N	V-22A	87,918	87,918
100	0604264N	AIR CREW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	12,679	12,679
101	0604269N	EA-18	56,921	56,921
102	0604270N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	23,685	23,685
103	0604273N	EXECUTIVE HELO DEVELOPMENT	507,093	507,093
104	0604274N	NEXT GENERATION JAMMER (NGJ)	411,767	411,767
105	0604280N	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM—NAVY (JTRS-NAVY)	25,071	25,071
106	0604307N	SURFACE COMBATANT COMBAT SYSTEM ENGINEERING	443,433	433,433
		Aegis development support growth		[-10,000]
107	0604311N	LPD-17 CLASS SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	747	747
108	0604329N	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB (SDB)	97,002	97,002
109	0604366N	STANDARD MISSILE IMPROVEMENTS	129,649	129,649

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110	0604373N	AIRBORNE MCM	11,647	11,647
111	0604376M	MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF) ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) FOR AVIATION ...	2,778	2,778
112	0604378N	NAVAL INTEGRATED FIRE CONTROL—COUNTER AIR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	23,695	23,695
113	0604404N	UNMANNED CARRIER LAUNCHED AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE AND STRIKE (UCLASS) SYSTEM.	134,708	484,708
		Competitive air vehicle risk reduction activities		[300,000]
		Government and industry source selection preparation		[50,000]
114	0604501N	ADVANCED ABOVE WATER SENSORS	43,914	43,914
115	0604503N	SSN-688 AND TRIDENT MODERNIZATION	109,908	109,908
116	0604504N	AIR CONTROL	57,928	57,928
117	0604512N	SHIPBOARD AVIATION SYSTEMS	120,217	120,217
118	0604522N	AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE RADAR (AMDR) SYSTEM	241,754	241,754
119	0604558N	NEW DESIGN SSN	122,556	122,556
120	0604562N	SUBMARINE TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEM	48,213	60,213
		Accelerate submarine combat and weapon system modernization		[12,000]
121	0604567N	SHIP CONTRACT DESIGN/ LIVE FIRE T&E	49,712	49,712
122	0604574N	NAVY TACTICAL COMPUTER RESOURCES	4,096	4,096
123	0604580N	VIRGINIA PAYLOAD MODULE (VPM)	167,719	167,719
124	0604601N	MINE DEVELOPMENT	15,122	15,122
125	0604610N	LIGHTWEIGHT TORPEDO DEVELOPMENT	33,738	33,738
126	0604654N	JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	8,123	8,123
127	0604703N	PERSONNEL, TRAINING, SIMULATION, AND HUMAN FACTORS	7,686	7,686
128	0604727N	JOINT STANDOFF WEAPON SYSTEMS	405	405
129	0604755N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (DETECT & CONTROL)	153,836	153,836
130	0604756N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (ENGAGE: HARD KILL)	99,619	99,619
131	0604757N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (ENGAGE: SOFT KILL/EW)	116,798	116,798
132	0604761N	INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING	4,353	4,353
133	0604771N	MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT	9,443	9,443
134	0604777N	NAVIGATION/ID SYSTEM	32,469	32,469
135	0604800M	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF)—EMD	537,901	537,901
136	0604800N	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF)—EMD	504,736	504,736
137	0604810M	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOLLOW ON DEVELOPMENT—MARINE CORPS	59,265	20,800
		Program delay		[-38,465]
138	0604810N	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOLLOW ON DEVELOPMENT—NAVY	47,579	21,244
		Program delay		[-26,335]
139	0605013M	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	5,914	5,914
140	0605013N	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	89,711	89,711
141	0605212N	CH-53K RDTE	632,092	632,092
142	0605220N	SHIP TO SHORE CONNECTOR (SSC)	7,778	7,778
143	0605450N	JOINT AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE (JAGM)	25,898	25,898
144	0605500N	MULTI-MISSION MARITIME AIRCRAFT (MMA)	247,929	247,929
145	0204202N	DDG-1000	103,199	103,199
146	0304231N	TACTICAL COMMAND SYSTEM—MIP	998	998
147	0304785N	TACTICAL CRYPTOLOGIC SYSTEMS	17,785	17,785
148	0305124N	SPECIAL APPLICATIONS PROGRAM	35,905	35,905
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	6,308,800	6,596,000
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
149	0604256N	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	30,769	30,769
150	0604258N	TARGET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	112,606	112,606
151	0604759N	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	61,234	61,234
152	0605126N	JOINT THEATER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION	6,995	6,995
153	0605152N	STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT—NAVY	4,011	4,011
154	0605154N	CENTER FOR NAVAL ANALYSES	48,563	48,563
155	0605285N	NEXT GENERATION FIGHTER	5,000	5,000
157	0605804N	TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICES	925	925
158	0605853N	MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	78,143	78,143
159	0605856N	STRATEGIC TECHNICAL SUPPORT	3,258	3,258
160	0605861N	RDT&E SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT	76,948	76,948
161	0605863N	RDT&E SHIP AND AIRCRAFT SUPPORT	132,122	132,122
162	0605864N	TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	351,912	351,912
163	0605865N	OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CAPABILITY	17,985	17,985
164	0605866N	NAVY SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE (SEW) SUPPORT	5,316	5,316
165	0605867N	SEW SURVEILLANCE/RECONNAISSANCE SUPPORT	6,519	6,519
166	0605873M	MARINE CORPS PROGRAM WIDE SUPPORT	13,649	13,649
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	955,955	955,955
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
174	0101221N	STRATEGIC SUB & WEAPONS SYSTEM SUPPORT	107,039	107,039
175	0101224N	SSBN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	46,506	46,506

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176	0101226N	SUBMARINE ACOUSTIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	3,900	4,700
		Accelerate combat rapid attack weapon		[800]
177	0101402N	NAVY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	16,569	16,569
178	0203761N	RAPID TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION (RTT)	18,632	11,132
		TIPS program growth		[-7,500]
179	0204136N	F/A-18 SQUADRONS	133,265	133,265
181	0204163N	FLEET TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TACTICAL)	62,867	51,067
		Joint aerial layer network growth		[-11,800]
182	0204228N	SURFACE SUPPORT	36,045	36,045
183	0204229N	TOMAHAWK AND TOMAHAWK MISSION PLANNING CENTER (TMPC)	25,228	25,228
184	0204311N	INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	54,218	54,218
185	0204413N	AMPHIBIOUS TACTICAL SUPPORT UNITS (DISPLACEMENT CRAFT)	11,335	11,335
186	0204460M	GROUND/AIR TASK ORIENTED RADAR (G/ATOR)	80,129	65,629
		Block II test assets early to need		[-14,500]
187	0204571N	CONSOLIDATED TRAINING SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	39,087	39,087
188	0204574N	CRYPTOLOGIC DIRECT SUPPORT	1,915	1,915
189	0204575N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) READINESS SUPPORT	46,609	46,609
190	0205601N	HARM IMPROVEMENT	52,708	34,708
		AARGM extended range program growth		[-18,000]
191	0205604N	TACTICAL DATA LINKS	149,997	149,997
192	0205620N	SURFACE ASW COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION	24,460	24,460
193	0205632N	MK-48 ADCAP	42,206	47,706
		Accelerate torpedo upgrades		[5,500]
194	0205633N	AVIATION IMPROVEMENTS	117,759	117,759
195	0205675N	OPERATIONAL NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS	101,323	101,323
196	0206313M	MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	67,763	67,763
197	0206335M	COMMON AVIATION COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (CAC2S)	13,431	13,431
198	0206623M	MARINE CORPS GROUND COMBAT/SUPPORTING ARMS SYSTEMS	56,769	56,769
199	0206624M	MARINE CORPS COMBAT SERVICES SUPPORT	20,729	20,729
200	0206625M	USMC INTELLIGENCE/ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS (MIP)	13,152	13,152
201	0206629M	AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE	48,535	48,535
202	0207161N	TACTICAL AIM MISSILES	76,016	76,016
203	0207163N	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (AMRAAM)	32,172	32,172
208	0303109N	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (SPACE)	53,239	53,239
209	0303138N	CONSOLIDATED AFLOAT NETWORK ENTERPRISE SERVICES (CANES)	21,677	21,677
210	0303140N	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	28,102	28,102
211	0303150M	WWMCCS/GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	294	294
213	0305160N	NAVY METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEAN SENSORS-SPACE (METOC)	599	599
214	0305192N	MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM (MIP) ACTIVITIES	6,207	6,207
215	0305204N	TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES	8,550	8,550
216	0305205N	UAS INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY	41,831	41,831
217	0305208M	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	1,105	1,105
218	0305208N	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	33,149	33,149
219	0305220N	RQ-4 UAV	227,188	227,188
220	0305231N	MQ-8 UAV	52,770	52,770
221	0305232M	RQ-11 UAV	635	635
222	0305233N	RQ-7 UAV	688	688
223	0305234N	SMALL (LEVEL 0) TACTICAL UAS (STUASLO)	4,647	4,647
224	0305239M	RQ-21A	6,435	6,435
225	0305241N	MULTI-INTELLIGENCE SENSOR DEVELOPMENT	49,145	49,145
226	0305242M	UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) PAYLOADS (MIP)	9,246	9,246
227	0305421N	RQ-4 MODERNIZATION	150,854	150,854
228	0308601N	MODELING AND SIMULATION SUPPORT	4,757	4,757
229	0702207N	DEPOT MAINTENANCE (NON-IF)	24,185	24,185
231	0708730N	MARITIME TECHNOLOGY (MARITECH)	4,321	4,321
231A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,252,185	1,252,185
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	3,482,173	3,436,673
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	17,885,916	18,344,181
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601102F	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	329,721	374,721
		Basic research program increase		[45,000]
002	0601103F	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	141,754	141,754
003	0601108F	HIGH ENERGY LASER RESEARCH INITIATIVES	13,778	13,778
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	485,253	530,253
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
004	0602102F	MATERIALS	125,234	125,234

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005	0602201F	AEROSPACE VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES	123,438	123,438
006	0602202F	HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS APPLIED RESEARCH	100,530	100,530
007	0602203F	AEROSPACE PROPULSION	182,326	182,326
008	0602204F	AEROSPACE SENSORS	147,291	147,291
009	0602601F	SPACE TECHNOLOGY	116,122	116,122
010	0602602F	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS	99,851	99,851
011	0602605F	DIRECTED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY	115,604	115,604
012	0602788F	DOMINANT INFORMATION SCIENCES AND METHODS	164,909	164,909
013	0602890F	HIGH ENERGY LASER RESEARCH	42,037	42,037
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	1,217,342	1,217,342
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
014	0603112F	ADVANCED MATERIALS FOR WEAPON SYSTEMS	37,665	47,665
		Metals Affordability Initiative		[10,000]
015	0603199F	SUSTAINMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)	18,378	18,378
016	0603203F	ADVANCED AEROSPACE SENSORS	42,183	42,183
017	0603211F	AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY DEV/DEMO	100,733	100,733
018	0603216F	AEROSPACE PROPULSION AND POWER TECHNOLOGY	168,821	168,821
019	0603270F	ELECTRONIC COMBAT TECHNOLOGY	47,032	47,032
020	0603401F	ADVANCED SPACECRAFT TECHNOLOGY	54,897	54,897
021	0603444F	MAUI SPACE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (MSSS)	12,853	12,853
022	0603456F	HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	25,448	25,448
023	0603601F	CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	48,536	48,536
024	0603605F	ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	30,195	30,195
025	0603680F	MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	42,630	52,630
		Maturation of advanced manufacturing for low-cost sustainment		[10,000]
026	0603788F	BATTLESPACE KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	46,414	46,414
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	675,785	695,785
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
027	0603260F	INTELLIGENCE ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	5,032	5,032
029	0603438F	SPACE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY	4,070	4,070
030	0603742F	COMBAT IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY	21,790	21,790
031	0603790F	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	4,736	4,736
033	0603830F	SPACE SECURITY AND DEFENSE PROGRAM	30,771	30,771
034	0603851F	INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE—DEM/VAL	39,765	39,765
036	0604015F	LONG RANGE STRIKE	1,246,228	786,228
		Delayed EMD contract award		[-460,000]
037	0604317F	TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	3,512	8,512
		Technology transfer program increase		[5,000]
038	0604327F	HARD AND DEEPLY BURIED TARGET DEFEAT SYSTEM (HDBTDS) PROGRAM	54,637	54,637
040	0604422F	WEATHER SYSTEM FOLLOW-ON	76,108	56,108
		Unjustified increase and analysis of alternatives		[-20,000]
044	0604857F	OPERATIONALLY RESPONSIVE SPACE	6,457	19,957
		SSA, Weather, or Launch Activities		[13,500]
045	0604858F	TECH TRANSITION PROGRAM	246,514	246,514
046	0605230F	GROUND BASED STRATEGIC DETERRENT	75,166	75,166
049	0207110F	NEXT GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE	8,830	8,830
050	0207455F	THREE DIMENSIONAL LONG-RANGE RADAR (3DELRR)	14,939	14,939
051	0305164F	NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (USER EQUIPMENT) (SPACE)	142,288	142,288
052	0306250F	CYBER OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	81,732	96,732
		Increase USCC Cyber Operations Technology Development		[15,000]
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	2,062,575	1,616,075
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION		
055	0604270F	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	929	929
056	0604281F	TACTICAL DATA NETWORKS ENTERPRISE	60,256	60,256
057	0604287F	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	5,973	5,973
058	0604329F	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB (SDB)—EMD	32,624	32,624
059	0604421F	COUNTERSPACE SYSTEMS	24,208	24,208
060	0604425F	SPACE SITUATION AWARENESS SYSTEMS	32,374	32,374
061	0604426F	SPACE FENCE	243,909	243,909
062	0604429F	AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC ATTACK	8,358	8,358
063	0604441F	SPACE BASED INFRARED SYSTEM (SBIRS) HIGH EMD	292,235	292,235
064	0604602F	ARMAMENT/ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	40,154	40,154
065	0604604F	SUBMUNITIONS	2,506	2,506
066	0604617F	AGILE COMBAT SUPPORT	57,678	57,678
067	0604706F	LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS	8,187	8,187
068	0604735F	COMBAT TRAINING RANGES	15,795	15,795
069	0604800F	F-35—EMD	589,441	589,441

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071	0604853F	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM (SPACE)—EMD	84,438	184,438
		EELV Program—Rocket Propulsion System Development		[100,000]
072	0604932F	LONG RANGE STANDOFF WEAPON	36,643	36,643
073	0604933F	ICBM FUZE MODERNIZATION	142,551	142,551
074	0605213F	F-22 MODERNIZATION INCREMENT 3.2B	140,640	140,640
075	0605214F	GROUND ATTACK WEAPONS FUZE DEVELOPMENT	3,598	3,598
076	0605221F	KC-46	602,364	402,364
		Program decrease		[-200,000]
077	0605223F	ADVANCED PILOT TRAINING	11,395	11,395
078	0605229F	CSAR HH-60 RECAPITALIZATION	156,085	156,085
080	0605431F	ADVANCED EHF MILSATCOM (SPACE)	228,230	228,230
081	0605432F	POLAR MILSATCOM (SPACE)	72,084	72,084
082	0605433F	WIDEBAND GLOBAL SATCOM (SPACE)	56,343	52,343
		Excess to need		[-4,000]
083	0605458F	AIR & SPACE OPS CENTER 10.2 RDT&E	47,629	47,629
084	0605931F	B-2 DEFENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	271,961	271,961
085	0101125F	NUCLEAR WEAPONS MODERNIZATION	212,121	212,121
086	0207171F	F-15 EPAWSS	186,481	186,481
087	0207701F	FULL COMBAT MISSION TRAINING	18,082	18,082
088	0305176F	COMBAT SURVIVOR EVADER LOCATOR	993	993
089	0307581F	NEXTGEN JSTARS	44,343	44,343
091	0401319F	PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT (PAR)	102,620	102,620
092	0701212F	AUTOMATED TEST SYSTEMS	14,563	14,563
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	3,847,791	3,743,791
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
093	0604256F	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	23,844	23,844
094	0604759F	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	68,302	73,302
		Airborne Sensor Data Correlation Project		[5,000]
095	0605101F	RAND PROJECT AIR FORCE	34,918	34,918
097	0605712F	INITIAL OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION	10,476	10,476
098	0605807F	TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	673,908	673,908
099	0605860F	ROCKET SYSTEMS LAUNCH PROGRAM (SPACE)	21,858	21,858
100	0605864F	SPACE TEST PROGRAM (STP)	28,228	28,228
101	0605976F	FACILITIES RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION—TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	40,518	40,518
102	0605978F	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT—TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	27,895	27,895
103	0606017F	REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS AND MATURATION	16,507	16,507
104	0606116F	SPACE TEST AND TRAINING RANGE DEVELOPMENT	18,997	18,997
106	0606392F	SPACE AND MISSILE CENTER (SMC) CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	185,305	180,305
		Excess to need		[-5,000]
107	0308602F	ENTREPRISE INFORMATION SERVICES (EIS)	4,841	4,841
108	0702806F	ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	15,357	15,357
109	0804731F	GENERAL SKILL TRAINING	1,315	1,315
111	1001004F	INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	2,315	2,315
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	1,174,584	1,174,584
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
112	0603423F	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM III—OPERATIONAL CONTROL SEGMENT	350,232	350,232
113	0604233F	SPECIALIZED UNDERGRADUATE FLIGHT TRAINING	10,465	10,465
114	0604445F	WIDE AREA SURVEILLANCE	24,577	24,577
117	0605018F	AF INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM (AF-IPPS)	69,694	29,694
		Forward financing, excluding funding for audit readiness		[-40,000]
118	0605024F	ANTI-TAMPER TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE AGENCY	26,718	26,718
119	0605278F	HC/MC-130 RECAP RDT&E	10,807	10,807
121	0101113F	B-52 SQUADRONS	74,520	74,520
122	0101122F	AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM)	451	451
123	0101126F	B-1B SQUADRONS	2,245	2,245
124	0101127F	B-2 SQUADRONS	108,183	108,183
125	0101213F	MINUTEMAN SQUADRONS	178,929	178,929
126	0101313F	STRAT WAR PLANNING SYSTEM—USSTRATCOM	28,481	28,481
127	0101314F	NIGHT FIST—USSTRATCOM	87	87
128	0101316F	WORLDWIDE JOINT STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	5,315	5,315
131	0105921F	SERVICE SUPPORT TO STRATCOM—SPACE ACTIVITIES	8,090	8,090
132	0205219F	MQ-9 UAV	123,439	123,439
134	0207131F	A-10 SQUADRONS		16,200
		A-10 restoration: operational flight program development		[16,200]
135	0207133F	F-16 SQUADRONS	148,297	198,297
		AESA Radar Integration		[50,000]
136	0207134F	F-15E SQUADRONS	179,283	192,079
		Transfer from procurement		[12,796]

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137	0207136F	MANNED DESTRUCTIVE SUPPRESSION	14,860	14,860
138	0207138F	F-22A SQUADRONS	262,552	262,552
139	0207142F	F-35 SQUADRONS	115,395	53,921
		Program delay		[-61,474]
140	0207161F	TACTICAL AIM MISSILES	43,360	43,360
141	0207163F	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (AMRAAM)	46,160	46,160
143	0207224F	COMBAT RESCUE AND RECOVERY	412	412
144	0207227F	COMBAT RESCUE—PARARESCUE	657	657
145	0207247F	AF TENCAP	31,428	31,428
146	0207249F	PRECISION ATTACK SYSTEMS PROCUREMENT	1,105	1,105
147	0207253F	COMPASS CALL	14,249	14,249
148	0207268F	AIRCRAFT ENGINE COMPONENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	103,942	103,942
149	0207325F	JOINT AIR-TO-SURFACE STANDOFF MISSILE (JASSM)	12,793	12,793
150	0207410F	AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC)	21,193	21,193
151	0207412F	CONTROL AND REPORTING CENTER (CRC)	559	559
152	0207417F	AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS)	161,812	161,812
153	0207418F	TACTICAL AIRBORNE CONTROL SYSTEMS	6,001	6,001
155	0207431F	COMBAT AIR INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM ACTIVITIES	7,793	7,793
156	0207444F	TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY-MOD	12,465	12,465
157	0207448F	C2ISR TACTICAL DATA LINK	1,681	1,681
159	0207452F	DCAPES	16,796	16,796
161	0207590F	SEEK EAGLE	21,564	21,564
162	0207601F	USAF MODELING AND SIMULATION	24,994	24,994
163	0207605F	WARGAMING AND SIMULATION CENTERS	6,035	6,035
164	0207697F	DISTRIBUTED TRAINING AND EXERCISES	4,358	4,358
165	0208006F	MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS	55,835	55,835
167	0208087F	AF OFFENSIVE CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	12,874	12,874
168	0208088F	AF DEFENSIVE CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	7,681	7,681
171	0301017F	GLOBAL SENSOR INTEGRATED ON NETWORK (GSIN)	5,974	5,974
177	0301400F	SPACE SUPERIORITY INTELLIGENCE	13,815	13,815
178	0302015F	E-4B NATIONAL AIRBORNE OPERATIONS CENTER (NAOC)	80,360	80,360
179	0303001F	FAMILY OF ADVANCED BLOS TERMINALS (FAB-T)	3,907	3,907
180	0303131F	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (MEECN)	75,062	75,062
181	0303140F	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	46,599	46,599
183	0303142F	GLOBAL FORCE MANAGEMENT—DATA INITIATIVE	2,470	2,470
186	0304260F	AIRBORNE SIGINT ENTERPRISE	112,775	112,775
189	0305099F	GLOBAL AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (GATM)	4,235	4,235
192	0305110F	SATELLITE CONTROL NETWORK (SPACE)	7,879	7,879
193	0305111F	WEATHER SERVICE	29,955	29,955
194	0305114F	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, APPROACH, AND LANDING SYSTEM (ATCALS)	21,485	21,485
195	0305116F	AERIAL TARGETS	2,515	2,515
198	0305128F	SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES	472	472
199	0305145F	ARMS CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION	12,137	12,137
200	0305146F	DEFENSE JOINT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	361	361
203	0305173F	SPACE AND MISSILE TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER	3,162	3,162
204	0305174F	SPACE INNOVATION, INTEGRATION AND RAPID TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	1,543	1,543
205	0305179F	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE (IBS)	7,860	7,860
206	0305182F	SPACELIFT RANGE SYSTEM (SPACE)	6,902	6,902
207	0305202F	DRAGON U-2	34,471	34,471
209	0305206F	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	50,154	60,154
		Wide Area Surveillance Capability		[10,000]
210	0305207F	MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	13,245	13,245
211	0305208F	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	22,784	22,784
212	0305219F	MQ-1 PREDATOR A UAV	716	716
213	0305220F	RQ-4 UAV	208,053	203,053
		Program delays		[-5,000]
214	0305221F	NETWORK-CENTRIC COLLABORATIVE TARGETING	21,587	21,587
215	0305236F	COMMON DATA LINK EXECUTIVE AGENT (CDL EA)	43,986	43,986
216	0305238F	NATO AGS	197,486	138,400
		Transfer to Procurement for NATO AWACS		[-59,086]
217	0305240F	SUPPORT TO DCGS ENTERPRISE	28,434	28,434
218	0305265F	GPS III SPACE SEGMENT	180,902	180,902
220	0305614F	JSPOC MISSION SYSTEM	81,911	81,911
221	0305881F	RAPID CYBER ACQUISITION	3,149	3,149
222	0305913F	NUDET DETECTION SYSTEM (SPACE)	14,447	14,447
223	0305940F	SPACE SITUATION AWARENESS OPERATIONS	20,077	20,077
225	0308699F	SHARED EARLY WARNING (SEW)	853	853
226	0401115F	C-130 AIRLIFT SQUADRON	33,962	33,962
227	0401119F	C-5 AIRLIFT SQUADRONS (IF)	42,864	37,864
		Forward financing		[-5,000]

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Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
228	0401130F	C-17 AIRCRAFT (IF)	54,807	54,807
229	0401132F	C-130J PROGRAM	31,010	31,010
230	0401134F	LARGE AIRCRAFT IR COUNTERMEASURES (LAIRCM)	6,802	6,802
231	0401219F	KC-10S	1,799	1,799
232	0401314F	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AIRLIFT	48,453	48,453
233	0401318F	CV-22	36,576	36,576
235	0408011F	SPECIAL TACTICS / COMBAT CONTROL	7,963	7,963
236	0702207F	DEPOT MAINTENANCE (NON-IF)	1,525	1,525
237	0708610F	LOGISTICS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (LOGIT)	112,676	80,576
		Program growth		[-32,100]
238	0708611F	SUPPORT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	12,657	12,657
239	0804743F	OTHER FLIGHT TRAINING	1,836	1,836
240	0808716F	OTHER PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES	121	121
241	0901202F	JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY AGENCY	5,911	5,911
242	0901218F	CIVILIAN COMPENSATION PROGRAM	3,604	3,604
243	0901220F	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	4,598	4,598
244	0901226F	AIR FORCE STUDIES AND ANALYSIS AGENCY	1,103	1,103
246	0901538F	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	101,840	101,840
246A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	12,780,142	12,780,142
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	17,010,339	16,896,675
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF	26,473,669	25,874,505
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW		
		BASIC RESEARCH		
001	0601000BR	DTRA BASIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE	38,436	38,436
002	0601101E	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	333,119	333,119
003	0601110D8Z	BASIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES	42,022	42,022
004	0601117E	BASIC OPERATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH SCIENCE	56,544	56,544
005	0601120D8Z	NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION PROGRAM	49,453	54,453
		STEM program increase		[5,000]
006	0601228D8Z	HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/MINORITY INSTITUTIONS	25,834	35,834
		Program increase		[10,000]
007	0601384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	46,261	46,261
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	591,669	606,669
		APPLIED RESEARCH		
008	0602000D8Z	JOINT MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY	19,352	19,352
009	0602115E	BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	114,262	114,262
010	0602234D8Z	LINCOLN LABORATORY RESEARCH PROGRAM	51,026	51,026
011	0602251D8Z	APPLIED RESEARCH FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF S&T PRIORITIES	48,226	48,226
012	0602303E	INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	356,358	356,358
014	0602383E	BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DEFENSE	29,265	29,265
015	0602384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	208,111	208,111
016	0602668D8Z	CYBER SECURITY RESEARCH	13,727	13,727
018	0602702E	TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY	314,582	309,582
		Multi-azimuth defense fast intercept round engagement system		[-5,000]
019	0602715E	MATERIALS AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY	220,115	201,721
		Program decrease		[-18,394]
020	0602716E	ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY	174,798	174,798
021	0602718BR	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DEFEAT TECHNOLOGIES	155,415	155,415
022	0602751D8Z	SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) APPLIED RESEARCH	8,824	8,824
023	1160401BB	SOF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	37,517	37,517
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	1,751,578	1,728,184
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		
024	0603000D8Z	JOINT MUNITIONS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	25,915	25,915
026	0603122D8Z	COMBATING TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	71,171	111,171
		Program increase		[40,000]
027	0603133D8Z	FOREIGN COMPARATIVE TESTING	21,782	21,782
028	0603160BR	COUNTERPROLIFERATION INITIATIVES—PROLIFERATION PREVENTION AND DEFEAT	290,654	290,654
030	0603176C	ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT	12,139	12,139
031	0603177C	DISCRIMINATION SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	28,200	28,200
032	0603178C	WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	45,389	7,367
		High Power Directed Energy—Missile Destruct		[-26,055]
		Move to support Multiple Object Kill Vehicle		[-11,967]
033	0603179C	ADVANCED C4ISR	9,876	9,876
034	0603180C	ADVANCED RESEARCH	17,364	17,364
035	0603225D8Z	JOINT DOD-DOE MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	18,802	18,802
036	0603264S	AGILE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (AT21)—THEATER CAPABILITY	2,679	2,679

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037	0603274C	SPECIAL PROGRAM—MDA TECHNOLOGY	64,708	51,458
		Unjustified growth		[-13,250]
038	0603286E	ADVANCED AEROSPACE SYSTEMS	185,043	185,043
039	0603287E	SPACE PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGY	126,692	126,692
040	0603288D8Z	ANALYTIC ASSESSMENTS	14,645	14,645
041	0603289D8Z	ADVANCED INNOVATIVE ANALYSIS AND CONCEPTS	59,830	49,830
		Program decrease		[-10,000]
042	0603294C	COMMON KILL VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY	46,753	7,195
		MOKV Concept Development		[-39,558]
043	0603384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	140,094	140,094
044	0603527D8Z	RETRACT LARCH	118,666	108,666
		Program decrease		[-10,000]
045	0603618D8Z	JOINT ELECTRONIC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	43,966	30,466
		Program decrease		[-13,500]
046	0603648D8Z	JOINT CAPABILITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	141,540	129,540
		Program decrease		[-12,000]
047	0603662D8Z	NETWORKED COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES	6,980	6,980
050	0603680D8Z	DEFENSE-WIDE MANUFACTURING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	157,056	142,056
		Unjustified growth		[-15,000]
051	0603699D8Z	EMERGING CAPABILITIES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	33,515	41,015
		Efforts to counter-ISIL and Russian aggression		[7,500]
052	0603712S	GENERIC LOGISTICS R&D TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	16,543	16,543
053	0603713S	DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	29,888	29,888
054	0603716D8Z	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM	65,836	65,836
055	0603720S	MICROELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT	79,037	89,037
		Trusted Source Implementation for Field Programmable Gate Arrays Study		[10,000]
056	0603727D8Z	JOINT WARFIGHTING PROGRAM	9,626	7,126
		Program decrease		[-2,500]
057	0603739E	ADVANCED ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGIES	79,021	79,021
058	0603760E	COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	201,335	201,335
059	0603766E	NETWORK-CENTRIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	452,861	432,861
		Excessive program growth		[-20,000]
060	0603767E	SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	257,127	257,127
061	0603769SE	DISTRIBUTED LEARNING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	10,771	10,771
062	0603781D8Z	SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE	15,202	15,202
063	0603826D8Z	QUICK REACTION SPECIAL PROJECTS	90,500	70,500
		Unjustified growth		[-20,000]
066	0603833D8Z	ENGINEERING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	18,377	18,377
067	0603941D8Z	TEST & EVALUATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	82,589	82,589
068	0604055D8Z	OPERATIONAL ENERGY CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENT	37,420	37,420
069	0303310D8Z	CWMD SYSTEMS	42,488	42,488
070	1160402BB	SOF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	57,741	57,741
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	3,229,821	3,093,491
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES		
071	0603161D8Z	NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT RDT&E ADC&P	31,710	31,710
073	0603600D8Z	WALKOFF	90,567	90,567
074	0603714D8Z	ADVANCED SENSORS APPLICATION PROGRAM	15,900	15,900
075	0603851D8Z	ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	52,758	52,758
076	0603881C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TERMINAL DEFENSE SEGMENT	228,021	228,021
077	0603882C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MIDCOURSE DEFENSE SEGMENT	1,284,891	1,284,891
077A	0603XXXX	MULTIPLE-OBJECT KILL VEHICLE		81,525
		Divert attitude control systems technology to support Multi-Object Kill Vehicle		[10,000]
		Establish MOKV Program of Record		[71,525]
078	0603884BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—DEM/VAL	172,754	172,754
079	0603884C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSORS	233,588	233,588
080	0603890C	BMD ENABLING PROGRAMS	409,088	409,088
080A	0603XXXX	WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY—HIGH POWER DE		26,055
		High Power Directed Energy—Missile Destruct		[26,055]
081	0603891C	SPECIAL PROGRAMS—MDA	400,387	400,387
082	0603892C	AEGIS BMD	843,355	843,355
083	0603893C	SPACE TRACKING & SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	31,632	31,632
084	0603895C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM SPACE PROGRAMS	23,289	23,289
085	0603896C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL, BATTLE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATI.	450,085	437,785
		Future Spirals concurrency with multiple ongoing efforts and excess growth		[-12,300]
086	0603898C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE JOINT WARFIGHTER SUPPORT	49,570	49,570
087	0603904C	MISSILE DEFENSE INTEGRATION & OPERATIONS CENTER (MDIOC)	49,211	49,211
088	0603906C	REGARDING TRENCH	9,583	9,583
089	0603907C	SEA BASED X-BAND RADAR (SBX)	72,866	72,866

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090	0603913C	ISRAELI COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS	102,795	0
		Realign Israeli Cooperative Programs to Overseas Contingency Operations		[-102,795]
091	0603914C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TEST	274,323	274,323
092	0603915C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TARGETS	513,256	513,256
093	0603920D8Z	HUMANITARIAN DEMINING	10,129	10,129
094	0603923D8Z	COALITION WARFARE	10,350	10,350
095	0604016D8Z	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CORROSION PROGRAM	1,518	11,518
		Program Increase		[10,000]
096	0604115C	TECHNOLOGY MATURATION INITIATIVES	96,300	96,300
097	0604250D8Z	ADVANCED INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES	469,798	469,798
098	0604400D8Z	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) COMMON DEVELOPMENT	3,129	3,129
103	0604826J	JOINT C5 CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY ASSESSMENTS	25,200	25,200
105	0604873C	LONG RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR (LRDR)	137,564	137,564
106	0604874C	IMPROVED HOMELAND DEFENSE INTERCEPTORS	278,944	298,944
		Redesigned kill vehicle development		[20,000]
107	0604876C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TERMINAL DEFENSE SEGMENT TEST	26,225	26,225
108	0604878C	AEGIS BMD TEST	55,148	55,148
109	0604879C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR TEST	86,764	86,764
110	0604880C	LAND-BASED SM-3 (LBSM3)	34,970	34,970
111	0604881C	AEGIS SM-3 BLOCK IIA CO-DEVELOPMENT	172,645	172,645
112	0604887C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MIDCOURSE SEGMENT TEST	64,618	64,618
114	0303191D8Z	JOINT ELECTROMAGNETIC TECHNOLOGY (JET) PROGRAM	2,660	2,660
115	0305103C	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	963	963
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES	6,816,554	6,839,039
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION		
116	0604161D8Z	NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT RDT&E SDD	8,800	8,800
117	0604165D8Z	PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT	78,817	88,817
		Concept development by the Army of a CPGS option		[5,000]
		Concept development by the Navy of a CPGS option		[5,000]
118	0604384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—EMD	303,647	303,647
119	0604764K	ADVANCED IT SERVICES JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE (AITS-JPO)	23,424	23,424
120	0604771D8Z	JOINT TACTICAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (JTIDS)	14,285	14,285
121	0605000BR	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DEFEAT CAPABILITIES	7,156	7,156
122	0605013BL	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	12,542	12,542
123	0605021SE	HOMELAND PERSONNEL SECURITY INITIATIVE	191	191
124	0605022D8Z	DEFENSE EXPORTABILITY PROGRAM	3,273	3,273
125	0605027D8Z	OUS(D) IT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES	5,962	5,962
126	0605070S	DOD ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	13,412	13,412
127	0605075D8Z	DCMO POLICY AND INTEGRATION	2,223	2,223
128	0605080S	DEFENSE AGENCY INITIATIVES (DAI)—FINANCIAL SYSTEM	31,660	31,660
129	0605090S	DEFENSE RETIRED AND ANNUITANT PAY SYSTEM (DRAS)	13,085	13,085
130	0605210D8Z	DEFENSE-WIDE ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT CAPABILITIES	7,209	7,209
131	0303141K	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	15,158	13,794
		Early to need		[-1,364]
132	0305304D8Z	DOD ENTERPRISE ENERGY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (EEIM)	4,414	4,414
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	545,258	553,894
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
133	0604774D8Z	DEFENSE READINESS REPORTING SYSTEM (DRRS)	5,581	5,581
134	0604875D8Z	JOINT SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE DEVELOPMENT	3,081	3,081
135	0604940D8Z	CENTRAL TEST AND EVALUATION INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT (CTEIP)	229,125	229,125
136	0604942D8Z	ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS	28,674	21,674
		Program decrease		[-7,000]
138	0605100D8Z	JOINT MISSION ENVIRONMENT TEST CAPABILITY (JMETC)	45,235	45,235
139	0605104D8Z	TECHNICAL STUDIES, SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS	24,936	24,936
141	0605126J	JOINT INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION (JIAMDO)	35,471	35,471
144	0605142D8Z	SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	37,655	37,655
145	0605151D8Z	STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT—OSD	3,015	3,015
146	0605161D8Z	NUCLEAR MATTERS-PHYSICAL SECURITY	5,287	5,287
147	0605170D8Z	SUPPORT TO NETWORKS AND INFORMATION INTEGRATION	5,289	5,289
148	0605200D8Z	GENERAL SUPPORT TO USD (INTELLIGENCE)	2,120	2,120
149	0605384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	102,264	102,264
158	0605790D8Z	SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR)/ SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	2,169	2,169
159	0605798D8Z	DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY ANALYSIS	13,960	13,960
160	0605801KA	DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER (DTIC)	51,775	51,775
161	0605803SE	R&D IN SUPPORT OF DOD ENLISTMENT, TESTING AND EVALUATION	9,533	9,533

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162	0605804D8Z	DEVELOPMENT TEST AND EVALUATION	17,371	21,371
		Program increase		[4,000]
163	0605898E	MANAGEMENT HQ—R&D	71,571	71,571
164	0606100D8Z	BUDGET AND PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS	4,123	4,123
165	0203345D8Z	DEFENSE OPERATIONS SECURITY INITIATIVE (DOSI)	1,946	1,946
166	0204571J	JOINT STAFF ANALYTICAL SUPPORT	7,673	7,673
169	0303166J	SUPPORT TO INFORMATION OPERATIONS (IO) CAPABILITIES	10,413	10,413
170	0303260D8Z	DEFENSE MILITARY DECEPTION PROGRAM OFFICE (DMDPO)	971	971
171	0305193D8Z	CYBER INTELLIGENCE	6,579	6,579
173	0804767D8Z	COCOM EXERCISE ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING TRANSFORMATION (CE2T2)—MHA	43,811	43,811
174	0901598C	MANAGEMENT HQ—MDA	35,871	35,871
176	0903230D8W	WHS—MISSION OPERATIONS SUPPORT - IT	1,072	1,072
177A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	49,500	49,500
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	856,071	853,071
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT		
178	0604130V	ENTERPRISE SECURITY SYSTEM (ESS)	7,929	7,929
179	0605127T	REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH (RIO) AND PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE INFORMATION MANA.	1,750	1,750
180	0605147T	OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SHARED INFORMATION SYSTEM (OHAIS)	294	294
181	0607210D8Z	INDUSTRIAL BASE ANALYSIS AND SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT	22,576	22,576
182	0607310D8Z	CWMD SYSTEMS: OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	1,901	1,901
183	0607327T	GLOBAL THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (G-TSCMIS).	8,474	8,474
184	0607384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE (OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT)	33,561	33,561
186	0208043J	PLANNING AND DECISION AID SYSTEM (PDAS)	3,061	3,061
187	0208045K	C4I INTEROPERABILITY	64,921	64,921
189	0301144K	JOINT/ALLIED COALITION INFORMATION SHARING	3,645	3,645
193	0302016K	NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORT	963	963
194	0302019K	DEFENSE INFO INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING AND INTEGRATION	10,186	10,186
195	0303126K	LONG-HAUL COMMUNICATIONS—DCS	36,883	36,883
196	0303131K	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (MEECN)	13,735	13,735
197	0303135G	PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE (PKI)	6,101	6,101
198	0303136G	KEY MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (KMI)	43,867	43,867
199	0303140D8Z	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	8,957	8,957
200	0303140G	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	146,890	146,890
201	0303150K	GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	21,503	21,503
202	0303153K	DEFENSE SPECTRUM ORGANIZATION	20,342	20,342
203	0303170K	NET-CENTRIC ENTERPRISE SERVICES (NCES)	444	444
205	0303610K	TELEPORT PROGRAM	1,736	1,736
206	0304210BB	SPECIAL APPLICATIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES	65,060	65,060
210	0305103K	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	2,976	2,976
215	0305186D8Z	POLICY R&D PROGRAMS	4,182	4,182
216	0305199D8Z	NET CENTRICITY	18,130	18,130
218	0305208BB	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	5,302	5,302
221	0305208K	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	3,239	3,239
225	0305327V	INSIDER THREAT	11,733	11,733
226	0305387D8Z	HOMELAND DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM	2,119	2,119
234	0708011S	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS	24,605	24,605
235	0708012S	LOGISTICS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	1,770	1,770
236	0902298J	MANAGEMENT HQ—OJCS	2,978	2,978
237	1105219BB	MQ-9 UAV	18,151	23,151
		Medium Altitude Long Endurance Tactical (MALET) MQ-9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle		[5,000]
238	1105232BB	RQ-11 UAV	758	758
240	1160403BB	AVIATION SYSTEMS	173,934	189,134
		MC-130 Terrain Following/Terrain Avoidance Radar Program		[15,200]
241	1160405BB	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	6,866	6,866
242	1160408BB	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	63,008	63,008
243	1160431BB	WARRIOR SYSTEMS	25,342	25,342
244	1160432BB	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	3,401	3,401
245	1160480BB	SOF TACTICAL VEHICLES	3,212	3,212
246	1160483BB	MARITIME SYSTEMS	63,597	63,597
247	1160489BB	GLOBAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES	3,933	3,933
248	1160490BB	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS INTELLIGENCE	10,623	10,623
248A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	3,564,272	3,564,272
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	4,538,910	4,559,110
		UNDISTRIBUTED		
249	XXXXXXX	DEFENSE WIDE CYBER VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT		200,000
		Assess all major weapon systems for cyber vulnerability		[200,000]

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Program Element</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
251	XXXXXXX	TECHNOLOGY OFFSET INITIATIVE		400,000
		Supports innovative technology development		[400,000]
		SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		600,000
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	18,329,861	18,833,458
		OPERATIONAL TEST & EVAL, DEFENSE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT		
001	0605118OTE	OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION	76,838	76,838
002	0605131OTE	LIVE FIRE TEST AND EVALUATION	46,882	46,882
003	0605814OTE	OPERATIONAL TEST ACTIVITIES AND ANALYSES	46,838	46,838
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	170,558	170,558
		TOTAL OPERATIONAL TEST & EVAL, DEFENSE	170,558	170,558
		TOTAL RDT&E	69,784,963	70,344,349

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Program Element</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
060	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	1,500	1,500
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	1,500	1,500
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	1,500	1,500
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
231A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	35,747	35,747
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	35,747	35,747
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	35,747	35,747
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
133	0205671F	JOINT COUNTER RCIED ELECTRONIC WARFARE	300	300
246A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	16,800	16,800
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	17,100	17,100
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF	17,100	17,100
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES		
090	0603913C	ISRAELI COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS		267,595
		Arrow 3		[19,500]
		Arrow System Improvement Program		[45,500]
		David's Sling		[99,800]
		Realign Israeli Cooperative Programs to Overseas Contingency Operations		[102,795]
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES		267,595
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT		
248A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	137,087	137,087
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	137,087	137,087
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	137,087	404,682
		TOTAL RDT&E	191,434	459,029

TITLE XLIII—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY			
OPERATING FORCES			
010	MANEUVER UNITS	1,094,429	1,594,429
	Force Readiness Restoration—Operations Tempo		[500,000]
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	68,873	68,873
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,214,116	1,291,316
	Readiness funding increase		[77,200]
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	7,616,008	7,626,508
	Readiness funding increase		[10,500]
110	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	2,617,169	2,789,369
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[172,200]
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	421,269	421,269
130	COMBATANT COMMANDERS CORE OPERATIONS	164,743	164,743
170	COMBATANT COMMANDS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	448,633	448,633
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	13,645,240	14,405,140
MOBILIZATION			
180	STRATEGIC MOBILITY	401,638	401,638
200	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS	6,532	6,532
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	408,170	408,170
TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
210	OFFICER ACQUISITION	131,536	131,536
220	RECRUIT TRAINING	47,843	47,843
230	ONE STATION UNIT TRAINING	42,565	42,565
240	SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS	490,378	490,378
250	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	981,000	989,200
	Readiness funding increase		[33,200]
	Unjustified program growth		[−25,000]
260	FLIGHT TRAINING	940,872	940,872
270	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	230,324	230,324
280	TRAINING SUPPORT	603,519	603,519
290	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	491,922	491,922
300	EXAMINING	194,079	194,079
310	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	227,951	227,951
320	CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING	161,048	161,048
330	JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS	170,118	170,118
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	4,713,155	4,721,355
ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES			
360	CENTRAL SUPPLY ACTIVITIES	813,881	813,881
370	LOGISTIC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	714,781	703,781
	Unjustified program growth		[−11,000]
380	AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT	322,127	322,127
390	ADMINISTRATION	384,813	384,813
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	1,781,350	1,781,350
410	MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	292,532	292,532
420	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	375,122	375,122
430	OTHER SERVICE SUPPORT	1,119,848	1,115,348
	Spirit of America program growth		[−4,500]
440	ARMY CLAIMS ACTIVITIES	225,358	225,358
450	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	239,755	239,755
460	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT READINESS	223,319	223,319
470	INTERNATIONAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS	469,865	469,865
480	MISC. SUPPORT OF OTHER NATIONS	40,521	40,521
530	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,120,974	1,140,974
	Additional SOUTHCOM ISR and intel support		[20,000]
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	8,124,246	8,128,746
UNDISTRIBUTED			
540	UNDISTRIBUTED		−847,900
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[−86,000]
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[−431,000]
	Streamlining of Army Management Headquarters		[−180,900]
	Working Capital Fund carryover above allowable ceiling		[−150,000]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		−847,900

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY		26,890,811	26,815,511
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES			
OPERATING FORCES			
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	16,612	16,612
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	486,531	486,531
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	105,446	105,446
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	516,791	516,791
060	AVIATION ASSETS	87,587	87,587
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	348,601	348,601
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	81,350	81,350
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	59,574	91,974
	Readiness funding increase		[32,400]
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	570,852	557,852
	Unjustified program growth		[-13,000]
110	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	245,686	259,286
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[13,600]
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	40,962	40,962
SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES		2,559,992	2,592,992
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
130	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	10,665	10,665
140	ADMINISTRATION	18,390	18,390
150	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	14,976	14,976
160	MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	8,841	8,841
170	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	52,928	52,928
SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES		105,800	105,800
UNDISTRIBUTED			
190	UNDISTRIBUTED		-12,600
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-8,000]
	Streamlining of Army Reserve Management Headquarters		[-4,600]
SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED			-12,600
TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES		2,665,792	2,686,192
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG			
OPERATING FORCES			
010	MANEUVER UNITS	709,433	1,094,533
	Increased Operations Tempo to Meet Readiness Objectives		[385,100]
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	167,324	167,324
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	741,327	741,327
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	88,775	96,475
	ARNG border security enhancement		[7,700]
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	32,130	32,130
060	AVIATION ASSETS	943,609	996,209
	ARNG border security enhancement		[13,000]
	Readiness funding increase		[39,600]
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	703,137	703,137
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	84,066	84,066
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	166,848	189,348
	Readiness funding increase		[22,500]
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,022,970	998,970
	Justification does not match summary of price and program changes		[-14,000]
	Unjustified growth		[-10,000]
110	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	673,680	708,880
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[35,200]
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	954,574	954,574
SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES		6,287,873	6,766,973
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
130	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	6,570	6,570
140	ADMINISTRATION	59,629	59,729
	National Guard State Partnership Program increase		[1,000]
	NGB Heritage Painting Program		[-900]
150	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	68,452	68,452
160	MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	8,841	8,841
170	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	283,670	272,170
	Army Marketing Program unjustified program growth		[-11,500]
180	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	2,942	2,942

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	430,104	418,704
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
200	UNDISTRIBUTED		-46,200
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-26,000]
	Streamlining of Army National Guard Management Headquarters		[-20,200]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-46,200
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG	6,717,977	7,139,477
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY		
	OPERATING FORCES		
030	AVIATION TECHNICAL DATA & ENGINEERING SERVICES	37,225	37,225
050	AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	376,844	390,744
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—AV-8B Program Related Logistics		[4,000]
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—CH-53 Program Related Logistics		[1,900]
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—MV-22 Program Related Logistics		[1,200]
	MV-22 Fleet Engineering Support Unfunded Requirement		[6,800]
060	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	897,536	912,536
	Program increase		[15,000]
080	AVIATION LOGISTICS	544,056	549,356
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—MV-22 Aviation Logistics		[5,300]
140	ELECTRONIC WARFARE	96,916	96,916
150	SPACE SYSTEMS AND SURVEILLANCE	192,198	192,198
160	WARFARE TACTICS	453,942	453,942
170	OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	351,871	351,871
180	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	1,186,847	1,171,847
	Unjustified program growth		[-15,000]
190	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	123,948	123,948
200	DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	2,443	2,443
210	COMBATANT COMMANDERS CORE OPERATIONS	98,914	98,914
220	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	73,110	73,110
230	CRUISE MISSILE	110,734	110,734
240	FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE	1,206,736	1,206,736
250	IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	141,664	141,664
260	WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	523,122	535,122
	Ship Self-Defense Systems Maintenance Backlog Reduction		[12,000]
270	OTHER WEAPON SYSTEMS SUPPORT	371,872	371,872
280	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION	896,061	896,061
290	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	2,220,423	2,245,723
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[25,300]
300	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	4,472,468	4,472,468
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	14,378,930	14,435,430
	MOBILIZATION		
310	SHIP PREPOSITIONING AND SURGE	422,846	422,846
320	AIRCRAFT ACTIVATIONS/INACTIVATIONS	6,464	6,964
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—F-18 Aircraft Activations/Inactivations		[500]
330	SHIP ACTIVATIONS/INACTIVATIONS	361,764	361,764
340	EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEMS	69,530	69,530
350	INDUSTRIAL READINESS	2,237	2,237
360	COAST GUARD SUPPORT	21,823	21,823
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	884,664	885,164
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
370	OFFICER ACQUISITION	149,375	149,375
380	RECRUIT TRAINING	9,035	9,035
390	RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS	156,290	156,290
400	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	653,728	653,728
410	FLIGHT TRAINING	8,171	8,171
420	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	168,471	162,471
	Civilian Institutions Graduate Education Program		[-6,000]
430	TRAINING SUPPORT	196,048	196,048
440	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	234,233	235,233
	Naval Sea Cadet Corps		[1,000]
450	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	137,855	137,855
460	CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING	77,257	77,257
470	JUNIOR ROTC	47,653	47,653
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	1,838,116	1,833,116

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
480	ADMINISTRATION	923,771	923,771
490	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	13,967	13,967
500	CIVILIAN MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	120,812	120,812
510	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	350,983	346,983
	Unjustified growth		[-4,000]
520	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	265,948	260,948
	Navy Fleet Band National Tour		[-5,000]
530	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	335,482	335,482
550	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	197,724	197,724
570	PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN	274,936	274,936
580	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	1,122,178	1,122,178
590	HULL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SUPPORT	48,587	48,587
600	COMBAT/WEAPONS SYSTEMS	25,599	25,599
610	SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS	72,768	72,768
620	NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	577,803	577,803
680	INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND AGENCIES	4,768	4,768
710	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	560,754	560,754
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	4,896,080	4,887,080
UNDISTRIBUTED			
720	UNDISTRIBUTED		-856,200
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-610,000]
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-87,000]
	Streamlining of Navy Management Headquarters		[-159,200]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-856,200
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	21,997,790	21,184,590
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS			
OPERATING FORCES			
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	227,583	227,583
040	MARITIME PREPOSITIONING	86,259	86,259
050	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	746,237	775,037
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[28,800]
060	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	2,057,362	2,057,362
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	3,117,441	3,146,241
TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
070	RECRUIT TRAINING	16,460	16,460
080	OFFICER ACQUISITION	977	977
090	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	97,325	97,325
100	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	40,786	40,786
120	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	164,806	164,806
130	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	39,963	39,963
140	JUNIOR ROTC	23,397	23,397
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	383,714	383,714
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
150	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	37,386	37,386
160	ADMINISTRATION	358,395	351,695
	Unjustified Growth Marine Corps Heritage Center		[-6,700]
180	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	76,105	76,105
200	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	45,429	45,429
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	517,315	510,615
UNDISTRIBUTED			
210	UNDISTRIBUTED		-87,700
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-25,000]
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-28,000]
	Streamlining of Marine Corps Management Headquarters		[-24,700]
	Working Capital Fund carryover above allowable ceiling		[-10,000]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-87,700
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	4,018,470	3,952,870
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES			
OPERATING FORCES			
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	563,722	563,722
020	INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE	6,218	6,218

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
030	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	82,712	82,712
040	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	326	326
050	AVIATION LOGISTICS	13,436	13,436
070	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	557	557
090	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	14,499	14,499
100	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	117,601	117,601
120	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION	29,382	29,382
130	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	48,513	49,213
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[700]
140	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	102,858	102,858
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	979,824	980,524
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES		
150	ADMINISTRATION	1,505	1,505
160	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	13,782	13,782
170	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	3,437	3,437
180	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	3,210	3,210
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	21,934	21,934
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
210	UNDISTRIBUTED		-42,100
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-41,000]
	Streamlining of Navy Reserve Management Headquarters		[-1,100]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-42,100
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES	1,001,758	960,358
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	OPERATING FORCES	97,631	97,631
020	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	18,254	18,254
030	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	28,653	30,053
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[1,400]
040	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	111,923	111,923
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	256,461	257,861
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES		
050	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	924	924
060	ADMINISTRATION	10,866	10,866
070	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	8,785	8,785
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	20,575	20,575
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
080	UNDISTRIBUTED		-2,100
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-1,000]
	Streamlining of Marine Corps Reserve Management Headquarters		[-1,100]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-2,100
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE	277,036	276,336
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	3,336,868	3,599,468
	A-10 restoration: Force Structure Restoration		[235,300]
	EC-130H Force Structure Restoration		[27,300]
020	COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	1,897,315	1,915,015
	Increase Range Use Support Unfunded Requirement		[37,700]
	Unjustified growth		[-20,000]
030	AIR OPERATIONS TRAINING (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS)	1,797,549	1,690,349
	A-10 to F-15E Training Transition		[-78,200]
	Unjustified growth		[-29,000]
040	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	6,537,127	6,497,127
	Remove FY 15 contractor logistics support costs		[-40,000]
050	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	1,997,712	2,132,812
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[135,100]
060	BASE SUPPORT	2,841,948	2,841,948
120	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	900,965	889,965
	Unjustified growth		[-11,000]
130	COMBATANT COMMANDERS CORE OPERATIONS	205,078	205,078
135	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	893,272	893,272

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	20,407,834	20,665,034
	MOBILIZATION		
170	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	259,956	259,956
180	BASE SUPPORT	708,799	708,799
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	968,755	968,755
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
190	OFFICER ACQUISITION	92,191	92,191
200	RECRUIT TRAINING	21,871	21,871
210	RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)	77,527	77,527
220	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	228,500	228,500
230	BASE SUPPORT	772,870	772,870
240	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	359,304	379,304
	Remotely Piloted Aircraft Flight Training Acceleration		[20,000]
250	FLIGHT TRAINING	710,553	726,553
	Consolidation of Air Battle Manager Resources not properly documented		[-4,000]
	Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) Training		[20,000]
260	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	228,252	228,252
270	TRAINING SUPPORT	76,464	76,464
280	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	375,513	375,513
290	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	79,690	79,690
300	EXAMINING	3,803	3,803
310	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	180,807	180,807
320	CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING	167,478	167,478
330	JUNIOR ROTC	59,263	59,263
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	3,434,086	3,470,086
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES		
350	TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	862,022	842,022
	Unjustified growth		[-20,000]
360	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	61,745	61,745
370	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	298,759	298,759
380	BASE SUPPORT	1,108,220	1,108,220
390	ADMINISTRATION	689,797	681,797
	DEAMS reduction-Funding ahead of need		[-8,000]
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	498,053	498,053
410	OTHER SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	900,253	900,253
420	CIVIL AIR PATROL	25,411	27,711
	Civil Air Patrol		[2,300]
450	INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	89,148	89,148
460	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,187,859	1,187,859
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	5,721,267	5,695,567
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
470	UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,006,500
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-580,000]
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-217,000]
	Streamlining of Air Force Management Headquarters		[-209,500]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,006,500
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	30,531,942	29,792,942
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,779,378	1,781,878
	A-10 restoration: Force Structure Restoration		[2,500]
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	226,243	220,243
	Justification does not match summary of price and program changes for civilian pay		[-6,000]
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	487,036	487,036
040	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	109,342	109,642
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[300]
050	BASE SUPPORT	373,707	370,707
	Air Force Support Standard Correction—transfer to SAG 11G not properly accounted		[-3,000]
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,975,706	2,969,506
	ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES		
060	ADMINISTRATION	53,921	53,921
070	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	14,359	14,359
080	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERS MGMT (ARPC)	13,665	13,665

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
090	OTHER PERS SUPPORT (DISABILITY COMP)	6,606	6,606
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	88,551	88,551
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
110	UNDISTRIBUTED		-107,500
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-104,000]
	Streamlining of Air Force Reserve Management Headquarters		[-3,500]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-107,500
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE	3,064,257	2,950,557
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG OPERATING FORCES		
010	AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS	3,526,471	3,568,671
	A-10 restoration: Force Structure Restoration		[42,200]
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	740,779	743,379
	ARNG border security enhancement		[2,600]
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,763,859	1,763,859
040	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	288,786	307,586
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[18,800]
050	BASE SUPPORT	582,037	582,037
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	6,901,932	6,965,532
	ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE-WIDE ACTIVITIES		
060	ADMINISTRATION	23,626	23,626
070	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	30,652	30,652
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE-WIDE ACTIVITIES	54,278	54,278
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
080	UNDISTRIBUTED		-200,300
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-168,000]
	Streamlining of Air National Guard Management Headquarters		[-2,300]
	Unjustified growth		[-30,000]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-200,300
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG	6,956,210	6,819,510
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE OPERATING FORCES		
010	JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF	485,888	505,888
	Middle East Assurance Initiative		[20,000]
020	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	534,795	534,795
030	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/OPERATING FORCES	4,862,368	4,841,168
	Overestimation of civilian FTE		[-21,200]
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	5,883,051	5,881,851
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
040	DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY	142,659	142,659
050	NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY	78,416	78,416
060	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/TRAINING AND RECRUITING	354,372	354,372
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	575,447	575,447
	ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES		
070	CIVIL MILITARY PROGRAMS	160,320	180,320
	STARBASE		[20,000]
090	DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY	570,177	570,177
100	DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY	1,374,536	1,374,536
110	DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY	642,551	642,551
120	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY	1,282,755	1,292,755
	SHARKSEER		[10,000]
140	DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY	26,073	26,073
150	DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY	366,429	366,429
160	DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY	192,625	192,625
180	DEFENSE PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING AGENCY	115,372	115,372
190	DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY	524,723	495,523
	Global Security Contingency Fund		[-22,200]
	Reduction to Combating Terrorism Fellowship		[-7,000]
200	DEFENSE SECURITY SERVICE	508,396	508,396
230	DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	33,577	33,577
240	DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY	415,696	415,696

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
260	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	2,753,771	2,784,021
	Impact Aid		[30,000]
	School lunches for territories		[250]
270	MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY	432,068	432,068
290	OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT	110,612	110,612
300	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	1,388,285	1,393,535
	Commission to Assess the Threat to the U.S. from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack		[2,000]
	OSD fleet architecture study		[1,000]
	OUSD (Policy) unjustified growth		[-2,000]
	OUSD AT&L Congressional Mandate (BRAC Support)		[-10,500]
	Readiness environmental protection initiative—program increase		[14,750]
310	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/ADMIN & SVC-WIDE ACTIVITIES	83,263	83,263
320	WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	621,688	621,688
330	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	14,379,428	14,379,428
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	25,982,345	26,018,645
	UNDISTRIBUTED		
340	UNDISTRIBUTED		-791,300
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-37,000]
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-78,400]
	Program decrease		[-5,000]
	Streamlining of Department of Defense Management Headquarters		[-670,900]
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-791,300
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	32,440,843	31,684,643
	MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS		
	MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS		
010	US COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES, DEFENSE	14,078	14,078
020	OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER AND CIVIC AID	100,266	100,266
030	COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION	358,496	358,496
040	ACQ WORKFORCE DEV FD	84,140	84,140
050	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, ARMY	234,829	234,829
060	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY	292,453	292,453
070	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE	368,131	368,131
080	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE	8,232	8,232
090	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FORMERLY USED SITES	203,717	203,717
	SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS	1,664,342	1,664,342
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS	1,664,342	1,664,342
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	138,227,228	135,927,328

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MANEUVER UNITS	257,900	257,900
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	1,110,836	1,110,836
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	261,943	261,943
060	AVIATION ASSETS	22,160	22,160
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,119,201	1,119,201
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	117,881	117,881
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	50,000	50,000
140	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	4,500,666	4,526,466
	Army expenses related to Syria Train and Equip program		[25,800]
150	COMMANDERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM	10,000	5,000
	Program decrease		[-5,000]
160	RESET	1,834,777	1,834,777
170	COMBATANT COMMANDS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT		100,000
	AFRICOM Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance		[100,000]
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	9,285,364	9,406,164
	MOBILIZATION		
190	ARMY PREPOSITIONED STOCKS	40,000	40,000

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	40,000	40,000
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
350	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	529,891	529,891
380	AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT	5,033	5,033
420	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	100,480	100,480
450	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	154,350	154,350
530	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,267,632	1,267,632
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	2,057,386	2,057,386
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	11,382,750	11,503,550
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES		
	OPERATING FORCES		
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	2,442	2,442
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	813	813
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	779	779
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	20,525	20,525
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	24,559	24,559
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES	24,559	24,559
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MANEUVER UNITS	1,984	1,984
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	4,671	4,671
060	AVIATION ASSETS	15,980	15,980
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	12,867	12,867
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	23,134	23,134
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	1,426	1,426
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	60,062	60,062
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES		
150	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	783	783
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	783	783
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG	60,845	60,845
	AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND		
	MINISTRY OF DEFENSE		
010	SUSTAINMENT	2,214,899	2,214,899
030	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	182,751	182,751
040	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	281,555	281,555
	SUBTOTAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE	2,679,205	2,679,205
	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR		
060	SUSTAINMENT	901,137	901,137
080	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	116,573	116,573
090	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	65,342	65,342
	SUBTOTAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR	1,083,052	1,083,052
	TOTAL AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND	3,762,257	3,762,257
	IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND		
	IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND		
010	IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	715,000	715,000
	SUBTOTAL IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	715,000	715,000
	TOTAL IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	715,000	715,000
	SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND		
	SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND		
010	SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	600,000	531,450
	Realignment to Air Force		[-42,750]
	Realignment to Army		[-25,800]
	SUBTOTAL SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	600,000	531,450
	TOTAL SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	600,000	531,450
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY		

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
OPERATING FORCES			
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	358,417	361,717
	Readiness funding increase		[3,300]
030	AVIATION TECHNICAL DATA & ENGINEERING SERVICES	110	110
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	4,513	4,513
050	AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	126,501	126,501
060	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	75,897	92,897
	Readiness funding increase		[17,000]
070	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	2,770	2,770
080	AVIATION LOGISTICS	34,101	34,101
090	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	1,184,878	1,184,878
100	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	16,663	16,663
110	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,922,829	1,922,829
130	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	33,577	33,577
160	WARFARE TACTICS	26,454	26,454
170	OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	22,305	22,305
180	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	513,969	513,969
190	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	10,007	10,007
250	IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	60,865	60,865
260	WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	275,231	275,231
290	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	7,819	7,819
300	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	61,422	61,422
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	4,738,328	4,758,628
MOBILIZATION			
340	EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEMS	5,307	5,307
360	COAST GUARD SUPPORT	160,002	160,002
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	165,309	165,309
TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
400	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	44,845	44,845
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	44,845	44,845
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
480	ADMINISTRATION	2,513	2,513
490	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	500	500
510	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	5,309	5,309
520	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	1,469	1,469
550	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	156,671	156,671
580	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	8,834	8,834
620	NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	1,490	1,490
710	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	6,320	6,320
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	183,106	183,106
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	5,131,588	5,151,888
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS			
OPERATING FORCES			
010	OPERATIONAL FORCES	353,133	353,133
020	FIELD LOGISTICS	259,676	259,676
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	240,000	240,000
060	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	16,026	16,026
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	868,835	868,835
TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
110	TRAINING SUPPORT	37,862	37,862
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	37,862	37,862
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
150	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	43,767	43,767
200	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	2,070	2,070
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	45,837	45,837
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	952,534	952,534
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES			
OPERATING FORCES			
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	4,033	4,033
020	INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE	60	60
030	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	20,300	20,300

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
100	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	7,250	7,250
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	31,643	31,643
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES	31,643	31,643
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE OPERATING FORCES		
010	OPERATING FORCES	2,500	2,500
040	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	955	955
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	3,455	3,455
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE	3,455	3,455
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE OPERATING FORCES		
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,505,738	1,548,488
	Air Force expenses related to Syria Train and Equip program		[42,750]
020	COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	914,973	919,273
	Readiness funding increase		[4,300]
030	AIR OPERATIONS TRAINING (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS)	31,978	31,978
040	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,192,765	1,192,765
050	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	85,625	85,625
060	BASE SUPPORT	917,269	917,269
070	GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	30,219	30,219
080	OTHER COMBAT OPS SPT PROGRAMS	174,734	174,734
100	LAUNCH FACILITIES	869	869
110	SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	5,008	5,008
120	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	100,190	100,190
135	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	22,893	22,893
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	4,982,261	5,029,311
	MOBILIZATION		
140	AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	2,995,703	2,995,703
150	MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	108,163	108,163
160	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	511,059	511,059
180	BASE SUPPORT	4,642	4,642
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	3,619,567	3,619,567
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
190	OFFICER ACQUISITION	92	92
240	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	11,986	11,986
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	12,078	12,078
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES		
340	LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	86,716	86,716
380	BASE SUPPORT	3,836	3,836
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	165,348	165,348
410	OTHER SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	204,683	141,683
	Reduction to the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq		[-63,000]
450	INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	61	61
460	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	15,463	15,463
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	476,107	413,107
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	9,090,013	9,074,063
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE OPERATING FORCES		
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	51,086	51,086
050	BASE SUPPORT	7,020	7,020
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	58,106	58,106
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE	58,106	58,106
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG OPERATING FORCES		
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	19,900	19,900
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	19,900	19,900
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG	19,900	19,900

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE OPERATING FORCES			
010	JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF	9,900	9,900
030	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/OPERATING FORCES	2,345,835	2,345,835
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,355,735	2,355,735
ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES			
090	DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY	18,474	18,474
120	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY	29,579	29,579
140	DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY	110,000	110,000
160	DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY	5,960	5,960
190	DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY	1,677,000	1,577,000
	Reduction from Coalition Support Funds		[-100,000]
260	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	73,000	73,000
300	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	106,709	106,709
320	WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	2,102	2,102
330	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,427,074	1,427,074
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	3,449,898	3,349,898
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	5,805,633	5,705,633
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	37,638,283	37,594,883

SEC. 4303. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BASE REQUIREMENTS.

SEC. 4303. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BASE REQUIREMENTS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY OPERATING FORCES			
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	508,008	508,008
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	763,300	763,300
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,054,322	1,054,322
060	AVIATION ASSETS	1,546,129	1,546,129
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	3,158,606	3,158,606
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	438,909	438,909
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	7,469,274	7,469,274
MOBILIZATION			
190	ARMY PREPOSITIONED STOCKS	261,683	261,683
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	261,683	261,683
ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES			
350	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	485,778	485,778
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	485,778	485,778
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	8,216,735	8,216,735
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY OPERATING FORCES			
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	4,940,365	4,940,365
020	FLEET AIR TRAINING	1,830,611	1,830,611
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	103,456	103,456
070	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	33,201	33,201
090	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	4,287,658	4,287,658
100	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	787,446	787,446
110	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	5,960,951	5,960,951
120	SHIP DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,554,863	1,554,863
130	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	704,415	704,415
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	20,202,966	20,202,966
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	20,202,966	20,202,966
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS OPERATING FORCES			
010	OPERATIONAL FORCES	931,079	931,079
020	FIELD LOGISTICS	931,757	931,757
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	1,862,836	1,862,836

SEC. 4303. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BASE REQUIREMENTS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Line</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
TRAINING AND RECRUITING			
110	TRAINING SUPPORT	347,476	347,476
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	347,476	347,476
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	2,210,312	2,210,312
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE			
OPERATING FORCES			
070	GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	930,341	930,341
080	OTHER COMBAT OPS SPT PROGRAMS	924,845	924,845
100	LAUNCH FACILITIES	271,177	271,177
110	SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	382,824	382,824
135	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	14,224	14,224
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,523,411	2,523,411
MOBILIZATION			
140	AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	2,229,196	2,229,196
150	MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	148,318	148,318
160	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,617,571	1,617,571
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	3,995,085	3,995,085
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES			
340	LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	1,141,491	1,141,491
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	1,141,491	1,141,491
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	7,659,987	7,659,987
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	38,290,000	38,290,000

TITLE XLIV—MILITARY PERSONNEL

SEC. 4401. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

SEC. 4401. MILITARY PERSONNEL
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Military Personnel Appropriations	130,491,227	129,468,888
A-10 restoration: Military Personnel		[132,000]
Additional support for the National Guard's Operation Phalanx		[21,700]
Basic Housing Allowance		[300,000]
EC-130H Force Structure Restoration		[18,200]
Financial Literacy Training		[85,000]
Foreign Currency adjustments		[−480,500]
National Guard State Partnership Program increase		[4,300]
Projected understrength		[−115,839]
Unobligated balances		[−987,200]
Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Fund Contributions	6,243,449	6,243,449
Total, Military Personnel	136,734,676	135,712,337

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Item</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Military Personnel Appropriations	3,204,758	3,204,758
Total, Military Personnel Appropriations	3,204,758	3,204,758

TITLE XLV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 4501. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS.

SEC. 4501. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS (In Thousands of Dollars)		
Program Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, ARMY		
INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS		
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT—ARMY	50,432	50,432
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, ARMY	50,432	50,432
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE		
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	62,898	62,898
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	62,898	62,898
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE		
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT—DEF		
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA)	45,084	45,084
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	45,084	45,084
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DECA		
COMMISSARY RESALE STOCKS		
COMMISSARY OPERATIONS	1,154,154	1,435,354
Restoration of Proposed Efficiencies		[142,200]
Restoration of Savings from Legislative Proposals		[139,000]
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DECA	1,154,154	1,435,354
NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND		
MPF MLP		
POST DELIVERY AND OUTFITTING	15,456	15,456
NATIONAL DEF SEALIFT VESSEL		
LG MED SPD RO/RO MAINTENANCE	124,493	124,493
DOD MOBILIZATION ALTERATIONS	8,243	8,243
TAH MAINTENANCE	27,784	27,784
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	25,197	25,197
READY RESERVE FORCE	272,991	272,991
TOTAL NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND	474,164	474,164
CHEM AGENTS & MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION		
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	139,098	139,098
RDT&E	579,342	579,342
PROCUREMENT	2,281	2,281
TOTAL CHEM AGENTS & MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION	720,721	720,721
DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF		
DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE	739,009	761,009
SOUTHCOM Operational Support for Central America		[30,000]
Transfer to Demand Reduction Program		[-8,000]
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM	111,589	119,589
Expanded drug testing		[8,000]
TOTAL DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF	850,598	880,598
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	310,459	310,459
RDT&E	4,700	2,100
Funding ahead of need		[-2,600]
PROCUREMENT	1,000	-1,000
Program decrease		[-1,000]
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	316,159	312,559
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM		
IN-HOUSE CARE	9,082,298	8,962,926
Consolidated health plan unauthorized		[-29,719]
Pharmacy benefit reform unauthorized		[-30,528]
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases		[-59,125]
PRIVATE SECTOR CARE	14,892,683	14,886,930
Access to TRICARE Prime for certain beneficiaries		[4,000]
TRICARE consolidation not authorized		[-9,753]
CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SUPPORT	2,415,658	2,300,164
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases		[-115,494]
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	1,677,827	1,654,814
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases		[-23,013]
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	327,967	325,908

SEC. 4501. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program Title</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases		[-2,059]
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	750,614	750,614
BASE OPERATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS	1,742,893	1,741,690
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increase		[-1,203]
RESEARCH	10,996	10,996
EXPLORATRY DEVELOPMENT	59,473	59,473
ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	231,356	231,356
DEMONSTRATION/VALIDATION	103,443	103,443
ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT	515,910	515,910
MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT	41,567	41,567
CAPABILITIES ENHANCEMENT	17,356	17,356
UNDISTRIBUTED		
INITIAL OUTFITTING	33,392	33,392
REPLACEMENT & MODERNIZATION	330,504	330,504
THEATER MEDICAL INFORMATION PROGRAM	1,494	1,494
IEHR	7,897	7,897
UNDISTRIBUTED		-433,300
Foreign Currency adjustments		[-54,700]
Unobligated balances		[-378,600]
TOTAL DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM	32,243,328	31,543,134
TOTAL OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS	35,917,538	35,524,944

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program Title</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE		
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		
TRANSPORTATION OF FALLEN HEROES	2,500	2,500
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	2,500	2,500
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE		
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT—DEF		
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA)	86,350	86,350
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	86,350	86,350
DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF		
DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE	186,000	186,000
TOTAL DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF	186,000	186,000
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	10,262	10,262
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	10,262	10,262
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM		
IN-HOUSE CARE	65,149	65,149
PRIVATE SECTOR CARE	192,210	192,210
CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SUPPORT	9,460	9,460
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	5,885	5,885
TOTAL DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM	272,704	272,704
UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE		
UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE		300,000
Provides assistance to Ukraine		[300,000]
TOTAL UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE		300,000
COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND		
COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	2,100,000	1,000,000
Program decrease		[-1,100,000]
TOTAL COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	2,100,000	1,000,000
TOTAL OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS	2,657,816	1,857,816

TITLE XLVI—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (In Thousands of Dollars)				
Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	Alaska			
Army	Fort Greely	Physical Readiness Training Facility	7,800	7,800
	California			
Army	Concord	Pier	98,000	98,000
	Colorado			
Army	Fort Carson, Colorado	Rotary Wing Taxiway	5,800	5,800
	Cuba			
Army	Guantanamo Bay	Unaccompanied Personnel Housing	0	0
	Georgia			
Army	Fort Gordon	Command and Control Facility	90,000	90,000
	Germany			
Army	Grafenwoehr	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	51,000	51,000
	Maryland			
Army	Fort Meade	Access Control Point—Mapes Road	0	15,000
Army	Fort Meade	Access Control Point—Reece Road	0	19,500
	New York			
Army	Fort Drum	NCO Academy Complex	19,000	19,000
Army	U.S. Military Academy	Waste Water Treatment Plant	70,000	70,000
	Oklahoma			
Army	Fort Sill	Reception Barracks Complex Ph2	56,000	56,000
Army	Fort Sill	Training Support Facility	13,400	13,400
	Texas			
Army	Corpus Christi	Powertrain Facility (Infrastructure/Metal)	85,000	85,000
Army	Joint Base San Antonio	Homeland Defense Operations Center	43,000	0
	Virginia			
Army	Arlington National Cemetery	Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion (DAR)	0	30,000
Army	Fort Lee	Training Support Facility	33,000	33,000
Army	Joint Base Myer-Henderson	Instruction Building	37,000	0
	Worldwide Unspecified			
Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Host Nation Support	36,000	36,000
Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Minor Construction	25,000	25,000
Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	73,245	73,245
Military Construction, Army Total			743,245	727,745
	Arizona			
Navy	Yuma	Aircraft Maint. Facilities & Apron (So. CALA)	50,635	50,635
	Bahrain Island			
Navy	SW Asia	Mina Salman Pier Replacement	37,700	37,700
Navy	SW Asia	Ship Maintenance Support Facility	52,091	52,091
	California			
Navy	Camp Pendleton	Pendleton Ops Center	0	0
Navy	Camp Pendleton	Raw Water Pipeline Pendleton to Fallbrook	44,540	44,540
Navy	Coronado	Coastal Campus Utilities	4,856	4,856
Navy	Lemoore	F-35C Hangar Modernization and Addition	56,497	56,497
Navy	Lemoore	F-35C Training Facilities	8,187	8,187
Navy	Lemoore	RTO and Mission Debrief Facility	7,146	7,146
Navy	Miramar	KC-130J Enlisted Air Crew Trainer	0	11,200
Navy	Point Mugu	E-2C/D Hangar Additions and Renovations	19,453	19,453
Navy	Point Mugu	Triton Avionics and Fuel Systems Trainer	2,974	2,974
Navy	San Diego	LCS Support Facility	37,366	37,366
Navy	Twentynine Palms	Microgrid Expansion	9,160	9,160
	Florida			
Navy	Jacksonville	Fleet Support Facility Addition	8,455	8,455
Navy	Jacksonville	Triton Mission Control Facility	8,296	8,296
Navy	Mayport	LCS Mission Module Readiness Center	16,159	16,159
Navy	Pensacola	A-School Unaccompanied Housing (Corry Station)	18,347	18,347
Navy	Whiting Field	T-6B JPATS Training Operations Facility	10,421	10,421
	Georgia			
Navy	Albany	Ground Source Heat Pumps	7,851	7,851
Navy	Kings Bay	Industrial Control System Infrastructure	8,099	8,099
Navy	Townsend	Townsend Bombing Range Expansion Phase 2	48,279	43,279
	Guam			
Navy	Joint Region Marianas	Live-Fire Training Range Complex (NW Field)	125,677	125,677
Navy	Joint Region Marianas	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Closure	10,777	10,777
Navy	Joint Region Marianas	Sanitary Sewer System Recapitalization	45,314	45,314
	Hawaii			

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
Navy	Barking Sands	PMRF Power Grid Consolidation	30,623	30,623
Navy	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	UEM Interconnect Sta C to Hickam	6,335	6,335
Navy	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	Welding School Shop Consolidation	8,546	8,546
Navy	Kaneohe Bay	Airfield Lighting Modernization	26,097	26,097
Navy	Kaneohe Bay	Bachelor Enlisted Quarters	68,092	68,092
Navy	Kaneohe Bay	P-8A Detachment Support Facilities	12,429	12,429
Navy	MCB Hawaii	LHD Pad Conversions MV-22 Landing Pads	0	0
	Italy			
Navy	Sigonella	P-8A Hangar and Fleet Support Facility	62,302	62,302
Navy	Sigonella	Triton Hangar and Operation Facility	40,641	40,641
	Japan			
Navy	Camp Butler	Military Working Dog Facilities (Camp Hansen)	11,697	11,697
Navy	Iwakuni	E-2D Operational Trainer Complex	8,716	8,716
Navy	Iwakuni	Security Modifications—CVW5/MAG12 HQ	9,207	9,207
Navy	Kadena AB	Aircraft Maint. Shelters & Apron	23,310	23,310
Navy	Yokosuka	Child Development Center	13,846	13,846
	Maryland			
Navy	Patuxent River	Unaccompanied Housing	40,935	40,935
	North Carolina			
Navy	Camp Lejeune	2nd Radio BN Complex Operations Consolidation	0	0
Navy	Camp Lejeune	Range Safety Improvements	0	0
Navy	Camp Lejeune	Simulator Integration/Range Control Facility	54,849	54,849
Navy	Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station	Air Field Security Improvements	0	23,300
Navy	Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station	KC-130J Enlsited Air Crew Trainer Facility	4,769	4,769
Navy	Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station	Unmanned Aircraft System Facilities	29,657	29,657
Navy	New River	Operational Trainer Facility	3,312	3,312
Navy	New River	Radar Air Traffic Control Facility Addition	4,918	4,918
	Poland			
Navy	RedziKowo Base	AEGIS Ashore Missile Defense Complex	51,270	51,270
	South Carolina			
Navy	Parris Island	Range Safety Improvements & Modernization	27,075	27,075
	Virginia			
Navy	Dam Neck	Maritime Surveillance System Facility	23,066	23,066
Navy	Norfolk	Communications Center	75,289	75,289
Navy	Norfolk	Electrical Repairs to Piers 2,6,7, and 11	44,254	44,254
Navy	Norfolk	MH-60 Helicopter Training Facility	7,134	7,134
Navy	Portsmouth	Waterfront Utilities	45,513	45,513
Navy	Quantico	ATFP Gate	5,840	5,840
Navy	Quantico	Electrical Distribution Upgrade	8,418	8,418
Navy	Quantico	Embassy Security Guard BEQ & Ops Facility	43,941	43,941
Navy	Quantico	TBS Fire Station Replacement	0	0
	Washington			
Navy	Bangor	Regional Ship Maintenance Support Facility	0	0
Navy	Bangor	WRA Land/Water Interface	34,177	34,177
Navy	Bremerton	Dry Dock 6 Modernization & Utility Improve.	22,680	22,680
Navy	Indian Island	Shore Power to Ammunition Pier	4,472	4,472
	Worldwide Unspecified			
Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCON Design Funds	91,649	91,649
Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Unspecified Minor Construction	22,590	22,590
Military Construction, Navy Total			1,605,929	1,635,429
	Alaska			
AF	Eielson AFB	F-35A Flight Sim/Alter Squad Ops/AMU Facility	37,000	37,000
AF	Eielson AFB	Rpr Central Heat & Power Plant Boiler Ph3	34,400	34,400
	Arizona			
AF	Davis-Monthan AFB	HC-130J Age Covered Storage	4,700	4,700
AF	Davis-Monthan AFB	HC-130J Wash Rack	12,200	12,200
AF	Luke AFB	Communications Facility	0	21,000
AF	Luke AFB	F-35A ADAL Fuel Offload Facility	5,000	5,000
AF	Luke AFB	F-35A Aircraft Maintenance Hangar/Sq 3	13,200	13,200
AF	Luke AFB	F-35A Bomb Build-up Facility	5,500	5,500
AF	Luke AFB	F-35A Sq Ops/AMU/Hangar/Sq 4	33,000	33,000
	Colorado			
AF	U.S. Air Force Academy	Front Gates Force Protection Enhancements	10,000	10,000
	Florida			
AF	Cape Canaveral AFS	Range Communications Facility	21,000	21,000

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
AF	Eglin AFB	F-35A Consolidated HQ Facility	8,700	8,700
AF	Hurlburt Field	ADAL 39 Information Operations Squad Facility	14,200	14,200
	Greenland			
AF	Thule AB	Thule Consolidation PH 1	41,965	41,965
	Guam			
AF	Joint Region Marianas	APR—Dispersed Maint Spares & SE Storage Fac	19,000	19,000
AF	Joint Region Marianas	APR—Installation Control Center	22,200	22,200
AF	Joint Region Marianas	APR—South Ramp Utilities Phase 2	7,100	7,100
AF	Joint Region Marianas	PAR—Lo/Corrosion Cntrl/Composite Repair	0	0
AF	Joint Region Marianas	PRTC Roads	2,500	2,500
	Hawaii			
AF	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	F-22 Fighter Alert Facility	46,000	46,000
	Japan			
AF	Yokota AB	C-130J Flight Simulator Facility	8,461	8,461
	Kansas			
AF	McConnell AFB	Air Traffic Control Tower	0	0
AF	McConnell AFB	KC-46A ADAL Deicing Pads	4,300	4,300
	Louisiana			
AF	Barksdale AFB	Consolidated Communications Facility	0	0
	Maryland			
AF	Fort Meade	CYBERCOM Joint Operations Center, Increment 3	86,000	86,000
	Missouri			
AF	Whiteman AFB	Consolidated Stealth Ops & Nuclear Alert Fac	29,500	29,500
	Montana			
AF	Malmstrom AFB	Tactical Response Force Alert Facility	19,700	19,700
	Nebraska			
AF	Offutt AFB	Dormitory (144 RM)	21,000	21,000
	Nevada			
AF	Nellis AFB	F-35A Airfield Pavements	31,000	31,000
AF	Nellis AFB	F-35A Live Ordnance Loading Area	34,500	34,500
AF	Nellis AFB	F-35A Munitions Maintenance Facilities	3,450	3,450
	New Mexico			
AF	Cannon AFB	Construct AT/FP Gate—Portales	7,800	7,800
AF	Holloman AFB	Fixed Ground Control	0	0
AF	Holloman AFB	Marshalling Area ARM/DE-ARM Pad D	3,000	3,000
AF	Kirtland AFB	Space Vehicles Component Development Lab	12,800	12,800
	New York			
AF	Fort Drum	ASOS Expansion	0	0
	Niger			
AF	Agadez	Construct Airfield and Base Camp	50,000	50,000
	North Carolina			
AF	Seymour Johnson AFB	Air Traffic Control Tower/Base Ops Facility	17,100	17,100
	Oklahoma			
AF	Altus AFB	Dormitory (120 RM)	18,000	18,000
AF	Altus AFB	KC-46A FTU ADAL Fuel Cell Maint Hangar	10,400	10,400
AF	Tinker AFB	Air Traffic Control Tower	12,900	12,900
AF	Tinker AFB	KC-46A Depot Maintenance Dock	37,000	37,000
	Oman			
AF	Al Musannah AB	Airlift Apron	25,000	25,000
	South Dakota			
AF	Ellsworth AFB	Dormitory (168 RM)	23,000	23,000
	Texas			
AF	Joint Base San Antonio	BMT Classrooms/Dining Facility 3	35,000	35,000
AF	Joint Base San Antonio	BMT Recruit Dormitory 5	71,000	71,000
	United Kingdom			
AF	RAF Croughton	Consolidated SATCOM/Tech Control Facility	36,424	36,424
AF	RAF Croughton	JIAC Consolidation—PH 2	94,191	94,191
	Utah			
AF	Hill AFB	F-35A Flight Simulator Addition Phase 2	5,900	5,900
AF	Hill AFB	F-35A Hangar 40/42 Additions and AMU	21,000	21,000
AF	Hill AFB	Hayman Igloos	11,500	11,500
	Worldwide Classified			
AF	Classified Location	Long Range Strike Bomber	77,130	77,130
AF	Classified Location	Munitions Storage	3,000	3,000
	Worldwide Unspecified			
AF	Various Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	89,164	89,164
AF	Various Worldwide Locations	Unspecified Minor Military Construction	22,900	22,900
	Wyoming			
AF	F. E. Warren AFB	Weapon Storage Facility	95,000	95,000

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
Military Construction, Air Force Total			1,354,785	1,375,785
	Alabama			
Def-Wide	Fort Rucker	Fort Rucker ES/PS Consolidation/Replacement	46,787	46,787
Def-Wide	Maxwell AFB	Maxwell ES/MS Replacement/Renovation	32,968	32,968
	Arizona			
Def-Wide	Fort Huachuca	JITC Buildings 52101/52111 Renovations	3,884	3,884
	California			
Def-Wide	Camp Pendleton	SOF Combat Service Support Facility	10,181	10,181
Def-Wide	Camp Pendleton	SOF Performance Resiliency Center-West	10,371	10,371
Def-Wide	Coronado	SOF Logistics Support Unit One Ops Fac. #2	47,218	47,218
Def-Wide	Fresno Yosemite IAP ANG	Replace Fuel Storage and Distrib. Facilities	10,700	10,700
	Colorado			
Def-Wide	Fort Carson, Colorado	SOF Language Training Facility	8,243	8,243
	Comus Classified			
Def-Wide	Classified Location	Operations Support Facility	20,065	20,065
	Delaware			
Def-Wide	Dover AFB	Construct Hydrant Fuel System	21,600	21,600
	Djibouti			
Def-Wide	Camp Lemonier	Construct Fuel Storage & Distrib. Facilities	43,700	43,700
	Florida			
Def-Wide	Hurlburt Field	SOF Fuel Cell Maintenance Hangar	17,989	17,989
Def-Wide	MacDill AFB	SOF Operational Support Facility	39,142	39,142
	Georgia			
Def-Wide	Moody AFB	Replace Pumphouse and Truck Fillstands	10,900	10,900
	Germany			
Def-Wide	Garmisch	Garmisch E/MS-Addition/Modernization	14,676	14,676
Def-Wide	Grafenwoehr	Grafenwoehr Elementary School Replacement	38,138	38,138
Def-Wide	Rhine Ordnance Barracks	Medical Center Replacement Incr 5	85,034	85,034
Def-Wide	Spangdahlem AB	Construct Fuel Pipeline	5,500	5,500
Def-Wide	Spangdahlem AB	Medical/Dental Clinic Addition	34,071	34,071
Def-Wide	Stuttgart-Patch Barracks	Patch Elementary School Replacement	49,413	49,413
	Hawaii			
Def-Wide	Kaneohe Bay	Medical/Dental Clinic Replacement	122,071	122,071
Def-Wide	Schofield Barracks	Behavioral Health/Dental Clinic Addition	123,838	123,838
	Japan			
Def-Wide	Kadena AB	Airfield Pavements	37,485	37,485
	Kentucky			
Def-Wide	Fort Campbell, Kentucky	SOF Company HQ/Classrooms	12,553	12,553
Def-Wide	Fort Knox	Fort Knox HS Renovation/MS Addition	23,279	23,279
	Maryland			
Def-Wide	Fort Meade	NSAW Campus Feeders Phase 2	33,745	33,745
Def-Wide	Fort Meade	NSAW Recapitalize Building #2 Incr 1	34,897	34,897
	Nevada			
Def-Wide	Nellis AFB	Replace Hydrant Fuel System	39,900	39,900
	New Mexico			
Def-Wide	Cannon AFB	Construct Pumphouse and Fuel Storage	20,400	20,400
Def-Wide	Cannon AFB	SOF Squadron Operations Facility	11,565	11,565
Def-Wide	Cannon AFB	SOF ST Operational Training Facilities	13,146	13,146
	New York			
Def-Wide	West Point	West Point Elementary School Replacement	55,778	55,778
	North Carolina			
Def-Wide	Camp Lejeune	SOF Combat Service Support Facility	14,036	14,036
Def-Wide	Camp Lejeune	SOF Marine Battalion Company/Team Facilities	54,970	54,970
Def-Wide	Fort Bragg	Butner Elementary School Replacement	32,944	32,944
Def-Wide	Fort Bragg	SOF 21 STS Operations Facility	16,863	16,863
Def-Wide	Fort Bragg	SOF Battalion Operations Facility	38,549	38,549
Def-Wide	Fort Bragg	SOF Indoor Range	8,303	8,303
Def-Wide	Fort Bragg	SOF Intelligence Training Center	28,265	28,265
Def-Wide	Fort Bragg	SOF Special Tactics Facility (PH 2)	43,887	43,887
	Ohio			
Def-Wide	Wright-Patterson AFB	Satellite Pharmacy Replacement	6,623	6,623
	Oregon			
Def-Wide	Klamath Falls IAP	Replace Fuel Facilities	2,500	2,500
	Pennsylvania			
Def-Wide	Philadelphia	Replace Headquarters	49,700	49,700
	Poland			
Def-Wide	RedziKowo Base	AEGIS Ashore Missile Defense System Complex	169,153	169,153
	South Carolina			
Def-Wide	Fort Jackson	Pierce Terrace Elementary School Replacement	26,157	26,157

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(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	<i>Spain</i>			
Def-Wide	<i>Rota</i>	<i>Rota ES and HS Additions</i>	<i>13,737</i>	<i>13,737</i>
	<i>Texas</i>			
Def-Wide	<i>Fort Bliss</i>	<i>Hospital Replacement Incr 7</i>	<i>239,884</i>	<i>189,884</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Joint Base San Antonio</i>	<i>Ambulatory Care Center Phase 4</i>	<i>61,776</i>	<i>61,776</i>
	<i>Virginia</i>			
Def-Wide	<i>Fort Belvoir</i>	<i>Construct Visitor Control Center</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Fort Belvoir</i>	<i>Replace Ground Vehicle Fueling Facility</i>	<i>4,500</i>	<i>4,500</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Joint Base Langley-Eustis</i>	<i>Replace Fuel Pier and Distribution Facility</i>	<i>28,000</i>	<i>28,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek—Story</i>	<i>SOF Applied Instruction Facility</i>	<i>23,916</i>	<i>23,916</i>
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Contingency Construction</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>0</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>ECIP Design</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Energy Conservation Investment Program</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>150,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Exercise Related Minor Construction</i>	<i>8,687</i>	<i>8,687</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning and Design</i>	<i>13,500</i>	<i>13,500</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning and Design</i>	<i>42,183</i>	<i>42,183</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning and Design</i>	<i>31,628</i>	<i>31,628</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning and Design</i>	<i>1,078</i>	<i>1,078</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning and Design</i>	<i>3,041</i>	<i>3,041</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning and Design</i>	<i>27,202</i>	<i>27,202</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Unspecified Minor Construction</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Unspecified Minor Construction</i>	<i>3,000</i>	<i>3,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Unspecified Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Unspecified Minor Construction</i>	<i>15,676</i>	<i>15,676</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Various Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>East Coast Missile Site Planning and Design</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30,000</i>
Def-Wide	<i>Various Worldwide Locations</i>	<i>Planning & Design</i>	<i>31,772</i>	<i>31,772</i>
Military Construction, Defense-Wide Total			2,300,767	2,270,767
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			
NATO	<i>NATO Security Investment Program</i>	<i>NATO Security Investment Program</i>	<i>120,000</i>	<i>120,000</i>
NATO Security Investment Program Total			120,000	120,000
	<i>Alabama</i>			
Army NG	<i>Camp Foley</i>	<i>Vehicle Maintenance Shop</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4,500</i>
	<i>Connecticut</i>			
Army NG	<i>Camp Hartell</i>	<i>Ready Building (CST-WMD)</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>11,000</i>
	<i>Delaware</i>			
Army NG	<i>Dagsboro</i>	<i>National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop</i>	<i>10,800</i>	<i>10,800</i>
	<i>Florida</i>			
Army NG	<i>Palm Coast</i>	<i>National Guard Readiness Center</i>	<i>18,000</i>	<i>18,000</i>
	<i>Georgia</i>			
Army NG	<i>Fort Stewart</i>	<i>Tactical Aerial Unmanned Systems</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6,800</i>
	<i>Illinois</i>			
Army NG	<i>Sparta</i>	<i>Basic 10M–25M Firing Range (Zero)</i>	<i>1,900</i>	<i>1,900</i>
	<i>Kansas</i>			
Army NG	<i>Salina</i>	<i>Automated Combat Pistol/MP Firearms Qual Course</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>2,400</i>
Army NG	<i>Salina</i>	<i>Modified Record Fire Range</i>	<i>4,300</i>	<i>4,300</i>
	<i>Maryland</i>			
Army NG	<i>Easton</i>	<i>National Guard Readiness Center</i>	<i>13,800</i>	<i>13,800</i>
	<i>Mississippi</i>			
Army NG	<i>Gulfport</i>	<i>Aviation Classification and Repair</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>40,000</i>
	<i>Nevada</i>			
Army NG	<i>Reno</i>	<i>National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop Add/Alt</i>	<i>8,000</i>	<i>8,000</i>
	<i>Ohio</i>			
Army NG	<i>Camp Ravenna</i>	<i>Modified Record Fire Range</i>	<i>3,300</i>	<i>3,300</i>
	<i>Oregon</i>			
Army NG	<i>Salem</i>	<i>National Guard/Reserve Center Bldg Add/Alt (JFHQ)</i>	<i>16,500</i>	<i>16,500</i>
	<i>Pennsylvania</i>			
Army NG	<i>Fort Indiantown Gap</i>	<i>Training Aids Center</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,000</i>
	<i>Vermont</i>			
Army NG	<i>North Hyde Park</i>	<i>National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop Addition</i>	<i>7,900</i>	<i>7,900</i>
	<i>Virginia</i>			
Army NG	<i>Richmond</i>	<i>National Guard/Reserve Center Building (JFHQ)</i>	<i>29,000</i>	<i>29,000</i>
	<i>Washington</i>			
Army NG	<i>Yakima</i>	<i>Enlisted Barracks, Transient Training</i>	<i>19,000</i>	<i>19,000</i>
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			

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Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
Army NG	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	20,337	20,337
Army NG	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Unspecified Minor Construction	15,000	15,000
Military Construction, Army National Guard Total			197,237	248,537
Army Res	California			
	Miramar	Army Reserve Center	24,000	24,000
Army Res	Florida			
	MacDill AFB	AR Center/AS Facility	55,000	55,000
Army Res	Mississippi			
	Starkville	Army Reserve Center	9,300	9,300
Army Res	New York			
	Orangeburg	Organizational Maintenance Shop	4,200	4,200
Army Res	Pennsylvania			
	Conneaut Lake	DAR Highway Improvement	5,000	5,000
Army Res	Puerto Rico			
	Fort Buchanan	Access Control Point	0	10,200
Army Res	Virginia			
	Fort AP Hill	Equipment Concentration	0	24,000
Army Res	Worldwide Unspecified			
	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	9,318	9,318
Army Res	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Unspecified Minor Construction	6,777	6,777
Military Construction, Army Reserve Total			113,595	147,795
N/MC Res	Nevada			
	Fallon	NAVOPSPTCEN Fallon	11,480	11,480
N/MC Res	New York			
	Brooklyn	Reserve Center Storage Facility	2,479	2,479
N/MC Res	Virginia			
	Dam Neck	Reserve Training Center Complex	18,443	18,443
N/MC Res	Worldwide Unspecified			
	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCNR Planning & Design	2,208	2,208
N/MC Res	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCNR Unspecified Minor Construction	1,468	1,468
Military Construction, Naval Reserve Total			36,078	36,078
Air NG	Alabama			
	Dannelly Field	TFI—Replace Squadron Operations Facility	7,600	7,600
Air NG	Arkansas			
	Fort Smith MAP	Consolidated SCIF	0	0
Air NG	California			
	Moffett Field	Replace Vehicle Maintenance Facility	6,500	6,500
Air NG	Colorado			
	Buckley AFB	ASE Maintenance and Storage Facility	5,100	5,100
Air NG	Connecticut			
	Bradley	Ops and Deployment Facility	0	0
Air NG	Florida			
	Cape Canaveral AFS	Space Control Facility	0	6,100
Air NG	Georgia			
	Savannah/Hilton Head IAP	C-130 Squadron Operations Facility	9,000	9,000
Air NG	Hawaii			
	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	F-22 Composite Repair Facility	0	0
Air NG	Iowa			
	Des Moines MAP	Air Operations Grp/CYBER Beddown-Reno Bldg 430	6,700	6,700
Air NG	Kansas			
	Smokey Hill ANG Range	Range Training Support Facilities	2,900	2,900
Air NG	Louisiana			
	New Orleans	Replace Squadron Operations Facility	10,000	10,000
Air NG	Maine			
	Bangor IAP	Add to and Alter Fire Crash/Rescue Station	7,200	7,200
Air NG	New Hampshire			
	Pease International Trade Port	Bldg Mod KC-46 Fuselage Trainer	0	0
Air NG	Pease International Trade Port	KC-46A ADAL Flight Simulator Bldg 156	2,800	2,800
Air NG	New Jersey			
	Atlantic City IAP	Fuel Cell and Corrosion Control Hangar	10,200	10,200
Air NG	New York			
	Niagara Falls IAP	Remotely Piloted Aircraft Beddown Bldg 912	7,700	7,700
Air NG	North Carolina			
	Charlotte/Douglas IAP	Replace C-130 Squadron Operations Facility	9,000	9,000

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Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	<i>North Dakota</i>			
Air NG	Hector IAP	Intel Targeting Facilities	7,300	7,300
	<i>Oklahoma</i>			
Air NG	Will Rogers World Airport	Medium Altitude Manned ISR Beddown	7,600	7,600
	<i>Oregon</i>			
Air NG	Klamath Falls IAP	Replace Fire Crash/Rescue Station	7,200	7,200
	<i>West Virginia</i>			
Air NG	Yeager Airport	Force Protection- Relocate Coonskin Road	3,900	3,900
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			
Air NG	Various Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	5,104	5,104
Air NG	Various Worldwide Locations	Unspecified Minor Construction	7,734	7,734
Military Construction, Air National Guard Total			123,538	129,638
	<i>Arizona</i>			
AF Res	Davis-Monthan AFB	Guardian Angel Operations	0	0
	<i>California</i>			
AF Res	March AFB	Satellite Fire Station	4,600	4,600
	<i>Florida</i>			
AF Res	Patrick AFB	Aircrew Life Support Facility	3,400	3,400
	<i>Georgia</i>			
AF Res	Dobbins	Fire Station/Security Complex	0	10,400
	<i>Ohio</i>			
AF Res	Youngstown	Indoor Firing Range	9,400	9,400
	<i>Texas</i>			
AF Res	Joint Base San Antonio	Consolidate 433 Medical Facility	9,900	9,900
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			
AF Res	Various Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	13,400	13,400
AF Res	Various Worldwide Locations	Unspecified Minor Military Construction	6,121	6,121
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve Total			46,821	57,221
	<i>Florida</i>			
FH Con Army	Camp Rudder	Family Housing Replacement Construction	8,000	8,000
	<i>Germany</i>			
FH Con Army	Wiesbaden Army Airfield	Family Housing Improvements	3,500	3,500
	<i>Illinois</i>			
FH Con Army	Rock Island	Family Housing Replacement Construction	20,000	20,000
	<i>Korea</i>			
FH Con Army	Camp Walker	Family Housing New Construction	61,000	61,000
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			
FH Con Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Family Housing P & D	7,195	7,195
Family Housing Construction, Army Total			99,695	99,695
	<i>Worldwide Unspecified</i>			
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Furnishings	25,552	25,552
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Leased Housing	144,879	144,879
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Maintenance of Real Property Facilities	75,197	75,197
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Management Account	45,468	45,468
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Management Account	3,047	3,047
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Military Housing Privatization Initiative	22,000	22,000
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Miscellaneous	840	840
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Services	10,928	10,928
FH Ops Army	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Utilities	65,600	65,600
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Army Total			393,511	393,511

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Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
	Worldwide Unspecified			
FH Con AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Improvements	150,649	150,649
FH Con AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Planning and Design	9,849	9,849
Family Housing Construction, Air Force Total			160,498	160,498
	Worldwide Unspecified			
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Furnishings Account	38,746	38,746
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Housing Privatization	41,554	41,554
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Leasing	28,867	28,867
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Maintenance	114,129	114,129
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Management Account	52,153	52,153
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Miscellaneous Account	2,032	2,032
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Services Account	12,940	12,940
FH Ops AF	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Utilities Account	40,811	40,811
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Air Force Total			331,232	331,232
	Virginia			
FH Con Navy	Wallops Island	Construct Housing Welcome Center	438	438
	Worldwide Unspecified			
FH Con Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Design	4,588	4,588
FH Con Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Improvements	11,515	11,515
Family Housing Construction, Navy And Marine Corps Total			16,541	16,541
	Worldwide Unspecified			
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Furnishings Account	17,534	17,534
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Leasing	64,108	64,108
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Maintenance of Real Property	99,323	99,323
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Management Account	56,189	56,189
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Miscellaneous Account	373	373
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Privatization Support Costs	28,668	28,668
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Services Account	19,149	19,149
FH Ops Navy	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Utilities Account	67,692	67,692
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Navy And Marine Corps Total			353,036	353,036
	Worldwide Unspecified			
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Furnishings Account	781	781
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Furnishings Account	20	20
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Furnishings Account	3,402	3,402
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Leasing	10,679	10,679
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Leasing	41,273	41,273
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Maintenance of Real Property	344	344
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Maintenance of Real Property	1,104	1,104
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Management Account	388	388
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Services Account	31	31
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Utilities Account	172	172
FH Ops DW	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Utilities Account	474	474
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Defense-Wide Total			58,668	58,668
	Worldwide Unspecified			
BRAC	Base Realignment & Closure, Army	Base Realignment and Closure	29,691	29,691
Base Realignment and Closure—Army Total			29,691	29,691
	Worldwide Unspecified			

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Account	State/Country and Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DOD BRAC Activities—Air Force	64,555	64,555
Base Realignment and Closure—Air Force Total			64,555	64,555
Worldwide Unspecified				
BRAC	Base Realignment & Closure, Navy	Base Realignment & Closure	118,906	118,906
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON-100: Planing, Design and Management	7,787	7,787
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON-101: Various Locations	20,871	20,871
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON-138: NAS Brunswick, ME	803	803
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON-157: MCSA Kansas City, MO	41	41
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON-172: NWS Seal Beach, Concord, CA	4,872	4,872
BRAC	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON-84: JRB Willow Grove & Cambria Reg AP	3,808	3,808
Base Realignment and Closure—Navy Total			157,088	157,088
Worldwide Unspecified				
PYS	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Air Force	0	–34,400
PYS	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Army	0	–56,600
PYS	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Defense-Wide	0	–134,000
PYS	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	Housing Assistance Program	0	–110,000
Prior Year Savings Total			0	–335,000
Total, Military Construction			8,463,598	8,235,598

TITLE XLVII—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	Conference Authorized
Discretionary Summary By Appropriation		
Energy And Water Development, And Related Agencies		
Appropriation Summary:		
Energy Programs		
Nuclear Energy	135,161	135,161
Atomic Energy Defense Activities		
National nuclear security administration:		
Weapons activities	8,846,948	8,802,797
Defense nuclear nonproliferation	1,940,302	1,941,500
Naval reactors	1,375,496	1,359,996
Federal salaries and expenses	402,654	388,000
Total, National nuclear security administration	12,565,400	12,492,293
Environmental and other defense activities:		
Defense environmental cleanup	5,527,347	5,130,550
Other defense activities	774,425	770,522
Total, Environmental & other defense activities	6,301,772	5,901,072
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities	18,867,172	18,393,365
Total, Discretionary Funding	19,002,333	18,528,526
Nuclear Energy		
Idaho sitewide safeguards and security	126,161	126,161
Used nuclear fuel disposition	9,000	9,000
Total, Nuclear Energy	135,161	135,161
Weapons Activities		
Directed stockpile work		
Life extension programs		
B61 Life extension program	643,300	643,300
W76 Life extension program	244,019	244,019
W88 Alt 370	220,176	220,176
W80-4 Life extension program	195,037	195,037
Total, Life extension programs	1,302,532	1,302,532

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Stockpile systems		
B61 Stockpile systems	52,247	52,247
W76 Stockpile systems	50,921	50,921
W78 Stockpile systems	64,092	64,092
W80 Stockpile systems	68,005	68,005
B83 Stockpile systems	42,177	42,177
W87 Stockpile systems	89,299	89,299
W88 Stockpile systems	115,685	115,685
Total, Stockpile systems	482,426	482,426
Weapons dismantlement and disposition		
Operations and maintenance	48,049	48,049
Stockpile services		
Production support	447,527	447,527
Research and development support	34,159	34,159
R&D certification and safety	192,613	185,000
Management, technology, and production	264,994	258,527
Total, Stockpile services	939,293	925,213
Nuclear material commodities		
Uranium sustainment	32,916	32,916
Plutonium sustainment	174,698	174,698
Tritium sustainment	107,345	107,345
Domestic uranium enrichment	100,000	50,000
Total, Nuclear material commodities	414,959	364,959
Total, Directed stockpile work	3,187,259	3,123,179
Research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E)		
Science		
Advanced certification	50,714	50,714
Primary assessment technologies	98,500	104,100
Dynamic materials properties	109,000	109,000
Advanced radiography	47,000	47,000
Secondary assessment technologies	84,400	84,400
Total, Science	389,614	395,214
Engineering		
Enhanced surety	50,821	50,821
Weapon systems engineering assessment technology	17,371	17,371
Nuclear survivability	24,461	24,461
Enhanced surveillance	38,724	38,724
Total, Engineering	131,377	131,377
Inertial confinement fusion ignition and high yield		
Ignition	73,334	73,334
Support of other stockpile programs	22,843	22,843
Diagnostics, cryogenics and experimental support	58,587	58,587
Pulsed power inertial confinement fusion	4,963	4,963
Joint program in high energy density laboratory plasmas	8,900	8,900
Facility operations and target production	333,823	333,823
Total, Inertial confinement fusion and high yield	502,450	502,450
Advanced simulation and computing	623,006	617,006
Responsive Capabilities Program	0	0
Advanced manufacturing		
Component manufacturing development	112,256	93,448
Processing technology development	17,800	17,800
Total, Advanced manufacturing	130,056	111,248
Total, RDT&E	1,776,503	1,757,295
Readiness in technical base and facilities (RTBF)		
Operating		
Program readiness	75,185	60,000
Material recycle and recovery	173,859	160,000
Storage	40,920	40,920
Recapitalization	104,327	100,000
Total, Operating	394,291	360,920

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Construction:		
15-D-302 TA-55 Reinvestment project, Phase 3, LANL	18,195	18,195
11-D-801 TA-55 Reinvestment project Phase 2, LANL	3,903	3,903
07-D-220 Radioactive liquid waste treatment facility upgrade project, LANL	11,533	11,533
07-D-220-04 Transuranic liquid waste facility, LANL	40,949	40,949
06-D-141 PED/Construction, Uranium Capabilities Replacement Project Y-12	430,000	430,000
04-D-125 Chemistry and metallurgy replacement project, LANL	155,610	155,610
Total, Construction	660,190	660,190
Total, Readiness in technical base and facilities	1,054,481	1,021,110
Secure transportation asset		
Operations and equipment	146,272	140,000
Program direction	105,338	97,118
Total, Secure transportation asset	251,610	237,118
Infrastructure and safety		
Operations of facilities		
Kansas City Plant	100,250	100,250
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	70,671	70,671
Los Alamos National Laboratory	196,460	196,460
Nevada National Security Site	89,000	89,000
Panther	58,021	58,021
Sandia National Laboratory	115,300	115,300
Savannah River Site	80,463	80,463
Y-12 National security complex	120,625	120,625
Total, Operations of facilities	830,790	830,790
Safety operations	107,701	107,701
Maintenance	227,000	252,000
Recapitalization	257,724	307,724
Construction:		
16-D-621 Substation replacement at TA-3, LANL	25,000	25,000
15-D-613 Emergency Operations Center, Y-12	17,919	17,919
Total, Construction	42,919	42,919
Total, Infrastructure and safety	1,466,134	1,541,134
Site stewardship		
Nuclear materials integration	17,510	17,510
Minority serving institution partnerships program	19,085	19,085
Total, Site stewardship	36,595	36,595
Defense nuclear security		
Operations and maintenance	619,891	631,891
Construction:		
14-D-710 Device assembly facility argus installation project, NV	13,000	13,000
Total, Defense nuclear security	632,891	644,891
Information technology and cybersecurity	157,588	157,588
Legacy contractor pensions	283,887	283,887
Total, Weapons Activities	8,846,948	8,802,797
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation		
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs		
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation R&D		
Global material security	426,751	422,949
Material management and minimization	311,584	311,584
Nonproliferation and arms control	126,703	126,703
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation R&D	419,333	419,333
Nonproliferation Construction:		
99-D-143 Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility, SRS	345,000	345,000
Analysis of Alternatives	0	5,000
Total, Nonproliferation construction	345,000	350,000
Total, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs	1,629,371	1,630,569
Legacy contractor pensions	94,617	94,617
Nuclear counterterrorism and incident response program	234,390	234,390
Use of prior-year balances	-18,076	-18,076

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Total, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	1,940,302	1,941,500
Naval Reactors		
Naval reactors operations and infrastructure	445,196	445,196
Naval reactors development	444,400	430,400
Ohio replacement reactor systems development	186,800	186,800
S8G Prototype refueling	133,000	133,000
Program direction	45,000	43,500
Construction:		
15-D-904 NRF Overpack Storage Expansion 3	900	900
15-D-903 KL Fire System Upgrade	600	600
15-D-902 KS Engineroom team trainer facility	3,100	3,100
14-D-902 KL Materials characterization laboratory expansion, KAPL	30,000	30,000
14-D-901 Spent fuel handling recapitalization project, NRF	86,000	86,000
10-D-903, Security upgrades, KAPL	500	500
Total, Construction	121,100	121,100
Total, Naval Reactors	1,375,496	1,359,996
Federal Salaries And Expenses		
Program direction	402,654	388,000
Total, Office Of The Administrator	402,654	388,000
Defense Environmental Cleanup		
Closure sites:		
Closure sites administration	4,889	4,889
Hanford site:		
River corridor and other cleanup operations:		
River corridor and other cleanup operations	196,957	268,957
Central plateau remediation:		
Central plateau remediation	555,163	555,163
Richland community and regulatory support	14,701	14,701
Construction:		
15-D-401 Containerized sludge removal annex, RL	77,016	77,016
Total, Hanford site	843,837	915,837
Idaho National Laboratory:		
Idaho cleanup and waste disposition	357,783	357,783
Idaho community and regulatory support	3,000	3,000
Total, Idaho National Laboratory	360,783	360,783
NNSA sites		
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,366	1,366
Nevada	62,385	62,385
Sandia National Laboratories	2,500	2,500
Los Alamos National Laboratory	188,625	188,625
Total, NNSA sites and Nevada off-sites	254,876	254,876
Oak Ridge Reservation:		
OR Nuclear facility D & D		
OR Nuclear facility D & D	75,958	75,958
Construction:		
14-D-403 Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility	6,800	6,800
Total, OR Nuclear facility D & D	82,758	82,758
U233 Disposition Program	26,895	26,895
OR cleanup and disposition:		
OR cleanup and disposition	60,500	60,500
Total, OR cleanup and disposition	60,500	60,500
OR reservation community and regulatory support	4,400	4,400
Solid waste stabilization and disposition		
Oak Ridge technology development	2,800	2,800
Total, Oak Ridge Reservation	177,353	177,353

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Office of River Protection:		
Waste treatment and immobilization plant		
01-D-416 A-D/ORP-0060 / Major construction	595,000	595,000
01-D-16E Pretreatment facility	95,000	95,000
Total, Waste treatment and immobilization plant	690,000	690,000
Tank farm activities		
Rad liquid tank waste stabilization and disposition	649,000	649,000
Construction:		
15-D-409 Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System, Hanford	75,000	75,000
Total, Tank farm activities	724,000	724,000
Total, Office of River protection	1,414,000	1,414,000
Savannah River sites:		
Savannah River risk management operations	386,652	389,652
SR community and regulatory support	11,249	11,249
Radioactive liquid tank waste:		
Radioactive liquid tank waste stabilization and disposition	581,878	581,878
Construction:		
15-D-402—Saltstone Disposal Unit #6	34,642	34,642
05-D-405 Salt waste processing facility, Savannah River	194,000	194,000
Total, Construction	228,642	228,642
Total, Radioactive liquid tank waste	810,520	810,520
Total, Savannah River site	1,208,421	1,211,421
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant		
Waste isolation pilot plant	212,600	212,600
Construction:		
15-D-411 Safety significant confinement ventilation system, WIPP	23,218	23,218
15-D-412 Exhaust shaft, WIPP	7,500	7,500
Total, Construction	30,718	30,718
Total, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	243,318	243,318
Program direction	281,951	281,951
Program support	14,979	14,979
Safeguards and Security:		
Oak Ridge Reservation	17,228	17,228
Paducah	8,216	8,216
Portsmouth	8,492	8,492
Richland/Hanford Site	67,601	67,601
Savannah River Site	128,345	128,345
Waste Isolation Pilot Project	4,860	4,860
West Valley	1,891	1,891
Technology development	14,510	14,510
Subtotal, Defense environmental cleanup	5,055,550	5,130,550
Uranium enrichment D&D fund contribution (Legislative proposal)	471,797	0
Total, Defense Environmental Cleanup	5,527,347	5,130,550
Other Defense Activities		
Specialized security activities	221,855	217,952
Environment, health, safety and security		
Environment, health, safety and security	120,693	120,693
Program direction	63,105	63,105
Total, Environment, Health, safety and security	183,798	183,798
Enterprise assessments		
Enterprise assessments	24,068	24,068
Program direction	49,466	49,466
Total, Enterprise assessments	73,534	73,534
Office of Legacy Management		
Legacy management	154,080	154,080
Program direction	13,100	13,100
Total, Office of Legacy Management	167,180	167,180

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY 2016 Request</i>	<i>Conference Authorized</i>
Defense-related activities		
Defense related administrative support		
Chief financial officer	35,758	35,758
Chief information officer	83,800	83,800
Management	3,000	3,000
Total, Defense related administrative support	122,558	122,558
Office of hearings and appeals	5,500	5,500
Subtotal, Other defense activities	774,425	770,522
Total, Other Defense Activities	774,425	770,522

And the Senate agree to the same.
From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

MAC THORNBERRY,
J. RANDY FORBES,
JEFF MILLER,
JOE WILSON,
FRANK A. LOBIONDO,
MICHAEL R. TURNER,
JOHN KLINE,
MIKE ROGERS,
BILL SHUSTER,
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
DOUG LAMBORN,
ROBERT J. WITTMAN,
DUNCAN HUNTER,
VICKY HARTZLER,
JOSEPH J. HECK,
BRAD R. WENSTRUP,
ELISE M. STEFANIK,
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO,

As additional conferees, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X:

DEVIN NUNES,
PETER T. KING,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 571 and 573 of the House bill and secs. 561-63 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

TODD ROKITA,
MIKE BISHOP,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 314, 632, 634, 3111-13, 3119, 3133, and 3141 of the House bill and secs. 601, 632, 3118, and 3119 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

FRED UPTON,
JOE BARTON,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 1011, 1059, 1090, 1092, 1201, 1203-05, 1215, 1221, 1223, 1226, 1234-36, 1247-49, 1253, 1257, 1263, 1264, 1267, 1270, 1301, 1532, 1541, 1542, 1663, 1668-70, 2802, 3118, and 3119 of the House bill and secs. 1011, 1012, 1082, 1201-05, 1207, 1209, 1223, 1225, 1228, 1251, 1252, 1261, 1264, 1265, 1272, 1301, 1302, 1531-33, 1631, 1654, and 1655 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
TOM MARINO,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of secs. 589 and 1041 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
CANDICE S. MILLER,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 1040, 1052, 1085, 1216, 1641, and 2862 of the House bill and secs. 1032, 1034, 1090, and 1227 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

BOB GOODLATTE,
DARRELL E. ISSA,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 312, 632, 634, 2841, 2842, 2851-53, and 2862 of the House bill and secs. 313, 601, and 632 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

PAUL COOK,
CRESENT HARDY,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of secs. 602, 631, 634, 838, 854, 855, 866, 871, 1069, and 1101-05 of the House bill and secs. 592, 593, 631, 806, 830, 861, 1090, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1105, 1107-09, 1111, 1112, 1114, and 1115 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

WILL HURD,
STEVE RUSSELL,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Rules, for consideration of sec. 1032 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

PETE SESSIONS,
BRADLEY BYRNE,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sec. 3136 of the House bill and sec. 1613 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

FRANK D. LUCAS,
STEPHEN KNIGHT,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 831-34, 839, 840, 842-46, 854, and 871 of the House bill and secs. 828, 831, 882, 883, and 885 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

STEVE CHABOT,
RICHARD L. HANNA,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 302, 562, 569, 570a, 591, 1060a, 1073, 2811, and 3501 of the House bill and secs. 601, 642, 1613, 3504, and 3505 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

GARRET GRAVES,
CARLOS CURBELO,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of secs. 565, 566, 592, 652, 701, 721, 722, 1105, and 1431 of the House bill and secs. 539, 605, 633, 719, 1083, 1084, 1089, 1091, and 1411 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

DAVID P. ROE,

GUS M. BILIRAKIS,
Managers on the Part of the House.

JOHN MCCAIN,
JAMES M. INHOFE,
JEFF SESSIONS,
ROGER F. WICKER,
KELLY AYOTTE,
DEB FISCHER,
TOM COTTON,
MIKE ROUNDS,
LINDSEY GRAHAM,
JOE DONNELLY,
TIM KAINE.

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

**JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF
THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The Senate amendment struck all of the House bill after the enacting clause and inserted a substitute text.

The House recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate with an amendment that is a substitute for the House bill and the Senate amendment. The differences between the House bill, the Senate amendment, and the substitute agreed to in conference are noted below, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by agreements reached by the conferees, and minor drafting and clarifying changes.

Compliance with rules of the House of Representatives and Senate regarding earmarks and congressionally directed spending items

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule XLIV(3) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, neither this conference report nor the accompanying joint statement of managers contains any congressional earmarks, congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits, as defined in such rules.

Summary of discretionary authorizations and budget implication

The budget request for national defense discretionary programs within the jurisdiction of the Committees on Armed Services of

the Senate and the House of Representatives for fiscal year 2016 was \$604.2 billion. Of this amount, \$534.2 billion was requested for base Department of Defense programs, \$50.9 billion was requested for overseas contingency operations, and \$19.0 billion was requested for national security programs in the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The conference agreement would authorize \$604.2 billion in fiscal year 2016, including \$496.4 billion for base Department of Defense programs, \$89.2 billion for overseas contingency operations, and \$18.6 billion for national security programs in the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The two tables preceding the detailed program adjustments in Division D of the accompanying joint statement of managers summarize the discretionary authorizations in the agreement and the equivalent budget authority levels for fiscal year 2016 defense programs.

Budgetary effects of this Act (sec. 4)

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 4) that would require the budgetary effects of this Act be determined in accordance with the procedures established in title I of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

BUDGET ITEMS

ARMY

Stryker vehicle lethality upgrades

The House bill contained an increase in funding for Stryker vehicle lethality upgrades of \$35.0 million in Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army and \$44.5 million in Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army respectively.

The Senate amendment contained an increase in these same funding areas of \$97.0 million and \$314.0 million, respectively.

The conference report, in Sections 4101 and 4102, includes increased funding in line with the Senate amendment.

The conferees support the Army's plan to upgrade 81 Stryker vehicles with increased lethality as requested by the U.S. Army Europe in a recent Operational Need Statement. The conferees understand the urgency for this requirement given heightened security concerns of our NATO partners due to Russian aggression in Ukraine. As such, the conferees expect the rapid production of fully serviceable, upgraded Strykers. In order to meet the compressed timeline for fielding upgraded Strykers to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, the conferees expect the Army to manage this program with dispatch and efficiency. Identified risks associated with cost, schedule, and performance are to be managed with focused controls and leadership. The conferees view this initiative, which is intended to increase the combat power of a forward deployed unit, as an opportunity to succeed in accordance with significant acquisition reforms illustrated in many provisions within this bill.

With regard to cost, the conferees note the Army currently plans on starting with existing chassis of Stryker vehicles discarded during the upgrade to Double V Hull (DVH) Strykers. This approach appears to add sig-

nificantly to the unit cost for the lethality upgrades which the Army has informed the defense committees may be approximately \$4.5 million per vehicle. The conferees note that the Army already has extensive upgrade programs for the Stryker vehicle to include additional DVH Strykers and the Engineering Change Proposal modernization program. It is unclear if the Army ultimately plans on adding the lethality initiative to DVH Strykers, including those equipped with the Engineering Change Proposal upgrade. The conferees are concerned that simply adding a broad Stryker lethality package for the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Teams could add billions of dollars to the already stressed resources of the combat vehicle portfolio. Therefore, the committee encourages the Army to reduce the unit cost of the Stryker lethality upgrade program and evaluate ways to more efficiently pursue upgrades to the Stryker vehicle fleet and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams.

AIR FORCE

C-130H Modifications

The base budget request included \$7.0 million in Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, Line 44 for C-130.

The House bill authorized a funding increase in that line item of \$73.2 million for the restructured C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) Increments I and II (\$10.0 million), T-56 3.5 Engine Modification (\$33.2 million), and Eight-bladed Propeller (\$30.0 million).

The Senate amendment would authorize an increase in that line item by \$123.2 million for the restructured C-130 AMP Increments I and II (\$75.0 million), T-56 3.5 Engine Modification (\$33.2 million), Electronic Propeller Control System (\$13.5 million), and In-flight Propeller Balancing System certification (\$1.5 million).

The agreement authorizes a total funding increase for Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, Line 44 of \$139.2 million for the restructured C-130 AMP Increments I and II (\$75.0 million), T-56 3.5 Engine Modification (\$33.2 million), Eight-Bladed Propeller (\$16.0 million), Electronic Propeller Control System (\$13.5 million), and In-flight Propeller Balancing System certification (\$1.5 million).

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations *Authorization of appropriations (sec. 101)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 101) that would authorize the appropriations for procurement activities at the levels identified in section 4101 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 101).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

Prioritization of upgraded UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters within Army National Guard (sec. 111)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 112) that would require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to issue guidance that prioritizes UH-60 helicopter upgrades within the Army National Guard to those units with the highest flight hour aircraft and highest utilization rates, as well as require the Chief to submit a report to the congressional defense committees within 30 days after issuing such guidance, that describes such guidance.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Roadmap for replacement of A/MH-6 Mission Enhanced Little Bird aircraft to meet special operations requirements (sec. 112)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 142) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy for the replacement of the A/MH-6 Mission Enhanced Little Bird aircraft to meet requirements particular to special operations for future rotary-wing, light attack, and reconnaissance requirements.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Report on Options to Accelerate Replacement of UH-60A Blackhawk Helicopters of Army National Guard (sec. 113)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 113) that would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, containing detailed options for the potential acceleration of the replacement of all UH-60A helicopters of the Army National Guard.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress on Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Protection Kits (sec. 114)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 114) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the survivability and operational performance benefits provided by tactical wheeled vehicle add-on armor protection kits for the Army's heavy tactical wheeled vehicle fleet.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

Modification of CVN-78 class aircraft carrier program (sec. 121)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 114) that would amend subsection (f) of section 122 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2104), as added by section 121(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 692), by adding a reporting requirement to the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79) quarterly report. Beginning January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Navy would be required to submit, as part of the CVN-79 quarterly report, a description of new design and engineering changes to CVN-78 class aircraft carriers that exceed \$5.0 million and occurred during the reporting period. The provision would require the report to include program or ship cost increases for each design or engineering change and any cost reduction achieved. The Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations would each be required to sign this additional reporting requirement and would be precluded from delegating the certification. The required certification would have to include a determination that each change serves the national security interests of the United States; cannot be deferred to a future ship due to operational necessity, safety, or substantial cost reduction; and was reviewed and endorsed by the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Amendment to cost limitation baseline for CVN-78 class aircraft carrier program (sec. 122)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 111) that would further amend section 122 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) as amended by section 121(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) by adjusting the procurement cost cap for USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79) and subsequent CVN-78 class aircraft carriers from \$11,498,000,000 to \$11,398,000,000.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would add an additional amendment to section 121(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), as amended by section 121(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66). The conferees recognize that the Department of the Navy has made considerable gains in controlling the cost of CVN-78 class aircraft carriers and believe further efforts at cost reduction are warranted. The current cost cap and cost estimate for CVN-79 is \$11.5 billion, which includes only limited program management reserve for unforeseeable issues during CVN-79 construction. The conferees expect the Department to continue to employ efforts to reduce costs on this ship class and accordingly are lowering the Congressional cap to \$11.4 billion. However, if during construction of CVN-79 the Chief of Naval Operations determines that measures required to complete the ship within the revised cost cap shall result in an unacceptable reduction to the ship's operational capability, the Secretary of the Navy may increase the CVN-79 cost cap up to \$11.5 billion. If such action is taken, the Secretary of the Navy shall adhere to the notification requirements specified in section 121(d) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364).

The conferees note that section 122 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) set the cost cap for the lead ship at \$10.5 billion, plus adjustments for inflation and other factors, and at \$8.1 billion for subsequent CVN-78 class carriers, plus adjustments for inflation and other factors. Section 122 was amended by section 121(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66), which revised the cost cap for the lead ship to \$12.9 billion, plus adjustments for inflation and other factors, and to \$11.5 billion for subsequent CVN-78 class carriers, plus adjustments for inflation and other factors. The conferees understand 90 percent or \$3.1 billion of the \$3.4 billion increase in the cost cap for follow-on ships is attributable to economic inflation, which includes actual inflation realized and updated projections of future inflation based on Navy shipbuilding inflation indices. In view of this significant cost growth attributed to inflation, the Congressional Budget Office is directed to provide a report to the congressional defense committees no later than December 1, 2015 that includes the following elements:

(1) Explanation of how inflation was calculated and projected in the cost estimates for CVN-78 class aircraft carriers in each annual budget from fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2015;

(2) Description of inflation rates for CVN-78, CVN-79, and CVN-80, by fiscal year, from fiscal year 2007 until the obligation work limiting date for each ship;

(3) Comparison of projected inflation rates vs. actual inflation rates for CVN-78 class aircraft carriers, by fiscal year, from fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2015;

(4) Explanation of the key factors that are used to plan for and calculate current and projected inflation rates for CVN-78 class aircraft carrier cost estimates;

(5) Explanation of root causes of inflation escalation above the planned inflation assumed in CVN-78 class aircraft carrier cost estimates; and

(6) Component-level explanation of the \$3.1 billion increase in the cost estimate for CVN-79 and following aircraft carriers attributable to economic inflation.

Extension and modification of limitation on availability of funds for Littoral Combat Ship (sec. 123)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 116) that would amend section 123 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by extending the limitation on funds for LCS-25 and LCS-26 until pre-existing requirements are met and would additionally require the Navy to provide to the congressional defense committees the following: an acquisition strategy for LCS-25 through LCS-32; a LCS mission module acquisition strategy; a plan to outfit Flight 0 and Flight 0+ Littoral Combat Ships with capabilities identified for the upgraded Littoral Combat Ship; and a current test and evaluation master plan for the Littoral Combat Ship mission modules.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Modification to multiyear procurement authority for Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and associated systems (sec. 124)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 121) that would amend section 123(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to clarify that the Secretary of the Navy has the authority to procure Flight III destroyers as part of the existing Arleigh Burke-class multiyear procurement authority.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The Senate report accompanying S. 3254 (S. Rept. 112-173) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 described Senate intent regarding the current multiyear procurement authority for Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and associated systems. The Senate report supported the change to buying Flight III destroyers through an engineering change proposal and the inclusion of such ships in the multiyear procurement authority, following submission of a specified report. The House report accompanying H.R. 1960 (H. Rept. 113-102) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 expressed concern about the physical limitations associated with the integration of the Air and Missile Defense Radar on the Flight III version of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and requested a report to assess this integration process. Having received the required reports, the conferees support the changes proposed by the Secretary of the Navy to integrate the Air and Missile Defense Radar into the Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and the addition of these Flight III ships to the current Arleigh Burke-class multiyear procurement contract.

Procurement of additional Arleigh Burke class destroyer (sec. 125)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 117) that would allow the Secretary

of the Navy to enter into a contract beginning with the fiscal year 2016 program year for the procurement of 1 Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in addition to the 10 DDG-51s in the fiscal year 2013 through 2017 multiyear procurement contract or for 1 DDG-51 in fiscal year 2018. The Secretary may employ incremental funding for such procurement.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Refueling and complex overhaul of the USS George Washington (sec. 126)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 122) that would provide economic order quantity authority for the construction of two Ford-class aircraft carriers and incremental funding authority for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of five Nimitz-class aircraft carriers.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would limit new aircraft carrier program procurement authority to the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of USS George Washington (CVN-73).

The Department of the Navy awarded a detail design and construction contract for the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79) on June 5, 2015. At the time of award, Program Executive Officer (PEO), Aircraft Carriers, Rear Admiral Thomas Moore, indicated "... with a stable design, mature requirements and an improved build process, we will reduce construction hours by 18 percent, lower the cost to build the ship by almost \$1 billion in real terms compared to CVN-78. ...". Following \$2.4 billion in cost growth on the lead ship, CVN-78, the conferees are encouraged by the ongoing collaboration between the Department of the Navy and industry to achieve cost reductions. The conferees note that other ship construction programs have been able to reduce costs through acquisition efficiencies and economic order decisions. Therefore, to better assess acquisition options, the conferees direct the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, that provides an assessment of the merits associated with using economic order quantity procurement with CVN-80 and CVN-81. This report should assess the specific aircraft carrier components that would be best suited to include in a potential economic order quantity contract, and the estimated cost savings that could be achieved using this procurement authority.

Fleet replenishment oiler program (sec. 127)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 118) that would grant the Secretary of the Navy contracting authority to procure up to six fleet replenishment oilers (T-AO(X)). This new ship class is a non-developmental recapitalization program based on existing commercial technology and standards. The ship design is considered to be low risk by the Navy, with the design scheduled to be complete prior to the start of construction on the lead ship. This provision would enable an estimated \$45.0 million in savings per ship, for ships 2-6, for a total of \$225.0 million in savings compared to current annual procurement cost estimates.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Limitation on availability of funds for USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79) (sec. 128)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 112) that would limit \$100.0 million in Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy procurement funds for USS John F. Kennedy

(CVN-79) subject to the submission of a certification regarding full ship shock trials and two reports.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would provide the Secretary of Defense with waiver authority to delay full ship shock trials on the USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN-78) until after the ship's first deployment but prior to the first major maintenance availability.

Limitation on availability of funds for USS Enterprise (CVN-80) (sec. 129)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 113) that would limit \$191.4 million in advance procurement funds for USS *Enterprise* (CVN-80), until the Secretary of the Navy submits a certification and report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and of the House of Representatives. \$191.4 million is the sum of funding requested for plans (detailed) and basic construction for CVN-80.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require submission of the certification and report to all four congressional defense committees, as well as require the certification be provided within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

Limitation on availability of funds for Littoral Combat Ship (sec. 130)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 115) that would limit 75 percent of fiscal year 2016 funds for research and development, design, construction, procurement or advance procurement of materials for the upgraded Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), designated as LCS-33 and subsequent, until the Secretary of the Navy submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: a capabilities-based assessment to assess capability gaps and associated capability requirements and risks for the upgraded LCS, an updated capabilities development document for the upgraded LCS, and a report describing the upgraded LCS modernization.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that changes the limitation to 50 percent of fiscal year 2016 funds and allows for a capabilities-based assessment or equivalent report.

Reporting requirement for Ohio-class replacement submarine program (sec. 131)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 119) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit Ohio-class replacement submarine cost tracking information, together with annual budget justification materials. While the first Ohio-class replacement submarine is not planned to be authorized until fiscal year 2021, the national importance of this program and significant cost will continue to merit close oversight by the congressional defense committees.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

Backup inventory status of A-10 aircraft (sec. 141)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 132) that would amend section 133(b)(2)(A) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3316) to where the Secretary of the Air

Force may not move more than 18 A-10 aircraft in the active component to backup flying status pursuant to an authorization made by the Secretary of Defense under such section.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of A-10 aircraft. (sec. 142)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 133) that would prohibit the use of any funds during fiscal year 2016 to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage any A-10 aircraft. The provision would also require the Secretary of the Air Force to maintain a minimum of 171 A-10 aircraft in primary mission aircraft inventory (combat-coded) status. The provision would also direct the Secretary of the Air Force to commission an independent entity outside the Department of Defense to conduct an assessment of the required capabilities and mission platform to replace the A-10 aircraft.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 134).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that aligns technical provisions of both versions and refers to sec. 141 regarding moving A-10 aircraft to backup inventory status.

Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of EC-130H Compass Call aircraft (sec. 143)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 134) that would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Air Force to be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on back up flying status any EC-130H aircraft. The provision would also require the Secretary of the Air Force to commission an assessment of the required capabilities or mission platform to replace the EC-130H aircraft, and to submit a report on that assessment to the congressional defense committees not later than September 30, 2016, and would also prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from retiring, preparing to retire, placing in storage or placing on back up flying status any EC-130H aircraft until 60 days after the Secretary submits the specified report.

The Senate bill contained a similar provision (sec. 135).

The Senate recedes with an amendment changing the prohibition limitation date to December 31, 2016, and combining the report requirements from the House and Senate versions.

Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, EC-130H Compass Call, and Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft (sec. 144)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 138) that would limit the retirement of Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), EC-130H Compass Call, and Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft until the follow-on replacement aircraft program enters low-rate initial production.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to change the provision to apply only in fiscal years 2016 or 2017, and other technical clarifications. The provision would not apply to individual aircraft if the Secretary of the Air Force, on a case-by-case basis, determines an individual aircraft to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

Limitation on availability of funds for F-35A aircraft procurement (sec. 145)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 133) that would limit the availability of fiscal year 2016 funds for F-35A procurement to not more than \$4.3 billion until the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that F-35A aircraft delivered in fiscal year 2018 will have full combat capability with currently planned Block 3F hardware, software, and weapons carriage.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to amend the certification level from the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of the Air Force, and to amend the effective date of certification criteria from “full combat capability as currently planned . . .” to “full combat capability, as determined on the date of enactment of this Act . . .”

Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of KC-10 aircraft (sec. 146)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 135) that would prohibit any funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force to be obligated or expended during such fiscal year to divest or transfer, or prepare to divest or transfer, KC-10 aircraft.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to change the provision to apply only in fiscal years 2016 or 2017. The provision would not include the prohibition on transfer of aircraft, and would not apply to an individual KC-10 aircraft if the Secretary of the Air Force, on a case-by-case basis, determines the aircraft to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

Limitation on availability of funds for transfer of C-130 aircraft (sec. 147)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 136) that would limit the availability of all funds authorized to be appropriated for the transfer from one facility of the Department of Defense to another any C-130H aircraft, initiate any C-130 manpower authorization adjustments, retire or prepare to retire any C-130H aircraft, or close any C-130H unit until 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, and after certification by the commanders of the XVIII Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division, and United States Army Special Operations Command, certified that the Air Force would maintain dedicated C-130 wings to support the daily training of Army airborne and special operations units, and the failure to maintain such Air Force operations would not adversely impact the daily training requirement of those airborne and special operations units.

The House bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1060c).

The House recedes with an amendment that would change the required certification to be made by the Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff of the Army and the Air Force, in consultation with the commanders of the XVIIIth Airborne Corps, 82d Airborne Division, and Army Special Operations Command. The amendment also contains other minor technical clarifications.

Limitation on availability of funds for executive communications upgrades for C-20 and C-37 aircraft (sec. 148)

The House bill contained a provision (Sec. 131) that would limit availability of funds to

upgrade the executive communications of C-20 and C-37 aircraft until the Secretary of the Air Force certifies to certain specified criteria.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Limitation on use of funds for T-1A Jayhawk aircraft (sec. 149)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 137) that would limit all the funds authorized or appropriated by this Act or that otherwise may be obligated or expended for fiscal year 2016 for avionics modifications to the T-1A Jayhawk aircraft until 30 days after the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the report required under section 142 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to amend the provision to state: "Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, for avionics modification to the T-1A Jayhawk aircraft, not more than 85 percent may be obligated or expended until a period of 30 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the report required under section 142 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3320)."

Notification of retirement of B-1, B-2, and B-52 bomber aircraft (sec. 150)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 131) that would limit the retirement of B-1, B-2, or B-52 bomber aircraft during a fiscal year prior to initial operational capability of the Long Range Strike Bomber unless the Secretary of Defense certified to specified criteria in the materials submitted in support of the budget of the President for that fiscal year as submitted to Congress.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would change the limitation to a notification requiring that in the period before the date of initial operational capability of the long-range strike bomber aircraft, before retiring or preparing to retire any B-1, B-2, or B-52 bomber aircraft the Secretary of the Air Force includes in the defense budget materials a notification of the proposed retirement including the rationale for the retirement, the effects of the retirement, and how the Secretary will mitigate any risks relating to the retirement. The provision would not apply to individual B-1, B-2, or B-52 aircraft if the Secretary of the Air Force, on a case-by-case basis, determines the aircraft to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

Inventory requirement for fighter aircraft of the Air Force (sec. 151)

The Senate amendment included a provision (sec. 132) that would amend section 8062 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new subsection requiring the Secretary of the Air Force to maintain a minimum total active inventory of 1,950 fighter aircraft, within which the Secretary would also be required to maintain a minimum of 1,116 fighter aircraft as primary mission aircraft inventory (combat-coded). The provision would also provide additional limitations on fight-

er retirements by requiring the Secretary of the Air Force to certify to certain specified criteria, and also require a detailed report in advance of retiring fighter aircraft.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to strike the amendment to section 8062 of title 10, change the limitation period to a 2-year period beginning on October 1, 2015, and reduce the minimum numbers of fighters required to be maintained by the Air Force to 1,900 total aircraft inventory and 1,100 primary mission aircraft inventory (combat-coded). The amendment would also eliminate the certification and detailed report requirements, and require specified information in a report to be included in the material submitted in support of the budget for a particular fiscal year, if proposing the retirement of fighter aircraft in that fiscal year's budget. The report would not apply to individual fighter aircraft if the Secretary of the Air Force, on a case-by-case basis, determines the aircraft to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

The conferees recognize that based on the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Air Force determined through extensive analysis that a force structure of 1,200 primary mission aircraft and 2,000 total aircraft is required to execute the National Defense Strategy with increased operational risk. Subsequently, based on the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance and fiscal constraints, analysis showed the Air Force could decrease fighter force structure capacity by approximately 100 additional aircraft; however, at an even higher level of risk.

The conferees agree reductions in fighter force capacity below the 1,900 total and 1,100 combat-coded inventory levels, in light of ongoing and anticipated operations in Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, coupled with a potential delay of force withdrawals from Afghanistan and a revanchist Russia, poses excessive risk to the Air Force's ability to execute the National Defense Strategy, causes remaining fighter squadrons to deploy more frequently, and drives even lower readiness rates across the combat air forces.

Sense of Congress regarding the OCONUS basing of F-35A aircraft (sec. 152)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 139) that would express the sense of Congress regarding basing of the F-35A aircraft outside of the continental United States.

The House bill contained a similar provision (sec. 136).

The House recedes with an amendment to make technical and clarifying corrections.

Subtitle E—Defense-Wide, Joint, and Multiservice Matters

Limitation on availability of funds for Joint Battle Command-Platform (sec. 161)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 141) that would require the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to submit a report by March 1, 2016, to the congressional defense committees that addresses the effectiveness, suitability, and survivability shortfalls of the joint battle command—platform equipment identified by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the Director's fiscal year 2014 annual report to Congress. This section would also further limit the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds for the joint battle command—platform until 30 days after the Assistant Secretary submits such a report.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Report on Army and Marine Corps modernization plan for small arms (sec. 162)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 151) that would require the Secretaries of the Army and Navy to jointly submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the plan of the Army and Marine Corps to modernize small arms.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Study on use of different types of enhanced 5.56mm ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps (sec. 163)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 144) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the use of two different types of 5.56mm ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that requires the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) such as the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) to conduct a study on the use of two different types of enhanced 5.56mm ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps. The conferees note that the CNA has conducted similar studies on small arms and small caliber ammunition and believe the CNA could meet the requirements of this study.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Limitation on Availability of Funds for AN/TPQ-53 Radar Systems

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 111) that would limit the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds for AN/TPQ-53 radar systems until 30 days after the date on which the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology submits to the congressional defense committees a review of the current delegation of acquisition authority to the Program Executive Officer for Missiles and Space.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Stationing of C-130 H aircraft avionics previously modified by the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) in support of daily training and contingency requirements for Airborne and Special Operations Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 120) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to station aircraft previously modified by the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) to support United States Army Airborne and United States Army Special Operations Command unit daily training and contingency requirements in fiscal year 2017, and not require the aircraft to deploy in the normal rotation of C-130H units. The provision would also require the Secretary to provide such personnel as required to maintain and operate the aircraft.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees agree the Air Force must develop a plan that incorporates the five C-130H aircraft previously modified with the AMP upgrade, the four purchased AMP installation kits, the associated simulator equipment, and sustainment and training

software into the restructured AMP Increments I and II effort. The conferees also direct the Air Force to provide a briefing on this plan to the congressional defense committees not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act. The conferees agree the American taxpayers to date have expended considerable funds on the C-130 AMP and deserve to receive maximum value for that expenditure.

Sense of Congress on F-16 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar upgrade

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 140) that would express the sense of Congress on F-16 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar upgrades that it is essential to our Nation's defense that: (1) Air Force aircraft modification funding be made available to purchase AESA radars as the Air Force bridges the gap between 4th- and 5th-generation fighters; (2) The U.S. Government must invest in radar upgrades to ensure 4th-generation aircraft succeed at zero-fail missions; and (3) The First Air Force Joint Urgent Operational Needs request should be met as soon as possible.

The House bill contained no similar provisions.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees agree on the importance that should be accorded to funding AESA radar upgrades for existing aircraft.

Stryker Lethality Upgrades

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 161) that would authorize an increase in funding for Stryker vehicle lethality upgrades of \$97.0 million in Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army and \$314.0 million in Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army respectively.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The outcome is reflected in the tables of this report in Sections 4101 and 4201 and includes additional funding in line with the Senate amendment.

**TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
BUDGET ITEMS**

Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike System

The budget request included \$134.7 million in PE 64501N for the Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) system.

The House bill would authorize the budget request.

The Senate amendment would not approve the request in PE 64501N due to contracting delays caused by waiting on the results of the Department of Defense Intelligence Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Strategic Portfolio Review. These delays resulted in the Navy's having excess fiscal year 2015 funds in the program. The Senate amendment would instead provide an additional \$725.0 million in Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-wide, including \$350.0 million for continued development and risk reduction activities of the Unmanned Combat Air System Demonstration (UCAS-D) aircraft that would benefit the overall UCLASS program, and \$375.0 million to be used for a competitive prototyping of at least two follow-on air systems that move the Department toward a UCLASS program capable of long-range strike in a contested environment.

The conferees believe that the Navy should develop a penetrating, air-refuelable, un-

manned carrier-launched aircraft capable of performing a broad range of missions in a non-permissive environment. The conferees believe that such an aircraft should be designed for full integration into carrier air wing operations—including strike operations—and possess the range, payload, and survivability attributes as necessary to complement such integration. Although the Defense Department could develop land-based unmanned aircraft with attributes to support the air wing, the conferees believe that the United States would derive substantial strategic and operational benefits from operating such aircraft from a mobile seabase that is self-deployable and not subject to the caveats of a host nation.

Therefore, the conferees recommend an increase of \$350.0 million to the UCLASS program and direct the Secretary of Defense to use these funds to conduct competitive air vehicle risk reduction activities that would lead to fielding penetrating, air-refuelable, UCLASS air vehicles capable of performing a broad range of missions in a non-permissive environment.

The conferees direct the Navy to leverage both the lessons learned from the UCAS-D program and the existence of two operational UCAS-D demonstrator aircraft in support of these efforts. The conferees also encourage the Secretaries of Defense and the Navy to consider all appropriate flexible acquisition authorities granted in law and in this Act, including those for rapid prototyping. Finally, the conferees recommend that any contractual arrangements executed with this funding provide the Navy with sufficient technical data rights to support a subsequent competitive prototyping, follow-on development, or future multiple-sourced production efforts.

The conferees look forward to reviewing the results of the Department of Defense Intelligence Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Strategic Portfolio Review and also the report directed in section 217 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Integrated personnel and pay system for Army

The budget request included \$136.0 million in PE 65018A for the Integrated Personnel and Pay System—Army (IPPS-A).

The House bill included the full requested amount.

The Senate amendment included \$86.0 million for IPPS-A, a reduction of \$50.0 million.

The conference agreement authorizes \$121.0 million in PE 65018A for the Integrated Personnel and Pay System—Army (IPPS-A). Elsewhere in this Act, the conferees include a legislative provision that limits obligation of funds for the program, until provision of a required report to Congress on program plans.

**Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations
Authorization of appropriations (sec. 201)**

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 201) that would authorize the appropriations for research, development, test, and evaluation activities at the levels identified in section 4201 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 201).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

**Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations
Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership (sec. 211)**

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 211) that would authorize a pro-

gram to enhance the Department of Defense laboratories with innovative academic and industry partners in research and development activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Expansion of eligibility for financial assistance under Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation program to include citizens of countries participating in The Technical Cooperation Program (sec. 212)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 216) that would expand the Department of Defense's Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) program to include students from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes the provision with an amendment to cap the number of new foreign students entering the program at five per year. The conferees believe that this cap will help to ensure that the majority of the students in the program are U.S. citizens, while also giving the Department the flexibility to include foreign students on a trial basis. The conferees also believe that this cap will allow the Department the opportunity to work out procedures and processes for the potential expansion to include other kinds of foreign students, should the Secretary of Defense determine that is in the national security interest.

Expansion of education partnerships to support technology transfer and transition (sec. 213)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 221) that would allow institutions that support technology transition or transfer activities, such as business schools or law schools with technology management programs, to participate in education partnerships with Defense laboratories, as authorized in Section 2194 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes the provision with amendments that would clarify to which institutions such authorities would extend, authorize a sabbatical and internship program for university faculty and students to work in Defense laboratories, and provide additional emphasis on technology transfer and transition projects. The conferees believe that these amendments, taken together, would strengthen the purpose of the provision, which is to ensure that education partnerships are available for those wishing to engage in technology transfer or transition, in addition to traditional research projects.

Improvement to coordination and communication of Defense research activities (sec. 214)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 231) that would improve the coordination and communication of defense research activities and technology domain awareness. The House bill directs the Secretary of Defense to promote, monitor, and evaluate programs not only among Defense research facilities, but also among other government facilities, as well as commercial and university entities. The House bill would also encourage the Department to achieve full awareness of scientific and technological advancement and innovation throughout the technology domain.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would add additional direction to the Secretary of Defense to develop and distribute clear technical communications to all internal and external entities. The conferees believe it is important that the Department more completely and robustly convey successes of Defense research and engineering activities.

The Senate amendment would also direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that publicly-funded Defense research facilities support national technological development goals and technological missions of other federal agencies, as appropriate. The conferees believe that taxpayer funds used for scientific research should be used in support of the best interests of the U.S. government as a whole.

Reauthorization of Global Research Watch program (sec. 215)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 214) that would reauthorize the Global Research Watch program for an additional 10 years. The Senate provision would also expand the responsibilities of the program to include private sector entities, in addition to foreign governments.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Reauthorization of Defense research and development Rapid Innovation Program (sec. 216)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 211) that would extend the authorization for the Department of Defense to execute activities for the Rapid Innovation Program through 2020.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 213) that would reauthorize the Rapid Innovation Program for 5 years. The Senate provision would also make technical changes to the program's guidelines and reporting requirements.

The conference agreement contains the Senate provision with a technical edit from the House to extend the program through 2023. The conferees believe that it would be more effective to extend the program in a manner consistent with the end of the next program objective memorandum.

Science and technology activities to support business systems information technology acquisition programs (sec. 217)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 215) that would mandate the establishment of science and technology activities that would help reduce the technical risk and life cycle costs of major information technology acquisition programs. The provision would require the Department to fund appropriate research, development, and capability-building activities to make it a "smarter buyer" of these programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes the provision with an amendment directing the Department to conduct a gap analysis to identify relevant activities that are not being pursued in the current science and technology program.

The conferees recognize and appreciate that the Department does currently engage in some activities that address those described in this provision and the original report language from the Senate Armed Services Committee. However, the conferees note with dismay the significant gaps in activities and technologies continue to exist. Examples of these gaps include lack of support for business process re-engineering, for low-

ering costs of customization of commercial software, for lowering maintenance costs, for open architectures, for engagement with management schools and small businesses, and for the conversion of legacy software to modern systems. The conferees remain concerned that such gaps in science and technology activities related to business systems information technology acquisition, if left unaddressed, have the potential to severely hamper the Department's ability to field a modern and efficient information technology enterprise that meets the current and future needs of the Department.

Department of Defense technology offset program to build and maintain the technological superiority of the United States (sec. 218)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 212) that would establish and initiate within the Department of Defense to maintain and enhance the military technological superiority of the United States. The provision would establish a program to accelerate the fielding of offset technologies, including, but not limited to, directed energy, low-cost high-speed munitions, autonomous systems, undersea warfare, cyber technology, and intelligence data analytics, developed by the department and to accelerate the commercialization of such technologies. The provision would also direct the Secretary to establish updated policies and new acquisition and management practices that would speed delivery of offset technologies into operational use. The provision would authorize \$400.0 million for fiscal year 2016 for initiative, of which \$200.0 million would be authorized specifically for directed energy.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes this provision with an amendment to remove the requirement for a strategy on the development of directed energy technologies.

The conferees are aware of the challenges facing the Department in maintaining technological superiority with regards to potential future adversaries. In authorizing the technology offset program in this provision, the conferees recognize the need for the Department to have sufficient flexibility and resources to make sound strategic decisions for technology investment to respond to a more dire future security environment. The conferees note that the Department has a number of initiatives, such as the Defense Innovation Initiative, and the Long-Range Research and Development Plan, to help guide those investments.

In particular, the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives have been focused on the role directed energy weapons will have in our future security environment, and have been proponents of maturing directed energy technologies to transition them to the warfighting community as quickly as possible. The conferees are aware that the Department and the military services have various roadmaps for deploying these technologies, and consider this fund a major forcing function to drive accelerated development and transition.

To better understand how the funds authorized in this section, in combination with other funds for directed energy programs, will be used to identify and transition promising directed energy technologies to the warfighting community, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives no

later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act. This briefing should include:

1) A description of a program management process for the identification of directed energy efforts, including prototyping or exercise opportunities, where additional funding may support accelerated transition to urgent operational needs or programs of record;

2) A description of coordination mechanisms between services and agencies undertaking directed energy activities, including coordination of science and technology prototyping, and programs of record;

3) An identification of challenges from the warfighting community currently impeding the adoption of or confidence in directed energy weapons systems.

4) An identification of policy, regulatory, or legislative impediments or challenges that currently constrain accelerated transition to the warfighting community; and

(5) Recommendations for how to improve the department's ability to transition promising directed energy technology initiatives to the warfighting community.

Limitation on availability of funds for F-15 infrared search and track capability development (sec. 219)

The House bill contained a provision (Sec. 213) that would limit the availability of funds for fiscal year 2016 for the research, development, test, and evaluation of F-15 infrared search and track capabilities until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense submits a specified report.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Limitation on availability of funds for development of the shallow water combat submersible (sec. 220)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 225) that would require a briefing to the congressional defense committees on the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) Shallow Water Combat Submersible (SWCS) program.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 218) that would prohibit the expenditure of more than 25 percent of the funds available for the SWCS program for fiscal year 2016 until the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics designates a civilian official within his office responsible for providing oversight and assistance to SOCOM for all undersea mobility programs and, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, provides the congressional defense committees a report on the SWCS program.

The House recedes with an amendment that would modify to 50 percent the amounts available for the SWCS program and modify associated reporting requirements.

Limitation on availability of funds for Medical Countermeasures Program (sec. 221)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 212) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of 50 percent of the funds made available for the Department of Defense Medical Countermeasures program within the Chemical-Biological Defense Program until the Secretary of Defense provides a report to the congressional defense committees that validates the requirements and conducts an independent cost-benefit analysis to justify funding and efficiencies. This section would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a review of the certification to the congressional defense committees within 60 days after the date on which the Secretary submits his report.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement contains the House provision with an amendment that would decrease the limitation from 50 percent to 25 percent pertaining only to those funds used for research development test and evaluation (RDT&E) activities in the Advanced Development and Manufacturing facility per se and not all the RDT&E activities associated with the Medical Countermeasures Program.

The conferees further note that Consistent with GAO report 15-257 (June 2015), the Secretary shall report to the congressional defense committees no later than February 28, 2016 on the designation of an individual responsible for managing infrastructure for the Department of Defense Chemical and Biological defense programs, to include shared-use facilities such as those within the Advanced Development and Manufacturing program, in order to minimize duplication of effort within the Department of Defense and other agencies of the federal government. The Secretary of defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the appointment of such individual no later than 15 days after such designation. Further, the conferees direct the Comptroller General to review the roles and responsibilities of the official designated to be responsible for infrastructure management, and to brief the congressional defense committees no later than March 31, 2016.

Limitation on availability of funds for distributed common ground system of the Army (sec. 222)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 219) that would limit the amount of funds available to be obligated or expended by the Secretary of the Army to not more than 75 percent of the amounts authorized to be obligated for fiscal year 2016 until a review of the program planning for the distributed common ground system of the Army is submitted to the congressional defense and intelligence committees.

The House bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1624).

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Limitation on availability of funds for distributed common ground system of the United States Special Operations Command (sec. 223)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1625) that would limit the availability of funds for the Special Operations Command's Distributed Common Ground System to 75 percent of the funds authorized to be obligated by the program until the Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command conducts a review of the program planning and submits the findings of such review to the congressional defense committees and the congressional intelligence committees and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 220) that would limit the availability of research, development, test, and evaluation funds for the distributed common ground system of the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) until the Commander of SOCOM submits a report to the congressional defense committees.

The House recedes.

Integrated personnel and pay system for Army (sec. 224)

The conference agreement includes a provision (sec. 224) that would limit the ability of the Secretary of the Army to obligate

more than 75 percent of the total authorized amount of fiscal year 2016 program funds for Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (IPPS-A) program until the Secretary of the Army provides a report to the congressional defense committees on the performance of legacy systems, changes in human resources organization and financial system capabilities, and alternatives to the current cost of IPPS-A.

*Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters
Streamlining the Joint Federated Assurance Center (sec. 231)*

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 217) that would streamline the Department of Defense's Joint Federated Assurance Center by eliminating an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy between the Center's steering group and its working groups.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Demonstration of persistent close air support capabilities (sec. 232)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 233) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Army, and the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to jointly conduct a demonstration of the Persistent Close Air Support (PCAS) capability in fiscal year 2016.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to strike the phrase "as identified by the United States Air Force Close Air Support Forum" from subparagraph (b)(1). The amendment would also replace all occurrences of the word "shall" with "may," and add a paragraph directing a briefing to the congressional defense committees by December 1, 2016 on the assessment of demonstration results and cost estimates for transition of any desired technologies.

The conferees strongly encourage the three parties to conduct the PCAS demonstration, as the benefits would likely provide a large payoff in increased capability for what is estimated to be minimal resource investment. In response to the challenge of diverse platforms and user populations of the close air support mission, the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, in 2009, in its Close Air Support Capabilities-Based Assessment, recommended that "Platforms should field flexible systems that utilize an improved architecture which migrates the processing of digital messages to a Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) based processor and away from the [aircraft] operational flight programs."

The conferees observe that with repeated Air Force proposals to retire their fleet of A-10 aircraft, the integration of game-changing and relatively inexpensive technologies to improve close air support mission operations and results on other platforms could be beneficial in assuaging concerns of divesting a particular aircraft, even a type with close air support as its primary mission.

The conferees also agree that the Director of DARPA should provide resources to the maximum extent practical to minimize costs borne by the participating Services to accomplish the demonstration activities.

Strategies for engagement with historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions of higher education (sec. 233)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 222) that would require the Secretaries of the military departments to each develop a

strategy for engagement with and support of the development of scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics capabilities with historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy that encompasses the strategies developed by the military departments.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that ensures that such strategies are developed by all organizations within the Department of Defense that are engaged in basic research, thereby broadening the provision to cover all appropriate Defense entities.

The conferees note that in implementing the requirements of this provision, the Secretary of Defense may seek information from the directorates of the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation program (LSAMP) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) of the National Science Foundation; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Emerging Researchers National Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; the University of Florida Institute for African-American Mentoring in Computing Sciences (IAAMCS); the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; the National Indian Education Association; and such other institutions, organizations, or associations as the Secretary deems useful.

Report on commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance systems for Army tactical unmanned aerial systems (sec. 234)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 229) that would express the Sense of Congress on the capabilities provided by unmanned aerial systems that use wide area surveillance sensors. The provision would also require the Secretary of the Army to conduct a market survey and flight assessment of commercial-off-the-shelf wide area surveillance sensors suitable for insertion on Army tactical unmanned aerial systems.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the sense of Congress, modify the reporting requirements for the market survey, require an assessment of current wide area surveillance systems that are currently used or could be used on Army tactical unmanned aerial systems, as well as require the Secretary of the Army to assess the advisability and feasibility of upgrading wide area surveillance systems for Army tactical unmanned aerial systems.

Report on Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (sec. 235)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 230) that would direct the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than January 29, 2016, on the baseline and alternatives to the Navy's Tactical Air Combat Training System Increment II. The provision would also limit the Navy from approving or designating a contract award for the specified system until 15 days after the date of the submittal of the report.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment striking subparagraph (c) to remove the limitation.

Report on technology readiness levels of the technologies and capabilities critical to the long range strike bomber aircraft (sec. 236)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 235) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, a report on the Technology Readiness Levels and capabilities critical to the Long Range Strike Bomber aircraft. The provision would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to review the Secretary's report and submit an assessment to the congressional defense committees.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to have the Secretary report to the congressional defense committees.

Assessment of Air-Land Mobile Tactical Communications and Data Network Requirements and Capabilities (sec. 237)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 231) that would require the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) to contract with an independent entity to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and future requirements and capabilities to determine the technological feasibility, achievability, suitability, and survivability of a tactical communications and data network. The provision would also prohibit the Secretary of the Army from obligating more than 50 percent of funds available in Other Procurement, Army for the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, Increment 2 program subject to the submission of the independent entity's report.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would strike the limitation of funds, and require the Director of CAPE to seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and future requirements and capabilities of the Army with respect to air-land ad hoc, mobile tactical communications and data networks, including the technological feasibility, suitability, and survivability of such networks.

The conferees believe the Director of CAPE shall select a federally funded research and development center with direct, long-standing, and demonstrated experience and expertise in program test and evaluation of concepts, requirements, and technologies for joint tactical communications and data networking to perform the assessment. The Institute for Defense Analysis may be such an entity with expertise needed for such a detailed assessment.

Study of field failures involving counterfeit electronic parts (sec. 238)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 232) that would require the Secretary of Defense to task the Joint Federated Assurance Center (JFAC) to conduct a hardware assurance study to assess the presence, scope, and effect on Department of Defense operations of counterfeit electronic parts that have passed through the Department of Defense supply chain and into fielded systems.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes the provision with an amendment to assign responsibility for the study to the executive agent for printed circuit board technology. The conferees believe that the executive agent is the most appropriate official to conduct such a study. The amendment would

also require JFAC to conduct a technical assessment for indications of malicious tampering on any parts assessed that demonstrate unusual or suspicious failure mechanisms. The conferees believe that such follow-up is critical for ensuring maximum impact and benefit of the study.

Airborne data link plan (sec. 239)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 234) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to jointly, in consultation with the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy, to develop a plan on airborne data links between fifth-to-fifth, and fifth-to-fourth generation aircraft. The provision would also limit funding for the TALON HATE and Multi-Domain Adaptable Processing System programs until the plan was briefed to the congressional defense committees.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to add a date of February 15, 2016 for the plan briefing, and to strike subsection (c).

Plan for advanced weapons technology war games (sec. 240)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 223) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to develop a plan for integrating advanced technologies, such as directed energy weapons, hypersonic strike systems, and autonomous systems into broader title 10 war games to improve socialization with the warfighter and the development and experimentation of various concepts for employment by the Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with some technical amendments.

Independent assessment of F135 engine program (sec. 241)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 214) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the F135 engine program, and submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than March 15, 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Comptroller General Review of autonomic logistics information system for F-35 Lightning II aircraft (sec. 242)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 224) that would direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review and submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the autonomic logistics information system for the F-35 Lightning II aircraft program.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to make technical corrections to correct typographical errors.

Sense of Congress regarding facilitation of a high quality technical workforce (sec. 243)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 227) that would express a sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should explore using existing authorities for all Federally Funded Research and Development Centers to help facilitate and shape a high quality scientific and technical workforce

that can support the Department's needs. In addition, the provision would make a number of findings, including that the country's scientific and technical workforce is a matter of national security, that the Department's support for technical education programs facilitates the training of the future workforce, and that the highly skilled workforce already employed is qualified to facilitate training of a future workforce.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would expand the provision to include all defense laboratories. The conferees believe that the paragraphs of the provision apply to all Defense laboratories, not only the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and that all should be recognized as such.

The conferees find that:

(1) The quality of the future scientific and technical workforce of the United States and the access of the Department of Defense to a high quality scientific and technical workforce are matters of national security concern;

(2) The support of the Department of Defense for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs facilitates the training of a future scientific and technical workforce that will contribute significantly to the research, development, test, and evaluation functions of the Department of Defense and the readiness of the future Armed Forces;

(3) Defense laboratories and federally funded research and development centers sponsored by the Department of Defense employ a highly skilled workforce that is qualified to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education initiatives, including through meaningful volunteer opportunities in primary and secondary educational settings and cooperative relationships and arrangements with private sector organizations and State and local governments, and to facilitate the training of a future scientific and technical workforce;

(4) Robust participation in scientific and technical conferences, including industry and international conferences, will strengthen the national security scientific and technical workforce.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Report on graduate fellowships in support of science, mathematics, and engineering education

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 226) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on graduate fellowships in support of science, mathematics, and engineering education.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include this provision.

Funding for MV-22A Digital Interoperability Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 228) that would authorize an increase in funding for MV-22A Digital Interoperability Program of \$75.0 million which included \$64.3 million for Aircraft Procurement, Navy, and \$10.7 million for Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision, but would increase funding for the MV-22A, based upon the unfunded priority list of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The Senate amendment would increase funding by a total of \$23.0 million including \$15.0 million for integrated aircraft

survivability and \$8.0 million for ballistic protection.

The agreement does not include this provision.

The outcome is reflected in section 4101 and 4201 of this Act, and includes funding in line with the Senate amendment.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Apportionment of small business funds under continuing resolutions

The conferees believe that under a continuing budget resolution (CR), federal agencies remain responsible for assessing the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transition (STTR) set-asides, and executing program support for small business technology innovation. To support Department of Defense access to small business innovation, the conferees believe that Department comptrollers should move expeditiously to calculate the SBIR/STTR assessments, and make those funds available to military services and agency SBIR/STTR programs commensurate with those assessments, on a timeline that supports program effectiveness.

Expedited approval for attendance at conferences in support of science and innovation activities of Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration

The conferees note with concern that since the Departments of Defense and Energy have implemented updated conference policies, in response to requirements from the Office of Management and Budget, attendance at science and technology conferences by department personnel has reduced dramatically. According to a report from the Government Accountability Office in March 2015, conference attendance from the Army Research Laboratory declined from about 1300 attendees in 2011 to about 100 attendees in 2013. A similar drop in attendance was reported from Sandia National Laboratories. The report highlights that such a drop in attendance risks a decline in the quality of scientific research, difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified scientists and engineers, and a diminished leadership role for the two departments within the global science and technology community. The report also notes that the new departmental policies are not meeting the needs of personnel requesting approval to travel to conferences.

Given the importance of conference attendance for an active exchange of scientific information and for recruiting and retaining high-quality technical talent, and therefore maintaining technological superiority, the conferees are concerned that the conference attendance approval policies are undermining and eroding the science and technology missions of both departments as well as the ability of personnel to engage in cutting-edge research, development, testing, and evaluation. The conferees believe that technical conference participation is especially important to keep program managers aware of new trends in technology, so that they may make better informed decisions on behalf of taxpayers.

To maintain global technology awareness and to support retention of technical staff, the conferees believe that the Departments should strive to follow the best practices of the innovative private and academic institutions in developing management and oversight practices for conference participation. The conferees are concerned that in specific technical fields of interest to defense, such as hypersonics and cybersecurity, the lack of participation in conferences is ceding U.S. leadership to competitor nations.

In response to these findings and concerns, the conferees direct the Secretaries of Defense and Energy to revise current policies within the Department of Defense and National Nuclear Security Administration, respectively, whereby requests for scientific conference attendance are adjudicated within one month, and approvals are granted as appropriate within one month. Further, the conferees direct the Secretaries of Defense and Energy to ensure that any decisions to disapprove conference attendance through these revised policies are made if and only if the appropriate officials determine that the disapproval would have a net positive impact on research and development and on program management quality, and not simply default disapprovals necessitated by a bureaucratic inability to make a timely decision. In addition, the conferees direct that these new policies be implemented no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act.

The conferees recommend that, through these revised policies, laboratory and test center directors be given the authority to approve conference attendance, provided that the attendance would meet the mission of the laboratory or test center and that sufficient laboratory or test center funds are available.

The conferees direct the Secretaries of Defense and Energy each to report to the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Armed Services Committee on the revised policies from their respective agencies, as well as an assessment of their benefits and drawbacks, along with measures for tracking the effectiveness of the new policies. The conferees further direct that this report be submitted no later than one year after the enactment of this act.

Protection of advanced technologies

The conferees have concerns that the Department of Defense, while taking necessary steps to pursue and create innovative technologies and to access global sources of innovation, also needs to better protect such technologies against unauthorized disclosure to or theft by potential adversaries. The conferees are concerned that some adversaries have clear strategies (1) to overcome our general technology protection efforts and specific program protection measures, and (2) to mitigate our efforts to increase our technological superiority. For this reason, the conferees believe that the Department would benefit from better technology and program protection planning and more effective cybersecurity measures.

Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of methodologies that potential adversaries are exploiting to gain unauthorized access to technologies and intellectual property, and to circumvent current export control and other technology protection regimes. Additionally, the Department should review structures of business relationships, such as partnerships, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and consortia, to assess the potential that these types of relationships present additional opportunities for exploitation by adversaries. Further, the conferees direct the Secretary to brief the results of the review to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives by March 15, 2016, including any recommendations that may necessitate legislative action.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations *Authorization of appropriations (sec. 301)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 301) that would authorize the appropriations

for operation and maintenance activities at the levels identified in section 4301 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 301).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Subtitle B—Energy and the Environment

Limitation on procurement of drop-in fuels (sec. 311)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 311) that would amend subchapter II of chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit Department of Defense funds to be used for bulk purchases of drop-in fuel for operational purposes, unless the cost of that drop-in fuel is cost-competitive with traditional fuel, subject to a national security waiver.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas (sec. 312)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 312) that would amend chapter 631 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section directing the Secretary of the Navy to establish “Southern Sea Otter Military Readiness Areas” for national defense purposes. The provision would also repeal section 1 of Public Law 99-625 (16 U.S.C. 1536 note).

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 313).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that excludes the repeal of section 1 of Public Law 99-625 (16 U.S.C. 1536 note).

Modification of energy management reporting requirements (sec. 313)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 311) that would amend section 2925(a) of title 10, United States Code, by striking a subsection listing renewable energy credits (RECs) and clarifying and strengthening the reporting requirements on commercial and non-commercial utility outages.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Revision to scope of statutorily required review of projects relating to potential obstructions to aviation so as to apply only to energy projects (sec. 314)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 313) that would amend section 358 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) to expand coverage of the Siting Clearinghouse to requests for informal reviews by Indian tribes and landowners, clarify that information received from private entities is not publicly releasable, eliminate categories of adverse risk, and limit applicability of section to only energy projects.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 353) that would amend section 358 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 to expand the coverage of the Department of Defense (DOD) Siting Clearinghouse to requests for informal reviews from Indian tribes and landowners, clarify that information received from private entities is not publicly releasable, eliminate categories of adverse risk. The Senate provision would maintain the coverage of the Department of Defense (DOD) Siting Clearinghouse for non-energy projects.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Exclusions from definition of “chemical substance” under Toxic Substances Control Act (sec. 315)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 314) that would modify section 2602(2)(B) of title 15, United States Code, to add to the exclusions any component of any article, including shot, bullets and other projectiles, propellants when manufactured for or used in such an article, and primers.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment limiting the provision to shot shells, cartridges, and components of shot shells and cartridges.

Subtitle C—Logistics and Sustainment

Repeal of limitation on authority to enter into a contract for the sustainment, maintenance, repair, or overhaul of the F117 engine (sec. 322)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 323) that would amend Section 341 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 321) that would repeal Section 341 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The House recedes.

Pilot programs for availability of working capital funds for product improvements (sec. 323)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 324) that would require the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition to each initiate a pilot program pursuant to section 330 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 68), as amended by section 332 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1697).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle D—Reports

Modification of annual report on prepositioned materiel and equipment (sec. 331)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 331) that would amend Section 2229a(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Report on merger of Office of Assistant Secretary for Operational Energy Plans and Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment (sec. 332)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 318) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on the merger of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Report on equipment purchased noncompetitively from foreign entities (sec. 333)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 325) that would require the Secretary of De-

fense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on contracts awarded to foreign entities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

Prohibition on contracts making payments for honoring members of the Armed Forces at sporting events (sec. 341)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1098) that provided a sense of the Congress in regard to a private organization utilizing funds from the Department of Defense for the purpose of promoting or honoring the military.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 342a) and included a prohibition on the Department of Defense from entering into any such contracts.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

The conferees urge any organization, including the National Football League and other professional sports leagues, that has accepted taxpayer funds to honor members of the Armed Forces to consider directing an equivalent amount of funding in the form of a donation to a charitable organization that supports members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families. The conferees also urge the Department of Defense to redirect any funds that would have been used for the aforementioned purposes to the post-traumatic stress disorder research and treatment for members of the Armed Forces.

Military animals: transfer and adoption (sec. 342)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 594) that would amend Section 2583 of title 10, United States Code, in regard to military working dogs.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 352).

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Temporary authority to extend contracts and leases under the ARMS Initiative (sec. 343)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 335) that would allow contracts or subcontracts entered into pursuant to section 4554(a)(3)(A) of title 10, United States Code, on or before the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act to include an option to extend the term of the contract or subcontract for an additional 25 years.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 343).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Improvements to Department of Defense excess property disposal (sec. 344)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 333) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the improved management and oversight of the systems, processes, and controls involved in the disposition of excess non-mission essential equipment and materiel by the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Limitation on use of funds for Department of Defense sponsorships, advertising, or marketing associated with sports-related organizations or sporting events (sec. 345)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 342) that would prohibit the De-

partment of Defense from using any funds authorized to be appropriated for sponsorship, advertising, or marketing associated with a sports-related organization or sporting event until a review of current contracts and task orders for such events was completed.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

The conferees are concerned with the Department's level of oversight of the sponsorship, advertising, and marketing associated with sports-related organizations and events executed by each of the military services, especially with the National Guard. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense and the service secretaries to ensure the proper oversight mechanisms are in place to provide proper oversight and approval of these programs.

Additional requirements for streamlining of Department of Defense management headquarters (sec. 346)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 905) that would express a series of findings and the sense of Congress on the commitment of the Department of Defense to reduce its headquarters budgets and personnel by 20 percent and to achieve \$10.0 billion in cost savings over 5 years. It would also amend section 904 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66), which requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for streamlining Department of Defense management headquarters, by requiring an accurate baseline accounting of defense headquarters budgets and personnel, and more specific information on actual and planned reductions in management headquarters. In addition, this section would further modify section 904 of Public Law 113-66 to require the Department to implement its planned reduction in management headquarters budgets and personnel for certain organizations in the National Capital Region. Lastly, it would clarify that civilian employees funded from working-capital funds are not subject to the reduction requirement.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 351) that would cut 30 percent from the budgets of headquarters activities over the next 4 years and require the Secretary of Defense to perform a comprehensive review of these activities and consider elimination, consolidation, and downsizing where appropriate.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Department to plan and budget for \$10.0 billion in cost savings in its headquarters, administrative and support activities between fiscal year 2015 and 2019. The amendment would also require at least a 25 percent reduction to headquarters activities, which would count towards the \$10.0 billion savings. Finally, the amendment would require a comprehensive review of headquarters, administrative and support functions with an eye towards streamlining and consolidating these functions across the Department of Defense.

The conferees believe that the Secretary must credit the reductions, as having been accomplished in earlier fiscal years in accordance with the December 2013 Directive, as part of the baseline amount under this section for all of the Department of Defense headquarters and the specific baseline amounts for each such headquarters activity.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Additional authorization of appropriations for the Office of Economic Adjustment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 302) that would authorize \$25.0 million for transportation projects on local roads that would help mitigate traffic congestion associated with the military facility.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the Defense Access Road program provides such funds around military installations where warranted.

Report on efforts to reduce high energy costs at military installations

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 312) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, in consultation with the assistant secretaries responsible for energy installations and environment for the military services and the Defense Logistics Agency, to conduct an assessment of the efforts to achieve cost savings at military installations with high energy costs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees encourage the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to include in the Department's Annual Energy Management Report an assessment of cost reduction efforts by military installations with high energy costs to include state and local partnership opportunities.

Exemption of Department of Defense from alternative fuel procurement

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 315) that would amend section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140) to exempt the Department of Defense from the requirements related to contracts for alternative or synthetic fuel in that section.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Limitation on plan, design, refurbishing, or construction of biofuels refineries

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 316) that would require the Department of Defense to obtain a congressional authorization before entering into a contract for the planning, design, refurbishing, or construction of a biofuels refinery.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Comprehensive study on impact of proposed ozone rule

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 317) that would require the Department of Defense to conduct a comprehensive study on the impact of any final rule to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone on military readiness.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Assignment of certain new requirements based on determinations of cost-efficiency

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 321) that would assign certain new work requirements based on determinations of cost-efficiency.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that sec. 321 is one of three provisions, along with sections 717 and 907, considered by the conferees that cited Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 7041.04, "Estimating and Comparing the Full Costs of Civilian and Active-Duty Military Manpower and Contract Support," as the prescribed methodology for making cost comparisons between DOD workforce sectors if the work is not inherently governmental or otherwise exempt from private-sector performance. The conferees also note that the Senate Committee on Armed Services included in Senate Report 114-49 language directing the Secretary of Defense to submit a report setting forth the results of a study comparing the fully burdened cost of performance by Department of Defense (DOD) civilians and contractors.

The conferees recognize that the costing methodology in DODI 7041.04, while validated by the DOD Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE), "continues to have certain limitations," as reported by the Government Accountability Office in GAO-13-792, "Opportunities Exist to Further Improve DOD's Methodology for Estimating the Costs of Its Workforces." In the same report, GAO raised questions "about the extent to which . . . officials throughout DOD are aware of a requirement to use the methodology for decisions other than in-sourcing."

In light of these findings, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, in responding to the reporting requirement in Senate Report 114-49 referenced above, to address the following additional items: (1) What steps has the Department taken to comply with the recommendations in GAO-13-792 for improving the costing methodology in DODI 7041.04; (2) What guidance has the Office of the Secretary of Defense issued to military components and defense agencies regarding the use of the cost-comparison process to make workforce mix decisions; (3) What roles do CAPE and the Office of the DOD Comptroller play in the cost-comparison process, both prior to workforce sourcing decisions being made and in tracking workforce sourcing outcomes; (4) What is the Office of the Secretary of Defense doing to ensure the skills, training, or experience needed to effectively perform manpower cost comparisons are available in the DOD workforce, including completion of the competency gap assessments cited in GAO-13-188, "Critical Skills and Competency Assessments Should Help Guide DOD Civilian Workforce Decisions"; and (5) How will the findings in the report required in Senate Report 114-49 be used to improve and correct current limitations of the cost-comparison process outlined in DODI 7041.04?

Access to wireless high-speed Internet and network connections for certain members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 334) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into contracts with third-party vendors to provide wireless high-speed Internet and network connections for certain members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Assessment of outreach for small business concerns owned and controlled by women and minorities required before conversion of certain functions to contractor performance

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 336) that would limit the conversion of a

function to performance by a contractor until an assessment has been made as to whether the Department has carried out sufficient outreach programs to assist small business concerns owned and controlled by women (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(D))) and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))) that are located in the geographic area near the military base.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Pilot program on intensive instruction in certain Asian languages

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 354) authorizing the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the National Education Board, to carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing scholarships in accordance with the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) to individuals for intensive language instruction in a covered Asian language where deficiencies exist.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note the need for intensive Asian language training, and direct the Secretary of Defense to provide the defense committees with a briefing no later than April 15, 2016, on the steps Department of Defense is taking to meet that need within the context of the Administration's policy to rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region.

Sense of Senate on finding efficiencies within the working-capital fund activities of the Department of Defense

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1005) that would provide a sense of the Senate for the Secretary of Defense to ensure a strong organic industrial base workforce.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include this provision.

The conferees note that the Secretary of Defense should continue to optimize existing workload plans to ensure a strong organic industrial base workforce.

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL
AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Active Forces

End strengths for active forces (sec. 401)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 401) that would authorize the following end strengths for active-duty personnel of the Armed Forces as of September 30, 2016: Army, 475,000; Navy, 329,200; Marine Corps, 184,000; and Air Force, 320,715.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 401) that would authorize active-duty end strength for the Air Force of 317,000.

The agreement includes the House provision.

End strength levels for the active forces for fiscal year 2016 are set forth in the following table:

Service	FY 2015 Authorized	FY 2016		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army	490,000	475,000	475,000	0	-15,000
Navy	323,600	329,200	329,200	0	+5,600
Marine Corps	184,100	184,000	184,000	0	-100
Air Force	312,980	317,000	320,715	+3,715	+7,735
DOD Total	1,310,680	1,305,200	1,308,915	0	-1,765

Revisions in permanent active duty end strength minimum levels (sec. 402)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 402) that would revise the permanent Active-Duty end strength minimum levels contained in Section 691(b) of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 402) that would repeal section 691 of title 10, United States Code. The provision would also amend section 115 of title 10, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Defense and the service secretaries authority to vary military personnel end

strengths below those authorized in title IV of this Act.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would amend subsection (e) of section 691 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the variance authority of the Secretary of Defense contained in that section from 0.5 percent to 2 percent.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

End strengths for Selected Reserve (sec. 411)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 411) that would authorize the following end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of

the Armed Forces as of September 30, 2016: the Army National Guard, 342,000; the Army Reserve, 198,000; the Navy Reserve, 57,400; the Marine Corps Reserve, 38,900; the Air National Guard of the United States, 105,500; the Air Force Reserve, 69,200; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 7,000.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 411).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

End strength levels for the Selected Reserve for fiscal year 2016 are set forth in the following table:

Service	FY 2015 Authorized	FY 2016		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	350,200	342,000	342,000	0	-8,200
Army Reserve	202,000	198,000	198,000	0	-4,000
Navy Reserve	57,300	57,400	57,400	0	+100
Marine Corps Reserve	39,200	38,900	38,900	0	-300
Air National Guard	105,000	105,500	105,500	0	+500
Air Force Reserve	67,100	69,200	69,200	0	+2,100
DOD Total	820,800	811,000	811,000	0	-9,800
Coast Guard Reserve	9,000	7,000	7,000	0	-2,000

End strengths for reserves on active duty in support of the reserves (sec. 412)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 412) that would authorize the following end strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the reserve components as of September 30, 2016: the Army National Guard of the United States, 30,770; the Army Reserve, 16,261; the Navy Reserve, 9,934; the Marine Corps Reserve, 2,260; the Air National Guard of the United States, 14,748; and the Air Force Reserve, 3,032.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 412) that would authorize the end strengths for the Reserves on Active Duty in support of the reserve components by the same amounts as the House bill and further required the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to take into account the actual number of members of the Army National Guard of the United States serving in each state as of September 30 each year when allocating full-time duty personnel in the Army National Guard of the United States.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Senate amendment expressed the Sense of the Senate that the National Guard Bureau should account for states that routinely recruit and retain members in excess of state authorizations when allocating full-time operational support duty personnel. The conferees encourage the National Guard Bureau to consider this when allocating full-time duty support personnel.

End strength levels for the reserves on active duty in support of the reserves for fiscal year 2016 are set forth in the following table:

Service	FY 2015 Authorized	FY 2016		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	31,385	30,770	30,770	0	-615
Army Reserve	16,261	16,261	16,261	0	0
Navy Reserve	9,973	9,934	9,934	0	-39
Marine Corps Reserve	2,261	2,260	2,260	0	-1
Air National Guard	14,704	14,748	14,748	0	+44
Air Force Reserve	2,830	3,032	3,032	0	+202
DOD Total	77,414	77,005	77,005	0	-409

End strengths for military technicians (dual status) (sec. 413)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 413) that would authorize the following end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2016: the Army Na-

tional Guard of the United States, 26,099; the Army Reserve, 7,395; the Air National Guard of the United States, 22,104; and the Air Force Reserve, 9,814.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 413).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

End strength levels for military technicians (dual status) for fiscal year 2016 are set forth in the following table:

Service	FY 2015 Authorized	FY 2016		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	27,210	26,099	26,099	0	-1,111
Army Reserve	7,895	7,395	7,395	0	-500
Air National Guard	21,792	22,104	22,104	0	+312
Air Force Reserve	9,789	9,814	9,814	0	+25
DOD Total	66,686	65,412	65,412	0	-1,274

Fiscal year 2016 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians (sec. 414)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 414) that would authorize the following personnel limits for the reserve components of the Army and Air Force for non-dual status

technicians as of September 30, 2016: the Army National Guard of the United States, 1,600; the Air National Guard of the United States, 350; the Army Reserve, 595; and the Air Force Reserve, 90.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 414).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

End strength levels for the non-dual status technicians for fiscal year 2016 are set forth in the following table:

Service	FY 2015 Authorized	FY 2016		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Air National Guard	350	350	350	0	0
Army Reserve	595	595	595	0	0
Air Force Reserve	90	90	90	0	0
DOD Total	2,635	2,635	2,635	0	0

Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support (sec. 415)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 415) that would authorize the maximum number of reserve component personnel who

may be on Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, during fiscal year 2016 to provide operational support.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 415).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

End strength levels for reserve personnel authorized to be on Active Duty for operational support for fiscal year 2016 are set forth in the following table:

Service	FY 2015 Authorized	FY 2016		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2016 Request	FY 2015 Authorized
Army National Guard	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0
Army Reserve	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Navy Reserve	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Marine Corps Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Air National Guard	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	0
Air Force Reserve	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0
DOD Total	69,200	69,200	69,200	0	0

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

Military personnel (sec. 421)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 421) that would authorize appropriations for military personnel at the levels identified in the funding table in section 4401 of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 421).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Report on force structure of the Army (sec. 422)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 422) that would require a report on the force structure of the Army.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Chief of the National Guard Bureau authority to increase certain end strengths applicable to the Army National Guard

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 416) that would provide the Chief of the National Guard Bureau with the authority to increase the fiscal year 2016 end strength of the Selected Reserve personnel of the Army National Guard as specified in section 411(a)(1) by up to 3,000 members, the end strength of the Reserves serving on full-time duty for the Army National Guard as specified in section 412(1) by 615 Reserves, and military technicians (dual status) for the Army National Guard as specified in section 413(1) by 1,111. The provision contains a limitation stating that the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may only increase an end strength using the authority contained in this section if such increase is paid for entirely out of the readiness funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

Reinstatement of enhanced authority for selective early discharge of warrant officers (sec. 501)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 506) that would amend section 508a of title 10, United States Code, to reinstate authority for service secretaries to convene selection boards to consider regular warrant officers on the Active-Duty list for involuntary discharge during the period October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2019.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Equitable treatment of junior officers excluded from an all-fully-qualified officers list because of administrative error (sec. 502)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 501) that would amend section 624(a)(3) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a service secretary to prepare a supplemental list of officers considered all-fully-qualified when one or more officers or former officers are not placed on an all-fully-qualified list due to administrative error. The House provision would also amend section 14308(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a service secretary to prepare a similar supplemental list for officers on Reserve active-status who are not placed on an all-fully-qualified list due to administrative error.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Enhanced flexibility for determination of officers to continue on active duty and for selective early retirement and early discharge (sec. 503)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 504) that would amend section 638(a) of title 10, United States Code, relating to the authority for selective early retirement and early discharges to eliminate the restriction that the number of officers rec-

ommended for discharge by a selection board may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers in each grade, year group, or specialty (or combination thereof) in each competitive category. The provision would impose the same restriction that applies to boards to select officers for early retirement, which provides that the number of officers recommended for retirement may not be more than 30 percent of the number of officers considered.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authority to defer until age 68 mandatory retirement for age of a general or flag officer serving as Chief or Deputy Chief of Chaplains of the Army, Navy or Air Force (sec. 504)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 502) that would amend section 1253 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize service secretaries to defer the retirement of general and flag officers serving as the Chief or Deputy Chief of Chaplains in their respective Services to age 68.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 505).

The Senate recedes.

General rule for warrant officer retirement in highest grade held satisfactorily (sec. 505)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 507) that would amend section 1371 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a service secretary to retire warrant officers in the highest grade in which they served satisfactorily before retirement.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Implementation of Comptroller General recommendation on the definition and availability of costs associated with general and flag officers and their aides (sec. 506)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 503) that would require the Secretary of Defense to direct the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, to define certain costs associated with general and flag officers for the purpose of estimating and managing the full costs associated with these officers and aides.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

Continued service in the Ready Reserve by Members of Congress who are also members of the Ready Reserve (sec. 511)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 512) that would amend section 10149 of title 10, United States Code, to require that members of the Ready Reserve who occupy certain federal key positions whose mobilization in an emergency would seriously impair the capability of a federal agency or office to function effectively are not retained in the Ready Reserve.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would amend section 10149 of title 10, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Ready Reserve who is also a member of Congress may not be transferred to the Standby Reserve or discharged on account of the individual's position as a Member of Congress unless the Secretary of Defense, or in the Coast Guard Reserve, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, determines that transfer or discharge is based on the needs of the service.

Clarification of purpose of reserve component special selection boards as limited to correction of error at a mandatory promotion board (sec. 512)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 511) that would modify section 14502(b) of title 10, United States Code, to conform the authority for convening special selection boards for Reserve officers with the authority for Active-Duty officers in cases in which an officer is considered by a mandatory promotion board, but is not selected due to a material error of fact, material administrative error, or the board did not have before it material information for its consideration.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 512).

The Senate recedes.

Increase in number of days of Active Duty required to be performed by reserve component members for duty to be considered Federal service for purposes of unemployment compensation for ex-servicemembers (sec. 513)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 592) that would increase from 90 to 180 days the number of continuous days of Active Duty required to be performed by reserve component members for that duty to be considered satisfactory federal service for purposes of unemployment compensation for ex-servicemembers.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Temporary authority to use Air Force reserve component personnel to provide training and instruction regarding pilot training (sec. 514)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 514) that would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to utilize, during fiscal year 2016, up to 50 Active, Guard, and Reserve (AGR) members and dual-status military technicians to provide training and instruction to active duty and foreign military personnel in excess of what is currently authorized by the AGR and military technician statutes. The provision would also require the Secretary, by no later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to provide the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report setting forth a plan to eliminate pilot training shortages within the Air Force using authorities available to the Secretary under current law.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Assessment of Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recommendation regarding consolidation of authorities to order members of Reserve components to perform duty (sec. 515)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 521) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to prescribe policies and procedures for the Armed Forces when members of the Ready Reserve are ordered to active duty.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 522) that would amend chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, to redesignate inactive duty of the Reserve component to encompass operational and other duties performed while in an active duty status.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 523) that would amend chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, to add a new subchapter on the purpose of Reserve duty.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 524) that would amend chapter 5 of title 32, United States Code, and insert a new section on training and other duty performed by members of the National Guard.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 525) that would make certain conforming and clerical amendments related to the authorities to be added or modified by sections 521, 522, 523 and 524 of the House bill.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 526) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a plan to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, to implement the authorities to be added or modified by sections 521, 522, 523, 524 and 525 of the House bill.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provisions.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, containing the Secretary's assessment of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission's recommendation to consolidate the statutory authorities by which members of the reserve components may be ordered to perform duty. The report shall include the Secretary's assessment of the Commission's recommendation to consolidate 30 Reserve Component duty statuses into 6 broader statuses, with an analysis of

each of the statuses recommended by the Commission. If the Secretary determines that a different consolidation is preferable, the report should clearly articulate why the Secretary's recommendation is preferable to the specific recommendation of the Commission. The report should include draft legislation to implement the recommendations of the Secretary not later than 1 October 2018.

Subtitle C—General Service Authorities

Limited authority for Secretary concerned to initiate applications for correction of military records (sec. 521)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 586) that would amend section 1552(b) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the service secretaries to apply for a correction to military records on behalf of an individual.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would authorize the service secretaries to initiate an application on behalf of a group of members or former members who were similarly harmed by the same error or injustice.

Temporary authority to develop and provide additional recruitment incentives (sec. 522)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 531) that would authorize the service secretaries to develop new incentives to encourage recruitment into the Armed Forces. If a service secretary utilizes the authority provided, they shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Expansion of authority to conduct pilot programs on career flexibility to enhance retention of members of the Armed Forces (sec. 523)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 532) that would modify section 533 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) to remove the prohibition for participation by members of the Armed Forces serving under an agreement upon entry, or members receiving a critical military skill retention bonus under section 355 of title 37, United States Code, from participating in pilot programs on career flexibility to enhance retention. The provision would also remove the restriction that limits the number of participants in the program to 20 officers and 20 enlisted members who may be selected to participate in the pilot program during a calendar year.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 522).

The Senate recedes.

Modification of notice and wait requirements for change in ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces (sec. 524)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 533) that would amend section 652(a) of title 10, United States Code, to prescribe a notice requirement of not less than 30 calendar days before certain changes in assignment policies for women are implemented.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Role of Secretary of Defense in development of gender-neutral occupational standards (sec. 525)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 534) that would require the Secretary of Defense to include measuring the combat readiness of combat units, including special operations forces, when developing gender-neutral occupational standards.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 523).

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the development of gender-neutral occupational standards is vital in determining the occupational assignments of all members of the Armed Forces. The conferees believe that studies being conducted by the Armed Forces are important to the development of these standards and should incorporate the best scientific practices available and that the Armed Forces should consider these studies carefully to ensure they do not result in unnecessary barriers to service and that decisions on occupational assignments be based on objective analysis and not negatively impact combat effectiveness, including units whose primary mission is to engage in direct ground combat at the tactical level.

Establishment of process by which members of the Armed Forces may carry an appropriate firearm on a military installation (sec. 526)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 539) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process by which the commander of a military installation in the United States may authorize a member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to duty at the installation to carry a concealed personal firearm on the installation.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process by which the commander of a military installation in the United States, reserve center, recruiting center, or other defense facility may authorize a member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to the installation or facility to carry an appropriate firearm on the installation if the commander determines it necessary as a personal or force-protection measure. The amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to consider the views of senior leadership of military installations in establishing the process.

The conferees remain concerned about the response times to active shooter attacks on U.S. military installations and facilities. We believe that such response times should be diminished in order to protect U.S. servicemembers and their families. The conferees believe that commanders of U.S. military installations and facilities should take steps to arm additional personnel in order to diminish response times to active shooter attacks if they believe that arming those personnel will contribute to that goal.

Establishment of breastfeeding policy for the Department of the Army (sec. 527)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 537) that would require the Secretary of the Army to establish a comprehensive policy on breastfeeding by female servicemembers of the Army.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress recognizing the diversity of the members of the Armed Forces (sec. 528)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 538) that would express the sense of Congress

that the United States should recognize and promote diversity in the Armed Forces and honor those from all diverse backgrounds and religious traditions serving in the Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 524).

The House recedes.

Subtitle D—Military Justice, Including Sexual Assault and Domestic Prevention and Response

Enforcement of certain crime victim rights by the Court of Criminal Appeals (sec. 531)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 549) that would amend section 806b of title 10, United States Code, (Article 6b, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)), to authorize an interlocutory appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeals by a victim based on an assertion that the victim's rights at an Article 32, UCMJ, investigation were violated or that the victim is subject to an order to submit to a deposition notwithstanding the fact that the victim is available to testify at a court-martial.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment authorizing a victim to petition the Court of Criminal Appeals for a writ of mandamus based on an assertion that the victim's rights at an Article 32, UCMJ, investigation were violated or that the victim is subject to an order to submit to a deposition notwithstanding the fact that the victim is available to testify at a court-martial.

Department of Defense civilian employee access to Special Victims' Counsel (sec. 532)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 542) that would amend section 1044e(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to offer Special Victims' Counsel services to a civilian employee of the Department of Defense who is a victim of a sex-related offense, when authorized by the Secretary of Defense or the secretary of the military department concerned.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Authority of Special Victims' Counsel to provide legal consultation and assistance in connection with various government proceedings (sec. 533)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 544) that would amend section 1044e(b) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize Special Victims' Counsel to represent and assist clients in actions or proceedings that, in the judgment of the Special Victims' Counsel, may have been undertaken in retaliation for the victim's report of an alleged sex-related offense or for the victim's involvement in related military justice proceedings.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 552).

The House recedes.

Timely notification to victims of sex-related offenses of the availability of assistance from Special Victims' Counsel (sec. 534)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 545) that would amend section 1044e(f)(1) of title 10, United States Code, to require the victim to be provided notice of the availability of Special Victims' Counsel before being interviewed by a person identified or designated by the Secretary concerned concerning the alleged sex-related offense, or before being requested to provide a statement.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 551).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require that a victim of a sex-re-

lated offense be provided notice of the availability of a Special Victims' Counsel before any military criminal investigator or trial counsel interviews, or requests any statement from, the individual regarding the alleged sex-related offense, subject to such exceptions for exigent circumstances as the Secretary may prescribe.

Additional improvements to Special Victims' Counsel program (sec. 535)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 541) that would amend section 1044e(d) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to direct the military departments to implement additional selection requirements requiring adequate criminal justice experience before they are assigned as Special Victims' Counsel and to prescribe standardized training requirements. The House provision would also amend section 1044e(e) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to establish program performance measures and standards to provide centralized, standardized oversight and assessment of Special Victims' Counsel program effectiveness and client satisfaction. The amendment would also require the Secretary of Defense to require the military departments to conduct regular evaluations to ensure Special Victims' Counsel are assigned to locations that maximize the opportunity for face-to-face interactions between counsel and clients, and to develop effective means for interaction between counsel and clients when face-to-face communication is not feasible.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that does not include the requirement for "adequate" military justice experience. The conferees note that there is no similar requirement for adequate military justice experience for trial counsel or defense counsel. We expect the Judge Advocates General and the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps to carefully select and train the optimal candidates to effectively and zealously perform Special Victims' Counsel duties.

Enhancement of confidentiality of restricted reporting of sexual assault in the military (sec. 536)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 553) that would amend subsection (b) of section 1565b of title 10, United States Code, to provide that federal law protecting the privacy of victims who are servicemembers or adult military dependents and who file restricted reports of sexual assault would preempt any state laws that require mandatory reporting made to a sexual assault response coordinator, a sexual assault victim advocate, or healthcare personnel providing assistance to a military sexual assault victim under section 1525b of title 10, United States Code, except when reporting is necessary to prevent or mitigate a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

The conferees expect that the Department of Defense will take all necessary action to ensure that Department personnel are fully supported and vigorously represented in response to any actions by a state licensing authority considering potentially adverse licensing or similar credentialing action based on actions of an officer or employee of the

Department who acts in an official professional capacity in reliance on this authority.

Modification of deadline for establishment of Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (sec. 537)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 555) that would amend section 546(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) to require the Secretary of Defense to establish the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the Judicial Proceedings Panel (JPP) has already gathered a significant number of documents provided by the Department of Defense, and encourage the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces to make full use of the information already gathered by and for the JPP.

Improved Department of Defense prevention and response to sexual assaults in which the victim is a male member of the Armed Forces (sec. 538)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 550) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to improve prevention and response to sexual assaults in which the victim is a male member of the Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Preventing retaliation against members of the Armed Forces who report or intervene on behalf of the victim of an alleged sex-related offense (sec. 539)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a comprehensive strategy to prevent retaliation carried out by members of the Armed Forces against other members who report or otherwise intervene on behalf of the victim in instances of sexual assault.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require a briefing on the strategy to prevent retaliation be provided to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and of the House of Representatives not later than 180 days from enactment of this Act.

Sexual assault prevention and response training for administrators and instructors of Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (sec. 540)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 551) that would require the secretary of a military department to ensure that commanders of each unit of the Junior and Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, all Professors of Military Science, senior military instructors and civilians detailed, assigned or employed as administrators and instructors of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps receive regular sexual assault prevention and response training and education. The provision also required that secretaries of the military departments ensure information regarding legal assistance and the sexual assault and prevention program is made available to such personnel.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require service secretaries to ensure that the commander of each unit of the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and all Professors of Military Science, senior military instructors, and civilian employees detailed, assigned, or employed as administrators and instructors of the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps receive regular sexual assault prevention and response training and education.

Retention of case notes in investigations of sex-related offenses involving members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps (sec. 541)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 554) that would require the Secretary of Defense to update records retention policies, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to ensure that all elements of the case file related to an alleged sex-related offense be retained as part of the investigative records retained in accordance with section 3500 of title 18, United States Code, and section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Comptroller General of the United States reports on prevention and response to sexual assault by the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve (sec. 542)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 556) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report of the extent to which the Army National Guard and Army Reserve have in place policies and programs to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault involving members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, and provide medical and mental health services to members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve following a sexual assault, and to identify whether service in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve pose challenges to the prevention of or response to sexual assault. The Comptroller General will provide the initial report to Congress not later than April 1, 2016.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Improved implementation of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice (sec. 543)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 558) that would require the Secretary of Defense to examine the Department of Defense and interagency review process for implementing statutory changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and to adopt such changes as required to streamline the process and to ensure that legal guidance is published at the same time as statutory changes to the UCMJ are implemented.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would limit the scope of the Secretary of Defense review to the process within the Department of Defense, and to require that legal guidance is issued as soon as practicable after statutory changes to the UCMJ are implemented.

Modification of Rule 104 of the Rules for Courts-Martial to establish certain prohibitions concerning evaluations of Special Victims’ Counsel (sec. 544)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 547) that would require that Rule

104(b) of the Rules for Courts-Martial be modified within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act to prohibit giving a less favorable rating to any member of the Armed Forces serving as a Special Victims’ Counsel because of the zeal with which such counsel represented a victim.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Modification of Rule 304 of the Military Rules of Evidence relating to the corroboration of a confession or admission (sec. 545)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 546) that would amend Rule 304(c) of the Military Rules of Evidence to provide that a confession by an accused may be considered as evidence against the accused only if independent evidence, direct or circumstantial, has been admitted into evidence that would tend to establish the trustworthiness of the confession.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would, to the extent the President considers practicable, authorize the President to modify Rule 304(c) of the Military Rules of Evidence to conform to the rules governing the corroboration of admissions and confessions in the trial of criminal cases in the United States district courts.

Subtitle E—Member Education, Training, and Transition

Enhancements to Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (sec. 551)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 563) that would: (1) expand eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program; (2) authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into partnerships or offer grants for the provision of quality-of-life services under the program; (3) provide flexibility in the number of events and activities provided under the program; and (4) require the Office of Reintegration Programs to collect and analyze best practices in suicide prevention.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 588).

The Senate recedes.

Availability of pre-separation counseling for members of the Armed Forces discharged or released after limited Active Duty (sec. 552)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 561) that would exclude any day on which a member performed full-time training or annual training duty and attendance designated as a service school from the calculation of continuous days of Active Duty for the purposes of pre-separation counseling.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 521).

The Senate recedes.

Availability of additional training opportunities under Transition Assistance Program (sec. 553)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 562) that would require the Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security to permit a member of the Armed Forces to receive additional training under the Transition Assistance Program in preparation for higher education or training, career or technical training, or entrepreneurship.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Modification of requirement for in-resident instruction for courses of instruction offered as part of Phase II Joint Professional Military Education (sec. 554)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 536) that would amend section 2154

of title 10, United States Code, to remove the statutory minimum residency requirements for Joint Professional Military Education Phase II courses taught at the Joint Forces Staff College. The provision would also repeal section 2156 of title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the duration of the principal course of instruction offered at the Joint Forces Staff College may not be less than 10 weeks of resident instruction, and allow the Secretary of Defense or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to designate and certify various curricula and delivery methods that adhere to joint curricula content, student acculturation, and faculty requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would authorize Joint Professional Military Education Phase II courses to be taught in residence at or offered through the Joint Forces Staff College or senior level service school designated as a joint professional military education institution.

Termination of program of educational assistance for reserve component members supporting contingency operations and other operations (sec. 555)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 532) that would sunset the program of educational assistance for reserve component members supporting contingency operations and other operations 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Appointments to military service academies from nominations made by Delegates in Congress from the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (sec. 556)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 564) that would increase the number of nominations to the military service academies that may be nominated by Delegates in Congress from the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Support for athletic programs of the United States Military Academy (sec. 557)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 538) that would add a new section 4362 to title 10, United States Code, that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to:

(1) Enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with the Army West Point Athletic Association (Association) for the purpose of supporting the athletic and physical fitness programs of the United States Military Academy (Academy);

(2) Establish financial controls to account for resources of the Academy and the Association, in accordance with accepted accounting principles;

(3) Enter into leases or licenses for the purpose of supporting the athletic and physical fitness programs of the Academy;

(4) Provide support services to the Association;

(5) Accept from the Association funds, supplies, and services to support the athletic and physical fitness programs of the Academy; and

(6) Enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with the Association.

The provision would also authorize the Association to enter into licensing, marketing,

and sponsorship agreements relating to trademark and service marks identifying the Academy, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Army.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment clarifying that the authority granted in this provision is limited to athletic programs and not to physical fitness programs. The conferees note this limitation is consistent with the authorities granted for the other service academies.

Condition on admission of defense industrial civilians to attend the United States Air Force Institute of Technology (sec. 558)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 591) that would amend Section 9314a(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to provide conditions on admission of defense industry civilians who attend the United States Air Force Institute of Technology.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the requirement that admission of defense industry civilians to the United States Air Force Institute of Technology be on a space-available basis as long as such attendance does not require an increase in the size of the faculty, course offerings, or laboratory facilities of the school.

Quality assurance of certification programs and standards for professional credentials obtained by members of the Armed Forces (sec. 559)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 537) that would amend section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 551 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) to require the secretaries of the military departments to ensure the accreditation provided for servicemembers meet recognized national and international standards.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Prohibition on receipt of unemployment insurance while receiving post-9/11 educational assistance (sec. 560)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 535) that would clarify that individuals receiving Post-9/11 Education Assistance may not also receive unemployment insurance while receiving the post-9/11 education benefit.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment that would exempt individuals who were involuntarily separated from service under honorable conditions.

Job training and post-service placement executive committee (sec. 561)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 566) that would amend section 320 of title 38, United States Code, to establish a Job Training and Post-Service Placement Executive Committee under the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee, to review existing job training and post-service placement programs and to identify changes to improve job training and post-service placement.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Recognition of additional involuntary mobilization duty authorities exempt from five-year limit on reemployment rights of persons who serve in the uniformed services (sec. 562)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 565) that would amend section 4312(c)(4)(A) of title 38, United States Code, to insert additional involuntary mobilization authorities as exempt from the 5-year limit on reemployment rights of persons who serve in the uniformed services.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Expansion of outreach for veterans transitioning from serving on Active Duty (sec. 563)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1083) that would amend the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (Public Law 114–2) to expand outreach for veterans transitioning from Active Duty to inform those individuals of community oriented veteran peer support networks and other support programs available to them.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Subtitle F—Defense Dependents’ Education and Military Family Readiness Matters

Continuation of authority to assist local educational agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees (sec. 571)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 571) that would authorize \$30.0 million in impact aid to assist local education agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 561) that would authorize \$25.0 million in impact aid to assist local education agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Impact aid for children with severe disabilities (sec. 572)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 562) that would authorize \$5.0 million in impact-aid for children with severe disabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authority to use appropriated funds to support Department of Defense student meal programs in domestic dependent elementary and secondary schools located outside the United States (sec. 573)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 563) that would amend section 2243 of title 10, United States Code, to include overseas defense dependents’ school located in a territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Family support programs for immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces assigned to special operations forces (sec. 574)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 572) that would extend the family support program authority provided for immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces assigned to Special Operations Forces

in section 554 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) by 2 years, from 2016 to 2018.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Subtitle G—Decorations and Awards

Authorization for award of the Distinguished Service Cross for acts of extraordinary heroism during the Korean war (sec. 581)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 581) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to award the Distinguished Service Cross under section 3742 of such title to Edward Halcomb, who distinguished himself by acts of exceptional heroism while serving in Korea during the Korean War as a member of the United States Army in the grade of Private First Class, in Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division from August 20, 1950 to October 19, 1950.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle H—Miscellaneous Reports and Other Matters

Coordination with non-government suicide prevention organizations and agencies to assist in reducing suicides by members of the Armed Forces (sec. 591)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 591) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a policy to coordinate the efforts of the Department of Defense and non-governmental suicide prevention organizations and to submit that policy to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the service secretaries, to develop a policy to coordinate the efforts of the Department of Defense and non-government suicide prevention organizations.

Extension of semiannual reports on the involuntary separation of members of the Armed Forces (sec. 592)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 571) that would amend section 525(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to extend the requirement for semiannual reports on involuntary separation of members of the Armed Forces through calendar year 2017.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Report on preliminary mental health screenings for individuals becoming members of the Armed Forces (sec. 593)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 598) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a mental health screening to individuals prior to enlisting or commissioning in the Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 736) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on mental health screenings of individuals enlisting or accessioning into the Armed Forces.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility of conducting a mental health screening before the enlistment or accession of an individual into the Armed Forces.

Report regarding new rulemaking under the Military Lending Act and Defense Manpower Data Center reports and meetings (sec. 594)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 599) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report that discusses the ability and reliability of the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) to meet real-time requests for accurate information needed for lenders to make a determination whether a borrower is covered by the Military Lending Act. Beginning 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and continuing every 6 months thereafter, the Director of DMDC will report on the accuracy and reliability of DMDC systems. The Director of DMDC would be further required to provide a report on plans to strengthen the capabilities of the DMDC to improve identification of covered borrowers and policyholders under military consumer protection laws. The Director of DMDC would be required to meet regularly with private sector users of DMDC systems concerning issues with DMDC systems facing such users with the first meeting to take place 3 months after enactment of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Remotely piloted aircraft career field manning shortfalls (sec. 595)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 572) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on remotely piloted aircraft career field manning levels and actions the Air Force will take to rectify personnel shortfalls. The provision would also limit the availability of not more than 85 percent of the fiscal year 2016 operation and maintenance funding for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force until 15 days following the submission of the required report.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Authority of promotion boards to recommend officers of particular merit be placed at the top of the promotion list

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 501) that would amend section 616 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize an officer promotion board to recommend officers of particular merit to be placed at the top of the promotion list.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees agree there is a need to review and modernize procedures to select officers for promotion. They encourage the Department of Defense to develop recommendations to enhance the flexibility of service officer promotion boards to identify and select officers of particular merit for early promotion. The services and career-oriented officers will both benefit if the procedures that result are viewed by all stakeholders as objective and fair.

Minimum grades for certain corps and related positions in the Army, Navy, and Air Force

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 502) that would amend various provisions of title 10, United States Code, to revise general or flag officer grades in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The provision would amend section 3023(a) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Army Chief of Legislative Liaison be an officer in a grade above the grade of colonel.

The provision would amend section 3039(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Army Assistant Surgeon General be an officer in a grade above the grade of colonel.

The provision would amend section 3069(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps be an officer in a grade above the grade of colonel.

The provision would amend section 3084 of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Army Chief of the Veterinary Corps be an officer in a grade above the grade of lieutenant colonel.

The provision would amend section 5027(a) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Navy Chief of Legislative Affairs be an officer in a grade above the grade of captain.

The provision would amend section 5138 of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Navy Chief of the Dental Corps be an officer in a grade above the grade of captain. The provision would also remove the authority in section 5138(b) that entitles the Navy Chief of the Dental Corps to the same privileges of retirement as provided for chiefs of bureaus in section 5133 of title 10, United States Code.

The provision would amend section 5150(c) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Navy Directors of Medical Corps be officers in a grade above the grade of captain.

The provision would amend section 8023(a) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Air Force Chief of Legislative Liaison be an officer in a grade above the grade of colonel.

The provision would amend section 8069(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps be an officer in a grade above the grade of colonel.

The provision would amend section 8081 of title 10, United States Code, to require that the Air Force Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services be an officer in a grade above the grade of colonel.

The provision would provide that in the case of an officer who on the date of enactment of the Act is serving in a position that is covered by this provision, the continued service of that officer in such position after the date of enactment of the Act shall not be affected by the provision.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Authority to designate certain Reserve officers as not to be considered for selection for promotion

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 511) that would modify section 14301 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the secretaries of the military departments to defer promotion consideration for reserve component officers in a non-participatory (membership points only) status.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Exemption of military technicians (dual status) from civilian employee furloughs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 513) that would exempt military technicians (dual status) from civilian employee furloughs.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Reconciliation of contradictory provisions relating to citizenship qualifications for enlistment in the reserve components of the Armed Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 513) that would amend section 12102(b) of title 10, United States Code, to align the citizenship or residency requirements for enlistment in the reserve components of the Armed Forces with the citizenship requirements for the active components.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Annual report on personnel, training, and equipment requirements for the non-federalized National Guard to support civilian authorities in prevention and response to non-catastrophic domestic disasters

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 514) that would amend section 10504 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to submit to the congressional defense committees and a list of other officials an annual report on the personnel, training, and equipment requirements for the non-federalized National Guard to support civilian authorities in the prevention and response to non-catastrophic domestic disasters.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1066) that would amend section 10504 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to submit to the congressional defense committees and a list of other officials an annual report on the ability of the National Guard to carry out its federal missions and its ability to carry out emergency support functions of the National Response Framework.

The House recedes.

The Senate recedes.

The conference report does not include this provision.

National Guard civil and defense support activities and related matters

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 515) that would amend chapter 1 of title 32, United States Code, related to the National Guard's conduct of the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Electronic tracking of operational active-duty service performed by members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 516) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish an electronic tracking system for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to track their operational Active-Duty service performed after January 28, 2008.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a report within 90 days of enactment, on the implementation of section 632

of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66), which requires the Secretary of Defense to periodically notify each member of the Ready Reserve of reduced eligibility age.

Limitation on tuition assistance for off-duty training or education

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 531) that would require the Secretary of Defense to certify that assistance for off-duty training or education was related to a servicemember's professional development.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Secretary of Defense should ensure that servicemembers are utilizing the tuition assistance benefit to further their professional goals through education by encouraging counseling and advising to assist with establishing a plan unique to each servicemember's professional development.

Reports on educational levels attained by certain members of the Armed Forces at time of separation from the Armed Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 533) that would require a report on the educational levels attained by certain members of the Armed Forces at the time they separate from the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress on transferability of unused education benefits to family members

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 534) that would express the sense of Congress that each Secretary concerned should exercise the authority to be more selective in permitting the transferability of unused education benefits to family members in a manner that encourages the retention of individuals in the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include this provision.

Burdens of proof applicable to investigations and reviews related to protected communications of members of the Armed Forces and prohibited retaliatory actions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 535) that would amend section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, to require the burdens of proof specified in section 1221(e) of title 5, United States Code, to apply in any investigation conducted by an inspector general under section 1034, any reviews by boards for correction of military records under sections 1034(c) or (d), and by the Secretary of Defense under section 1034(h).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Revision of name on military service record to reflect change in gender identity after separation from the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 536) that would amend section 1551 of title 10, United States Code, to require a service secretary to reissue a certificate of discharge of any person who, after separation from the Armed Forces, undergoes a change in gender identity and assumes a different name.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Online access to the higher education component of the Transition Assistance Program

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 539) that would authorize the Sec-

retary of Veterans Affairs to notify servicemembers, veterans, or dependents of the availability of the higher education component of the Transition Assistance Program on the Transition GPS Standalone Training Internet web site of the Department of Defense. The provision would also direct the Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to assess the feasibility of providing access for veterans and dependents to the higher education component of the Transition Assistance Program on the eBenefits Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and tracking the completion of that component through that Internet web site.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Access to Special Victims' Counsel for former dependents of members and former members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 543) that would amend section 1044e(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a person who is a former dependent of a member or former member of the Armed Forces to be offered Special Victims' Counsel services if the alleged sex-related offense was perpetrated by a person who is, or is reasonably believed to be, a person subject to the jurisdiction of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and occurred while the individual was a dependent of the member or former member.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Participation by victim in punitive proceedings and access to records

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 546) that would require the victim of any offense that involves a victim to be provided an opportunity to submit matters for consideration in nonjudicial punishment proceedings, and to receive copies of prepared records of the proceedings without charge as soon as a decision is finalized. The provision would also amend chapter 59 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations to provide victims an opportunity to submit matters concerning the impact of the offense on the victim for consideration by the person or board authorized to provide recommendations and act on administrative separation of enlisted members, and for boards of inquiry administrative separation proceedings for officers.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Victim access to report of results of preliminary hearing under Article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 547) that would amend section 832(c) of title 10, United States Code (Article 32(c), Uniform Code of Military Justice), to require the preliminary hearing report prepared under this section to be provided to the victim, without charge, at the same time as the report is delivered to the accused.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Minimum confinement period required for conviction of certain sex-related offenses committed by members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 548) that would amend section 856(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code (Article 56(b)(1),

Uniform Code of Military Justice) to require a minimum punishment of a dismissal or dishonorable discharge and confinement for 2 years for servicemembers convicted of certain sex-related offenses.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Right of victims of offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice to timely disclosure of certain materials and information in connection with prosecution of offenses

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 548) that would amend section 806b(a) of title 10, United States Code, (Article 6b(a), UCMJ) to require timely disclosure by the trial counsel to a Special Victims' Counsel, if the victim is so represented, to charges and specifications related to any offenses, motions filed by trial or defense counsel, statements of the accused, statements of the victim in connection with the offense, portions of the government investigation relating to the victim, and the advice, if any, by a staff judge advocate recommending any charge or specification not be referred to trial.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees encourage the Secretary of Defense to adopt an electronic system with capabilities similar to those of the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system to provide Special Victims' Counsel, victims, and the general public with court-martial docketing information and case filings.

Release to victims upon request of complete record of proceedings and testimony of courts-martial in cases in which sentences adjudged could include punitive discharge

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 550) that would amend section 854(e) of title 10, United States Code (article 54(e), UCMJ), to expand the circumstances under which an alleged victim must be provided a copy of all prepared records of the proceedings of a court-martial.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Executive Order 13669, June 13, 2014, amended Rule for Courts-Martial 1103 to require that a free record of trial be provided to any victim named in a specification alleging a sex offense.

Modification of Manual for Courts-Martial to require consistent preparation of the full record of trial

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 552) that would require the amendment of Rule 1103 of the Manual for Courts-Martial relating to the preparation of the record of trial to require the trial counsel to prepare a complete record of trial for any general or special court-martial and that no content may be exempted from the record of trial based on the outcome of the court-martial proceeding.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Inclusion of additional information in annual reports regarding Department of Defense sexual assault prevention and response

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 553) that would amend section 1631(b) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) to require information on cases under the Family Advocacy Program, sexual harass-

ment involving members of the Armed Forces, and reports of retaliation against victims of sexual assault to be included in reports required to be submitted under section 1631 of that Act by March 1, 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Establishment of Office of Complex Investigations within the National Guard Bureau

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 554) that would add a new section to Chapter 1101 of title 10, United States Code, that would establish an Office of Complex Investigations within the National Guard Bureau (NGB), with authority to assist the States in administrative investigations of sexual assault involving members of the National Guard, and circumstances involving members of the Guard where States have limited jurisdiction or authority and such other circumstances as the Chief of the NGB directs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees believe that this legislation is unnecessary as the Office of Complex Investigations has already been established in the National Guard Bureau.

Additional guidance regarding release of mental health records of Department of Defense medical treatment facilities in cases involving any sex-related offense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 555) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue uniform guidance with respect to mental health records of the alleged victim in any case involving any sex-related offense to require that such records are neither sought by investigators or military justice practitioners nor acknowledged or released by the medical treatment facility except as ordered by a military judge or hearing officer described in section 832(b) of title 10, United States Code, (Article 32(b), Uniform Code of Military Justice).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees understand that the release of mental health records can constitute an invasion of privacy. Conferees are also aware that overly broad restrictions on release of mental health records could adversely impact necessary law enforcement investigations such as when the alleged victim is deceased. The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to issue specific, uniform guidance regarding release of mental health records to ensure an appropriate balance between the interests of law enforcement and victim privacy.

Public availability of records of certain proceedings under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 556) that would require the Secretary of Defense to make available to the public, electronically through a website of the Department of Defense, specified information for all proceedings under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) including special and general courts-martial, actions by a convening authority under section 860 of title 10, United States Code (Article 60, UCMJ), reviews conducted by the Courts of Criminal Appeals under section 866 (Article 66, UCMJ) and reviews conducted by the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces under section 867 (Article 67, UCMJ).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees encourage the Secretary of Defense to adopt an electronic system with capabilities similar to those of the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system to provide Special Victims' Counsel, victims, and the general public with court-martial docketing information and case filings.

Revision of Department of Defense Directive-Type memorandum 15-003, relating to registered sex offender identification, notification, and monitoring in the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 557) that would require the Secretary of Defense to revise the Department of Defense Directive-Type memorandum 15-003, relating to registered sex offender identification, notification, and monitoring in the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

This provision is no longer necessary as section 502 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22), enacted on May 29, 2015, amends the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to require the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Attorney General information to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding certain sex offenders.

Sense of Congress on the service of military families and on sentencing retirement-eligible members of the Armed Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 557) that would express the sense of Congress that military juries should not face the difficult choice between imposing a fair sentence or protecting the benefits of a member of the Armed Forces for the sake of family members, that family members of retirement-eligible members should not be adversely affected by the loss of the member's military benefits as a result of a court-martial conviction, and welcoming the opportunity to work with the Department of Defense to develop authorities to improve the military justice system and protect benefits that military families have helped earn.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Biennial surveys of military dependents on military family readiness matters

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 564) that would require the Director of the Office of Family Policy of the Department of Defense to conduct biennial surveys of adult dependents of members of the Armed Forces on military family readiness matters.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Direct employment pilot program for members of the National Guard and Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 567) that would authorize a direct employment pilot program for members of the National Guard and Reserve in the amount of up to \$20.0 million per fiscal year.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Program regarding civilian credentialing for skills required for certain military occupational specialties

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 568) that would amend section 558 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal

Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) by adding additional military occupational specialties to the pilot program required under that section.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Mariner training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569) that would amend section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, to require members of the Armed Forces whose duties are primarily as a mariner to receive training necessary to meet requirements for licenses and certificates for merchant mariners.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Report on civilian and military education to respond to future threats

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 570) that would require a report from the Secretary of Defense on civilian and military educational activities aimed at addressing future threats.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Availability of cyber security and IT certifications for Department of Defense personnel critical to network defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 570a) that would authorize the Department of Defense to utilize funds to obtain cyber security and IT certifications for Department of Defense personnel critical to network defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees recognize that industry cyber security and IT certifications may be helpful to a certain category of network operators and maintainers, but may not be comparable to the training required for more advanced network defense skills needed by critical personnel at the Department of Defense. The conferees are concerned that the full scope of needs in this area as compared to the funding available are not yet well understood, nor is the contribution of these industry certifications to the training needed of the cyber mission forces. The conferees believe that until those requirements are better understood, the current scope of funded certification activities should remain stable until there is a better established connection between cyber security and IT certifications and the skills required for specific positions with the Department of Defense. However, the conferees note industry recognized cyber security and IT certifications may be beneficial for some Department of Defense personnel critical to network defense. Therefore, the conferees encourage the Secretary of Defense to examine the needs of the Department and determine the extent and role industry cyber security and IT certifications should play in workforce management.

Support for efforts to improve academic achievement and transition of military dependent students

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 573) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to make grants to non-profit organizations that provide services to military dependent students.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include this provision.

The conferees encourage the Secretary of Defense to use existing authority to work with non-profit organizations to provide services to military dependent students to improve academic achievement and civic responsibility.

Study regarding feasibility of using DEERS to track dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees who are elementary or secondary education students

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 574) that would require a study by the Secretary of Defense on the feasibility of using DEERS, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, to track dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees who are elementary or secondary education students.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Sense of Congress regarding support for dependents of members of the Armed Forces attending specialized camps

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 575) that expressed the sense of the Congress regarding support for dependents of members of the Armed Forces attending specialized camps.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Limitation on authority of secretaries of the military departments regarding revocation of combat valor awards

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 582) that would limit the authority of secretaries of the military departments to revoke a combat valor award for conduct that was not honorable to conduct that occurred during the period for which the award was awarded.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees expect the service secretaries to conduct a thorough and objective review of the facts and evidence before deciding to revoke a combat valor award.

Award of Purple Heart to members of the Armed Forces who were victims of the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, bombing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 583) that would require the secretary of the military service concerned to award the Purple Heart to certain named members who were killed in the bombing that occurred at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 19, 1995.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Atomic Veterans Service Medal

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 584) that would require the Secretary of Defense to design, produce, and distribute a military service medal to honor retired and former members of the Armed Forces who are radiation-exposed veterans.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Posthumous commission as a captain in the regular Army for Milton Holland

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 585) that would posthumously promote to captain in the regular Army, Milton Holland, who, while serving as sergeant major of the 5th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor in recognition of his action on September 29, 1864, at the Battle of Chapin's Farm, Virginia.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Sense of Congress supporting the decision of the Army to posthumously promote Master Sergeant (retired) Naomi Horwitz to sergeant major

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 586) that would express a sense of Congress supporting the decision of the Army to posthumously promote Master Sergeant (retired) Naomi Horwitz to sergeant major.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the Secretary of the Army approved the posthumous promotion in March 2015.

Priority processing of applications for Transportation Worker Identification Credentials for members undergoing discharge or release from the Armed Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 589) that would require the Secretary of Defense to consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security to afford a priority in the processing of applications for a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) submitted by members of the Armed Forces who are undergoing separation, discharge, or release from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to jointly submit a report on the implementation requirements of this provision not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees consider it unacceptable that servicemembers transitioning from Active Duty, and recent honorably discharged veterans, continue to report significant delays in processing time to be issued Transportation Workers Identification Credentials (TWIC). Further, the Transportation Security Administration requires Active-Duty personnel as well as veterans who recently transitioned from Active Duty to undergo and pay for a separate security review before issuing TWIC. Because many transitioning servicemembers are qualified and motivated to serve in the maritime industry, the conferees expect the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to consult to eliminate processing delays and waive fees for transitioning servicemembers and for honorably discharged veterans.

Issuance of Recognition of Service ID Cards to certain members separating from the Armed Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 590) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue an identification card that identifies individuals as veterans, personalized with name and photo of the individual. The Secretary of Defense would be authorized to work with retailers for reduced prices on services, consumer products, and pharmaceuticals for individuals possessing a Recognition of Service ID Card.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that an alternative option exists for honorably discharged veterans to utilize state-issued ID cards that designate veteran status. Veterans in 44 states and the District of Columbia may apply for

a driver's license or State-issued ID card that designates veteran status. The remaining states (California, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington) are either pending legislation or have legislation that has been signed into law but is not yet effective. Additionally, since January 2014, honorably separated members of the Uniformed Services are able to obtain an ID card providing proof of military service through the joint DOD-VA eBenefits web portal.

Revised policy on network services for military services

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 591) that would generally limit the use of uniformed military personnel in the provision of network services for military installations in the continental United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees are concerned that the military services, particularly the Air Force, are devoting more resources and uniformed military personnel for the provision of network services than are necessary, considering the commercial network services capabilities that may be available at lower costs. While the conferees believe the use of uniformed military personnel for network services is necessary in some cases, for example aboard ships or at expeditionary bases, there is less rationale for this use of uniform military personnel at permanent military installations within the continental United States.

Therefore, the conferees direct the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) to evaluate the potential savings for the Department of Defense in both resources and military end strength that could be achieved by increasing the use of commercial network services capabilities within the continental United States. CAPE shall provide a briefing on their findings, including any recommendations, to the congressional defense committees no later than March 1, 2016.

Honoring certain members of the Reserve components as veterans

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 592) that would amend chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, to require certain members of the reserve components be honored as veterans, provided that such members would not be authorized to receive any benefit administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs solely by reason of honorary veteran status.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Improved enumeration of members of the Armed Forces in any tabulation of total population by Secretary of Commerce

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 593) that would amend section 1141 of title 13, United States Code, to require that the Secretary of Commerce, beginning with the 2020 Decennial census of population, in taking any tabulation of total population by States, to take appropriate measures to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all members of the Armed Forces deployed abroad on the date of taking such tabulation are (1) fully and accurately counted; and (2) properly attributed to the state in which their permanent duty station or homeport is located on such date.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress regarding support for military divers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 593) that would express the sense of Congress regarding support for military divers.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Sense of Congress on desirability of service-wide adoption of Gold Star Installation Access Card

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 596) that would express the sense of Congress that the secretaries of the military departments should provide for the issuance of a Gold Star Installation Access Card to family members of deceased members of the Armed Forces in order to expedite access to installations for the purpose of obtaining on-base services and military benefits for which a Gold Star family member is eligible.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the Department of the Army has initiated a program to provide Gold Star Installation Access Cards to Gold Star family members and encourage the other military departments to do the same.

Annual report on performance of regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 597) that would amend section 7734 of title 38, United States Code, to require the individual serving as director of a regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide an annual report on the performance of any regional office that fails to meet its administrative goals.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances

No fiscal year 2016 increase in basic pay for general and flag officers (sec. 601)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 601) that would authorize a pay raise of 1.3 percent for all members of the uniformed services in pay grades O-6 and below effective January 1, 2016, and that would freeze the monthly basic pay for all general and flag officers, including for those whose monthly basic pay is limited to the rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would remove reference to the pay raise for grades O-6 and below.

The conferees note that the President has authority under section 1009(e) of title 37, United States Code, to implement the 1.3 percent pay raise for pay grades O-6 and below in the absence of a provision specifically setting a different pay raise.

Limitation on eligibility for supplemental subsistence allowances to members serving outside the United States and associated territory (sec. 602)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 606) that would sunset on September 30, 2016, the supplemental subsistence allowance for servicemembers serving inside the United States. Servicemembers serving outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or Guam would still be eligible to receive the supplemental subsistence allowance from the Department of Defense.

The provision is based on the final report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Phased-in modification of percentage of national average monthly cost of housing usable in computation of basic allowance for housing inside the United States (sec. 603)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 602) that would amend section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to reduce the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing (BAH) by up to 5 percent of the national average for housing for a given pay grade and dependency status. Servicemembers will not see this modification of their BAH until they change duty stations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement contains the Senate provision with an amendment that would reduce the monthly amount of the BAH through a tiered system with 1 percent in 2015, 2 percent in 2016, 3 percent in 2017, 4 percent in 2018, and 5 percent in 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter. The conferees strongly believe that this change to the calculation of BAH should not be used to justify the collection of out-of-pocket housing expenses, in excess of BAH, from servicemembers assigned to a housing unit acquired or constructed using the authority in subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

Extension of authority to provide temporary increase in rates of basic allowance for housing under certain circumstances (sec. 604)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 601) that would extend for 1 year the authority of the Secretary of Defense to temporarily increase the rate of basic allowance for housing in areas impacted by natural disasters or experiencing a sudden influx of personnel.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 603).

The Senate recedes.

Availability of information under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (sec. 605)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 607) that would allow for the Secretary of Defense to obtain from the Secretary of Agriculture information for the purposes of determining the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program applicant households that contain one or more members of a regular or reserve component of the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle B—Bonuses and Special and Incentive Pays

One-year extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for reserve forces (sec. 611)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 611) that would extend for 1 year the authority to pay the Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus, the Selected Reserve affiliation or enlistment bonus, special pay for enlisted members assigned to certain high-priority units, the Ready Reserve enlistment bonus for persons without prior service, the Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service, the Selected Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service, travel expenses for certain inactive-duty training, and income replacement for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 611).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

One-year extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for health care professionals (sec. 612)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 612) that would extend for 1 year the authority to pay the nurse officer candidate accession bonus, education loan repayment for certain health professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve, accession and retention bonuses for psychologists, the accession bonus for registered nurses, incentive special pay for nurse anesthetists, special pay for Selected Reserve health professionals in critically short wartime specialties, the accession bonus for dental officers, the accession bonus for pharmacy officers, the accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties, and the accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 612).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

One-year extension of special pay and bonus authorities for nuclear officers (sec. 613)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 613) that would extend for 1 year the authority to pay the special pay for nuclear-qualified officers extending period of active service, the nuclear career accession bonus, and the nuclear career annual incentive bonus.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 613).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

One-year extension of authorities relating to title 37 consolidated special pay, incentive pay, and bonus authorities (sec. 614)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 614) that would extend for 1 year the general bonus authority for enlisted members, the general bonus authority for officers, special bonus and incentive pay authorities for nuclear officers, special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers, and special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions, and contracting bonus for cadets and midshipmen enrolled in the Senior Officers' Training Corps. The provision would also extend for 1 year the authority to pay hazardous duty pay, assignment or special duty pay, skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus, and retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 614).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

One-year extension of authorities relating to payment of other title 37 bonuses and special pays (sec. 615)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 615) that would extend for 1 year the authority to pay the aviation officer retention bonus, assignment incentive pay, the reenlistment bonus for active members, the enlistment bonus, precommissioning incentive pay for foreign language proficiency, the accession bonus for new officers in critical skills, the incentive bonus for conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage, the incentive bonus for transfer between Armed Forces, and the accession bonus for officer candidates.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 615).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Increase in maximum annual amount of nuclear officer bonus pay (sec. 616)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 616) that would increase the maximum annual amount of nuclear officer bonus pay to \$50,000 for retention purposes.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 616).

The Senate recedes.

Modification to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authority for officers (sec. 617)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 617) that would increase special aviation incentive pay from \$25,000 to \$35,000 and make technical amendments to the aviation pay and bonus authorities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would increase aviation incentive pay from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for officers performing qualifying flying duty relating to remotely piloted aircraft.

Repeal of obsolete authority to pay bonus to encourage Army personnel to refer persons for enlistment in the Army (sec. 618)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 617) that would repeal section 3252 of title 10, United States Code. This section authorized the Secretary of the Army to pay bonuses to encourage Army personnel to refer persons for enlistment in the Army.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle C—Travel and Transportation Allowances

Transportation to transfer ceremonies for family and next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who die overseas during humanitarian operations (sec. 621)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 623) that would authorize transportation to transfer ceremonies for the family and next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who die overseas during humanitarian relief operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Repeal of obsolete special travel and transportation allowance for survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces from the Vietnam conflict (sec. 622)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 618) that would repeal section 481(f) of title 37, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 621).

The Senate recedes.

Study and report on policy changes to the Joint Travel Regulations (sec. 623)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 622) that would require the Comptroller General to study the impact of recent policy changes to the Joint Travel Regulations for servicemembers and civilian employees regarding flat rate per diem.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle D—Disability Pay, Retired Pay, and Survivor Benefits

PART I—RETIRED PAY REFORM

Modernized retirement system for members of the uniformed services (sec. 631)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 632) that would establish a new military re-

tirement defined benefit that, when combined with the government-matching Thrift Savings Plan, as described elsewhere in this Act, would comprise a new hybrid retirement system. This new system would apply to new entrants after January 1, 2018, and to those already serving members who choose to opt-in. The new defined benefit would continue to apply only to those members who reach 20 years of service, with a multiplier rate of 2.0 times years of service rather than the current rate of 2.5 times years of service.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 632).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would limit service members who may opt-in to the new retirement system to those with less than 12 years of service. The agreement also includes an amendment that would repeal the modified cost-of-living adjustment for members under the age of 62 made by section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67; 127 Stat. 1186), as amended by section 10001(a) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 (division C of Public Law 113-76; 128 Stat. 151), section 2 of Public Law 113-82 (128 Stat. 1009), and section 623 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3403).

Full participation for members of the uniformed services in the Thrift Savings Plan (sec. 632)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 631) that would provide a government-matching Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) benefit for those who would enter uniformed service on or after October 1, 2017, or a member serving before that date who makes a voluntary election to opt-in to the new plan. The TSP element would provide a 1 percent automatic agency contribution to all uniformed service members upon reaching 60 days of service and continue until they would reach their second year of service. At 2 years of service, a member's TSP would vest and the Secretary concerned would begin matching TSP contributions up to 5 percent of that servicemember's base pay for a maximum government contribution totaling 6 percent of basic pay. Uniformed service members would be automatically enrolled at 3 percent matching contributions with the option to raise or lower their contribution level. TSP government-funded matching contributions would continue until a uniformed service member leaves or retires from the uniformed service.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 631) that would set the applicable initial entry date at January 1, 2018, provide a maximum government contribution of 5 percent (with the first one percent being an automatic agency contribution), and stop the government match at 20 years of service.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment to provide government matching contributions in the TSP through 26 years of service. The conferees note that all uniformed service members who would enter and serve prior to the date of implementation of the modernized retirement system would be grandfathered into the old retirement system.

Lump sum payments of certain retired pay (sec. 633)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 633) that would allow the voluntary election of lump sum payments of retired pay for those under the modernized retirement system who serve 20 or more years of

service. Members who elect to take the lump sum may choose to take 100 percent or 50 percent of the discounted present value of their defined retirement benefit that would be due to them prior to becoming fully eligible for Social Security.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would allow members who elect to take the lump sum an option of choosing to take 50 percent or 25 percent of the discounted present value of their defined retirement benefit that would be due to them prior to becoming fully eligible for Social Security.

The conferees strongly urge the Secretaries concerned to coordinate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on counseling, or otherwise informing, new retirees on the impact this election may have on their eligibility for certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Continuation pay after 12 years of service for members of the uniformed services participating in the modernized retirement systems (sec. 634)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 633) that would direct the Secretary concerned to provide continuation pay to servicemembers serving under the new military retirement system described above who reach 12 years of service, contingent upon such members agreeing to serve another 4 years of service.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 634).

The House recedes.

Effective date and implementation (sec. 635)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 634) that would provide for an effective date of January 1, 2018 for the modernized military retirement system. The provision also requires an implementation plan due to the appropriate committees of Congress on March 1, 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

PART II—OTHER MATTERS

Death of former spouse beneficiaries and subsequent remarriages under Survivor Benefit Plan (sec. 641)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 641) that would amend section 1448(b) of title 10, United States Code, to allow for the election of a new spouse beneficiary after the death of a former spouse beneficiary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle E—Commissary and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentality Benefits and Operations

Plan to obtain budget-neutrality for the defense commissary system and the military exchange system (sec. 651)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 652) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report, not later than March 1, 2016, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, setting forth a plan to privatize the Defense Commissary System, in whole or in part. The provision would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report that assesses the plan of the Department to privatize the Defense Commissary System to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives

within 120 days following submission of the report by the Secretary of Defense. Following submission of the Comptroller General's assessment of the Department's commissary privatization plan, the Department would be required to carry out a 2-year pilot program at no fewer than five commissaries in the largest markets of the commissary system to assess the feasibility and advisability of the plan. Within 180 days after completion of the pilot program, the Secretary of Defense would submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that provides an assessment of the commissary privatization plan.

The Senate amendment contained another provision (sec. 1025) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report, not later than February 1, 2016, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, assessing the viability of privatizing the commissary system, in part or in whole. The Secretary would submit the report prior to development of any plans or pilot program to privatize commissaries or the commissary system. The provision would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report that assesses the plan of the Department to privatize the Defense Commissary System to the committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than May 1, 2016. The provision would make Section 652 of the Senate amendment null and void.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2016, that provides a comprehensive plan to make delivery of commissary and exchange benefits budget neutral by October 1, 2018. The amendment would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report that assesses the Department's plan to make the commissary and exchange benefit budget neutral to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives within 120 days following submission of the report by the Secretary of Defense. The amendment would authorize the Secretary of Defense to conduct one or more pilot programs to evaluate processes and methods for achieving budget neutral commissary and exchange benefits.

Comptroller General of the United States report on the Commissary Surcharge, Non-appropriated Fund, and Privately-financed Major Construction Program (sec. 652)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 653) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to examine the policies and procedures of the Secretary of Defense to ensure timely notification of construction projects proposed to be funded through the Commissary Surcharge, Non-appropriated Fund, and Privately-financed Major Construction Program of the Department of Defense and to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing an assessment of this program no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Improvement of financial literacy and preparedness of members of the Armed Forces (sec. 661)

The House bill contained provision (sec. 651) that would require financial literacy training for servicemembers upon arrival at the first duty station and upon arrival at each subsequent duty station for servicemembers below the pay grade of E-5 in the case of enlisted personnel and below the pay grade of O-4 in the case of officers. The provision would further require financial literacy training for each servicemember at various career and life milestones. The provision would also direct the Department of Defense to include a financial literacy and preparedness survey in the status of forces survey. The provision would also express the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Defense should work with other departments, agencies, and nonprofit organizations to improve financial literacy and preparedness with support from the service secretaries. This provision was recommended by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

The Senate amendment contained similar provisions (secs. 581, 582, and 583).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Recordation of obligations for installment payments of incentive pays, allowances, and similar benefits when payment is due (sec. 662)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 587) that would provide express authority for the long-established practice of the Department of Defense of obligating bonus and special and incentive pay installment payments at the time payment is due and payable. This provision is in response to a recent U.S. Government Accountability Office opinion, Comp. Gen. B-325526—Obligation of Bonuses under Military Service Agreements, July 16, 2014, which concluded that the Department of Defense cedes fiscal exposure to servicemembers when it enters into such agreements and should change its obligational practices to obligate the entire bonus amount when the agreement is signed.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Prohibition on per diem allowance reductions based on the duration of temporary duty assignment or civilian travel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 602) that would prohibit per diem allowance reductions based on the duration of temporary duty assignment or civilian travel.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Basic allowance for housing for members of the Uniformed Services who live together

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 604) that would amend section 403 of title 37, United States Code, to limit the basic allowance for housing (BAH) for dual military married couples who are assigned within normal commuting distance from each other to one allowance at the with dependent rate, for the member with the higher pay grade. The provision would also limit BAH for uniformed service members above E-3 residing with other uniformed service members to 75 percent of their otherwise prevailing rate, or the E-4 without dependents rate, whichever is greater. Affected members

would see no reduction in their BAH as a result of this provision so long as they maintain uninterrupted eligibility to receive BAH within a particular housing area.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees intend to reform this policy next year. The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report no later than March 1, 2016, to the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services containing an assessment and recommendations of the Secretary on how to amend the current BAH system to most accurately capture actual housing costs as a limiting element of the basic allowance for housing, to include an assessment of BAH as applied in particular circumstances where the current benefit may over- or under-compensate individuals based on their actual housing costs, to include single members of the armed forces and those who share accommodations with other members receiving the benefit. In developing these recommendations, the Secretary shall consider the primary purpose of the benefit to offset housing costs of uniformed members incurred by virtue of their service.

Repeal of inapplicability of modification of basic allowance for housing to benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 605) that would repeal subsection (b) of section 604 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) effective January 1, 2016.

The House bill contained no similar amendment.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees intend to take up this matter. If it is not addressed by May 2016, it will be re-considered for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Policies of the Department of Defense on travel of next of kin to participate in the dignified transfer of remains of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense who die overseas

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 624) that would require the Secretary of Defense to review the current policies of the Department of Defense regarding travel authorization for family and next of kin of service members and civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Department of Defense has notified the congressional defense committees it is already conducting the review described in this provision. Further, the conference agreement includes a separate provision to make the necessary changes in law for the authorization for travel to the dignified transfer ceremony for family and next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who die overseas in support of humanitarian operations. The conferees expect the Secretary, upon conclusion of the aforementioned review, to make regulatory changes in order to address inequities within the system, as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

Authority for retirement flexibility for members of the uniformed services

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 635) that would give the Secretary concerned the flexibility to modify the years

of service required for non-disability retirement under the new military retirement system for particular occupational specialties or other groupings in order to facilitate force shaping or to correct manpower shortages within an occupational specialty.

The House bill contained no similar amendment.

The Senate recedes.

Preserving assured commissary supply to Asia and the Pacific

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 641) that would prohibit changes to second destination transportation policy that applies to shipment of fresh fruits and vegetables to Asia and the Pacific theater until the Defense Commissary Agency conducts a comprehensive study on the fresh fruit and vegetable supply for the region and submits a report on the study to Congress.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Prohibition on replacement or consolidation of defense commissary and exchange systems pending submission of required report on Defense Commissary System

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 642) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from taking action to replace or consolidate the defense commissary and exchange systems before submission of the report on the defense commissary system required by section 634 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Transitional compensation and other benefits for dependents of members of the Armed Forces ineligible to receive retired pay as a result of court-martial sentence

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 642) that would add a new section 1059a to title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a program that would authorize monthly transitional compensation, including commissary and exchange store access, to dependents or former dependents of a member of the Armed Forces who is ineligible to receive retired pay as a result of a court-martial sentence. The provision would allow the secretary concerned to determine that a dependent or former dependent would not be eligible for transitional compensation if that person was an active participant in the conduct constituting the offense under chapter 47 of title 10.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Commissary system matters

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 651) that would authorize the Department of Defense to treat second destination transportation costs for commissary goods and supplies overseas like transportation costs within the United States by transferring those costs to the commissary patron in the price of goods. In addition, the provision would authorize the Department to transfer the cost of obtaining supplies required for the daily operations of commissaries and store-level offices dedicated to supporting commissary operations from the defense working capital fund to the surcharge fund. The provision would also authorize the Defense Commissary Agency to

establish the sales price of merchandise sold in commissary stores in amounts sufficient to finance the purchase of operating supplies and replenishment of merchandise inventories.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Availability for purchase of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for members of reserve components who performed certain training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 652) that would amend section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make available for purchase a memorial headstone or marker for the marked or unmarked grave of an individual who, as a member of the National Guard or reserve component, performed inactive duty training or Active Duty for training for at least 6 years. The individual must not have served on Active Duty and must otherwise be eligible on account of the nature of the individual's separation from the Armed Forces or other causes.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees understand that members of the reserve component who wish to purchase a memorial headstone or marker can purchase a nearly identical headstone or marker from private vendors.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—TRICARE and Other Health Care Benefits

Access to TRICARE Prime for certain beneficiaries (sec. 701)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 705) that would amend section 732(c)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) to authorize an eligible TRICARE beneficiary to make a one-time election for TRICARE Prime if the beneficiary: 1) resides in a location in which TRICARE Prime is no longer available because of the location in which the beneficiary resides; and 2) the beneficiary resided within 100 miles of a military medical treatment facility as of December 25, 2013. This provision would not apply to an affected eligible beneficiary who resides, as of December 25, 2013, greater than 100 miles from a military medical treatment facility and is an eligible beneficiary by reason of service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Modifications of cost-sharing for the TRICARE pharmacy benefits program (sec. 702)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 702) that would require modifications of prescription drug co-pays for the TRICARE pharmacy benefits program for years 2016 through 2025. After 2025, the Department of Defense (DOD) would establish co-pay amounts equal to the co-pay amounts for the previous year adjusted by an amount, if any, to reflect increases in costs of pharmaceutical agents and prescription dispensing fees. With this provision, beneficiaries would continue to receive prescription drugs at no cost in military medical treatment facilities, and there would be no changes to co-pays for survivors of members who died on Active Duty or for a disabled member retired under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, and their family members.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would modify prescription drug co-pays beginning in 2016.

The conferees agree that comprehensive reform of the military health care system is essential and commit to working with the Department of Defense in fiscal year 2017 to begin reforming the military healthcare system. This reform must improve access, quality and the experience of care for all beneficiaries; maintain medical readiness of the military health professionals; and ensure the long-term viability and cost effectiveness of the military health care system. The current system has not kept pace with the best practices and latest innovations in the commercial healthcare market and will not meet the future needs of the DOD, the servicemembers, families, or retirees. In order to modernize and improve the military healthcare system, the conferees agree that all elements of the current system must be re-evaluated, and that increases to fees and co-pays will be a necessary part of such a comprehensive reform effort.

Expansion of continued health benefits coverage to include discharged and released members of the Selected Reserve (sec. 703)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 703) that would amend section 1078a of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a member of the Selected Reserve, who is discharged or released under other than adverse conditions from service in the Selected Reserve, to be eligible to enroll, for a period of 18 months, in the Department of Defense program of continued health benefits coverage.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the member of the Selected Reserve to be enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select immediately preceding the discharge of the member.

Access to health care under the TRICARE program for beneficiaries of TRICARE Prime (sec. 704)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 711) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that covered TRICARE beneficiaries obtain health care appointments within access standards and wait-time goals established by the Department of Defense for primary care and specialty care or, if the beneficiary is unable to obtain an appointment within the wait-time goals, to offer the beneficiary an appointment with a contracted health care provider. The provision would also require the Secretary to publish health care access standards in the Federal Register and on a publicly accessible Internet web site of the Department of Defense and to publish appointment wait-times for primary and specialty care on the publicly accessible Internet web site of each military medical treatment facility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that TRICARE Prime beneficiaries obtain health care appointments within health care access standards established by the Secretary, including through health care providers in the TRICARE preferred provider network. The amendment would also require the Secretary to publish health care access standards in the Federal Register and on a publicly accessible Internet web site of the Department of Defense.

Expansion of reimbursement for smoking cessation services for certain TRICARE beneficiaries (sec. 705)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 704) that would amend section 713(f) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) to expand reimbursement for smoking cessation services for certain TRICARE beneficiaries.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Subtitle B—Health Care Administration

Waiver of recoupment of erroneous payments caused by administrative error under the TRICARE program (sec. 711)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 715) that would amend chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to waive recoupment of payment from a covered TRICARE beneficiary who has benefited from an erroneous TRICARE payment in which all of the following apply: (1) the payment was made due to an administrative error by an employee of the Department of Defense or a TRICARE program contractor; (2) the covered beneficiary, or in the case of a minor, the parent or guardian of the covered beneficiary, reasonably believed the covered beneficiary was entitled to the benefit of such payment; (3) the covered beneficiary relied on the expectation of benefit entitlement; and (4) the Secretary determines that a waiver of recoupment of such payment is necessary to prevent an injustice. In the case of administrative error on the part of a TRICARE contractor, the provision would require the Secretary to impose financial responsibility on the contractor for the erroneous payment.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Publication of data on patient safety, quality of care, satisfaction, and health outcome measures under the TRICARE program (sec. 712)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 732) that would require the Secretary of Defense to publish public data on measures used to assess patient safety, quality of care, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes on the primary Internet web site of the Department of Defense and on the primary Internet web site of that facility that provided the health care.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would amend section 1073b of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to publish appropriate data on measures used to assess patient safety, quality of care, patient satisfaction, and health outcomes of each military medical treatment facility on a publicly available Internet web site of the Department of Defense. The provision would also require data for health care provided by a military medical treatment facility to be accessible on the primary Internet web site of that facility. The provision would prohibit the Department publishing any data related to risk management activities of the Department.

Expansion of evaluation of effectiveness of the TRICARE program to include information on patient safety, quality of care, and access to care at military medical treatment facilities (sec. 713)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 733) that would require the Sec-

retary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, a comprehensive report on patient safety, quality of care, and access to care at military medical treatment facilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would amend section 717(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public Law 104-106) to require the Department of Defense to include data on patient safety, quality of care, and access to care at each military medical treatment facility in the annual report to Congress on TRICARE program effectiveness.

Portability of health plans under the TRICARE program (sec. 714)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 712) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that beneficiaries who are covered under a TRICARE health plan can seamlessly access health care under that health plan in each TRICARE program region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Joint uniform formulary for transition of care (sec. 715)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 701) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a joint uniform formulary that would include pain, sleep disorder, psychiatric drugs, and drugs for other conditions critical for transition of a servicemember from treatment furnished by the Department of Defense to treatment furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Licensure of mental health professionals in TRICARE program (sec. 716)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 712) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that a qualified mental health professional is eligible for reimbursement under the TRICARE program as a certified mental health counselor by meeting certain qualification criteria. The provision would also establish a special rule for certain practicing mental health professionals to deem them to be qualified mental health professionals during the period preceding January 1, 2027, even though those professionals do not meet the established qualification criteria in the provision. The House bill also contained a provision (sec. 725) that would express a sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to support members of the Armed Forces and their families by providing family counseling and individual counseling services that reduce the symptoms of post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders and empowers members to be emotionally available to their spouses and children.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provisions.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would deem certain mental health professionals eligible for reimbursement under the TRICARE program during the period preceding January 1, 2021.

The conferees note that the Department of Defense published a final rule to implement the TRICARE Certified Mental Health Counselor provider as a qualified mental health

provider authorized to independently diagnose and treat TRICARE beneficiaries and receive reimbursement for services. Counselors must possess a master's or higher-level degree from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accredited mental health counseling program of education and pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination. Conferees consider these reasonable criteria to help ensure TRICARE beneficiaries obtain mental health care from qualified counselors and do not believe another extension of the transition for qualification as a TRICARE Certified Mental Health Counselor beyond the extension in this provision would be advisable.

Additionally, the conferees agree that the Department of Defense should continue to support members of the Armed Forces and their families by providing readily available family and individual counseling services that reduce the symptoms of post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders and empower members to be available emotionally to their spouses and children. The conferees believe the Department should consider industry standards established by the medical community when developing standards for family and individual counseling services at military installations.

Designation of certain non-Department mental health care providers with knowledge relating to treatment of members of the Armed Forces (sec. 717)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 716) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 1 year after enactment of this Act, to develop a system by which any non-Department mental health care provider that meets eligibility criteria relating to knowledge and understanding of military culture and knowledge of evidence-based mental health treatments approved by the Secretary, would receive a mental health provider readiness designation from the Department. The provision would also require the Secretary to establish and update a provider list and maintain a publicly available registry of mental health providers receiving such designation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Comprehensive standards and access to contraception counseling for members of the Armed Forces (sec. 718)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 714) that would require the Department of Defense to provide, through clinical practice guidelines, current and evidence-based standards of care regarding contraception methods and counseling to all health care providers employed by the Department and to ensure service women have access to comprehensive contraception counseling prior to deployment and throughout their military careers. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to establish a uniform, standard curriculum to be used in family planning education programs for all members of the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

Provision of transportation of dependent patients relating to obstetrical anesthesia services (sec. 721)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 726) that would amend section 1040(a)(2) of

title 10, United States Code, to strike the expiration date regarding the authority to transport dependent patients relating to obstetrical anesthesia services.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Extension of authority for DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (sec. 722)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 721) that would amend section 8111 of title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund through September 30, 2020.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 719).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Extension of authority for Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund (sec. 723)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 722) that would amend section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84), as amended by section 722 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), to extend the authority for the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund from September 30, 2016, to September 30, 2017.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 718).

The House recedes.

Limitation on availability of funds for Office of the Secretary of Defense (sec. 724)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 713) that would amend chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, by inserting a new section after section 1073b, to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from realigning or restructuring a military medical treatment facility (MTF) until 90 days following the date the Secretary submits a report to the congressional defense committees on the proposed restructuring or realignment of the MTF.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would limit to 75 percent the obligation or expenditure of funds available for fiscal year 2016 for the office of the Secretary of Defense until the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the report required by section 713(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). Without that report and the subsequent required assessment of the report by the Comptroller General of the United States, the conferees remain concerned that the Department has not fully considered all relevant factors that may impact the availability and delivery of health care services to eligible beneficiaries in its study of military health system modernization. The conferees expect the Department to make available, upon request, all available data regarding any decisions to eliminate health care services and to relocate health care personnel from military medical treatment facilities in the future.

Pilot program on urgent care under TRICARE program (sec. 725)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 701) that would authorize a covered beneficiary under the TRICARE program to access up to four urgent care visits per year

without the need to obtain pre-authorization for such visits.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a 3-year pilot program to allow covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program to access urgent care visits without the need to obtain pre-authorization for those visits. The amendment would require the Secretary to submit two interim reports and one final report on the pilot program to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The conferees note that current TRICARE policy requires TRICARE Prime beneficiaries to obtain pre-authorization for urgent care visits. This administrative burden encourages beneficiaries to utilize emergency departments inappropriately for urgent care needs. The conferees believe this pilot program would help beneficiaries choose the most appropriate source for the health care they need and potentially lower health care costs for the Department of Defense.

Pilot program on incentive programs to improve health care provided under the TRICARE program (sec. 726)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 720) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a pilot program to assess value-based incentive programs to encourage institutional and individual health care providers under the TRICARE program to improve quality of care, experience of care, and health of beneficiaries.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit interim reports on the pilot program at 1-year intervals following implementation of the program and a final report on the program by September 30, 2019.

Limitation on availability of funds for Department of Defense Healthcare Management Systems Modernization (sec. 727)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 723) that would limit obligation or expenditure of funds for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense Healthcare Management Systems Modernization until the date on which the Secretary of Defense makes the certification required by section 713(g)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66).

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 738) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to Congress on interoperability between electronic health records of their Departments.

The Senate recedes.

Submission of information to Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to exposure to airborne hazards and open burn pits (sec. 728)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 739) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and periodically thereafter, information available to the Secretary of Defense to supplement and support information in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to include information on any research and surveillance activities conducted by the Department of Defense to evaluate incidence and prevalence of respiratory illnesses to servicemembers exposed to open burn pits during deployments.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Plan for development of procedures to measure data on mental health care provided by the Department of Defense (sec. 729)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 713) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all primary care and mental health care providers of the Department of Defense receive, or have already received, initial evidence-based training on the recognition, assessment, and management of individuals at risk for suicide and any additional training that may be required based on evidence-based changes in mental health practice. Within 1 year of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary would be required to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that assesses the mental health workforce of the Department and the long-term mental health care needs of servicemembers and their dependents. The provision would also require the Secretary to develop procedures to measure mental health data relating to outcomes, variations in outcomes among military medical treatment facilities, and barriers to implementation of clinical practice guidelines and other evidence-based treatments by mental health providers of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for the Department of Defense to develop procedures to compile and assess data relating to: (1) outcomes for mental health care provided by the Department; (2) variations in such outcomes among different medical facilities of the Department; and (3) barriers, if any, to the implementation by mental health care providers of the clinical practice guidelines and other evidence-based treatments and approaches recommended for such providers.

The conferees are aware that the Department has policies and procedures in place that require primary care providers to receive annual training on suicide prevention, and that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs submitted a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives in April 2015, on a coordinated, unified plan to ensure adequate mental health counseling resources to address the long-term needs of all members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

Report on plans to improve experience with and eliminate performance variability of health care provided by the Department of Defense (sec. 730)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 734) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a comprehensive report describing the current and future plans, with estimated completion dates, of the Department of Defense to improve the experience of care of beneficiaries and to eliminate performance variability for health care provided in military medical treatment facilities and in the TRICARE purchased care network. This provision would also require the Comptroller

General of the United States to submit, not later than 180 days after the Secretary submits the comprehensive report, a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that assesses the report of the Secretary of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Comptroller General study on gambling and problem gambling behavior among members of the Armed Forces (sec. 731)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 740) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on gaming facilities at military installations and problem gambling among members of the Armed Forces, and to submit a report, within 1 year of the date of enactment of this Act, to the congressional defense committees.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Access to broad range of methods of contraception approved by the Food and Drug Administration for members of the Armed Forces and military dependents at military treatment facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 702) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that every military medical treatment facility has a sufficient stock of a broad range of contraceptive methods approved by the Food and Drug Administration to be able to dispense any contraceptive method to service women and other female beneficiaries eligible for healthcare in those facilities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that military medical treatment facilities stock and dispense a broad range of contraceptive methods approved by the Food and Drug Administration to service women and other eligible female beneficiaries. The conferees encourage the Department of Defense to ensure that deployed service women have access to prescription contraceptives throughout the duration of their deployments.

Access to contraceptive method for duration of deployment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 703) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that service women who use prescription contraceptives receive, prior to deployment, a sufficient supply of those contraceptives for the duration of their deployments.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees expect the Secretary of Defense to ensure that service women who use contraceptives have contraceptives available throughout their deployment. This can be accomplished by use of the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program or other means.

Access to infertility treatment for members of the Armed Forces and dependents

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 704) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the service secretaries, to provide reproductive counseling and infertility treatments, including continuation of infertility services during a

change of duty station relocation, to members and dependents of members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that section 729 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees assessing the access of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents to reproductive counseling and infertility treatments. The Department of Defense has not yet provided this report to the committees. The conferees believe that a thorough study of this report must be done prior to enacting legislation on this issue.

Pilot program on treatment of members of the Armed Forces for post-traumatic stress disorder related to military sexual trauma

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 705) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to conduct a pilot program to award grants to community partners to provide intensive outpatient programs to treat members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from military sexual trauma, including treatment for substance abuse, depression, and other issues related to those conditions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Services already have capabilities to provide intensive outpatient services for substance abuse rehabilitation and behavioral health disorders. The Navy has 12 substance abuse rehabilitation programs located at intensive outpatient program sites in the United States and overseas, and the Air Force has one program. The Army is establishing intensive outpatient programs at 17 military medical treatment facilities by fiscal year 2016, and these programs will offer multi-week intensive behavioral health services to treat patients with severe behavioral health conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder.

Unified medical command

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 711) that would amend chapter 6 of Title 10, United States Code, to require the President, through the Secretary of Defense and with the advice and consent of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to establish a unified command for medical operations to provide medical services to the Armed Forces and other eligible health care beneficiaries.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Pilot program for operation of network of retail pharmacies under TRICARE pharmacy benefits program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 714) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to conduct a pilot program to evaluate whether a preferred retail pharmacy network will generate cost savings for the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees observe that the Department of Defense (DOD) already operates a large preferred retail pharmacy network and prescriptions filled in those pharmacies are subject to the federal ceiling price policy established under section 1074g(f) of title 10, United States Code.

The conferees note with concern that DOD did not proactively monitor the effects of the transition of maintenance medications specific to affected beneficiaries from retail pharmacies to mail order and military medical treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies, including important effects such as availability of medications, timeliness and accuracy of prescriptions filled, and satisfaction for the TRICARE for Life pharmacy pilot established by section 716 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239). Accordingly, for the first 12 months following the expansion of the pilot program requirements to additional TRICARE beneficiaries as of October 1, 2015, the conferees direct the DOD to provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a quarterly report detailing the results of monitoring the effects of the transition from retail pharmacies to mail order and MTF pharmacies on affected beneficiaries, including actions taken to address any issues identified as a result of these monitoring efforts. Each quarterly report shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of the respective quarter of the fiscal year.

Limitation on conversion of military medical and dental positions to civilian medical and dental positions

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 717) that would amend chapter 49 of title 10, United States Code, to provide that a medical or dental position within the Department of Defense may not be converted to a civilian medical or dental position unless the Secretary of Defense determines that: (1) The position is not a military essential position; (2) conversion of the position would not result in the degradation of medical or dental care or the medical or dental readiness of the Armed Forces; and (3) conversion of the position to a civilian medical or dental position is more cost effective than retaining the position as a military medical or dental position, consistent with Department of Defense Instruction 7041.04.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Primary blast injury research

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 724) that would require the peer-reviewed Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program of the Department of Defense to conduct a study on blast injury mechanics covering a broad range of blast injury conditions, including traumatic brain injury.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Publication of certain information on health care provided by the Department of Defense through the Hospital Compare website of the Department of Health and Human Services

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 731) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report, and make publicly available through the Hospital Compare Internet web site of the Department of Health and Human Services, information on quality of care and health outcomes regarding patients treated at military medical treatment facilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees strongly encourage the Department of Defense to demonstrate greater

transparency of quality of care and health outcomes data by making such data available on the Hospital Compare web site of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Report on plan to improve pediatric care and related services for children of members of the Armed Forces

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 735) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report setting forth the plan of the Department to improve pediatric care and related services for children of members of the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees encourage the Department of Defense to continue improvement in the delivery of healthcare services to pediatric patients, especially those patients with severe disabilities, and to correct deficiencies noted in the report from the Secretary of Defense required by Section 735 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239). The conferees direct the Department of Defense to include pediatric health outcome measures in the annual report to Congress on TRICARE program effectiveness.

Comptroller General report on use of quality of care metrics at military treatment facilities

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 737) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the Department of Defense's use of quality of care metrics in military medical treatment facilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note a requirement, in a separate section of this bill, for the Comptroller General of United States to submit a report assessing the Department's plans to improve health outcomes, to create health value, and to ensure the provision of quality health care in military medical treatment facilities and through purchased care.

Report on implementation of data security and transmission standards for electronic health records

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 741) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a joint report to Congress by June 1, 2016, on the implementation of security and data transmission standards by the Departments in the deployment of new or updated electronic health records.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE VIII—ACQUISITION POLICY, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—Acquisition Policy and Management

Required review of acquisition-related functions of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces (sec. 801)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 802) that would require the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps to review their

current authorities provided in sections 3033, 5033, 5043, and 8033 of title 10, United States Code, and other relevant statutes and regulations related to defense acquisitions for the purpose of developing such recommendations that the Chief concerned or the Commandant considers necessary to further or strengthen the role of the Chief concerned or the Commandant in the development of requirements, acquisition processes, and the associated budget practices of the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Role of Chiefs of Staff in the acquisition process (sec. 802)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 801) that would amend section 2547 of title 10, United States Code, to enhance the role of Chiefs of Staff in the defense acquisition process. This provision would reinforce the role and responsibilities of the Chiefs of Staff in decisions regarding the balancing of resources and priorities, and associated tradeoffs among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance on major defense acquisition programs.

The House bill had no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Expansion of rapid acquisition authority (sec. 803)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 802) that would amend section 806(c) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note), as amended by section 811 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375). This provision would enhance the rapid acquisition authority currently provided to the Secretary of Defense by allowing the Secretary to use this authority for two new categories of supplies and associated support services that the Secretary determines: (1) are urgently needed and impact an ongoing or anticipated contingency operation that, if left unfulfilled, could potentially result in loss of life or critical mission failure; or (2) are urgently needed to eliminate a deficiency that as the result of a cyber attack has resulted in critical mission failure, the loss of life, property destruction, or economic effects, or is likely to result in critical mission failure, the significant loss of life, property destruction, or economic effects.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Middle tier of acquisition for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding (sec. 804)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 803) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to issue guidance for an expedited and streamlined "middle tier" of acquisition programs that are intended to be completed within 5 years. These programs would be distinctive from "rapid acquisitions" that are generally completed within 6 months to 2 years and "traditional" acquisitions that last much longer than 5 years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Use of alternative acquisition paths to acquire critical national security capabilities (sec. 805)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 805) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish procedures and

guidelines for alternative acquisition pathways to acquire capital assets and services that meet critical national security needs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require procedures to be developed within 180 days.

Secretary of Defense waiver of acquisition laws to acquire vital national security capabilities (sec. 806)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 806) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to waive acquisition law or regulation for the purpose of acquiring a capability that is in the vital interest of the United States and is not otherwise available to the Armed Forces of the United States. The Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees at least 30 days before exercising the waiver authority and designate a senior official who shall be personally responsible and accountable for the rapid and effective acquisition and deployment of the needed capability.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Acquisition authority of the Commander of United States Cyber Command (sec. 807)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 807) that would authorize limited acquisition authority for the Commander of United States Cyber Command (CYBERCOM).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify that the Commander of CYBERCOM may obligate and expend up to \$75.0 million of the funds made available for each fiscal year from 2016 through 2021. The amendment would add a requirement for an implementation plan, the review of programs being acquired under this authority by the Cyber Investment Management Board, and an annual end of year assessment. The amendment would also make a number of technical and conforming edits.

The conferees believe the Commander of CYBERCOM should utilize this limited acquisition authority to fulfill cyber operations-peculiar and cyber capability-peculiar requirements the services are unable to meet to ensure the Department of Defense is adequately postured to defend and respond to cyber threats. The conferees maintain that this limited authority should not be construed to replace the acquisition responsibilities of the military services to fulfill their man, train and equip requirements. The conferees believe successful demonstration of these acquisition authorities will require implementation of memoranda of agreement with the military services to define enduring responsibilities and more explicit definition cyber operations-peculiar and cyber capability-peculiar requirements.

Report on linking and streamlining requirements, acquisition, and budget processes within Armed Forces (sec. 808)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 801) that would require the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps to each submit a report to the congressional defense committees on their efforts to leverage their existing statutory authorities in a manner that links and streamlines their services' requirements, acquisition, and budget processes in order to foster improved outcomes.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Advisory panel on streamlining and codifying acquisition regulations (sec. 809)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 808) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics to establish an advisory panel on streamlining acquisition regulations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Review of time-based requirements process and budgeting and acquisition systems (sec. 810)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 809) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to review the requirements process to provide for a time-based or phased distinction between capabilities needed to be deployed urgently, within 2 years, within 5 years, and longer than 5 years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to clarify the scope of the review.

Subtitle B—Amendments to General Contracting Authorities, Procedures, and Limitations

Amendment relating to multiyear contract authority for acquisition of property (sec. 811)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 806) that would strike the existing requirement that the head of an agency must determine that substantial savings would be achieved before entering into a multiyear contract.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require that significant savings would be achieved before entering into a multiyear contract.

The conferees agree that the government should seek to maximize savings whenever it pursues multiyear procurement. However, the conferees also agree that significant savings (estimated to be greater than \$250.0 million), and other benefits, may be achieved even if it does not equate to a minimum of 10 percent savings over the cost of an annual contract. The conferees expect a request for authority to enter into a multiyear contract will include (1) the estimated cost savings, (2) the minimum quantity needed, (3) confirmation that the design is stable and the technical risks are not excessive, and (4) any other rationale for entering into such a contract.

Applicability of cost and pricing data and certification requirements (sec. 812)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 822) that would limit the applicability of the Truth in Negotiations Act (Public Law 87-653; 10 U.S.C. section 2306a) to offset agreements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would provide for an exception to this limitation for subcontracts and contracts under the offset agreement for work performed in a foreign country that are directly-related to the weapon systems of defense-related item being purchased under the contract.

Rights in technical data (sec. 813)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 825) that would clarify procedures for the validation of rights in technical data for subsystems and components of major weapon systems; and establish a govern-

ment-industry advisory panel to review sections 2320 and 2321 of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Procurement of supplies for experimental purposes (sec. 814)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 826) that would update the experimental acquisition authority in section 2373 of title 10, United States Code, to apply to transportation, energy, medical, and space flight and to clarify when provisions of Chapter 137 of title 10 apply to such procurements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Amendments to other transaction authority (sec. 815)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 853) would make permanent the other transactions authority (OTA) for contracting established in section 845 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160), as modified most recently by section 812 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). The provision would also make changes to the authority to use such mechanisms.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (section 804) that modified the authority, as well as modifying the definition of a "non-traditional" defense contractor.

The House recedes with an amendment that would: (1) make section 845 authority permanent; (2) clarify the authority to use section 845 authority to acquire prototypes or follow-on production items to be provided to contractors as government-furnished equipment; (3) ensure that innovative small business firms are authorized to participate in other transactions under section 845 without the requirement for a cost-share (except where the small business is partnered with a large business in a transaction); and (4) clarify the use of follow-on production contracts or other transactions authority. The provision further requires the Department of Defense to study the benefits of permitting not-for-profit entities to enter into other transactions agreements without the requirement for cost sharing.

The conferees believe that the flexibility of the OTA authorities of section 2371 of title 10, United States Code, and the related and dependent authorities of section 845 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160) as modified and codified in this provision, can make them attractive to firms and organizations that do not usually participate in government contracting due to the typical overhead burden and "one size fits all" rules. The conferees believe that expanded use of OTAs will support Department of Defense efforts to access new source of technical innovation, such as Silicon Valley startup companies and small commercial firms.

Amendment to acquisition threshold for special emergency procurement authority (sec. 816)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 854) that would raise the simplified acquisition threshold from \$100,000 to \$500,000, the micro-purchase threshold from \$3,000 to \$5,000, and the special emergency procurement authority threshold for purchases inside the United States from \$250,000 to \$750,000 and for purchases outside the United

States from \$1.0 million to \$1.5 million, and the small business reservation threshold from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would amend section 1903 of title 41, United States Code to raise the special emergency procurement authority threshold.

Revision of method of rounding when making inflation adjustment of acquisition-related dollar thresholds (sec. 817)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 855) that would amend section 1908(e)(2) of title 41, United States Code, to change the rounding method that is used when scheduled adjustments are made to certain acquisition-related dollar thresholds.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle C—Provisions Relating to Major Defense Acquisition Programs

Acquisition strategy required for each major defense acquisition program, major automated information system, and major system (sec. 821)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 822) that would establish a new section in chapter 144 of title 10, United States Code, that requires an acquisition strategy for each major defense acquisition program and each major system approved by a Milestone Decision Authority (MDA).

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 841).

The conference agreement includes a provision that combines these two provisions. The provision would mandate that the Department of Defense create an acquisition strategy for each major defense acquisition program, each major automated information system, and each major system approved by an MDA. The provision further outlines key areas that should be considered in the strategies, as well as a process for the periodic review of the strategy by the MDA.

Revision to requirements relating to risk management in development of major defense acquisition programs and major systems (sec. 822)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 823) that would establish a new section in chapter 144 of title 10, United States Code that requires the program acquisition strategy for each major defense acquisition program or major system to include an identification of major program risks and a risk management and mitigation strategy.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 842).

The conference agreement includes a provision that combines these two provisions designed to reduce programmatic risk. The provision mandates that the program acquisition strategy specifically address approaches to manage and mitigate risks, and highlights a number of techniques that support such mitigation. The provision further highlights the importance of prototyping as a risk mitigation approach.

The conferees expect that the risk mitigation aspects of a program acquisition strategy should be addressed with each increment of a program. Further, the conferees expect that the comprehensive approach to risk mitigation should identify: each individual risk to the program; risk management and mitigation activities developed to address the risks; and resources to support those mitigation activities.

Revision of Milestone A decision authority responsibilities for major defense acquisition programs (sec. 823)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 825) that would amend section 2366a of title 10, United States Code, to require the Milestone Decision Authority to make a written determination, in lieu of a certification, before approving milestone A.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 844).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that combines these two provisions. The provision establishes the Milestone Decision Authority's responsibility to ensure that an acquisition program has demonstrated sufficient knowledge to enter into a risk reduction phase following Milestone A and has sound plans to progress to the development phase before granting milestone approval. It specifies the considerations the milestone decision authority must take into account, thereby addressing the critical activities that need to precede and occur during the succeeding risk reduction phase.

Revision of Milestone B decision authority responsibilities for major defense acquisition programs (sec. 824)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 826) that would amend section 2366b of title 10, United States Code, to require the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) to make a written determination, instead of a certification, for some of the existing certification requirements before approving milestone B.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 845).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that combines these two provisions.

The provision establishes the MDA's responsibility to ensure that an acquisition program has demonstrated sufficient knowledge to enter a development phase and has sound plans in place to deliver the required capability, before granting milestone approval. It specifies the considerations the MDA must take into account, thereby addressing the critical activities that need to precede and occur during the development phase. It further specifies that the MDA must certify that the program has a high likelihood of accomplishing its intended mission based on a formal post-preliminary design review assessment, and that the technology in the program has been demonstrated in a relevant environment based on an independent review and assessment.

Designation of milestone decision authority (sec. 825)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 843) that would amend section 2430 of title 10, United States Code, to designate the service acquisition executives as the milestone decision authority for major acquisition programs managed by the military services; require that if a program managed by the services breaches thresholds in the Nunn-McCurdy Act, section 2433 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall revoke service milestone decision authority for the program; clarify that for service programs where the service acquisition executive is the milestone decision authority the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics would exercise advisory authority; require that the service secretaries and service chiefs certify in each Selected Acquisition Report that program requirements are stable and funding is adequate to meet cost, schedule, and performance objectives for each major defense acquisition program; require the Deputy Chief Management Officer to

issue guidance to ensure that acquisition policy, guidance, and practices support a streamlined decision making and approval process that minimizes information requests on service managed programs; and require not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to implement the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics advisory authority for service acquisition programs. The provision mandated implementation of the changes within 1 year of the date of enactment of the Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify that the provision would apply to new programs reaching milestone A after October 1, 2016; modify certain certification requirements; and require the Secretary of Defense to review the acquisition oversight process for major defense acquisition programs and limit outside requirements for documentation to an absolute minimum on those service managed programs. The conferees note that the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics should only exercise advisory authority, subject to the overall authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, over service acquisition programs for which the service acquisition executive is the milestone decision authority.

Tenure and accountability of program managers for program definition periods (sec. 826)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 846) that would require the Secretary of Defense to revise Department of Defense guidance for defense acquisition programs to address the tenure and accountability of program managers for the program definition period of defense acquisition programs.

The House bill contained no similar a provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to clarify the period of time to which the required guidance applies, and to include authority for the Secretary of Defense to adjust program management assignment tenures, under certain circumstances.

Tenure and accountability of program managers for program execution periods (sec. 827)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 847) that would address the tenure and accountability of program managers for the program execution period of defense acquisition programs.

The House bill contained no similar a provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to clarify the elements of the guidance to be issued as a result of the provision.

Penalty for cost overruns (sec. 828)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 849) under which each military department would pay an annual penalty in the amount of 3 percent of the cumulative cost overrun on all of its major defense acquisition programs (MDAPs).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Streamlining of reporting requirements applicable to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering regarding major defense acquisition programs (sec. 829)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 850) that would amend section 138(b) of title 10, United States Code, to

change the scope of periodic reports the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering is required to deliver to the congressional defense committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Configuration Steering Boards for cost control under major defense acquisition programs (sec. 830)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 851) that would amend section 814 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) to require each Configuration Steering Board to track any changes in program requirements for a major defense acquisition program and that all such changes must receive approval by the service chief in consultation with the service secretary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify the types of changes required to be approved by the service chief.

Repeal of requirement for stand-alone manpower estimates for major defense acquisition programs (sec. 831)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 856) that would consolidate the statutory requirement for a detailed manpower estimate prior to approval of development or production and deployment of a major defense acquisition program as established by section 2434 of title 10, United States Code, with the independent estimate of the full life-cycle cost of the program also required by section 2434.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 848).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require that the independent estimate of the full-life cycle costs of a program include the costs of training.

Revision to duties of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering (sec. 832)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 862) that would amend section 139b of title 10, United States Code, to clarify that the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering advise the Milestone Decision Authority regarding review and approval of developmental test plans and systems engineering plans.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would authorize the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Developmental Test and Evaluation and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering to review developmental test and evaluation and systems engineering master plans for major defense acquisition programs, respectively, and advise relevant technical authorities on the incorporation of best practices for programs under consideration.

Subtitle D—Provisions Relating to Acquisition Workforce

Amendments relating to Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (sec. 841)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 811) that would amend section 1705 of title 10, United States Code, to make permanent the

authority for both the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund and the associated expedited hiring authority.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 872) that would extend the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund for 5 additional years and modify the requirements of the biennial strategic workforce plan to assess any new or expanded critical skills or competencies needed by the acquisition workforce. The Senate amendment also contained a provision (sec. 1106) that would extend the expedited hiring authority for designated defense acquisition workforce positions for 5 years.

The House recedes with an amendment that would combine the provisions. The provision would make permanent the authority for both the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund and the associated expedited hiring authority, as well as making technical revisions to the administration of the Fund and to the biennial strategic workforce plan.

Dual-track military professionals in operational and acquisition specialties (sec. 842)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 812) that would amend section 1722a of title 10, United States Code, by reinstituting a dual-tracking system of primary and functional secondary career fields for officers and noncommissioned officers serving in acquisition positions by dual-tracking such personnel in operational and acquisition career fields under the shared accountability and responsibility of the military service chiefs and component acquisition executives for career path management and selections.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 503) that would provide for an enhanced dual track career path in combat arms and a functional secondary career in acquisition to more closely align military operational requirements and acquisition and include business and commercial training as joint professional military education.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees encourage the Secretary to ensure that the curriculum for Phase II joint professional military education includes matters in acquisition to ensure the successful performance in the acquisition or acquisition related fields.

Provision of joint duty assignment credit for acquisition duty (sec. 843)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 813) that would amend section 668 of title 10, United States Code, by adding to the term “joint matters” the inclusion of acquisition matters addressed by military personnel.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 503) that would provide for credit for joint duty assignments for acquisition related assignments in order to broaden the promotion preference and career opportunities of military acquisition professionals.

The Senate recedes.

Mandatory requirement for training related to the conduct of market research (sec. 844)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 815) that would amend section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a requirement that the Secretary of Defense shall provide mandatory training for members of the Armed Forces and employees of the Department of Defense responsible for the conduct of market research required under subsection (c) of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Department should consider using the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund for training in market research and other training needed to improve the Department's use of commercial contracting and pricing methods to better access commercial industry sources.

Independent study of implementation of defense acquisition workforce improvement efforts (sec. 845)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 816) that would require the Secretary of Defense, within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to enter into a contract with an independent research entity that is a not-for-profit entity or a federally funded research and development center with appropriate expertise and analytical capability to carry out a comprehensive study of the Department of Defense's strategic planning related to the defense acquisition workforce.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Extension of authority for the civilian acquisition workforce personnel demonstration project (sec. 846)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 817) that would amend section 1762 of title 10, United States Code, by extending the demonstration project relating to certain acquisition personnel management policies and procedures through 2020.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1110) that would amend section 1762, title 10, United States Code, to extend the Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project under that section through December 31, 2020.

The House recedes.

Subtitle E—Provisions Relating to Commercial Items

Procurement of commercial items (sec. 851)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 804) that would: 1) amend chapter 140 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish and maintain a centralized capability with the resources and expertise to oversee the making of commercial item determinations for Department of Defense procurements and to provide public access to Department of Defense commercial item determinations; and 2) would amend section 2306a (b) of title 10, United States Code, to allow the contracting officer to presume that a prior commercial item determination made by a military department, Defense Agency, or other component of the Department of Defense shall serve as a determination for subsequent procurements of such items.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 863) that would require the modification to the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to address the continuing validity of commercial item determinations for multiple procurements.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would combine both provisions and make technical and conforming changes.

Modification to information required to be submitted by offeror in procurement of major weapon systems as commercial items (sec. 852)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 805) that would amend section 2379 of title 10, United States Code, by striking the requirement that in making a determination that an item is a commercial item, the contracting officer shall determine in writing that the offeror of the item has submitted

sufficient information to evaluate, through price analysis, the reasonableness of the price for such item.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 864).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would clarify the hierarchy of information that can be requested by the Department of Defense to be submitted by a contractor to support a price reasonableness determination.

Use of recent prices paid by the Government in the determination of price reasonableness (sec. 853)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 852) that would amend section 2306a of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new paragraph that would require a contracting officer to consider evidence provided by an offeror of recent purchase prices paid by the Government for the same or similar commercial items in establishing price reasonableness.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Report on defense-unique laws applicable to the procurement of commercial items and commercially available off-the-shelf items (sec. 854)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 861) that would amend section 2375 of title 10, United States Code, to require the establishment of a list in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement of inapplicable defense-unique statutes to contracts for commercial items and commercial available off-the-shelf items.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Department of Defense to report to the congressional defense committees identifying the defense-unique provisions of law that are applicable for the procurement of commercial items or commercial-off-the-shelf items, both at the prime and subcontract level.

Market research and preference for commercial items (sec. 855)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 862) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics to issue guidance to ensure that defense acquisition officials fully comply with the requirements of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Limitation on conversion of procurements from commercial acquisition procedures (sec. 856)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 865) that would limit the conversion of the procurement of a commercial item or commercial service to a non-commercial acquisition procedure unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Department of Defense will realize a significant cost savings as compared to the cost of procuring a similar quantity of such item or level of service using commercial acquisition procedures.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require a written determination to be made prior to any conversion of the procurement of commercial items to a non-commercial acquisition procedure. The conferees also require the Secretary of Defense

to establish procedures to track conversions of future contracts and subcontracts for improved analysis and reporting.

Treatment of goods and services provided by nontraditional defense contractors as commercial items (sec. 857)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 866) that would amend chapter 140 of title 10, United States Code, to include a new provision that would authorize the Department of Defense to treat goods and services provided by a non-traditional contractor as defined in section 2302(9) of title 10, United States Code, as a commercial item.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle F—Industrial Base Matters

Amendment to Mentor-Protégé Program (sec. 861)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 831) that would codify the Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program in Title 10 United States Code as a permanent program.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 877) that would extend the authorization for Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program by 1 year.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify the eligibility requirements, forms of assistance, extension of the authorization and reporting requirements.

The conferees note that the Congressionally-mandated Mentor Protégé program is intended to support efforts of small and disadvantaged businesses to partner with established defense suppliers to improve their ability to deliver needed technologies and services to the Department of Defense. The committee is concerned that the program may not always be executed to most effectively achieve mandated goals. Analysis of this program indicates that in some cases, protégé firms participating in this program had received millions of dollars in federal prime contract awards prior to the establishment of their Mentor-Protégé agreements, indicating they may have possessed sufficient ability to market their goods and services to federal customers without the need for additional developmental assistance.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to report to the House Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Armed Services, within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, on changes to program policy and metrics that would ensure the program meets the goal of enhancing the defense supplier base in the most effective and efficient manner. The report shall include recommendations to better direct the developmental assistance to the most appropriate disadvantaged small business concerns, including nontraditional defense contractors currently providing goods or services in the private sector that are most critical to enhancing the capabilities of the defense supplier base and fulfilling key Department needs. The report shall describe how the Department will strengthen the review processes of program investments to ensure activities proposed in developmental plans are necessary for the protégé's development, taking into account the protégé's reported prime contract and subcontract awards, and that mentors are obtaining the best value for all reimbursed activities. The report shall also assess alternate models for incentives for participation by mentor companies in the program other than direct reimbursement, and shall detail program metrics that would enable the Department evaluate the pro-

gram's return on investment and the actual impact of the development assistance on the protégé's ability to support DOD needs. The conferees recommend that the Secretary ensure that the annual reports generated by the Defense Contract Management Agency are sufficient to be used to evaluate team performance and mentor reimbursement.

Further, the conferees direct the U.S. Comptroller General of the United States, within 1 year of enactment of this Act, report to the House Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Armed Services, with an assessment of the efficacy of the DOD Mentor-Protégé pilot program, recommend ways to harmonize the DOD Mentor-Protégé pilot program with the Small Business Administration's Mentor-Protégé program, and discuss whether the reimbursement mechanism for the DOD Mentor-Protégé pilot program should be maintained.

Amendments to data quality improvement plan (sec. 862)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 832) that would amend section 15(s) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(s)) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to annually provide to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate certification of the accuracy and completeness of data reported on bundled and consolidated contracts. This section would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report to the aforementioned committees not later than the first day of fiscal year 2019 on the effectiveness of the certification process and an assessment of whether contracts were accurately labeled as bundled or consolidated.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Notice of contract consolidation for acquisition strategies (sec. 863)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 833) that would amend section 44(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657q(c)(2)) to require the senior procurement executive or chief acquisition officer to announce through a public website that a determination has been made to bundle or consolidate contracts within 1 week of making the determination, but no later than 1 week prior to the issuance of a solicitation.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Clarification of requirements related to small business contracts for services (sec. 864)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 834) that would amend section 8(a)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(17)) to clarify that the statute applies to contracts for goods, but not services or construction. The conferees note that the non-manufacturer rule (NMR) was established to ensure that, when competition for a contract for goods is restricted to small businesses, the goods ultimately purchased were indeed the product of a small business. However, the conferees are concerned that the NMR is being applied to services and construction contracts and could limit small business participants contracting for services and construction to the Federal Government. Therefore, the conferees believe this clarification to section 8(a)(17) is necessary.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Certification requirements for Business Opportunity Specialists, commercial market representatives, and procurement center representatives (sec. 865)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 840) that would amend section 15 and section 4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644 and 633, respectively) to set certification requirements for commercial market representatives and to modify the current certification requirements for procurement center representatives and Business Opportunity Specialists.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Modifications to requirements for qualified HUBZone small business concerns located in a base closure area (sec. 866)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 842) that would amend section 152(a)(2) of title I of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (15 U.S.C. 632 note) to extend the length of time covered base closure areas may participate in the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) program to either 8 years or until the Small Business Administration announces which areas will qualify for the HUBZone program after the next decennial census data is released. This section would also amend section 3(p)(5)(A)(i)(I) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(5)(A)(i)(I)) to include allowed covered base closure area HUBZone participants to meet the program's employment requirements by hiring 35 percent of their employees from any qualified HUBZone, and would amend section 3(p)(4)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(4)(D)) to extend physical boundaries of the covered base closure area, for purpose of the HUBZone program, to include lands within a 25-mile radius of the base.

The Senate amendment contained two similar provisions (sec. 882 and 883) that would amend the Small Business Act, title 15, United States Code to authorize the inclusion of qualified disaster areas to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone program administered by the Small Business Administration and to authorize the inclusion of base closure areas to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone program administered by the Small Business Administration.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would combine both provisions.

Joint venturing and teaming (sec. 867)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 843) that would amend section 15(e)(4) and 15(q)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(e)(4) and 15 U.S.C. 644(q)(1)), respectively, by requiring agencies to give due consideration to the capabilities and past performances of the small businesses that submit offers as teams or joint ventures when the contract is bundled, consolidated, or for a multiple-award contract.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Modification to and scorecard program for small business contracting goals (sec. 868)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 844) that would codify a requirement to publish a scorecard on agency achievements regarding contract awards to small businesses and require a Government Accountability Office report on the effectiveness of the scorecard methodology.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to remove the requirement for the establishment and execution of the program before the end of fiscal year 2017.

Establishment of an Office of Hearings and Appeals in the Small Business Administration; petitions for reconsideration of size standards (sec. 869)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 845) that would amend section 5 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634) that would establish an Office of Hearings and Appeals in the Small Business Administration that would review petitions for the revision of small business size standards.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Additional duties of the Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (sec. 870)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 885) that would require the small business offices in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military departments to serve as intermediaries between small businesses and contracting officials prior to the award of contracts in cases where a small business prospective contractor notifies the small business office that it has reason to believe that the contracting process has been modified to preclude a small business from bidding on the contract or would give another contractor an unfair competitive advantage.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would amend section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (title 15, United States Code, section 644) to describe the responsibilities of federal agency Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization offices in cases where a small business concern prior to the award of a contract believes that a solicitation, request for proposal, or request for quotation might unduly restrict the ability of the small business concern to compete for the award.

Including subcontracting goals in agency responsibilities (sec. 871)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 841) that would amend section 1633(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to include consideration of success in attainment of small business subcontracting goals as part of agency responsibilities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Reporting related to failure of contractors to meet goals under negotiated comprehensive small business subcontracting plans (sec. 872)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 828) that would amend section 834(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-189) to require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on any negotiated comprehensive subcontracting plan that the Secretary determines did not meet the subcontracting goals negotiated in the plan for the prior fiscal year.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Pilot program for streamlining awards for innovative technology projects (sec. 873)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 831) that would establish a pilot

program to provide an exception from the requirements under sections 2306a(1) and 2313 of title 10, United States Code, for contracts or subcontracts valued at less than \$7.5 million that are awarded based on a technical merit based selection procedure.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Surety bond requirements and amount of guarantee (sec. 874)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 839) that would: (1) amend section 411 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(c)(1)) to increase the guarantee rate for surety bonds issued pursuant to the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Preferred Program to 90 percent; (2) amend chapter 93 of title 31, United States Code, to require that individual sureties have sufficient assets to redeem the bonds; and (3) provide for a study by the Comptroller General of the effects of these changes on small and disadvantaged business enterprises.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would retain the provision addressing the SBA program and the provision governing the use of individual sureties. However, each provision will be subject to a 1-year delay in implementation to allow for the necessary rulemaking. The conference agreement does not retain the provisions amending the SBA surety bond program, nor does it provide for a study by the Comptroller General.

The conferees believe the compromise will allow for greater protection of federal agencies and subcontractors protected by surety bonds, while allowing the SBA more time to document the effects of changes to the surety bond program made by section 1695 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239).

Review of Government access to intellectual property rights of private sector firms (sec. 875)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 835) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with an independent entity with appropriate expertise to conduct a review of Department of Defense regulations and practices related to Government access to and use of intellectual property rights of private sector firms.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Inclusion in annual technology and industrial capability assessments of a determination about defense acquisition program requirements (sec. 876)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 322) that would amend section 2505 of title 10, United States Code, to include in the required periodic assessment of defense capability an additional requirement for the Secretary of Defense to also determine the extent to which the requirements associated with defense acquisition programs can be satisfied by the present and projected performance capacities of industries supporting the sectors or capabilities in the assessment and evaluate the reasons for any variance from applicable preceding determinations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the review of the number of industry sources and whether requirements could be satisfied by industries not actively supporting the Department of Defense.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

Consideration of potential program cost increases and schedule delays resulting from oversight of defense acquisition programs (sec. 881)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 851) that would amend section 139 of title 10, United States Code, by including a new subsection that would require the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation to consider the potential for increases in program cost estimates or delays in schedule estimates in the implementation of policies, procedures, and activities related to operational test and evaluation, and to take appropriate action to ensure that the conduct of operational test and evaluation activities do not unnecessarily impede program schedules or increase program costs.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require that all relevant Department of Defense acquisition, management and oversight agencies consider the potential for increases in program costs or cost estimates or delays resulting from their office's oversight efforts with regards to defense acquisition.

Examination and guidance relating to oversight and approval of services contracts (sec. 882)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 857) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to complete an examination by March 1, 2016, of the decision authority related to acquisition of services and to develop and promulgate guidance to improve capabilities related to services contracts requirements development, source selection, and contract oversight and management.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Streamlining of requirements relating to defense business systems (sec. 883)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 858) that would revise section 2222 of title 10, United States Code, to clarify responsibilities for the management of defense business information technology systems. As a result, this section would repeal the current reporting requirement contained in section 2222 of title 10, United States Code, and insert a new annual reporting requirement through the year 2020 on the revised requirements of section 2222.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (section 871).

The conference agreement includes a provision that would combine the two provisions. The revised section 2222 of title 10, United States Code, streamlines the requirements for development and management of business systems, as well as associated reporting requirements; mandates elements of guidance to be issued by the Secretary of Defense on investments in and acquisition of business systems; clarifies the responsibilities of senior officials in the acquisition and management of business systems; and emphasizes the need for robust business process engineering prior to investment in commercial technology or the modification of commercial systems for use by the Department of Defense.

Procurement of personal protective equipment (sec. 884)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 860) that would ensure the Secretary of Defense uses best value contracting methods to the maximum extent practicable when

procuring an item of personal protective equipment.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 824) that would: (1) prohibit the use of reverse auctions and lowest priced technically acceptable (LPTA) contracting methods for the procurement of personal protective equipment where the level of quality needed or the failure of the item could result in combat casualties; and (2) establish a preference for best value contracting methods when procuring such equipment.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to combine the two provisions to ensure that the Department of Defense to the maximum extent practicable uses best value criteria for the procurement of these items.

The conferees are concerned that an over-arching bias towards reducing prices paid by the Department of Defense (DOD) to the exclusion of other factors could result in DOD buying low cost products that have the potential to negatively impact the safety of U.S. military personnel. The conferees believe this could be a particular problem with the quality of personal protective equipment such as combat helmets, body armor, ballistic eye protection, and other similar individual equipment issued to U.S. military personnel.

Amendments concerning detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts (sec. 885)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 861) that would amend section 818(c)(2)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) to expand the eligibility for covered contractors to include costs associated with rework and corrective action related to counterfeit electronic parts as allowable costs under Department of Defense contracts.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would allow the Department of Defense to approve of industry-selected trusted suppliers.

Exception for AbilityOne products from authority to acquire goods and services manufactured in Afghanistan, Central Asian States, and Djibouti (sec. 886)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 865) that would amend Section 886 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note) and Section 1263 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) to exclude items that can be procured under the AbilityOne procurement list outlined in section 8503(a) of title 41, United States Code from preferred local procurement in Afghanistan, Iraq, Central Asia, and Djibouti.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 884) that would amend section 886 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note) and section 801 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) to exclude items in the procurement list described in section 8503(a) of title 41 from preferred local procurement in Afghanistan and Central Asia, if such a good can be produced and delivered by a qualified non-profit agency for the blind or a non-profit agency for other severely disabled in a timely fashion to support mission requirements.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Effective communication between government and industry (sec. 887)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 866) that would require the Federal Acquisition

Regulatory Council to prescribe a regulation making clear that agency acquisition personnel are permitted and encouraged to engage in responsible and constructive exchanges with industry, so long as those exchanges are consistent with existing law and regulation and do not promote an unfair competitive advantage to particular firms.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Standards for procurement of secure information technology and cyber security systems (sec. 888)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 870) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of the application of the Open Trusted Technology Provider Standard to Department of Defense procurements for information technology and cyber security acquisitions.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would expand on the types of open technology standards to be assessed.

Unified information technology services (sec. 889)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 873) that would require the Department of Defense to conduct a business case analysis to determine the most effective and efficient way to acquire common services across Department of Defense (DOD) networks and ensure interoperability and competition.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Cloud strategy for Department of Defense (sec. 890)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 874) that would require the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Department of Defense to develop a cloud strategy for the secret level of classified data and the Secret Internet Protocol network (SIPRnet). The provision would also require the CIO to develop a consistent pricing and cost recovery process for the use by Department of Defense components of the Intelligence Community's cloud services. The provision would also require the CIO to assess the feasibility and advisability of imposing a minimum set of open standards for cloud infrastructure, middle-ware, metadata, and application programming interfaces to promote interoperability, information sharing, access to data, and competition.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Development period for Department of Defense information technology systems (sec. 891)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 875) that would amend section 2445b of title 10, United States Code, to modify requirements applicable to a major automated information system program that fails to achieve a full deployment decision within 5 years after the initiation of the program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Revisions to pilot program on acquisition of military purpose nondevelopmental items (sec. 892)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 876) that would amend section 866

of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) to expand the applicability of the pilot program on the acquisition of military purpose nondevelopmental items to additional classes of contractors and apply the standards of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984 (10 U.S.C. 2304) to these contracts.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Improved auditing of contracts (sec. 893)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 878) that would authorize the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) to provide outside audit support to non-Defense Agencies upon certification that the backlog for incurred cost audits is less than 12 months of incurred cost inventory.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would prohibit the DCAA from providing outside audit support to non-Defense Agencies until DCAA certifies that the backlog for incurred costs is less than 18 months of incurred-cost inventory, not require the Secretary of Defense to use outside auditing staff to help address DCAA's audit backlog, and streamline reporting requirements.

Sense of Congress on evaluation method for procurement of audit or audit readiness services (sec. 894)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 864) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish values and metrics for the procurement of audit or audit readiness services and review the offeror's past performance before using a lowest price, technically acceptable evaluation method for the procurement of such services.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment stating that before using the lowest price, technically acceptable evaluation method for the procurement of audit or audit readiness services, the Secretary of Defense should establish the values and metrics for evaluating companies offering audit services, including financial management and audit expertise and experience, personnel qualifications and certifications, past performance, technology, tools, and size.

Mitigating potential unfair competitive advantage of technical advisors to acquisition programs (sec. 895)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 881) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to issue guidance on identifying and addressing potential unfair competitive advantage of technical advisors to acquisition officials.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment to revise the guidance required under the provision.

The conferees believe that the technical advisors described in the provision include contractors, federally funded research and development centers, university-affiliated research centers, non-profit entities, and federal laboratories that provide systems engineering and technical direction, participate in technical evaluations, support preparation of specifications or work statements, or otherwise provide technical advice to acquisition officials on the conduct of defense acquisition programs. The conferees further believe that "potentially unfair competitive advantage" includes unequal access to ac-

quisition officials responsible for award decisions or allocation of resources, or to acquisition information relevant to award decisions or allocation of resources.

In responding to this provision, the conferees expect the Secretary to review these definitions, as well as the efficacy of current conflict-of-interest policies, the use of non-disclosure agreements, the application of appropriate regulations, and decisions to allocate resources through direct award of funds to intramural programs or sole-source task orders to entities that provide technical advice on defense programs versus open and competitive extramural solicitations. Based on the results of this review, the conferees expect the Secretary to review and revise guidance to clarify these issues if necessary.

The conferees also expect the Secretary to develop metrics and processes for collecting and evaluating complaints and concerns relating to examples of the exploitation of unfair competitive advantage by technical advisors.

Survey on the costs of regulatory compliance (sec. 896)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 879) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a survey of defense contractors with the highest level of reimbursements for cost-type contracts and identify the cost to industry of regulatory compliance with government unique acquisition regulations and requirements that are not imposed on commercial item contracts.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Treatment of interagency and State and local purchases when the Department of Defense acts as contract intermediary for the General Services Administration (sec. 897)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 847) on the sense of Congress on the treatment of the procurement of fire hoses.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 830) that would clarify that the requirements under chapter 148 of title 10, United States Code would not apply to a contract executed by the Department of Defense where the Department is acting as an intermediary for the General Services Administration (GSA) for purchase of products by other federal agencies or state and local governments.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the chapter 148 process of obtaining a domestic non-availability determination of certain products, such as fire hoses, could have a significant effect on the ability of Federal agencies to respond to natural disasters or other emergencies.

Competition for religious services contracts (sec. 898)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 829) that would ensure that non-profit organizations can compete for contracts for religious related services on a United States military installation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Pilot program regarding risk-based contracting for smaller contract actions under the Truth in Negotiations Act (sec. 899)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 823) that would amend the Truth in Negotiations Act (Public Law 87-653; 10 U.S.C. section 2306a) to raise the threshold for the requirement to provide certified cost

or pricing data in non-price competitive procurements on non-commercial items from the current \$750,000 to \$5.0 million and require the Department of Defense (DOD) to establish a risk-based contracting approach, under which certified cost or pricing data would be required for a risk-based sample of contracts, to ensure that DOD is getting fair and reasonable prices for such contracts.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would establish a pilot program to test this authority.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Sense of Congress on the desired tenets of the defense acquisition system

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 800 and sec. 821) that express the sense of Congress that acquisition reform efforts and weapon system acquisitions require improvement.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the concern that the incentives of the current acquisition system lead to too many defense acquisitions concurrently chasing finite dollars. The conferees are concerned that the Nation often endures weapons delivered late, at too high of a cost, with performance that falls short, and that are difficult and costly to maintain. Furthermore, the conventional acquisition process is not sufficiently agile to support warfighter demands.

The conferees express the need for reform for national security reasons to maintain technological and military dominance. The conferees are concerned that the current process is so rigid and time-consuming that the Department is often unable to effectively tap into the innovation occurring in the commercial marketplace. The conferees note that commercial research and development (R&D) now represents 75 percent of the national total, and global R&D is now more than twice that of the United States. The conferees suggest that removing unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and cultural barriers to new commercial competitions is necessary to create better incentives for and increased access to innovation beyond the Department. The conferees believe these steps are critical for national security in the future, especially in areas such as cyber security, robotics, data analytics, miniaturization, and autonomy.

The conferees are concerned that the Department of Defense currently lacks effective oversight over a contracted services portfolio that has grown in magnitude over the last decade. The military departments and defense agencies have failed to adopt leading private sector best practices in the acquisition and management of commercially available services and information technologies. Departmental leadership has limited insight into the services being acquired and even less awareness of the services that may be needed in the future.

The conferees believe that the acquisition reform provisions in this bill are a first start in addressing these challenges but it will require all stakeholders in the acquisition system—the Department of Defense, Congress, and industry—to work together to achieve success. Success will be measured by the timely delivery of affordable and effective military equipment and services. The conferees will continue to work for an acquisition system that is more proactive, agile, transparent, and innovative.

Independent study of matters related to bid protests

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 803) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract, within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, with an independent research entity that is a not-for-profit entity or a federally funded research and development center with appropriate expertise and analytical capability to carry out a comprehensive study of factors leading to bid protests.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 880) that would require a report by the Government Accountability Office on bid protests.

The conference agreement does not include either of these provisions.

Compliance with inventory of contracts for services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 807) that would limit the expenditure of funds authorized for the operation of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness until certain conditions are met regarding the Department of Defense's compliance with the requirement for an inventory of contracts for services.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees continue to recognize the value of obtaining better visibility over the use of services contracts by defense components and agencies to better understand how contracted services are being used to support Department of Defense missions. The conferees note a distinction between services contracts which are measured in the same manner as staff augmentation contracts of contractor full-time equivalents and performance-based services contracts and other services contracts which rely on a high degree of embedded capital equipment and business process re-engineering. The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to examine the approach the Department is taking to comply with section 2330a, United States Code, and determine whether it is or is not producing a product that enhances the oversight of service contracting activities and submit a report explaining the results of that examination to the congressional defense committees no later than March 1, 2016, including efforts to better manage contractor and civilian personnel costs within the Department. The conferees recognize the information technology aspects of the inventory present technical challenges and encourage the Secretary of Defense to investigate and pursue existing Department of Defense and service component information technology systems which could present a timely solution and provide data relevant to strategic workforce planning. To the extent that the Secretary identifies that the process and technology are not producing an oversight-enhancing product, the conferees expect the Secretary to propose an alternative method of inventory.

Requirement for acquisition skills assessment biennial strategic workforce plan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 814) that would amend section 115b of title 10, United States Code, which requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a biennial strategic workforce plan on critical skills and competencies of the civilian employee workforce of the Department of Defense, to include an additional assessment of new or expanded critical skills and competencies needed by the civilian employee workforce to address new acquisition process requirements established by law or policy.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Modification to requirements relating to determination of contract type for major defense acquisition programs and major systems

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 824) that would amend section 2306 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new subsection, and repealing the requirements in certain subsections of section 818 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), relating to the modification of Department of Defense regulations.

The Senate amendment contained a related provision (sec. 821) that would require the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to be revised to establish a preference for fixed-price contracts, including fixed-price incentive contracts, in the determination of contract type for development programs.

The conference agreement does not include either provision.

Requirement that certain ship components be manufactured in the national technology and industrial base

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 836) that would amend section 2534(a) of title 10, United States Code, and would require certain auxiliary ship components to be procured from a manufacturer in the national technology and industrial base.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Policy regarding solid rocket motors used in tactical missiles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 837) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that every tactical missile program of the Department of Defense that uses solid propellant as the primary propulsion system shall have at least one rocket motor supplier within the national technology and industrial base and would allow the Secretary to waive this requirement in the case of compelling national security reasons.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees agree on the importance of sustaining rocket motor production options to ensure a healthy tactical missile industrial base.

FAR Council membership for Administrator of Small Business Administration

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 838) that would amend section 1302 of title 41, United States Code, by adding the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees believe that the FAR Council should work closely with the Small Business Administration to ensure that consistent regulations are issued from both organizations, to the benefit of both Federal agencies and their small business contractors.

Limitations on reverse auctions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 846) that would amend the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for the purchase of construction services; goods purchased to protect Federal employees, members of the

Armed Forces, or civilians from bodily harm; and goods or services awarded based on factors other than price and technical responsibility if the contract is awarded using a Small Business Act procurement authority. For all other reverse auctions conducted using a Small Business Act procurement authority, the provision required training of contracting officers, restricted the activities that could be undertaken by third-party agents, required honesty in price rankings, and required that revisions to offers be permitted throughout the course of the auction.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that similar language independent of the Small Business Act and applicable only to the Department of Defense was adopted as section 824 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). Recognizing that two-thirds of reverse auctions are conducted outside of the Department of Defense, the conferees see value in addressing the use of this procurement method in civilian agencies but believe it is premature to place additional restrictions upon the Department until section 824 of last year's authorization is implemented.

Extension of limitation on aggregate annual amount available for contract services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 863) that would extend the limitation on the aggregate annual amount available for contract services.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Strengthening program and project management performance by the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 867) that would require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to develop a plan to strengthen program and project management performance for improving management of IT programs and projects.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 810) that would outline Department of Defense responsibilities under chapter 87 of title 10, United States Code for improving program and project management.

The conference agreement does not include either provision.

Synchronization of defense acquisition curricula

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 868) that would require that the President of the Defense Acquisition University convene an annual review board to synchronize defense acquisition curricula across the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) plays an important role in enhancing the quality and innovative capacity of the defense acquisition workforce. DAU training and education will be critical to enable the workforce to better position DOD to access global and commercial technologies and services, as well as to put the tenets of acquisition reform into actual practice. The conferees urge DAU to work with other educational institutions within and outside DOD to leverage a wide array of available expertise and synchronize acquisition educational activities, best practices and curricula. Further, in order to enhance education and training of the acquisition workforce and support effective acquisition

reform, the conferees direct DAU to engage with leading educational and research experts on procurement and acquisition issues from both within and outside the Federal Government, including through personal exchanges, joint studies and analyses, and other interactions.

Research and analysis of defense acquisition policy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 869) that would amend section 1746(a) of title 10, United States Code to add examples of academic institutions that could be used for the research and analysis of defense acquisition policy issues.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Modifications to the justification and approval process for certain sole-source contracts for small business concerns

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 871) that would repeal the requirement for the simplified justification and approval process established in section 811 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2405; 41 U.S.C. 3304 note).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Annual report on foreign procurements

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 886) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report relating to specific foreign procurements by the Department of Defense that result from waivers to the Buy America Act.

The House bill had no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the Department's Report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2014 Purchases from Foreign Entities identified approximately \$5.4 billion in spending on nearly 23,000 purchases for which the restrictions of the Buy America Act are not applicable because they are for items that are manufactured and used outside the United States.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the appropriate congressional defense committees a report listing specific procurements by the Department of Defense in fiscal year 2016 of articles, materials, or supplies valued greater than \$5.0 million, using the exception under section 8302(a)(2)(A) of title 41, United States Code, relating to articles, materials, and supplies for use outside the United States. The conferees note that this report may be submitted as part of the report required under section 8305 of such title.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Update of statutory functions of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff relating to joint force development activities (sec. 901)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 903) that would amend section 153(a)(5), title 10, United States Code, by adding a new subsection that would require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to advise the Secretary of Defense on development of joint command, control, communications and cyber capability, including integration and interoperability of such capability through requirements, integrated architectures, data standards and assessments.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 901).

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress on the United States Marine Corps (sec. 902)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 904) that would express the sense of Congress that the United States Marine Corps, within the Department of the Navy, should remain the Nation's expeditionary crisis response force and that the Marine Corps should be organized, trained, and equipped in the manner and for such purposes specified in section 5063 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1048).

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Redesignation of the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 901) that would redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Change of period for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review of the Unified Command Plan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 902) that would amend section 161(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, to change the period for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review of the Unified Command Plan from 2 years to 4 years.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Reorganization and redesignation of Office of Family Policy and Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 902) that would amend sections 1781, 1781(a), 1781c, and 131 of title 10, United States Code, to reorganize and redesignate the Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs and the Office of Family Policy into the Office of Military Family Readiness Policy. The provision would also require the director of the Office of Military Family Readiness Policy to be a member of the Senior Executive Service or a general or flag officer.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Guidelines for conversion of functions performed by civilian or contractor personnel to performance by military personnel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 907) that would provide guidelines for the conversion of functions performed by civilian or contractor personnel to performance by military personnel.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees have included in the outcome for sec. 321 of the House bill an additional reporting requirement related to the methodology for making cost comparisons between Department of Defense workforce sectors.

TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Financial Matters

General transfer authority (sec. 1001)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1001) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to transfer up to \$5.0 billion of fiscal year 2016 funds authorized in division A of this Act to unforeseen higher priority needs.

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1001) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to transfer up to \$4.5 billion of fiscal year 2016 funds authorized in division A of this Act to unforeseen higher priority needs.

The House recedes.

Accounting standards to value certain property, plant, and equipment items (sec. 1002)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1003) that would require the Secretary of Defense to coordinate with the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board to establish accounting standards for large and unordinary general property, plant, and equipment items.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Report on auditable financial statements (sec. 1003)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1004) that would require the Department of Defense to develop a report ranking organizations according to their advancement in the achievement of auditable financial statements.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would modify the reporting requirement.

The conferees note that 2015 marks 10 years implementing audit and financial management improvement efforts under the Department's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan. The conferees are concerned that recent setbacks could affect the long term goals of the Department. For fiscal year 2014, the Department significantly scaled back its effort to audit the one-year Statement of Budgetary Activity (SBA) instead of the multi-year Statement of Budgetary Resources (SBR) required by the 2014 statutory deadline. In 2015, the Department withdrew its clean opinion on the Marine Corps' fiscal year 2012 SBA. Despite substantial and unquantified resources being invested in IT systems, personnel, training, and consulting services over the last decade, progress remains limited.

The Department's 2017 deadline to declare audit readiness for its full complement of financial statements is fast approaching. Well-known and well-documented material weaknesses that are supposed to be addressed under the FIAR plan remain in place. The conferees look forward to continued discussions with the Department on how these weaknesses will be resolved in time for the full audit of the Department's fiscal year 2018 financial statements.

Further, the conferees believe that the Department should better understand best practices of private and public sector organizations who have obtained and maintained clean audits, including many who are large, multinational corporations, deal with emergency operations, and work with classified materials and activities. The conferees expect that the implementation of some of these practices, especially the use of organizational incentives to drive change, development of milestones to measure progress towards auditability, and more strategic and rigorous business process re-engineering and IT modernization, will support DOD's efforts to obtain clean audits in a more effective and efficient manner.

Sense of Senate on sequestration (sec. 1004)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1004) that stated sequestration is an inadequate budgeting tool to address the nation's

deficits and debt and that relief must be accomplished for fiscal year 2016 and 2017. Furthermore relief should include equal defense and non-defense relief and be offset through changes in mandatory and discretionary categories, and revenues.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that states budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 must be modified or eliminated through a bipartisan legislative agreement.

Annual audit of financial statements of Department of Defense components by independent external auditors (sec. 1005)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1002) that would require the Department of Defense Inspector General to fulfill its statutory audit responsibilities to perform financial statement audits for the military departments and other designated components of the Department by contracting with independent external auditors.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify the selection and reporting requirements.

Subtitle B—Counter-Drug Activities

Extension of authority to support unified counterdrug and counterterrorism campaign in Colombia (sec. 1011)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1011) that would extend for 2 fiscal years the authority of the Secretary of Defense to provide assistance to support the unified counterdrug and counterterrorism campaign of the Government of Colombia (Section 1021 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375)), as most recently amended by section 1011 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The House bill contained no similar provisions.

The House recedes.

Extension and expansion of authority to provide additional support for counter-drug activities of certain foreign governments (sec. 1012)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1011) that would extend, by 1 year, the authority to provide support for counterdrug activities of certain foreign governments originally authorized by subsection (a)(2) of section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85), and most recently amended by section 1013 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 201 (Public Law 113-291).

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1012) that would amend section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85), as most recently amended by section 1013 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). Specifically, the provision would extend the Department of Defense’s (DOD) authority to provide additional support for counterdrug activities of certain foreign governments through fiscal year 2017, as well as add Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia as countries eligible to receive assistance under this authority.

The House recedes with an amendment that would add the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania to the list of governments eligible to receive support under this authority

as well as require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to congressional defense committees on the Department’s planned use of this authority in the future.

The conferees believe that the growing nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime in East Africa warrants increased attention by the Department of Defense. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to develop and submit not later than December 31, 2015 a plan for building the capacity of the Government of Somalia to combat the threat posed by illicit trafficking.

Sense of the Congress on Central America (sec. 1013)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1012) that would express a series of findings and a statement of policy on a Plan Central America to address violence, instability, illicit trafficking, and transnational organized crime in the region.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would express the Sense of Congress that the United States should, to the extent practicable, prioritize efforts to address the challenges to regional security in Central America.

Subtitle C—Naval Vessels and Shipyards

Additional information supporting long-range plans for construction of naval vessels (sec. 1021)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1024) that would require the Secretary of the Defense to provide additional information in the annual naval vessel construction plan required by section 231 of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund (sec. 1022)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1051) that would amend section 1022 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by expanding the transfer authority provided to the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund from the Department of the Navy to the Department of Defense; providing authority to enter into economic order quantity contracts for ballistic missile submarines and other nuclear powered vessels; and providing incremental funding and facilities funding authority. This section further requires the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report on the Fund to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, and annually through the year 2025.

The Senate amendment contained a provision that would expand the transfer authority provided to the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund from the Department of the Navy to the Department of Defense (sec. 1022).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would expand the Fund to include the authorization of incremental funding authority, economic order quantity contract authority, advance construction authority, and transfer authority from any Department of Defense appropriation. In addition, the Senate amendment would add the authorization to transfer unobligated fiscal year 2017 funds into the Fund.

Because the Ohio-class replacement program is scheduled to carry 70 percent of our nation’s strategic weapons and the fiscal investments will make this program one of the largest acquisition efforts in the Department

of Defense, the conferees believe that the Secretary should have the authority to implement streamlined financial management and acquisition strategies for the program, including appropriate use of incremental funding and economic order quantity authority. The conferees believe that the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund could provide the Secretary with that flexibility, while ensuring that Congress has the correct visibility into the program. To that end, the conferees expect that a budget request for the Fund would be accompanied by information sufficient for Congress to exercise adequate oversight of the Fund and urge the Secretary of Defense to develop a fiscal strategy that supports this strategic investment.

To better assess the most efficient method of procuring the Ohio-class replacement program and providing the oversight necessary for this unique investment, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees with the fiscal year 2017 budget request that includes the following elements:

(1) The acquisition strategy to build Ohio-class replacement submarines that will leverage the enhanced procurement authorities provided in the Fund, including allocation, facility, and vendor base considerations;

(2) An identification of any additional authorities the Secretary may need to make management of the Ohio-class replacement more efficient;

(3) An assessment of the acquisition strategy developed in paragraph (1) with a conventional acquisition strategy to include a cost assessment and overall impacts to the submarine industrial base;

(4) A description of how funds would be requested in and obligated from the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund, including what, if any, connection the Fund will have with other appropriations accounts (e.g., Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy);

(5) An explanation of how financial management accountability and transparency would be maintained related to funds moving in to and out of the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund; and

(6) Ohio-class replacement construction elements that have been included in Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation, Navy budget request, including nuclear components and common missile compartment construction efforts, listed by program element title and number with requested funding.

The conferees look forward to reviewing the Secretary’s report, including options to better support an efficient acquisition strategy that could include coordinating with the Virginia-class submarine program, which will continue during the Ohio-class replacement submarine construction period. According to the Navy, it is likely that these programs will share some common components. The Navy may be able to coordinate component procurement across both submarine programs to achieve better efficiency and cost savings. Such coordination might be managed within the normal appropriations accounts, or could be facilitated by providing additional flexibility within the Fund.

Extension of authority for reimbursement of expenses for certain Navy mess operations afloat (sec. 1023)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1022) that would extend the authority for reimbursement of expenses for certain Navy mess operations afloat authorized in section

1014 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417), as amended by section 1021 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383), from September 30, 2015 to September 30, 2020, and certain technical and clarifying amendments.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1023).

The Senate recedes.

Availability of funds for retirement or inactivation of Ticonderoga class cruisers or dock landing ships (sec. 1024)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1023) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the retirement, inactivation, or storage of Ticonderoga-class cruisers and Whidbey Island-class amphibious ships. The provision would also require the modernization of two Ticonderoga-class cruisers to begin in fiscal year 2016 only after sufficient materials are available to begin the modernization period. Finally, the modernization period would be limited to 2 years with the ability of the Secretary of the Navy to extend the period for another 6 months.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would only prohibit the retirement, preparation for retirement, inactivation, or placement in storage of any Ticonderoga-class cruisers or Whidbey Island-class amphibious ships, except to allow the modernization and upgrades for those ships to continue in accordance with the plan required by section 1026 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The Navy is inducting two cruisers into modernization status in fiscal year 2015 and plans to induct two additional cruisers into this status in fiscal year 2016. However, the conferees understand the Navy has not programmed the manpower and operations funding for the remaining seven cruisers in the future years defense program (FYDP) beyond fiscal year 2016. The conferees also understand that the FYDP does not support the long-term plan for modernization of these cruisers and dock landing ships beyond fiscal year 2018.

This is at odds with statements by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus that he is “100-percent” committed to ensuring the ships are modernized and returned back to sea and similar statements by other administration officials.

The lack of fiscal support in the fiscal year 2016 FYDP and previous requests for the early retirement of some of these cruisers has led the conferees to question the administration’s resolve to retain all of these cruisers through the end of their service lives. In order to demonstrate the administration’s commitment to the plan, it is incumbent on the administration to close this gap in force structure statements and fiscal decisions. Continued conferee acceptance of the Navy’s plan will be predicated on the administration’s decision to fully program across the FYDP for manpower, readiness, and modernization for all cruisers and dock landing ships.

Limitation on the use of funds for removal of ballistic missile defense capabilities from Ticonderoga class cruisers (sec. 1025)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1024) that would prohibit the removal of bal-

listic missile capabilities from any of the Ticonderoga-class cruisers until the Secretary of the Navy certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Navy has obtained the ballistic missile capabilities required by the most recent Navy Force Structure Assessment or determined to upgrade such cruisers with an equal or improved ballistic missile defense capability.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that adds the following third option to the Secretary of the Navy’s certification—obtaining at least 40 large surface combatants with ballistic missile defense capability.

Independent assessment of United States Combat Logistic Force requirements (sec. 1026)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 143) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the anticipated future demands of the combat logistics force ships of the Navy and the challenges these ships may face when conducting and supporting future naval operations in contested maritime environments. This section would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit the assessment to the congressional defense committees by April 1, 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle D—Counterterrorism

Prohibition on use of funds for transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1031)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1036) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to any department or agency of the United States Government for the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to or within the United States for two years after enactment of the Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1032) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to the Department of Defense for the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to or within the United States. This provision would allow transfers to the United States for trial or continued detention pursuant to the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) after the Secretary of Defense submits to the appropriate committees a plan for the disposition of all detainees held at Guantanamo, and the Congress approves of the plan through a joint resolution of Congress.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that the prohibition would apply to the Department of Defense and would expire on December 31, 2016.

Prohibition on use of funds to construct or modify facilities in the United States to house detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1032)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1037) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to any department or agency of the United States Government to construct or modify the facilities in the United States to house individuals detained at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for two years after enactment of the Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1032) that would expire

after the Secretary of Defense submits to the appropriate committees a plan for the disposition of all detainees held at Guantanamo, and the Congress approves of the plan through a joint resolution of Congress as provided by another section in this title.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that the prohibition would apply to the Department of Defense and would expire on December 31, 2016.

Prohibition on use of funds for transfer or release to certain countries of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1033)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1042) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to any department or agency of the United States Government to transfer or release individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Yemen for a period of two years.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1035) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to the Department of Defense to transfer or release individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Yemen until December 31, 2016.

The House recedes with an amendment to terminate the prohibition on December 31, 2016 and clarify the list of countries to which a detainee from Guantanamo cannot be transferred.

Reenactment and modification of certain prior requirements for certifications relating to transfer of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to foreign countries and other foreign entities (sec. 1034)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1039) that would require the Secretary of Defense to certify that the transfer of any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a foreign country met certain requirements.

The Senate amendment contained a similar amendment (sec. 1033) that would expire upon Congress passing a joint resolution approving of a plan submitted by the Secretary of Defense on the disposition of all GTMO detainees, as provided for in another section of this title.

The House recedes with an amendment clarifying the scope of the certification.

Comprehensive detention strategy (sec. 1035)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1032) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to the Department of Defense for the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to or within the United States. This provision would allow transfers to the United States for trial or continued detention pursuant to the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) after the Secretary of Defense submits to the appropriate committees a plan for the disposition of all detainees held at Guantanamo, and Congress passes a joint resolution approving that plan.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require a comprehensive detention strategy to be provided to the congressional defense committees setting forth the details of such a detention strategy for current and future individuals captured and held pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force pending the end of hostilities. The conferees expect that discussion to include an explanation of the Department’s plan for the disposition of all detainees held

at Guantanamo, on a case-by-case basis, and the costs associated with each element of that plan.

Prohibition on use of funds for realignment of forces or closure of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1036)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1060) that prohibited the use of funds made available to the Department of Defense up until December 31, 2016, to close or abandon the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, relinquish control of Guantanamo Bay to Cuba, or modify the Treaty Between the United States and Cuba signed on May 29, 1934.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment that would make technical modifications and incorporate a requirement for the Secretary of Defense to submit a report regarding the military value of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Report on current detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, determined or assessed to be high risk or medium risk (sec. 1037)

The Senate amendment contained an amendment (sec. 1036) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to appropriate committees on the individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay previously assessed to be high or medium risk, whether the assessments on those individuals has changed, and the information supporting those assessments.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment clarifying the scope of information requested in the report.

Reports to Congress on contact between terrorists and individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1038)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1034) that would include in the report required by Section 319(c) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32) a summary of all known contact between any individual formerly detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and any individual known or suspected to be associated with a foreign terrorist group, and a description of whether any of the contact described in the summary included any information or discussion about hostilities against the United States or its allies or partners.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment clarifying that the summary should include a description of any information or discussion about planning for or conducting hostilities against the United States or its allies or partners, or information on the organizational, logistical, or resource needs or activities of any terrorist group.

Inclusion in reports to Congress of information about recidivism of individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1039)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1035) that would include in the report required by Section 319(c) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32) information on each individual found to have reengaged in terrorism. Specifically, the provision would require information on the period of time between release of such individual from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the

date at which the individual was confirmed to have reengaged in terrorist activities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment clarifying that the report would include information on the dates of release and the dates of confirmation of reengagement for all such individuals.

Report to Congress on terms of written agreements with foreign countries regarding transfer of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (sec. 1040)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1037) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide to appropriate committees a report on any written agreement entered into between the United States and any foreign country regarding an individual detained at Guantanamo who was transferred to a foreign country.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment clarifying the information requested for the report.

Report on use of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and other Department of Defense or Bureau of Prisons prisons or detention or disciplinary facilities in recruitment or other propaganda of terrorist organizations (sec. 1041)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1038) that would require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the propaganda and recruitment value for terrorist organizations of the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and any other Department of Defense or Bureau of Prisons prison or other detention or disciplinary facility.

The House bill contained no such provision.

The House recedes with an amendment requiring the Department of Defense to provide a one-time report to the appropriate committees that covers the entire period after September 11, 2001.

Permanent authority to provide rewards through Government personnel of allied forces and certain other modifications to Department of Defense program to provide rewards (sec. 1042)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1031) that would modify section 127b of title 10, United States Code, to make permanent the authority to make rewards to a person providing information or non-lethal assistance to U.S. Government personnel or government personnel of allied forces participating in a combined operation with U.S. Armed Forces conducted outside the United States against terrorism, or providing such information or assistance that is beneficial to force protection associated with such an operation.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1039) that would modify and extend section 127b of title 10, United States Code through December 31, 2016, as well as create a notification requirement for when the Secretary of Defense designates a country as a country in which an operation is occurring in connection with which rewards may be paid by this section.

The House recedes with an amendment that would make the authority permanent and incorporate the notification requirement from the Senate provision.

Sunset on exception to congressional notification of sensitive military operations (sec. 1043)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1031) that would modify section 130f of title

10, United States Code, by striking the exception to the notification requirement for a sensitive military operation executed within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would repeal the exception for sensitive military operations conducted within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on December 31, 2017.

In the classified annex that accompanies this report, the conferees direct periodic reporting on Afghanistan to the congressional defense committees.

Repeal of semiannual reports on obligation and expenditure of funds for the combating terrorism program (sec. 1044)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1033) that would modify reporting requirements for budget information related to program for combating terrorism as required by section 229 of title 10, United States Code. This section would specifically eliminate subsection (d) of section 229, regarding semiannual reports on obligations and expenditures.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Limitation on interrogation techniques (sec. 1045)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1040) that would limit interrogation techniques to those in the Army Field Manual for individuals in the custody or under the effective control of an officer, employee, or agent of the United States Government, or detained within a facility owned, operated, or controlled by a department or agency of the United States, in any armed conflict.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would make the limitation on interrogation techniques inapplicable to law enforcement and requires an update to the Army Field Manual no sooner than three years after the date of enactment. The conferees recognize that law enforcement personnel may continue to use authorized non-coercive techniques of interrogation, and that Army Field Manual 2-22.3 is designed to reflect best practices for interrogation to elicit reliable statements.

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Authorities and Limitations

Department of Defense excess property program (sec. 1051)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1052) that would make changes to excess defense article donations authorized under section 2576a of title 10, United States Code. Specifically, the provision would require the establishment of a public website containing information on certain transfers made under the program, establish specific criteria for State program managers to be met before the Defense Logistics Agency may transfer certain types of equipment, and mandate several reviews of program objectives and efficacy, to include training recommendations, by a federally funded research and development center, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment to include additional requirements on transfer

of controlled property, a study on controlled property transfers, the incidence of controlled property that is lost or unaccounted for, and procedures governing the return of controlled property to the Department of Defense.

Sale or donation of excess personal property for border security activities (sec. 1052)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1060b) that would amend Section 2576a of title 10, United States Code, to include border security activities as a specific category eligible for the transfer of excess personal property of the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that any controlled equipment, as designated in Department of Defense Instruction 4160.23, Volume 2, or any succeeding instruction, transferred to the Department of Homeland Security through the "1033 program" as amended by this section remains the property of the Department of Defense, and this section does not authorize the Department of Homeland Security to transfer controlled DOD equipment to any non-federal entity. The conferees expect the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to use memoranda of agreement similar to those used for the transfer of equipment to law enforcement agencies to state the conditions of transfer and compliance, including that non-compliance requires the return of all equipment to DOD.

Management of military technicians (sec. 1053)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1046) that would convert not less than 20 percent of the general administration, clerical, financial, and office service occupation positions identified in the report of the Secretary of Defense under section 519 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1397) from military technician (dual status) positions to positions filled by individuals who are employed under section 3103 of title 5, United States Code, by no later than January 1, 2017. The provision also requires the phased-in termination of military technicians (non-dual status) to begin on January 1, 2017.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Limitation on transfer of certain AH-64 Apache helicopters from Army National Guard to regular Army and related personnel levels (sec. 1054)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1053) that would change section 1712 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Authority to provide training and support to personnel of foreign ministries of defense (sec. 1055)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (1082) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide training to personnel of foreign ministries of defense (or ministries with security force oversight), or regional organizations with security missions for the purpose of: (1) enhancing civilian oversight of foreign security forces; (2) establishing responsible defense governance and internal controls in order to help build

effective, transparent, and accountable defense institutions; (3) assessing organizational weaknesses and establishing a roadmap for addressing shortfalls; and (4) enhancing ministerial, general or joint staff, service level core competencies such as personnel and readiness, acquisition and logistics, strategy and policy, and financial management.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would sunset the authority on December 31, 2017.

Information operations and engagement technology demonstrations (sec. 1056)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1055) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program or multiple pilot programs related to information and strategic communications capabilities to support the geographic and functional combatant commanders.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a series of technology demonstrations, subject to the availability of funds for such purpose or to a prior approval reprogramming, related to information operations and information engagement to support the geographic and functional combatant commanders, with associated notification requirements.

Prohibition on the use of funds for the retirement of helicopter sea combat squadron 84 and 85 aircraft (sec. 1057)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1056) that would prohibit the obligation of appropriated funds to retire, prepare to retire, transfer or place in stowage any aircraft in Helicopter Sea Squadrons 84 and 85 until the Secretary of the Navy certifies to Congress that the Navy has conducted a cost-benefit analysis, identified a replacement capability and deployed the capability.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

The conferees expect the directed cost-benefit analysis to include any cost-sharing arrangements between the combatant commanders, including U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Navy, as well as a long term plan for recapitalization of the deployed capability.

Limitation on availability of funds for destruction of certain landmines (sec. 1058)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1057) that limits the Department of Defense's ability to destroy any anti-personnel landmines (APL) until the Secretary of Defense provides a comprehensive study on the tactical and operational impacts of a ban on APL, a strategy for replacing current APL systems that are compliant with current DOD policy, and a certification that alternative systems will not endanger members of the Armed Forces. The provision provides an exception for landmines certified as unsafe by the Secretary.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the required certification and would link the limitation on the obligation or expenditure of funds for the destruction of anti-personnel landmine munitions, with the exception included in the House provision, to the delivery of a new report to be delivered to Congress within 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

The conferees understand the Secretary of Defense is conducting an Analysis of Alternatives (AOA) on Area Denial Capability Development to include next generation anti-personnel landmines, and that the AOA is expected to be complete in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2016. The conferees expect this AOA to inform the report required in this provision. The conferees further direct the Secretary of Defense to provide the AOA to the congressional defense committees on its completion.

Department of Defense authority to provide assistance to secure the southern land border of the United States (sec. 1059)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1041) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, with concurrence of the Secretary of Homeland Security, to provide assistance to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the purpose of increasing the ongoing efforts to secure the southern land border of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment and additional reporting requirements.

Subtitle F—Studies and Reports

Provision of defense planning guidance and contingency planning guidance information to Congress (sec. 1060)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1061) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide to the congressional committees, not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act, a report containing summaries of the defense planning guidance and contingency planning guidance developed in accordance with the requirements of such section, and to include those summaries in the annual budget documents submitted to Congress. Additionally, this section would provide a limitation on the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide, for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, until 15 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the first report required by this section.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the funding limitation for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Expedited meetings of the National Commission on the Future of the Army (sec. 1061)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069) that would amend section 1702(f) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3665). The section would be amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Section 10 of Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I) shall not apply to a meeting of the Commission unless the meeting is attended by 5 or more members of the Commission."

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Modification of certain reports submitted by Comptroller General of the United States (sec. 1062)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1062) that would amend section 3255(a)(2) of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2455), to provide the Comptroller General of the United States, in any odd-numbered year, 150 days to submit

the report required by such section. This provision would also amend section 3134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) to eliminate a requirement for the Comptroller General to conduct a final review of all projects carried out by the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5) funds.

The Senate amendment contained two similar provisions (sec. 3120 and 3121) that would extend the Government Accountability Office's annual reporting deadline for reviewing the budget of the National Nuclear Security Administration weapons program from 90 days to 150 days in odd-numbered years when NNSA is required to submit a detailed Stockpile Stewardship Management Plan (SSMP). Additionally, section 3121 would repeal phase three of section 3134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) related to defense environmental cleanup projects, as the Government Accountability Office has reported on all phases of this project.

The Senate recedes. The conferees emphasize that, to support the legislative calendar in odd-numbered years, the Comptroller General should still provide the congressional defense committees interim briefings on the SSMP.

Report on implementation of the geographically distributed force laydown in the area of responsibility of United States Pacific Command (sec. 1063)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1063) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Commander of U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), to submit a report to congressional defense committees no later than March 1, 2016 on the Department of Defense's plans for implementing the geographically distributed force laydown in the area of responsibility of U.S. Pacific Command.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Independent study of national security strategy formulation process (sec. 1064)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1064) that would require the Secretary of Defense to contract with an independent research entity to carry out a study of the Department of Defense role in, and process for, the formulation of national security strategy. This study would include several case studies on the role of the Department of Defense in the formulation of previous national security strategies and issues related to the formulation process throughout the history of the United States and a complete review and analysis of the current national security strategy formulation process as it relates to the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would also require the report to include recommendations for the executive and legislative branches on the best practices for enabling the Department of Defense to formulate long-term strategy. The conferees believe the Secretary of Defense should continue to make every effort to recruit, cultivate, and further strategic thinking within the Department.

Report on the status of detection, identification, and disablement capabilities related to remotely piloted aircraft (sec. 1065)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1067) that would require the Secretary of De-

fense to submit, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report to the congressional defense committees addressing the suitability of existing capabilities to detect, identify, and disable remotely piloted aircraft operating within special use and restricted airspace.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Report on options to accelerate the training of remotely piloted aircraft pilots (sec. 1066)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1067) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit, not later than February 1, 2016, a report to the congressional defense committees addressing the immediate and critical training and operational needs of the remotely piloted aircraft community.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Studies of fleet platform architectures for the Navy (sec. 1067)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1021) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to commission three studies to be submitted to the congressional defense committees in unclassified, and to the extent necessary, in classified versions to recommend potential future fleet architectures. These studies would provide competing visions and alternatives for future fleet architectures. One study would be performed by the Department of the Navy, with input from the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division. The second study would be performed by a federally funded research and development center. The third study would be conducted by a qualified independent, non-governmental institute, as selected by the Secretary of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would modify the required submission date of the reports to April 1, 2016.

The conferees note that the majority of the total ownership costs for Navy surface ships, almost 70 percent, is comprised of operating and support costs incurred over the life of a ship. Personnel costs are the largest contributor to operating and support costs incurred over a ship's life cycle. As such, transitioning from the personnel- and workload-intensive ships of the past to optimally crewed ships with reduced workloads has potential to free up resources for the Navy to use in recapitalizing the fleet. However, previous studies have found that reduced and optimal manning initiatives were implemented without complete analysis and may have had detrimental effects on crew training and the material condition of some legacy class ships. In addition, reductions in crew size are frequently offset by increases in shore support and contractor personnel to address shipboard workload.

The Navy's newest surface ship classes, the *Ford*-class aircraft carrier, the *Littoral Combat Ship* and the *Zumwalt*-class destroyer, have been designed to leverage technology and optimal manning concepts to reduce the total crew sizes aboard these ships, but the impact of these efforts on reducing total ownership costs have not been fully demonstrated. Therefore, the conferees direct the Comptroller General of the United States to prepare a report to the congressional defense committees by July 1, 2016 as to the following elements:

1. To what extent has the Navy implemented reduced manning initiatives in the surface fleet?

2. To what extent has the Navy identified total manpower requirements, including both shipboard and shore-based, to support optimally manned ships over their life cycle?

3. To what extent have manning reductions on Navy surface ships resulted in reductions to total ownership costs and to what extent has the Navy realized its projected manpower reductions and cost savings?

4. How have reduced manning initiatives impacted the Navy's plans to operate and support ship classes in the areas of personnel, training, and maintenance (e.g., training qualification times, contractor support for shipboard maintenance, shipboard system casualties)?

5. To what extent does the Navy rely on technological innovations and design features to enable manning reductions in new ship construction, and to what extent have these reductions been realized after the ships have entered service?

Report on strategy to protect United States national security interests in the Arctic region (sec. 1068)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1043) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to submit not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act a report that sets forth an updated military strategy for the protection of United States national security interests in the Arctic region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Comptroller General briefing and report on major medical facility projects of Department of Veterans Affairs (sec. 1069)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1085) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a briefing 270 days after the enactment of this Act and a report not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act on the administration and oversight Department of Veterans Affairs of contracts for the design and construction of major medical facility projects, as defined in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Submittal to Congress of munitions assessments (sec. 1070)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1063) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the most current Department of Defense Munitions and Munitions Sufficiency Assessments, as defined in Department of Defense Instruction 3000.04. The provision would also require the Department of Defense to provide the committees the most recently approved Joint Requirements Oversight Council memo resulting from the annual Munitions Requirements Process.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would sunset the requirement to submit reports and assessments in the provision 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Potential role for United States ground forces in the Pacific theater (sec. 1071)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1064) that would require the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff to conduct a comprehensive operational assessment of a potential future role for U.S. ground forces in the island chains of the western Pacific in creating anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities in cooperation with host nations to deter and defeat aggression in the region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with amendments.

The conferees direct the Secretary and the Chairman to conduct the assessment required by subsection (a) using operations research methods and wargaming, in addition to historical analysis of the use of ground forces by the United States and Japan in the Pacific theater during World War II, technical analysis, analysis of force structure impacts, and any other analysis they deem appropriate. Further, in making this assessment, the Secretary should consider the potential geopolitical impact on the United States posture in the Pacific theater associated with a strategy of long-term engagement by United States ground forces.

The conferees also direct the Secretary and the Chairman to confer with U.S. Pacific Command; the Joint Requirements and Analysis Division and the wargaming resources of the Warfighting Analysis Division of the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate of the Joint Staff, augmented as necessary and appropriate from the war colleges of the military departments; the Office of Net Assessment; any appropriate federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs); and any other organizations or divisions as they deem appropriate.

Additionally, the conferees note that the term “ground forces” in this section is inclusive of all U.S. military services, including both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps.

Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to military personnel issues (sec. 1072)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1071) that would repeal or revise certain reporting requirements related to military personnel authorities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would restore several report requirements.

Repeal or revision of reporting requirements relating to readiness (sec. 1073)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1072) that would repeal or revise Department of Defense reporting requirements relating to readiness.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to naval vessels and Merchant Marine (sec. 1074)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1073) that would repeal or revise certain reporting requirements that are overly burdensome, duplicative, or outdated.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the following language from the House provision: “(c) Amending section 126 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to delete a requirement for a quarterly report on Mission Modules of the Littoral Combat Ship;”; “(d) Deleting section 124 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) that required an assessment prior to the

start of construction on the first ship of a shipbuilding program;” and “(e) Amending section 122 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) to delete a quarterly reporting requirement associated with the Ford-class carrier;”.

Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to civilian personnel (sec. 1075)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1077) that would repeal or revise certain reporting requirements to include:

(a) Amending section 1110(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84), by striking a report on the pilot program for the temporary exchange of information technology personnel.

(b) Amending section 1001(g) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261) by striking the annual report on extension and modification of experimental personnel management program for scientific and technical personnel.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to nuclear, proliferation, and related matters (sec. 1076)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1074) that would amend certain reporting requirements related to nuclear, proliferation, and related matters. This provision would remove an annual report by the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council; remove a biannual reporting requirement on the Proliferation of Security Initiative; remove briefings on dialogue between the United States and the Russian Federation on nuclear arms; and remove a reporting requirement regarding annual updates to an implementation plan for the whole-of-government vision prescribed in the National Security Strategy.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Repeal or revision of reporting requirements related to acquisition (sec. 1077)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1076) that would repeal or revise certain reporting requirements related to acquisition that are overly burdensome on the Department of Defense, duplicative, or outdated.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would retain the section 8305 of title 41, United States Code, report on purchases from foreign entities.

Repeal or revision of miscellaneous reporting requirements (sec. 1078)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1078) that would repeal or revise certain miscellaneous reporting requirements for the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would retain the following reports repealed in the House provision: report on regional defense counterterrorism fellowship program, report on airlift requirements, and report on airborne signals intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

Repeal of reporting requirements (sec. 1079)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1061) that would repeal a number of reporting requirements for the Department of Defense that have been included in law in past years.

The House bill contained a similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would strike a number of reports repealed from the Senate amendment.

Termination of requirement for submittal to Congress of reports required of the Department of Defense by statute (sec. 1080)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1062) that would, 2 years after the date of enactment of the Act, repeal requirements for recurring reports due to Congress. This would include only report requirements in effect on April 1, 2015.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would limit the repeal of reports to those reports enacted by a National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment also requires the Department of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees a list of all reports still required, the citation for each report, and a draft legislative provision for the repeal of such reports.

The conferees note the importance and value of reports from the Department of Defense as a key enabler of effective oversight. However, the conferees also note the burden excessive reporting places on the Department and the conferees are eager to strike a balance in the coming years.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

Technical and clerical amendments (sec. 1081)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1081) that would make technical and clerical corrections to title 10, United States Code, and various National Defense Authorization Acts.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1081).

The Senate recedes with an amendment making additional technical and clerical amendments.

Situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities (sec. 1082)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1093) that would amend chapter 18 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense, upon the request of the Attorney General, to provide assistance in Department of Justice activities related to the enforcement of section 2332f of title 18, United States Code, during situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Executive agent for the oversight and management of alternative compensatory control measures (sec. 1083)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1082) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an executive agent for the oversight and management of alternative compensatory control measures. This section would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 30 days after the close of each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2020, on the oversight and management of alternative compensatory control measures.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would add a requirement that the report required include a brief description of

each alternative compensatory control measures program and the number of individuals with access to such program.

Navy support of Ocean Research Advisory Panel (sec. 1084)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1083) that would repeal the requirement for the Department of the Navy to fund the Ocean Research Advisory Panel.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 903).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

The conferees are aware that the Ocean Research Advisory Panel plays an important role in setting the civilian agenda for ocean research. The conferees encourage the Navy and the Executive Office of the President to engage in discussions with appropriate federal science and technology agencies to ensure the transfer of funding and responsibilities do not impair the Panel's activities.

Level of readiness of Civil Reserve Air Fleet carriers (sec. 1085)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1084) that would amend Chapter 931 of title 10, United States Code, by creating a new subsection addressing the readiness of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF). Specifically, this new section would codify the importance of the CRAF and the need to provide appropriate levels of commercial airlift augmentation to maintain networks and infrastructure, exercise the system, and interface effectively within the military airlift system. This section also would require the Secretary of Defense to provide, concurrent with the submission of the President's request, an assessment of the number of block hours necessary to achieve sufficient levels of commercial airlift augmentation, a strategic plan for achieving necessary levels of commercial airlift augmentation, and an explanation of any difference from the previous fiscal year's assessment.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would sunset the report requirement provision in 2 years.

Reform and improvement of personnel security, insider threat detection and prevention, and physical security (sec. 1086)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1090) that would mandate the implementation of reforms in the personnel security clearance process, insider threat detection and prevention, and physical security in the Department of Defense (DOD) and elsewhere in the Federal Government.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with technical and clarifying amendments.

The provision would:

(1) Require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to implement Continuous Evaluation ("CE") for Department of Defense employees to reduce critical gaps in background investigations; to develop and implement an Insider Threat strategy detailing the Department's plan to provide a centralized capability that can quickly analyze the results of automated records checks and reports of behavior of concern and recommend action as appropriate; to centralize the programmatic authority of such activities under one official (the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence); to provide resources for the expedited deployment of identity management systems for access to DOD facilities which was a critical gap identified in the aftermath of the Fort Hood and

Washington Navy Yard shootings; and to centralize control of requests for security clearances from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to achieve efficiencies, as well as other key recommendations resulting from the study by the Director of Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation mandated by section 907 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

(2) Require the Secretary of Defense to develop standards for physical and logical access to secured facilities and information systems, and requires the Secretary, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Chair of the Performance Accountability Council (PAC), and the Administrator of the Government Services Administration, to develop a capability to share and apply electronic identity information across the government.

(3) Require OMB to formalize the Security, Suitability and Credentialing Line of Business to ensure adequate oversight and efficient investments are made across the enterprise.

(4) Require the PAC Chair to develop a plan to ensure reciprocity management systems function effectively and securely. The intent is also for agencies to formulate a plan to address how an automated and continuous background check for national security personnel will travel with that individual as long as they hold a clearance, regardless of changes in employer and program or contract support.

(5) Require the PAC Chair, along with the Security and Suitability Executive Agents and the Secretary of Defense, to jointly develop a plan to ensure implementation of uniform self-reporting requirements for all personnel who hold a clearance, including contractors. The provision mandates that reported information be shared with those who have a need to know, to ensure that individuals with derogatory information are not allowed to move around the government without the negative information being known.

The second part of the provision would:

(1) Clarify and update the agencies covered under section 9101. This section has not been updated since 2000—before the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. This revision also includes agencies that are delegated authority by the Security and Suitability Executive Agents and expands the "covered agency" definition to explicitly include contractor background investigators working on behalf of covered agencies.

(2) Clarify and update the applicable purposes of investigation to expressly include basic suitability or fitness assessments, credentialing under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, Transportation Security Administration Security Threat Assessment Programs, and Federal Aviation Administration checks required by Federal Statute.

(3) Permit investigative agencies to conduct both biometric (fingerprint) and biographic checks for criminal history records information, as appropriate. The investigative agencies are to determine what is appropriate. Nothing under this section prohibits the Federal Bureau of Investigation from requiring a request for criminal history record information.

(4) Amend section 9101 to indicate that when more than one automated system can provide the same information, the most cost-effective system to the Federal Government shall be used.

(5) Require that the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, American Citizen

Services (ACS), release information about in individual's interaction with law enforcement or intelligence organizations abroad if that individual has contacted ACS for assistance after they have been arrested or has been in contact with intelligence agencies of a foreign country while abroad.

(6) Require contractors who conduct background investigations on behalf of a covered agency to comply with necessary security requirements when accessing an automated information delivery system to request criminal history record information.

(7) Clarify Title 5 U.S.C. section 7512 to strengthen the Federal Government's ability to take action against individuals who falsify background investigation information.

(8) Require an annual report from the PAC to describe and analyze the extent and effectiveness of federal, state, and local systems for sharing criminal history record information; analyze the extent and effectiveness of education programs regarding criminal history record information sharing; provide updates on the implementation of best practices for sharing criminal history record information, including ongoing limitations experienced by investigators; and provide descriptions of other limitations to investigators and State and local law enforcement agencies.

(9) Request a Government Accountability Office report summarizing the major characteristics of federal critical infrastructure protection access controls, as well as background check and credentialing standards for the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources.

Transfer of surplus firearms to Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety (sec. 1087)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1085) that would authorize the transfer of surplus firearms to the Civilian Marksman-ship Program (CMP).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment that establishes a pilot program limited to .45 caliber handguns and restricts the amount of handguns that can be transferred to the CMP to no more than 10,000 units annually. Additionally, it requires the CMP to provide a report to Congress after the conclusion of the pilot program, obtain a federal firearm license to conduct any and all handgun sales, and adhere to all local, state, and federal laws in respect to handgun sales.

Modification of requirements for transferring aircraft within the Air Force inventory (sec. 1088)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1086) that would amend section 345 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) to ease administrative burdens and facilitate non-contentious transfers of aircraft from the Air Reserve Components to the regular component of the Air Force.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 341).

The Senate recedes with an amendment specifying technical clarifications.

Reestablishment of Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack (sec. 1089)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1087) that would reinstate the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attacks. This provision also provides updated guidance on the membership and duties of that commission.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Mine countermeasures master plan (sec. 1090)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1089) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to submit a mine countermeasures master plan to the congressional defense committees along with the annual budget request of each fiscal year from 2018 through 2023. This provision would also require the Secretary of the Navy to submit a one-time report to the congressional defense committees within 1 year of enactment of this Act as to current and future mine countermeasure force structure based on current mine countermeasure capabilities, including an assessment as to whether certain decommissioned ships should be retained in reserve operating status.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require, as part of the one-time report, an assessment of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) mine countermeasures mission package increment one performance against the initial operational test and evaluation criteria, as well as an assessment of other commercially available mine countermeasures systems that could supplement or supplant LCS mine countermeasures mission package systems.

Congressional notification and briefing requirement on ordered evacuations of United States embassies and consulates involving the use of United States Armed Forces (sec. 1091)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1090) that would express a sense of Congress on the importance of ensuring the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces of the United States overseas pending an ordered evacuation of a United States embassy or consulate and require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to notify and brief appropriate congressional committees as soon as practicable after the initiation of an ordered evacuation.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

The conferees believe that it is critical to ensure the safety and security of all U.S. personnel stationed overseas, including members of the Department of Defense ordered to assist in an ordered evacuation of a U.S. embassy or consulate. The conferees expect the notification required by this provision should include, to the extent practicable: (1) an overview of the ordered evacuation, (2) an overview of the manner and location from which the Department of State will continue to conduct the duties and responsibilities of the embassy or consulate, (3) a description of the disposition of embassy or consulate property, and (4) any other matters the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State determine relevant.

Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator (sec. 1092)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1092) that would require the President to designate an existing federal official to serve as the Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator responsible coordinating the government's efforts to secure the release of any United States hostage, chair a fusion cell of appropriate government personnel, and keep informed family members of any hostage.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying technical amendment that would modify the Coordinator's duties and scope of authority.

Sense of Senate on the inadvertent shipment of live Bacillus anthracis (sec. 1093)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 1086) that expressed a sense of the Senate on the inadvertent transfer of live Bacillus anthracis from Army laboratories, that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Federal Bureau of Investigation should investigate the cause of the transfer and that the Department of Defense should reassess of standards on a regular basis to prevent a re-occurrence.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that accounts for the number of affected sites that received the live Bacillus anthracis over time.

Modification of certain requirements applicable to major medical facility lease for a Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma (sec. 1094)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1084) that would make modifications to the requirements associated with the amount of usable space, and the length of the lease, for a major veteran's medical facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma before entering into such a lease.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authorization of certain major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs for which amounts have been appropriated (sec. 1095)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1089) that would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain projects contained in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235) appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs, including:

(A) \$35,000,000 to make seismic corrections to Building 205 in the West Los Angeles Medical Center of the Department in Los Angeles, California, which, according to the Department, is a building that is designated as having an exceptionally high risk of sustaining substantial damage or collapsing during an earthquake;

(B) \$101,900,000 to replace the community living center and mental health facilities of the Department in Long Beach, California, which, according to the Department, are designated as having an exceptionally high risk of sustaining substantial damage or collapsing during an earthquake;

(C) \$187,500,000 to replace the existing spinal cord injury clinic of the Department in San Diego, California, which, according to the Department, is designated as having an extremely high risk of sustaining major damage during an earthquake; and

(D) \$122,400,000 to make renovations to address substantial safety and compliance issues at the medical center of the Department in Canandaigua, New York, and for the construction of a new clinic and community living center at such medical center.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Designation of construction agent for certain construction projects by Department of Veterans Affairs (sec. 1096)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1091) that would require the Sec-

retary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers or another entity of the Federal Government to serve, on a reimbursable basis, as the construction agent on all construction projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs specifically authorized by Congress after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2016 that involve a total expenditure of more than \$100.0 million, excluding any acquisition by exchange.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would apply this to major medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Department of Defense strategy for countering unconventional warfare (sec. 1097)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1088) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the President and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to develop a strategy for the Department of Defense to counter unconventional warfare threats posed by adversarial state and non-state actors. This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit the strategy to the congressional defense committees within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED
Sustainment enhancement

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 852) that would express the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense does not place sufficient emphasis on sustainment of weapon systems and would require the Secretary of Defense to assess of the feasibility and advisability of assigning additional functions regarding sustainment, manufacturing, and industrial base policy to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 1, 2016, on recommendations concerning the feasibility and advisability of assigning additional functions regarding sustainment, manufacturing, and industrial base policy to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness.

Consideration of strategic materials in preliminary design review

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 859) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to ensure that Department of Defense Instruction 5000.02 and other applicable guidance receive full consideration during preliminary design review for strategic materials requirements over the life cycle of the product.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authority to transfer funds to the National Nuclear Security Administration to sustain nuclear weapons modernization and Naval Reactors

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1002) that would provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to transfer up to \$150.0

million to the nuclear weapons and naval reactor programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) if the amount authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the weapons activities of the NNSA is less than \$8.9 billion (the amount specified for fiscal year 2016 in the report required by section 1251 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84)).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Restrictions on the overhaul and repair of vessels in foreign shipyards

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1021) that would amend section 7310 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of the Navy from beginning in a shipyard outside the United States or outside a territory of the United States any work that is scheduled to be for a period of more than 6 months for the overhaul, repair, or maintenance of a naval vessel whose homeport is not in the United States or Guam.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Report on Department of Defense definition of and policy regarding software sustainment

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1026) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the definition and policy of software sustainment used by the Department of Defense. The study would be performed by a federally funded research and development center.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that weapon systems are increasingly reliant on software and the sustainment of these systems presents new issues and challenges. Weapon systems may include proprietary data and unique software that could limit sustainment to a single entity and may result in cost increases and increased risk to operations and readiness.

The conferees recommend the Department examine private sector and government best practices to inform its software sustainment strategy. Additionally, the conferees encourage the Secretary of Defense to determine if the current definitions and policies regarding software sustainment provides adequate guidance for program managers to ensure software system sustainment planning include assessments of both public and private capabilities, costs, and operational risks.

Sense of Congress regarding technical correction

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1026) that would express the sense of Congress that a technical correction to the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3881) should be enacted in order to expeditiously carry out the intent of such section 3095.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authority to temporarily transfer individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States for emergency or critical medical treatment

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1034) that would provide limited authority to the Department of Defense to transfer detainees to the United States for emergency or critical medical treatment.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Prohibition on use of funds to transfer or release individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to combat zones

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1038) that would prohibit the use of funds provided to the Department of Defense to transfer individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to combat zones, as defined by IRS code, for a period of two years.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Submission to Congress of certain documents relating to transfer of individuals detained at Guantanamo to Qatar

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1040) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide appropriate congressional committees copies of correspondence within the executive branch concerning the decision to transfer individuals detained at Guantanamo to Qatar.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the House Committee on Armed Services and the Department of Defense have reached an agreement regarding documents related to the transfer of individuals detained at Guantanamo to Qatar.

Submission of unredacted copies of documents relating to the transfer of certain individuals detained at Guantanamo to Qatar

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1041) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide unredacted copies of materials concerning the decision to transfer individuals detained at Guantanamo to Qatar.

The Senate amendment contained no similar amendment.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the House Committee on Armed Services and the Department of Defense have reached an agreement regarding documents relating to the transfer of individuals detained at Guantanamo to Qatar.

Treatment of certain previously transferred Army National Guard helicopters as counting against number transferable under exception to limitation on transfer of Army National Guard helicopters

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1045) that would require the Secretary of the Army to report to Congress the number of Army National Guard AH-64 helicopters that have been transferred to the original equipment manufacturer for remanufacture. The provision would also treat that number as counting against the number required to be transferred from the Army National Guard to the regular Army pursuant to section 1712 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress on consideration of the full range of Department of Defense manpower worldwide in decisions on the proper mix of military, civilian, and contractor personnel to accomplish the National Defense Strategy

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1047) that expressed the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense

should consider the full range of Department of Defense manpower available worldwide in making decisions on the proper mix of military, civilian, and contractor personnel to accomplish the National Defense Strategy.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Space available travel for environmental morale leave by certain spouses and children of deployed members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1054) that would require the Secretary of Defense to authorize space-available travel for environmental morale leave by certain unaccompanied spouses and dependent children of deployed members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that that effective June 9, 2015 the Department of Defense (DOD) policy on space-available travel for dependents of deployed members was updated to authorize dependents of military members deployed for thirty or more consecutive days to travel space-available on DOD aircraft.

Limitation on availability of funds for modifying command and control of United States Pacific Fleet

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1058) that would limit the availability of fiscal year 2016 funds to modify command and control relationships to give Fleet Forces Command operational and administrative control of Navy forces assigned to the Pacific Fleet.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Prohibition on closure of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1059) that prohibited the President from closing or abandoning the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and required that the obligations of the United States under Article III of the Treaty Between the United States and Cuba signed on May 29, 1934 are met.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Civilian Aviation Asset Military Partnership Pilot Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1060a) that would establish a pilot program that would grant authority to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration. The aim of the Civilian Aviation Asset Military Partnership Pilot Program would be to award competitive grants of no more than \$2.5 million for infrastructure or tower improvements and repairs at up to three eligible airports that support military and civilian operations per fiscal year.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Limitation on use of funds to deactivate the 440th Airlift Wing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1060c) that would limit the availability of funds authorized to be appropriated for the deactivation of the 440th Airlift Wing until the Secretary of Defense certified the deactivation of the wing would not affect the military readiness of the airborne and special operations units stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 136).

The House recesses.

The conferees agree to include the Senate provision elsewhere in this Act because it would require sufficient certification by the Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff of the Army and the Air Force as to the military readiness of Army airborne and special operations units regarding support from Air Force airlift operations.

Study and report on role of Department of Defense in formulation of long-term strategy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1065) that requires the Secretary of Defense to direct the Office of Net Assessment (ONA) to conduct a study on the role of the Department of Defense in the formulation of long-term strategy, and to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the results of the study not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.

The conferees note their continued support for the work of the Office of Net Assessment and applaud senior Department leadership for their engagement with ONA.

Report on plans for the use of domestic airfields for homeland defense and disaster response

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1065) that would require, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Transportation, to submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth an assessment of the plans for airfields in the United States that are required to support homeland defense and local disaster response missions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recesses.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Transportation, to submit to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that contains an assessment of the plans for airfields in the United States that are required to support homeland defense and disaster response missions. The report shall include:

(1) A description of the criteria used to determine the capabilities and locations of airfields in the United States needed to support safe operations of military aircraft in the execution of homeland defense and local disaster response missions;

(2) A description of the processes and procedures in place to ensure that contingency plans for the use of airfields in the United States that support both military and civilian air operations are coordinated among the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies with jurisdiction over those airfields;

(3) An assessment of the impact, if any, to logistics and resource planning as a result of the reduction of certain capabilities of airfields in the United States that support both military and civilian air operations; and

(4) A review of the existing agreements and authorities between the Commander of the United States Northern Command and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration that allow for consultation on decisions that impact the capabilities of airfields in the United States that support both military and civilian air operations.

The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Report on potential threats to members of the Armed Forces of United States Naval Forces Central Command and United States Fifth Fleet in Bahrain

The House bill contained a provision (Sec. 1066) that would require a report on potential threats to members of the Armed Forces of the United States Naval Forces Central Command and the United States Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Armed Services Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on threats posed to Department of Defense personnel and operations associated with United States military installations in Bahrain. The report should, at a minimum, include an assessment of the current security situation in Bahrain, the safety and security of Department of Defense personnel and dependents, and appropriate measures to mitigate the threat to U.S. operations and personnel including potential alternative facilities should U.S. personnel require temporary relocation.

Conflict of interest certification for investigations relating to whistleblower retaliation

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1088) that would require each investigator involved in a covered investigation to submit to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense or the Inspector General of the military department, as applicable, a certification that there was no conflict of interest between the investigator, any witness involved in the covered investigation, and the covered employee or member of the Armed Forces, as applicable, during the conduct of the covered investigation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recesses.

The conferees expect that the Department of Defense and the military services will establish uniform procedures to ensure there are no conflicts of interest for persons investigating whistleblower complaints.

Determination and disclosure of transportation costs incurred by Secretary of Defense for congressional trips outside the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1091) that would require the Secretary of Defense to determine the cost of transportation provided in the case of a trip taken by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate or the House of Representatives in carrying out official duties outside the United States and to report that cost not later than 10 days after completion of the trip to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate or the House of Representatives, and to make the information available on the Secretary's official public website until the expiration of the 4 year period which begins on the final day of the trip involved.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.

The conferees support public disclosure of official travel by Members, officers, and employees of the Senate and the House of Rep-

resentatives. To this end, the conferees note that section 1754(b) of title 22, United States Code, contains reporting and disclosure requirements for congressional travel outside the United States, including a requirement for reports to be open to public inspection and published in the Congressional Record. The conferees recognize that there are circumstances under which transportation provided by the Department of Defense best meets the needs of congressional delegations, ranging from protecting the safety and security of the delegations, expediency, and accessing destinations that have little or no commercial air service. The conferees further note that the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives each maintain policies and processes to provide further oversight of travel requests by members and employees of the committees.

Observance of Veterans Day

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1095) that would amend chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, to add a new section that would require the President to issue a proclamation each year calling on the people of the United States to observe 2 minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Nation.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.

Business case analysis of decision to maintain C-130J aircraft at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1096) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a business case analysis of the decision to maintain 10 C-130J aircraft at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.

The conferees recognize that the report provided to the committees by the Secretary of the Air Force in April 2015 in response to as required by section 138 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), included information on the business case for maintaining 10 C-130J aircraft at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Sense of Congress regarding cyber resiliency of National Guard networks and communications systems

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1097) that would express a sense of Congress that the National Guard personnel need to have situational awareness and reliable communications in the event of an emergency, terrorist attack, or natural or man-made disaster, and that the current communications and networking systems for the National Guard, including commercial wireless solutions, are interoperable with the systems of civilian first responders.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recesses.

The conferees note the importance of National Guard personnel having robust situational awareness and reliable communications in the event of a natural or man-made disaster that are interoperable with the systems of civilian first responders. In disaster situations, the National Guard serves as a critical bridge linking military and civilian

response capabilities, and thus has the requirement to maintain a broad range of communications equipment. The conferees encourage the National Guard to constantly explore ways to improve and expand its communications and networking capabilities to provide for enhanced performance and resilience in the face of cyber attacks or disruptions, as well as other instances of degradation.

TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Procedures for reduction in force of Department of Defense civilian personnel (sec. 1101)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 906) that would express the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Defense should proceed with the collaborative work with employee representatives on the “New Beginnings” performance management and workforce incentive system and begin implementation of the new system at the earliest possible date.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1103) that would provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to establish procedures to provide that, in implementing any reduction in force for civilian positions in the Department of Defense in the competitive service or the excepted service, the determination of which employees shall be separated from employment in the Department of Defense shall be made primarily on the basis of performance.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would express the sense of the Congress contained in the House provision.

One-year extension of temporary authority to grant allowances, benefits, and gratuities to civilian personnel on official duty in a combat zone (sec. 1102)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1101) that would extend by 1 year the discretionary authority of the head of a federal agency to provide allowances, benefits, and gratuities comparable to those provided to members of the Foreign Service to an agency's civilian employees on official duty in a combat zone.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1107).

The Senate recedes.

Extension of rate of overtime pay for Department of the Navy employees performing work aboard or dockside in support of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier forward deployed in Japan (sec. 1103)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1103) that would amend section 5542(a)(6)(B) of title 5, United States Code, to extend for 1 year the authority for a civilian employee of the Department of the Navy who is assigned to temporary duty to perform work aboard, or dockside in direct support of, the nuclear aircraft carrier that is forward deployed in Japan to receive overtime pay.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 1108).

The agreement includes this provision.

Modification to temporary authorities for certain positions at Department of Defense research and engineering facilities (sec. 1104)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1104) that would modify section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) to allow for the noncompetitive conversion of students that have graduated from an applicable institution of higher learning to a permanent appointee. In addition, the House provision would change the percentages of the work

force that would be eligible for certain direct hiring authorities.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1109) that would change the percentage of the work force that would be eligible for bachelor's degree holder direct hiring authority.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Required probationary period for new employees of the Department of Defense (sec. 1105)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1101) that would set the required probationary period for new employees of the Department of Defense at 2 years. The provision would also give discretionary authority to the service secretary concerned to extend a probationary period of a new employee of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement contains the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

In extending the probationary period for new employees of the Department of Defense (DOD), the conferees expect the Secretary of Defense to ensure that supervisors optimize the additional probationary time by educating supervisors on the importance of tracking when an individual's probationary period is ending and directing the supervisor to make an affirmative decision or otherwise take appropriate action. The Secretary should take steps to ensure DOD supervisors are aware of the range of tools and guidance available through the Office of Personnel Management, including on-line and in-person training and guidebooks. The conferees note that the probationary period extension will be beneficial only if an agency has effective performance management practices in place and uses the extra time for the purpose intended. The conferees expect the Secretary of Defense to assess the adequacy of leadership training provided to supervisors in DOD components and Defense agencies in order to ensure supervisors obtain the skills needed to effectively conduct performance management responsibilities.

Delay of periodic step increase for civilian employees of the Department of Defense based upon unacceptable performance (sec. 1106)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1102) that would provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to require satisfactory performance by civilian employees in order to qualify for periodic step increases based on that service.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

United States Cyber Command workforce (sec. 1107)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1104) that would provide enhanced hiring and retention authorities to the Secretary of Defense for civilians on the staff of the United States Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) and the elements of the CYBERCOM components of the Armed Forces. These enhanced authorities are modeled after the personnel authorities in title 10 provided for the staff of the intelligence components of the Department of Defense. These authorities are also similar to those that Congress provided in 2014 for the cyber workforce at the Department of Homeland Security. The provision also would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a plan to Congress on implementation of these authorities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with technical and clarifying amendments, including an amendment that would delay the effective date of the authority granted under this section until 30 days after receipt of an implementation plan submitted by the Secretary of Defense to the congressional defense committees.

One-year extension of authority to waive annual limitation on premium pay and aggregate limitation on pay for Federal civilian employees working overseas (sec. 1108)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1105) that would authorize the head of an executive agency to waive limitation on the aggregate of basic and premium pay payable through calendar year 2016 to an employee who performs work in an overseas location that is in the area of responsibility of the Commander, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), or a location that was formerly in the CENTCOM but has been moved to an area of responsibility of the Commander, U.S. Africa Command, in support of a contingency operation or an operation in response to a declared emergency. The amount payable may not exceed the total annual compensation payable to the Vice President under section 104 of title 3, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Pilot program on dynamic shaping of the workforce to improve the technical skills and expertise at certain Department of Defense laboratories (sec. 1109)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1111) that would authorize Department of Defense laboratories to conduct a pilot program to use specific new authorities to improve the dynamic shaping of their technical workforces, including the ability to hire technical experts into flexible length and renewable term appointments, exercise flexibility in applying existing authorities for accessing the expertise of recently retired technical personnel and offer voluntary early retirement and voluntary separation incentives.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement contains the Senate provision with the inclusion of a few technical clarifying amendments.

The conferees believe that the ability of the Department of Defense laboratories to be flexible in both hiring and shaping their workforce is critical to maintaining a world-class research workforce that can adapt over time to new and emerging areas of technical need. The Senate and House Armed Services Committees, in coordination with the Oversight and Government Reform Committee of the House of Representatives and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee of the Senate, have been active in modifying and seeking new authorities to make the Defense laboratories agile and attractive places for civilian researchers and engineers.

The conferees believe that taking stock of the authorities granted over the past 10 years and understanding their effects on attracting, recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce are important. Therefore, the conferees direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with the military departments and laboratory directors, to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee of the House

of Representatives and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee of the Senate no later than 90 days of the enactment of this Act. This briefing should include how the military departments, the laboratories, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense are using these authorities, metrics for understanding the effectiveness of these authorities, and any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action to improve the functioning of these authorities.

Pilot program on temporary exchange of financial management and acquisition personnel (sec. 1110)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1112) that would authorize a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of the temporary assignment of financial management and acquisition personnel to nontraditional defense contractors as defined by section 2303(9) of title 10, United States Code, and of covered employees of such contractors to the Department of Defense. Nontraditional defense contractors are commercial companies who either do not do business with the Department of Defense or do so exclusively through commercial terms and conditions. This authority would expire on September 30, 2019.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would make the authority permissive rather than mandatory and would modify the terms and conditions of participation in the pilot program by the private-sector employees.

The conferees believe that any exchange of government personnel with industry designed to improve skills and knowledge of finance and acquisition should be with those types of firms that do not traditionally do business with the Department of Defense and as such may offer different business management approaches to address similar problems. These firms also do not pose the same potential conflict of interest concerns that any exchange with a traditional defense contractor would pose.

Pilot program on enhanced pay authority for certain acquisition and technology positions in the Department of Defense (sec. 1111)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1113) that would authorize a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using a higher-level pay authority to attract and retain high-quality acquisition and technology experts in positions responsible for management and developing complex, high-cost, technological acquisition efforts of the Department of Defense. The conferees are concerned that in some cases the Department of Defense cannot competitively compensate the senior-level government program managers and engineers required for the government to oversee major defense acquisition programs. This provision would allow, in select cases, for the Department of Defense to pay a higher rate of compensation to recruit and retain senior acquisition officials who are exceptionally well qualified. These officials would be limited to a 5-year term. This authority would expire on October 1, 2020.

The House bill contained no similar amendment.

The House recedes.

Pilot program on direct hire authority for veteran technical experts into the defense acquisition workforce (sec. 1112)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1114) that would authorize a 5-year pilot program for the service acquisition ex-

ecutives of each military department to directly appoint qualified veteran candidates for scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics positions in the defense acquisition activities. This direct hire authority would be limited to no more than 1 percent of the total number of positions in the acquisition workforce in each military department that are filled as of the close of the previous fiscal year.

The House bill contained no similar amendment.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees on the use of this authority no later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Act.

Direct hire authority for technical experts into the defense acquisition workforce (sec. 1113)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1115) that would authorize the service secretaries of each military department to directly appoint qualified candidates possessing a scientific or engineering degree to positions in the defense acquisition activities. This direct hire authority would be limited to no more than 5 percent of the total number of scientific and engineering positions in the acquisition workforce in each military department that are filled as of the close of the previous fiscal year. This authority would expire December 31, 2020.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Authority to provide additional allowances and benefits for Defense Clandestine Service employees

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1102) that would grant the Secretary of Defense the authority to provide additional allowances and benefits for Defense Clandestine Service employees.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Preference eligibility for members of reserve components of the Armed Forces appointed to competitive service; clarification of appeal rights

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1105) that would create a hiring preference for certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces for the competitive service and would clarify the appeals rights of individuals hired under section 3330a of title 5, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

TITLE XII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

Subtitle A—Training and Assistance

One-year extension of logistical support for coalition forces supporting certain United States military operations (sec. 1201)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1201) that would amend section 1234 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181), as most recently amended by section 1223 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), by authorizing the Secretary of Defense to provide supplies, services, transportation, and other logistical support to coalition forces supporting U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Strategic framework for Department of Defense security cooperation (sec. 1202)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1202) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to develop a strategic framework for Department of Defense security cooperation to guide prioritization of resources and activities. This section would also require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a report on the strategic framework for security cooperation to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provisions.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would make clarifying changes and require the Secretary of Defense to submit the required report not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Redesignation, modification, and extension of National Guard State Partnership Program (sec. 1203)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1203) that would amend section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) by modifying and extending the authorization for the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) by 2 years, would require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to establish and submit a list of core competencies to support SPP activities to the Secretary of Defense for approval, and would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a fund to administer and execute the funds authorized and appropriated for SPP.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1204) that would amend section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 114-66) to provide for the extension of the Department of Defense (DOD) State Partnership Program and direct the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) to conduct an advisability and feasibility study as to whether a central fund should be created to support the activities associated with the State Partnership Program.

The House recedes with an amendment that would make clarifying changes, would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a legislative proposal if it is found to be advisable and feasible to establish a central fund for the program, and would extend the underlying authority for the program for 5 years.

The conferees encourage DOD to consider if it would be useful to establish a list of core competencies of the National Guard to be used to better educate security assistance officers and countries participating in the State Partnership Program about the capabilities that can be brought to bear by the Guard. The Secretary should inform the Armed Services Committees of the House of Representative and the Senate if such a step is considered to be useful.

Extension of authority for non-reciprocal exchanges of defense personnel between the United States and foreign countries (sec. 1204)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1204) that would amend section 1207(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) by extending the authorization for non-reciprocal exchanges of defense personnel between the

United States and foreign countries through December 31, 2017.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would extend the authority through December 31, 2021.

Monitoring and evaluation of overseas humanitarian, disaster, and civic aid programs of the Department of Defense (sec. 1205)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1205) that would allow up to 5 percent of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this act for sections 401, 402, 404, 407, 2557, and 2561 of title 10, United States Code be used to conduct monitoring and evaluation of these programs.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

The conferees further note that the briefing shall include a description of how the Department of Defense evaluates program and project outcomes and impact, including cost effectiveness and extent to which programs meet designated goals.

One-year extension of funding limitations for authority to build the capacity of foreign security forces (sec. 1206)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1201) that would extend for 1 year the funding limitations for the Department of Defense to build the capacity of foreign security forces under section 2282, title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provisions.

The House recedes.

Authority to provide support to national military forces of allied countries for counterterrorism operations in Africa (sec. 1207)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1205) that would authorize through September 30, 2018, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide, on a non-reimbursable basis, logistical support, supplies, and services to the national military forces of an allied country conducting counterterrorism operations in Africa if the Secretary of Defense determines that the provision of such support is (1) in the national security interests of the United States; and (2) critical to the timely and effective participation of such national military forces in such operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that, in this section, the term 'allied country' has the meaning given to that term in section 2350c of title 10, United States Code.

Reports on training of foreign military intelligence units provided by the Department of Defense (sec. 1208)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1206) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide intelligence training to foreign military intelligence units to increase partner capacity.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence to provide semi-annual reports to the congressional defense committees on the military intelligence training performed by Department of Defense of foreign military intelligence personnel and the authorities under which such activities are conducted.

The conferees believe that the current matrix of capacity building authorities may not sufficiently cover sustained intelligence training for foreign military forces for purposes other than counterterrorism operations and stability operations with whom the United States partners or may need to partner in the future. Based on the reports and any potential gaps in authorities, the conferees will evaluate whether further authorities should be included in the 2017 authorizing legislation.

Prohibition on assistance to entities in Yemen controlled by the Houthi movement (sec. 1209)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1207) that would prohibit assistance to an entity in Yemen controlled by members of the Houthi movement unless the Secretary of Defense determines the provision of such assistance is important to the national security interests of the United States.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment requiring the Secretary of Defense to submit a notification to certain congressional committees should the national security exception be exercised.

Subtitle B—Matters Relating to Afghanistan and Pakistan

Extension and modification of Commanders' Emergency Response Program (sec. 1211)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1211) that would amend section 1201 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81), as most recently amended by section 1221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), by extending for 1 year the Commanders' Emergency Response Program (CERP) in Afghanistan and authorizing \$5.0 million for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1222) that would make up to \$10.0 million available during fiscal year 2016 for CERP in Afghanistan, and would authorize certain payments to redress injury and loss in Iraq.

The House recedes with an amendment that would limit amounts available during Fiscal Year 2016 to not exceed \$5.0 million, require the Secretary of Defense to submit revised guidance to take into account the modifications to CERP made by this provision and would allow the Secretary to begin payments to redress injury and loss in Iraq 30 days after the submission of a report related to the conditions for which payment would be made and the manner in which claims for payments shall be verified.

Extension and modification of authority for reimbursement of certain coalition nations for support provided to United States military operations (sec. 1212)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1212) that would extend the authority for reimbursement of coalition nations for support provided to the U.S. for military operations in Afghanistan through fiscal year 2016 and would authorize \$1.3 billion. Of the \$1.0 billion in reimbursement authorized for Pakistan during fiscal year 2016, \$400.0 million would not be eligible for a waiver unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that Pakistan is conducting military operations against the Haqqani Network and is actively coordinating with the Government of Afghanistan to restrict the movement of militants along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1224) that would extend

the authority to make Coalition Support Fund (CSF) payments to reimburse certain nations for support provided to U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and would authorize to \$1.2 billion, of which \$900.0 million would be provided to Pakistan. Of the \$900.0 million, \$100.0 million would be authorized for a pilot program.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would authorize \$1.3 billion and would limit the authorization for reimbursement to Pakistan to \$900.0 million. Of the \$900.0 million, \$350.0 million would not be eligible for a waiver unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that Pakistan has met certain conditions. An additional \$100.0 million of CSF would be made available for Pakistan for direct assistance for a pilot program for stability activities undertaken in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, including the provision of funds to the Pakistan military and the Pakistan Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The conferees encourage the continuation of military operations undertaken by the Pakistan Military in the Federally Administered Tribal Area but note the need for further action against terrorist organizations such as the Haqqani Network.

Additional matter in semiannual report on enhancing security and stability in Afghanistan (sec. 1213)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1213) that would state the sense of Congress that the President's decision to maintain 9,800 U.S. troops through 2015 is appropriate, that the President should withdraw U.S. troops only on a pace that is consistent with the ability of the Afghan National Security Forces to sustain itself and secure Afghanistan, and that the U.S. President should review maintaining the U.S. advisory mission beyond 2016.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1221) that would require a certification by the President to the congressional defense committees that the reduction of U.S. forces in Afghanistan will result in an acceptable level of risk to U.S. national security objectives.

The House recedes with an amendment that adds an assessment of risks associated with the drawdown of U.S. forces to the semiannual report required by section 1225 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

Extension of authority to acquire products and services produced in countries along a major route of supply to Afghanistan (sec. 1214)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1214) that would extend section 801 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84), as most recently amended by section 832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66), through December 31, 2016, for limiting competition for products or services that are from one or more countries along a major route of supply to Afghanistan or providing a preference for such a product or service, under certain circumstances.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 827) that would extend by 1 year the authority in section 801(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84).

The House recedes.

Extension of authority to transfer defense articles and provide defense services to the military and security forces of Afghanistan (sec. 1215)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1215) that would extend section 1222 of the

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), as amended by section 1231 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), for 1 year and would extend the quarterly reporting requirement through March 31, 2017. This section would authorize that, during fiscal years 2015–16, the excess defense articles transferred from the stocks of the Department of Defense to the military and security forces of Afghanistan will not be subject to the authorities and limitations in section 561 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-195).

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1223).

The Senate recedes.

Modification of protection for Afghan allies (sec. 1216)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1216) that would express the sense of Congress that it is in the interest of the United States to continue to assist Afghan partners, and their immediate families, who have served as translators or interpreters and those who have performed sensitive and trusted activities for U.S. Armed Forces.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1227) that would modify the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program to require not less than 2 years of service if submitting a petition after September 30, 2015, would express the sense of Congress that the necessity of providing special immigrant status should be assessed at regular intervals by the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives taking into account the scope of the current and planned presence of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and would make technical amendments.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Subtitle C—Matters Relating to Syria and Iraq

Extension of authority to support operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq (sec. 1221)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1221) that would extend the authority for the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq (OSCI) for 1 year. This authority would allow the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to authorize OSC-I to conduct training activities in support of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Counter Terrorism Service personnel at a base or facility of the Government of Iraq. This section would limit the total authorized funding for operations and activities for OSC-I to \$143.0 million in fiscal year 2016 and would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to submit a report assessing how OSC-I integrates into Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1228) that would authorize the use of up to \$80.0 million in fiscal year 2016 to support OSC-I operations and activities.

The House recedes.

Strategy for the Middle East and to counter violent extremism (sec. 1222)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1222) that would express a sense of Congress on U.S. strategy in the Middle East and would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a comprehensive strategy for the Middle East.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense

and the Secretary of State, not later than February 15, 2016, to jointly submit to certain congressional committees a strategy for the Middle East and to counter violent extremism.

Modification of authority to provide assistance to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (sec. 1223)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1223) that would authorize \$715.0 million in fiscal year 2016 for assistance to the military and security forces associated with the Government of Iraq, of which not less than 25 percent of such funds would be obligated to such groups as Kurdish and tribal security forces with a national security mission. This section would require an assessment by the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State of the conditions of the Government of Iraq relating to political inclusiveness, minority integration, and efforts to address grievances of ethnic and sectarian minorities. If the assessment is not submitted or Iraq has not substantially achieved the conditions contained in the assessment, the Secretaries would be required to withhold the provision of assistance pursuant to the “Iraq Train and Equip Authority” under section 1236 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) and 60 percent of such assistance would go directly to certain groups.

The Senate amendment contained provisions (sec. 1225, 1229, 1271) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees within 30 days if the Secretary determines that equipment provided by the United States to Iraq has been transferred to or acquired by a violent extremist organization and would add an additional element to the quarterly report under the Iraq Train and Equip authority to include a list of units restricted from receiving assistance under that authority as a result of vetting.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would express the sense of Congress that: (1) the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant poses an acute threat to the people and territorial integrity of Iraq (ISIL), (2) defeating ISIL is critical to maintaining a unified Iraq, and (3) the United States in coordination with coalition partners should provide security assistance in an expeditious and responsive manner to the national security forces associated with the Government of Iraq including Kurdish and tribal security forces or other security forces with a national security mission. The amendment would also require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to jointly submit an assessment, to certain congressional committees on the extent to which the Government of Iraq is increasing political inclusiveness, addressing grievances of ethnic and sectarian minorities, and enhancing minority integration in the political and military structures in Iraq. Taking into account such an assessment, in the event the President determines that the Government of Iraq has failed to take substantial action to: (1) increase political inclusiveness, (2) address the grievances of ethnic and sectarian minorities, and (3) enhance minority integration in the political and military structures in Iraq; the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, would be authorized to provide, in coordination to the extent practicable with the Government of Iraq, assistance pursuant to the Iraq Train and Equip authority directly to the Kurdish Peshmerga, Sunni tribal security forces, or other local security forces with a national security mission for the purpose of sup-

porting international coalition efforts against ISIL. The conferees note that local security forces with a national security mission may include, in addition to Sunni tribal elements, local security forces that are committed to protecting highly vulnerable ethnic and religious minority communities, such as Yazidi, Christian, Assyrian and Turkoman communities, against the ISIL threat. Additionally, this section would prohibit assistance pursuant to the Iraq Train and Equip authority from being provided to the Government of Iraq unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that the Government of Iraq has taken actions as may be reasonably necessary to safeguard against such assistance being transferred to, or acquired by violent extremist organizations, including designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) or an organization that is known to be under the command and control of, or is associated with the Government of Iran.

Reports on United States Armed Forces deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (sec. 1224)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1224) that would express the sense of the Congress that Operation Inherent Resolve and the force protection and combat search and rescue requirements be continuously evaluated, and would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the U.S. Armed Forces deployed in support of OIR.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter, on United States Armed Forces deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Matters relating to support for the vetted Syrian opposition (sec. 1225)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1225) that would require a strategy and authorize \$600.0 million for the overall Syria Train and Equip program, which includes \$531.5 million for the Syria Train and Equip Fund, \$25.8 million for costs that would be incurred by the Army for such program, and \$42.8 million for costs that would be incurred by the Air Force for such program.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1208) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the military support the Secretary considers necessary to provide to recipients of assistance upon their return to Syria.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would: (1) require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on what support is determined to be necessary to provide recipients of assistance upon their return to Syria; (2) modify quarterly reporting matters; and (3) require certain information to accompany reprogramming requests.

Support to the Government of Jordan and the Government of Lebanon for border security operations (sec. 1226)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1226) that would authorize \$300.0 million in assistance on a reimbursement basis to enhance and support the efforts of Jordan's Armed Forces to sustain security along its border with Syria and Iraq.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1202) that would authorize assistance to Jordan and Lebanon in any fiscal year through fiscal year 2020 for the purposes of sustaining security along their borders with Syria and/or Iraq. Regarding assistance to the Government of Lebanon, the

provision would prohibit reimbursement of Hezbollah or any forces other than the armed forces of Lebanon.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would make available to Jordan and Lebanon funds not to exceed \$150.0 million for each country in any 1 fiscal year for reimbursement from amounts authorized pursuant to section 1233 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008 (P.L. 110-181) and section 1534 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015 (P.L. 113-291), the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund, and would make other clarifying modifications.

Sense of Congress on the security and protection of Iranian dissidents living in Camp Liberty, Iraq (sec. 1227)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1230) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the security and disposition of Camp Liberty residents while encouraging cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in expediting the resettlement of Camp Liberty resident to safe locations outside Iraq.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Subtitle D—Matters Relating to Iran

Modification and extension of annual report on the military power of Iran (sec. 1231)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1231) that would extend the annual report on the military power of Iran to December 31, 2025, and add a reporting requirement that provides an assessment of transfers of military equipment, technology, and training to Iran from non-Iranian sources.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1241).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would create an additional element of the underlying report to require information on Iran's cyber capabilities.

Sense of Congress on the Government of Iran's malign activities (sec. 1232)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1232) that would express the sense of the Congress that Iran's illicit pursuit, development, or acquisition of a nuclear weapons capability and its malign military activities constitute a grave threat to regional stability and the national security interests of the U.S. and its allies.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would express the sense of Congress that Iran continues to conduct malign activities and sponsorship of terrorism, and that the United States should continue to enhance the region's security architecture, build partner capacity to respond to external aggression, and increase interoperability with regional security forces.

Report on military-to-military engagements with Iran (sec. 1233)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1234) that would restrict the Secretary of Defense from authorizing any military-to-military exchange or contact by the Armed Forces or Department of Defense civilians with Iran with certain exceptions.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to certain congressional committees on military-to-military engagements with Iran.

Security guarantees to countries in the Middle East (sec. 1234)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1235) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide the appropriate congressional committees a copy of any security agreement by the U.S. to any country in the Middle East associated with Iran's nuclear weapons program.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to submit a report to certain congressional committees that summarizes any agreement on security commitments by the United States to any country in the Middle East in effect as of 15 days prior to the submittal of the report. Additionally, this section would require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide the Secretary of Defense with an analysis of the United States military force structure and posture required to meet any current agreement that provides security commitments in the Middle East.

Rule of construction (sec. 1235)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1236) that states that nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the use of force against Iran.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle E—Matters Relating to the Russian Federation

Notifications relating to testing, production, deployment, and sale or transfer to other states or non-state actors of the Club-K cruise missile system by the Russian Federation (sec. 1241)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1241) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the appropriate committees of Congress quarterly notifications and updates relating to testing, production, deployment, sale or transfer to other states or non-state actors of the Club-K cruise missile system by the Russian Federation. This provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees no later than 7 days after the Secretary determines that there is reasonable belief that Russia has deployed, sold, or transferred the Club-K cruise missile system to other states or non-state actors. Additionally, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is required to develop a strategy to detect, defend against and defeat the Club-K cruise missile system, and will submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the strategy no later than September 30, 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment requiring the Secretary of Defense to notify the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 7 days after the Secretary determines there is reasonable grounds to believe the Russian Federation has tested, initially deployed, or sold or transferred to another state or non-state actor the Club-K cruise missile system. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall include options for responding to the Club-K cruise missile threat in current military planning. The reporting requirement contained in the House provision is carried in another section of the Act.

Notifications of deployment of nuclear weapons by Russian Federation to territory of Ukrainian Republic or Russian territory of Kaliningrad (sec. 1242)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1242) that would require the Secretary of De-

fense to submit to the appropriate congressional committees quarterly notifications on the status of the Russian Federation conducting exercises with, planning or preparing to deploy, or deploying certain weapons systems, onto the territory of the Ukrainian Republic. This provision would also require prompt notification, no more than seven days, after the Secretary of Defense determines that there exists reasonable grounds to believe that Russia has deployed certain weapon systems onto the territory of Ukraine. Further, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall submit to the congressional defense committees, no later than June 30, 2016, a strategy to respond to the military threat posed by the Russian Federation deploying covered weapons systems onto the territory of the Ukrainian Republic.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would expand the notification to include the deployment of covered weapon systems into the Russian territory of Kaliningrad, and would require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to include in current planning options for responding to the military threat posed by the Russian Federation deploying covered weapons into the territory of Ukraine and Kaliningrad, including opportunities for allied cooperation. The agreement also addresses the requirement to report on the status of exercises with, planning or preparing to deploy, or deploying certain weapons systems, onto the territory of the Ukrainian Republic in another section of this Act, and includes reporting on deployment of such weapons systems in the Russian territory of Kaliningrad in that section. The provision would terminate after 5 years.

Measures in response to non-compliance by the Russian Federation with its obligations under the INF Treaty (sec. 1243)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1243) that would require the President to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of whether the Russian Federation has flight-tested, deployed, or possessed a military system that has achieved an initial operation capability of a covered missile system, and whether the Russian Federation has begun steps to return to full compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, including by agreeing to inspections and verification measures necessary to achieve high confidence that any covered missile system will be eliminated, as required by the INF Treaty upon its entry into force.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1671) that would require the President to notify the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether the Russian Federation has flight-tested, deployed, or possessed a military system that has achieved an initial operating capability that is in violation of the INF Treaty or has begun taking measures to return to full compliance with the INF Treaty. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the status of updates provided to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other allies of the United States on the Russian Federation's flight testing, operational capability, and deployment of ground-launched ballistic missiles in violation of the INF Treaty. If the Russian Federation fails compliance measures by the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense will also submit to Congress, a plan

outlining the development of military capabilities, including counterforce capabilities, countervailing strike capabilities, and active defense to defend against intermediate-range ground-launched cruise missile attacks.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Modification of notification and assessment of proposal to modify or introduce new aircraft or sensors for flight by the Russian Federation under the open skies treaty (sec. 1244)

The House bill contained two provisions (sec. 1244 and 1265) that would amend section 1242 (b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3564) to extend reporting requirements from 30 days to 90 days and extend oversight to include the commander of each relevant combatant command as well as the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State this provision limits obligated funds to less than 50 percent until a report on any meetings of the Open Skies Consultative Commission during the prior year is delivered to Congress to the appropriate committees.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1672) that would modify Section 1242(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by adding a requirement to include an assessment by the commander of each combatant command potentially affected by a proposal of the Russian Federation to modify or introduce a new aircraft or sensor for flight under the Open Skies Treaty, including an assessment of the potential effects of the proposal on operations and any potential vulnerabilities. The provision would also require that not later than 30 days after the date of any meeting of the Open Skies Consultative Commission, the Secretary of Defense submit to the defense committees of Congress a report on such meeting, including a description of any agreements entered into during such meeting, and whether any such agreement will result in a modification to the aircraft or sensors that will be subject to the Open Skies Treaty.

The House recedes with an amendment that would combine the three similar provisions and limit the availability of funds made available for fiscal year 2016 for arms control implementation (PE 0305145F) to not more than 75 percent until the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submits a report to Congress describing any meetings of the Open Skies Consultative Commission during the prior year, a description of any agreements entered into during such meetings, and a description of future year proposals for modification to aircraft sensors that will be subject to the Open Skies Treaty.

Prohibition on availability of funds relating to sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea (sec. 1245)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1247) that would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated or made available by this Act through fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense to implement any action or policy that recognizes the de facto sovereignty of Russia over Crimea, or any country whose central government has taken steps to recognize or support Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea. The provision included a waiver if the Secretary of Defense certifies and reports that doing so would be in the national security interest of the United States.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical and clarifying amendment.

Limitation on military contact and cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation (sec. 1246)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1248) that would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 to be used for bilateral military-to-military contact or cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation without certain certifications by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, or unless certain waiver conditions are met.

The Senate bill did not contain a similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical and clarifying amendment.

Limitation on funds for implementation on the New START Treaty (sec. 1247)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1249) that would limit all authorized funds that would be used for implementation of the New START Treaty until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the armed forces of the Russian Federation are no longer illegally occupying Ukrainian territory; the Russian Federation is respecting the sovereignty of all Ukrainian territory; the Russian Federation is no longer taking actions that are inconsistent with the INF Treaty; the Russian Federation is in compliance with the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty and has lifted its suspension of Russian observance of its treaty obligations; and there have been no inconsistencies by the Russian Federation with the New START Treaty requirements.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that changes the limitation to a reporting requirement on the reasons continued implementation of the New START treaty is in the national security interests of the United States, for any year in which the New START Treaty is in effect and the following conditions apply (and steps taken to remedy the conditions), the Russian Federation (i) continues to occupy Ukraine territory, (ii) disrespects the sovereignty of Ukraine territory, (iii) is not in fully compliance with the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, (iv) is not in compliance with the CFE Treaty and has not lifted its suspension of observing the Treaty, and (v) is not reducing it deployed strategic delivery vehicles, which are under the central limits of the New START Treaty. The conferees are concerned about the impact of Russia increasing its number of deployed strategic delivery vehicles, but notes that this increase is occurring within the legally-binding New START Treaty caps.

Additional matters in annual report on military and security developments involving the Russian Federation (sec. 1248)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1255) that would add a reporting requirement to section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) requiring an assessment of the force structure and capabilities of Russian military forces stationed in the Arctic region, Kaliningrad, and Crimea, as well as an assessment of the Russian military strategy in the Arctic region.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would create an additional element to

require a description of the testing, production, deployment, and sale or transfer of the Club-K cruise missile system by the Russian Federation.

Report on alternative capabilities to procure and sustain nonstandard rotary wing aircraft historically procured through Rosoboronexport (sec. 1249)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1256) that would require an independent assessment on the feasibility and advisability of using alternative industrial base capabilities to procure and sustain nonstandard rotary wing aircraft historically acquired through the Russian state corporation Rosoboronexport as well as an analysis of alterations that may be required for waivers of foreign military sales requirements and procedures for approval of airworthiness certificates associated with such alternative capabilities.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes with technical and clarifying amendments.

The conferees direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, not later than 180 days after date of the enactment of this Act and in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to provide an interim brief to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the initial findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the independent assessment required by this section.

Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (sec. 1250)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1532) that would authorize \$200.0 million for the Secretary of Defense, in concurrence with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance and sustainment to the military and national security forces of Ukraine. This assistance would include the explicit authority to provide lethal weapons of a defensive nature to the security forces of Ukraine.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1251) that would authorize \$300.0 million for the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide security assistance and intelligence support to military and other security forces of Ukraine.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require \$50.0 million of the funds authorized to be available only for lethal assistance and counterartillery radars unless the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, certifies that use of such funds for lethal assistance is not in the U.S. national security interest. If the certification is made, such funds could be used for assistance or support to Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations, or for exercises and training for the security forces of PfP nations or the Government of Ukraine to assist in preserving their sovereignty and territorial integrity against Russian aggression.

The conferees emphasize the importance of providing support to the Government of Ukraine in defending itself against actions by Russia and Russian-backed separatists that continue to violate ceasefire agreements. The conferees note the success of current training of Ukrainian security forces by U.S. forces and encourage expansion of such training efforts as provided for in this section. The conferees further note the growing threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other nations in the region and stress the importance of assisting such nations in developing the capability to defend against Russian aggression.

Training for Eastern European national military forces in the course of multilateral exercises (sec. 1251)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1252) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide multilateral or regional training, and pay the incremental expenses of participating in such training, for the national military forces of countries in Eastern Europe that are a signatory to the Partnership for Peace Framework Documents but not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or that became a NATO member after January 1, 1999.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical and clarifying amendment that further refines the types of training authorized under this section to training provided in the course of the conduct of a multilateral exercise in which the U.S. Armed Forces are a participant and that is comparable to or complementary of training the U.S. Armed Forces receive in the course of such multilateral exercises. Training authorized under this section would be for certain specified purposes, including enhancing the interoperability of the trained forces to be able to participate in NATO or coalition operations, or to increase the capacity of those forces to respond to external threats or hybrid warfare.

Subtitle F—Matters Relating to the Asia-Pacific Region

Strategy to promote United States interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region (sec. 1261)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1253) that would require the President to develop an overall strategy to promote U.S. interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and to provide policy directives and priority goals to relevant U.S. Government departments and agencies.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1265) that would require the report to be completed within 120 days of enactment.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would delay the date the strategy is due to March 1, 2017.

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1262) that would express the sense of the Congress to reaffirm the importance of the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. In order to maintain the credibility of the U.S. policy to rebalance towards the Indo-Asia-Pacific theater, the conferees believe it is vital that the United States continue to shift forces to the region to strengthen the ability of the United States Armed Forces to project power to shape the choices of regional states. Any reduction or failure to adequately resource U.S. force structure in the U.S. Pacific Command would diminish the rebalance policy.

The House bill included a number of provisions that would express the sense of the Congress regarding the various contributions of different allies and partner nations (sec. 1251, sec. 1252, sec. 1254, sec. 1255, and sec. 1272).

The conferees note the 70th Anniversary of the end of Allied military engagement in the Pacific theater, marking the end of the Second World War and joins with a grateful nation in expressing respect and appreciation to the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in the Pacific theater during the Second World War.

Further, the conferees believe any long-term strategy for the Indo-Asia-Pacific region must include continued engagement with allies and partners in the region.

The United States values its alliance with the Government of Japan as a cornerstone of peace and security in the region. The United States welcomes Japan's decision to contribute more proactively to regional and global peace and security. Furthermore, the conferees note that the Senkaku Islands are under the administrative control of Japan. The conferees oppose any unilateral actions by a third party that would seek to undermine such administration, and remain committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan. Finally, the conferees acknowledge the significant and unprecedented financial contributions the Government of Japan has made to facilitate U.S. military access in both Japan and Guam.

The conferees also note that the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has served as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world. The United States and the Republic of Korea should continue further cooperation by strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula and enhancing mutual security based on the Republic of Korea-United States Mutual Defense Treaty. The conferees support the vision of a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, free from the fear of war, and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and free market principles. Finally, we acknowledge the significant financial contributions the Republic of Korea has made to facilitate U.S. military access on the Korean Peninsula.

The conferees note that United States has an upgraded, strategic-plus relationship with India based on regional cooperation, space science cooperation, and defense cooperation. The conferees believe that the defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India is strengthened by the common commitment of both countries to liberal democracy should continue to expand. Further, we welcome the role of the Republic of India in providing security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, and we support the implementation of the United States-India Defense Framework Agreement and the India Defense Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI).

Requirement to submit Department of Defense policy regarding foreign disclosure or technology release of Aegis Ashore capability to Japan (sec. 1262)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1256) that would express the sense of Congress that a decision by the Government of Japan to purchase Aegis Ashore for its self-defense could create a significant opportunity for promoting interoperability and integration of air- and missile defense capability with close allies, could provide for force multiplication benefits, and could potentially alleviate force posture requirements on multi-mission assets. This provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the appropriate congressional committees, a copy of the Department of Defense policy regarding foreign disclosure or technology release of Aegis Ashore capability to allies, including Japan, that possess sea-based Aegis weapons system-equipped naval vessels.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the references to other allies and would edit the title of the provision to directly reference the Government of Japan.

South China Sea Initiative (sec. 1263)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1261) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide assistance and training for the purposes of increasing maritime security and the maritime domain awareness of foreign countries in the South China Sea. The provision would authorize \$50.0 million from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide (OMDW) account for fiscal year 2016, with increases in funding levels in subsequent fiscal years, to provide assistance to the recipient countries, which include Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The provision would require that the Secretary of Defense provide prior notification to the congressional defense committees not later than 15 days before exercising this authority.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would authorize \$50.0 million from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 only and, if the Secretary uses these funds to provide assistance and training under this authority during the first half-year of fiscal year 2016, the Secretary must submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the account or accounts that were used to provide the funds. The authority to provide assistance and training cannot be exercised after September 30, 2020. The conferees expect the Department to request additional funding for the South China Sea Initiative in fiscal years 2017 through 2020 as part of the annual budget request.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

Two-year extension and modification of authorization for non-conventional assisted recovery capabilities (sec. 1271)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1261) that would extend, for 1 year, the authority of the Department of Defense to continue to develop, manage, and execute a Non-Conventional Assisted Recovery (NAR) personnel recovery program for isolated Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Government, and other designated personnel supporting U.S. national interests worldwide. This section would allow the Secretary of Defense to use up to \$25.0 million in funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance for such recovery programs through fiscal year 2017.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1282) that would extend the authority of the Department of Defense to establish, develop, and maintain NAR capabilities for 2 additional years. The provision would also designate the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (ASD SOLIC) as the primary civilian within DOD with programmatic and policy oversight responsibilities for such activities.

The House recedes with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to use up to \$25.0 million in funds authorized for operation and maintenance for NAR.

The conferees note that the agreement would designate the ASD SOLIC as the primary civilian within DOD with programmatic and policy oversight responsibilities for such activities. Given the sensitive nature of NAR activities, including the authorized use of irregular forces, groups, and individuals, the committee believes that

ASD SOLIC is the most appropriate civilian office within the Department to exercise oversight of such activities and associated policies.

Amendment to the annual report under Arms Control and Disarmament Act (sec. 1272)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1262) that would amend subsection (e) of section 403 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act (22 U.S.C. 2593a) and would require the Director of National Intelligence to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that details each instance of inconsistent behavior by a state party of an arms control treaty or related agreement to which the United States is a party.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Extension of authorization to conduct activities to enhance the capability of foreign countries to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction (sec. 1273)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1264) that would extend the authority to conduct activities to enhance the capability of foreign countries to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction from section 1204 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) through September 30, 2020.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1203) that would extend the authority for the Secretary of Defense to provide Weapons of Mass Destruction incident response training and basic equipment to foreign first responders until September 30, 2018.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would extend the authority through September 30, 2019.

Modification of authority for support of special operations to combat terrorism (sec. 1274)

The House bill contained a provision that would amend the authority for support of special operations to combat terrorism contained in section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375), as amended, by increasing the annual cap on the authority from \$75.0 million to \$100.0 million.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would increase the annual cap on the authority from \$75.0 million to \$85.0 million and would require the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees not later than 15-days prior to initiating the authority.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees of funding changes to Section 1208 programs when such a proposed increase exceeds 20 percent of the current approved total for that particular program or \$500,000, whichever amount is less.

Limitation on availability of funds to implement the Arms Trade Treaty (sec. 1275)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1270) that would limit the Department of Defense's ability to implement the Arms Trade Treaty while also permitting the Department to assist foreign governments in bringing their laws and regulations to a level equal to that of the United States.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

The conferees note that a substantively identical provision was included in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

Report on the security relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus (sec. 1276)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1271) that would require, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to jointly submit an assessment of the military capability of Cyprus to defend against threats to its national security.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1274), requiring an assessment of the U.S.-Cyprus bilateral security relationship not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act.

The House recedes.

Sense of Congress on European defense and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (sec. 1277)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1280) that would express the sense of the Congress that the U.S. should continue to work with aspirant countries for entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and work with NATO members to identify current and future security threats as well as ensuring sufficient funding is obligated to meet NATO responsibilities.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1254) that would express the sense of Congress urging the United States to encourage NATO allies to meet defense budget commitments made at the Wales Summit in September 2014 and to continue to coordinate defense investments to improve deterrence against Russian aggression and terrorist organizations as well as more appropriately balancing defense spending across the alliance.

The House recedes with an amendment that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should continue NATO's open-door policy for nations that share Alliance values, are willing to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, and are in a position to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area, as well as encouraging continued work with aspirant countries to prepare for entry into NATO.

Briefing on the sale of certain fighter aircraft to Qatar (sec. 1278)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1273) that would express the sense of the Senate that the United States should promptly consider the sale of fighter aircraft to the Government of Qatar and requires a report describing the risks and benefits as they relate to such a sale.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require a briefing to certain congressional committees on the risks and benefits of the sale of fighter aircraft to Qatar.

United States-Israel anti-tunnel cooperation (sec. 1279)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1267) that would establish a cooperative research and development program with Israel to develop anti-tunneling defense capabilities to detect, map, and neutralize underground tunnels.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1272).

The House recedes with an amendment that requires the Secretary of Defense to designate an appropriate research and devel-

opment entity of a military department as the lead agency of the Department of Defense to carry out this section, establishes an annual limit on the amount that can be provided, and requires matching contributions from the Government of Israel.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to congressional defense committees a report that includes: (1) instances of tunnels being used to attack installations of the United States or allies of the United States; (2) trends or developments in tunnel attacks throughout the world; (3) key technologies employed by potential adversaries and challenges faced when using tunnels; (4) the capabilities of the Department of Defense for defending fixed or forward locations from tunnel attacks; (5) the plans, including with respect to funding, of the Secretary for countering threats posed by tunnels.

NATO Special Operations Headquarters (sec. 1280)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1263) that would make permanent the authority for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Special Operations Headquarters, as first authorized in section 1244(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84).

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1281) that would extend, for 3 years, the authority under section 1244(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2541), as most recently amended by section 1272(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2023).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would extend, for 5 years, the authority for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Special Operations Headquarters.

Increased presence of United States ground forces in Eastern Europe to deter aggression on the border of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (sec. 1281)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1274) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the impact of any significant reduction in United States troop levels or materiel in Europe on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's ability to credibly deter, resist, or repel external threats, not later than 30 days prior to the date of such reduction.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1253) that would require, no later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act, that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of options for expanding the presence of U.S. ground forces in Eastern Europe to respond, with European allies and partners, to the security challenges posed by Russia with a report that would include an evaluation of the optimal location(s) of the enhanced ground force presence and a description of any initiatives by other members of NATO, or other European allies and partners.

The House recedes with an amendment that would create an additional element of the report required by this section to assess the impact of any significant reduction in U.S. troop levels or materiel in Europe on U.S. national security interests in Europe.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Report on efforts to engage United States manufacturers in procurement opportunities related to equipping the Afghan National Security Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1217) that would require, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to submit a report on efforts of the Secretaries to engage United States manufacturers in procurement opportunities related to equipping the Afghan National Security Forces.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide a report to the congressional defense committees, within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, on efforts of the Secretaries to engage United States manufacturers and service providers in procurement and service provision opportunities related to equipping and supporting the Afghan National Defense Security Forces.

Report on access to financial records of the Government of Afghanistan to audit the use of funds for assistance for Afghanistan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1218) that would require the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) to submit to Congress, not later than December 31, 2016, a report on the extent to which the Office of SIGAR has adequate access to financial records of the Government of Afghanistan to audit the use of funds authorized by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel to brief the congressional defense committees on the extent to which the Inspector General has access to financial records of the Government of Afghanistan to audit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act.

Sense of Congress relating to Dr. Shakil Afridi

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1219) that would express the sense of Congress that Dr. Shakil Afridi, a Pakistani physician who helped the United States locate Osama bin Laden, is an international hero and that the Government of Pakistan should release him immediately from prison.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the contributions of Dr. Afridi to efforts to locate Osama bin Laden, remain concerned about Dr. Afridi's continuing incarceration, and urge the Government of Pakistan to release him immediately.

Report on lines of communication of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other foreign terrorist organizations

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1226) that would that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the lines of communication that enable the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Jabhat al-Nusra, and other foreign terrorist organizations that facilitate assistance through countries bordering on Syria.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees are concerned with the lines of communication that enable the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq and urge the administration to address such lines of communication in its campaign strategy.

Report on efforts of Turkey to fight terrorism

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1227) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on: Turkey's bilateral and multilateral efforts to combat the flow of foreign fighters through its country to Syria; relationship with Hamas, including its harboring of leaders of Hamas; and efforts to fight terrorism, including its military and humanitarian role in the coalition to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the requirement for an assessment of efforts to combat the flow of foreign fighters to and from Syria and Iraq is included in another provision of this Act.

Report to assess the potential effectiveness of and requirements for the establishment of safe zones or a no-fly zone in Syria

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1228) that would require, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to submit a report that would assesses the potential effectiveness, risks, and operational requirements of the establishment and maintenance of a no-fly zone over part or all of Syria, as well as such effectiveness, risks, and operational requirements for internally displaced people or for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, that assesses the potential effectiveness, risks and operational requirements, including legal requirements, to establish and maintain: (1) a no-fly zone over a significant portion or all of Syria; and (2) one or more safe zones in Syria for internally displaced people or for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance.

Report on military posture required in the Middle East to deter Iran from developing a nuclear weapon

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1233) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress, not later than 90 days after this Act, regarding the military posture required in the Middle East to deter Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the U.S. force posture required to protect U.S. national interests and deter Iranian aggression in the Middle East.

Sense of Congress on support for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1245) that would express the sense of Congress on U.S. support for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, including support for their sovereignty, concern over aggressive military actions of the Russian Federation against these nations, and encouragement for further defense cooperation between the United States and these nations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Georgia are highly valued allies and friends of the United States that have repeatedly demonstrated commitment to advancing our mutual interests and those of NATO. The conferees reaffirm United States support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity along internationally recognized borders of these nations and express concern over increasingly aggressive military maneuvering by Russia near or within their borders or airspace. The conferees also emphasize their support for the U.S. policy of not recognizing the Russia-occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states. Additionally, the conferees encourage the Administration to further enhance defensive security cooperation with these valued security allies and partners and support the efforts of their respective governments to provide for the defense of their people and sovereign territory.

Sense of Congress on support for Georgia

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1246) that would express the sense of Congress on U.S. support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as support for continued cooperation between the United States and Georgia.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the continued support for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Membership Action Plan for Georgia is included in another provision of this Act and concerns regarding Russian aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia appear elsewhere in this conference report.

Sense of Congress recognizing the 70th anniversary of the end of Allied military engagement in the Pacific theater

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1251) that would express the sense of the Congress to remember and honor those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for their country during the campaigns in the Pacific theater during the Second World War.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include this provision.

The conferees note that this provision is discussed elsewhere in this report.

Sense of Congress regarding consolidation of United States military facilities in Okinawa, Japan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1252) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the progress to fulfill the April 27, 2012 agreement of the United States-Japan Security Consultative Committee on the realignment of U.S. facilities in Okinawa, Japan.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the significant progress that has been made towards implementing the Okinawa Consolidation Plan, to include the approval of the landfill permit on December 27, 2013, which cleared the way for the construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility. The conferees encourage continued progress towards implementation of the "2+2 agreement," as restated in the April 27, 2015 Joint Statement, which is critical to the bilateral security interests of the United States and Japan.

Sense of Congress on the United States alliance with Japan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1254) that would express the sense of Congress on the U.S. alliance with Japan, including that the United States highly values the alliance with the Government of Japan, supports recent changes in Japanese defense policy and the new bilateral guidelines for U.S.-Japan defense cooperation, and reaffirms the U.S. commitment to the alliance.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the matters addressed in the House provision are addressed elsewhere in the conference agreement.

Sense of Congress on opportunities to enhance the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1255) that would express the sense of Congress on opportunities to deepen and broaden the scope of alliance cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Korea based on the alliance's role as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, Asia-Pacific region, and around the world.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the matters addressed in the House provision are addressed elsewhere in the conference agreement.

Requirement to invite the military forces of Taiwan to participate in RIMPAC exercises

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1257) requiring the Secretary of Defense to invite the military forces of Taiwan to participate in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise if the Secretary has invited the military forces of the People's Republic of China to participate in such maritime exercise.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the matters addressed in the House provision are addressed elsewhere in the conference agreement.

Sense of Congress reaffirming the importance of implementing the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1262) that would express the sense of Congress that the United States continue to implement the rebalance of U.S. forces to the Asia-Pacific region and that forces should be increased consistent with commitments already made by the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the matters addressed in the House provision are addressed elsewhere in the conference agreement.

Sense of Senate on Taiwan asymmetric military capabilities and bilateral training activities

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1263) that would express the sense

of the Senate on Taiwan's asymmetric military capabilities and bilateral training activities.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1264) that would encourage the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program of exchanges of senior military officers and senior officials between the United States and Taiwan to improve military to military relations between the United States and Taiwan.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1257) that would require the Secretary of Defense to invite the military forces of Taiwan to participate in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise if the Secretary has invited the military forces of the People's Republic of China.

The Senate amendment also contained a provision (sec. 1263) that would express the sense of the Senate on Taiwan's asymmetric military capabilities and bilateral training activities.

The conferees believe that the United States, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), should continue to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and services as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense. The United States should continue to support the efforts of Taiwan to integrate innovative and asymmetric capabilities to balance the growing military capabilities of the People's Republic of China, including fast-attack craft, coastal-defense cruise missiles, rapid-runway repair systems, offensive mines, and submarines optimized for defense of the Taiwan straits. With regards to training, the conferees believe the military forces of Taiwan should be permitted to participate in bilateral training activities hosted by the United States that increase credible deterrent capabilities of Taiwan, particularly those that emphasize the defense of Taiwan Island from missile attack, maritime blockade, and amphibious invasion by the People's Republic of China. Toward this end, the conferees believe that Taiwan should be encouraged to participate in exercises that include realistic air-to-air combat training, including the exercise conducted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, commonly referred to as "Red Flag."

The conferees recommend that the Secretary of Defense carry out a program of exchanges of military officers between the United States and Taiwan designed to improve military-to-military relations between the United States and Taiwan. The officer exchanges should include field-grade officers, particularly officers with combat and specialized experience, and general officers, who can provide support to Taiwan to develop and improve its joint warfighting capabilities.

The conferees also note that section 1259A of the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-291) includes the conferees recommendation on inviting Taiwan to the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief portions of multilateral exercises.

Military exchanges between senior officers and officials of the United States and Taiwan

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1264) authorizing the Department of Defense to conduct exchanges between senior military officers and senior officials focused on a variety of subjects between the United States and Taiwan designed to improve military-to-military relations between those two countries.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note the matters addressed in the House provision are addressed elsewhere in the conference agreement.

Efforts of the Department of Defense to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1268) that would express a series of findings and a statement of policy on preventing and responding to gender-based violence globally, and require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to certain congressional committees on the Department of Defense's implementation efforts of the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees believe that gender-based violence undermines the health, economic stability, and security of nations which, in turn, has an impact on United States interests. The committee notes that the United States Global Strategy on Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response requires the participation of the Department of Defense (DOD) in efforts to implement the strategy. The conferees encourage the continued efforts of the DOD in support of the United States Global Strategy on Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response.

Additionally, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, to provide to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, a report on efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally in support of the United States' strategy, including a description of the efforts of DOD in the Interagency Working Group to implement the international gender-based violence prevention and response strategy and an assessment of the human and financial resources necessary to fulfill the purpose and duties of such strategy.

Combating crime through intelligence capabilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1269) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to deploy assets, personnel, and resources to United States Southern Command to combat transnational criminal organizations by supplying sufficient intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that JIATF-S continues to contribute to United States Southern Command's detection and monitoring and countering-transnational organized crime mission. The conferees encourage the Department ensure Joint Interagency Task Force-South has sufficient assets, personnel, and resources to fulfill its mandate.

Sense of Congress on the defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1272) that would express the sense of Congress on the defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India based on both countries' common interests and commitments to stability, security, and democracy.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the matters addressed in the House provision are addressed elsewhere in the conference agreement.

Sense of Congress on evacuation of United States citizens and nationals from Yemen

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1273) that would express the sense of Congress that the President should exercise all available authorities as expeditiously as possible to evacuate United States citizens and nationals from Yemen.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees encourage the President to work with international partners, to the extent practicable, to protect non-combatants and assist in the evacuation of U.S. Citizens and nationals as well as the citizens and nationals of other states from Yemen.

Report on violence and cartel activity in Mexico

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1275) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on violence and cartel activity in Mexico and the impact of such on United States national security.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that ongoing violence associated with transnational organized crime poses a threat to the security interests of Mexico and the United States. The conferees recognize the shared commitment of the United States and Mexico to combat this threat and expect the Secretary of Defense to update periodically the Committees Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the Department's security cooperation activities with the Government of Mexico.

Report on actions to ensure Qatar is preventing terrorist leaders and financiers from operating in its country

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1276) that would express the sense of Congress that Qatar is an important partner in the region, has played a significant role in fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and that the United States should do everything in its power to encourage Qatar to crack down on terrorist leaders and financiers who are operating in its country. The provision would require that, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report on actions taken by the United States Government to ensure that Qatar is preventing terrorist leaders and financiers from operating in its country.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the President or appropriate department or agency head(s), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, a briefing on actions taken by the United States Government to urge the government of Qatar to ensure that it is working to ensure that no foreign terrorist organizations or their leaders are operating in Qatar.

United States support for Jordan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1277) that would express the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to support Jordan's military efforts to

counter violent extremism and enhance regional stability.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the authorization of reimbursable assistance to Jordan for border security elsewhere in this Act.

Report on United States efforts to combat Boko Haram and support regional allies and other partners

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1278) that would require, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to jointly submit a report on the assessment of the threat of Boko Haram to United States national security, as well as a description of U.S. efforts to combat Boko Haram.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State not later than 180 days after enactment to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the threat posed by Boko Haram to United States national security interests in Nigeria, the region, and homeland;

(2) A description of United States efforts to combat Boko Haram, including the authorities to carry out such efforts and the roles and missions of the Department of Defense and Department of State;

(3) A description of United States humanitarian support to civilian populations impacted by Boko Haram's activity;

(4) A description of United States activities to enhance the capacity of supported regional partners to investigate and prosecute human rights violations and promote respect for the rule of law;

(5) A description of military equipment, supplies, training, and other defense articles and services, including by type, quantity, and prioritization of such items, required to combat Boko Haram effectively and the gaps within regional allies to engage in the mission to combat Boko Haram;

(6) A description of military equipment, supplies, training, and other defense articles and services, including by type, quantity, and actual or estimated delivery date, that the United States Government has provided, is providing, and plans to provide to regional allies and other partners to combat Boko Haram as well as a description of associated plans to sustain United States provided equipment and capabilities; and

(7) A description of support received by the Nigerian military from other foreign governments.

The report required shall be, to the extent practicable, submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

Sense of Congress on United States support for Tunisia

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1279) that would express a sense of the Congress that it is a national security priority of the United States to support and cooperate with Tunisia by providing assistance to combat the growing terrorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provisions.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the importance of a secure and stable Tunisia to counter the threat

posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and other terrorist organizations in North Africa and encourages the provision of United States assistance to Tunisia.

TITLE XIII—COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION

Subtitle A—Funding Allocations

Specification of Cooperative Threat Reduction funds (sec. 1301)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1301) that would define Cooperative Threat Reduction programs and funds and make funds appropriated for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program available for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

The Senate amendment contained an almost identical provision, with a technical difference (sec. 1301).

The House recedes.

Funding allocations (sec. 1302)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1302) that would specify funding allocations for each program under the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1302).

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Military Programs

Working Capital Funds (sec. 1401)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1401) that would authorize the appropriations for the defense working capital and revolving funds at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1401).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

National Defense Sealift Fund (sec. 1402)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1402) that would authorize the appropriations for the National Defense Sealift Fund in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1402).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense (sec. 1403)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1403) that would authorize the appropriations for Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense, at levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1403).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-Wide (sec. 1404)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1404) that would authorize the appropriations for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-Wide, at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1404).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Defense Inspector General (sec. 1405)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1405) that would authorize the appropriations for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1405).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Defense Health Program (sec. 1406)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1406) that would authorize appropriations for the Defense Health Program activities at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1406).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund (sec. 1407)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1407) that would authorize appropriations for the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund activities at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would authorize to be appropriated sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017.

Subtitle B—National Defense Stockpile

Extension of date for completion of destruction of existing stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions (sec. 1411)

The House contained a provision to extend the completion date for the destruction of the existing stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2023.

The Senate contained no similar provision. The Senate recedes.

Subtitle C—Working Capital Funds

Limitation on cessation or suspension of distribution of funds from Department of Defense working capital funds (sec. 1421)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1421) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense or Secretary of any military department from furloughing any employee of the Department of Defense whose salary is funded by working capital funds with certain exceptions.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would specify that the Secretary of Defense may not cease funding current projects being completed by indirectly funded government employees of the Department of Defense who are paid out of working-capital funds. The conferees note that this provision shall not be construed to provide for the exclusion of any particular category of employees of the Department of Defense from furlough.

Working capital fund reserve account for petroleum market price fluctuations (sec. 1422)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1422) that would amend Section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, by including a market fluctuation account for the purchase of petroleum.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

Authority for transfer of funds to Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois (sec. 1431)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1431) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to transfer \$120.4 million to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for operations of the Cap-

tain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1411).

The Senate recedes.

Authorization of appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home (sec. 1432)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1432) that would authorize appropriations of \$64.3 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Home for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 1412).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Inspections of the Armed Forces Retirement Home by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1413) that would amend section 1518 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 418) to require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct an inspection of the Armed Forces Retirement Home not less than once every 3 years and to authorize the Inspector General to determine the scope of the inspection through a risk-based analysis of the operations of the home.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE XV—AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations
Purpose and treatment of certain authorizations of appropriations (sec. 1501)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1501) that would establish the purpose of this title and make authorization of appropriations available upon enactment of this Act for the Department of Defense, in addition to amounts otherwise authorized in this Act, to provide for additional costs due to overseas contingency operations and other additional funding requirements. The provision also includes clarification on the treatment of these funds.

The Senate bill contained a similar provision that would establish this title and make authorization of appropriations available upon enactment of this Act for the Department of Defense, in addition to amounts otherwise authorized in this Act.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that includes language from the Senate provision section 1003, stating if an act is enacted at a later date that would revise the discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2016, the amount authorized to be appropriated by section 1504 and no greater than the increase to the revised security category will be deemed as authorized to be appropriated by section 301.

Procurement (sec. 1502)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1502) that would authorize the additional appropriation for procurement activities at the levels identified in section 4102 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1503).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Research, development, test, and evaluation (sec. 1503)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1503) that would authorize the additional ap-

propriation for research, development, test, and evaluation activities at the levels identified in section 4202 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1504).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Operation and maintenance (sec. 1504)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1504) that would authorize additional appropriations for operation and maintenance programs at the levels identified in sections 4302 and 4303 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1505) that would authorize the additional appropriations for operation and maintenance activities at the levels identified in section 4302 of division D of this Act.

The Senate recedes with an amendment.

Military personnel (sec. 1505)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1505) that would authorize the additional appropriations for military personnel activities at the levels identified in section 4402 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1506).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Working capital funds (sec. 1506)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1506) that would authorize the additional appropriations for defense working capital and revolving funds at the levels identified in section 4502 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1507).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-Wide (sec. 1507)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1507) that would authorize the additional appropriations for the Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-Wide at the levels identified in section 4502 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1508).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Defense Inspector General (sec. 1508)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1508) that would authorize the additional appropriations for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense identified in section 4502 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1509).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Defense Health Program (sec. 1509)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1509) that would authorize the additional appropriations for the Defense Health Program activities identified in section 4502 of division D of this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1510).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Counterterrorism Partnership Fund (sec. 1510)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1511) that would authorize the additional appropriations for the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund at the levels identified in section 4502 of division D of this Act. Amounts authorized in this fund will be available for obligations for 2 fiscal years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle B—Financial Matters

Treatment as additional authorizations (sec. 1521)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1521) that would state that the amounts authorized to be appropriated in this title are in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated by this Act.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1521).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Special transfer authority (sec. 1522)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1522) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to transfer up to \$3.5 billion of additional war-related funding authorizations in this title among the accounts in this title.

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1522) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to transfer up to \$4.0 billion of additional war-related funding authorizations in this title among the accounts in this title.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle C—Limitations, Reports, and Other Matters

Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (sec. 1531)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1541) that would continue the existing limitation on the use of the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) for fiscal year 2016, would require \$50.0 million to be used for the recruitment and retention of women in the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF), and would require reporting on inventory of facilities and services that are lacking adequate resources for Afghan female service members and police, as well as a plan to address the short-comings of facilities and services.

The Senate amendment contained similar provisions (sec. 1209, 1531) that would require \$10.0 million of the ASFF be used for recruitment and retention of women in the ANSF.

The House recedes with an amendment that would continue the existing limitation on the use of ASFF for fiscal year 2016, and would require that of the funds available to the Department of Defense for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund for fiscal year 2016, the Secretary shall use not less than \$10.0 million, with the goal of using \$25.0 million, to support, to the extent practicable, the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls. This section also would require the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to report on a plan to promote the security of Afghan women.

Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund (sec. 1532)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1542) that would authorize various transfer authorities, reporting requirements, and other associated activities for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Defeat Fund during fiscal year 2016, and would modify the implementation requirements associated with the plan for consolidation and alignment of rapid acquisition organizations.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1532) that would authorize the Joint IED Defeat Fund and provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to investigate, develop and provide equipment, supplies, services, training, facilities, personnel, and funds to assist in the defeat of improvised explosive devices for operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and other operations or military missions designated by the Secretary.

The House recedes with an amendment that would prohibit the transition of the Joint IED Defeat Organization to a combat support agency, require the Secretary of Defense to provide a plan by January 31, 2016 for the activities, functions, and resources of Joint IED Defeat Organization to be fully and completely transitioned to an office under the authority, direction, and control of an executive agent by September 30, 2016. Additionally, if the full transition is not complete by September 30, 2016 none of the funds in the Joint IED Defeat Fund would be available to the Department of Defense after September 30, 2016.

The conferees urge the Secretary of Defense to provide information to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations for any activities conducted pursuant to subsection (b).

The conferees understand that as of March 11, 2015, the Deputy Secretary of Defense formally initiated the transition of the Joint IED Defeat Organization to a new combat support agency named the Joint Improvised-Threat Agency (JIDA) with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics as the component lead. The conferees have concerns regarding this current transition and believe a new strategy and implementation plan is required that would provide for a more streamlined approach to integrating the roles, missions, and activities of the JIDA into an existing military department, rather than establishing a new combat support agency within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This would create reduced overhead management costs while maintaining institutional core knowledge for counter defeat and detection capabilities for IEDs and other improvised threats. The intent of this required new transition so not to disrupt ongoing, near-term counter-IED activities in support of overseas contingency operations.

Availability of improvised explosive device defeat funds for training of foreign security forces to defeat improvised explosive devices (sec. 1533)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1533) that would authorize up to \$30.0 million of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund to provide training for foreign security forces to increase effectiveness in defeating improvised explosive devices. The provision would require training be provided only pursuant to other provisions of law.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment that would conform the provision to a related provision concerning the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization included elsewhere in this Act.

Comptroller General report on use of certain funds provided for Operation and Maintenance (sec. 1534)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1543) that would require the Comptroller General to submit a report specifying how funds for overseas contingency operations were ultimately used.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would limit the report to funds authorized in section 4303.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Statement of policy regarding European Reassurance Initiative

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1531) that would express a series of findings

highlighting continued aggression and intimidation by Russia against United States allies and partners in Europe, in particular, and include a statement of policy on efforts by the United States to continue and expand initiatives to reassure allies and partners and to deter aggression and intimidation by Russian, in order to enhance security and stability in the region.

The Senate amendment did not contain a similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees urge the Department of Defense to enhance efforts in Europe to reassure allies and partners and deter further aggression and intimidation by the Russian Government to enhance security and stability in the region through: (1) increased U.S. military presence, exercises, training, prepositioning of equipment and infrastructure; (2) increased emphasis on countering unconventional warfare methods in areas such as cyber warfare, information operations, and intelligence operations; and (3) increased security assistance to allies and partners in Europe.

TITLE XVI—STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, CYBER, AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Space Activities

Major force program and budget for national security space (sec. 1601)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1601) that would amend chapter 9 of title 10, U.S.C., to establish a unified major force program for national security space programs to prioritize national security space activities in accordance with the requirement of the Department of Defense and national security. Additionally, this section would require a report from the Secretary of Defense that assesses the budget from fiscal years 2017–20 that includes a comparison between the current budget and the previous year's budget, as well as the current future years defense program, and the previous one with specific budget line identification. The provision would also require a plan be provided to the congressional defense committees for carrying out the unified major force program for national security space programs within 180 days of the date of enactment.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the findings.

Principal advisor on space control (sec. 1602)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1602) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate an individual who is already a full time equivalent of the Department of Defense to serve as the Principal Space Control Advisor, who shall act as the principal advisor to the Secretary on space control activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the cross-functional team.

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees within 180 days on the roles and responsibilities for space control activities within the Department of Defense; efforts underway to streamline decision making and limit bureaucracy for space control within the Department; and a description of how the Space Security and Defense Program will be appropriately integrated and aligned in the space control activities.

Council on Oversight of the Department of Defense Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Enterprise (sec. 1603)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1610) that would establish a council to review and be responsible for the Department of Defense positioning, navigation, and timing enterprise, including positioning, navigation, and timing services provided to civil, commercial, scientific and international users. This council would terminate 10 years after the date of enactment.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would add the Secretaries of the military departments as ex officio members of the council.

Modification to development of space science and technology strategy (sec. 1604)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1602) that would modify and streamline section 2271 of title 10, U.S.C., by removing specific direction on elements of the strategy, coordination, and reporting requirements to Congress.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Delegation of authority regarding purchase of Global Positioning System user equipment (sec. 1605)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1605) that would modify section 913 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) by limiting the delegation of waiver authority to a level no lower than the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would add the secretaries of the military departments to the waiver authority delegation limitation.

Rocket propulsion system development program (sec. 1606)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1603) that would amend section 1604 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by inserting a section on streamlined acquisition; a clarification that, of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the rocket propulsion system required by section 1604 of Public Law 113-291, the Secretary of Defense would be permitted to obligate or expend such funds only for the development of such rocket propulsion system, and the necessary interfaces to the launch vehicle, to replace non-allied space launch engines by 2019 as required by such section; and a requirement for the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on the streamlined acquisition approach, requirements, and acquisition strategy.

The Senate amendment also contained a provision (sec. 1606) that would amend section 1604 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) to include a plan for the development and fielding of a full-up engine.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would limit the availability of funds only for the development of a rocket propulsion system and the necessary interfaces to, or integration of, the launch vehicle, to replace non-allied space launch engines by 2019 as required by section 1604 of the Carl Levin

and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The amendment would specify that funds may be used for the integration of a rocket propulsion system on a new or existing launch vehicle. Funds may not be used to develop or procure a new launch vehicle or infrastructure.

The agreement would also direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide the congressional defense committees a briefing no later than 90 days from the date of enactment on a plan for the development and fielding of a full-up rocket propulsion system.

Exception to the prohibition on contracting with Russian suppliers of rocket engines for the evolved expendable launch vehicle program (sec. 1607)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1604) that would amend section 1608 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3626; 10 U.S.C. 2271 note).

The Senate amendment also contained a provision (sec. 1603) that would amend section 1608 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3626; 10 U.S.C. 2271 note).

The House recedes with an amendment that would amend section 1608 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ‘Buck’ McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by modifying the exception to the prohibition. The amendment would except contracts awarded for the procurement of property or services for space launch activities that includes the use of not more than a total of five rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation that prior to February 1, 2014, were either fully paid for by the contractor or covered by a legally binding commitment of the contractor to fully pay for such rocket engines. The amendment would also add an additional exception which would allow contracts, not covered under the other exceptions, that are awarded for the procurement of property or services for space launch activities that include the use of not more than a total of four additional rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation. Therefore, the agreement allows for a total of nine Russian rocket engines, aside from the waiver authority and the existing contract number FA8811-13-C-0003 awarded on December 18, 2013. Of those nine engines, not more than four additional rocket engines can be procured from the Russian Federation as five of the nine allowed under the (c)(1)(B) exception would have already been fully paid for as of February 1, 2014.

The existing exception on the placement of orders or the exercise of options under the contract number FA8811-13-C-0003 and awarded on December 18, 2013 and the existing waiver remain unchanged and unaffected.

The conferees believe that the continued reliance on Russian rocket engines represents a significant risk to our national security and that their use should be minimized to the greatest extent practicable while maintaining assured access to space and competition.

Consistent with the limitations established by this provision, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, to evaluate options for an executable backup plan for assured access to space that main-

tains competition as feasible. The conferees expect the report to consider options in the event of a national emergency including using a Delta launch vehicle, relying on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s launch capability, acquiring or leveraging space launch services provided by international partners consistent with the National Space Transportation Policy, or any other options that the Secretary deems feasible. The report shall include identification of requirements, feasibility, costs, infrastructure, security, timelines, required authorities and risks and benefits associated with each option considered. The Secretary shall submit the results in the form of a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees no later than April 15, 2016.

Acquisition strategy for evolved expendable launch vehicle program (sec. 1608)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1606) that would express the sense of Congress concerning the need for an updated, phased acquisition strategy and contracting plan for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) program and that the acquisition strategy and contracting plan should eliminate the currently structured EELV launch capability (ELC) arrangement after the current contractual obligations, among other statements. The provision would require the Secretary of the Air Force to discontinue the current ELC arrangement by the latter of either the date on which the Secretary determines that the obligations of the contracts relating to such arrangement have been met, or by December 31, 2020. The provision would also require the Secretary to apply consistent and appropriate standards to certified EELV providers with respect to certified cost and pricing data, and audits, in accordance with section 2306a of title 10, United States Code; would require the Secretary to develop and carry out a 10-year acquisition strategy for the EELV program, in accordance with section 2273 of title 10, United States Code, and other elements of the provision; would require any contract for launch services to account for the value of the ELC arrangement per contract line item numbers in the bid price of the offeror as appropriate per launch; and would require a report on the acquisition strategy.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1604) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from awarding a contract, renewing a contract, or maintaining a separate contract line item for the procurement of property or services for space launch capabilities under the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) program. The provision would allow for the Secretary to waive the requirement if the Secretary determines that: (1) awarding or renewing, or maintaining a separate contract line item for launch capabilities is necessary for the national security interests of the United States and the contract or contract line item does not support space launch activities using rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation; and (2) failing to award or renew such a contract or maintain such a contract line item would have significant consequences to national security and result in the significant loss of life or property or economic harm. The provision would not apply to the placement of orders or the exercise of options under the contract numbered FA8811-13-C-003 and awarded on December 18, 2013. That exception would expire on September 30, 2019.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would strike the sense of Congress language; revise the date for discontinuing the

current ELC arrangement to not later than December 31, 2019 for existing contracts using rocket engines designed or manufactured in the Russian Federation and not later than December 31, 2020 for existing contracts using domestic rocket engines; and clarify language concerning the acquisition strategy required.

Allocation of funding for evolved expendable launch vehicle program (sec. 1609)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1605) that would realign the cost share of the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) Launch Capabilities (ELC) between the Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). The provision would require, for fiscal years 2017, 2018, or 2019, that the Air Force request for ELC funding bear the same ratio to the total number of Air Force cores to be procured under the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Launch Services (ELS).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit a certification with the budgets for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 that the cost share between the Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office for the evolved expendable launch vehicle launch capability program equitably reflects the appropriate allocation of funding for the Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office, respectively, based on the launch schedule and national mission forecast. The amendment would also require sufficient rationale to justify such cost share.

Procurement of wideband satellite communications (sec. 1610)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1607) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate a senior Department of Defense official to procure wideband satellite communications, both military and commercial, to meet the requirements of the Department. Additionally, this section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees, a plan to meet the requirements of the Department for satellite communications, including identification of roles and responsibilities, no later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1609) that would require the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Space to submit by January 31, 2016 a plan to the congressional defense committees for consolidating the acquisition of commercial satellite communications (COMSATCOM) services from across the Department of Defense into a program office in the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center. The plan would require consolidation to take place within a 3-year period. It would also require an assessment of the current management and overhead costs, a projection of the consolidated management and overhead costs, and an estimate of the cost of consolidation. The provision would require the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation to review and validate each of the estimates.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a plan for the consolidation of the acquisition of wideband satellite communications. The amendment would require the Secretary to identify and designate a single acquisition agent and implementation of the consolidation plan. The amendment would

also allow the Secretary to forgo implementation if the Secretary determines that the implementation will require significant additional funding or is not in the interests of national security.

Analysis of alternatives for wide-band communications (sec. 1611)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1611) that would require an analysis of alternatives for the replacement of the Wideband Global Satellite System with a report due to the congressional defense committees by March 31, 2017. The analysis required shall take into account future bandwidth of space, air, and ground communications systems.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Modification of pilot program for acquisition of commercial satellite communication services (sec. 1612)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1609) that would modify an existing pilot program for acquisition of commercial satellite communications services by removing the requirement to use the working capital fund and authorize multiple methods or pathfinder efforts to be used within the pilot program. Additionally, the Secretary would have to establish metrics to track the progress of meeting the objectives of the program and provide annual briefings on the progress of the pilot program, concurrent with the submission of the budget request in each year from fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1612) that would direct the Department of Defense to seek to achieve order-of-magnitude improvements in communications capability as a goal of pilot programs for commercial satellite communications.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct the pilot program, remove the requirement to use the working capital fund for the pilot program and authorize multiple methods or pathfinder efforts to be used within the pilot program. The amendment would also direct the Department to seek to achieve order-of-magnitude improvements in communications capability as a goal of pilot programs for commercial satellite communications. The conferees believe that Department of Defense should use this program to explore new and innovative ways to acquire commercial satellite communications for the benefit of the warfighter and the taxpayers. This should include new activities to meet the goals established in the pilot program while also leveraging the Department's pathfinder efforts.

Integrated policy to deter adversaries in space (sec. 1613)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1614) that would state a sense of Congress regarding space defense, as outlined in the National Space Policy of 2010.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1601) that would require the President to establish an interagency process to develop a policy to deter adversaries in space. This integrated deterrence policy would be developed with the objectives of (1) reducing risks to the United States and its allies in space; and (2) protecting and preserving the rights, access, capabilities, use, and freedom of action of the United States in space and the right of the United States to respond to an attack in space and, if necessary, deny adversaries the

use of space capabilities hostile to the national interests of the United States. The provision would require the President to provide a report setting forth the deterrence policy and the answers to Enclosure 1, regarding offensive space control policy, of the classified annex to this Act, to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives within 180 days of the date of enactment. If the report required and the answers to Enclosure 1 are not provided within 180 days of the date of enactment, the provision would prohibit, until provided, the obligation or expenditure of \$10.0 million of the amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 to provide support services to the Executive Office of the President.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Prohibition on reliance on China and Russia for space-based weather data (sec. 1614)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1610) that would prohibit reliance on space-based weather data from the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation, and would require the Secretary of Defense to certify that the Department of Defense does not rely on, or in the future does not plan to rely on, space-based weather data for national security purposes, that is provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Russian Federation, or an entity owned or controlled by the Government of China or the Government of Russia.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Limitation on availability of funds for weather satellite follow-on system (sec. 1615)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1608) that would limit any funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the weather satellite follow-on system until the Secretary of Defense provides a briefing to the congressional defense committees on a plan to address the requirements of the Department of Defense for cloud characterization and theater weather imagery, and that such plan will not negatively affect the commanders of the combatant commands and will meet the requirements of the Department for cloud characterization and theater weather imagery.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would change the limitation of funds from a full limitation to a limitation on half of the funds.

The conferees are aware and supportive of the efforts to reassess the appropriate portions of the analysis of alternatives (AoA) for space-based environmental monitoring in consideration of the changes that have occurred since the original AoA that was completed.

Limitations on availability of funds for the Defense Meteorological Satellite program (sec. 1616)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1607) that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated in fiscal year 2016 and any unobligated funds made available for appropriation in fiscal year 2015 for the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) or the launch of Defense Meteorological Satellite Program satellite #20

(DMSP-20) until the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly certify to the congressional defense committees that: (1) relying on civil and international contributions to meet space-based environmental monitoring requirements is insufficient or is a risk to national security and launching DMSP-20 will meet those requirements; (2) launching DMSP-20 is the most affordable solution to meeting requirements validated by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council; and (3) nonmaterial solutions within the Department of Defense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), or National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are incapable of providing a solution for cloud characterization and theater weather requirements as validated by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that reduces the fence in fiscal year 2015 to half of any unobligated funds made available for appropriation and clarifies the elements of the certification.

Streamline commercial space launch activities (sec. 1617)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1613) that would direct the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the commercial space sector, and the heads of other executive agencies as appropriate to report annually on actions taken to remove duplication and minimize inconsistencies across the federal government for commercial space launch requirements and approval. The report shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment that would add the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as a recipient of the required reports. The conferees note the importance of efforts to eliminate duplicative requirements and approvals to streamline commercial space launch activities.

Plan on full integration and exploitation of overhead persistent infrared capability (sec. 1618)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1612) that would require the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for the integration of overhead persistent infrared (OPIR) capabilities to support specified mission capabilities of the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Options for rapid space reconstitution (sec. 1619)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1613) that would state the sense of Congress regarding rapid reconstitution of critical space capabilities. It would also direct the Secretary of Defense to evaluate options for the use of current assets of the Department of Defense for the purpose of rapid reconstitution of critical space-based warfighter enabling capabilities and provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees not later than March 31, 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would strike the sense of Congress.

Evaluation of exploitation of space-based infrared system against additional threats (sec. 1620)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1611) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Director of National Intelligence, to conduct an evaluation of the Space-based Infrared System to detect, track, and target, or develop the capability to do the detect, track and target, against the full-range of threats to the United States, deployed members of the Armed Forces, and the allies of the United States, and provide the results of such evaluation to the congressional defense committees not later than December 31, 2016.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment replacing the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics with the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and adding the Commander, U.S. Northern Command.

The conferees note that the classified annex accompanying the House bill includes further discussion related to this section.

Quarterly reports on Global Positioning System III space segment, Global Positioning System operational control segment, and Military Global Positioning System user equipment acquisition programs (sec. 1621)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1608) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to provide quarterly reports to the Comptroller General of the United States on the Global Positioning System III (GPS III) space segment, the Global Positioning System Operational Control Segment (GPS OCS), and the Military Global Positioning System User Equipment (MGUE) acquisition programs. The reporting requirement would sunset on the date at which GPS III, GPS OCS, and MGUE reach their full operational capabilities.

The House bill contained no similar amendment.

The House recedes with an amendment that would add a requirement to provide supporting documents and modify the date of termination of the reporting requirement from full operational capability to initial operational capability.

Sense of Congress on missile defense sensors in space (sec. 1622)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1615) that would express the sense of Congress that a robust multi-mission space sensor network will be vital to ensuring a strong missile defense system.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would strike the findings.

Subtitle B—Defense Intelligence and Intelligence-Related Activities

Executive agent for open-source intelligence tools (sec. 1631)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1621) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate a senior official of the Department of Defense to serve as the executive agent for the Department for open-source intelligence tools.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Waiver and congressional notification requirements related to facilities for intelligence collection or for special operations abroad (sec. 1632)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1622) that would modify section 2682(c) of title 10, United States Code, regarding facilities for intelligence collection and for special operations abroad to include a notification requirement for the Secretary of Defense to specified congressional committees and sunset the waiver authority of the Secretary of Defense on December 31, 2017.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Prohibition on National Intelligence Program consolidation (sec. 1633)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1623) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from using any of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2016, to execute: the separation of the portion of the Department of Defense budget designated as part of the National Intelligence Program from the rest of the Department of Defense budget; the consolidation of the portion of the Department of Defense budget designated as part of the National Intelligence Program within the Department of Defense budget; or the establishment of a new appropriations account or appropriations account structure for such funds.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Limitation on availability of funds for Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (sec. 1634)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1626) that would prohibit the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSD(I)) until the Secretary of Defense establishes the policy required by section 922 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66). Section 922 required the Secretary to develop a written policy by June 24, 2014, governing the internal coordination and prioritization of intelligence priorities of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the combatant commands, and the military departments to improve identification of the intelligence needs of the Department of Defense.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Department of Defense intelligence needs (sec. 1635)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1628) that would require the Director of National Intelligence to provide a report to the congressional defense committees and the congressional intelligence committees on how the Director ensures that the National Intelligence Program budgets for the elements of the Intelligence Community that are within the Department of Defense are adequate to satisfy the national intelligence needs of the Department, as required by section 102A(p) of the National Security Act of

1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(p)). The report would specifically include a description of how the Director incorporates the needs of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of the unified and specified commands into the metrics used to evaluate the performance of the elements of the Intelligence Community that are within the Department of Defense in conducting intelligence activities funded under the National Intelligence Program.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Report on management of certain programs of Defense intelligence elements (sec. 1636)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1629) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence to review the Science and Technology Research and Foreign Material Exploitation work being conducted by the intelligence elements of the Department of Defense and recommend any changes and realignment of organizations that should take place.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees continue to have concerns about the activities of the Intelligence Systems Support Office which was transferred from the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence to the Air Force in fiscal year 2015 and believes that there are significant synergies and potential savings to be gained through consolidation of these activities with other intelligence elements of the Department of Defense. The committees are also concerned about the Foreign Material Exploitation activities which were transferred in fiscal year 2015 as well and believe that these elements could also be consolidated with organizations elsewhere in the Defense Intelligence Enterprise.

Report on Air National Guard contributions to the RQ-4 Global Hawk mission (sec. 1637)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1621) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report to Congress on the feasibility of using the Air National Guard in association with the Active-Duty Air Force to operate and maintain the RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Government Accountability Office review of intelligence input to the defense acquisition process (sec. 1638)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1630) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a comprehensive review of the processes and procedures for the integration of intelligence into the Department of Defense acquisition process. The review would include the integration of intelligence on foreign capabilities into the acquisition process from initial requirement through deployment, including staffing and training of intelligence personnel assigned to the program offices, as well as the procedures for identifying opportunities for weapon systems to collect intelligence, and accounting for the support requirements the weapon systems will place on the Defense Intelligence Enterprise once fielded.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees believe it is important to ensure that the Department is taking into consideration both intelligence assessments of potential adversaries, as well as the exquisite intelligence required to make new weapon systems work to their fullest potential.

Subtitle C—Cyberspace-Related Matters

Codification and addition of liability protections relating to reporting on cyber incidents or penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors (sec. 1641)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1641) that would amend section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) as a new section 393 of title 10, United States Code, and also amend section 391 of such title, to provide for liability protection for covered contractors reporting cyber incidents to the Department of Defense through these two statutorily required mechanisms.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Authorization of military cyber operations (sec. 1642)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1631) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to develop, prepare, coordinate, and (when authorized by the President to do so) to conduct a military cyber operation in response to malicious cyber activity carried out against the United States or a United States person by a foreign power (as defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801)).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify that the authority to conduct cyber operations shall be exercised when appropriately authorized.

The conferees note that nothing in this provision shall be construed to limit existing presidential or congressional power to authorize action.

Limitation on availability of funds pending the submittal of integrated policy to deter adversaries in cyberspace (sec. 1643)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1633) that would prohibit the obligation or expenditure of \$10.0 million of the unobligated balance of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense to provide support services to the Executive Office of the President, until the President submits to the congressional defense committees the integrated policy to deter adversaries in cyberspace required by section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

The conferees note that section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (127 Stat. 837; Public Law 113-66), required the President to establish an interagency process to provide for the development of an integrated policy to deter adversaries in cyberspace. The provision required the President, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment, which occurred on December 26, 2013, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth that integrated policy to deter adversaries in cyberspace. The report required has not been provided. The conferees believe that an integrated policy to deter adver-

saries in cyberspace is essential to ensuring the national security of the United States and countering the cyber threats posed by our adversaries. The conferees remain concerned that the failure to establish a well-articulated strategy for deterring potential adversaries from conducting cyber attacks, emboldens our adversaries and increases the likelihood of cyber attacks in the near future.

Authorization for procurement of relocatable Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (sec. 1644)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1634) that would authorize \$10.6 million of the unobligated amounts made available in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for the Army for the procurement of a relocatable Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) for the Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Designation of military department entity responsible for acquisition of critical cyber capabilities (sec. 1645)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1631) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to designate within 90 days of the date of enactment an entity of the Department of Defense (DOD) to be responsible for the acquisition of critical cyber capabilities to include: (1) the unified platform, (2) a persistent cyber training environment, and (3) a cyber situational awareness and battle management system.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would clarify that the Secretary of Defense shall designate an entity within a military department to be responsible for the critical cyber capabilities identified in the provision.

Assessment of capabilities of United States Cyber Command to defend the United States from cyber attack (sec. 1646)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1636) that would require the Principal Cyber Advisor (PCA) to sponsor an independent panel to assess the ability of the National Mission Forces of the U.S. Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) to reliably prevent or block large-scale attacks on the United States by foreign powers with capabilities comparable to those of countries like China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia in the 2020 and 2025 timeframes.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would remove the requirement for an independent assessment.

Evaluation of cyber vulnerabilities of major weapon systems of the Department of Defense (sec. 1647)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1635) that would require the Secretary of Defense to evaluate the cyber vulnerabilities of every major Department of Defense weapons system by not later than December 31, 2019.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the updates to the congressional defense committees on activities undertaken in the evaluation of major weapon systems occur as part of the quarterly cyber operations briefings required under section 484 of title 10, United States Code.

Comprehensive plan and biennial exercises on responding to cyber attacks (sec. 1648)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1637) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct national-level cyber exercises not less frequently than once every 2 years for a period of 6 years. In preparing and executing these exercises, the Secretary would be required to coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the FBI, and the heads of the critical infrastructure sector-specific agencies designated under Presidential Policy Directive 21. The Secretary also would be required to consult with governors of the States and the owners and operators of critical infrastructure. The exercises would be based on scenarios in which critical infrastructure is attacked through cyberspace and the President directs the Secretary to defend the Nation and to provide support to civil authorities in responding and recovering from the attacks.

The Senate amendment also contained a provision (sec. 1638) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive plan for the United States Cyber Command to support civil authorities in responding to cyber attacks by foreign powers against the United States or a United States person.

The House bill contained no similar provisions.

The House recedes with an amendment that would combine both Senate provisions.

In carrying out the requirements of this section concerning national-level cyber exercises, the conferees encourage the Department to coordinate activities with the Secretary of Homeland Security, consistent with section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 149), to the maximum extent practicable. The conferees believe such exercises should include opportunities to address the full spectrum of cyber defense and mitigation capabilities available to the Federal Government, and when appropriate should leverage existing National Cyber Exercise programs, such as the Department of Homeland Security Biennial Cyber Storm Program.

Sense of Congress on reviewing and considering findings and recommendations of Council of Governors on cyber capabilities of the Armed Forces (sec. 1649)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1639) that would express that it is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should review and consider any findings and recommendations of the Council of Governors pertaining to cyber mission force requirements and any proposed reductions in and synchronization of the cyber capabilities of active or reserve components of the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Subtitle D—Nuclear Forces

Assessment of threats to national leadership command, control, and communications system (sec. 1651)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1652) that would require the Council on Oversight of the National Leadership Command, Control, and Communications System to collect and assess all reports and assessments conducted by the Intelligence Community regarding foreign threats, including cyber threats, to the command, control, and communications system for the national leader-

ship of the United States and the vulnerabilities of such system to the threats.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Organization of nuclear deterrence functions of the Air Force (sec. 1652)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1651) that would require that, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force shall be responsible for overseeing the safety, security, effectiveness, and credibility of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force. This section would also require that, by March 1, 2016, the Chief of Staff designate a Deputy Chief of Staff to carry out the following duties: (1) provide direction, guidance, integration, and advocacy regarding the nuclear deterrence mission; (2) conduct monitoring and oversight activities regarding the safety, security, reliability, effectiveness, and credibility of the nuclear deterrence mission; and (3) conduct periodic comprehensive assessments of all aspects of the nuclear deterrence mission and provide such assessments to the Secretary and the Chief of Staff. This section would also require that, by March 30, 2016, the Secretary shall consolidate, to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, under a major command commanded by a single general officer, the responsibility, authority, accountability, and resources for carrying out the nuclear deterrence mission. The major command would be made responsible, to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, for carrying out all elements and activities related to nuclear deterrence, including nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon delivery systems, and the nuclear command, control, and communication system. The activities would include planning and execution of modernization programs; procurement and acquisition; research, development, test, and evaluation; sustainment; operations; training; safety and security; research, education, and applied science relating to nuclear deterrence and assurance; and such other functions of the nuclear deterrence mission as the Secretary determines appropriate.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1641) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to designate a senior acquisition official responsible for ensuring the procurement and integration of Air Force Nuclear, Command and Control (NC3) Systems.

The House recedes with an amendment that would retain the requirement that the Chief of Staff of the Air Force be responsible for overseeing the safety, security, effectiveness, and credibility of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force as well as requiring the designation of a Deputy Chief of Staff to carry out the duties as listed in section 1651 of the House bill. The amendment contains a sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Air Force should consolidate, to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, under a major command commanded by a single general officer the responsibility, authority, accountability, and resources for carrying out all aspects of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Air Force and that this should be memorialized through a series of enduring directives and orders. The amendment further requires the Secretary of the Air Force to submit to the congressional defense committees a report no later than February 28, 2016 on what actions have been taken or are planned to reorganize, streamline, and clarify responsibilities, authorities, accountability, and re-

sources within the Air Force for the nuclear deterrence mission. This report must include what guidance, directives, and orders have been or will be issued to institutionalize these changes.

Procurement authority for certain parts of intercontinental ballistic missile fuzes (sec. 1653)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1653) that would authorize \$13.7 million of the funds made available by this Act for Missile Procurement, Air Force, for the procurement of certain commercially available parts for intercontinental ballistic missile fuzes, notwithstanding section 1502(a) of title 31, United States Code, under contracts entered into under section 1645(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1645).

The Senate recedes.

Prohibition on availability of funds for de-alerting intercontinental ballistic missiles (sec. 1654)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1657) that included a sense of Congress on the responsiveness and alert levels of intercontinental ballistic missiles and would prohibit authorized funds for reducing, or preparing to reduce, the responsiveness or alert level of United States intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would strike the sense of Congress and include a clarification that the prohibition does not apply to reductions carried out to comply with the New START treaty as long as such reductions are in compliance with Section 1644 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Assessment of global nuclear environment (sec. 1655)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1643) that would direct the Department of Defense Director of Net Assessment, in coordination with the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, to conduct an assessment of the global security environment with respect to nuclear weapons and the role of United States nuclear forces, policy, and strategy in that environment. Not later than November 15, 2016, the Director of Net Assessment shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on its findings. The assessment should include experts outside the Department of Defense with particular emphasis on those individuals and independent institutions with demonstrated expertise in strategy and net assessment methodology.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would strike the findings and adjust the time period covered by the assessment to be 10 to 20 years.

Annual briefing on the costs of forward deploying nuclear weapons in Europe (sec. 1656)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1654) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on specific costs related to forward-deploying nuclear weapons in Europe no later than 30 days after the President submits to Congress the budget for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Report on the number of planned long-range standoff weapons (sec. 1657)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1659) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress on the justification of the number of planned nuclear-armed cruise missiles, known as the Long Range Standoff Weapon, to the U.S. arsenal.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Review of Comptroller General of the United States on recommendations relating to nuclear enterprise of the Department of Defense (sec. 1658)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1642) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to review the Department of Defense's process for addressing the recommendations of the Nuclear Enterprise Review and the Nuclear Deterrence Enterprise Review Group.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would strike the requirement for a report and substitute a requirement for a briefing to the congressional defense committees.

Sense of Congress on organization of Navy for nuclear deterrence mission (sec. 1659)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1656) that would express the sense of Congress that the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the nuclear deterrent of the United States is a vital national security priority and that nuclear weapons require special consideration because of the political and military importance of the weapons. This provision also expresses that the Navy has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to and prioritization of the nuclear deterrence mission of the Navy and has put an emphasis on ensuring its nuclear weapons are safe, secure, reliable, and credible both ashore and at sea.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Sense of Congress on the nuclear force improvement program of the Air Force (sec. 1660)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1647) that would express the sense of the Senate that the Air Force should regularly inform Congress on the progress being made under the nuclear force improvement program and its efforts to strengthen the nuclear enterprise and make Congress aware of any additional actions that should be taken to optimize performance of the nuclear mission of the Air Force and maximize the strength of the United States strategic deterrent.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would change the sense of the Senate to a sense of the Congress and make technical and clarifying changes.

Senses of Congress on importance of cooperation and collaboration between United States and United Kingdom on nuclear issues and on 60th anniversary of strategic systems programs (sec. 1661)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1655) that would express the sense of Congress that co-operation and collaboration under the 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement and the 1963 Polaris Sales Agreement are fundamental elements of the security of the United States and the United Kingdom, as

well as international stability. Additionally, the recent renewal of these agreements are critical to sustaining and enhancing the capabilities and knowledge base of both countries regarding nuclear deterrence, nuclear nonproliferation and counterproliferation, and naval nuclear propulsion.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would add a sense of Congress commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile Program.

Sense of Congress on plan for implementation of nuclear enterprise reviews (sec. 1662)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1658) that would express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should submit to Congress a plan on how the Secretary plans to implement the full recommendations of the two nuclear enterprise reviews.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Sense of Congress and report on milestone A decision on long-range standoff weapon (sec. 1663)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1644) that would require the Secretary of Defense to make a Milestone A decision on the Long-Range Standoff Weapon no later than May 31, 2016.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would transform the provision into a Sense of Congress with a reporting requirement.

Sense of Congress on policy on the nuclear triad (sec. 1664)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1646) that would express the sense of Congress that retaining all three legs of the nuclear triad is the highest priority mission of the Department of Defense and will best maintain strategic stability at a reasonable cost, while hedging against potential technical problems and vulnerabilities. The provision states that it is the policy of the United States to sustain and modernize or replace the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems and that it is the policy of the United States to operate, sustain, and modernize or replace a capability to forward-deploy nuclear weapons and dual capable fighter-bomber aircraft.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Report relating to the costs associated with extending the life of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (sec. 1665)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1679) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit to Congress a report examining the costs associated with extending the life of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile compared to the costs associated with procuring a new ground-based strategic deterrent.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment changing the submission of the report from "Congress" to "congressional defense committees."

Subtitle E—Missile Defense Programs and Other Matters

Prohibitions on providing certain missile defense information to Russian Federation (sec. 1671)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1661) that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense to provide the Russian Federation with "hit-to-kill" technology and telemetry data for missile defense interceptors or target vehicles and information relating to the velocity at burnout of missile defense interceptors or targets of the United States. This provision would also provide the President with a single use waiver to provide Russia with information regarding ballistic missile early warning in the event the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, and the Commander of U.S. European Command jointly certify to the President and the congressional defense committees that the provision of such information is required because of a failure of the early warning system of Russia. The provision would allow the prohibitions to expire on January 1, 2031.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1659) that would amend Section 1246(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 923), as amended by Section 1243(2)(A) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3564) to extend the limitation on providing certain sensitive missile defense information to the Russian Federation through fiscal year 2017.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that removes the President's single use waiver, clarifies that the provision does not prohibit the United States from providing early warning data to the Russian Federation, and allows the provision to expire on January 1, 2017.

Prohibition on integration of missile defense systems of Russian Federation into missile defense systems of United States (sec. 1672)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1663) that would prohibit the use of any authorized funds by this Act for fiscal years 2016 through 2031 for the Department of Defense or for the contributions of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to integrate a missile defense system of the Russian Federation into any missile defense system of the United States or NATO.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would prohibit the use of funds authorized for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for the Department of Defense to integrate a missile defense system of the Russian Federation into any missile defense system of the United States.

Prohibition on integration of missile defense systems of China into missile defense systems of United States (sec. 1673)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1662) that would prohibit any authorized funds by this Act for fiscal year 2016 to be obligated or expended for the integration of a missile defense system of the People's Republic of China into any missile defense system of the United States.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Limitations on availability of funds for Patriot lower tier air and missile defense capability of the Army (sec. 1674)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1665) that would provide that none of the funds authorized to be appropriated for programs related to the Patriot lower tier air and missile defense capability that depend specifically on the results of the analysis of alternatives (AOA) regarding the Patriot lower tier air and missile defense capability of the Army, may be obligated or expended until the results of the AOA are submitted to the congressional defense committees.

This section would also provide that the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics could waive the application of the limitation in this section if the Under Secretary determines that it is necessary to prevent an unacceptable risk to mission performance of the Patriot system and notifies the congressional defense committees of the decision to use such waiver authority.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would reduce the limitation to 30 days after the submission of the AOA to the congressional defense committees.

The committees understand that the AOA will be completed by August 2015, prior to the beginning of fiscal year 2016. The committees do not intend to limit funding for programs or technology that could support Patriot modernization regardless of the options chosen based on the AOA. The committees believe a modernized Patriot capability is vital to a robust air and missile defense capability of the Army, and that such capability is further required for the protection of deployed U.S. Armed Forces and allied forces. The committees are committed to the modernization of Patriot and, elsewhere in this Act, recommend full funding of the budget request for these activities.

Integration and interoperability of air and missile defense capabilities of the United States (sec. 1675)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1666) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to ensure the interoperability and integration of certain U.S. air and missile defense systems. Additionally, it would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency and the Secretary of the Army to conduct at least one intercept or flight test per year that demonstrates interoperability and integration among the covered air and missile defense capabilities, and would provide waiver authority.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Integration and interoperability of allied missile defense capabilities (sec. 1676)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1667) that would require the Commander of U.S. European Command, the Commander of U.S. Central Command, and the Commander of U.S. Pacific Command to submit to the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff an assessment of the opportunities for integration and interoperability of air and missile defense capabilities of the United States with those capabilities of allies of the United States, including carrying out the planning, risk assessments, policy development and concept of operations development necessary to assure the integration and

interoperability of U.S. and allied air and missile defense capabilities by December 31, 2017.

The Senate amendment contained no similar amendment.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would include interoperability in the title and that would make it clear that such integration and interoperability should be ensured to the extent that specific integration arrangements are agreeable to the partner nation or among the partner nations involved in those arrangements.

Missile defense capability in Europe (sec. 1677)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1668) that would ensure the Aegis Ashore site to be deployed in the Republic of Poland has anti-air warfare (AAW) capability upon the site achieving full operating capability. It would also require that the Aegis Ashore site in Romania be retrofitted with AAW capability no later than December 31, 2018. It would also require the Secretary to evaluate the feasibility, benefit, and cost of using the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile or the Standard Missile-2 in providing the anti-air warfare capability. Additionally, it would require the Secretary of Defense to study no less than three sites in the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) area of responsibility for the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery; ensure that the THAAD battery is available for rotational deployment to the EUCOM area of responsibility; and to examine sites to pre-position such THAAD battery if such pre-position is necessary for military requirements.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1653) that would express the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the relevant combatant command, should ensure that arrangements are in place, including support from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, to provide anti-air defense capability at all NATO missile defense sites in support of phases 2 and 3 of the European Phased Adaptive Approach. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the plan of the Secretary to provide anti-air defense capability at the sites and the contributions being made by NATO to support the provision of the anti-air defense capability.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would state the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Defense should ensure that arrangements are in place, including support from other members of NATO and the host nations, to provide air defense capabilities at the Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland by not later than June 1, 2019. The conference agreement would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a request to NATO to support an air defense capability at the Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland. The Secretary shall submit a notification to the appropriate congressional committees by not later than April 1, 2016, as to whether NATO has agreed in principle to provide such capability. Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the plan and budget profile to provide an air defense capability to the Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland and an assessment of the air and ballistic missile threat to United States military installations in Europe, including the Naval Shore Facility in Devesulu, Romania and the

planned site in Redzikowo, Poland. The conferees also direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure, not later than 180 days after enactment, that a terminal high altitude area defense battery is available for rotational deployment to the area of responsibility of the United States European Command unless the Secretary notifies the congressional defense committees that such a battery is needed in another combatant command's area of responsibility. The Secretary of Defense shall also implement the direction contained in the classified annex of this Act bearing on this matter.

Availability of funds for Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system (sec. 1678)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1669) that would make available \$41.4 million for the Government of Israel to procure radars for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system, subject to the terms and conditions of the "Agreement Between the Department of Defense and the United States of America and the Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel Concerning Iron Dome Defense System Procurement" and an amended agreement for co-production of radar components.

The Senate amendment included a similar amendment (sec. 1654) that would authorize \$41.4 million for the Department of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel to procure the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system, including for co-production of Iron Dome parts and components in the United States by United States industry. The provision would also provide that these funds shall be available subject to the terms and conditions in the "Agreement Between the Department of Defense and the Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel Concerning Iron Dome Defense System Procurement," signed on March 5, 2014, including any negotiated amendment to that agreement for co-production of Iron Dome radar components.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Israeli cooperative missile defense program co-development and co-production (sec. 1679)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1670) that would authorize \$165.0 million for procurement and co-production of the David's Sling Weapon System and the Arrow 3 Upper Tier missile defense system. This provision would further specify the terms and conditions that shall be achieved by the Director of the Missile Defense Agency and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics prior to the disbursement of the authorized funds.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1655) that would authorize \$165.0 million for the Missile Defense Agency to provide to the Government of Israel to procure the David's Sling Weapon System and the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor program, including for co-production of parts and components in the United States by United States industry. The funds may be disbursed after certain conditions, which include a certification by the Director of the Missile Defense Agency and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics that in the case of co-production for the David's Sling Weapon System, not less than half of such co-production is carried out by United States industry.

The House recedes to the Senate with an amendment that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to certify that the Government of Israel has demonstrated the

successful completion of key knowledge points; that such funds will be provided on the basis of a one-for-one cash match made by Israel or in another mutually agreed matching amount; that the United States has entered into a bilateral agreement with Israel; that there is complete transparency on the requirement of Israel for the number of interceptors and batteries to be procured; that technical milestones are established for co-production; that there is a joint approval process for third party sales; and that the level of co-production for the David's Sling Weapon System is equal to or greater than 50 percent for U.S. industry. The Under Secretary may waive the certification if the funds are provided to Israel solely for funding the procurement of long-lead components and that the long-lead procurement will be conducted in a manner that maximizes co-production in the United States without incurring additional non-recurring engineering activity or cost. The Director of the Missile Defense Agency would also be required to submit to the Congress, at the same time the President submits to Congress the budget request for fiscal year 2017, a plan to achieve a rate of co-production by United States industry of parts and components of the David's Sling Weapon System at a rate that is not less than 50 percent.

Boost phase defense system (sec. 1680)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1672) that would require the Secretary of Defense to prioritize technology investments to develop and field a boost phase missile defense system by fiscal year 2022 and ensure it can benefit multiple warfighter requirements. It would also require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency establish a senior level advisory group to recommend to the Director promising technologies that the Director can evaluate for use as a boost phase missile defense layer and then provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees no later than May 1, 2016 on the recommendations of the advisory group.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 1658) that would prioritize technology investments in the Department of Defense to support efforts by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to develop and deploy a boost phase airborne laser weapon system by fiscal year 2025. The provision encourages collaboration and cooperation between MDA and other Department of Defense components, and directs the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees with a report, within 120 days of enactment of this Act, of Department of Defense efforts to develop and deploy a boost phase airborne laser weapon system for missile defense.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would prioritize feasible and cost-effective efforts, would eliminate the requirement for a senior level advisory group and require a report on the efforts of the Department of Defense to develop and deploy an airborne or other boost phase defense system by fiscal year 2025. The report should also include recommendations from industry on emerging technologies that could be applied for boost phase missile defense, and an evaluation by MDA of those recommendations. The conferees also encourage the Department of Defense to develop concept of operations for those boost phase missile defense systems for which it intends to develop prototypes to accompany its fiscal year 2017 budget request.

Development and deployment of multiple-object kill vehicle for missile defense of the United States homeland (sec. 1681)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1671) that would express the sense of Congress that the ballistic missile defense of the United States homeland is the highest priority of the Missile Defense Agency; that the Missile Defense Agency is appropriately prioritizing the design, development, and deployment of the redesigned kill vehicle; and, the multiple-object kill vehicle is critical to the future of the ballistic missile defense of the U.S. homeland. This section would require that the Director of the Missile Defense Agency develop a highly reliable multiple-object kill vehicle for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system, with rigorous flight testing to occur no later than 2020, and the deployment of such vehicle as soon as practicable thereafter. This section would also require that the management of the multiple-object kill vehicle program be undertaken by the Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency and would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to provide the funding profile required for the multiple-object kill vehicle program to the congressional defense committees no later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Senate bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1656) that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to conduct flight testing of the multi-object kill vehicle by not later than 2020 and field such vehicle as soon as technically practicable. The provision would also direct that the management of the multi-object kill vehicle program shall report directly to the Deputy Director of the Missile Defense Agency.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the deployment of the multi-object kill vehicle as early as practicable after rigorous flight testing is completed and would require the fiscal year 2017 budget submission to reflect the funding profile necessary to meet the objectives of the multiple object kill vehicle program.

Requirement to replace capability enhancement I exoatmospheric kill vehicles (sec. 1682)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1657) that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all remaining ground-based interceptors of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system that are armed with the capability enhancement I exoatmospheric kill vehicle are replaced with the redesigned exoatmospheric kill vehicle before September 30, 2022.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Designation of preferred location of additional missile defense site in the United States and plan for expediting deployment time of such site (sec. 1683)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1678) that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in consultation with the Commander of the United States Northern Command, to designate the preferred location in the United States for the potential future deployment of a missile defense site not later than 30 days after the Secretary of Defense publishes the draft environmental impact statements (EIS) being conducted for the candidate sites.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1651) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for expediting the deployment time for a potential

future continental United States interceptor site by at least 2 years, and submit to the congressional defense committees a report on such plan not later than 30 days after the transmittal of the EIS required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The provision would require the Comptroller General to assess the Department's report on the deployment plan and submit a report to the congressional defense committees with findings and recommendations.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in consultation with the Commander of United States Northern Command, to designate the preferred location in the United States for the potential future deployment of a missile defense site not later than 30 days after the Secretary of Defense publishes the draft EIS pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The determination of such site should be based on operational effectiveness and cost effectiveness in addition to the results of the EIS. The Secretary would be permitted to submit any updates to the designation that he finds appropriate after the final EIS is submitted. According to the Missile Defense Agency, the draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and published in the Federal Register by January 2016 and the EIS is anticipated to be finalized between April and July of 2016.

Not later than 30 days after the Secretary of Defense completes the final designation of the missile defense site, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for expediting the deployment time for a potential future continental interceptor site by at least 2 years, in the case that the decision is made to proceed with such deployment. Not later than 90 days after the Secretary of Defense submits the plan to Congress, the Comptroller General of the United States is to provide its assessment of that plan. The Secretary of Defense may not obligate or expend such planning and design funds for military construction as are authorized in this Act until such date as the final EIS is published.

Additional missile defense sensor coverage for the protection of United States homeland (sec. 1684)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1673) that would require the sea-based X-band (SBX) radar to be relocated to a new homeport on the East Coast of the United States no later than December 31, 2020, and shall have an at-sea capability of not less than 120 days per year. Prior to relocating the sea-based X-band radar, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) would be required to certify that the relocation would not impact the missile defense of Hawaii. Additionally, this provision would require the Director of MDA to begin siting studies, environmental impact surveys, and any other appropriate studies and evaluations to base the sea-based X-band radar at a site on the East Coast.

The Senate bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1652) that would require the Director of MDA, in cooperation with the relevant combatant command, to deploy by not later than December 31, 2020, a long-range discrimination radar or other appropriate tracking and discrimination sensor capabilities in a location optimized to support the defense of the homeland of the United States against emerging long-range ballistic missile threats from Iran.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would express the sense of the Congress

that additional missile defense sensor discrimination capabilities are needed to enhance the protection of the United States homeland against potential long-range ballistic missiles from Iran. Accordingly, the Director of MDA shall, in cooperation with the relevant combatant command, deploy by not later than December 31, 2020, a long-range discrimination radar or other appropriate sensor capability in a location optimized to support the defense of the homeland of the United States from emerging long-range ballistic missile threats from Iran. The Director of MDA shall commence any siting studies and other required evaluations necessary to carry out the homeport reassignment of the SBX to the east coast. The Director of MDA shall commence a study to evaluate at least three possible additional locations, selected by the Director of MDA, that would be best suited for future deployment of an advanced missile defense sensor site at a location, whether in the United States or not, optimized against threats from Iran. In the event that the Department of Defense determines to move the SBX to the east coast, such a relocation may not be carried out until the date on which the Director of MDA certifies to the congressional defense committees that Hawaii will have adequate missile defense coverage prior to any reassignment of the homeport of the SBX. The Director of MDA shall include in the budget request for each fiscal year until December 31, 2020 an update on his progress in implementing this provision.

Concept development of space-based missile defense layer (sec. 1685)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1675) that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), no later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to commence a concept definition, design, research, development, and engineering evaluation of a space-based ballistic missile intercept and defeat layer to the ballistic missile defense system, and submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the findings of such concept development no later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision, but included language in the report accompanying its bill, that would request a report from the Missile Defense Agency on the need for a space-based interceptor layer, assessment of the maturity of necessary technology, and an estimate of the effectiveness and cost of such a space-based missile defense layer.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in coordination with the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency and the Secretary of the Air Force, to commence the concept definition of a space-based ballistic missile intercept layer and report its findings to the defense committees not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act. The conference agreement does not include the language in the original House provision that would direct MDA to begin design, engineering evaluations, or research and development on a space-based layer. Not later than March 31, 2016, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall provide to the congressional defense committees an interim briefing on the plan described in subsection (c) (2). In light of this conference agreement, the Missile Defense Agency does not have to submit to the congressional defense committees the report on a space-based missile defense interceptor as directed in the Senate Report 114-49 accompanying the Senate bill.

Aegis ashore capability development (sec. 1686)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1676) that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in coordination with the chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Staff of the Army, to evaluate the role, feasibility, cost, and cost benefit of additional Aegis Ashore sites and upgrades to current ballistic missile defense system sensors to offset capacity demands on current Aegis ships, Aegis Ashore sites, and Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense capability and to meet the requirements of the combatant commanders. Such review would be further reviewed and evaluated by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It would further require that the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Secretary of State to jointly identify any obstacles to foreign military sales of Aegis Ashore or co-financing of additional Aegis Ashore sites.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that includes certain technical changes that would eliminate the requirement for the President to enter into negotiations on host nation agreements for Aegis Ashore sites. The conferees also add direction that the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs include in their evaluation recommendations for potential future locations of Aegis Ashore sites.

Development of requirements to support integrated air and missile defense capabilities (sec. 1687)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1677) that would require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the military requirement for left-of-launch capability and any current capability gaps in meeting such requirement.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would direct the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to oversee the development of warfighter requirements for persistent and survivable capabilities to detect, identify, determine the status, track, and support engagement of strategically important mobile or relocatable assets. The requirements shall be used for the purpose of informing applicable acquisition programs (including those involving systems-of-systems required to integrate multiple inputs and outputs of related left-of-launch information) and architecture planning funded through the Military Intelligence Program, the National Intelligence Program, and non-intelligence programs. The Vice Chairman shall also oversee the development of the enabling framework for intelligence support to integrated air and missile defense and, as appropriate, the development of requirements for capabilities to be acquired to achieve integrated operation.

Extension of requirement for Comptroller General of the United States review and assessment of missile defense acquisition programs (sec. 1688)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1075) that would repeal or revise reporting requirements related to missile defense. These requirements include removing annual reports on the Missile Defense Executive Board, and removing a required report on the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1660) that would amend section 232 of the National Defense Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) and would extend various reporting requirements by an additional 5 years to Comptroller General of the United States reviews and assessments of missile defense acquisition programs.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment. We note that several annual reporting requirements directed toward the Missile Defense Agency have expired and urge the Department to update its report database accordingly.

Plan for medium range ballistic missile defense sensor alternatives for enhanced defense of Hawaii (sec. 1689)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1674) that would express the sense of Congress regarding ballistic missile defense sensor and sensor discrimination capability. This provision would further require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to conduct an evaluation of potential options for fielding a medium range ballistic missile defense sensor for the defense of Hawaii. Such evaluation would have to be submitted to the congressional defense committees no later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would change the required plan to a required report on options for augmenting the missile defense of Hawaii.

Milestone A decision for the Conventional Prompt Global Strike Weapons System (sec. 1690)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1673) that would require the Secretary of Defense to make a Milestone A decision for the conventional prompt global strike program no later than September 30, 2020, or 8 months after the successful completion of the Intermediate Range Flight 2 test.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would transform the provision into a sense of Congress with a reporting requirement. The conferees expect the Department to include in the required report whether there are any potential ambiguity problems created by conventional prompt global strike capability, including any involving the launch of a conventionally-armed ballistic missile from a submarine platform, that it is aware of as of the date of the Milestone A acquisition decision, and if so, to also include in the required report what specific measures he is recommending to address those problems. Additionally, such report should include whether there are any appropriate bilateral cooperative or verification measures he recommends and the timeline for decision and implementation of such measures and their cost.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Clarification of annual briefing on the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance requirements of the combatant commands

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1627) that would include the United States Special Operations Command in the annual briefing required under section 1626 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees expect any U.S. Special Operations Command ISR requirements to be briefed to the defense committees within the

existing combatant command briefing structure as defined under section 1626 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Comprehensive plan of Department of Defense to support civil authorities in response to cyber attacks by foreign powers

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1638) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive plan for the United States Cyber Command to support civil authorities in responding to cyber attacks by foreign powers against the United States or a United States person.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that elsewhere in the conference agreement a comprehensive plan on Department of Defense support to civil authorities is required as part of a provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to conduct national-level cyber exercises.

Limitation on availability of funds for long-range discriminating radar

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1664) that would prohibit any authorized funds by this Act for fiscal year 2016 for military construction of the Long-Range Discriminating Radar (LRDR) until the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation submits an assessment, no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, to the congressional defense committees concerning the cost of the sensor architecture required, and that the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and the Commander, U.S. Northern Command jointly certify the proposed site for the LRDR best supports missile defense and space situational awareness.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes. The conferees direct the Commander of U.S. Northern Command, jointly with the Commander of U.S. Air Force Space Command, the Director, Missile Defense Agency, and the Director of National Intelligence, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees not later than April 1, 2016 concerning the plan for the Cobra Dane radar capability at Shemya, Alaska, including the military requirements it currently serves and whether those requirements will continue to require a material capability solution, including those requirements not related to missile defense; and any sustainment and modernization decision timelines and costs.

Sense of Congress on maintaining and enhancing military intelligence support to force protection for installations, facilities, and personnel of the Department of Defense

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 1674) that would provide a sense of Congress on the importance of military intelligence for force protection.

The House-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

Summary and explanation of funding tables

Division B of this Act would authorize funding for military construction projects of the Department of Defense (DOD). It includes funding authorizations for the construction and operation of military family housing as well as military construction for the reserve components, the defense agencies, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Security Investment Pro-

gram. It would also provide authorization for the base closure accounts that fund military construction, environmental cleanup, and other activities required to implement the decisions in base closure rounds.

Short title (sec. 2001)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2001) that would designate division B of this Act as the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2001).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Expiration of authorizations and amounts required to be specified by law (sec. 2002)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2002) that would ensure that the authorizations provided in titles XXI through XXVII and title XXIX of this Act shall expire on October 1, 2018, or the date of enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2019, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2002).

The House recedes.

Effective date (sec. 2003)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2003) that would provide that titles XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, and XXIX of this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2015, or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would not include title XXIX for Overseas Contingency Operations funding.

TITLE XXI—ARMY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
Summary

The budget request included authorization of appropriations of \$743.3 million for military construction and \$493.2 million for family housing for the Army for fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes authorization of appropriations of \$727.7 million for military construction and \$493.2 million for family housing for the Army for fiscal year 2016.

Both the House bill and the Senate amendment cut \$43.0 million operations center in San Antonio and the \$37.0 million instruction building at Joint Base Meyer-Henderson Hall from the President's budget request. Therefore, funding was not included for these projects.

The conference agreement includes funding for two access control point projects at Fort Meade and \$30.0 million for an Arlington National Cemetery Defense Access Road project in accordance with the unfunded priorities of the Army.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorized Army construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2101)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2101) that would contain the list of authorized Army construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2101).

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Family housing (sec. 2102)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2102) that would authorize new construction and planning and design of family housing units for the Army for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2102).

The conference agreement includes the provision.

Improvements to military family housing units (sec. 2103)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2103) that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to make improvements to existing units of family housing for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2103).

The conference agreement includes the provision.

Authorization of appropriations, Army (sec. 2104)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2104) that would authorize appropriations for Army military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2104).

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the amounts associated with the following projects remain available under the original project authorization:

(1) \$226.4 million (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-291) for a Command and Control Facility at Fort Shafter, Hawaii);

(2) \$6.0 million (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2119) for cadet barracks at the United States Military Academy, New York); and

(3) \$78.0 million (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2119), as amended by section 2105(d) of this Act, for a Secure Administration/Operations Facility at Fort Belvoir, Virginia).

Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2013 project (sec. 2105)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2105) that would modify the authority provided by section 2101 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239) and authorize the Secretary of the Army to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2105).

The conference agreement includes the provision.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects (sec. 2106)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2106) that would extend the authorization of a certain projects originally authorized in section 2101 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81) until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2106).

The Senate recedes.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects (sec. 2107)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2107) that would extend the authorization of certain projects originally authorized by section 2101 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division

B of Public Law 112-239) until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2107).

The House recedes.

Additional authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2016 projects (sec. 2108)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2108) that would authorize a military construction project in the amount of \$6.0 million to construct a multi-sport athletic field and track and perimeter road and fencing and acquire approximately 5 acres of land adjacent to the existing Sterrebeek Dependent School site in Brussels, Belgium, to allow relocation of Army functions to the site in support of the European Infrastructure Consolidation effort. In addition, this section would authorize a payment-in-kind project in the amount of \$12.4 million to construct a vehicle bridge and traffic circle to facilitate traffic flow to and from the Medical Center at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany.

The Senate amendment contained a provision that would authorize the payment-in-kind project but not the project related to the Sterrebeek Dependent School (sec. 2108).

The House recedes.

The conferees have included another provision elsewhere in the bill to amend a prior year authorization for the Sterrebeek Dependent School to allow the additional land purchase and improvements.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Limitation on construction of new facilities at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2109) that would limit funding authorized by the bill for new facilities at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that any new construction of facilities at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have enduring military value independent of a high-value detention mission.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE XXII—NAVY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Summary

The budget request included authorization of appropriations of \$1.6 billion for military construction and \$369.6 million for family housing for the Navy for fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes authorization of appropriations of \$1.6 billion for military construction and \$369.6 million for family housing for the Navy for fiscal year 2016.

The conferees are concerned with the Navy's proposal to construct civilian infrastructure not directly related to military activities at Townsend Range, Georgia. Therefore, the conference agreement does not include \$5.0 million for the two civilian fire stations included within the project request for the Townsend Range expansion.

The conference agreement includes funding for two projects from the Marine Corps unfunded requirements list—\$11.2 million for the KC-130J Enlisted Air Crew Trainer at Miramar, California, and \$23.3 million for Air Field Security Improvements at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, North Carolina.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2201)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2201) that would contain the list of author-

ized Navy construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2201).

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Family housing (sec. 2202)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2202) that would authorize new construction and planning and design of family housing units for the Department of the Navy for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2202).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Improvements to military family housing units (sec. 2203)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2203) that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to make improvements to existing units of family housing for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2203).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Authorization of appropriations, Navy (sec. 2204)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2204) that would authorize appropriations for Navy military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2204).

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note that the amounts associated with the following projects remain available under the original project authorization:

(1) \$274,099,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1666) for an explosive handling wharf at Kitsap, Washington); and

(2) \$68,196,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2201(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (division B of Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2633) for ramp parking at Joint Region Marianas, Guam).

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects (sec. 2205)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2205) that would extend the authorizations listed, and originally included in section 2201 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81), until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2205).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects (sec. 2206)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2206) that would extend the authorizations listed until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2206).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Townsend Bombing Range expansion, Phase 2

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2207) that would provide special conveyance authority to the Secretary of the Navy for two fire and emergency response stations as part of the land acquisition agreement to support emergency services for Townsend Bombing Range Expansion, Phase 2, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Townsend, Georgia.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

TITLE XXIII—AIR FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Summary

The budget request included authorization of appropriations of \$1.4 billion for military construction and \$491.7 million for family housing for the Air Force in fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes authorization of appropriations of \$1.4 billion for military construction and \$491.7 million for family housing for the Air Force in fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes \$21.0 million for a Communications Facility at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, in accordance with the unfunded priorities of the Air Force.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2301)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2301) that would contain the list of authorized Air Force construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2301).

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Family housing (sec. 2302)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2302) that would authorize new construction and planning and design of family housing units for the Air Force for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2302).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Improvements to military family housing units (sec. 2303)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2303) that would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to make improvements to existing units of family housing for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2303).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Authorization of appropriations, Air Force (sec. 2304)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2304) that would authorize appropriations for Air Force military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2304).

The House recedes.

Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2010 project (sec. 2305)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2305) that would modify the authority provided by section 2301 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2010 (division B of Public Law 111-84) and authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2305).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2014 project (sec. 2306)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2306) that would modify the authority provided by section 2301 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66) and authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project. This section would also require a notification and 14-day wait period, or 7-day wait period if submitted via electronic medium, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the selected project location before commencing construction.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2306).

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would include a congressional notification requirement.

Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2015 project (sec. 2307)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2307) that would modify the authority provided by section 2301 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-291) to authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2307).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Extension of authorization of certain fiscal year 2012 project (sec. 2308)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2308) that would extend the authorization listed, originally provided by section 2301 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81), until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2308).

The conference agreement includes the House provision.

Extension of authorization of certain fiscal year 2013 project (sec. 2309)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2309) that would extend the authorization listed, originally provided by section 2301 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239), until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2309).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Certification of optimal location for Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex and plan for rotation of forces at Lajes Field, Azores (sec. 2310)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2310) that would restrict funding for the construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 2, at Royal

Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, until the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, submits a report to the congressional defense committees and would also limit actions to realign forces at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores, until the Secretary of Defense made certain determinations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provisions.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to certify to the congressional defense committees that the Secretary has determined that Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, remains the optimal location for recapitalization of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex before amounts may be expended for the construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 2, at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, as authorized by section 2301(b). The Secretary of Defense would also be required to submit to the congressional defense committees a determination of the operational viability of Lajes Field, Azores, for certain uses. If the Secretary of Defense determines that Lajes Field is a viable option for certain uses, the Secretary would be required to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for such uses.

TITLE XXIV—DEFENSE AGENCIES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Summary

The budget request included authorization of appropriations of \$2.3 billion for military construction for the defense agencies and \$58.7 million for family housing for the defense agencies for fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes authorization of appropriations of \$2.3 billion for military construction for the defense agencies and \$58.7 million for family housing for the defense agencies for fiscal year 2016.

The budget request included \$239.9 million for the Hospital Replacement, Increment 7 at Fort Bliss, Texas. The conferees support the authorization for appropriations in an amount equivalent to the ability of the military department to execute in the year of the authorization for appropriations. For this project, the conferees believe that the Department of Defense has exceeded its ability to fully expend the funding requested for fiscal year 2016. As such, the conference agreement recommends \$189.9 million, a reduction of \$50.0 million, for this project.

The budget request included \$47.2 million for the SOF Logistics Support Unit One Ops Fac. #2 at Naval Base Coronado, California. The conferees note that the utilities needed to support this facility are not available and are not programmed until fiscal year 2017. Without these utilities, the conferees note that the facility would not be complete and useable. While the conferees support the requirement for this project, and the conference agreement includes \$47.2 million for this project, the conferees expect the Department of Defense to sequence the construction of this project in a manner that ensures the required supporting utilities are available at the time the construction is complete.

The budget request included \$10.0 million for contingency construction at various world-wide locations. The conferees note that the Department of Defense has not requested a military construction project using funds from this account since 2008. As such, the conference agreement recommends no funds, a reduction of \$10.0 million, for this program.

In addition, the conferees recommend an increase of funding for a military construc-

tion project not included in the budget request, \$30.0 million for the Missile Defense Agency Military Construction Planning and Design activities for an East Coast site for homeland missile defense.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorized defense agencies construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2401)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2401) that would contain the list of authorized defense agencies' construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2401).

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Authorized energy conservation projects (sec. 2402)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2402) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out energy conservation projects valued at a cost greater than \$3.0 million at the amounts authorized for each project at a specific location. This section would also authorize the sum total of projects across various locations, each project of which is less than \$3.0 million. This section would also preclude the ability to set-aside operation and maintenance facilities restoration and modernization funds for the exclusive purpose of funding energy projects. It would require installation energy projects to compete in the normal process of determining installation requirements.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2402).

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Authorization of appropriations, defense agencies (sec. 2403)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2403) that would authorize appropriations for defense agencies' military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2403).

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

The conferees note that the amounts associated with the following projects remain available under the original project authorization:

(1) \$20,800,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2129) for the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System Complex at Deveselu, Romania);

(2) \$141,039,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1672), as amended by section 2404(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2131), for a data center at Fort Meade, Maryland);

(3) \$50,500,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1672) for an Ambulatory Care Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland);

(4) \$54,300,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-

81; 125 Stat. 1672) for an Ambulatory Care Center at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas); and

(5) \$123,827,000 (the balance of the amount authorized as a Military Construction, Defense-Wide project by title X of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32; 123 Stat. 1888) for a data center at Camp Williams, Utah).

The conferees also note that overlapping statutory authorities between title 10, United States Code, and title 50, United States Code, have resulted in challenges and delays in executing a recent emergency military construction project. Specifically, the overlap found in section 2803 of title 10, United States Code, and section 3304 of title 50, United States Code, resulted in a significant delay in a request for emergency funds. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees and the congressional intelligence committees not later than March 1, 2016, on the statutory authorities for infrastructure investments that support both the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community. The briefing should include a comparison of authorities found in both titles for infrastructure investments, a discussion of any discrepancies between the authorities, the impact that identified discrepancies may have on the timely execution of an infrastructure investment, and, if necessary, recommendations for legislation to clarify or streamline the statutory authorities to ensure the timely and effective execution of an infrastructure investment.

Furthermore, the conferees expect supporting classified material for any ongoing or future classified projects to be delivered to the congressional defense committees in a more timely fashion, to ensure proper oversight and consideration is given to these projects.

Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2012 project (sec. 2404)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2404) that would modify the authority provided by section 2401 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81), as amended, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2404).

The House recedes.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects (sec. 2405)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2405) that would extend the authorizations listed, originally authorized by section 2401 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81), until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2405).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects (sec. 2406)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2406) that would extend the authorizations listed, originally authorized by section 2401 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239), until October 1, 2016, or the

date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2406).

The House recedes.

Modification and extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2014 project (sec. 2407)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2407) that would modify the authority provided by section 2401 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66), to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project. This provision would also extend the authorization authority of the project through October 1, 2018, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2019.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2407).

The House recedes.

Modification of authority carry out certain fiscal year 2015 projects (sec. 2408)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2108) that would authorize a military construction project in the amount of \$6.0 million to construct a multi-sport athletic field and track and perimeter road and fencing and acquire approximately 5 acres of land adjacent to the existing Sterrebeek Dependent School site in Brussels, Belgium, to allow relocation of Army functions to the site in support of the European Infrastructure Consolidation effort. In addition, this section would authorize a payment-in-kind project in the amount of \$12.4 million to construct a vehicle bridge and traffic circle to facilitate traffic flow to and from the Medical Center at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany.

The Senate amendment contained a provision that would authorize the payment-in-kind project but not the project related to the Sterrebeek Dependent School (sec. 2108).

The conference agreement includes a new provision, which would amend the authorization contained in section 2401 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of P.L. 113-291) for the Sterrebeek Dependent School to allow the additional land purchase and improvements.

TITLE XXV—NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Summary

The Department of Defense requested authorization of appropriations of \$120.0 million for military construction in fiscal year 2016 for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Security Investment Program. The conference agreement includes this amount.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorized NATO construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2501)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2501) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to make contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program in an amount equal to the sum of the amount specifically authorized in section 2502 of this Act and the amount collected from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a result of construction previously financed by the United States.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2501).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Authorization of appropriations, NATO (sec. 2502)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2502) that would authorize appropriations for

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2502).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

TITLE XXVI—GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES FACILITIES

Summary

The Department of Defense requested authorization of appropriations of \$517.3 million for military construction in fiscal year 2016 for facilities for the National Guard and reserve components.

The conference agreement includes authorization of appropriations of \$619.3 million for military construction in fiscal year 2016 for facilities for the National Guard and reserve components.

The conference agreement includes three Army National Guard projects from the unfunded priority list—a \$4.5 million vehicle maintenance shop at Camp Foley, Alabama, a \$6.8 million tactical aerial unmanned systems facility at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and a \$40.0 million aviation equipment classification and repair facility at Gulfport, Mississippi.

The conference agreement includes two Army Reserve projects from the unfunded priority list—a \$10.2 million access control point at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and a \$24.0 million equipment concentration facility at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

The conference agreement includes one Air National Guard project from the unfunded priority list—a \$6.1 million Space Control Facility at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

The Conference agreement includes one Air Force Reserve project from the unfunded priority list—a \$10.4 million Fire Station/Security Complex at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

Subtitle A—Project Authorizations and Authorizations of Appropriations

Authorized Army National Guard construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2601)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2601) that would contain the list of authorized Army National Guard construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2601).

The House recedes.

Authorized Army Reserve construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2602)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2602) that would contain the list of authorized Army Reserve construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2602).

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

Authorized Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2603)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2603) that would contain the list of authorized Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve construction projects for fiscal year 2016.

The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2603).

The Senate recedes.

Authorized Air National Guard construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2604)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2604) that would contain the list of authorized Air National Guard construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2604).

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Authorized Air Force Reserve construction and land acquisition projects (sec. 2605)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2605) that would contain the list of authorized Air Force Reserve construction projects for fiscal year 2016. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The state list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2605).

The House recedes.

Authorization of appropriations, National Guard and Reserve (sec. 2606)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2606) that would authorize appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2606).

The House recedes.

Subtitle B—Other Matters

Modification and extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2013 project (sec. 2611)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2611) that would modify the authority provided by section 2602 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239) to authorize the Secretary of the Army to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project. This section would also extend the authorization listed until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2611).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2015 projects (sec. 2612)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2612) that would modify the authorizations contained in section 2604 and 2605 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-291), for construction of a Guardian Angel Operations facility at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, and construction of a consolidated Secure Compartmented Information Facility at Fort Smith Municipal Airport, Arkansas to provide for increased costs associated with these projects.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2012 projects (sec. 2613)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2612) that would extend the authorizations listed, originally provided by section 2602 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81) until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2613).

The Senate recedes.

Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2013 projects (sec. 2614)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2613) that would extend the authorizations listed, originally provided by sections 2601, 2602, and 2603 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239) until October 1, 2016, or the date of the enactment of an act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2017, whichever is later.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2614).

The Senate recedes.

TITLE XXVII—BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

Summary

The budget request included \$251.3 million for the ongoing cost of environmental remediation and other activities necessary to continue implementation of the 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, and 2005 Base Realignment and Closure rounds.

The conference agreement includes this amount.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorization of appropriations for Base Realignment and Closure activities funded through Department of Defense Base Closure Account (sec. 2701)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2701) that would authorize appropriations for ongoing activities that are required to implement the Base Realignment and Closure activities authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510), at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 2701).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Prohibition on conducting additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round (sec. 2702)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2702) that would state that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round, affirming congressional intent to reject the budget request to authorize another BRAC round in 2017.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2702).

The Senate recedes.

TITLE XXVIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Military Construction Program and Military Family Housing Changes

Revision of congressional notification thresholds for Reserve facility expenditures and contributions to reflect congressional notification thresholds for minor construction and repair projects (sec. 2801)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2801) that would align reserve component minor construction and repair thresholds with the threshold specified in chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2814).

The Senate recedes.

Extension of temporary, limited authority to use operation and maintenance funds for construction projects in certain areas outside the United States (sec. 2802)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2803) that would reauthorize contingency construction authority in certain areas outside the United States for an additional year.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Defense laboratory modernization pilot program (sec. 2803)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2803) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program, using amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, such military construction projects for any Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory or Department of Defense federally funded research and development center as are authorized in the Military Construction Authorization Act. This section would also limit the maximum amount that may be obligated in any fiscal year under this authority at \$150.0 million and would expire on October 1, 2020.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2805).

The Senate recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Temporary authority for acceptance and use of contributions from Kuwait for construction, maintenance, and repair projects mutually beneficial to the Department of Defense and Kuwait Military Forces (sec. 2804)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2802) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to accept contributions from the Government of the State of Kuwait in support of construction, maintenance, and repair projects within Kuwait that are mutually beneficial to the Department of Defense and the Kuwait military forces. The section would also limit the maximum amount the Secretary of Defense may obligate to \$50.0 million annually, require a congressional notification with 21-day wait period, 14-day period if notification is provided in electronic medium, for projects exceeding the thresholds prescribed by section 2805, title 10, United States Code, and expire on September 30, 2020.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2801) that would amend subchapter II of Chapter 138 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to accept cash contributions from partner countries for the purpose of the payment of costs in connection with

mutually beneficial construction, maintenance, and repair projects. Such projects would be required to support bilateral defense cooperation agreement, or otherwise benefit the United States, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

The House recedes with an amendment that would limit the authorization to Kuwait, provide a temporary authority through September 30, 2020, and require a congressional notification.

Conveyance to Indian tribes of relocatable military housing units at military installations in the United States (sec. 2805)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2806) that would permit service secretaries to convey excess relocatable military housing units to certain Indian tribes, at no cost, and without consideration.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle B—Real Property and Facilities Administration

Protection of Department of Defense installations (sec. 2811)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1042) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to protect the buildings, grounds, and property that are under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense (DOD) and persons on that property. The provision provides that the Secretary may designate personnel to: (1) enforce federal laws and regulations for the protection of persons and property; (2) carry firearms; (3) make arrests; and (4) conduct investigations of offenses against the property of the DOD. This new authority would not apply in those locations currently under the protection of the Federal Protective Service, for example, office buildings provided by the General Services Administration in which DOD organizations are tenants.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment.

Enhancement of authority to accept conditional gifts of real property on behalf of military service academies (sec. 2812)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2811) that would provide consistency across the military service academies on the acceptance of a gift of real property, if the gift of such real property is conditioned upon the property bearing a specified name. This section would authorize the military service academies to accept such a gift if the acceptance and naming would not reflect unfavorably on the United States, and the real property has not otherwise been named by an act of Congress. This section would also require the secretaries of the military departments to issue uniform regulations governing circumstances under which gifts conditioned on naming rights may be accepted.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would restrict the ability to delegate this authority to only individuals appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Utility systems conveyance authority (sec. 2813)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2811) that would clarify section 2688(j) of title 10, United States Code, to allow for conveyance of additional utility systems to an entity already operating other utility systems on a joint base if doing so

would be in the best interest of the government and is supported by an independent cost estimate.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a technical amendment.

The conferees note that there has been confusion about whether the definition of a utility system for the treatment of wastewater includes the treatment of stormwater. The conferees believe, consistent with the Department of Defense's interpretation, that wastewater includes stormwater.

Leasing of non-excess property of military departments and Defense Agencies; treatment of value provided by local education agencies and elementary and secondary schools (sec. 2814)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2812) that would amend section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, by authorizing the secretary concerned to lease non-excess property for consideration in an amount below fair market value if the lease is to a local education agency or an elementary or secondary school. This provision is intended to help local education agencies and schools that are providing support for military families.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Force-structure plan and infrastructure inventory and assessment of infrastructure necessary to support the force structure (sec. 2815)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2814) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report, as part of the budget justification documents accompanying the President's budget request for fiscal year 2017, that details a 20-year force structure plan for each of the military services and a comprehensive inventory of worldwide infrastructure. The report would also compare these two items to determine the infrastructure necessary to support the force structure, discuss the categories of excess infrastructure and infrastructure capacity, and assess the value of retaining certain excess infrastructure to accommodate contingency, mobilization, or surge requirements. In addition, this provision would require the Comptroller General of the United States to prepare an evaluation of such force-structure plans and infrastructure inventory not later than 60 days after the date on which the plans and inventory are submitted to Congress. The committee encourages the Secretary of Defense and the Comptroller General to also take into consideration, as appropriate, the recommendations regarding force structure and force sizing provided by the July 31, 2014, assessment of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review by the National Defense Panel.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove certain elements of the proposed review including a review of efficiencies from joint tenancy of military installations and potential restrictions on facilities outside the United States.

Temporary reporting requirements related to main operating bases, forward operating sites, and cooperative security locations (sec. 2816)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2813) that would amend section 2687a(a) of title 10, United States Code, by adding a requirement for the Secretary of Defense to in-

clude with the existing overseas basing report a strategic summary for each main operating base, forward operating site, or cooperative security location within the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility. This provision would sunset in fiscal year 2020.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would make the requirements applicable to operating locations that have been newly designated, or had a change in its designation as a main operating base, forward operating site, or cooperative security location since the previous fiscal year's report.

Exemption of Army off-site use and off-site removal only non-mobile properties from certain excess property disposal requirements (sec. 2817)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2816) that would exempt from the requirements of title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411 et seq.) certain non-mobile properties that are not feasible for transfer and use for the purposes of that act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Subtitle C—Provisions Related to Asia-Pacific Military Realignment

Limited exception to restriction on development of public infrastructure in connection with realignment of Marine Corps forces in Asia-Pacific region (sec. 2821)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2821) that would amend restrictions placed on the development of civilian infrastructure on Guam to support the realignment of Marine Corps Forces in the Asia-Pacific region to allow the use of funds for infrastructure projects that are identified in the report of the Economic Adjustment Committee required by section 2831(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66). This section would also permit the use of funding for the planning and design of such projects.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to proceed only with projects intended to improve water and wastewater systems that are identified in the report prepared by the Secretary of Defense under section 2822(d)(2) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (P.L. 113-66).

The conferees believe that projects which are directly connected to the Department of Defense's actions, and are fiscally responsible, are appropriate investments for the Department of Defense, but projects without a direct military connection should be funded through local or other non-defense federal funding.

Annual report on Government of Japan contributions toward realignment of Marine Corps forces in Asia-Pacific region (sec. 2822)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2822) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit an annual report to the congressional defense committees for each of fiscal years 2017-26 that addresses the total amount contributed from the Government of Japan to the Support for United States Relocation to Guam Account during the most recent year, as well as the anticipated contributions to be made during the current and next Japanese fiscal years. The report would

also cover the infrastructure projects carried out on Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the previous fiscal year using funds from the Support for United States Relocation to Guam Account, as well as the projects anticipated to be carried out during the next fiscal year. This section would also repeal a reporting requirement from the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with technical amendment.

Subtitle D—Land Conveyances

Release of reversionary interest retained as part of the conveyance to the Economic Development Alliance of Jefferson County, Arkansas (sec. 2831)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2821) that would amend the terms of conveyance contained in section 2827 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 104-201) to allow the conveyance for other than the conditions contained in the section 2827, if the Economic Development Alliance pays fair market value for the property and the costs associated with conveyance are born by the Economic Development Alliance.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Land exchange authority, Mare Island Army Reserve Center, Vallejo, California (sec. 2832)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2831) that would authorize a land exchange involving a parcel of real property under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army on the site of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California, in the event that a current real property exchange process is unsuccessful.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Land exchange, Navy Outlying Landing Field, Naval Air Station, Whiting Field, Florida (sec. 2833)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2832) that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to convey a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, containing Navy Outlying Landing Field Site 8 in Escambia County, Florida, to Escambia County. In exchange, this section would require Escambia County to convey to the Secretary of the Navy a parcel of property that is suitable for use as a Navy outlying landing field to replace Navy Outlying Landing Field Site 8.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 2822).

The Senate recedes.

Release of property interests retained in connection with conveyance, Camp Villere, Louisiana (sec. 2834)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2834) that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to release the rights and the reversionary interests reserved by the United States for a parcel of land at Camp Villere, Louisiana, to the State of Louisiana to transfer the parcel to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority and make available real property to the Louisiana Military Department that is suitable for use for National Guard training and operational support.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Release of property interests retained in connection with land conveyance, Fort Bliss Military Reservation, Texas (sec. 2835)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2833) that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to release the rights and the reversionary interests reserved by the United States for a parcel of land in El Paso, Texas, to authorize the State of Texas to sell a portion of the property and use all proceeds from the sale to fund improvements or repairs for the National Guard facilities on the remainder of the property.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle E—Military Land Withdrawals

Additional withdrawal and reservation of public land, Naval Air Station China Lake, California (sec. 2841)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2841) that would amend section 2971(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66; 27 Stat. 1044) to provide for an additional public land withdrawal in San Bernardino County, California, to support operations at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California. The provision would also amend Section 2979 of the same Act to convert both land withdrawals from 25-year withdrawals into permanent withdrawals.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would include only the additional land withdrawal, leaving the original withdrawal period through March 31, 2039.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Modification of Department of Defense guidance on use of pavement markings (sec. 2851)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2861) that would require the Secretary of Defense to modify the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications for pavement markings, an Air Force engineering technical letter, and any other Department of Defense guidance on airfield pavement markings as necessary to permit the use of Type III category of retro-reflective beads. In addition, the Secretary shall develop appropriate policy to ensure that determination of the category of retro-reflective beads used on airfields is determined on an installation-by-installation basis based on local conditions and the life-cycle maintenance costs of the pavement markings.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Extension of authority for establishment of commemorative work in honor of Brigadier General Francis Marion (sec. 2852)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2852) that would extend the authority to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion and his service, originally provided by section 331 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229), through May 8, 2018.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Change in authorities relating to scope of work variations for military construction projects

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2802) that would amend section 2853

of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a military service to increase the scope of a military construction project by up to 10 percent once the service secretary involved approves the increase and notifies the congressional defense committees of the increase and the reasons for it.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Special authority for minor military construction projects for child development program facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2804) that would amend section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, to allow the appropriate Secretary to carry out an unspecified minor military construction project with an approved cost equal to or less than \$15.0 million to create, expand, or modify a child development program facility serving children under 13 years of age.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Sense of the Congress regarding base housing projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2805) that would express the sense of the Congress regarding how the Department of Defense should consider commuting times and available land on base when prioritizing base housing projects.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the Department already considers commute times and available land, among other issues, when making base housing decisions and encourage the Department to continue to do so.

Consultation requirement in connection with Department of Defense major land acquisitions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2812) that would modify section 2664(a) of title 10, United States Code, to require consultation by the Secretary concerned with the chief executive officer of the state, district, or territory as to options for completing the real property acquisition.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the Secretary concerned is already required to obtain a specific military construction authorization in accordance with section 2802 of title 10, United States Code, and comply with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) before any major land acquisition can be implemented.

Modification of facility repair notification requirement

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2813) that would modify section 2811 of title 10, United States Code, by adding new congressional notifications for facility repair projects that are expected to cost more than 75 percent of the estimated cost of a military construction project to replace the facility or the facility is located at an overseas location that has not been designated a main operating base or forward operating site. These new reporting requirements would only apply to facility repair projects that are expected to cost more than \$1.0 million.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees believe that, as a matter of practice, the Department of Defense should

notify the congressional defense committees of the expenditure of significant funding for repairs at overseas locations that have not been designated as a main operating base or forward operating site even if such expenditures do not meet the thresholds specified in section 2811 of title 10, United States Code.

Arsenal installation reutilization authority

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2815) that would allow the Secretary with authority over a military manufacturing arsenal to delegate leasing authority to the commander of the military manufacturing arsenal.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, provides the Secretary concerned the authority to lease non-excess property and that the Secretary has the ability to delegate authority to approve such leases. Therefore, the conferees encourage the Secretary concerned to consider delegating authority to lease non-excess property at military manufacturing arsenals if the Secretary concerned believes such delegation of authority would be in the best interest of the Department.

Sense of Congress on coordination of hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities on military land

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2815) that would express the sense of Congress on the coordination between the Department of Defense and state fish and wildlife managers, tribes, and local governments to facilitate communication with hunting, fishing, and recreational use groups prior to traditional hunting, fishing, and recreational use seasons.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

The conferees note the extensive process that base commanders go through in coordinating with appropriate state and local groups when opening the base for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities.

Land conveyance, Campion Air Force Radar Station, Galena, Alaska

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2835) that would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in the former Campion Air Force Station, Alaska, to the Town of Galena, Alaska, for public purposes.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Bureau of Land Management withdrawn military lands efficiency and savings

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2842) that would extend the public lands withdrawn for military purposes listed in the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 (title 30 of Public Law 106-65) until the Secretary of the military department determines a military purpose does not exist, or the Secretary of Interior permanently transfers the administrative jurisdiction to the Secretary of the military department concerned.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Renaming site of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Ohio

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2851) that would modify the name of the John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center, Dayton, Ohio, to the John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers National Museum, Dayton, Ohio.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2853) that would prohibit the designation of federal property as a National Historic Landmark or for nomination to the World Heritage List if the head of the agency managing the federal property objects to such inclusion or designation for reasons of national security. This section would also authorize the expedited removal of federal property listed on the National Register of Historic Places if the managing agency of that federal property submits a request to the Secretary of Interior for such removal for reasons of national security.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Protection and recovery of greater sage grouse

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2862) that would delay any finding by the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Greater Sage Grouse under clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(3)(B)) through September 30, 2025. This section would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from amending any Federal resource management plan applicable to Federal lands in a State in which the Governor of the State has notified the Secretaries concerned that the State has a State management plan in place. Lastly, this section would also require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly submit an annual report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives on the effectiveness of the systems to monitor the status of Greater Sage Grouse on Federal lands under their jurisdiction through 2021.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Use of Military Operations Areas for national security activities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2863) that would ensure the expansion or establishment of a national monument by the President under the authority of chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code (commonly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906; 54 U.S.C. 320301 et seq.), after the date of the enactment of this Act on land located beneath or associated with a Military Operations Area (MOA) shall not be construed to prohibit or constrain any activities on or above the land conducted by the Department of Defense or other federal agencies for national security purposes, including training and readiness activities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Renaming of the Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center in honor of Captain John E. Moran, a recipient of the Medal of Honor

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2864) that would rename the Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana to be known and designated as the "Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center", to honor the Medal of Honor recipient.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note that the military services have existing authority to name facilities.

Implementation of Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan and other conservation measures

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2865) that would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from listing the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act until January 31, 2021.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Removal of endangered species status for American burying beetle

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2866) that would remove the endangered species status for the American burying beetle.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

TITLE XXIX—OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Authorized Army construction and land acquisition project

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2901) that would contain the list of a certain authorized Army construction project for fiscal year 2016. This project represents a binding list of the specific projects authorized at this location.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2902) that would contain the list of certain authorized Navy construction projects for fiscal year 2016. These projects represent a binding list of the specific projects authorized at these locations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2903) that would contain the list of certain authorized Air Force construction projects for fiscal year 2016. These projects represent a binding list of the specific projects authorized at these locations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authorized Defense Agencies construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2904) that would contain the list of certain authorized defense-wide construction projects for fiscal year 2016. These projects represent a binding list of the specific projects authorized at these locations.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Authorization of appropriations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2905) that would authorize appropriations for overseas contingency operations military construction at the levels identified in section 4602 of division D of this Act.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORIZA-
TIONS AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE XXXI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—National Security Programs
Authorizations

*National Nuclear Security Administration (sec.
3101)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3101) that would authorize appropriations for the National Nuclear Security Administration for fiscal year 2016 and would also authorize a new plant project for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3101) that would authorize a total of \$12.8 billion for the Department of Energy in fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration to carry out programs necessary to national security.

The House recedes.

Defense environmental cleanup (sec. 3102)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3102) that would authorize appropriations for defense environmental cleanup activities for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 3102).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Other defense activities (sec. 3103)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3103) that would authorize appropriations for other defense activities for the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 3103).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Nuclear energy (sec. 3104)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3104) that would authorize appropriations for the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2016 for nuclear energy.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Subtitle B—Program Authorizations,
Restrictions, and Limitations

*Improvement to accountability of Department of
Energy employees and projects (sec. 3111)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3113) that would amend subtitle C of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2442) to add a new section requiring the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator for Nuclear Security to jointly notify the specified congressional committees the number of covered employees whose security clearance was revoked during the previous year and the length of time such employees were employed by the Department of Energy or NNSA since such revocation. This provision would also require that the Secretary of the Administrator may not pay to a covered employee a salary bonus during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of the Administrator determines that the covered employee committed improper program management or whose actions undermined health, safety or security, while providing the authority to waive the denial of a salary bonus. Additionally, the provision would require the Secretary or Administrator to notify the specified congressional committees of the actions being taken against DOE or NNSA contractors, pursuant to contractual terms, whose actions lead to project or program delays or cost-growth.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3118) that would provide authority to the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration to withhold bonus payments to employees who engage in improper program management on the date such a determination is made.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would reference the terms of exceeding cost, scope and schedule to those established in section 4713 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753) or the terms of critical decision three of Department of Energy Order 413.3B (Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets) as well as, pursuant to a requirement to issue new Departmental or Administration guidance, actions that jeopardize the health, safety, or security of employees or facilities of the Administration or another element of the Department of Energy involved in nuclear security or in carrying out defense nuclear nonproliferation activities. The amendment further provides for a waiver for either program management or health, safety or security with notification to the congressional committees of the waiver and a period of 60 days elapses following the notification. The amendment further requires notifying the congressional defense committees if a contractor of the National Nuclear Security Administration exceeds cost, scope and schedule as defined by section 4713 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753) or by critical decision three of Department of Energy Order 413.3B (Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets), including an explanation as to whether termination of the contract is an appropriate remedy, a description of the terms of the contract regarding award fees and performance, and a description of what options under the contract will be exercised in response. If such information cannot be submitted by reason of a contract enforcement action a notification shall be submitted of the enforcement action and the date on which the required information shall be submitted.

Stockpile responsiveness program (sec. 3112)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3115) that would amend the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2521) to establish that it is the policy of the United States to sustain, enhance, and continually exercise all capabilities required to conceptualize, study, design, develop, engineer, certify, produce, and deploy nuclear weapons to ensure the nuclear deterrent of the United States remains safe, secure, reliable, credible, and responsive. The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator for Nuclear Security and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, would be required to carry out a program in parallel with the stockpile stewardship program and stockpile management program to fulfill this policy. This section would also stipulate a series of objectives for this program. Finally, this section would amend certain existing annual reporting requirements to ensure robust attention on the program by senior leaders and enable congressional oversight of the status and effectiveness of the program.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3111) that would to develop a responsive capabilities program to exercise the design capabilities of the weapons complex that would lead to shorter and most cost effective design and engineering tools and manufacturing methods for parts and joint test assemblies that would lead to actual prototype testing as the final exercise, similar to an ongoing effort already underway at

the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that adds to the House provision the importance of an integrated design life cycle, to shorten design, certification, and manufacturing timelines in order to minimize the amount of time and costs leading to an engineering prototype and production.

Notification of cost overruns and selected acquisition reports for major alteration projects (sec. 3113)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3123) that defined a life extension program as one whose costs exceed \$1.0 billion.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that modifies section 4713(a) (50 U.S.C. 2753(a)) and section 4217 (50 U.S.C. 2537) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act to include major alteration programs whose cost exceeds \$750.0 million.

Root cause analyses for certain cost overruns (sec. 3114)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3131) that would amend section 4713(c) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2753) to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct and submit to the congressional defense committees a root cause assessment when certain programs experience a significant cost overrun.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Funding of Laboratory-Directed Research and Development Programs (sec. 3115)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3135) that would require the Administrator for Nuclear Security to seek to enter into a contract with the JASON Defense Advisory Panel to conduct a review of the laboratory-directed research and development (LDRD) program authorized under section 4811 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2791). The review would be required to include assessments of whether and how the projects within the LDRD program support the mission of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), whether the science conducted under LDRD underpin the advancement of scientific understanding necessary for NNSA's core programs, the scientific and programmatic opportunities and challenges in the LDRD program, recent significant accomplishments and failures within the LDRD program, and how LDRD projects are selected for funding. This section would require the Administrator to submit to the congressional defense committees, by November 1, 2016, a report containing the review carried out by the JASON Defense Advisory Panel. This House bill would also require a briefing to the congressional defense committees by the Comptroller General of the United States by November 1, 2016. The Comptroller General would be required to assess: how NNSA LDRD funding limits compare to other Department of Energy and Department of Defense laboratories and federally funded research and development centers; how many NNSA personnel are supported by LDRD funding, including how many receive a majority of their compensation from LDRD; and how many devote the majority of their time to LDRD programs for more than three years.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3117) would amend section 4811(c) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2791(c)) to strike the 6 percent upper bound

for National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) weapons laboratory-directed research and development programs with a floor not to go below 5 percent with a upper bound of 8 percent. A similar provision was recommended for NNSA weapons production facilities and the Nevada Site Office with a ceiling of 4 percent.

The House recedes with an amendment that would strike the plant direct laboratory research and development programs, reduce the ceiling to 7 percent and require a briefing by the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, no later than February 28, 2016, on all recent or ongoing reviews of the laboratory-directed research and development program, including such reviews initiated by the Secretary of Energy; the costs and accounting practices associated with laboratory-directed research and development; how laboratory-directed research and development projects support the mission of the National Nuclear Security Administration. The conferees direct the Government Accountability Office to assess no later than March 15, 2016, how NNSA LDRD funding limits compare to other Department of Energy and Department of Defense laboratories and federally funded research and development centers; how many NNSA personnel are supported by LDRD funding, including how many receive a majority of their compensation from LDRD; and how many devote the majority of their time to LDRD programs for more than 3 years.

Hanford waste treatment and immobilization plant contract oversight (sec. 3116)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 3115) that would require the Secretary of Energy to arrange to have an owner's agent assist the Secretary in carrying out oversight responsibilities associated with Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant contract DE-AC27-01RV14136. Since the current contractor for the Waste Treatment Plant is its own design agent, the owner's design agent will act as an independent expert on the project.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment with clarifying language to ensure that the owner's agent does not assume roles reserved for the federal government, that the owner's agent's role is to advise the Secretary of Energy, and that the owner's agent report would be sent to the Secretary of Energy who would transmit the report with any additional views to the congressional defense committees.

Use of best practices for capital asset projects and nuclear weapon life extension programs (sec. 3117)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3122) that would require the Secretary of Energy to ensure that analyses of alternatives are conducted in accordance with best practices for: (1) capital asset projects and life extension programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration; and (2) capital asset projects relating to defense environmental management.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Research and development of advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium (sec. 3118)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3142) that would require that, of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for defense nuclear nonproliferation for ma-

terial management and minimization, not more than \$5.0 million shall be made available to the Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors for initial planning and early research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium. In addition, this section would require that, at the same time the President submits the fiscal year 2017 budget to Congress, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of the Navy shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees their determination as to whether the United States should continue to pursue research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium. If the Secretaries determine to continue the research and development, the Secretaries would be required to ensure the budget request for fiscal year 2017 includes funding to carry out the program within the defense nuclear nonproliferation, material management, and minimization budget line. Not later than 30 days after the date of the submission of such determination, the Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors would be required to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for such research and development, as well as ensuring that the budget includes amounts for defense nuclear nonproliferation for material management and minimization necessary to carry out the plan. Finally, this section would require that, if the Secretaries determine such research and development should continue, not later than 60 days after the date on which the Deputy Administrator submits the plan, the Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors would be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation regarding the research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium, including with respect to how funding for such research and development will be requested for the "Defense Nuclear nonproliferation" account for material management and minimization and provided to Naval Reactors to carry out the program.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that requires the Deputy Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration to submit within 90 days after the date of enactment a conceptual plan for research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium to meet military requirements to the congressional defense committees. In addition, 60 days after the conceptual plan is submitted, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Navy shall make a determination as to whether the United States should continue to pursue research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium. If the Secretaries determine that such research and development should continue, they shall include funding necessary in fiscal year 2018, and in fiscal year 2017 if feasible, to carry out such a plan in the budget line item for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account for material management and minimization.

Disposition of weapons usable plutonium (sec. 3119)

The House bill contained a provision (section 3119) that would require the Secretary of Energy to carry out construction and program support activities for the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility with any funds authorized to be appropriated or other-

wise made available for such purposes for fiscal year 2016 and any prior fiscal years. This section would also require the Secretary to include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress for fiscal year 2017 an updated performance baseline for construction and project support activities relating to the MOX facility.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that authorizes the Secretary to spend \$5.0 million to conduct an analysis of alternative options for carrying out the plutonium disposition program. The conferees direct that the analysis of alternatives be comprehensive with regard to potentially cost-effective alternatives, and to include as alternatives various options for disposal, including costs and timelines associated with options for down-blending, immobilization, disposal in canisters, and deep borehole disposal. The conferees further direct that as part of the down-blending analysis, that the Department of Energy address the questions pertaining to down-blending as found in Senate Report 114-49 (Report to Accompany S. 1376, "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2016"), pages 326-329.

Establishment of microlab pilot program (sec. 3120)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3136) that would give the authority to the Secretary to establish a microlab pilot program in close proximity to a national laboratory and is accessible to the public for the purpose of enhancing collaboration with regional research groups, accelerating technology transfer from national laboratories to the marketplace; promoting regional workforce development through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction and training.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would change the definition of microlab to one that is in close proximity to but outside the perimeter of a national security laboratory; an extension of or affiliated with a national security laboratory; and accessible to the public. The amendment also narrows the national laboratory to one that is a national security laboratory as defined in section 3821 of the National Nuclear Security Act (50 U.S.C. 2471). The amendment further uses "consultation" rather than "coordination" with lab directors and adjusts timing of reports.

Prohibition on the availability of funds for the provision of defense nuclear nonproliferation assistance to the Russian Federation (sec. 3121)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3118) that would provide that none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities may be obligated or expended to enter into a contract with, or otherwise provide assistance to, the Russian Federation. The Secretary of Energy, without delegation, would be provided the authority to waive this prohibition if the Secretary submits a report to the appropriate congressional committees containing notification that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States, a justification for such waiver, and a period of 15 days elapses.

The Senate amendment contains no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Prohibition on availability of funds for fixed site radiological portal monitors in foreign countries (sec. 3122)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3117) that would prohibit any funds authorized by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 or any fiscal year thereafter for the National Nuclear Security Administration from being obligated or expended for the research and development, installation, or sustainment of fixed site radiological portal monitors or equipment for use in foreign countries. This section would clarify that this prohibition does not apply to such activities for mobile radiological inspection equipment.

The Senate amendment had no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would prohibit fiscal year 2016 funds for installation of fixed site portal monitors in foreign countries after date of enactment until the DNI submits an assessment on whether and the extent to which fixed site and mobile radiological monitors address nuclear nonproliferation and smuggling threats; the contribution of other threat reduction programs and how well such programs address nuclear nonproliferation and smuggling threats; which programs have the greatest impact and cost-benefit for addressing nuclear nonproliferation and smuggling threats; and such other matters as the Director considers appropriate. The amendment also requires the Administrator for Nuclear Security to submit a plan by March 1, 2016 to transition sustainment of existing fixed site monitors, to the greatest extent possible, to host nation.

Limitation on availability of funds for certain arms control and nonproliferation technologies (sec. 3123)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3120) that would prohibit any funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program from being obligated or expended to develop nonproliferation or arms control verification or monitoring technologies beyond Technology Readiness Level 5 (TRL 5) unless the Secretary of Energy certifies that such technologies are being developed to fulfill the rights or obligations of the United States under either: (1) a current arms control or nonproliferation treaty or agreement; or (2) a treaty or agreement that the Secretary expects will enter into force within 2 years. The Secretary would be required to submit this written certification to the appropriate congressional committees and include, for each technology the Secretary certifies for development beyond TRL 5, an identification of the amount of fiscal year 2016 funds that will be used and how such development helps to fulfill the rights or obligations of the United States under the treaty or agreement.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes to the House with an amendment that would prohibit fiscal year 2016 funds to test or validate technologies in the Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control designed to be used to verify and monitor obligations under arms control treaties or other agreements to which U.S. is not a signatory until the Administrator submits a review to congressional defense committees. The review would be required to include the technology readiness level of the technology; the obligation under a treaty or other international agreement supported by the tech-

nology; and the purpose for which the technology is being developed or produced. The conferees notes that, based on information provided by the Administrator, the funding for the activities that would be limited by this provision is approximately \$3.0 million.

Limitations on availability of funds for nuclear weapons dismantlement (sec. 3124)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3121) that would provide that, of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for any of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), not more than \$50.0 million may be obligated or expended in each such fiscal year to carry out nuclear weapons dismantlement and disposition activities. This section would also prohibit any funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act, or otherwise made available for any of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, to be obligated or expended to dismantle a nuclear weapon of the United States unless: (1) the nuclear weapon was retired on or before September 30, 2008; (2) the Administrator for Nuclear Security certifies that the components of the nuclear weapon are directly required for the purposes of a current life extension program; or (3) the President certifies that the nuclear weapon is being dismantled pursuant to a nuclear arms reduction treaty or similar international agreement that has entered into force after the date of enactment of this Act and was approved with the advice and consent of the Senate or by an Act of Congress. This section would also prohibit any funding authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for any of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 from being used to dismantle or dispose of a W84 nuclear weapon.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would limit the \$50.0 million ceiling to fiscal year 2016 and prohibit the use of fiscal year 2016 funds for the dismantlement of the W84 warhead. There is an exception for maintenance and surveillance for weapons safety and reliability.

Subtitle C—Plans and Reports

Long-term plan for meeting national security requirements for unencumbered uranium (sec. 3131)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3112) that would require the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan, on even number years, with the President's budget submission, for meeting the national security requirements for unencumbered uranium through 2065.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would change the reporting requirement to terminate in 2026.

Defense nuclear nonproliferation management plan (sec. 3132)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 3113) that required in each odd numbered year a management plan of defense nuclear nonproliferation programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The House bill contained a similar provision (sec. 3132) amend section 3122(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) by striking the date of 2016 and inserting 2020. This section would also amend such subsection to clarify that, in the Secretary of Energy's annual assessment, the Secretary must (1) identify any highly-enriched uranium around the world that is obligated by the United

States and (2) provide a list, by country and by site, of the separated plutonium around the world, identify such plutonium that is obligated by the United States, and provide an assessment of the vulnerability of such plutonium to theft or diversion.

The House recedes with an amendment that would add the House provision to the Senate provision, expand the programmatic definitions of activities of the nuclear nonproliferation program that must be reported on and make technical and clarifying changes.

Plan for deactivation and decommissioning of nonoperational defense nuclear facilities (sec. 3133)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3141) that would require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a plan under which the Administrator for Nuclear Security transfers to the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management the responsibility for decontaminating and decommissioning facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration that the Secretary of Energy determines are not operational as of the date of the enactment of this Act and meet the requirements for such transfer.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3114) that would that would require the Secretary of Energy to develop a plan that would require a cost-benefit analysis of defense nuclear facilities that require deactivation and decommissioning as to whether they should be kept in cold shut down awaiting demolition or accelerated to save long term storage costs. The plan will be required every even calendar year no later than March 31, 2016 and end after the fifth report submission on March 31, 2026.

The House recedes with an amendment to require within the first report the Secretary to implement a plan under which the Administrator for Nuclear Security to transfer by March 31, 2019 to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management the responsibility for decontaminating and decommissioning facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration that the Secretary of Energy determines are nonoperational as of September 30, 2015 and meet the requirements of the Office of Environmental Management for such transfer.

Assessment of emergency preparedness of defense nuclear facilities (sec. 3134)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3116) that would require the Secretary of Energy to include in each award-free evaluation conducted of a management and operating contract for a Department of Energy defense nuclear facility in 2016, or any even-numbered year thereafter, an assessment of the adequacy of the emergency preparedness of that facility, including an assessment of the seniority level of employees and contractors of the Department of Energy that participate in emergency preparedness exercises at that facility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would eliminate recurring reports while focusing the assessment on the performance and participation of the management and operating contractor employees and not senior employees of the Department of Energy, since the laboratory award fee is based on performance of the contractor employees. The conferees direct the Secretary of Energy to provide a report to the congressional defense committees no later than October 31, 2016 on the number and level of senior Department of Energy employees that participated in such exercises for fiscal year 2016.

Modifications to cost-benefit analyses for competition of management and operating contracts (sec. 3135)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3114) that would amend section 3121 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to extend the a reporting requirement through fiscal year 2019 and require that the report submitted by the Administrator for Nuclear Security must include a description of the factors considered and processes used by the Administrator to determine whether to compete or extend a contract to manage and operate a facility of the nuclear security enterprise, and whether and which activities at the facility should be covered under the management and operating contract.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3122) that would amend section 3121 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to make technical corrections to increase the utility of reports on competition for management and operating contracts at facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration and change the timing of the Government Accountability Office's review to assess whether estimated cost savings and other benefits are actually occurring as planned.

The House recedes with an amendment that combines the two provisions, requires the Government Accountability Office to provide a briefing on their initial review 180 days after the required report submitted, and makes certain technical and conforming amendments.

Interagency review of applications for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology (sec. 3136)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3119) that would require that, prior to the approval by the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of any part 810 authorization (regarding the transfer of certain civil nuclear technology) for a covered country with a nuclear naval propulsion program, the Director of National Intelligence and the Chief of Naval Operations would have to jointly submit an assessment to the appropriate congressional committees on the risks of diversion of such technology and the likely consequences of its diversion to such foreign state's military nuclear program. This section would also require that, not less than 14 days prior to the approval of any part 810 authorization for a covered country, the Administrator of the NNSA would have to certify to the appropriate congressional committees that there is sufficient diversion control and such transfer presents a minimal risk of diversion of such technology to a military program that would degrade the technical advantage of the United States. The provision further required that not later than June 1, 2016, and quinquennially thereafter, the Chief of Naval Operations shall determine the critical civil nuclear technologies of the United States and notify the appropriate congressional committees of this list of technologies. The provision also requires that not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence determines that there is credible intelligence that United States civil nuclear technology has been diverted to a foreign country not covered by an authorization under section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as amended (Public Law 83-703, 42 U.S.C. 2077), including an agreement for cooperation made pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as amended (Public Law 83-703, 42 U.S.C. 2153), the Direc-

tor shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such determination. The House provision also required that the Secretary of Energy shall annually notify the appropriate congressional committees that each covered foreign country is in compliance with its obligations under any authorization made pursuant to section 57b, including an agreement for cooperation made pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended. In addition the provision prohibits the Secretary of Energy from making an authorization under section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act with respect to a covered foreign country if a foreign person of the covered foreign country has been sanctioned under the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (Public Law 106-178; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) during the 5-year period preceding the date of the transfer being sought unless the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the covered foreign country is taking adequate measures to prevent, or is making significant progress in preventing, transfers or acquisitions covered by section 2(a) of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (Public Law 106-178; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note). The House provision defined a covered country as one that is a nuclear-weapon state, as defined by Article IX (3) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed at Washington, London, and Moscow on July 1, 1968, but does not include the United Kingdom or France.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require that every 90 days, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a listing and description of the authorizations to transfer United States civil nuclear technology to a covered foreign country (as defined in this provision) issued under section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) during the preceding 90 days and a statement of whether each agency required to be consulted under that section or pursuant to regulation objected or sought condition to each such authorization.

The amendment also would require that not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy would be required to, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, determine the critical United States civil nuclear technologies that should be protected from diversion to a military nuclear program of a covered foreign country (a nuclear weapons state as defined by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons other than the United Kingdom or France), including with respect to a naval propulsion or weapons program and notify the appropriate congressional committees with respect to the technologies covered by the determination. The amendment also would require that not later than 14 days before authorizing the transfer of a technology covered by such determination, the Secretary of Energy would be required to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a notification of the intention of the Secretary to authorize the transfer of such technology and a statement of whether any agency required to be consulted under such section 57b or pursuant to regulation objected to or required conditions to such authorization of transfer.

The amendment includes a waiver of the 14 day notification for an imminent radiological emergency provided within 7 days the Secretary certifies such a hazard exists, the justification and the information required in the original notification.

The amendment would also require the Secretary of Energy to promptly revise part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, to ensure that the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) is consulted with respect to the views of the intelligence community with respect to each authorization issued under section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology to a covered foreign country before the determination to approve or disapprove the request for the authorization, and that he is provided with an opportunity to present the views of the Director and the Intelligence Community on the national security risks of the transfer, if any. It is expected that as part of developing this consultation process the Secretary of Energy and the DNI shall enter into the necessary inter-agency agreements that ensure consultation with the Intelligence Community occurs but gives the DNI the flexibility to manage its ongoing workload, while ensuring timely reviews of authorizations, and provides for the possibility that the views of the Intelligence Community may not have changed from its initial assessment. The Secretary of Energy shall include the results of consultations conducted with the DNI, on behalf of the Intelligence Community, in each report describing an authorization and each notification with respect to an authorization involving a critical technology.

The amendment would require the Secretary of Energy to annually submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes an assessment of whether each covered foreign country is in compliance with its obligations under any authorization for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology under section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)) and with respect to any covered foreign country that is not in compliance with such obligations, a description of the efforts of the United States to bring the country into compliance with an evaluation of the result of such efforts, and an assessment of the options available to the Secretary as a result of the country not being in compliance. The report also requires an assessment of whether each end-user to which United States civil nuclear technology is transferred pursuant to an authorization under such section 57b is in compliance with the obligations of the end-user under that authorization and a description of any consequences for the end-user or the exporter of the technology if the end-user is not in compliance with such obligations.

The amendment would further require that, concurrent with the submission to Congress of the budget for each fiscal year, the Secretary of Energy would be required to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the activities of the Department of Energy associated with the review of applications for authorization under section 57b to transfer United States civil nuclear technology to any foreign country. The report would be required to include the number of applications for authorization under section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act to transfer United States civil nuclear technology to a foreign country submitted during the year preceding the submission of the report; the length of time each such application was under review; the number of such

applications that were granted; and a description of efforts to streamline the review of such applications, taking into account the proliferation and diversion potential of end-users in the country to which United States civil nuclear technology would be transferred pursuant to such applications.

The Director of National Intelligence would also be required to notify the Department of Energy and the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director determines there is credible intelligence that United States civil nuclear technology is being or has been diverted to a military program in a foreign country to which the transfer of the technology was authorized under section 57b or to a foreign country to which the transfer of the technology was not so authorized.

The amendment would also require that not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall issue guidance with respect to the use of authority of under section 234 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2282) to impose civil penalties, including fines and debarment, and to make referrals to the Attorney General for prosecution, for violations of the terms of authorizations for the transfer of United States civil nuclear technology issued under section 57b. The conferees believe that given the extensive amendments made to section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 by section 302 of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-242, 42 U.S.C. 2077), which were made after the enactment of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438), that the Department of Energy should have justification to utilize section 234 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as a means of civil enforcement.

Finally, the amendment would require that not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the efforts of covered foreign countries to prevent the transfer of sensitive items, including efforts to improve the prevention of the transfer of such items; and assessing the adequacy of such efforts as defined by section 2(a) of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (Public Law 106-178; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

The conferees expect the Department of Energy shall take all precautions necessary in this section to protect proprietary information.

Governance and management of nuclear security enterprise (sec. 3137)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3133) that would require the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator for Nuclear Security to jointly establish a team of senior officials from the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to develop and carry out an implementation plan to reform governance and management to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the nuclear security enterprise. Additionally, it would require the Administrator to seek to enter into a joint agreement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration to establish a panel of external, independent experts to evaluate the plan developed by the Department of Energy and NNSA and to evaluate the implementation of such plan.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3123) that would require the Administrator of the National Nuclear

Security Administration to enter into agreements with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration to assess implementation of recommendations of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise that can be carried out without additional legislation. In addition to monitoring implementation, the agreement should specify that the two entities should determine whether the implementation was effective in addressing the problem it was intended to solve. The agreement shall utilize the procedures of the National Academies in reviewing and publishing the joint report.

The Senate recedes with an amendment making certain technical and conforming amendments, including changing the date of submission of the implementation plan to be March 31, 2016, with a final report by the Implementation Assessment Panel to 2020.

Annual report on the number of full time equivalent employees and contractor employees (sec. 3138)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3111) that would amend section 3241A of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2441a) to require that, by October 1, 2016, the total number of employees within the Office of the Administrator may not exceed 1,350. This section would also amend section 3241 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2441) by striking “600” and inserting “450” as the number of employees allowed to be appointed under the authority provided by such section.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3119) that would permit the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to hire above the statutory limit of 1,690 full time positions using up to 100 exempt employees hired under section 3241 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 United States Code section 2441).

The House bill further contains a provision (sec. 3112) that would amend section 3241A of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2441a) to specify that the total number of full-time equivalent employees working under a service support contract of the NNSA may not exceed the number that is 30 percent of the number of employees of the Office of the Administrator authorized under subsection (a)(1) of such section 3241A. The Administrator for Nuclear Security would be required to not exceed this total number of full-time equivalent contractor employees unless, during each fiscal year in which the Administrator exceeds such authorized number, the Administrator submits a report to the congressional defense committees justifying such excess.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would strike section 3111 of the House bill and modify section 3112 of the House bill to require with each budget submission the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) provide a report that provides the number of full time equivalent employees under section 3241A of the NNSA Act (50 U.S.C. 2441a), the number of service support contracts and whether the contracts are funded with program funds, the number of full time equivalent employees under each contract and the number in each contract that have been employed for more than 2 years.

Development of strategy on risks to non-proliferation caused by additive manufacturing (sec. 3139)

The House bill (sec. 3145) contained a provision that would require the President to de-

velop and pursue a strategy to address the risks to the goals and policies of the United States regarding nuclear nonproliferation caused by the increased use of additive manufacturing technology (including 3D Printing). This section would require the President to brief the appropriate congressional committees on the development and execution of such strategy not later than March 31, 2016, and every 120 days thereafter until January 1, 2019. Finally, this section would highlight the importance of pursuing such strategy at the Nuclear Security Summit in Chicago in 2016.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Plutonium pit production capacity (sec. 3140)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3143) that would express the sense of Congress that the requirement to create a modern, responsive nuclear infrastructure that includes the capability and capacity to produce, at minimum, 50 to 80 pits per year, is a national security priority and delaying creation of this responsive infrastructure until the 2030s is an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States. Additionally, it would require the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council to provide a briefing to congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, on the annual plutonium pit production capacity requirement of the nuclear security enterprise.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Assessments on nuclear proliferation risks and nuclear nonproliferation opportunities (sec. 3141)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3134) that would require the Director of National Intelligence to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees, by March 1 of each year from 2016 to 2020, containing an assessment and prioritization of international nuclear proliferation risks and nuclear nonproliferation opportunities and an assessment of the effectiveness of various means and programs for addressing such risks and opportunities.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Analysis of alternatives for Mobile Guardian Transporter program (sec. 3142)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3144) that would require the Administrator for Nuclear Security to submit to the congressional defense committees the analysis of alternatives by the Administrator for the Mobile Guardian Transporter program within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Additionally, it would also require the Secretary of Energy to include in the annual budget request submission, a separate, dedicated program element for the MGT program.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would eliminate the requirement for an independent assessment and clarify that the submitted report must contain a full and comprehensive analysis of alternatives. The conferees stress that the analysis of alternatives for the MGT program that is conducted and submitted to Congress should take into account all safety and security scenarios, as well as costs, benefits, and risks of various engineering and policy changes that could affect the program.

TITLE XXXII—DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Authorization (sec. 3201)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3201) that would authorize funds for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Board for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3201).

The House recedes.

Administration of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (sec. 3202)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3202) that would amend section 311(c) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2886(c)) to clarify that, in carrying out certain duties, the Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Board may not withhold from any member of the Board any information that is made available to the Chairman regarding the Board's functions, powers, and mission (including with respect to the management and evaluation of employees of the Board). The provision would also clarify that the Chairman of the Board, subject to the approval of the Board, may appoint and remove certain senior employees of the Board.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

TITLE XXXIV—NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES *Authorization of Appropriations (sec. 3401)*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3401) that would authorize \$17.5 million for fiscal year 2016 for operation and maintenance of the Naval Petroleum Reserves.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS ADOPTED

Authorization of the Maritime Administration (sec. 3501)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3501) that would authorize appropriations for the national security aspects of the Merchant Marine for fiscal year 2016.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3505) that would authorize appropriations for the national security aspects of the Merchant Marine for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would increase by \$24.0 million to \$210.0 million the amount authorized to be appropriated in subsection (5) for expenses to maintain and preserve a United States-flagged merchant marine to serve the national security needs of the United States under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code.

Sense of Congress regarding Maritime Security Fleet program (sec. 3502)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3502) that would express the sense of Congress that dedicated and enhanced support is necessary to stabilize and preserve the Maritime Security Fleet program.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Update of references to the Secretary of Trans- portation regarding unemployment insur- ance and vessel operators (sec. 3503)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3503) that would update sections 3305 and 3306(n) of title 26, United States Code, to reflect the Maritime Administration's transfer from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Transportation that occurred in 1981.

The Senate amendment contained a similar provision (sec. 3503).

The Senate recedes.

Payment for maritime security fleet vessels (sec. 3504)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3505) that would increase by \$24.0 million the amount authorized to be appropriated for expenses to maintain and preserve a United States-flagged merchant marine to serve the national security needs of the United States under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes.

Melville Hall of United States Merchant Marine Academy (sec. 3505)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3506) that would allow the Maritime Administrator to accept a gift from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation for the purpose of renovating Melville Hall on the campus of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 1087).

The Senate recedes.

Cadet commitment agreements (sec. 3506)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3501) that would strengthen requirements for proper performance of reserve service obligations for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) graduates by providing clarity that graduates are required to apply for a position in the reserves of an armed force, maintain a Transportation Worker Identification Credential, and maintain a U.S. Coast Guard approved medical certificate. This section also would change the reserve service obligations of USMMA graduates from 6 to 8 years to conform with current Department of Defense reserve requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Student incentive payment agreements (sec. 3507)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3502) that would clarify the requirements for a graduate of the student incentive payment (SIP) program to perform service obligations and facilitate enforcement of the reserve duty component of their service obligation. It would assist in the federal government's recoupment of funds if SIP graduates fail to fully perform their reserve duty service obligation. This section also aligns current U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Defense (DOD) terminology to update references to licensing and the Strategic Sealift Officer Program, as well as bring the Maritime Administration's reserve

service obligation requirement in line with DOD requirements for 8 years of reserve duty.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Short sea transportation defined (sec. 3508)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 3504) that would amend the definition of short sea transportation in section 55605 of title 46, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Reliance on classification society certification for purposes of eligibility for certificate of inspection

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3504) that would modify section 53102 of title 46, United States Code, and require the U.S. Coast Guard to implement certain class society certification standards.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the continued need for Maritime Security Program (MSP) vessels to meet national defense sealift needs. Section 53102(e)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, establishes a process for the U.S. Coast Guard to rely on classification societies to certify compliance for MSP vessels, both initially for reflag, and subsequently during renewal inspections, based solely on applicable international agreements, associated guidelines, and classification society rules. The conferees encourage the Coast Guard to use that process to the greatest extent practicable. The Service should not set up unnecessary barriers to entry for vessels the Department of Defense has determined it needs to meet national defense sealift requirements.

DIVISION D—FUNDING TABLES

Authorization of amounts in funding tables (sec. 4001)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 4001) that would provide for the authorization of projects, programs, and activities in accordance with the tables in division D.

The Senate bill contained an identical provision (sec. 4001).

The conference agreement includes this provision.

Clarification of applicability of undistributed reductions of certain operation and mainte- nance funding among all operation and maintenance funding (sec. 4002)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 4002) that clarifies that the undistributed reductions in funding for operation and maintenance due to bulk fuel purchases and foreign currency fluctuations, as shown in table 4301, can be applied to all operation and maintenance funding, regardless if funding is available in table 4301 or 4302.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would limit reductions mentioned above to table 4301 and 4303.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
DISCRETIONARY AUTHORIZATIONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE			
National Defense Funding, Base Budget Request			
Function 051, Department of Defense-Military			
Division A: Department of Defense Authorizations			
Title I—Procurement			
Aircraft Procurement, Army	5,689,357	171,000	5,860,357
Missile Procurement, Army	1,419,957	276,000	1,695,957
Weapons & Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army	1,887,073	424,500	2,311,573
Procurement of Ammunition, Army	1,233,378	–10,952	1,222,426
Other Procurement, Army	5,899,028	–285,746	5,613,282
Aircraft Procurement, Navy	16,126,405	1,801,406	17,927,811
Weapons Procurement, Navy	3,154,154	48,668	3,202,822
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy & Marine Corps	723,741		723,741
Shipbuilding & Conversion, Navy	16,597,457	1,031,000	17,628,457
Other Procurement, Navy	6,614,715	45,450	6,660,165
Procurement, Marine Corps	1,131,418	152,694	1,284,112
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force	15,657,769	391,644	16,049,413
Missile Procurement, Air Force	2,987,045	–18,384	2,968,661
Space Procurement, Air Force	2,584,061	–28,351	2,555,710
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force	1,758,843	18,500	1,777,343
Other Procurement, Air Force	18,272,438	39,646	18,312,084
Procurement, Defense-Wide	5,130,853	–100,769	5,030,084
Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund	99,701	–99,701	0
Subtotal, Title I—Procurement	106,967,393	3,856,605	110,823,998
Title II—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation			
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army	6,924,959	196,688	7,121,647
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy	17,885,916	458,265	18,344,181
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force	26,473,669	–599,164	25,874,505
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Defense-Wide	18,329,861	503,597	18,833,458
Operational Test & Evaluation, Defense	170,558		170,558
Subtotal, Title II—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	69,784,963	559,386	70,344,349
Title III—Operation and Maintenance			
Operation & Maintenance, Army	26,890,811	–75,300	26,815,511
Operation & Maintenance, Army Reserve	2,665,792	20,400	2,686,192
Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard	6,717,977	421,500	7,139,477
Operation & Maintenance, Navy	21,997,790	–813,200	21,184,590
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps	4,018,470	–65,600	3,952,870
Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve	1,001,758	–41,400	960,358
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve	277,036	–700	276,336
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force	30,531,942	–739,000	29,792,942
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve	3,064,257	–113,700	2,950,557
Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard	6,956,210	–136,700	6,819,510
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide	32,440,843	–756,200	31,684,643
US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Defense	14,078		14,078
Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid	100,266		100,266
Cooperative Threat Reduction	358,496		358,496
Defense Acquisition Development Workforce Fund	84,140		84,140
Environmental Restoration, Army	234,829		234,829
Environmental Restoration, Navy	292,453		292,453
Environmental Restoration, Air Force	368,131		368,131

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Environmental Restoration, Defense	8,232		8,232
Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Sites	203,717		203,717
Subtotal, Title III—Operation and Maintenance	138,227,228	–2,299,900	135,927,328
Title IV—Military Personnel			
Military Personnel Appropriations	130,491,227	–1,022,339	129,468,888
Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Fund Contributions	6,243,449		6,243,449
Subtotal, Title IV—Military Personnel	136,734,676	–1,022,339	135,712,337
Title XIV—Other Authorizations			
Working Capital Fund, Army	50,432		50,432
Working Capital Fund, Air Force	62,898		62,898
Working Capital Fund, Defense-Wide	45,084		45,084
Working Capital Fund, DECA	1,154,154		1,154,154
National Defense Sealift Fund	474,164	281,200	755,364
Chemical Agents & Munitions Destruction	720,721		720,721
Drug Interdiction and Counter Drug Activities	850,598	30,000	880,598
Office of the Inspector General	316,159	–3,600	312,559
Defense Health Program	32,243,328	–700,194	31,543,134
Subtotal, Title XIV—Other Authorizations	35,917,538	–392,594	35,524,944
Total, Division A: Department of Defense Authorizations	487,631,798	701,158	488,332,956
Division B: Military Construction Authorizations			
Military Construction			
Army	743,245	–45,500	697,745
Navy	1,605,929	29,500	1,635,429
Air Force	1,354,785	21,000	1,375,785
Defense-Wide	2,300,767		2,300,767
NATO Security Investment Program	120,000		120,000
Army National Guard	197,237	51,300	248,537
Army Reserve	113,595	34,200	147,795
Navy and Marine Corps Reserve	36,078		36,078
Air National Guard	123,538	6,100	129,638
Air Force Reserve	46,821	10,400	57,221
Subtotal, Military Construction	6,641,995	107,000	6,748,995
Family Housing			
Construction, Army	99,695		99,695
Operation & Maintenance, Army	393,511		393,511
Construction, Navy and Marine Corps	16,541		16,541
Operation & Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	353,036		353,036
Construction, Air Force	160,498		160,498
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force	331,232		331,232
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide	58,668		58,668
Subtotal, Family Housing	1,413,181	0	1,413,181
Base Realignment and Closure			
Base Realignment and Closure—Army	29,691		29,691
Base Realignment and Closure—Navy	157,088		157,088
Base Realignment and Closure—Air Force	64,555		64,555
Subtotal, Base Realignment and Closure	251,334	0	251,334
Undistributed Adjustments			
Prior Year Savings	0	–335,000	–335,000

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Subtotal, Undistributed Adjustments	0	–335,000	–335,000
Total, Division B: Military Construction Authorizations	8,306,510	–228,000	8,078,510
Total, 051, Department of Defense-Military	495,938,308	473,158	496,411,466
Function 053, Atomic Energy Defense Activities			
Division C: Department of Energy National Security Authorization and Other Authorizations			
Environmental and Other Defense Activities			
Nuclear Energy	135,161		135,161
Weapons Activities	8,846,948	–44,151	8,802,797
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	1,940,302	1,198	1,941,500
Naval Reactors	1,375,496	–15,500	1,359,996
Federal salaries and expenses	402,654	–14,654	388,000
Defense Environmental Cleanup	5,527,347	–396,797	5,130,550
Other Defense Activities	774,425	–3,903	770,522
Subtotal, Environmental and Other Defense Activities	19,002,333	–473,807	18,528,526
Independent Federal Agency Authorization			
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	29,150		29,150
Subtotal, Independent Federal Agency Authorization	29,150	0	29,150
Subtotal, Division C: Department of Energy National Security Authorization and Other Authorizations	19,031,483	–473,807	18,557,676
Subtotal, 053, Atomic Energy Defense Activities	19,031,483	–473,807	18,557,676
Total, National Defense Funding, Base Budget Request	514,969,791	–649	514,969,142
National Defense Funding, OCO Budget Request			
Function 051, Department of Defense-Military			
Procurement			
Aircraft Procurement, Army	164,987		164,987
Missile Procurement, Army	37,260		37,260
Weapons & Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army	26,030		26,030
Procurement of Ammunition, Army	192,040		192,040
Other Procurement, Army	1,205,596		1,205,596
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund	493,271	–54,464	438,807
Aircraft Procurement, Navy	217,394		217,394
Weapons Procurement, Navy	3,344		3,344
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy & Marine Corps	136,930		136,930
Other Procurement, Navy	12,186		12,186
Procurement, Marine Corps	48,934		48,934
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force	128,900		128,900
Missile Procurement, Air Force	289,142		289,142
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force	228,874		228,874
Other Procurement, Air Force	3,859,964		3,859,964
Procurement, Defense-Wide	212,418	206,400	418,818
National Guard & Reserve Equipment	0	420,000	420,000
Subtotal, Procurement	7,257,270	571,936	7,829,206
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation			
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army	1,500		1,500

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy	35,747		35,747
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force	17,100		17,100
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Defense-Wide	137,087	267,595	404,682
Subtotal, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	191,434	267,595	459,029
Operation and Maintenance			
Operation & Maintenance, Army	11,382,750	120,800	11,503,550
Operation & Maintenance, Army Reserve	24,559		24,559
Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard	60,845		60,845
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund	3,762,257		3,762,257
Iraq Train & Equip Fund	715,000		715,000
Syria Train & Equip Fund	600,000	-68,550	531,450
Operation & Maintenance, Navy	5,131,588	20,300	5,151,888
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps	952,534		952,534
Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve	31,643		31,643
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve	3,455		3,455
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force	9,090,013	-15,950	9,074,063
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve	58,106		58,106
Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard	19,900		19,900
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide	5,805,633	-100,000	5,705,633
Subtotal, Operation and Maintenance	37,638,283	-43,400	37,594,883
Military Personnel			
Military Personnel Appropriations	3,204,758		3,204,758
Subtotal, Military Personnel	3,204,758	0	3,204,758
Other Authorizations			
Working Capital Fund, Air Force	2,500		2,500
Working Capital Fund, Defense-Wide	86,350		86,350
Drug Interdiction and Counter Drug Activities	186,000		186,000
Office of the Inspector General	10,262		10,262
Defense Health Program	272,704		272,704
Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund	2,100,000	-1,100,000	1,000,000
Ukraine Security Assistance	0	300,000	300,000
Subtotal, Other Authorizations	2,657,816	-800,000	1,857,816
Total, National Defense Funding, OCO Budget Request	50,949,561	-3,869	50,945,692
National Defense Funding, Additional Authorizations			
Function 051, Department of Defense-Military			
Operation and Maintenance			
Operation & Maintenance, Army	8,216,735		8,216,735
Operation & Maintenance, Navy	20,202,966		20,202,966
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps	2,210,312		2,210,312
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force	7,659,987		7,659,987
Total Operation and Maintenance, Army	38,290,000	0	38,290,000
Total, National Defense Funding, Additional Authorizations	38,290,000	0	38,290,000
Total, National Defense Funding, Overseas Contingency Operations and Additional Authorizations	89,239,561	-3,869	89,235,692
Total, National Defense	604,209,352	-4,518	604,204,834

MEMORANDUM: NON-DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Title XIV—Armed Forces Retirement Home (Function 600)	64,300		64,300
Title XIV—Cemeterial Expenses, Army (Function 700)	70,800		70,800
Title XXXIV—Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves (Function 270)	17,500		17,500
Title XXXV—Maritime Administration (Function 400)	184,637		184,637
MEMORANDUM: TRANSFER AUTHORITIES (NON-ADD)			
Title X—General Transfer Authority	[5,000,000]	[-500,000]	[4,500,000]
Title XV—Special Transfer Authority	[3,500,000]		[3,500,000]
MEMORANDUM: DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (NON-ADD)			
Defense Production Act	[46,680]		[46,680]

NATIONAL DEFENSE BUDGET AUTHORITY IMPLICATION

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Summary, Discretionary Authorizations Within the Jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee			
SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (051)	495,938,308	473,158	496,411,466
SUBTOTAL, ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE PROGRAMS (053)	19,031,483	-473,807	18,557,676
TOTAL, NATIONAL DEFENSE (050)—BASE BILL	514,969,791	-649	514,969,142
TOTAL, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS	89,239,561	-3,869	89,235,692
GRAND TOTAL, NATIONAL DEFENSE	604,209,352	-4,518	604,204,834
Base National Defense Discretionary Programs that are Not In the Jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee or Do Not Require Additional Authorization			
Defense Production Act Purchases	25,000		25,000
Indefinite Account: Disposal Of DOD Real Property	8,000		8,000
Indefinite Account: Lease Of DOD Real Property	33,000		33,000
Subtotal, Budget Sub-Function 051	66,000		66,000
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program	104,000		104,000
Subtotal, Budget Sub-Function 053	104,000		104,000
Other Discretionary Programs	7,566,000		7,566,000
Subtotal, Budget Sub-Function 054	7,566,000		7,566,000
Total Defense Discretionary Adjustments (050)	7,736,000		7,736,000
Budget Authority Implication, National Defense Discretionary			
Department of Defense—Military (051)	585,243,869	469,289	585,713,158
Atomic Energy Defense Activities (053)	19,135,483	-473,807	18,661,676
Defense-Related Activities (054)	7,566,000		7,566,000
Total BA Implication, National Defense Discretionary	611,945,352	-4,518	611,940,834
National Defense Mandatory Programs, Current Law (CBO Estimates)			
Concurrent receipt accrual payments to the Military Retirement Fund	6,932,000		6,932,000
Revolving, trust and other DOD Mandatory	1,135,000		1,135,000
Offsetting receipts	-1,593,000		-1,593,000
Subtotal, Budget Sub-Function 051	6,474,000		6,474,000
Energy employees occupational illness compensation programs and other	1,168,000		1,168,000
Subtotal, Budget Sub-Function 053	1,168,000		1,168,000
Radiation exposure compensation trust fund	59,000		59,000
Payment to CIA retirement fund and other	514,000		514,000
Subtotal, Budget Sub-Function 054	573,000		573,000
Total National Defense Mandatory (050)	8,215,000		8,215,000

NATIONAL DEFENSE BUDGET AUTHORITY IMPLICATION

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2016 Request	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Budget Authority Implication, National Defense Discretionary and Mandatory			
Department of Defense--Military (051)	591,717,869	469,289	592,187,158
Atomic Energy Defense Activities (053)	20,303,483	-473,807	19,829,676
Defense-Related Activities (054)	8,139,000		8,139,000
Total BA Implication, National Defense Discretionary and Mandatory	620,160,352	-4,518	620,155,834

TITLE XLI—PROCUREMENT

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT.

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY										
	FIXED WING										
002	UTILITY F/W AIRCRAFT		879		879		879				879
004	MQ-1 UAV	15	260,436	15	277,436	15	260,436		17,000	15	277,436
	Extended Range Modifications				[17,000]				[17,000]		
	ROTARY										
006	HELICOPTER, LIGHT UTILITY (LUH)	28	187,177	28	187,177	28	187,177			28	187,177
007	AH-64 APACHE BLOCK IIIA REMAN	64	1,168,461	64	1,168,461	64	1,168,461			64	1,168,461
008	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		209,930		209,930		209,930				209,930
011	UH-60 BLACKHAWK M MODEL (MYP)	94	1,435,945	102	1,563,945	94	1,435,945	8	128,000	102	1,563,945
	Additional 8 rotorcraft for Army National Guard			[8]	[128,000]			[8]	[128,000]		
012	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		127,079		127,079		127,079				127,079
013	UH-60 BLACK HAWK A AND L MODELS	40	46,641	48	55,441	40	46,641			40	46,641
	Additional 8 rotorcraft for Army National Guard			[8]	[8,800]						
014	CH-47 HELICOPTER	39	1,024,587	39	1,024,587	39	1,024,587			39	1,024,587
015	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		99,344		99,344		99,344				99,344
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT										
016	MQ-1 PAYLOAD (MIP)		97,543		97,543		97,543				97,543
019	MULTI SENSOR ABN RECON (MIP)		95,725		95,725		95,725				95,725
020	AH-64 MODS		116,153		116,153		116,153				116,153
021	CH-47 CARGO HELICOPTER MODS (MYP)		86,330		86,330		86,330				86,330
022	GRCS SEMA MODS (MIP)		4,019		4,019		4,019				4,019
023	ARL SEMA MODS (MIP)		16,302		16,302		16,302				16,302
024	EMARSS SEMA MODS (MIP)		13,669		13,669		13,669				13,669
025	UTILITY/CARGO AIRPLANE MODS		16,166		16,166		16,166				16,166
026	UTILITY HELICOPTER MODS		13,793		13,793		13,793				13,793
028	NETWORK AND MISSION PLAN		112,807		112,807		112,807				112,807
029	COMMS, NAV SURVEILLANCE		82,904		82,904		82,904				82,904
030	GATM ROLLUP		33,890		33,890		33,890				33,890
031	RQ-7 UAV MODS		81,444		81,444		81,444				81,444
	GROUND SUPPORT AVIONICS										
032	AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT		56,215		56,215		56,215				56,215
033	SURVIVABILITY CM		8,917		8,917		8,917				8,917
034	CMWS		78,348		104,348		104,348		26,000		104,348
	Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement.				[26,000]		[26,000]		[26,000]		
	OTHER SUPPORT										
035	AVIONICS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		6,937		6,937		6,937				6,937
036	COMMON GROUND EQUIPMENT		64,867		64,867		64,867				64,867
037	AIRCREW INTEGRATED SYSTEMS		44,085		44,085		44,085				44,085
038	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL		94,545		94,545		94,545				94,545
039	INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		1,207		1,207		1,207				1,207
040	LAUNCHER, 2.75 ROCKET		3,012		3,012		3,012				3,012
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY	280	5,689,357	296	5,869,157	280	5,715,357	8	171,000	288	5,860,357
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY										
	SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM										
001	LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AMD)		115,075		115,075		115,075				115,075
002	MSE MISSILE	80	414,946	80	414,946	80	614,946		200,000	80	614,946

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	Army UPL for Patriot PAC 3 for improved ballistic missile.						[200,000]		[200,000]		
	AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM										
003	HELLFIRE SYS SUMMARY	113	27,975	113	27,975	113	27,975			113	27,975
004	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		27,738		27,738		27,738				27,738
	ANTI-TANK/ASSAULT MISSILE SYS										
005	JAVELIN (AAWS-M) SYSTEM SUMMARY	331	77,163	850	168,163	331	77,163	519	91,000	850	168,163
	Program increase to support Unfunded Requirements			[519]	[91,000]			[519]	[91,000]		
006	TOW 2 SYSTEM SUMMARY	1,704	87,525	1,704	87,525	1,704	87,525			1,704	87,525
008	GUIDED MLRS ROCKET (GMLRS)	1,668	251,060	1,668	251,060	1,668	251,060			1,668	251,060
009	MLRS REDUCED RANGE PRACTICE ROCKETS (RRPR)	3,121	17,428	3,121	17,428	3,121	17,428			3,121	17,428
	MODIFICATIONS										
011	PATRIOT MODS		241,883		241,883		241,883				241,883
012	ATACMS MODS		30,119		15,119		20,119		-15,000		15,119
	Early to need				[-15,000]		[-15,000]		[-15,000]		
013	GMLRS MOD		18,221		18,221		18,221				18,221
014	STINGER MODS		2,216		2,216		2,216				2,216
015	AVENGER MODS		6,171		6,171		6,171				6,171
016	ITAS/TOW MODS		19,576		19,576		19,576				19,576
017	MLRS MODS		35,970		35,970		35,970				35,970
018	HIMARS MODIFICATIONS		3,148		3,148		3,148				3,148
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
019	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		33,778		33,778		33,778				33,778
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES										
020	AIR DEFENSE TARGETS		3,717		3,717		3,717				3,717
021	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (MISSILES)		1,544		1,544		1,544				1,544
022	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT		4,704		4,704		4,704				4,704
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY	7,017	1,419,957	7,536	1,495,957	7,017	1,609,957	519	276,000	7,536	1,695,957
	PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY										
	TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES										
001	STRYKER VEHICLE		181,245		181,245		181,245				181,245
	MODIFICATION OF TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES										
002	STRYKER (MOD)		74,085		118,585		388,085		314,000		388,085
	Lethality Upgrades				[44,500]		[314,000]		[314,000]		
003	STRYKER UPGRADE	62	305,743	62	305,743	62	305,743			62	305,743
005	BRADLEY PROGRAM (MOD)		225,042		225,042		225,042				225,042
006	HOWITZER, MED SP FT 155MM M109A6 (MOD)		60,079		60,079		60,079				60,079
007	PALADIN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (PIM)	30	273,850	30	273,850	30	273,850			30	273,850
008	IMPROVED RECOVERY VEHICLE (M88A2 HERCULES)	31	123,629	31	195,629	31	195,629		72,000	31	195,629
	Additional Vehicles – Army Unfunded Requirement ...				[72,000]		[72,000]		[72,000]		
009	ASSAULT BRIDGE (MOD)		2,461		2,461		2,461				2,461
010	ASSAULT BREACHER VEHICLE		2,975		2,975		2,975				2,975
011	M88 FOV MODS		14,878		14,878		14,878				14,878
012	JOINT ASSAULT BRIDGE	4	33,455	4	33,455	4	33,455			4	33,455
013	M1 ABRAMS TANK (MOD)		367,939		407,939		367,939		40,000		407,939
	Program Increase				[40,000]				[40,000]		
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES										
015	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (TCV-WTCV)		6,479		6,479		6,479				6,479
	WEAPONS & OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES										
016	MORTAR SYSTEMS		4,991		4,991		4,991				4,991
017	XM320 GRENADE LAUNCHER MODULE (GLM)		26,294		26,294		26,294				26,294
018	PRECISION SNIPER RIFLE		1,984						-1,984		
	Army request – schedule delay				[-1,984]		[-1,984]		[-1,984]		
019	COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATIC SNIPER SYSTEM		1,488						-1,488		
	Army request – schedule delay				[-1,488]		[-1,488]		[-1,488]		
020	CARBINE		34,460		34,460		34,460				34,460
021	COMMON REMOTELY OPERATED WEAPONS STATION		8,367		8,367		14,767		6,383		14,750
	Army requested adjustment						[6,400]		[6,383]		
022	HANDGUN		5,417						-5,417		
	Army request – early to need and schedule delay				[-5,417]		[-5,417]		[-5,417]		
	MOD OF WEAPONS AND OTHER COMBAT VEH										
023	MK-19 GRENADE MACHINE GUN MODS		2,777		2,777		2,777				2,777
024	M777 MODS		10,070		10,070		10,070				10,070
025	M4 CARBINE MODS		27,566		27,566		27,566				27,566
026	M2 50 CAL MACHINE GUN MODS		44,004		44,004		44,004				44,004
027	M249 SAW MACHINE GUN MODS		1,190		1,190		1,190				1,190
028	M240 MEDIUM MACHINE GUN MODS		1,424		1,424		1,424				1,424
029	SNIPER RIFLES MODIFICATIONS		2,431		980		1,031		-1,451		980

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		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	Army request – schedule delay				[–1,451]		[–1,400]		[–1,451]		
030	M119 MODIFICATIONS		20,599		20,599		20,599				20,599
032	MORTAR MODIFICATION		6,300		6,300		6,300				6,300
033	MODIFICATIONS LESS THAN \$5.0M (WOCV-WTCV)		3,737		3,737		3,737				3,737
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES										
034	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (WOCV-WTCV)		391		391		2,891		2,457		2,848
	Army requested adjustment						[2,500]		[2,457]		
035	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (WOCV-WTCV)		9,027		11,484		9,027				9,027
	Army requested realignment				[2,457]						
036	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS		304		304		304				304
037	SMALL ARMS EQUIPMENT (SOLDIER ENH PROG)		2,392		2,392		2,392				2,392
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY	127	1,887,073	127	2,035,690	127	2,271,684		424,500	127	2,311,573
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY										
	SMALL/MEDIUM CAL AMMUNITION										
001	CTG, 5.56MM, ALL TYPES		43,489		43,489		43,489				43,489
002	CTG, 7.62MM, ALL TYPES		40,715		40,715		40,715				40,715
003	CTG, HANDGUN, ALL TYPES		7,753		6,753		6,801		–952		6,801
	Army request – program reduction				[–1,000]		[–952]		[–952]		
004	CTG, .50 CAL, ALL TYPES		24,728		24,728		24,728				24,728
005	CTG, 25MM, ALL TYPES		8,305		8,305		8,305				8,305
006	CTG, 30MM, ALL TYPES		34,330		34,330		34,330				34,330
007	CTG, 40MM, ALL TYPES		79,972		69,972		69,972		–10,000		69,972
	Early to need				[–10,000]		[–10,000]		[–10,000]		
	MORTAR AMMUNITION										
008	60MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES		42,898		42,898		42,898				42,898
009	81MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES		43,500		43,500		43,500				43,500
010	120MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES		64,372		64,372		64,372				64,372
	TANK AMMUNITION										
011	CARTRIDGES, TANK, 105MM AND 120MM, ALL TYPES		105,541		105,541		105,541				105,541
	ARTILLERY AMMUNITION										
012	ARTILLERY CARTRIDGES, 75MM & 105MM, ALL TYPES		57,756		57,756		57,756				57,756
013	ARTILLERY PROJECTILE, 155MM, ALL TYPES		77,995		77,995		77,995				77,995
014	PROJ 155MM EXTENDED RANGE M982		45,518		45,518		45,518				45,518
015	ARTILLERY PROPELLANTS, FUZES AND PRIMERS, ALL		78,024		78,024		78,024				78,024
	ROCKETS										
016	SHOULDER LAUNCHED MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES		7,500		7,500		7,500				7,500
017	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES		33,653		33,653		33,653				33,653
	OTHER AMMUNITION										
018	CAD/PAD, ALL TYPES		5,639		5,639		5,639				5,639
019	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES		9,751		9,751		9,751				9,751
020	GRENADES, ALL TYPES		19,993		19,993		19,993				19,993
021	SIGNALS, ALL TYPES		9,761		9,761		9,761				9,761
022	SIMULATORS, ALL TYPES		9,749		9,749		9,749				9,749
	MISCELLANEOUS										
023	AMMO COMPONENTS, ALL TYPES		3,521		3,521		3,521				3,521
024	NON-LETHAL AMMUNITION, ALL TYPES		1,700		1,700		1,700				1,700
025	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION (AMMO)		6,181		6,181		6,181				6,181
026	AMMUNITION PECULIAR EQUIPMENT		17,811		17,811		17,811				17,811
027	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION (AMMO)		14,695		14,695		14,695				14,695
	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT										
029	PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		221,703		221,703		221,703				221,703
030	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS DEMILITARIZATION		113,250		113,250		113,250				113,250
031	ARMS INITIATIVE		3,575		3,575		3,575				3,575
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY		1,233,378		1,222,378		1,222,426		–10,952		1,222,426
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY										
	TACTICAL VEHICLES										
001	TACTICAL TRAILERS/DOLLY SETS		12,855		12,855		12,855				12,855
002	SEMITRAILERS, FLATBED:		53		53		53				53
004	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE	450	308,336	450	308,336	450	308,336			450	308,336
005	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEH (FMTV)	166	90,040	166	90,040	166	90,040			166	90,040
006	FIRETRUCKS & ASSOCIATED FIREFIGHTING EQUIP		8,444		8,444		8,444				8,444
007	FAMILY OF HEAVY TACTICAL VEHICLES (FHTV)	273	27,549	273	27,549	273	27,549			273	27,549
008	PLS ESP		127,102		127,102		127,102				127,102
010	TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE PROTECTION KITS		48,292		48,292		48,292				48,292
011	MODIFICATION OF IN SVC EQUIP		130,993		130,993		130,993				130,993
012	MINE-RESISTANT AMBUSH-PROTECTED (MRAP) MODS		19,146		19,146		19,146				19,146
	NON-TACTICAL VEHICLES										

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
014	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		1,248		1,248		1,248				1,248
015	NONTACTICAL VEHICLES, OTHER		9,614		9,614		9,614				9,614
	COMM—JOINT COMMUNICATIONS										
016	WIN-T—GROUND FORCES TACTICAL NETWORK		783,116		743,116		583,116		−139,746		643,370
	Unobligated balances				[−40,000]		[−200,000]		[−139,746]		
017	SIGNAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM		49,898		49,898		49,898				49,898
018	JOINT INCIDENT SITE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY		4,062		4,062		4,062				4,062
019	JCSE EQUIPMENT (USREDCOM)		5,008		5,008		5,008				5,008
	COMM—SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS										
020	DEFENSE ENTERPRISE WIDEBAND SATCOM SYSTEMS		196,306		196,306		196,306				196,306
021	TRANSPORTABLE TACTICAL COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS ..		44,998		34,998		29,998		−10,000		34,998
	Program Reduction				[−10,000]		[−15,000]		[−10,000]		
022	SHF TERM		7,629		7,629		7,629				7,629
023	NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (SPACE)		14,027		14,027		14,027				14,027
024	SMART-T (SPACE)		13,453		13,453		13,453				13,453
025	GLOBAL BRDCST SVC—GBS		6,265		6,265		6,265				6,265
026	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (TAC SAT)		1,042		1,042		1,042				1,042
027	ENROUTE MISSION COMMAND (EMC)		7,116		7,116		7,116				7,116
	COMM—C3 SYSTEM										
028	ARMY GLOBAL CMD & CONTROL SYS (AGCCS)		10,137		10,137		10,137				10,137
	COMM—COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS										
029	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM		64,640		54,640		64,640		−10,000		54,640
	Unobligated balances				[−10,000]				[−10,000]		
030	MID-TIER NETWORKING VEHICULAR RADIO (MNVN)		27,762		22,762		27,762		−5,000		22,762
	Excess Program Management Costs				[−5,000]				[−5,000]		
031	RADIO TERMINAL SET, MIDS LVT(2)		9,422		9,422		9,422				9,422
032	AMC CRITICAL ITEMS—OPA2		26,020		26,020		26,020				26,020
033	TRACTOR DESK		4,073		4,073		4,073				4,073
034	SPIDER APLA REMOTE CONTROL UNIT		1,403		1,403		1,403				1,403
035	SPIDER FAMILY OF NETWORKED MUNITIONS INCR		9,199		9,199		9,199				9,199
036	SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM COMM/ELECTRONICS ...		349		349		349				349
037	TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PROTECTIVE SYSTEM		25,597		25,597		25,597				25,597
038	UNIFIED COMMAND SUITE		21,854		21,854		21,854				21,854
040	FAMILY OF MED COMM FOR COMBAT CASUALTY CARE		24,388		24,388		24,388				24,388
	COMM—INTELLIGENCE COMM										
042	CI AUTOMATION ARCHITECTURE		1,349		1,349		1,349				1,349
043	ARMY CA/MISO GPF EQUIPMENT		3,695		3,695		3,695				3,695
	INFORMATION SECURITY										
045	INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY PROGRAM-ISSP		19,920		19,920		19,920				19,920
046	COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY (COMSEC)		72,257		72,257		72,257				72,257
	COMM—LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS										
047	BASE SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS		16,082		16,082		16,082				16,082
	COMM—BASE COMMUNICATIONS										
048	INFORMATION SYSTEMS		86,037		86,037		86,037				86,037
050	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM		8,550		8,550		8,550				8,550
051	INSTALLATION INFO INFRASTRUCTURE MOD PROGRAM		73,496		73,496		73,496				73,496
	ELECT EQUIP—TACT INT REL ACT (TIARA)										
054	JIT/CIBS-M		881		881		881				881
055	PROPHET GROUND		63,650		48,650		48,650		−15,000		48,650
	Program reduction				[−15,000]		[−15,000]		[−15,000]		
057	DCGS-A (MIP)		260,268		250,268		260,268		−10,000		250,268
	Program reduction				[−10,000]				[−10,000]		
058	JOINT TACTICAL GROUND STATION (JTGS)		3,906		3,906		3,906				3,906
059	TROJAN (MIP)		13,929		13,929		13,929				13,929
060	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (INTEL SPT) (MIP)		3,978		3,978		3,978				3,978
061	CI HUMINT AUTO REPRTING AND COLL(CHARCS)		7,542		7,542		7,542				7,542
062	CLOSE ACCESS TARGET RECONNAISSANCE (CATR)		8,010		8,010		8,010				8,010
063	MACHINE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SYSTEM-M		8,125		8,125		8,125				8,125
	ELECT EQUIP—ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)										
064	LIGHTWEIGHT COUNTER MORTAR RADAR		63,472		63,472		63,472				63,472
065	EW PLANNING & MANAGEMENT TOOLS (EWPMT)		2,556		2,556		2,556				2,556
066	AIR VIGILANCE (AV)		8,224		8,224		8,224				8,224
067	CREW		2,960		2,960		2,960				2,960
068	FAMILY OF PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIE		1,722		1,722		1,722				1,722
069	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES		447		447		447				447
070	CI MODERNIZATION		228		228		228				228
	ELECT EQUIP—TACTICAL SURV. (TAC SURV)										
071	SENTINEL MODS		43,285		43,285		43,285				43,285
072	NIGHT VISION DEVICES		124,216		124,216		124,216				124,216

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
074	SMALL TACTICAL OPTICAL RIFLE MOUNTED MLRF		23,216		23,216		23,216				23,216
076	INDIRECT FIRE PROTECTION FAMILY OF SYSTEMS		60,679		60,679		60,679				60,679
077	FAMILY OF WEAPON SIGHTS (FWS)		53,453		53,453		53,453				53,453
078	ARTILLERY ACCURACY EQUIP		3,338		3,338		3,338				3,338
079	PROFILER		4,057		4,057		4,057				4,057
081	JOINT BATTLE COMMAND—PLATFORM (JBC-P)		133,339		133,339		133,339				133,339
082	JOINT EFFECTS TARGETING SYSTEM (JETS)		47,212		47,212		47,212				47,212
083	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIP (LLDR)		22,314		22,314		22,314				22,314
084	COMPUTER BALLISTICS: LHMBC XM32		12,131		12,131		12,131				12,131
085	MORTAR FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM		10,075		10,075		10,075				10,075
086	COUNTERFIRE RADARS		217,379		187,379		142,379		-50,000		167,379
	Unobligated balances				[-30,000]		[-75,000]		[-50,000]		
	ELECT EQUIP—TACTICAL C2 SYSTEMS										
087	FIRE SUPPORT C2 FAMILY		1,190		1,190		1,190				1,190
090	AIR & MSL DEFENSE PLANNING & CONTROL SYS		28,176		28,176		28,176				28,176
091	IAMD BATTLE COMMAND SYSTEM		20,917		15,917		20,917		-5,000		15,917
	Program Reduction				[-5,000]				[-5,000]		
092	LIFE CYCLE SOFTWARE SUPPORT (LCSS)		5,850		5,850		5,850				5,850
093	NETWORK MANAGEMENT INITIALIZATION AND SERVICE		12,738		12,738		12,738				12,738
094	MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM (MCS)		145,405		145,405		145,405				145,405
095	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM-ARMY (GCSS-A)		162,654		162,654		146,654		-16,000		146,654
	Program growth						[-16,000]		[-16,000]		
096	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM-ARMY (IPP)		4,446		4,446		4,446				4,446
098	RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEYING INSTRUMENT SET		16,218		16,218		16,218				16,218
099	MOD OF IN-SVC EQUIPMENT (ENFIRE)		1,138		1,138		1,138				1,138
	ELECT EQUIP—AUTOMATION										
100	ARMY TRAINING MODERNIZATION		12,089		12,089		12,089				12,089
101	AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING EQUIP		105,775		105,775		93,775				105,775
	Reduce IT procurement						[-12,000]				
102	GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEMS FAM		18,995		18,995		18,995				18,995
103	HIGH PERF COMPUTING MOD PGM (HPCMP)		62,319		62,319		62,319				62,319
104	RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYS (RCAS)		17,894		17,894		17,894				17,894
	ELECT EQUIP—AUDIO VISUAL SYS (A/V)										
106	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5M (SURVEYING EQUIPMENT)		4,242		4,242		4,242				4,242
	ELECT EQUIP—SUPPORT										
107	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (C-E)		425		425		425				425
108	BCT EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES		7,438		7,438		7,438				7,438
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
108A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		6,467		6,467		6,467				6,467
	CHEMICAL DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT										
109	PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS		248		248		248				248
110	FAMILY OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT (FNLE)		1,487		1,487		1,487				1,487
112	CBRN DEFENSE		26,302		26,302		26,302				26,302
	BRIDGING EQUIPMENT										
113	TACTICAL BRIDGING		9,822		9,822		9,822				9,822
114	TACTICAL BRIDGE, FLOAT-RIBBON		21,516		21,516		21,516				21,516
115	BRIDGE SUPPLEMENTAL SET		4,959		4,959		4,959				4,959
116	COMMON BRIDGE TRANSPORTER (CBT) RECAP		52,546		42,546		52,546				52,546
	Program decrease				[-10,000]						
	ENGINEER (NON-CONSTRUCTION) EQUIPMENT										
117	GRND STANDOFF MINE DETECTN SYS (GSTAMIDS)		58,682		58,682		58,682				58,682
118	HUSKY MOUNTED DETECTION SYSTEM (HMDS)		13,565		13,565		13,565				13,565
119	ROBOTIC COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM (RCSS)		2,136		2,136		2,136				2,136
120	EOD ROBOTICS SYSTEMS RECAPITALIZATION		6,960		6,960		6,960				6,960
121	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQPMT (EOD EQPMT)		17,424		17,424		17,424				17,424
122	REMOTE DEMOLITION SYSTEMS		8,284		8,284		8,284				8,284
123	<\$5M, COUNTERMINE EQUIPMENT		5,459		5,459		5,459				5,459
124	FAMILY OF BOATS AND MOTORS		8,429		8,429		8,429				8,429
	COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
125	HEATERS AND ECU'S		18,876		18,876		18,876				18,876
127	SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT		2,287		2,287		2,287				2,287
128	PERSONNEL RECOVERY SUPPORT SYSTEM (PRSS)		7,733		7,733		7,733				7,733
129	GROUND SOLDIER SYSTEM		49,798		49,798		49,798				49,798
130	MOBILE SOLDIER POWER		43,639		43,639		43,639				43,639
132	FIELD FEEDING EQUIPMENT		13,118		13,118		13,118				13,118
133	CARGO AERIAL DEL & PERSONNEL PARACHUTE SYSTEM		28,278		28,278		28,278				28,278
135	FAMILY OF ENGR COMBAT AND CONSTRUCTION SETS		34,544		34,544		34,544				34,544
136	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5M (ENG SPT)		595		595		595				595
	PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT										

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
137	QUALITY SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT		5,368		5,368		5,368				5,368
138	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, PETROLEUM & WATER		35,381		35,381		35,381				35,381
	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT										
139	COMBAT SUPPORT MEDICAL		73,828		73,828		73,828				73,828
	MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT										
140	MOBILE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS		25,270		25,270		25,270				25,270
141	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (MAINT EQ)		2,760		2,760		2,760				2,760
	CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT										
142	GRADER, ROAD MTZD, HVY, 6X4 (CCE)		5,903		5,903		5,903				5,903
143	SCRAPERS, EARTHMOVING		26,125		26,125		26,125				26,125
146	TRACTOR, FULL TRACKED		27,156		27,156		27,156				27,156
147	ALL TERRAIN CRANES		16,750		16,750		16,750				16,750
148	PLANT, ASPHALT MIXING		984		984		984				984
149	HIGH MOBILITY ENGINEER EXCAVATOR (HME)		2,656		2,656		2,656				2,656
150	ENHANCED RAPID AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION CAPAP		2,531		2,531		2,531				2,531
151	FAMILY OF DIVER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		446		446		446				446
152	CONST EQUIP ESP		19,640		19,640		19,640				19,640
153	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (CONST EQUIP)		5,087		5,087		5,087				5,087
	RAIL FLOAT CONTAINERIZATION EQUIPMENT										
154	ARMY WATERCRAFT ESP		39,772		39,772		39,772				39,772
155	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5.0M (FLOAT/RAIL)		5,835		94,835		5,835				5,835
	Strategic mobility shortfall mitigation – railcar acquisition.				[89,000]						
	GENERATORS										
156	GENERATORS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIP		166,356		146,356		166,356				166,356
	Program decrease				[–20,000]						
157	TACTICAL ELECTRIC POWER RECAPITALIZATION		11,505		11,505		11,505				11,505
	MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT										
159	FAMILY OF FORKLIFTS		17,496		17,496		17,496				17,496
	TRAINING EQUIPMENT										
160	COMBAT TRAINING CENTERS SUPPORT		74,916		74,916		74,916				74,916
161	TRAINING DEVICES, NONSYSTEM		303,236		278,236		278,236		–25,000		278,236
	Program reduction				[–25,000]		[–25,000]		[–25,000]		
162	CLOSE COMBAT TACTICAL TRAINER		45,210		45,210		45,210				45,210
163	AVIATION COMBINED ARMS TACTICAL TRAINER		30,068		30,068		30,068				30,068
164	GAMING TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORT OF ARMY TRAINING		9,793		9,793		9,793				9,793
	TEST MEASURE AND DIG EQUIPMENT (TMD)										
165	CALIBRATION SETS EQUIPMENT		4,650		4,650		4,650				4,650
166	INTEGRATED FAMILY OF TEST EQUIPMENT (IFTE)		34,487		34,487		34,487				34,487
167	TEST EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION (TEMOD)		11,083		11,083		11,083				11,083
	OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
169	RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		17,937		17,937		17,937				17,937
170	PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEMS (OPA3)		52,040		52,040		52,040				52,040
171	BASE LEVEL COMMON EQUIPMENT		1,568		1,568		1,568				1,568
172	MODIFICATION OF IN-SVC EQUIPMENT (OPA–3)		64,219		64,219		64,219				64,219
173	PRODUCTION BASE SUPPORT (OTH)		1,525		1,525		1,525				1,525
174	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR USER TESTING		3,268		3,268		3,268				3,268
176	TRACTOR YARD		7,191		7,191		7,191				7,191
	OPA2										
177	INITIAL SPARES—C&E		48,511		48,511		48,511				48,511
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY	889	5,899,028	889	5,808,028	889	5,541,028		–285,746	889	5,613,282
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY										
	COMBAT AIRCRAFT										
002	F/A–18E/F (FIGHTER) HORNET			12	1,150,000	12	1,150,000	12	978,750	12	978,750
	Additional 12 Aircraft—Navy Unfunded Requirement			[12]	[1,150,000]	[12]	[1,150,000]	[12]	[978,750]		
003	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER CV	4	897,542	4	873,042	4	873,042			4	873,042
	Anticipated contract savings				[–7,700]				[–7,700]		
	Cost growth for support equipment				[–16,800]				[–16,800]		
	Efficiencies and excess cost growth						[–24,500]				
004	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		48,630		48,630						48,630
005	JSF STOVL	9	1,483,414	15	2,458,314	15	2,508,314	6	846,000	15	2,329,414
	Additional 6 Aircraft—Marine Corps Unfunded Requirement.			[6]	[1,000,000]	[6]	[1,050,000]	[6]	[846,000]		
	Anticipated contract savings				[–17,600]						
	Cost growth for support equipment				[–7,500]						
	Efficiencies and excess cost growth						[–25,100]				
006	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		203,060		203,060		203,060				203,060
007	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		41,300		41,300		41,300				41,300

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		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
008	V-22 (MEDIUM LIFT)	19	1,436,355	19	1,436,355	19	1,436,355		-15,000	19	1,421,355
	Support funding carryover								[-15,000]		
009	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		43,853		43,853		43,853				43,853
010	H-1 UPGRADES (UH-1Y/AH-1Z)	28	800,057	28	800,057	28	800,057			28	800,057
011	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		56,168		56,168		56,168				56,168
012	MH-60S (MYP)		28,232		28,232		28,232				28,232
014	MH-60R (MYP)	29	969,991	29	969,991	29	969,991		-5,000	29	964,991
	Poor justification of production line shutdown funds								[-5,000]		
016	P-8A POSEIDON	16	3,008,928	16	3,008,928	16	3,008,928			16	3,008,928
017	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		269,568		269,568		269,568		-19,000		250,568
	Advance procurement cost growth								[-19,000]		
018	E-2D ADV HAWKEYE	5	857,654	5	857,654	5	857,654			5	857,654
019	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		195,336		195,336		195,336				195,336
	TRAINER AIRCRAFT										
020	JPATS		8,914		8,914		8,914				8,914
	OTHER AIRCRAFT										
021	KC-130J	2	192,214	2	192,214	2	192,214			2	192,214
022	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		24,451		24,451		24,451				24,451
023	MQ-4 TRITON	3	494,259	4	559,259	3	494,259	1	65,000	4	559,259
	Additional Air Vehicle			[1]	[65,000]			[1]	[65,000]		
024	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		54,577		72,577		54,577				54,577
	Additional Advance Procurement				[18,000]						
025	MQ-8 UAV	2	120,020	2	156,020	2	120,020		36,000	2	156,020
	MQ-8 UAV-Additional three air vehicles				[36,000]				[36,000]		
026	STUASLO UAV		3,450		3,450		3,450				3,450
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT										
028	EA-6 SERIES		9,799		9,799		9,799				9,799
029	AEA SYSTEMS		23,151		38,151		23,151		15,000		38,151
	Additional Low Band Transmitter Modifications				[15,000]				[15,000]		
030	AV-8 SERIES		41,890		41,890		45,190		3,300		45,190
	AV-8B Link 16 upgrades, unfunded requirement						[3,300]		[3,300]		
031	ADVERSARY		5,816		5,816		5,816				5,816
032	F-18 SERIES		978,756		968,456		1,148,756		-10,300		968,456
	Jamming protection upgrades, unfunded requirement						[170,000]				
	Unjustified request				[-10,300]				[-10,300]		
034	H-53 SERIES		46,887		46,887		46,887				46,887
035	SH-60 SERIES		107,728		107,728		107,728				107,728
036	H-1 SERIES		42,315		42,315		42,315		-1,750		40,565
	Unjustified growth—installation funding								[-1,750]		
037	EP-3 SERIES		41,784		41,784		41,784				41,784
038	P-3 SERIES		3,067		3,067		3,067				3,067
039	E-2 SERIES		20,741		20,741		20,741				20,741
040	TRAINER A/C SERIES		27,980		27,980		27,980				27,980
041	C-2A		8,157		8,157		8,157				8,157
042	C-130 SERIES		70,335		70,335		70,335		-1,294		69,041
	Unjustified growth—installation funding								[-1,294]		
043	FEWSG		633		633		633				633
044	CARGO/TRANSPORT A/C SERIES		8,916		8,916		8,916				8,916
045	E-6 SERIES		185,253		185,253		185,253				185,253
046	EXECUTIVE HELICOPTERS SERIES		76,138		76,138		76,138		-3,800		72,338
	Unjustified growth—installation funding								[-3,800]		
047	SPECIAL PROJECT AIRCRAFT		23,702		23,702		23,702				23,702
048	T-45 SERIES		105,439		105,439		105,439				105,439
049	POWER PLANT CHANGES		9,917		9,917		9,917				9,917
050	JPATS SERIES		13,537		13,537		13,537				13,537
051	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT		131,732		131,732		131,732				131,732
052	COMMON AVIONICS CHANGES		202,745		202,745		202,745				202,745
053	COMMON DEFENSIVE WEAPON SYSTEM		3,062		3,062		3,062				3,062
054	ID SYSTEMS		48,206		48,206		48,206				48,206
055	P-8 SERIES		28,492		28,492		28,492				28,492
056	MAGTF EW FOR AVIATION		7,680		7,680		7,680				7,680
057	MQ-8 SERIES		22,464		22,464		22,464				22,464
058	RQ-7 SERIES		3,773		3,773		3,773				3,773
059	V-22 (TILT/ROTOR ACFT) OSPREY		121,208		185,508		144,208		23,000		144,208
	Digital interoperability program				[64,300]						
	MV-22 Ballistic Protection						[8,000]		[8,000]		
	MV-22 integrated aircraft survivability—MC UFR						[15,000]		[15,000]		
060	F-35 STOVL SERIES		256,106		256,106		256,106				256,106
061	F-35 CV SERIES		68,527		68,527		68,527				68,527

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		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
062	QRC		6,885		6,885		6,885				6,885
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
063	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		1,563,515		1,478,515		1,563,515		-85,000		1,478,515
	Program decrease				[-85,000]				[-85,000]		
	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIP & FACILITIES										
064	COMMON GROUND EQUIPMENT		450,959		450,959		450,959				450,959
065	AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		24,010		24,010		24,010				24,010
066	WAR CONSUMABLES		42,012		42,012		42,012				42,012
067	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES		2,455		2,455		2,455				2,455
068	SPECIAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		50,859		50,859		50,859				50,859
069	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION		1,801		1,801		1,801				1,801
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY	117	16,126,405	136	18,329,805	135	18,473,105	19	1,801,406	136	17,927,811
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY										
	MODIFICATION OF MISSILES										
001	TRIDENT II MODS		1,099,064		1,099,064		1,099,064				1,099,064
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES										
002	MISSILE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		7,748		7,748		7,748				7,748
	STRATEGIC MISSILES										
003	TOMAHAWK	100	184,814	149	214,814	149	214,814	49	30,000	149	214,814
	Minimum Sustaining Rate Increase			[49]	[30,000]	[49]	[30,000]	[49]	[30,000]		
	TACTICAL MISSILES										
004	AMRAAM	167	192,873	167	192,873	167	207,873		15,000	167	207,873
	Additional captive air training missiles						[15,000]		[15,000]		
005	SIDEWINDER	227	96,427	227	96,427	227	96,427			227	96,427
006	JSOW		21,419	85	69,219		21,419				21,419
	Industrial Base Sustainment			[85]	[47,800]						
007	STANDARD MISSILE	113	435,352	113	435,352	113	435,352			113	435,352
008	RAM	90	80,826	90	80,826	90	80,826			90	80,826
011	STAND OFF PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS (SOPGM)	27	4,265	27	4,265	27	4,265			27	4,265
012	AERIAL TARGETS		40,792		40,792		40,792				40,792
013	OTHER MISSILE SUPPORT		3,335		3,335		3,335				3,335
	MODIFICATION OF MISSILES										
014	ESSM	30	44,440	30	44,440	30	44,440			30	44,440
015	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		54,462		54,462		54,462				54,462
016	HARM MODS		122,298		122,298		122,298				122,298
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES										
017	WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		2,397		2,397		2,397				2,397
018	FLEET SATELLITE COMM FOLLOW-ON		39,932		39,932		39,932				39,932
	ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
019	ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		57,641		57,641		61,309		3,668		61,309
	Classified Program						[3,668]		[3,668]		
	TORPEDOES AND RELATED EQUIP										
020	SSTD		7,380		7,380		7,380				7,380
021	MK-48 TORPEDO	8	65,611	8	65,611	8	65,611			8	65,611
022	ASW TARGETS		6,912		6,912		6,912				6,912
	MOD OF TORPEDOES AND RELATED EQUIP										
023	MK-54 TORPEDO MODS		113,219		113,219		113,219				113,219
024	MK-48 TORPEDO ADCAP MODS		63,317		63,317		63,317				63,317
025	QUICKSTRIKE MINE		13,254		13,254		13,254				13,254
	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
026	TORPEDO SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		67,701		67,701		67,701				67,701
027	ASW RANGE SUPPORT		3,699		3,699		3,699				3,699
	DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION										
028	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION		3,342		3,342		3,342				3,342
	GUNS AND GUN MOUNTS										
029	SMALL ARMS AND WEAPONS		11,937		11,937		11,937				11,937
	MODIFICATION OF GUNS AND GUN MOUNTS										
030	CIWS MODS		53,147		53,147		53,147				53,147
031	COAST GUARD WEAPONS		19,022		19,022		19,022				19,022
032	GUN MOUNT MODS		67,980		67,980		67,980				67,980
033	AIRBORNE MINE NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEMS		19,823		19,823		19,823				19,823
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
035	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		149,725		149,725		149,725				149,725
	TOTAL WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY	762	3,154,154	896	3,231,954	811	3,202,822	49	48,668	811	3,202,822
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC										
	NAVY AMMUNITION										
001	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS		101,238		101,238		101,238				101,238

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
002	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES		67,289		67,289		67,289				67,289
003	MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION		20,340		20,340		20,340				20,340
004	PRACTICE BOMBS		40,365		40,365		40,365				40,365
005	CARTRIDGES & CART ACTUATED DEVICES		49,377		49,377		49,377				49,377
006	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES		59,651		59,651		59,651				59,651
007	JATOS		2,806		2,806		2,806				2,806
008	LRLAP 6" LONG RANGE ATTACK PROJECTILE		11,596		11,596		11,596				11,596
009	5 INCH/54 GUN AMMUNITION		35,994		35,994		35,994				35,994
010	INTERMEDIATE CALIBER GUN AMMUNITION		36,715		36,715		36,715				36,715
011	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION		45,483		45,483		45,483				45,483
012	SMALL ARMS & LANDING PARTY AMMO		52,080		52,080		52,080				52,080
013	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION		10,809		10,809		10,809				10,809
014	AMMUNITION LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		4,469		4,469		4,469				4,469
	MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION										
015	SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION		46,848		46,848		46,848				46,848
016	LINEAR CHARGES, ALL TYPES		350		350		350				350
017	40 MM, ALL TYPES		500		500		500				500
018	60MM, ALL TYPES		1,849		1,849		1,849				1,849
019	81MM, ALL TYPES		1,000		1,000		1,000				1,000
020	120MM, ALL TYPES		13,867		13,867		13,867				13,867
022	GRENADES, ALL TYPES		1,390		1,390		1,390				1,390
023	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES		14,967		14,967		14,967				14,967
024	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES		45,219		45,219		45,219				45,219
026	FUZE, ALL TYPES		29,335		29,335		29,335				29,335
027	NON LETHALS		3,868		3,868		3,868				3,868
028	AMMO MODERNIZATION		15,117		15,117		15,117				15,117
029	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		11,219		11,219		11,219				11,219
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC		723,741		723,741		723,741				723,741
	SHIPBUILDING & CONVERSION, NAVY										
	OTHER WARSHIPS										
001	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		1,634,701		1,634,701		1,634,701				1,634,701
002	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		874,658		874,658		874,658				874,658
003	VIRGINIA CLASS SUBMARINE	2	3,346,370	2	3,346,370	2	3,346,370	2	3,346,370	2	3,346,370
004	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		1,993,740		1,993,740		2,793,740				1,993,740
	Accelerate shipbuilding funding						[800,000]				
005	CVN REFUELING OVERHAULS	1	678,274	1	678,274	1	678,274			1	678,274
006	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		14,951		14,951		14,951				14,951
007	DDG 1000		433,404		433,404		433,404				433,404
008	DDG-51	2	3,149,703	2	3,149,703	2	3,549,703	400,000		2	3,549,703
	Incremental funding for one DDG-51						[400,000]	[400,000]			
010	LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP	3	1,356,991	3	1,356,991	3	1,356,991			3	1,356,991
	AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS										
012	LPD-17	1	550,000	1	550,000	1	550,000			1	550,000
013	AFLOAT FORWARD STAGING BASE						97,000		97,000		97,000
	Accelerate shipbuilding funding						[97,000]	[97,000]			
013A	AFLOAT FORWARD STAGING BASE ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)				97,000						
	Procurement				[97,000]						
014A	LX(R) ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)				250,000		51,000	250,000			250,000
	LX(R) Acceleration				[250,000]		[51,000]	[250,000]			
015	LHA REPLACEMENT ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		277,543		277,543		476,543	199,000			476,543
	Accelerate LHA-8 advanced procurement						[199,000]	[199,000]			
016A	LCU Replacement						34,000	34,000			34,000
	Accelerate LCU replacement						[34,000]	[34,000]			
	AUXILIARIES, CRAFT AND PRIOR YR PROGRAM COST										
017	TAO FLEET OILER	1	674,190			1	674,190			1	674,190
	Transfer to NDSF—Title XIV			[–1]	[–674,190]						
019	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		138,200		138,200		138,200				138,200
020	OUTFITTING		697,207		673,207		697,207	–24,000			673,207
	Program decrease				[–24,000]			[–24,000]			
021	SHIP TO SHORE CONNECTOR	5	255,630	5	255,630	5	255,630			5	255,630
022	SERVICE CRAFT		30,014		30,014		30,014				30,014
023	LCAC SLEP	4	80,738	4	80,738	4	80,738			4	80,738
024	YP CRAFT MAINTENANCE/ROH/SLEP		21,838		21,838		21,838				21,838
025	COMPLETION OF PY SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMS		389,305		389,305		389,305				389,305
025A	T-ATS(X) Fleet Tug						75,000	75,000			75,000
	Accelerate T-ATS(X)						[75,000]	[75,000]			
	TOTAL SHIPBUILDING & CONVERSION, NAVY	19	16,597,457	18	16,246,267	19	18,253,457	1,031,000		19	17,628,457

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(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY										
	SHIP PROPULSION EQUIPMENT										
001	LM-2500 GAS TURBINE		4,881		4,881		4,881				4,881
002	ALLISON 501K GAS TURBINE		5,814		5,814		5,814				5,814
003	HYBRID ELECTRIC DRIVE (HED)		32,906		32,906		32,906				32,906
	GENERATORS										
004	SURFACE COMBATANT HM&E		36,860		36,860		36,860				36,860
	NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT										
005	OTHER NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT		87,481		87,481		87,481				87,481
	PERISCOPES										
006	SUB PERISCOPES & IMAGING EQUIP		63,109		63,109		63,109				63,109
	OTHER SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT										
007	DDG MOD		364,157		424,157		424,157		60,000		424,157
	Additional DDG Modification-Unfunded Requirement				[60,000]		[60,000]		[60,000]		
008	FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT		16,089		16,089		16,089				16,089
009	COMMAND AND CONTROL SWITCHBOARD		2,255		2,255		2,255				2,255
010	LHA/LHD MIDLIFE		28,571		28,571		28,571				28,571
011	LCC 19/20 EXTENDED SERVICE LIFE PROGRAM		12,313		12,313		12,313				12,313
012	POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT		16,609		16,609		16,609				16,609
013	SUBMARINE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		10,498		10,498		10,498				10,498
014	VIRGINIA CLASS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		35,747		35,747		35,747				35,747
015	LCS CLASS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		48,399		48,399		48,399				48,399
016	SUBMARINE BATTERIES		23,072		23,072		23,072				23,072
017	LPD CLASS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		55,283		55,283		55,283				55,283
018	STRATEGIC PLATFORM SUPPORT EQUIP		18,563		18,563		18,563				18,563
019	DSSP EQUIPMENT		7,376		7,376		7,376				7,376
021	LCAC		20,965		20,965		20,965				20,965
022	UNDERWATER EOD PROGRAMS		51,652		51,652		51,652				51,652
023	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		102,498		102,498		102,498				102,498
024	CHEMICAL WARFARE DETECTORS		3,027		3,027		3,027				3,027
025	SUBMARINE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM		7,399		7,399		7,399				7,399
	REACTOR PLANT EQUIPMENT										
027	REACTOR COMPONENTS		296,095		296,095		296,095				296,095
	OCEAN ENGINEERING										
028	DIVING AND SALVAGE EQUIPMENT		15,982		15,982		15,982				15,982
	SMALL BOATS										
029	STANDARD BOATS		29,982		29,982		29,982				29,982
	TRAINING EQUIPMENT										
030	OTHER SHIPS TRAINING EQUIPMENT		66,538		66,538		66,538				66,538
	PRODUCTION FACILITIES EQUIPMENT										
031	OPERATING FORCES IPE		71,138		71,138		71,138				71,138
	OTHER SHIP SUPPORT										
032	NUCLEAR ALTERATIONS		132,625		132,625		132,625				132,625
033	LCS COMMON MISSION MODULES EQUIPMENT		23,500		23,500		23,500				23,500
034	LCS MCM MISSION MODULES		85,151		85,151		29,351				85,151
	Procurement in excess of need ahead of satisfactory testing.						[-55,800]				
035	LCS SUW MISSION MODULES		35,228		35,228		35,228				35,228
036	REMOTE MINEHUNTING SYSTEM (RMS)		87,627		87,627		22,027		-34,550		53,077
	Procurement in excess of need ahead of satisfactory testing.						[-65,600]		[-34,550]		
	LOGISTIC SUPPORT										
037	LSD MIDLIFE		2,774		2,774		2,774				2,774
	SHIP SONARS										
038	SPQ-9B RADAR		20,551		20,551		20,551				20,551
039	AN/SQQ-89 SURF ASW COMBAT SYSTEM		103,241		103,241		103,241				103,241
040	SSN ACOUSTICS		214,835		234,835		234,835		20,000		234,835
	Submarine Towed Array-Unfunded Requirement				[20,000]		[20,000]		[20,000]		
041	UNDERSEA WARFARE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		7,331		7,331		7,331				7,331
042	SONAR SWITCHES AND TRANSDUCERS		11,781		11,781		11,781				11,781
	ASW ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT										
044	SUBMARINE ACOUSTIC WARFARE SYSTEM		21,119		21,119		21,119				21,119
045	SSTD		8,396		8,396		8,396				8,396
046	FIXED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM		146,968		146,968		146,968				146,968
047	SURTASS		12,953		12,953		12,953				12,953
048	MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE		13,725		13,725		13,725				13,725
	ELECTRONIC WARFARE EQUIPMENT										
049	AN/SLQ-32		324,726		352,726		352,726				324,726

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	SEWIP Block II-Unfunded Requirement				[28,000]		[28,000]				
	RECONNAISSANCE EQUIPMENT										
050	SHIPBOARD IW EXPLOIT		148,221		148,221		148,221				148,221
051	AUTOMATED IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)		152		152		152				152
	SUBMARINE SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT										
052	SUBMARINE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT PROG		79,954		79,954		79,954				79,954
	OTHER SHIP ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT										
053	COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT CAPABILITY		25,695		25,695		25,695				25,695
054	TRUSTED INFORMATION SYSTEM (TIS)		284		284		284				284
055	NAVAL TACTICAL COMMAND SUPPORT SYSTEM (NTCSS)		14,416		14,416		14,416				14,416
056	ATDLS		23,069		23,069		23,069				23,069
057	NAVY COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NCCS)		4,054		4,054		4,054				4,054
058	MINESWEEPING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT		21,014		21,014		21,014				21,014
059	SHALLOW WATER MCM		18,077		18,077		18,077				18,077
060	NAVSTAR GPS RECEIVERS (SPACE)		12,359		12,359		12,359				12,359
061	AMERICAN FORCES RADIO AND TV SERVICE		4,240		4,240		4,240				4,240
062	STRATEGIC PLATFORM SUPPORT EQUIP		17,440		17,440		17,440				17,440
	TRAINING EQUIPMENT										
063	OTHER TRAINING EQUIPMENT		41,314		41,314		41,314				41,314
	AVIATION ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT										
064	MATCALs		10,011		10,011		10,011				10,011
065	SHIPBOARD AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL		9,346		9,346		9,346				9,346
066	AUTOMATIC CARRIER LANDING SYSTEM		21,281		21,281		21,281				21,281
067	NATIONAL AIR SPACE SYSTEM		25,621		25,621		25,621				25,621
068	FLEET AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS		8,249		8,249		8,249				8,249
069	LANDING SYSTEMS		14,715		14,715		14,715				14,715
070	ID SYSTEMS		29,676		29,676		29,676				29,676
071	NAVAL MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS		13,737		13,737		13,737				13,737
	OTHER SHORE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT										
072	DEPLOYABLE JOINT COMMAND & CONTROL		1,314		1,314		1,314				1,314
074	TACTICAL/MOBILE C4I SYSTEMS		13,600		13,600		13,600				13,600
075	DCGS-N		31,809		31,809		31,809				31,809
076	CANES		278,991		278,991		278,991				278,991
077	RADIAC		8,294		8,294		8,294				8,294
078	CANES-INTELL		28,695		28,695		28,695				28,695
079	GPETE		6,962		6,962		6,962				6,962
080	MASF		290		290		290				290
081	INTEG COMBAT SYSTEM TEST FACILITY		14,419		14,419		14,419				14,419
082	EMI CONTROL INSTRUMENTATION		4,175		4,175		4,175				4,175
083	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		44,176		44,176		44,176				44,176
	SHIPBOARD COMMUNICATIONS										
084	SHIPBOARD TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS		8,722		8,722		8,722				8,722
085	SHIP COMMUNICATIONS AUTOMATION		108,477		108,477		108,477				108,477
086	COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS UNDER \$5M		16,613		16,613		16,613				16,613
	SUBMARINE COMMUNICATIONS										
087	SUBMARINE BROADCAST SUPPORT		20,691		20,691		20,691				20,691
088	SUBMARINE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		60,945		60,945		60,945				60,945
	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS										
089	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS		30,892		30,892		30,892				30,892
090	NAVY MULTIBAND TERMINAL (NMT)		118,113		118,113		118,113				118,113
	SHORE COMMUNICATIONS										
091	JCS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT		4,591		4,591		4,591				4,591
092	ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS		1,403		1,403		1,403				1,403
	CRYPTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT										
093	INFO SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM (ISSP)		135,687		135,687		135,687				135,687
094	MIO INTEL EXPLOITATION TEAM		970		970		970				970
	CRYPTOLOGIC EQUIPMENT										
095	CRYPTOLOGIC COMMUNICATIONS EQUIP		11,433		11,433		11,433				11,433
	OTHER ELECTRONIC SUPPORT										
096	COAST GUARD EQUIPMENT		2,529		2,529		2,529				2,529
	SONOBUOYS										
097	SONOBUOYS—ALL TYPES		168,763		168,763		168,763				168,763
	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
098	WEAPONS RANGE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		46,979		46,979		46,979				46,979
100	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		123,884		123,884		123,884				123,884
	F-35 Visual/Optical Landing System Training Equip- ment Unfunded Requirement.				[3,500]						
103	METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT		15,090		15,090		15,090				15,090
104	DCRS/DPL		638		638		638				638

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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
106	AIRBORNE MINE COUNTERMEASURES		14,098		14,098		14,098				14,098
111	AVIATION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		49,773		49,773		49,773				49,773
	SHIP GUN SYSTEM EQUIPMENT										
112	SHIP GUN SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT		5,300		5,300		5,300				5,300
	SHIP MISSILE SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT										
115	SHIP MISSILE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		298,738		298,738		298,738				298,738
120	TOMAHAWK SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		71,245		71,245		71,245				71,245
	FBM SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
123	STRATEGIC MISSILE SYSTEMS EQUIP		240,694		240,694		240,694				240,694
	ASW SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
124	SSN COMBAT CONTROL SYSTEMS		96,040		96,040		96,040				96,040
125	ASW SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		30,189		30,189		30,189				30,189
	OTHER ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
129	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQUIP		22,623		22,623		22,623				22,623
130	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		9,906		9,906		9,906				9,906
	OTHER EXPENDABLE ORDNANCE										
134	TRAINING DEVICE MODS		99,707		99,707		99,707				99,707
	CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
135	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		2,252		2,252		2,252				2,252
136	GENERAL PURPOSE TRUCKS		2,191		2,191		2,191				2,191
137	CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE EQUIP		2,164		2,164		2,164				2,164
138	FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT		14,705		14,705		14,705				14,705
139	TACTICAL VEHICLES		2,497		2,497		2,497				2,497
140	AMPHIBIOUS EQUIPMENT		12,517		12,517		12,517				12,517
141	POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT		3,018		3,018		3,018				3,018
142	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION		14,403		14,403		14,403				14,403
143	PHYSICAL SECURITY VEHICLES		1,186		1,186		1,186				1,186
	SUPPLY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
144	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		18,805		18,805		18,805				18,805
145	OTHER SUPPLY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		10,469		10,469		10,469				10,469
146	FIRST DESTINATION TRANSPORTATION		5,720		5,720		5,720				5,720
147	SPECIAL PURPOSE SUPPLY SYSTEMS		211,714		211,714		211,714				211,714
	TRAINING DEVICES										
148	TRAINING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		7,468		7,468		7,468				7,468
	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
149	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		36,433		36,433		36,433				36,433
150	EDUCATION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		3,180		3,180		3,180				3,180
151	MEDICAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		4,790		4,790		4,790				4,790
153	NAVAL MIP SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		4,608		4,608		4,608				4,608
154	OPERATING FORCES SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		5,655		5,655		5,655				5,655
155	C4ISR EQUIPMENT		9,929		9,929		9,929				9,929
156	ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		26,795		26,795		26,795				26,795
157	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT		88,453		88,453		88,453				88,453
159	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		99,094		99,094		99,094				99,094
	OTHER										
160	NEXT GENERATION ENTERPRISE SERVICE		99,014		99,014		99,014				99,014
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
160A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		21,439		21,439		21,439				21,439
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
161	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		328,043		328,043		328,043				328,043
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY		6,614,715		6,726,215		6,601,315		45,450		6,660,165
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS										
	TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES										
001	AAV7A1 PIP		26,744		26,744		26,744				26,744
002	LAV PIP		54,879		54,879		54,879				54,879
	ARTILLERY AND OTHER WEAPONS										
003	EXPEDITIONARY FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEM		2,652		2,652		2,652				2,652
004	155MM LIGHTWEIGHT TOWED HOWITZER		7,482		7,482		7,482				7,482
005	HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEM		17,181		17,181		17,181				17,181
006	WEAPONS AND COMBAT VEHICLES UNDER \$5 MILLION		8,224		8,224		8,224				8,224
	OTHER SUPPORT										
007	MODIFICATION KITS		14,467		14,467		14,467				14,467
008	WEAPONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM		488		488		488				488
	GUIDED MISSILES										
009	GROUND BASED AIR DEFENSE		7,565		7,565		7,565				7,565
010	JAVELIN		1,091	441	78,591		1,091	294	50,000	294	51,091
	Program increase to support Unfunded Requirements			[441]	[77,500]			[294]	[50,000]		
011	FOLLOW ON TO SMAW		4,872		4,872		4,872				4,872

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
012	ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS SYSTEM-HEAVY (AAWS-H)		668		668		668				668
	OTHER SUPPORT										
013	MODIFICATION KITS		12,495		12,495		152,495		140,000		152,495
	Additional missiles						[140,000]		[140,000]		
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS										
014	UNIT OPERATIONS CENTER		13,109		13,109		13,109				13,109
015	COMMON AVIATION COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (C ..		35,147		35,147		35,147		-2,191		32,956
	Procurement early to need								[-2,191]		
	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT										
016	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT		21,210		21,210		21,210				21,210
	OTHER SUPPORT (TEL)										
017	COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM		792		792		792				792
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NON-TEL)										
019	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION (COMM & ELEC)		3,642		3,642		3,642				3,642
020	AIR OPERATIONS C2 SYSTEMS		3,520		3,520		3,520				3,520
	RADAR + EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)										
021	RADAR SYSTEMS		35,118		35,118		35,118				35,118
022	GROUND/AIR TASK ORIENTED RADAR (G/ATOR)	3	130,661	3	90,661	3	98,546		-32,115	3	98,546
	Delay in IOTE				[-40,000]		[-32,115]		[-32,115]		
023	RQ-21 UAS	4	84,916	4	84,916	4	84,916			4	84,916
	INTELL/COMM EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)										
024	FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEM		9,136		9,136		9,136				9,136
025	INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		29,936		29,936		29,936				29,936
028	DCGS-MC		1,947		1,947		1,947				1,947
	OTHER COMM/ELEC EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)										
031	NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT		2,018		2,018		2,018				2,018
	OTHER SUPPORT (NON-TEL)										
032	NEXT GENERATION ENTERPRISE NETWORK (NGEN)		67,295		67,295		67,295				67,295
033	COMMON COMPUTER RESOURCES		43,101		43,101		43,101		-3,000		40,101
	Marine Corps common hardware suite contract delay								[-3,000]		
034	COMMAND POST SYSTEMS		29,255		29,255		29,255				29,255
035	RADIO SYSTEMS		80,584		80,584		80,584				80,584
036	COMM SWITCHING & CONTROL SYSTEMS		66,123		66,123		66,123				66,123
037	COMM & ELEC INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT		79,486		79,486		79,486				79,486
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
037A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		2,803		2,803		2,803				2,803
	ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLES										
038	COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLES		3,538		3,538		3,538				3,538
039	COMMERCIAL CARGO VEHICLES		22,806		22,806		22,806				22,806
	TACTICAL VEHICLES										
041	MOTOR TRANSPORT MODIFICATIONS		7,743		7,743		7,743				7,743
043	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE	109	79,429	109	79,429	109	79,429			109	79,429
044	FAMILY OF TACTICAL TRAILERS		3,157		3,157		3,157				3,157
	OTHER SUPPORT										
045	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		6,938		6,938		6,938				6,938
	ENGINEER AND OTHER EQUIPMENT										
046	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL EQUIP ASSORT		94		94		94				94
047	BULK LIQUID EQUIPMENT		896		896		896				896
048	TACTICAL FUEL SYSTEMS		136		136		136				136
049	POWER EQUIPMENT ASSORTED		10,792		10,792		10,792				10,792
050	AMPHIBIOUS SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		3,235		3,235		3,235				3,235
051	EOD SYSTEMS		7,666		7,666		7,666				7,666
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT										
052	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT		33,145		33,145		33,145				33,145
053	GARRISON MOBILE ENGINEER EQUIPMENT (GMEE)		1,419		1,419		1,419				1,419
	GENERAL PROPERTY										
057	TRAINING DEVICES		24,163		24,163		24,163				24,163
058	CONTAINER FAMILY		962		962		962				962
059	FAMILY OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT		6,545		6,545		6,545				6,545
060	FAMILY OF INTERNALLY TRANSPORTABLE VEH (ITV)		7,533		7,533		7,533				7,533
	OTHER SUPPORT										
062	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		4,322		4,322		4,322				4,322
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
063	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		8,292		8,292		8,292				8,292
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS	116	1,131,418	557	1,168,918	116	1,239,303	294	152,694	410	1,284,112
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	TACTICAL FORCES										
001	F-35	44	5,260,212	44	5,161,112	44	5,161,112		-99,100	44	5,161,112

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
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Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	Anticipated contract savings				[-75,500]						
	Cost growth for support equipment				[-23,600]						
	Efficiencies and excess cost growth						[-99,100]		[-99,100]		
002	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		460,260		460,260		460,260				460,260
	TACTICAL AIRLIFT										
003	KC-46A TANKER	12	2,350,601	12	2,326,601	12	2,326,601		-24,000	12	2,326,601
	Program Decrease				[-24,000]		[-24,000]		[-24,000]		
	OTHER AIRLIFT										
004	C-130J	14	889,154	15	962,154	14	889,154		-40,800	14	848,354
	Unfunded Requirements			[1]	[73,000]						
	Unit cost growth and contract delays								[-40,800]		
005	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		50,000		50,000		50,000				50,000
006	HC-130J	5	463,934	5	463,934	5	463,934		-10,000	5	453,934
	Unit cost growth								[-10,000]		
007	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		30,000		30,000		30,000				30,000
008	MC-130J	8	828,472	8	828,472	8	828,472		-30,900	8	797,572
	Program efficiencies								[-30,900]		
009	ADVANCE PROCUREMENT (CY)		60,000		60,000		60,000				60,000
	MISSION SUPPORT AIRCRAFT										
011	CIVIL AIR PATROL A/C	6	2,617	6	2,617	6	2,617			6	2,617
	OTHER AIRCRAFT										
012	TARGET DRONES	75	132,028	75	132,028	75	132,028			75	132,028
014	RQ-4		37,800		37,800		37,800				37,800
015	MQ-9	29	552,528	29	552,528	53	1,032,528	8	150,000	37	702,528
	Accelerating procurement schedule to meet CCDR demand.					[24]	[480,000]	[8]	[160,000]		
	Restrain growth in government costs								[-10,000]		
	STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT										
017	B-2A		32,458		32,458		32,458				32,458
018	B-1B		114,119		114,119		114,119				114,119
019	B-52		148,987		148,987		148,987				148,987
020	LARGE AIRCRAFT INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES		84,335		84,335		84,335				84,335
	TACTICAL AIRCRAFT										
021	A-10				240,000						
	A-10 restoration— wing replacement program				[240,000]						
022	F-15		464,367		464,367	30	713,671		227,704		692,071
	ADCP II upgrades						[10,000]				
	EPAWSS upgrade						[11,600]				
	F-15 MIDS JTRS transfer to RDT&E						[-12,796]		[-12,796]		
	F-15C AESA radars					[6]	[48,000]		[48,000]		
	F-15D AESA radars					[24]	[192,500]		[192,500]		
023	F-16		17,134		17,134		17,134				17,134
024	F-22A		126,152		126,152		126,152				126,152
025	F-35 MODIFICATIONS		70,167		70,167		70,167				70,167
026	INCREMENT 3.2B		69,325		69,325		69,325				69,325
	AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT										
028	C-5		5,604		5,604		5,604				5,604
030	C-17A		46,997		46,997		46,997				46,997
031	C-21		10,162		10,162		10,162				10,162
032	C-32A		44,464		44,464		44,464				44,464
033	C-37A		10,861		861		10,861				10,861
	Program decrease				[-10,000]						
	TRAINER AIRCRAFT										
034	GLIDER MODS		134		134		134				134
035	T-6		17,968		17,968		17,968				17,968
036	T-1		23,706		23,706		23,706				23,706
037	T-38		30,604		30,604		30,604				30,604
	OTHER AIRCRAFT										
038	U-2 MODS		22,095		22,095		22,095				22,095
039	KC-10A (ATCA)		5,611		5,611		5,611				5,611
040	C-12		1,980		1,980		1,980				1,980
042	VC-25A MOD		98,231		98,231		98,231				98,231
043	C-40		13,171		13,171		13,171				13,171
044	C-130		7,048		80,248		130,248				146,248
	C-130 AMP increase				[10,000]				[75,000]		
	C-130H Electronic Prop Control System – UPL						[13,500]		[13,500]		
	C-130H In-flight Prop Balancing System – UPL						[1,500]		[1,500]		
	Eight-Bladed Propeller				[30,000]				[16,000]		
	Funds added to comply with Sec 134, FY15 NDAA						[75,000]				

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	T-56 3.5 Engine Mod				[33,200]		[33,200]		[33,200]		
045	C-130J MODS		29,713		29,713		29,713				29,713
046	C-135		49,043		49,043		49,043				49,043
047	COMPASS CALL MODS		68,415		97,115		97,115		28,700		97,115
	EC-130H Force Structure Restoration				[28,700]		[28,700]		[28,700]		
048	RC-135		156,165		156,165		156,165				156,165
049	E-3		13,178		13,178		13,178				13,178
050	E-4		23,937		23,937		23,937				23,937
051	E-8		18,001		18,001		18,001				18,001
052	AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM		183,308		183,308		183,308				183,308
053	FAMILY OF BEYOND LINE-OF-SIGHT TERMINALS		44,163		34,163		44,163				44,163
	Program decrease				[-10,000]						
054	H-1		6,291		6,291		6,291				6,291
055	UH-1N REPLACEMENT		2,456		2,456		2,456				2,456
056	H-60		45,731		45,731		45,731				45,731
057	RQ-4 MODS		50,022		50,022		50,022				50,022
058	HC/MC-130 MODIFICATIONS		21,660		21,660		21,660				21,660
059	OTHER AIRCRAFT		117,767		117,767		115,521		-2,246		115,521
	C2ISR TDL transfer to COMSEC equipment						[-2,246]		[-2,246]		
060	MQ-1 MODS		3,173		3,173		3,173				3,173
061	MQ-9 MODS		115,226		115,226		115,226				115,226
063	CV-22 MODS		58,828		58,828		58,828				58,828
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
064	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS		656,242		656,242		656,242				656,242
	COMMON SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
065	AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT SUPPORT EQUIP		33,716		33,716		33,716				33,716
	POST PRODUCTION SUPPORT										
067	B-2A		38,837		38,837		38,837				38,837
068	B-52		5,911		5,911		5,911				5,911
069	C-17A		30,108		30,108		30,108				30,108
070	CV-22 POST PRODUCTION SUPPORT		3,353		3,353		3,353				3,353
071	C-135		4,490		4,490		4,490				4,490
072	F-15		3,225		3,225		3,225				3,225
073	F-16		14,969		33,669		14,969		-6,000		8,969
	Additional Mission Trainers				[24,700]						
	Unobligated balances				[-6,000]				[-6,000]		
074	F-22A		971		971		971				971
076	MQ-9		5,000		5,000		5,000				5,000
	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS										
077	INDUSTRIAL RESPONSIVENESS		18,802		18,802		18,802				18,802
	WAR CONSUMABLES										
078	WAR CONSUMABLES		156,465		156,465		156,465				156,465
	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES										
079	OTHER PRODUCTION CHARGES		1,052,814		1,052,814		1,111,900		59,086		1,111,900
	Transfer from RDT&E for NATO AWACS						[59,086]		[59,086]		
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
079A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		42,503		42,503		42,503				42,503
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	193	15,657,769	194	15,948,269	247	16,472,713	8	391,644	201	16,049,413
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	MISSILE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT—BALLISTIC										
001	MISSILE REPLACEMENT EQ-BALLISTIC		94,040		94,040		94,040				94,040
	TACTICAL										
003	JOINT AIR-SURFACE STANDOFF MISSILE	360	440,578	360	440,578	360	440,578		-10,000	360	430,578
	Unit cost efficiencies								[-10,000]		
004	SIDEWINDER (AIM-9X)	506	200,777	506	200,777	506	200,777			506	200,777
005	AMRAAM	262	390,112	262	390,112	262	390,112		-8,384	262	381,728
	Joint program unit cost variance								[-8,384]		
006	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	3,756	423,016	3,756	423,016	3,756	423,016			3,756	423,016
007	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB	1,942	133,697	1,942	133,697	1,942	133,697			1,942	133,697
	INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES										
008	INDUSTR'L PREPAREDNS/POL PREVENTION		397		397		397				397
	CLASS IV										
009	MM III MODIFICATIONS		50,517		50,517		50,517				50,517
010	AGM-65D MAVERICK		9,639		9,639		9,639				9,639
011	AGM-88A HARM		197		197		197				197
012	AIR LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM)		25,019		25,019		25,019				25,019
	MISSILE SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
014	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS		48,523		48,523		48,523				48,523

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT (In Thousands of Dollars)											
Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	SPECIAL PROGRAMS										
028	SPECIAL UPDATE PROGRAMS		276,562		276,562		276,562				276,562
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
028A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		893,971		893,971		893,971				893,971
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	6,826	2,987,045	6,826	2,987,045	6,826	2,987,045		-18,384	6,826	2,968,661
	SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	SPACE PROGRAMS										
001	ADVANCED EHF		333,366		333,366		333,366				333,366
002	WIDEBAND GAFILLER SATELLITES(SPACE)		53,476		79,476		53,476		21,000		74,476
	SATCOM pathfinder				[26,000]				[26,000]		
	Unjustified support growth								[-5,000]		
003	GPS III SPACE SEGMENT	1	199,218	1	199,218					1	199,218
	GPS III SV10 early to need					[-1]	[-199,218]				
004	SPACEBORNE EQUIP (COMSEC)		18,362		18,362		18,362				18,362
005	GLOBAL POSITIONING (SPACE)		66,135		66,135		66,135				66,135
006	DEF METEOROLOGICAL SAT PROG(SPACE)		89,351		89,351				-49,351		40,000
	Minimum sustainment of DMSP-20 program						[-89,351]		[-49,351]		
007	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH CAPABILITY		571,276		571,276		571,276				571,276
008	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEH(SPACE)	5	800,201	5	800,201	5	800,201			5	800,201
009	SBIR HIGH (SPACE)		452,676		452,676		452,676				452,676
	TOTAL SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	6	2,584,061	6	2,610,061	5	2,295,492		-28,351	6	2,555,710
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE										
	ROCKETS										
001	ROCKETS		23,788		23,788		23,788				23,788
	CARTRIDGES										
002	CARTRIDGES		131,102		131,102		169,602		38,500		169,602
	Increase to match size of A-10 fleet						[38,500]		[38,500]		
	BOMBS										
003	PRACTICE BOMBS		89,759		89,759		89,759				89,759
004	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS		637,181		637,181		637,181				637,181
005	MASSIVE ORDNANCE PENETRATOR (MOP)		39,690		39,690		39,690				39,690
006	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION	6,341	374,688	6,341	354,688	6,341	374,688		-20,000	6,341	354,688
	Program reduction				[-20,000]				[-20,000]		
	OTHER ITEMS										
007	CAD/PAD		58,266		58,266		58,266				58,266
008	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)		5,612		5,612		5,612				5,612
009	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		103		103		103				103
010	MODIFICATIONS		1,102		1,102		1,102				1,102
011	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		3,044		3,044		3,044				3,044
	FLARES										
012	FLARES		120,935		120,935		120,935				120,935
	FUZES										
013	FUZES		213,476		213,476		213,476				213,476
	SMALL ARMS										
014	SMALL ARMS		60,097		60,097		60,097				60,097
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE	6,341	1,758,843	6,341	1,738,843	6,341	1,797,343		18,500	6,341	1,777,343
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES										
001	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		8,834		8,834		8,834				8,834
	CARGO AND UTILITY VEHICLES										
002	MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE		58,160		58,160		58,160				58,160
003	CAP VEHICLES		977		977		977				977
004	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		12,483		12,483		12,483				12,483
	SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES										
005	SECURITY AND TACTICAL VEHICLES		4,728		4,728		4,728				4,728
006	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		4,662		4,662		4,662				4,662
	FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT										
007	FIRE FIGHTING/CRASH RESCUE VEHICLES		10,419		10,419		10,419				10,419
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT										
008	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		23,320		23,320		23,320				23,320
	BASE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT										
009	RUNWAY SNOW REMOV & CLEANING EQUIP		6,215		6,215		6,215				6,215
010	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		87,781		87,781		87,781				87,781
	COMM SECURITY EQUIPMENT(COMSEC)										
011	COMSEC EQUIPMENT		136,998		136,998		139,244		2,246		139,244

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	Transfer for Link 16 Upgrades						[2,246]		[2,246]		
012	MODIFICATIONS (COMSEC)		677		677		677				677
	INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS										
013	INTELLIGENCE TRAINING EQUIPMENT		4,041		4,041		4,041				4,041
014	INTELLIGENCE COMM EQUIPMENT		22,573		22,573		22,573				22,573
015	MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS		14,456		14,456		14,456				14,456
	ELECTRONICS PROGRAMS										
016	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL & LANDING SYS		31,823		31,823		31,823				31,823
017	NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM		5,833		5,833		5,833				5,833
018	BATTLE CONTROL SYSTEM—FIXED		1,687		1,687		1,687				1,687
019	THEATER AIR CONTROL SYS IMPROVEMENTS		22,710		22,710		22,710				22,710
020	WEATHER OBSERVATION FORECAST		21,561		21,561		21,561				21,561
021	STRATEGIC COMMAND AND CONTROL		286,980		286,980		286,980				286,980
022	CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN COMPLEX		36,186		36,186		36,186				36,186
024	INTEGRATED STRAT PLAN & ANALY NETWORK (ISPAN)		9,597		9,597		9,597				9,597
	SPCL COMM-ELECTRONICS PROJECTS										
025	GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		27,403		27,403		27,403				27,403
026	AF GLOBAL COMMAND & CONTROL SYS		7,212		7,212		7,212				7,212
027	MOBILITY COMMAND AND CONTROL		11,062		11,062		30,962		19,900		30,962
	Additional battlefield air operations kits to meet need.						[19,900]		[19,900]		
028	AIR FORCE PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEM		131,269		131,269		131,269				131,269
029	COMBAT TRAINING RANGES		33,606		33,606		33,606				33,606
030	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMM N		5,232		5,232		5,232				5,232
031	C3 COUNTERMEASURES		7,453		7,453		7,453				7,453
032	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM		3,976		3,976		3,976				3,976
033	GCSS-AF FOS		25,515		25,515		25,515		–9,000		16,515
	LOGIT—prioritize FIAR projects								[–9,000]		
034	DEFENSE ENTERPRISE ACCOUNTING AND MGMT SYSTEM ...		9,255		9,255		9,255				9,255
035	THEATER BATTLE MGT C2 SYSTEM		7,523		7,523		7,523				7,523
036	AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS CTR-WPN SYS		12,043		12,043		12,043				12,043
037	AIR OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC) 10.2		24,246		24,246		24,246		–9,400		14,846
	Fielding funds ahead of need								[–9,400]		
	AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS										
038	INFORMATION TRANSPORT SYSTEMS		74,621		74,621		74,621				74,621
039	AFNET		103,748		103,748		86,748		–5,000		98,748
	Restructure program						[–17,000]		[–5,000]		
041	JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT ELEMENT (JCSE)		5,199		5,199		5,199				5,199
042	USCENTCOM		15,780		15,780		15,780				15,780
	SPACE PROGRAMS										
043	FAMILY OF BEYOND LINE-OF-SIGHT TERMINALS		79,592		64,592		79,592		–15,000		64,592
	Ahead of need				[–15,000]				[–15,000]		
044	SPACE BASED IR SENSOR PGM SPACE		90,190		90,190		90,190				90,190
045	NAVSTAR GPS SPACE		2,029		2,029		2,029				2,029
046	NUDET DETECTION SYS SPACE		5,095		5,095		5,095				5,095
047	AF SATELLITE CONTROL NETWORK SPACE		76,673		76,673		76,673				76,673
048	SPACELIFT RANGE SYSTEM SPACE		113,275		113,275		113,275				113,275
049	MILSATCOM SPACE		35,495		35,495		35,495				35,495
050	SPACE MODS SPACE		23,435		23,435		23,435				23,435
051	COUNTERSPACE SYSTEM		43,065		43,065		43,065				43,065
	ORGANIZATION AND BASE										
052	TACTICAL C-E EQUIPMENT		77,538		111,438		113,538		55,900		133,438
	Battlefield Airmen Kits Unfunded Requirement				[19,900]				[19,900]		
	Increase JTAC training and rehearsal simulators per AF unfunded priority list.						[36,000]				
	Joint Terminal Control Training Simulation Unfunded Requirement.				[14,000]				[36,000]		
054	RADIO EQUIPMENT		8,400		8,400		8,400				8,400
055	CCTV/AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT		6,144		6,144		6,144				6,144
056	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE		77,010		77,010		77,010				77,010
	MODIFICATIONS										
057	COMM ELECT MODS		71,800		71,800		71,800				71,800
	PERSONAL SAFETY & RESCUE EQUIP										
058	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES		2,370		2,370		2,370				2,370
059	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		79,623		79,623		79,623				79,623
	DEPOT PLANT+MTRLS HANDLING EQ										
060	MECHANIZED MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIP		7,249		7,249		7,249				7,249
	BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
061	BASE PROCURED EQUIPMENT		9,095		13,095		9,095				9,095

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	Additional Equipment				[4,000]						
062	ENGINEERING AND EOD EQUIPMENT		17,866		17,866		17,866				17,866
064	MOBILITY EQUIPMENT		61,850		61,850		61,850				61,850
065	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		30,477		30,477		30,477				30,477
	SPECIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS										
067	DARP RC135		25,072		25,072		25,072				25,072
068	DCGS-AF		183,021		183,021		183,021				183,021
070	SPECIAL UPDATE PROGRAM		629,371		629,371		629,371				629,371
071	DEFENSE SPACE RECONNAISSANCE PROG.		100,663		100,663		100,663				100,663
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
071A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		15,038,333		15,038,333		15,038,333				15,038,333
	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS										
073	SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		59,863		59,863		59,863				59,863
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		18,272,438		18,295,338		18,313,584		39,646		18,312,084
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE										
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DCAA										
001	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		1,488		1,488		1,488				1,488
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DCMA										
002	MAJOR EQUIPMENT		2,494		2,494		2,494				2,494
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DHRA										
003	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION		9,341		9,341		9,341				9,341
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DISA										
007	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY		8,080		23,080		18,080		7,000		15,080
	SHARKSEER				[15,000]		[10,000]		[7,000]		
008	TELEPORT PROGRAM		62,789		62,789		62,789				62,789
009	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		9,399		9,399		9,399				9,399
010	NET CENTRIC ENTERPRISE SERVICES (NCES)		1,819		1,819		1,819				1,819
011	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM NETWORK		141,298		141,298		141,298				141,298
012	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE		12,732		12,732		12,732				12,732
013	WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATION AGENCY		64,098		64,098		64,098				64,098
014	SENIOR LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE		617,910		617,910		617,910				617,910
015	JOINT INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT		84,400		84,400		84,400				84,400
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DLA										
016	MAJOR EQUIPMENT		5,644		5,644		5,644				5,644
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DMACT										
017	MAJOR EQUIPMENT	4	11,208	4	11,208	4	11,208			4	11,208
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DODEA										
018	AUTOMATION/EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & LOGISTICS		1,298		1,298		1,298				1,298
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY										
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DSS										
020	MAJOR EQUIPMENT		1,048		1,048		1,048				1,048
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY										
021	VEHICLES		100		100		100				100
022	OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT		5,474		5,474		5,474				5,474
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY										
023	THAAD	30	464,067	30	464,067	30	464,067			30	464,067
024	AEGIS BMD	40	558,916	58	679,281	58	706,681	9	120,445	49	679,361
	Increase SM-3 Block IB canisters			[9]	[2,565]	[9]	[2,565]		[2,565]		

SEC. 4101. PROCUREMENT (In Thousands of Dollars)											
Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
028A	DAVID SLING David's Sling Weapon System Procurement—Subject to Title XVI.			1	150,000		150,000				
				[1]	[150,000]		[150,000]				
028B	ARROW 3 Arrow 3 Upper Tier Procurement—Subject to Title XVI.			1	15,000		15,000				
				[1]	[15,000]		[15,000]				
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
040A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		617,757		617,757		617,757				617,757
	AVIATION PROGRAMS										
041	MC–12 SOCOM requested realignment		63,170		63,170				–63,170		
							[–63,170]		[–63,170]		
042	ROTARY WING UPGRADES AND SUSTAINMENT		135,985		135,985		135,985				135,985
044	NON-STANDARD AVIATION		61,275		61,275		61,275				61,275
045	U–28 SOCOM requested realignment						63,170		63,170		63,170
							[63,170]		[63,170]		
047	RQ–11 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE		20,087		20,087		20,087				20,087
048	CV–22 MODIFICATION		18,832		18,832		18,832				18,832
049	MQ–1 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE		1,934		1,934		1,934				1,934
050	MQ–9 UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE MQ–9 capability enhancements		11,726		26,926		21,726		10,000		21,726
					[15,200]		[10,000]		[10,000]		
051	STUASLO PRECISION STRIKE PACKAGE		1,514		1,514		1,514				1,514
052			204,105		204,105		204,105				204,105
053	AC/MC–130J MC–130 Terrain Following/Terrain Avoidance Radar Program.		61,368		25,968		61,368				61,368
					[–35,400]						
054	C–130 MODIFICATIONS C–130 TF/TA adjustments		66,861		66,861		31,412		–35,449		31,412
							[–35,449]		[–35,449]		
	SHIPBUILDING										
055	UNDERWATER SYSTEMS		32,521		32,521		32,521				32,521
	AMMUNITION PROGRAMS										
056	ORDNANCE ITEMS <\$5M		174,734		174,734		174,734				174,734
	OTHER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS										
057	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS		93,009		93,009		93,009				93,009
058	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS		14,964		14,964		14,964				14,964
059	OTHER ITEMS <\$5M		79,149		79,149		79,149				79,149
060	COMBATANT CRAFT SYSTEMS		33,362		33,362		33,362				33,362
061	SPECIAL PROGRAMS		143,533		143,533		143,533				143,533
062	TACTICAL VEHICLES		73,520		73,520		73,520				73,520
063	WARRIOR SYSTEMS <\$5M		186,009		186,009		186,009				186,009
064	COMBAT MISSION REQUIREMENTS		19,693		19,693		19,693				19,693
065	GLOBAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES		3,967		3,967		3,967				3,967
066	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS INTELLIGENCE		19,225		19,225		19,225				19,225
068	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS		213,252		213,252		213,252				213,252
	CBDP										
074	CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS		141,223		141,223		141,223				141,223
075	CB PROTECTION & HAZARD MITIGATION		137,487		137,487		137,487				137,487
	UNDISTRIBUTED										
076	UNDISTRIBUTED Cyber capabilities						75,000				
							[75,000]				
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE	92	5,130,853	112	5,263,253	110	5,341,504	8	–100,769	100	5,030,084
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND										
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND										
001	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		99,701				99,701		–99,701		
	Program reduction				[–99,701]				[–99,701]		
	TOTAL JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		99,701				99,701		–99,701		
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT	22,785	106,967,393	23,934	109,700,919	22,923	112,161,577	905	3,856,605	23,690	110,823,998

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

[illegible]

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
003	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR (ACS) (MIP)	5	99,500	5	99,500	5	99,500			5	99,500
004	MQ-1 UAV	2	16,537	2	16,537	2	16,537			2	16,537
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT										
016	MQ-1 PAYLOAD (MIP)		8,700		8,700		8,700				8,700
023	ARL SEMA MODS (MIP)		32,000		32,000		32,000				32,000
031	RQ-7 UAV MODS		8,250		8,250		8,250				8,250
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY	7	164,987	7	164,987	7	164,987			7	164,987
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY										
	AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM										
003	HELLFIRE SYS SUMMARY	270	37,260	270	37,260	270	37,260			270	37,260
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY	270	37,260	270	37,260	270	37,260			270	37,260
	PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY										
	WEAPONS & OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES										
016	MORTAR SYSTEMS		7,030		7,030		7,030				7,030
021	COMMON REMOTELY OPERATED WEAPONS STATION		19,000		19,000		19,000				19,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF W&TCV, ARMY		26,030		26,030		26,030				26,030
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY										
	SMALL/MEDIUM CAL AMMUNITION										
004	CTG, .50 CAL, ALL TYPES		4,000		4,000		4,000				4,000
	MORTAR AMMUNITION										
008	60MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES		11,700		11,700		11,700				11,700
009	81MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES		4,000		4,000		4,000				4,000
010	120MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES		7,000		7,000		7,000				7,000
	ARTILLERY AMMUNITION										
012	ARTILLERY CARTRIDGES, 75MM & 105MM, ALL TYPES		5,000		5,000		5,000				5,000
013	ARTILLERY PROJECTILE, 155MM, ALL TYPES		10,000		10,000		10,000				10,000
015	ARTILLERY PROPELLANTS, FUZES AND PRIMERS, ALL		2,000		2,000		2,000				2,000
	ROCKETS										
017	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES		136,340		136,340		136,340				136,340
	OTHER AMMUNITION										
019	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES		4,000		4,000		4,000				4,000
021	SIGNALS, ALL TYPES		8,000		8,000		8,000				8,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY		192,040		192,040		192,040				192,040
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY										
	TACTICAL VEHICLES										
005	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEH (FMTV)	1,191	243,998	1,191	243,998	1,191	243,998			1,191	243,998
009	HVY EXPANDED MOBILE TACTICAL TRUCK EXT SERV		223,276		223,276		223,276				223,276
011	MODIFICATION OF IN SVC EQUIP		130,000		130,000		130,000				

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
169	RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		8,500		8,500		8,500				8,500
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY	1,203	1,205,596	1,203	1,205,596	1,203	1,205,596			1,203	1,205,596
	JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND										
	NETWORK ATTACK										
001	ATTACK THE NETWORK		219,550		219,550		215,086		-4,464		215,086
	Adjustment due to low execution in prior years						[-4,464]		[-4,464]		
	JIEDDO DEVICE DEFEAT										
002	DEFEAT THE DEVICE		77,600		77,600		77,600				77,600
	FORCE TRAINING										
003	TRAIN THE FORCE		7,850		7,850		7,850				7,850
	STAFF AND INFRASTRUCTURE										
004	OPERATIONS		188,271		137,571		144,464		-50,000		138,271
	Program Reduction				[-50,700]		[-43,807]		[-50,000]		
	TOTAL JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND		493,271		442,571		445,000		-54,464		438,807
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY										
	OTHER AIRCRAFT										
026	STUASLO UAV	3	55,000	3	55,000	3	55,000			3	55,000
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT										
030	AV-8 SERIES		41,365		41,365		41,365				41,365
032	F-18 SERIES		8,000		8,000		8,000				8,000
037	EP-3 SERIES		6,300		6,300		6,300				6,300
047	SPECIAL PROJECT AIRCRAFT		14,198		14,198		14,198				14,198
051	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT		72,700		72,700		72,700				72,700
052	COMMON AVIONICS CHANGES		13,988		13,988		13,988				13,988
059	V-22 (TILT/ROTOR ACFT) OSPREY		4,900		4,900		4,900				4,900
	AIRCRAFT SUPPORT EQUIP & FACILITIES										
065	AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		943		943		943				943
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY	3	217,394	3	217,394	3	217,394			3	217,394
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY										
	TACTICAL MISSILES										
010	LASER MAVERICK		3,344		3,344		3,344				3,344
	TOTAL WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY		3,344		3,344		3,344				3,344
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC										
	NAVY AMMUNITION										
001	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS		9,715		9,715		9,715				9,715
002	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES		11,108		11,108		11,108				11,108
003	MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION		3,603		3,603		3,603				3,603
006	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES		11,982		11,982		11,982				11,982
011	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION		4,674		4,674		4,674				4,674
012	SMALL ARMS & LANDING PARTY AMMO		3,456		3,456		3,456				3,456
013	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION		1,989		1,989		1,989				1,989
014	AMMUNITION LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		4,674		4,674		4,674				4,674
	MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION										
020	120MM, ALL TYPES		10,719		10,719		10,719				10,719
023	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES		3,993		3,993		3,993				3,993
024	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES		67,200		67,200		67,200				67,200
025	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES		518		518		518				518
026	FUZE, ALL TYPES		3,299		3,299		3,299				3,299
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC		136,930		136,930		136,930				136,930
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY										
	CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
135	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		186		186		186				186
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
160A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		12,000		12,000		12,000				12,000
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY		12,186		12,186		12,186				12,186
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS										
	GUIDED MISSILES										
010	JAVELIN		7,679		7,679		7,679				7,679
	OTHER SUPPORT										
013	MODIFICATION KITS		10,311		10,311		10,311				10,311
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS										
014	UNIT OPERATIONS CENTER		8,221		8,221		8,221				8,221
	OTHER SUPPORT (TEL)										

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		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
018	MODIFICATION KITS		3,600		3,600		3,600				3,600
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NON-TEL)										
019	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION (COMM & ELEC)		8,693		8,693		8,693				8,693
	INTELL/COMM EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)										
027	RQ-11 UAV		3,430		3,430		3,430				3,430
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT										
052	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT		7,000		7,000		7,000				7,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS		48,934		48,934		48,934				48,934
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	OTHER AIRCRAFT										
015	MQ-9		13,500		13,500		13,500				13,500
	OTHER AIRCRAFT										
044	C-130		1,410		1,410		1,410				1,410
056	H-60		39,300		39,300		39,300				39,300
058	HC/MC-130 MODIFICATIONS		5,690		5,690		5,690				5,690
061	MQ-9 MODS		69,000		69,000		69,000				69,000
	TOTAL AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		128,900		128,900		128,900				128,900
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	TACTICAL										
006	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	1,811	280,902	1,811	280,902	1,811	280,902			1,811	280,902
007	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB	63	2,520	63	2,520	63	2,520			63	2,520
	CLASS IV										
010	AGM-65D MAVERICK		5,720		5,720		5,720				5,720
	TOTAL MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE	1,874	289,142	1,874	289,142	1,874	289,142			1,874	289,142
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE										
	CARTRIDGES										
002	CARTRIDGES		8,371		8,371		8,371				8,371
	BOMBS										
004	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS		17,031		17,031		17,031				17,031
006	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION	5,953	184,412	5,953	184,412	5,953	184,412			5,953	184,412
	FLARES										
012	FLARES		11,064		11,064		11,064				11,064
	FUZES										
013	FUZES		7,996		7,996		7,996				7,996
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE.	5,953	228,874	5,953	228,874	5,953	228,874			5,953	228,874
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE										
	SPCL COMM-ELECTRONICS PROJECTS										
025	GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		3,953		3,953		3,953				3,953
027	MOBILITY COMMAND AND CONTROL		2,000		2,000		2,000				2,000
	AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS										
042	USCENTCOM		10,000		10,000		10,000				10,000
	ORGANIZATION AND BASE										
052	TACTICAL C-E EQUIPMENT		4,065		4,065		4,065				4,065
056	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE		15,400		15,400		15,400				15,400
	PERSONAL SAFETY & RESCUE EQUIP										
058	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES		3,580		3,580		3,580				3,580
059	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		3,407		3,407		3,407				3,407
	BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT										
062	ENGINEERING AND EOD EQUIPMENT		46,790		46,790		46,790				46,790
064	MOBILITY EQUIPMENT		400		400		400				400
065	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION		9,800		9,800		9,800				9,800
	SPECIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS										
071	DEFENSE SPACE RECONNAISSANCE PROG.		28,070		28,070		28,070				28,070
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
071A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		3,732,499		3,732,499		3,732,499				3,732,499
	TOTAL OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		3,859,964		3,859,964		3,859,964				3,859,964
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE										
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DISA										
008	TELEPORT PROGRAM		1,940		1,940		1,940				1,940
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY										
028	IRON DOME								41,400		41,400
	Realignment of Iron Dome to Overseas Contingency Operations—Subject to Title XVI.								[41,400]		

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request		House Authorized		Senate Authorized		Conference Change		Conference Authorized	
		Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost	Qty	Cost
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY										
028A	DAVID SLING								150,000		150,000
	David's Sling Weapon System Procurement—Subject to Title XVI.								[150,000]		
028B	ARROW 3								15,000		15,000
	Arrow 3 Upper Tier Procurement—Subject to Title XVI.								[15,000]		
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS										
040A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		35,482		35,482		35,482				35,482
	AVIATION PROGRAMS										
041	MC-12		5,000		5,000		5,000				5,000
	AMMUNITION PROGRAMS										
056	ORDNANCE ITEMS <\$5M	746,066	35,299	746,066	35,299	746,066	35,299			746,066	35,299
	OTHER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS										
061	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	1	15,160	1	15,160	1	15,160			1	15,160
063	WARRIOR SYSTEMS <\$5M	50	15,000	50	15,000	50	15,000			50	15,000
068	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	3	104,537	3	104,537	3	104,537			3	104,537
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE	746,120	212,418	746,120	212,418	746,120	212,418		206,400	746,120	418,818
	NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT										
	UNDISTRIBUTED										
007	MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT				250,000				420,000		420,000
	NGREA Program Increase				[250,000]				[420,000]		
	TOTAL NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT.				250,000				420,000		420,000
	TOTAL PROCUREMENT	755,430	7,257,270	755,430	7,456,570	755,430	7,208,999		571,936	755,430	7,829,206

TITLE XLII—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY					
		BASIC RESEARCH					
001	0601101A	IN-HOUSE LABORATORY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	13,018	13,018	13,018		13,018
002	0601102A	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	239,118	239,118	279,118	40,000	279,118
		Basic research program increase			[40,000]	[40,000]	
003	0601103A	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	72,603	72,603	72,603		72,603
004	0601104A	UNIVERSITY AND INDUSTRY RESEARCH CENTERS	100,340	100,340	100,340		100,340
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	425,079	425,079	465,079	40,000	465,079
		APPLIED RESEARCH					
005	0602105A	MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY	28,314	28,314	28,314		28,314
006	0602120A	SENSORS AND ELECTRONIC SURVIVABILITY	38,374	38,374	38,374		38,374
007	0602122A	TRACTOR HIP	6,879	6,879	6,879		6,879
008	0602211A	AVIATION TECHNOLOGY	56,884	56,884	56,884		56,884
009	0602270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	19,243	19,243	19,243		19,243
010	0602303A	MISSILE TECHNOLOGY	45,053	53,053	45,053	8,000	53,053
		A2/AD Anti-Ship Missile Study		[8,000]		[8,000]	
011	0602307A	ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	29,428	29,428	29,428		29,428
012	0602308A	ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND SIMULATION	27,862	27,862	27,862		27,862
013	0602601A	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY	68,839	68,839	68,839		68,839
014	0602618A	BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGY	92,801	92,801	92,801		92,801
015	0602622A	CHEMICAL, SMOKE AND EQUIPMENT DEFEATING TECHNOLOGY	3,866	3,866	3,866		3,866
016	0602623A	JOINT SERVICE SMALL ARMS PROGRAM	5,487	5,487	5,487		5,487
017	0602624A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY	48,340	48,340	48,340		48,340
018	0602705A	ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES	55,301	55,301	55,301		55,301
019	0602709A	NIGHT VISION TECHNOLOGY	33,807	33,807	33,807		33,807

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
020	0602712A	COUNTERMINE SYSTEMS	25,068	25,068	25,068		25,068
021	0602716A	HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	23,681	23,681	23,681		23,681
022	0602720A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY	20,850	20,850	20,850		20,850
023	0602782A	COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	36,160	36,160	36,160		36,160
024	0602783A	COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY	12,656	12,656	12,656		12,656
025	0602784A	MILITARY ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	63,409	63,409	63,409		63,409
026	0602785A	MANPOWER/PERSONNEL/TRAINING TECHNOLOGY	24,735	19,735	24,735		24,735
		Program decrease		[-5,000]			
027	0602786A	WARFIGHTER TECHNOLOGY	35,795	35,795	35,795		35,795
028	0602787A	MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	76,853	76,853	76,853		76,853
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	879,685	882,685	879,685	8,000	887,685
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT					
029	0603001A	WARFIGHTER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	46,973	46,973	46,973		46,973
030	0603002A	MEDICAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	69,584	69,584	69,584		69,584
031	0603003A	AVIATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	89,736	89,736	89,736		89,736
032	0603004A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	57,663	57,663	57,663		57,663
033	0603005A	COMBAT VEHICLE AND AUTOMOTIVE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	113,071	113,071	113,071		113,071
034	0603006A	SPACE APPLICATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	5,554	5,554	5,554		5,554
035	0603007A	MANPOWER, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	12,636	12,636	12,636		12,636
037	0603009A	TRACTOR HIKE	7,502	7,502	7,502		7,502
038	0603015A	NEXT GENERATION TRAINING & SIMULATION SYSTEMS	17,425	17,425	17,425		17,425
039	0603020A	TRACTOR ROSE	11,912	11,912	11,912		11,912
040	0603125A	COMBATING TERRORISM—TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	27,520	27,520	27,520		27,520
041	0603130A	TRACTOR NAIL	2,381	2,381	2,381		2,381
042	0603131A	TRACTOR EGGS	2,431	2,431	2,431		2,431
043	0603270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	26,874	26,874	26,874		26,874
044	0603313A	MISSILE AND ROCKET ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	49,449	49,449	49,449		49,449
045	0603322A	TRACTOR CAGE	10,999	10,999	10,999		10,999
046	0603461A	HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	177,159	177,159	167,159		177,159
		Encourage use of commercial technology			[-10,000]		
047	0603606A	LANDMINE WARFARE AND BARRIER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	13,993	13,993	13,993		13,993
048	0603607A	JOINT SERVICE SMALL ARMS PROGRAM	5,105	5,105	5,105		5,105
049	0603710A	NIGHT VISION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	40,929	40,929	40,929		40,929
050	0603728A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	10,727	10,727	10,727		10,727
051	0603734A	MILITARY ENGINEERING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	20,145	20,145	20,145		20,145
052	0603772A	ADVANCED TACTICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE AND SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	38,163	38,163	38,163		38,163
053	0603794A	C3 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	37,816	37,816	37,816		37,816
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	895,747	895,747	885,747		895,747
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES					
054	0603305A	ARMY MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	10,347	10,347	10,347		10,347
055	0603308A	ARMY SPACE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	25,061	25,061	25,061		25,061
056	0603619A	LANDMINE WARFARE AND BARRIER—ADV DEV	49,636	49,636	49,636		49,636
057	0603627A	SMOKE, OBSCURANT AND TARGET DEFEATING SYS-ADV DEV	13,426	13,426	13,426		13,426
058	0603639A	TANK AND MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION	46,749	46,749	46,749		46,749
060	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	6,258	6,258	6,258		6,258
061	0603766A	TACTICAL ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM—ADV DEV	13,472	13,472	13,472		13,472
062	0603774A	NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	7,292	7,292	7,292		7,292
063	0603779A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY—DEM/VAL	8,813	8,813	8,813		8,813
065	0603790A	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	6,075	6,075	6,075		6,075
067	0603804A	LOGISTICS AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT—ADV DEV	21,233	21,233	21,233		21,233
068	0603807A	MEDICAL SYSTEMS—ADV DEV	31,962	31,962	31,962		31,962
069	0603827A	SOLDIER SYSTEMS—ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	22,194	22,194	22,194		22,194
071	0604100A	ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES	9,805	9,805	9,805		9,805
072	0604115A	TECHNOLOGY MATURATION INITIATIVES	40,917	40,917	40,917		40,917
073	0604120A	ASSURED POSITIONING, NAVIGATION AND TIMING (PNT)	30,058	30,058	30,058		30,058

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
074	0604319A	INDIRECT FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY INCREMENT 2—INTERCEPT (IFPC2).	155,361	155,361	155,361		155,361
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	498,659	498,659	498,659		498,659
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION					
076	0604201A	AIRCRAFT AVIONICS	12,939	12,939	12,939		12,939
078	0604270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	18,843	18,843	18,843		18,843
079	0604280A	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO	9,861	9,861	9,861		9,861
080	0604290A	MID-TIER NETWORKING VEHICULAR RADIO (MNVr)	8,763	8,763	8,763		8,763
081	0604321A	ALL SOURCE ANALYSIS SYSTEM	4,309	4,309	4,309		4,309
082	0604328A	TRACTOR CAGE	15,138	15,138	15,138		15,138
083	0604601A	INFANTRY SUPPORT WEAPONS	74,128	80,628	76,628	6,500	80,628
		Army requested realignment		[1,500]		[1,500]	
		Soldier Enhancement Program		[5,000]		[5,000]	
		Transfer from WTCV			[2,500]		
085	0604611A	JAVELIN	3,945	3,945	3,945		3,945
087	0604633A	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	10,076	10,076	10,076		10,076
088	0604641A	TACTICAL UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE (TUGV)	40,374	40,374	40,374		40,374
089	0604710A	NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS—ENG DEV	67,582	67,582	67,582		67,582
090	0604713A	COMBAT FEEDING, CLOTHING, AND EQUIPMENT	1,763	1,763	1,763		1,763
091	0604715A	NON-SYSTEM TRAINING DEVICES—ENG DEV	27,155	27,155	27,155		27,155
092	0604741A	AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, CONTROL AND INTELLIGENCE—ENG DEV	24,569	24,569	24,569		24,569
093	0604742A	CONSTRUCTIVE SIMULATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	23,364	23,364	23,364		23,364
094	0604746A	AUTOMATIC TEST EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT	8,960	8,960	8,960		8,960
095	0604760A	DISTRIBUTIVE INTERACTIVE SIMULATIONS (DIS)—ENG DEV	9,138	9,138	9,138		9,138
096	0604780A	COMBINED ARMS TACTICAL TRAINER (CATT) CORE	21,622	21,622	21,622		21,622
097	0604798A	BRIGADE ANALYSIS, INTEGRATION AND EVALUATION	99,242	99,242	99,242		99,242
098	0604802A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS—ENG DEV	21,379	21,379	21,379		21,379
099	0604804A	LOGISTICS AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT—ENG DEV	48,339	48,339	48,339		48,339
100	0604805A	COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS—ENG DEV	2,726	2,726	2,726		2,726
101	0604807A	MEDICAL MATERIEL/MEDICAL BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE EQUIPMENT—ENG DEV.	45,412	45,412	45,412		45,412
102	0604808A	LANDMINE WARFARE/BARRIER—ENG DEV	55,215	55,215	55,215		55,215
104	0604818A	ARMY TACTICAL COMMAND & CONTROL HARDWARE & SOFTWARE	163,643	163,643	163,643		163,643
105	0604820A	RADAR DEVELOPMENT	12,309	12,309	12,309		12,309
106	0604822A	GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEM (GFEBs)	15,700	15,700	15,700		15,700
107	0604823A	FIREFINDER	6,243	6,243	6,243		6,243
108	0604827A	SOLDIER SYSTEMS—WARRIOR DEM/VAL	18,776	18,776	18,776		18,776
109	0604854A	ARTILLERY SYSTEMS—EMD	1,953	1,953	1,953		1,953
110	0605013A	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	67,358	67,358	67,358		67,358
111	0605018A	INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM—ARMY (IPPS-A)	136,011	136,011	86,011	–15,000	121,011
		Restructure program			[–50,000]	[–15,000]	
112	0605028A	ARMORED MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE (AMPV)	230,210	230,210	230,210		230,210
113	0605030A	JOINT TACTICAL NETWORK CENTER (JTNC)	13,357	13,357	13,357		13,357
114	0605031A	JOINT TACTICAL NETWORK (JTN)	18,055	18,055	18,055		18,055
115	0605032A	TRACTOR TIRE	5,677	5,677	5,677		5,677
116	0605035A	COMMON INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (CIRCM)	77,570	101,570	101,570	24,000	101,570
		Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement.		[24,000]	[24,000]	[24,000]	
117	0605051A	AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY DEVELOPMENT	18,112	78,112	78,112	60,000	78,112
		Apache Survivability Enhancements—Army Unfunded Requirement.		[60,000]	[60,000]	[60,000]	
118	0605350A	WIN-T INCREMENT 3—FULL NETWORKING	39,700	39,700	39,700		39,700
119	0605380A	AMF JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM (JTRS)	12,987	12,987	6,155		12,987
		Only for SALT program			[–6,832]		
120	0605450A	JOINT AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE (JAGM)	88,866	68,866	88,866	–5,812	83,054
		EMD contract delays		[–20,000]		[–5,812]	
121	0605456A	PAC—3/MSE MISSILE	2,272	2,272	2,272		2,272

SEC. 4201. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
122	0605457A	ARMY INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AIAMD)	214,099	214,099	214,099		214,099
123	0605625A	MANNED GROUND VEHICLE	49,247	39,247	49,247	–10,000	39,247
		Funding ahead of need		[–10,000]		[–10,000]	
124	0605626A	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR	2	2	2		2
125	0605766A	NATIONAL CAPABILITIES INTEGRATION (MIP)	10,599	10,599	10,599		10,599
126	0605812A	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE (JLTV) ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PH.	32,486	32,486	32,486		32,486
127	0605830A	AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	8,880	8,880	8,880		8,880
128	0210609A	PALADIN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (PIM)	152,288	152,288	152,288		152,288
129	0303032A	TROJAN—RH12	5,022	5,022	5,022		5,022
130	0304270A	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	12,686	12,686	12,686		12,686
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	2,068,950	2,129,450	2,098,618	59,688	2,128,638
		RDT&E MANAGEMENT SUPPORT					
131	0604256A	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	20,035	20,035	20,035		20,035
132	0604258A	TARGET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	16,684	16,684	16,684		16,684
133	0604759A	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	62,580	62,580	62,580		62,580
134	0605103A	RAND ARROYO CENTER	20,853	20,853	20,853		20,853
135	0605301A	ARMY KWAJALEIN ATOLL	205,145	205,145	205,145		205,145
136	0605326A	CONCEPTS EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAM	19,430	19,430	19,430		19,430
138	0605601A	ARMY TEST RANGES AND FACILITIES	277,646	277,646	277,646		277,646
139	0605602A	ARMY TECHNICAL TEST INSTRUMENTATION AND TARGETS	51,550	51,550	51,550		51,550
140	0605604A	SURVIVABILITY/LETHALITY ANALYSIS	33,246	33,246	33,246		33,246
141	0605606A	AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION	4,760	4,760	4,760		4,760
142	0605702A	METEOROLOGICAL SUPPORT TO RDT&E ACTIVITIES	8,303	8,303	8,303		8,303
143	0605706A	MATERIEL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS	20,403	20,403	20,403		20,403
144	0605709A	EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN ITEMS	10,396	10,396	10,396		10,396
145	0605712A	SUPPORT OF OPERATIONAL TESTING	49,337	49,337	49,337		49,337
146	0605716A	ARMY EVALUATION CENTER	52,694	52,694	52,694		52,694
147	0605718A	ARMY MODELING & SIM X-CMD COLLABORATION & INTEG	938	938	938		938
148	0605801A	PROGRAMWIDE ACTIVITIES	60,319	60,319	60,319		60,319
149	0605803A	TECHNICAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES	28,478	28,478	28,478		28,478
150	0605805A	MUNITIONS STANDARDIZATION, EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY	32,604	24,604	24,604	–8,000	24,604
		Program reduction		[–8,000]	[–8,000]	[–8,000]	
151	0605857A	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY MGMT SUPPORT	3,186	3,186	3,186		3,186
152	0605898A	MANAGEMENT HQ—R&D	48,955	48,955	48,955		48,955
		SUBTOTAL RDT&E MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	1,027,542	1,019,542	1,019,542	–8,000	1,019,542
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT					
154	0603778A	MLRS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	18,397	18,397	18,397		18,397
155	0603813A	TRACTOR PULL	9,461	9,461	9,461		9,461
156	0607131A	WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	4,945	4,945	4,945		4,945
157	0607133A	TRACTOR SMOKE	7,569	7,569	7,569		7,569
158	0607135A	APACHE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	69,862	69,862	69,862		69,862
159	0607136A	BLACKHAWK PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	66,653	66,653	66,653		66,653
160	0607137A	CHINOOK PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	37,407	37,407	37,407		37,407
161	0607138A	FIXED WING PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	1,151	1,151	1,151		1,151
162	0607139A	IMPROVED TURBINE ENGINE PROGRAM	51,164	51,164	51,164		51,164
163	0607140A	EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FROM NIE	2,481	2,481	2,481		2,481
164	0607141A	LOGISTICS AUTOMATION	1,673	1,673	1,673		1,673
166	0607665A	FAMILY OF BIOMETRICS	13,237	13,237	13,237		13,237
167	0607865A	PATRIOT PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT	105,816	105,816	105,816		105,816
169	0202429A	AEROSTAT JOINT PROJECT—COCOM EXERCISE	40,565	40,565	40,565		40,565
171	0203728A	JOINT AUTOMATED DEEP OPERATION COORDINATION SYSTEM (JADOCs)	35,719	35,719	35,719		35,719
172	0203735A	COMBAT VEHICLE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	257,167	292,167	354,167	97,000	354,167
		Stryker Lethality Upgrades		[35,000]	[97,000]	[97,000]	
173	0203740A	MANEUVER CONTROL SYSTEM	15,445	15,445	15,445		15,445

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175	0203752A	AIRCRAFT ENGINE COMPONENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	364	364	364		364
176	0203758A	DIGITIZATION	4,361	4,361	4,361		4,361
177	0203801A	MISSILE/AIR DEFENSE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	3,154	3,154	3,154		3,154
178	0203802A	OTHER MISSILE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS	35,951	35,951	35,951		35,951
179	0203808A	TRACTOR CARD	34,686	34,686	34,686		34,686
180	0205402A	INTEGRATED BASE DEFENSE—OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEV	10,750	10,750	10,750		10,750
181	0205410A	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT	402	402	402		402
183	0205456A	LOWER TIER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE (AMD) SYSTEM	64,159	64,159	64,159		64,159
184	0205778A	GUIDED MULTIPLE-LAUNCH ROCKET SYSTEM (GMLRS)	17,527	17,527	17,527		17,527
185	0208053A	JOINT TACTICAL GROUND SYSTEM	20,515	20,515	20,515		20,515
187	0303028A	SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	12,368	12,368	12,368		12,368
188	0303140A	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	31,154	31,154	31,154		31,154
189	0303141A	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	12,274	12,274	12,274		12,274
190	0303142A	SATCOM GROUND ENVIRONMENT (SPACE)	9,355	9,355	9,355		9,355
191	0303150A	WWMCCS/GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	7,053	7,053	7,053		7,053
193	0305179A	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE (IBS)	750	750	750		750
194	0305204A	TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES	13,225	13,225	13,225		13,225
195	0305206A	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	22,870	22,870	22,870		22,870
196	0305208A	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	25,592	25,592	25,592		25,592
199	0305233A	RQ-7 UAV	7,297	7,297	7,297		7,297
201	0310349A	WIN-T INCREMENT 2—INITIAL NETWORKING	3,800	3,800	3,800		3,800
202	0708045A	END ITEM INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES	48,442	48,442	48,442		48,442
202A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	4,536	4,536	4,536		4,536
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	1,129,297	1,164,297	1,226,297	97,000	1,226,297
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	6,924,959	7,015,459	7,073,627	196,688	7,121,647
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY					
		BASIC RESEARCH					
001	0601103N	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	116,196	134,196	116,196	18,000	134,196
		Defense University Research Instrumentation Program increase		[18,000]		[18,000]	
002	0601152N	IN-HOUSE LABORATORY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH	19,126	19,126	19,126		19,126
003	0601153N	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	451,606	451,606	506,606	55,000	506,606
		Basic research program increase			[55,000]	[55,000]	
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	586,928	604,928	641,928	73,000	659,928
		APPLIED RESEARCH					
004	0602114N	POWER PROJECTION APPLIED RESEARCH	68,723	68,723	68,723		68,723
005	0602123N	FORCE PROTECTION APPLIED RESEARCH	154,963	154,963	154,963		154,963
006	0602131M	MARINE CORPS LANDING FORCE TECHNOLOGY	49,001	49,001	49,001		49,001
007	0602235N	COMMON PICTURE APPLIED RESEARCH	42,551	42,551	42,551		42,551
008	0602236N	WARFIGHTER SUSTAINMENT APPLIED RESEARCH	45,056	45,056	45,056		45,056
009	0602271N	ELECTROMAGNETIC SYSTEMS APPLIED RESEARCH	115,051	115,051	115,051		115,051
010	0602435N	OCEAN WARFIGHTING ENVIRONMENT APPLIED RESEARCH	42,252	62,252	42,252	20,000	62,252
		Service Life Extension for the AGOR Ship		[20,000]		[20,000]	
011	0602651M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS APPLIED RESEARCH	6,119	6,119	6,119		6,119
012	0602747N	UNDERSEA WARFARE APPLIED RESEARCH	123,750	123,750	142,350	18,600	142,350
		Accelerate undersea warfare research			[18,600]	[18,600]	
013	0602750N	FUTURE NAVAL CAPABILITIES APPLIED RESEARCH	179,686	179,686	179,686		179,686
014	0602782N	MINE AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE APPLIED RESEARCH	37,418	37,418	37,418		37,418
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	864,570	884,570	883,170	38,600	903,170
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT					
015	0603114N	POWER PROJECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	37,093	37,093	37,093		37,093
016	0603123N	FORCE PROTECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	38,044	38,044	38,044		38,044
017	0603271N	ELECTROMAGNETIC SYSTEMS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	34,899	34,899	34,899		34,899
018	0603640M	USMC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION (ATD)	137,562	137,562	137,562		137,562

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019	0603651M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	12,745	12,745	12,745		12,745
020	0603673N	FUTURE NAVAL CAPABILITIES ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT Capable manpower, enablers, and sea basing	258,860	248,860	248,860	[-10,000]	258,860
021	0603680N	MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	57,074	57,074	57,074		57,074
022	0603729N	WARFIGHTER PROTECTION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	4,807	4,807	4,807		4,807
023	0603747N	UNDERSEA WARFARE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	13,748	13,748	13,748		13,748
024	0603758N	NAVY WARFIGHTING EXPERIMENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS	66,041	66,041	66,041		66,041
025	0603782N	MINE AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	1,991	1,991	1,991		1,991
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	662,864	652,864	652,864		662,864
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES					
026	0603207N	AIR/OCEAN TACTICAL APPLICATIONS	41,832	41,832	41,832		41,832
027	0603216N	AVIATION SURVIVABILITY	5,404	5,404	5,404		5,404
028	0603237N	DEPLOYABLE JOINT COMMAND AND CONTROL	3,086	3,086	3,086		3,086
029	0603251N	AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	11,643	11,643	11,643		11,643
030	0603254N	ASW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	5,555	5,555	5,555		5,555
031	0603261N	TACTICAL AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE	3,087	3,087	3,087		3,087
032	0603382N	ADVANCED COMBAT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY	1,636	1,636	1,636		1,636
033	0603502N	SURFACE AND SHALLOW WATER MINE COUNTERMEASURES	118,588	118,588	118,588	-5,000	113,588
		LDUUV development growth				[-5,000]	
034	0603506N	SURFACE SHIP TORPEDO DEFENSE	77,385	77,385	77,385		77,385
035	0603512N	CARRIER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	8,348	8,348	8,348		8,348
036	0603525N	PILOT FISH	123,246	123,246	123,246		123,246
037	0603527N	RETRACT LARCH	28,819	28,819	28,819		28,819
038	0603536N	RETRACT JUNIPER	112,678	112,678	112,678		112,678
039	0603542N	RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL	710	710	710		710
040	0603553N	SURFACE ASW	1,096	1,096	1,096		1,096
041	0603561N	ADVANCED SUBMARINE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	87,160	135,160	98,160	6,200	93,360
		Accelerate unmanned underwater vehicle development		[48,000]	[11,000]	[10,000]	
		Universal launch and recovery module unfunded outyear tail				[-3,800]	
042	0603562N	SUBMARINE TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEMS	10,371	10,371	10,371		10,371
043	0603563N	SHIP CONCEPT ADVANCED DESIGN	11,888	11,888	11,888		11,888
044	0603564N	SHIP PRELIMINARY DESIGN & FEASIBILITY STUDIES	4,332	4,332	4,332		4,332
045	0603570N	ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS	482,040	62,740	482,040		482,040
		Transfer to National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund		[-419,300]			
046	0603573N	ADVANCED SURFACE MACHINERY SYSTEMS	25,904	25,904	25,904		25,904
047	0603576N	CHALK EAGLE	511,802	511,802	511,802		511,802
048	0603581N	LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP (LCS)	118,416	118,416	118,416		118,416
049	0603582N	COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION	35,901	35,901	35,901		35,901
050	0603595N	OHIO REPLACEMENT	971,393		971,393		971,393
		Transfer to National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund-OR Develop- ment.		[-971,393]			
051	0603596N	LCS MISSION MODULES	206,149	206,149	206,149		206,149
052	0603597N	AUTOMATED TEST AND RE-TEST (ATRT)	8,000	8,000	8,000		8,000
053	0603609N	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS	7,678	7,678	7,678		7,678
054	0603611M	MARINE CORPS ASSAULT VEHICLES	219,082	219,082	219,082		219,082
055	0603635M	MARINE CORPS GROUND COMBAT/SUPPORT SYSTEM	623	623	623		623
056	0603654N	JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	18,260	18,260	18,260		18,260
057	0603658N	COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT	76,247	76,247	76,247		76,247
058	0603713N	OCEAN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	4,520	4,520	4,520		4,520
059	0603721N	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	20,711	20,711	20,711		20,711
060	0603724N	NAVY ENERGY PROGRAM	47,761	47,761	47,761		47,761
061	0603725N	FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT	5,226	5,226	5,226		5,226
062	0603734N	CHALK CORAL	182,771	182,771	182,771		182,771
063	0603739N	NAVY LOGISTIC PRODUCTIVITY	3,866	3,866	3,866		3,866
064	0603746N	RETRACT MAPLE	360,065	360,065	360,065		360,065
065	0603748N	LINK PLUMERIA	237,416	237,416	237,416		237,416
066	0603751N	RETRACT ELM	37,944	37,944	37,944		37,944

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067	0603764N	LINK EVERGREEN	47,312	47,312	47,312		47,312
068	0603787N	SPECIAL PROCESSES	17,408	17,408	17,408		17,408
069	0603790N	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	9,359	9,359	9,359		9,359
070	0603795N	LAND ATTACK TECHNOLOGY	887	10,887	887		887
		5-Inch Guided Projectile Technology		[10,000]			
071	0603851M	JOINT NON-LETHAL WEAPONS TESTING	29,448	29,448	29,448		29,448
072	0603860N	JOINT PRECISION APPROACH AND LANDING SYSTEMS—DEM/VAL	91,479	91,479	91,479		91,479
073	0603925N	DIRECTED ENERGY AND ELECTRIC WEAPON SYSTEMS	67,360	67,360	67,360		67,360
074	0604112N	GERALD R. FORD CLASS NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIER (CVN 78—80) Full ship shock trials for CVN-78	48,105	48,105	127,205	79,100	127,205
					[79,100]	[79,100]	
075	0604122N	REMOTE MINEHUNTING SYSTEM (RMS)	20,089	20,089	20,089		20,089
076	0604272N	TACTICAL AIR DIRECTIONAL INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (TADIRCM).	18,969	18,969	18,969		18,969
077	0604279N	ASE SELF-PROTECTION OPTIMIZATION	7,874	7,874	7,874		7,874
078	0604292N	MH-XX	5,298	5,298	5,298		5,298
079	0604454N	LX (R)	46,486	75,486	75,486	29,000	75,486
		LX(R) Acceleration		[29,000]	[29,000]	[29,000]	
080	0604653N	JOINT COUNTER RADIO CONTROLLED IED ELECTRONIC WARFARE (JCREW).	3,817	3,817	3,817		3,817
081	0604659N	PRECISION STRIKE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	9,595	9,595	9,595		9,595
082	0604707N	SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE (SEW) ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING SUPPORT. Maritime concept generation and development growth	29,581	29,581	29,581	–4,335	25,246
						[–4,335]	
083	0604786N	OFFENSIVE ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE WEAPON DEVELOPMENT	285,849	285,849	285,849		285,849
084	0605812M	JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE (JLTV) ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENT PH.	36,656	36,656	36,656		36,656
085	0303354N	ASW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT—MIP	9,835	9,835	9,835		9,835
086	0304270N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT—MIP	580	580	580		580
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	5,024,626	3,720,933	5,143,726	104,965	5,129,591
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION					
087	0603208N	TRAINING SYSTEM AIRCRAFT	21,708	21,708	21,708		21,708
088	0604212N	OTHER HELO DEVELOPMENT	11,101	11,101	11,101		11,101
089	0604214N	AV-8B AIRCRAFT—ENG DEV	39,878	39,878	39,878		39,878
090	0604215N	STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT	53,059	53,059	53,059		53,059
091	0604216N	MULTI-MISSION HELICOPTER UPGRADE DEVELOPMENT	21,358	21,358	21,358		21,358
092	0604218N	AIR/OCEAN EQUIPMENT ENGINEERING	4,515	4,515	4,515		4,515
093	0604221N	P-3 MODERNIZATION PROGRAM	1,514	1,514	1,514		1,514
094	0604230N	WARFARE SUPPORT SYSTEM	5,875	5,875	5,875		5,875
095	0604231N	TACTICAL COMMAND SYSTEM	81,553	81,553	81,553		81,553
096	0604234N	ADVANCED HAWKEYE	272,149	272,149	272,149		272,149
097	0604245N	H-1 UPGRADES	27,235	52,235	27,235		27,235
		UH-1Y/AH-1Z Readiness Improvement Unfunded Requirement		[25,000]			
098	0604261N	ACOUSTIC SEARCH SENSORS	35,763	35,763	35,763		35,763
099	0604262N	V-22A	87,918	98,618	87,918		87,918
		Digital interoperability program		[10,700]			
100	0604264N	AIR CREW SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	12,679	12,679	12,679		12,679
101	0604269N	EA-18	56,921	56,921	56,921		56,921
102	0604270N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	23,685	23,685	23,685		23,685
103	0604273N	EXECUTIVE HELO DEVELOPMENT	507,093	507,093	507,093		507,093
104	0604274N	NEXT GENERATION JAMMER (NGJ)	411,767	411,767	411,767		411,767
105	0604280N	JOINT TACTICAL RADIO SYSTEM—NAVY (JTRS-NAVY)	25,071	25,071	25,071		25,071
106	0604307N	SURFACE COMBATANT COMBAT SYSTEM ENGINEERING	443,433	443,433	443,433	–10,000	433,433
		Aegis development support growth				[–10,000]	
107	0604311N	LPD-17 CLASS SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	747	747	747		747
108	0604329N	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB (SDB)	97,002	97,002	97,002		97,002
109	0604366N	STANDARD MISSILE IMPROVEMENTS	129,649	129,649	129,649		129,649
110	0604373N	AIRBORNE MCM	11,647	11,647	11,647		11,647

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111	0604376M	MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF) ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) FOR AVIATION.	2,778	2,778	2,778		2,778
112	0604378N	NAVAL INTEGRATED FIRE CONTROL—COUNTER AIR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING.	23,695	23,695	23,695		23,695
113	0604404N	UNMANNED CARRIER LAUNCHED AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE AND STRIKE (UCLASS) SYSTEM.	134,708	134,708		350,000	484,708
		Competitive air vehicle risk reduction activities				[300,000]	
		Excess FY15 funds buy down FY16 requirements			[-134,708]		
		Government and industry source selection preparation				[50,000]	
114	0604501N	ADVANCED ABOVE WATER SENSORS	43,914	43,914	43,914		43,914
115	0604503N	SSN-688 AND TRIDENT MODERNIZATION	109,908	109,908	109,908		109,908
116	0604504N	AIR CONTROL	57,928	57,928	57,928		57,928
117	0604512N	SHIPBOARD AVIATION SYSTEMS	120,217	120,217	120,217		120,217
118	0604522N	AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE RADAR (AMDR) SYSTEM	241,754	241,754	241,754		241,754
119	0604558N	NEW DESIGN SSN	122,556	122,556	122,556		122,556
120	0604562N	SUBMARINE TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEM	48,213	60,213	60,213	12,000	60,213
		Accelerate submarine combat and weapon system modernization.		[12,000]	[12,000]	[12,000]	
121	0604567N	SHIP CONTRACT DESIGN/ LIVE FIRE T&E	49,712	49,712	49,712		49,712
122	0604574N	NAVY TACTICAL COMPUTER RESOURCES	4,096	4,096	4,096		4,096
123	0604580N	VIRGINIA PAYLOAD MODULE (VPM)	167,719	167,719	167,719		167,719
124	0604601N	MINE DEVELOPMENT	15,122	15,122	15,122		15,122
125	0604610N	LIGHTWEIGHT TORPEDO DEVELOPMENT	33,738	33,738	33,738		33,738
126	0604654N	JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	8,123	8,123	8,123		8,123
127	0604703N	PERSONNEL, TRAINING, SIMULATION, AND HUMAN FACTORS	7,686	7,686	7,686		7,686
128	0604727N	JOINT STANDOFF WEAPON SYSTEMS	405	405	405		405
129	0604755N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (DETECT & CONTROL)	153,836	153,836	153,836		153,836
130	0604756N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (ENGAGE: HARD KILL)	99,619	99,619	99,619		99,619
131	0604757N	SHIP SELF DEFENSE (ENGAGE: SOFT KILL/EW)	116,798	116,798	116,798		116,798
132	0604761N	INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING	4,353	4,353	4,353		4,353
133	0604771N	MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT	9,443	9,443	9,443		9,443
134	0604777N	NAVIGATION/ID SYSTEM	32,469	32,469	32,469		32,469
135	0604800M	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF)—EMD	537,901	537,901	525,401		537,901
		F-35B Block 4 development early to need			[-12,500]		
136	0604800N	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF)—EMD	504,736	504,736	492,236		504,736
		F-35C Block 4 development early to need			[-12,500]		
137	0604810M	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOLLOW ON DEVELOPMENT—MARINE CORPS ..	59,265	46,765	59,265	-38,465	20,800
		Program delay		[-12,500]		[-38,465]	
138	0604810N	JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOLLOW ON DEVELOPMENT—NAVY	47,579	35,079	47,579	-26,335	21,244
		Program delay		[-12,500]		[-26,335]	
139	0605013M	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	5,914	5,914	5,914		5,914
140	0605013N	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	89,711	89,711	89,711		89,711
141	0605212N	CH-53K RDTE	632,092	632,092	632,092		632,092
142	0605220N	SHIP TO SHORE CONNECTOR (SSC)	7,778	7,778	7,778		7,778
143	0605450N	JOINT AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE (JAGM)	25,898	25,898	25,898		25,898
144	0605500N	MULTI-MISSION MARITIME AIRCRAFT (MMA)	247,929	247,929	247,929		247,929
145	0204202N	DDG-1000	103,199	103,199	103,199		103,199
146	0304231N	TACTICAL COMMAND SYSTEM—MIP	998	998	998		998
147	0304785N	TACTICAL CRYPTOLOGIC SYSTEMS	17,785	17,785	17,785		17,785
148	0305124N	SPECIAL APPLICATIONS PROGRAM	35,905	35,905	35,905		35,905
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	6,308,800	6,331,500	6,161,092	287,200	6,596,000
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT					
149	0604256N	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	30,769	30,769	30,769		30,769
150	0604258N	TARGET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	112,606	112,606	112,606		112,606
151	0604759N	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	61,234	61,234	61,234		61,234
152	0605126N	JOINT THEATER AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION	6,995	6,995	6,995		6,995
153	0605152N	STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT—NAVY	4,011	4,011	4,011		4,011

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154	0605154N	CENTER FOR NAVAL ANALYSES	48,563	48,563	48,563		48,563
155	0605285N	NEXT GENERATION FIGHTER	5,000	5,000	5,000		5,000
157	0605804N	TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICES	925	925	925		925
158	0605853N	MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	78,143	78,143	78,143		78,143
159	0605856N	STRATEGIC TECHNICAL SUPPORT	3,258	3,258	3,258		3,258
160	0605861N	RDT&E SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT	76,948	76,948	76,948		76,948
161	0605863N	RDT&E SHIP AND AIRCRAFT SUPPORT	132,122	132,122	132,122		132,122
162	0605864N	TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	351,912	351,912	351,912		351,912
163	0605865N	OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CAPABILITY	17,985	17,985	17,985		17,985
164	0605866N	NAVY SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE (SEW) SUPPORT	5,316	5,316	5,316		5,316
165	0605867N	SEW SURVEILLANCE/RECONNAISSANCE SUPPORT	6,519	6,519	6,519		6,519
166	0605873M	MARINE CORPS PROGRAM WIDE SUPPORT	13,649	13,649	13,649		13,649
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	955,955	955,955	955,955		955,955
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT					
174	0101221N	STRATEGIC SUB & WEAPONS SYSTEM SUPPORT	107,039	107,039	107,039		107,039
175	0101224N	SSBN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	46,506	46,506	46,506		46,506
176	0101226N	SUBMARINE ACOUSTIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	3,900	3,900	4,700	800	4,700
		Accelerate combat rapid attack weapon			[800]	[800]	
177	0101402N	NAVY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	16,569	16,569	16,569		16,569
178	0203761N	RAPID TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION (RTT)	18,632	18,632	18,632	-7,500	11,132
		TIPS program growth				[-7,500]	
179	0204136N	F/A-18 SQUADRONS	133,265	133,265	133,265		133,265
181	0204163N	FLEET TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TACTICAL)	62,867	62,867	62,867	-11,800	51,067
		Joint aerial layer network growth				[-11,800]	
182	0204228N	SURFACE SUPPORT	36,045	36,045	36,045		36,045
183	0204229N	TOMAHAWK AND TOMAHAWK MISSION PLANNING CENTER (TMPC)	25,228	25,228	25,228		25,228
184	0204311N	INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	54,218	54,218	54,218		54,218
185	0204413N	AMPHIBIOUS TACTICAL SUPPORT UNITS (DISPLACEMENT CRAFT)	11,335	11,335	11,335		11,335
186	0204460M	GROUND/AIR TASK ORIENTED RADAR (G/ATOR)	80,129	80,129	80,129	-14,500	65,629
		Block II test assets early to need				[-14,500]	
187	0204571N	CONSOLIDATED TRAINING SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	39,087	54,087	39,087		39,087
		Anti-Submarine Warfare Underwater Range Instrumentation Up-grade.		[15,000]			
188	0204574N	CRYPTOLOGIC DIRECT SUPPORT	1,915	1,915	1,915		1,915
189	0204575N	ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) READINESS SUPPORT	46,609	46,609	46,609		46,609
190	0205601N	HARM IMPROVEMENT	52,708	52,708	52,708	-18,000	34,708
		AARGM extended range program growth				[-18,000]	
191	0205604N	TACTICAL DATA LINKS	149,997	149,997	149,997		149,997
192	0205620N	SURFACE ASW COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION	24,460	24,460	24,460		24,460
193	0205632N	MK-48 ADCAP	42,206	42,206	47,706	5,500	47,706
		Accelerate torpedo upgrades			[5,500]	[5,500]	
194	0205633N	AVIATION IMPROVEMENTS	117,759	117,759	117,759		117,759
195	0205675N	OPERATIONAL NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS	101,323	101,323	101,323		101,323
196	0206313M	MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	67,763	67,763	67,763		67,763
197	0206335M	COMMON AVIATION COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (CAC2S)	13,431	13,431	13,431		13,431
198	0206623M	MARINE CORPS GROUND COMBAT/SUPPORTING ARMS SYSTEMS	56,769	56,769	56,769		56,769
199	0206624M	MARINE CORPS COMBAT SERVICES SUPPORT	20,729	20,729	20,729		20,729
200	0206625M	USMC INTELLIGENCE/ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS (MIP)	13,152	13,152	13,152		13,152
201	0206629M	AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE	48,535	48,535	48,535		48,535
202	0207161N	TACTICAL AIM MISSILES	76,016	76,016	76,016		76,016
203	0207163N	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (AMRAAM)	32,172	32,172	32,172		32,172
208	0303109N	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (SPACE)	53,239	53,239	53,239		53,239
209	0303138N	CONSOLIDATED AFLOAT NETWORK ENTERPRISE SERVICES (CANES)	21,677	21,677	21,677		21,677
210	0303140N	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	28,102	28,102	28,102		28,102
211	0303150M	WWMCCS/GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	294	294	294		294
213	0305160N	NAVY METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEAN SENSORS-SPACE (METOC)	599	599	599		599
214	0305192N	MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM (MIP) ACTIVITIES	6,207	6,207	6,207		6,207

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215	0305204N	TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES	8,550	8,550	8,550		8,550
216	0305205N	UAS INTEGRATION AND INTEROPERABILITY	41,831	41,831	41,831		41,831
217	0305208M	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	1,105	1,105	1,105		1,105
218	0305208N	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	33,149	33,149	33,149		33,149
219	0305220N	RQ-4 UAV	227,188	227,188	227,188		227,188
220	0305231N	MQ-8 UAV	52,770	52,770	52,770		52,770
221	0305232M	RQ-11 UAV	635	635	635		635
222	0305233N	RQ-7 UAV	688	688	688		688
223	0305234N	SMALL (LEVEL 0) TACTICAL UAS (STUASLO)	4,647	4,647	4,647		4,647
224	0305239M	RQ-21A	6,435	6,435	6,435		6,435
225	0305241N	MULTI-INTELLIGENCE SENSOR DEVELOPMENT	49,145	49,145	49,145		49,145
226	0305242M	UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) PAYLOADS (MIP)	9,246	9,246	9,246		9,246
227	0305421N	RQ-4 MODERNIZATION	150,854	150,854	150,854		150,854
228	0308601N	MODELING AND SIMULATION SUPPORT	4,757	4,757	4,757		4,757
229	0702207N	DEPOT MAINTENANCE (NON-IF)	24,185	24,185	24,185		24,185
231	0708730N	MARITIME TECHNOLOGY (MARITECH)	4,321	4,321	4,321		4,321
231A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,252,185	1,252,185	1,252,185		1,252,185
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	3,482,173	3,497,173	3,488,473	-45,500	3,436,673
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	17,885,916	16,647,923	17,927,208	458,265	18,344,181
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF					
		BASIC RESEARCH					
001	0601102F	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	329,721	329,721	374,721	45,000	374,721
		Basic research program increase			[45,000]	[45,000]	
002	0601103F	UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVES	141,754	141,754	141,754		141,754
003	0601108F	HIGH ENERGY LASER RESEARCH INITIATIVES	13,778	13,778	13,778		13,778
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	485,253	485,253	530,253	45,000	530,253
		APPLIED RESEARCH					
004	0602102F	MATERIALS	125,234	125,234	115,234		125,234
		Nanostructured and biological materials			[-10,000]		
005	0602201F	AEROSPACE VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES	123,438	123,438	123,438		123,438
006	0602202F	HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS APPLIED RESEARCH	100,530	90,530	100,530		100,530
		Program decrease		[-10,000]			
007	0602203F	AEROSPACE PROPULSION	182,326	177,326	182,326		182,326
		Program decrease		[-5,000]			
008	0602204F	AEROSPACE SENSORS	147,291	147,291	147,291		147,291
009	0602601F	SPACE TECHNOLOGY	116,122	116,122	116,122		116,122
010	0602602F	CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS	99,851	99,851	99,851		99,851
011	0602605F	DIRECTED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY	115,604	115,604	115,604		115,604
012	0602788F	DOMINANT INFORMATION SCIENCES AND METHODS	164,909	164,909	164,909		164,909
013	0602890F	HIGH ENERGY LASER RESEARCH	42,037	42,037	42,037		42,037
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	1,217,342	1,202,342	1,207,342		1,217,342
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT					
014	0603112F	ADVANCED MATERIALS FOR WEAPON SYSTEMS	37,665	47,665	37,665	10,000	47,665
		Metals Affordability Initiative		[10,000]		[10,000]	
015	0603199F	SUSTAINMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)	18,378	18,378	18,378		18,378
016	0603203F	ADVANCED AEROSPACE SENSORS	42,183	42,183	42,183		42,183
017	0603211F	AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY DEV/DEMO	100,733	100,733	100,733		100,733
018	0603216F	AEROSPACE PROPULSION AND POWER TECHNOLOGY	168,821	168,821	168,821		168,821
019	0603270F	ELECTRONIC COMBAT TECHNOLOGY	47,032	47,032	47,032		47,032
020	0603401F	ADVANCED SPACECRAFT TECHNOLOGY	54,897	54,897	54,897		54,897
021	0603444F	MAUI SPACE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (MSSS)	12,853	12,853	12,853		12,853
022	0603456F	HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	25,448	25,448	25,448		25,448
023	0603601F	CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	48,536	48,536	48,536		48,536

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024	0603605F	ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	30,195	30,195	30,195		30,195
025	0603680F	MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	42,630	52,630	42,630	10,000	52,630
		Maturation of advanced manufacturing for low-cost sustainment.		[10,000]		[10,000]	
026	0603788F	BATTLESPACE KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	46,414	46,414	46,414		46,414
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	675,785	695,785	675,785	20,000	695,785
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES					
027	0603260F	INTELLIGENCE ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	5,032	5,032	5,032		5,032
029	0603438F	SPACE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY	4,070	4,070	4,070		4,070
030	0603742F	COMBAT IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY	21,790	21,790	21,790		21,790
031	0603790F	NATO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	4,736	4,736	4,736		4,736
033	0603830F	SPACE SECURITY AND DEFENSE PROGRAM	30,771	30,771	30,771		30,771
034	0603851F	INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE—DEM/VAL	39,765	39,765	39,765		39,765
036	0604015F	LONG RANGE STRIKE	1,246,228	786,228	786,228	–460,000	786,228
		Delayed EMD contract award		[–460,000]	[–460,000]	[–460,000]	
037	0604317F	TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	3,512	13,512	3,512	5,000	8,512
		Technology transfer program increase		[10,000]		[5,000]	
038	0604327F	HARD AND DEEPLY BURIED TARGET DEFEAT SYSTEM (HDBTDS) PROGRAM.	54,637	54,637	54,637		54,637
040	0604422F	WEATHER SYSTEM FOLLOW-ON	76,108	56,108	76,108	–20,000	56,108
		Unjustified increase and analysis of alternatives		[–20,000]		[–20,000]	
044	0604857F	OPERATIONALLY RESPONSIVE SPACE	6,457	20,457	19,957	13,500	19,957
		SSA, Weather, or Launch Activities		[14,000]	[13,500]	[13,500]	
045	0604858F	TECH TRANSITION PROGRAM	246,514	246,514	246,514		246,514
046	0605230F	GROUND BASED STRATEGIC DETERRENT	75,166	75,166	75,166		75,166
049	0207110F	NEXT GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE	8,830	3,930	8,830		8,830
		Program reduction		[–4,900]			
050	0207455F	THREE DIMENSIONAL LONG-RANGE RADAR (3DELRR)	14,939	14,939	14,939		14,939
051	0305164F	NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (USER EQUIPMENT) (SPACE)	142,288	142,288	142,288		142,288
052	0306250F	CYBER OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	81,732	81,732	96,732	15,000	96,732
		Increase USCC Cyber Operations Technology Development			[15,000]	[15,000]	
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	2,062,575	1,601,675	1,631,075	–446,500	1,616,075
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION					
055	0604270F	ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT	929	929	929		929
056	0604281F	TACTICAL DATA NETWORKS ENTERPRISE	60,256	60,256	60,256		60,256
057	0604287F	PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT	5,973	5,973	5,973		5,973
058	0604329F	SMALL DIAMETER BOMB (SDB)—EMD	32,624	32,624	32,624		32,624
059	0604421F	COUNTERSPACE SYSTEMS	24,208	24,208	24,208		24,208
060	0604425F	SPACE SITUATION AWARENESS SYSTEMS	32,374	32,374	32,374		32,374
061	0604426F	SPACE FENCE	243,909	243,909	243,909		243,909
062	0604429F	AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC ATTACK	8,358	8,358	8,358		8,358
063	0604441F	SPACE BASED INFRARED SYSTEM (SBIRS) HIGH EMD	292,235	302,235	292,235		292,235
		Exploitation of SBIRS		[10,000]			
064	0604602F	ARMAMENT/ORDNANCE DEVELOPMENT	40,154	40,154	40,154		40,154
065	0604604F	SUBMUNITIONS	2,506	2,506	2,506		2,506
066	0604617F	AGILE COMBAT SUPPORT	57,678	57,678	57,678		57,678
067	0604706F	LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS	8,187	8,187	8,187		8,187
068	0604735F	COMBAT TRAINING RANGES	15,795	15,795	15,795		15,795
069	0604800F	F–35—EMD	589,441	589,441	564,441		589,441
		F–35A Block 4 development early to need			[–25,000]		
071	0604853F	EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM (SPACE)—EMD ...	84,438	184,438	84,438	100,000	184,438
		EELV Program—Launch Vehicle Development		[–84,438]			
		EELV Program—Rocket Propulsion System Development		[184,438]		[100,000]	
072	0604932F	LONG RANGE STANDOFF WEAPON	36,643	36,643	36,643		36,643
073	0604933F	ICBM FUZE MODERNIZATION	142,551	142,551	142,551		142,551
074	0605213F	F–22 MODERNIZATION INCREMENT 3.2B	140,640	140,640	140,640		140,640

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075	0605214F	GROUND ATTACK WEAPONS FUZE DEVELOPMENT	3,598	3,598	3,598		3,598
076	0605221F	KC-46	602,364	402,364	402,364	–200,000	402,364
		Program decrease		[–200,000]	[–200,000]	[–200,000]	
077	0605223F	ADVANCED PILOT TRAINING	11,395	11,395	11,395		11,395
078	0605229F	CSAR HH-60 RECAPITALIZATION	156,085	156,085	156,085		156,085
080	0605431F	ADVANCED EHF MILSATCOM (SPACE)	228,230	228,230	228,230		228,230
081	0605432F	POLAR MILSATCOM (SPACE)	72,084	72,084	72,084		72,084
082	0605433F	WIDEBAND GLOBAL SATCOM (SPACE)	56,343	52,343	56,343	–4,000	52,343
		Excess to need		[–4,000]		[–4,000]	
083	0605458F	AIR & SPACE OPS CENTER 10.2 RDT&E	47,629	47,629	47,629		47,629
084	0605931F	B-2 DEFENSIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	271,961	271,961	271,961		271,961
085	0101125F	NUCLEAR WEAPONS MODERNIZATION	212,121	212,121	212,121		212,121
086	0207171F	F-15 EPAWSS	186,481	186,481	215,981		186,481
		Flight test support			[1,500]		
		NRE for ADCPII upgrade			[28,000]		
087	0207701F	FULL COMBAT MISSION TRAINING	18,082	18,082	18,082		18,082
088	0305176F	COMBAT SURVIVOR EVADER LOCATOR	993	993	993		993
089	0307581F	NEXTGEN JSTARS	44,343	44,343	44,343		44,343
091	0401319F	PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT (PAR)	102,620	102,620	102,620		102,620
092	0701212F	AUTOMATED TEST SYSTEMS	14,563	14,563	14,563		14,563
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & DEMONSTRATION	3,847,791	3,753,791	3,652,291	–104,000	3,743,791
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT					
093	0604256F	THREAT SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT	23,844	23,844	23,844		23,844
094	0604759F	MAJOR T&E INVESTMENT	68,302	73,302	68,302	5,000	73,302
		Airborne Sensor Data Correlation Project		[5,000]		[5,000]	
095	0605101F	RAND PROJECT AIR FORCE	34,918	34,918	34,918		34,918
097	0605712F	INITIAL OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION	10,476	10,476	10,476		10,476
098	0605807F	TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	673,908	673,908	673,908		673,908
099	0605860F	ROCKET SYSTEMS LAUNCH PROGRAM (SPACE)	21,858	21,858	21,858		21,858
100	0605864F	SPACE TEST PROGRAM (STP)	28,228	28,228	28,228		28,228
101	0605976F	FACILITIES RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION—TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	40,518	40,518	40,518		40,518
102	0605978F	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT—TEST AND EVALUATION SUPPORT	27,895	27,895	27,895		27,895
103	0606017F	REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS AND MATURATION	16,507	16,507	16,507		16,507
104	0606116F	SPACE TEST AND TRAINING RANGE DEVELOPMENT	18,997	18,997	18,997		18,997
106	0606392F	SPACE AND MISSILE CENTER (SMC) CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	185,305	185,305	185,305	–5,000	180,305
		Excess to need				[–5,000]	
107	0308602F	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SERVICES (EIS)	4,841	4,841	4,841		4,841
108	0702806F	ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	15,357	15,357	15,357		15,357
109	0804731F	GENERAL SKILL TRAINING	1,315	1,315	1,315		1,315
111	1001004F	INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	2,315	2,315	2,315		2,315
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	1,174,584	1,179,584	1,174,584		1,174,584
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT					
112	0603423F	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM III—OPERATIONAL CONTROL SEGMENT	350,232	350,232	350,232		350,232
113	0604233F	SPECIALIZED UNDERGRADUATE FLIGHT TRAINING	10,465	10,465	10,465		10,465
114	0604445F	WIDE AREA SURVEILLANCE	24,577	24,577	24,577		24,577
117	0605018F	AF INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM (AF-IPPS)	69,694	69,694	24,294	–40,000	29,694
		Forward financing, excluding funding for audit readiness			[–45,400]	[–40,000]	
118	0605024F	ANTI-TAMPER TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE AGENCY	26,718	26,718	26,718		26,718
119	0605278F	HC/MC-130 RECAP RDT&E	10,807	10,807	10,807		10,807
121	0101113F	B-52 SQUADRONS	74,520	74,520	74,520		74,520
122	0101122F	AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM)	451	451	451		451
123	0101126F	B-1B SQUADRONS	2,245	2,245	2,245		2,245
124	0101127F	B-2 SQUADRONS	108,183	108,183	108,183		108,183
125	0101213F	MINUTEMAN SQUADRONS	178,929	178,929	178,929		178,929
126	0101313F	STRAT WAR PLANNING SYSTEM—USSTRATCOM	28,481	28,481	28,481		28,481

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127	0101314F	NIGHT FIST—USSTRATCOM	87	87	87		87
128	0101316F	WORLDWIDE JOINT STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	5,315	5,315	5,315		5,315
131	0105921F	SERVICE SUPPORT TO STRATCOM—SPACE ACTIVITIES	8,090	8,090	8,090		8,090
132	0205219F	MQ-9 UAV	123,439	123,439	123,439		123,439
134	0207131F	A-10 SQUADRONS		16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200
		A-10 restoration: operational flight program development		[16,200]	[16,200]	[16,200]	
135	0207133F	F-16 SQUADRONS	148,297	188,297	148,297	50,000	198,297
		AESA Radar Integration		[50,000]		[50,000]	
		Unobligated balances		[-10,000]			
136	0207134F	F-15E SQUADRONS	179,283	169,283	192,079	12,796	192,079
		Duplicative effort with the Navy		[-10,000]			
		Transfer from procurement			[12,796]	[12,796]	
137	0207136F	MANNED DESTRUCTIVE SUPPRESSION	14,860	14,860	14,860		14,860
138	0207138F	F-22A SQUADRONS	262,552	262,552	262,552		262,552
139	0207142F	F-35 SQUADRONS	115,395	90,395	115,395	-61,474	53,921
		Program delay		[-25,000]		[-61,474]	
140	0207161F	TACTICAL AIM MISSILES	43,360	43,360	43,360		43,360
141	0207163F	ADVANCED MEDIUM RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (AMRAAM)	46,160	46,160	46,160		46,160
143	0207224F	COMBAT RESCUE AND RECOVERY	412	412	412		412
144	0207227F	COMBAT RESCUE—PARARESCUE	657	657	657		657
145	0207247F	AF TENCAP	31,428	31,428	31,428		31,428
146	0207249F	PRECISION ATTACK SYSTEMS PROCUREMENT	1,105	1,105	1,105		1,105
147	0207253F	COMPASS CALL	14,249	14,249	14,249		14,249
148	0207268F	AIRCRAFT ENGINE COMPONENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	103,942	103,942	103,942		103,942
149	0207325F	JOINT AIR-TO-SURFACE STANDOFF MISSILE (JASSM)	12,793	12,793	12,793		12,793
150	0207410F	AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC)	21,193	21,193	21,193		21,193
151	0207412F	CONTROL AND REPORTING CENTER (CRC)	559	559	559		559
152	0207417F	AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS)	161,812	161,812	161,812		161,812
153	0207418F	TACTICAL AIRBORNE CONTROL SYSTEMS	6,001	6,001	6,001		6,001
155	0207431F	COMBAT AIR INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM ACTIVITIES	7,793	7,793	7,793		7,793
156	0207444F	TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY-MOD	12,465	12,465	12,465		12,465
157	0207448F	C2ISR TACTICAL DATA LINK	1,681	1,681	1,681		1,681
159	0207452F	DCAPES	16,796	16,796	16,796		16,796
161	0207590F	SEEK EAGLE	21,564	21,564	21,564		21,564
162	0207601F	USAF MODELING AND SIMULATION	24,994	24,994	24,994		24,994
163	0207605F	WARGAMING AND SIMULATION CENTERS	6,035	6,035	6,035		6,035
164	0207697F	DISTRIBUTED TRAINING AND EXERCISES	4,358	4,358	4,358		4,358
165	0208006F	MISSION PLANNING SYSTEMS	55,835	55,835	55,835		55,835
167	0208087F	AF OFFENSIVE CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	12,874	12,874	12,874		12,874
168	0208088F	AF DEFENSIVE CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	7,681	7,681	7,681		7,681
171	0301017F	GLOBAL SENSOR INTEGRATED ON NETWORK (GSIN)	5,974	5,974	5,974		5,974
177	0301400F	SPACE SUPERIORITY INTELLIGENCE	13,815	13,815	13,815		13,815
178	0302015F	E-4B NATIONAL AIRBORNE OPERATIONS CENTER (NAOC)	80,360	80,360	80,360		80,360
179	0303001F	FAMILY OF ADVANCED BLOS TERMINALS (FAB-T)	3,907	3,907	3,907		3,907
180	0303131F	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (MEECN)	75,062	75,062	75,062		75,062
181	0303140F	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	46,599	46,599	46,599		46,599
183	0303142F	GLOBAL FORCE MANAGEMENT—DATA INITIATIVE	2,470	2,470	2,470		2,470
186	0304260F	AIRBORNE SIGINT ENTERPRISE	112,775	112,775	112,775		112,775
189	0305099F	GLOBAL AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (GATM)	4,235	4,235	4,235		4,235
192	0305110F	SATELLITE CONTROL NETWORK (SPACE)	7,879	5,879	7,879		7,879
		Unjustified increase in systems engineering		[-2,000]			
193	0305111F	WEATHER SERVICE	29,955	29,955	29,955		29,955
194	0305114F	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, APPROACH, AND LANDING SYSTEM (ATCALS) ..	21,485	21,485	21,485		21,485
195	0305116F	AERIAL TARGETS	2,515	2,515	2,515		2,515
198	0305128F	SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES	472	472	472		472
199	0305145F	ARMS CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION	12,137	12,137	12,137		12,137
200	0305146F	DEFENSE JOINT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	361	361	361		361

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203	0305173F	SPACE AND MISSILE TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER	3,162	3,162	3,162		3,162
204	0305174F	SPACE INNOVATION, INTEGRATION AND RAPID TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.	1,543	1,543	1,543		1,543
205	0305179F	INTEGRATED BROADCAST SERVICE (IBS)	7,860	7,860	7,860		7,860
206	0305182F	SPACELIFT RANGE SYSTEM (SPACE)	6,902	6,902	6,902		6,902
207	0305202F	DRAGON U-2	34,471	34,471	34,471		34,471
209	0305206F	AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	50,154	60,154	50,154	10,000	60,154
		Wide Area Surveillance Capability		[10,000]		[10,000]	
210	0305207F	MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS	13,245	13,245	13,245		13,245
211	0305208F	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	22,784	22,784	22,784		22,784
212	0305219F	MQ-1 PREDATOR A UAV	716	716	716		716
213	0305220F	RQ-4 UAV	208,053	208,053	208,053	-5,000	203,053
		Program delays				[-5,000]	
214	0305221F	NETWORK-CENTRIC COLLABORATIVE TARGETING	21,587	21,587	21,587		21,587
215	0305236F	COMMON DATA LINK EXECUTIVE AGENT (CDL EA)	43,986	43,986	43,986		43,986
216	0305238F	NATO AGS	197,486	197,486	138,400	-59,086	138,400
		Transfer to Procurement for NATO AWACS			[-59,086]	[-59,086]	
217	0305240F	SUPPORT TO DCGS ENTERPRISE	28,434	28,434	28,434		28,434
218	0305265F	GPS III SPACE SEGMENT	180,902	180,902	180,902		180,902
220	0305614F	JSPOC MISSION SYSTEM	81,911	81,911	81,911		81,911
221	0305881F	RAPID CYBER ACQUISITION	3,149	3,149	3,149		3,149
222	0305913F	NUDET DETECTION SYSTEM (SPACE)	14,447	14,447	14,447		14,447
223	0305940F	SPACE SITUATION AWARENESS OPERATIONS	20,077	20,077	20,077		20,077
225	0308699F	SHARED EARLY WARNING (SEW)	853	853	853		853
226	0401115F	C-130 AIRLIFT SQUADRON	33,962	33,962	33,962		33,962
227	0401119F	C-5 AIRLIFT SQUADRONS (IF)	42,864	42,864	42,864	-5,000	37,864
		Forward financing				[-5,000]	
228	0401130F	C-17 AIRCRAFT (IF)	54,807	54,807	54,807		54,807
229	0401132F	C-130J PROGRAM	31,010	31,010	31,010		31,010
230	0401134F	LARGE AIRCRAFT IR COUNTERMEASURES (LAIRCM)	6,802	6,802	6,802		6,802
231	0401219F	KC-10S	1,799	1,799	1,799		1,799
232	0401314F	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AIRLIFT	48,453	48,453	48,453		48,453
233	0401318F	CV-22	36,576	36,576	36,576		36,576
235	0408011F	SPECIAL TACTICS / COMBAT CONTROL	7,963	7,963	7,963		7,963
236	0702207F	DEPOT MAINTENANCE (NON-IF)	1,525	1,525	1,525		1,525
237	0708610F	LOGISTICS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (LOGIT)	112,676	112,676	81,676	-32,100	80,576
		Program growth			[-31,000]	[-32,100]	
238	0708611F	SUPPORT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	12,657	12,657	12,657		12,657
239	0804743F	OTHER FLIGHT TRAINING	1,836	1,836	1,836		1,836
240	0808716F	OTHER PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES	121	121	121		121
241	0901202F	JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY AGENCY	5,911	5,911	5,911		5,911
242	0901218F	CIVILIAN COMPENSATION PROGRAM	3,604	3,604	3,604		3,604
243	0901220F	PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	4,598	4,598	4,598		4,598
244	0901226F	AIR FORCE STUDIES AND ANALYSIS AGENCY	1,103	1,103	1,103		1,103
246	0901538F	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	101,840	101,840	101,840		101,840
246A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	12,780,142	12,780,142	12,945,142		12,780,142
		Three program increases			[165,000]		
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	17,010,339	17,039,539	17,068,849	-113,664	16,896,675
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF	26,473,669	25,957,969	25,940,179	-599,164	25,874,505
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW					
		BASIC RESEARCH					
001	0601000BR	DTRA BASIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE	38,436	38,436	38,436		38,436
002	0601101E	DEFENSE RESEARCH SCIENCES	333,119	333,119	333,119		333,119
003	0601110D8Z	BASIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES	42,022	42,022	42,022		42,022
004	0601117E	BASIC OPERATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH SCIENCE	56,544	56,544	56,544		56,544
005	0601120D8Z	NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION PROGRAM	49,453	59,453	49,453	5,000	54,453

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006	0601228D8Z	STEM program increase		[10,000]		[5,000]	
		HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/MINORITY INSTITUTIONS.	25,834	35,834	25,834	10,000	35,834
007	0601384BP	Program increase		[10,000]		[10,000]	
		CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	46,261	46,261	46,261		46,261
		SUBTOTAL BASIC RESEARCH	591,669	611,669	591,669	15,000	606,669
APPLIED RESEARCH							
008	0602000D8Z	JOINT MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY	19,352	19,352	19,352		19,352
009	0602115E	BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	114,262	114,262	114,262		114,262
010	0602234D8Z	LINCOLN LABORATORY RESEARCH PROGRAM	51,026	51,026	51,026		51,026
011	0602251D8Z	APPLIED RESEARCH FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF S&T PRIORITIES	48,226	48,226	33,226		48,226
		General program decrease			[-15,000]		
012	0602303E	INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	356,358	356,358	356,358		356,358
014	0602383E	BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DEFENSE	29,265	29,265	29,265		29,265
015	0602384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	208,111	208,111	208,111		208,111
016	0602668D8Z	CYBER SECURITY RESEARCH	13,727	13,727	13,727		13,727
018	0602702E	TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY	314,582	314,582	309,582	-5,000	309,582
		Multi-azimuth defense fast intercept round engagement system			[-5,000]	[-5,000]	
019	0602715E	MATERIALS AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY	220,115	195,115	210,115	-18,394	201,721
		Program decrease		[-25,000]	[-10,000]	[-18,394]	
020	0602716E	ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY	174,798	174,798	174,798		174,798
021	0602718BR	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DEFEAT TECHNOLOGIES	155,415	155,415	155,415		155,415
022	0602751D8Z	SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) APPLIED RESEARCH	8,824	8,824	8,824		8,824
023	1160401BB	SOF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	37,517	37,517	37,517		37,517
		SUBTOTAL APPLIED RESEARCH	1,751,578	1,726,578	1,721,578	-23,394	1,728,184
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT							
024	0603000D8Z	JOINT MUNITIONS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	25,915	25,915	25,915		25,915
026	0603122D8Z	COMBATING TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	71,171	136,171	71,171	40,000	111,171
		Increase for Combating Terrorism Technology Activities		[25,000]			
		Program increase		[40,000]		[40,000]	
027	0603133D8Z	FOREIGN COMPARATIVE TESTING	21,782	21,782	21,782		21,782
028	0603160BR	COUNTERPROLIFERATION INITIATIVES—PROLIFERATION PREVENTION AND DEFEAT.	290,654	290,654	290,654		290,654
030	0603176C	ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT	12,139	12,139	12,139		12,139
031	0603177C	DISCRIMINATION SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	28,200	28,200	28,200		28,200
032	0603178C	WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY	45,389	3,131	65,389	-38,022	7,367
		Fiber laser prototype development			[20,000]		
		High Power Directed Energy—Missile Destruct		[-30,291]		[-26,055]	
		Move to support Multiple Object Kill Vehicle		[-11,967]		[-11,967]	
033	0603179C	ADVANCED C4ISR	9,876	9,876	9,876		9,876
034	0603180C	ADVANCED RESEARCH	17,364	17,364	17,364		17,364
035	0603225D8Z	JOINT DOD-DOE MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	18,802	18,802	18,802		18,802
036	0603264S	AGILE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (AT21)—THEATER CAPABILITY.	2,679	2,679	2,679		2,679
037	0603274C	SPECIAL PROGRAM—MDA TECHNOLOGY	64,708	64,708	64,708	-13,250	51,458
		Unjustified growth				[-13,250]	
038	0603286E	ADVANCED AEROSPACE SYSTEMS	185,043	185,043	185,043		185,043
039	0603287E	SPACE PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGY	126,692	126,692	126,692		126,692
040	0603288D8Z	ANALYTIC ASSESSMENTS	14,645	14,645	9,645		14,645
		General program decrease			[-5,000]		
041	0603289D8Z	ADVANCED INNOVATIVE ANALYSIS AND CONCEPTS	59,830	49,830	59,830	-10,000	49,830
		Program decrease		[-10,000]		[-10,000]	
042	0603294C	COMMON KILL VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY	46,753	2,195	66,753	-39,558	7,195
		Increase for Multiple Object Kill Vehicle			[20,000]		
		MOKV Concept Development		[-44,558]		[-39,558]	

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043	0603384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT.	140,094	140,094	140,094		140,094
044	0603527D8Z	RETRACT LARCH	118,666	108,666	118,666	–10,000	108,666
		Program decrease		[–10,000]		[–10,000]	
045	0603618D8Z	JOINT ELECTRONIC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	43,966	30,466	43,966	–13,500	30,466
		Program decrease		[–13,500]		[–13,500]	
046	0603648D8Z	JOINT CAPABILITY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	141,540	129,540	131,540	–12,000	129,540
		Program decrease		[–12,000]	[–10,000]	[–12,000]	
047	0603662D8Z	NETWORKED COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES	6,980	6,980	6,980		6,980
050	0603680D8Z	DEFENSE-WIDE MANUFACTURING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.	157,056	142,056	157,056	–15,000	142,056
		Unjustified growth		[–15,000]		[–15,000]	
051	0603699D8Z	EMERGING CAPABILITIES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	33,515	43,515	33,515	7,500	41,015
		Efforts to counter-ISIL and Russian aggression		[10,000]		[7,500]	
052	0603712S	GENERIC LOGISTICS R&D TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS	16,543	16,543	16,543		16,543
053	0603713S	DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY	29,888	29,888	29,888		29,888
054	0603716D8Z	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM	65,836	65,836	65,836		65,836
055	0603720S	MICROELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT	79,037	99,037	79,037	10,000	89,037
		Trusted Source Implementation for Field Programmable Gate Arrays Study.		[20,000]		[10,000]	
056	0603727D8Z	JOINT WARFIGHTING PROGRAM	9,626	9,626	9,626	–2,500	7,126
		Program decrease				[–2,500]	
057	0603739E	ADVANCED ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGIES	79,021	79,021	79,021		79,021
058	0603760E	COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	201,335	201,335	201,335		201,335
059	0603766E	NETWORK-CENTRIC WARFARE TECHNOLOGY	452,861	427,861	432,861	–20,000	432,861
		Excessive program growth		[–25,000]	[–20,000]	[–20,000]	
060	0603767E	SENSOR TECHNOLOGY	257,127	257,127	257,127		257,127
061	0603769SE	DISTRIBUTED LEARNING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	10,771	10,771	10,771		10,771
062	0603781D8Z	SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INSTITUTE	15,202	15,202	15,202		15,202
063	0603826D8Z	QUICK REACTION SPECIAL PROJECTS	90,500	70,500	70,500	–20,000	70,500
		Unjustified growth		[–20,000]	[–20,000]	[–20,000]	
066	0603833D8Z	ENGINEERING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	18,377	18,377	18,377		18,377
067	0603941D8Z	TEST & EVALUATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	82,589	82,589	82,589		82,589
068	0604055D8Z	OPERATIONAL ENERGY CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENT	37,420	37,420	37,420		37,420
069	0303310D8Z	CWMD SYSTEMS	42,488	42,488	42,488		42,488
070	1160402BB	SOF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	57,741	57,741	57,741		57,741
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	3,229,821	3,132,505	3,214,821	–136,330	3,093,491
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES					
071	0603161D8Z	NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT RDT&E ADC&P.	31,710	31,710	31,710		31,710
073	0603600D8Z	WALKOFF	90,567	90,567	90,567		90,567
074	0603714D8Z	ADVANCED SENSORS APPLICATION PROGRAM	15,900	19,900	19,900		15,900
		Advanced Sensors Application Program		[4,000]	[4,000]		
075	0603851D8Z	ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	52,758	52,758	52,758		52,758
076	0603881C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TERMINAL DEFENSE SEGMENT	228,021	228,021	228,021		228,021
077	0603882C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MIDCOURSE DEFENSE SEGMENT	1,284,891	1,284,891	1,284,891		1,284,891
077A	0603XXXX	MULTIPLE-OBJECT KILL VEHICLE		86,525	10,000	81,525	81,525
		Divert attitude control systems technology to support Multi-Object Kill Vehicle.			[10,000]	[10,000]	
		Establish MOKV Program of Record		[86,525]		[71,525]	
078	0603884BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—DEM/VAL	172,754	172,754	172,754		172,754
079	0603884C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSORS	233,588	233,588	233,588		233,588
080	0603890C	BMD ENABLING PROGRAMS	409,088	409,088	409,088		409,088
080A	0603XXXX	WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY—HIGH POWER DE		30,291		26,055	26,055
		High Power Directed Energy—Missile Destruct		[30,291]		[26,055]	
081	0603891C	SPECIAL PROGRAMS—MDA	400,387	400,387	400,387		400,387
082	0603892C	AEGIS BMD	843,355	870,675	843,355		843,355

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Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
		Undifferentiated Block IB costs		[27,320]			
083	0603893C	SPACE TRACKING & SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	31,632	31,632	31,632		31,632
084	0603895C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM SPACE PROGRAMS	23,289	23,289	23,289		23,289
085	0603896C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL, BATTLE MAN- AGEMENT AND COMMUNICATI.	450,085	450,085	450,085	-12,300	437,785
		Future Spirals concurrency with multiple ongoing efforts and excess growth.				[-12,300]	
086	0603898C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE JOINT WARFIGHTER SUPPORT	49,570	49,570	49,570		49,570
087	0603904C	MISSILE DEFENSE INTEGRATION & OPERATIONS CENTER (MDIOC)	49,211	49,211	49,211		49,211
088	0603906C	REGARDING TRENCH	9,583	9,583	9,583		9,583
089	0603907C	SEA BASED X-BAND RADAR (SBX)	72,866	72,866	72,866		72,866
090	0603913C	ISRAELI COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS	102,795	267,595	268,795	-102,795	0
		Arrow 3		[19,500]			
		Arrow System Improvement Program		[45,500]			
		David's Sling		[99,800]			
		Increase for Arrow/David's Sling			[166,000]		
		Realign Israeli Cooperative Programs to Overseas Contingency Operations.				[-102,795]	
091	0603914C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TEST	274,323	274,323	274,323		274,323
092	0603915C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TARGETS	513,256	513,256	513,256		513,256
092A	0603XXC	INF RESPONSE OPTION DEVELOPMENT		25,000			
		Program increase		[25,000]			
093	0603920D8Z	HUMANITARIAN DEMINING	10,129	10,129	10,129		10,129
094	0603923D8Z	COALITION WARFARE	10,350	10,350	10,350		10,350
095	0604016D8Z	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CORROSION PROGRAM	1,518	6,518	11,518	10,000	11,518
		Program Increase		[5,000]	[10,000]	[10,000]	
096	0604115C	TECHNOLOGY MATURATION INITIATIVES	96,300	96,300	96,300		96,300
097	0604250D8Z	ADVANCED INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES	469,798	469,798	469,798		469,798
098	0604400D8Z	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) COMMON DEVELOPMENT.	3,129	3,129	3,129		3,129
103	0604826J	JOINT C5 CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATION AND INTEROPER- ABILITY ASSESSMENTS.	25,200	25,200	25,200		25,200
105	0604873C	LONG RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR (LRDR)	137,564	137,564	137,564		137,564
106	0604874C	IMPROVED HOMELAND DEFENSE INTERCEPTORS	278,944	278,944	298,944	20,000	298,944
		Redesigned kill vehicle development			[20,000]	[20,000]	
107	0604876C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TERMINAL DEFENSE SEGMENT TEST	26,225	26,225	26,225		26,225
108	0604878C	AEGIS BMD TEST	55,148	55,148	55,148		55,148
109	0604879C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SENSOR TEST	86,764	86,764	86,764		86,764
110	0604880C	LAND-BASED SM-3 (LBSM3)	34,970	34,970	34,970		34,970
111	0604881C	AEGIS SM-3 BLOCK IIA CO-DEVELOPMENT	172,645	172,645	172,645		172,645
112	0604887C	BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MIDCOURSE SEGMENT TEST	64,618	64,618	64,618		64,618
114	0303191D8Z	JOINT ELECTROMAGNETIC TECHNOLOGY (JET) PROGRAM	2,660	2,660	2,660		2,660
115	0305103C	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	963	963	963		963
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTO- TYPES.	6,816,554	7,159,490	7,026,554	22,485	6,839,039
		SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION					
116	0604161D8Z	NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT RDT&E SDD.	8,800	8,800	8,800		8,800
117	0604165D8Z	PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT	78,817	108,817	88,817	10,000	88,817
		Concept development by the Army of a CPGS option		[15,000]		[5,000]	
		Concept development by the Navy of a CPGS option		[15,000]		[5,000]	
		CPGS development and flight test			[10,000]		
118	0604384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM—EMD	303,647	303,647	303,647		303,647
119	0604764K	ADVANCED IT SERVICES JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE (AITS-JPO)	23,424	23,424	23,424		23,424
120	0604771D8Z	JOINT TACTICAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (JTIDS)	14,285	14,285	14,285		14,285
121	0605000BR	WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION DEFEAT CAPABILITIES	7,156	7,156	7,156		7,156
122	0605013BL	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	12,542	12,542	12,542		12,542

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Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
123	0605021SE	HOMELAND PERSONNEL SECURITY INITIATIVE	191	191	191		191
124	0605022D8Z	DEFENSE EXPORTABILITY PROGRAM	3,273	3,273	3,273		3,273
125	0605027D8Z	OUS(D) IT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES	5,962	5,962	5,962		5,962
126	0605070S	DOD ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	13,412	13,412	13,412		13,412
127	0605075D8Z	DCMO POLICY AND INTEGRATION	2,223	2,223	2,223		2,223
128	0605080S	DEFENSE AGENCY INITIATIVES (DAI)—FINANCIAL SYSTEM	31,660	31,660	31,660		31,660
129	0605090S	DEFENSE RETIRED AND ANNUITANT PAY SYSTEM (DRAS)	13,085	13,085	13,085		13,085
130	0605210D8Z	DEFENSE-WIDE ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT CAPABILITIES	7,209	7,209	7,209		7,209
131	0303141K	GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM	15,158	15,158	5,158	–1,364	13,794
		Early to need			[–10,000]	[–1,364]	
132	0305304D8Z	DOD ENTERPRISE ENERGY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (EEIM)	4,414	4,414	4,414		4,414
		SUBTOTAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION	545,258	575,258	545,258	8,636	553,894
		MANAGEMENT SUPPORT					
133	0604774D8Z	DEFENSE READINESS REPORTING SYSTEM (DRRS)	5,581	5,581	5,581		5,581
134	0604875D8Z	JOINT SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE DEVELOPMENT	3,081	3,081	3,081		3,081
135	0604940D8Z	CENTRAL TEST AND EVALUATION INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT (CTEIP)	229,125	229,125	229,125		229,125
136	0604942D8Z	ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS	28,674	21,674	28,674	–7,000	21,674
		Program decrease		[–7,000]		[–7,000]	
138	0605100D8Z	JOINT MISSION ENVIRONMENT TEST CAPABILITY (JMETC)	45,235	45,235	45,235		45,235
139	0605104D8Z	TECHNICAL STUDIES, SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS	24,936	24,936	24,936		24,936
141	0605126J	JOINT INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION (JIAMDO)	35,471	35,471	35,471		35,471
144	0605142D8Z	SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	37,655	37,655	32,655		37,655
		Reducing reporting and inefficiencies			[–5,000]		
145	0605151D8Z	STUDIES AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT—OSD	3,015	3,015	3,015		3,015
146	0605161D8Z	NUCLEAR MATTERS-PHYSICAL SECURITY	5,287	5,287	5,287		5,287
147	0605170D8Z	SUPPORT TO NETWORKS AND INFORMATION INTEGRATION	5,289	5,289	5,289		5,289
148	0605200D8Z	GENERAL SUPPORT TO USD (INTELLIGENCE)	2,120	2,120	2,120		2,120
149	0605384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM	102,264	102,264	102,264		102,264
158	0605790D8Z	SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR)/ SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	2,169	2,169	2,169		2,169
159	0605798D8Z	DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY ANALYSIS	13,960	13,960	13,960		13,960
160	0605801KA	DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER (DTIC)	51,775	51,775	51,775		51,775
161	0605803SE	R&D IN SUPPORT OF DOD ENLISTMENT, TESTING AND EVALUATION	9,533	9,533	9,533		9,533
162	0605804D8Z	DEVELOPMENT TEST AND EVALUATION	17,371	21,371	17,371	4,000	21,371
		Program increase		[4,000]		[4,000]	
163	0605898E	MANAGEMENT HQ—R&D	71,571	71,571	71,571		71,571
164	0606100D8Z	BUDGET AND PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS	4,123	4,123	4,123		4,123
165	0203345D8Z	DEFENSE OPERATIONS SECURITY INITIATIVE (DOSI)	1,946	1,946	1,946		1,946
166	0204571J	JOINT STAFF ANALYTICAL SUPPORT	7,673	7,673	7,673		7,673
169	0303166J	SUPPORT TO INFORMATION OPERATIONS (IO) CAPABILITIES	10,413	10,413	10,413		10,413
170	0303260D8Z	DEFENSE MILITARY DECEPTION PROGRAM OFFICE (DMDPO)	971	971	971		971
171	0305193D8Z	CYBER INTELLIGENCE	6,579	6,579	6,579		6,579
173	0804767D8Z	COCOM EXERCISE ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING TRANSFORMATION (CE2T2)—MHA	43,811	43,811	43,811		43,811
174	0901598C	MANAGEMENT HQ—MDA	35,871	35,871	35,871		35,871
176	0903230D8W	WHS—MISSION OPERATIONS SUPPORT - IT	1,072	1,072	1,072		1,072
177A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	49,500	49,500	49,500		49,500
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	856,071	853,071	851,071	–3,000	853,071
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT					
178	0604130V	ENTERPRISE SECURITY SYSTEM (ESS)	7,929	7,929	7,929		7,929
179	0605127T	REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH (RIO) AND PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE INFORMATION MANA	1,750	1,750	1,750		1,750
180	0605147T	OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SHARED INFORMATION SYSTEM (OHASIS)	294	294	294		294
181	0607210D8Z	INDUSTRIAL BASE ANALYSIS AND SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT	22,576	22,576	22,576		22,576

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Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
182	0607310D8Z	CWMD SYSTEMS: OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	1,901	1,901	1,901		1,901
183	0607327T	GLOBAL THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (G-TSCMIS).	8,474	8,474	8,474		8,474
184	0607384BP	CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE (OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT).	33,561	33,561	33,561		33,561
186	0208043J	PLANNING AND DECISION AID SYSTEM (PDAS)	3,061	3,061	3,061		3,061
187	0208045K	C4I INTEROPERABILITY	64,921	64,921	64,921		64,921
189	0301144K	JOINT/ALLIED COALITION INFORMATION SHARING	3,645	3,645	3,645		3,645
193	0302016K	NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORT	963	963	963		963
194	0302019K	DEFENSE INFO INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING AND INTEGRATION	10,186	10,186	10,186		10,186
195	0303126K	LONG-HAUL COMMUNICATIONS—DCS	36,883	36,883	36,883		36,883
196	0303131K	MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (MEECN).	13,735	13,735	13,735		13,735
197	0303135G	PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE (PKI)	6,101	6,101	6,101		6,101
198	0303136G	KEY MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (KMI)	43,867	43,867	43,867		43,867
199	0303140D8Z	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	8,957	8,957	8,957		8,957
200	0303140G	INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM	146,890	146,890	146,890		146,890
201	0303150K	GLOBAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM	21,503	21,503	21,503		21,503
202	0303153K	DEFENSE SPECTRUM ORGANIZATION	20,342	20,342	20,342		20,342
203	0303170K	NET-CENTRIC ENTERPRISE SERVICES (NCES)	444	444	444		444
205	0303610K	TELEPORT PROGRAM	1,736	1,736	1,736		1,736
206	0304210BB	SPECIAL APPLICATIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES	65,060	19,460	65,060		65,060
		Ahead of need		[-45,600]			
210	0305103K	CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVE	2,976	2,976	2,976		2,976
215	0305186D8Z	POLICY R&D PROGRAMS	4,182	4,182	4,182		4,182
216	0305199D8Z	NET CENTRICITY	18,130	18,130	18,130		18,130
218	0305208BB	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	5,302	5,302	5,302		5,302
221	0305208K	DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND/SURFACE SYSTEMS	3,239	3,239	3,239		3,239
225	0305327V	INSIDER THREAT	11,733	11,733	11,733		11,733
226	0305387D8Z	HOMELAND DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM	2,119	2,119	2,119		2,119
234	0708011S	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS	24,605	28,605	24,605		24,605
		Casting Solutions for Readiness Program		[4,000]			
235	0708012S	LOGISTICS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	1,770	1,770	1,770		1,770
236	0902298J	MANAGEMENT HQ—OJCS	2,978	2,978	2,978		2,978
237	1105219BB	MQ-9 UAV	18,151	23,151	23,151	5,000	23,151
		Medium Altitude Long Endurance Tactical (MALET) MQ-9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.		[5,000]	[5,000]	[5,000]	
238	1105232BB	RQ-11 UAV	758	758	758		758
240	1160403BB	AVIATION SYSTEMS	173,934	189,134	191,141	15,200	189,134
		ISR payload technology improvements			[2,000]		
		MC-130 Terrain Following/Terrain Avoidance Radar Program		[15,200]	[15,207]	[15,200]	
241	1160405BB	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	6,866	6,866	6,866		6,866
242	1160408BB	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	63,008	63,008	63,008		63,008
243	1160431BB	WARRIOR SYSTEMS	25,342	25,342	25,342		25,342
244	1160432BB	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	3,401	3,401	3,401		3,401
245	1160480BB	SOF TACTICAL VEHICLES	3,212	3,212	3,212		3,212
246	1160483BB	MARITIME SYSTEMS	63,597	64,597	63,597		63,597
		Combat Diver		[1,000]			
247	1160489BB	GLOBAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES	3,933	3,933	3,933		3,933
248	1160490BB	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS INTELLIGENCE	10,623	10,623	10,623		10,623
248A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	3,564,272	3,564,272	3,564,272		3,564,272
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	4,538,910	4,518,510	4,561,117	20,200	4,559,110
		UNDISTRIBUTED					
249	XXXXXX	DEFENSE WIDE CYBER VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT			200,000	200,000	200,000
		Assess all major weapon systems for cyber vulnerability			[200,000]	[200,000]	
250	XXXXXX	UCAS-D DEVELOPMENT AND FOLLOW ON PROTOTYPING			725,000		

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		Supports continued efforts on UCAS-D and follow on prototyping.			[725,000]		
251	XXXXXXX	TECHNOLOGY OFFSET INITIATIVE			400,000	400,000	400,000
		Supports innovative technology development			[400,000]	[400,000]	
		SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED			1,325,000	600,000	600,000
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	18,329,861	18,577,081	19,837,068	503,597	18,833,458
		OPERATIONAL TEST & EVAL, DEFENSE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT					
001	06051180TE	OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION	76,838	76,838	76,838		76,838
002	06051310TE	LIVE FIRE TEST AND EVALUATION	46,882	46,882	46,882		46,882
003	06058140TE	OPERATIONAL TEST ACTIVITIES AND ANALYSES	46,838	46,838	46,838		46,838
		SUBTOTAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT	170,558	170,558	170,558		170,558
		TOTAL OPERATIONAL TEST & EVAL, DEFENSE	170,558	170,558	170,558		170,558
		TOTAL RDT&E	69,784,963	68,368,990	70,948,640	559,386	70,344,349

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY					
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES					
060	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	1,500	1,500	1,500		1,500
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES.	1,500	1,500	1,500		1,500
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	1,500	1,500	1,500		1,500
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY					
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT					
231A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	35,747	35,747	35,747		35,747
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	35,747	35,747	35,747		35,747
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	35,747	35,747	35,747		35,747
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF					
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT					
133	0205671F	JOINT COUNTER RCIED ELECTRONIC WARFARE	300	300	300		300
246A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	16,800	16,800	16,800		16,800
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	17,100	17,100	17,100		17,100
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, AF	17,100	17,100	17,100		17,100
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW					
		ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT					
026	0603122D8Z	COMBATING TERRORISM TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT		25,000			
		Combating Terrorism and Technical Support Office		[25,000]			
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT		25,000			
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES					
090	0603913C	ISRAELI COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS				267,595	267,595
		Arrow 3				[19,500]	
		Arrow System Improvement Program				[45,500]	

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		David's Sling				[99,800]	
		Realign Israeli Cooperative Programs to Overseas Contingency Operations.				[102,795]	
		SUBTOTAL ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTOTYPES.				267,595	267,595
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT					
248A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	137,087	137,087	137,087		137,087
		SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	137,087	137,087	137,087		137,087
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	137,087	162,087	137,087	267,595	404,682
		TOTAL RDT&E	191,434	216,434	191,434	267,595	459,029

TITLE XLIII—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	MANEUVER UNITS	1,094,429	1,594,429	1,094,429	500,000	1,594,429
	Force Readiness Restoration—Operations Tempo		[500,000]		[500,000]	
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	68,873	68,873	68,873		68,873
060	AVIATION ASSETS		141,700			
	Flying Hour Program Restoration Unfunded Requirement		[55,000]			
	H–60 A-L Conversion Acceleration		[86,700]			
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT		114,000			
	Army Reserve cyber education efforts		[6,000]			
	Insider Threat Unfunded Requirements		[80,000]			
	Open Source Intelligence/Human Terrain Systems Unfunded Requirements		[28,000]			
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,214,116	1,215,846	1,291,316	77,200	1,291,316
	Gun Tube Depot Maintenance Shortfall Recovery Acceleration		[1,730]			
	Readiness funding increase			[77,200]	[77,200]	
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	7,616,008	7,607,508	7,626,508	10,500	7,626,508
	Public Affairs at Local Installations Unjustified Growth		[–8,500]			
	Readiness funding increase			[10,500]	[10,500]	
110	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	2,617,169	2,809,869	2,651,169	172,200	2,789,369
	GTMO Critical Building Maintenance		[20,500]			
	Kwajalein facilities restoration			[34,000]		
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[172,200]		[172,200]	
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	421,269	421,269	421,269		421,269
130	COMBATANT COMMANDERS CORE OPERATIONS	164,743	164,743	164,743		164,743
170	COMBATANT COMMANDS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	448,633	469,633	436,276		448,633
	Afloat Forward Staging Base Unfunded Requirement		[21,000]			
	Streamlining of Army Combatant Commands Direct Mission Support			[–12,357]		
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	13,645,240	14,607,870	13,754,583	759,900	14,405,140
	MOBILIZATION					
180	STRATEGIC MOBILITY	401,638	401,638	401,638		401,638
200	INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS	6,532	6,532	6,532		6,532
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	408,170	408,170	408,170		408,170
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING					
210	OFFICER ACQUISITION	131,536	131,536	131,536		131,536
220	RECRUIT TRAINING	47,843	47,843	47,843		47,843

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
230	ONE STATION UNIT TRAINING	42,565	42,565	42,565		42,565
240	SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS	490,378	490,378	490,378		490,378
250	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	981,000	990,800	1,014,200	8,200	989,200
	Cyber Defender (25D) Series Course		[9,800]			
	Readiness funding increase			[33,200]	[33,200]	
	Unjustified program growth				[-25,000]	
260	FLIGHT TRAINING	940,872	984,472	940,872		940,872
	Cyber Basic Officer Leadership Course		[3,100]			
	Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training Backlog Reduction		[40,500]			
270	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	230,324	247,624	230,324		230,324
	Advanced Civil Schooling – Civilian Graduate School 10 Percent Reduc- tion		[-3,000]			
	Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training		[20,300]			
280	TRAINING SUPPORT	603,519	631,519	603,519		603,519
	Intelligence Support for PACOM Unfunded Requirement		[28,000]			
290	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	491,922	491,922	491,922		491,922
300	EXAMINING	194,079	194,079	194,079		194,079
310	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	227,951	227,951	227,951		227,951
320	CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING	161,048	161,048	161,048		161,048
330	JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS	170,118	170,118	170,118		170,118
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	4,713,155	4,811,855	4,746,355	8,200	4,721,355
ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES						
360	CENTRAL SUPPLY ACTIVITIES	813,881	813,881	813,881		813,881
370	LOGISTIC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	714,781	715,141	714,781	-11,000	703,781
	TRADOC Mobile Training Team (MTT) Support Unfunded Requirement		[360]			
	Unjustified program growth				[-11,000]	
380	AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT	322,127	322,127	322,127		322,127
390	ADMINISTRATION	384,813	376,313	384,813		384,813
	Unjustified Growth in Public Affairs		[-8,500]			
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	1,781,350	1,781,350	1,781,350		1,781,350
410	MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	292,532	292,532	292,532		292,532
420	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	375,122	375,122	375,122		375,122
430	OTHER SERVICE SUPPORT	1,119,848	1,115,348	1,115,348	-4,500	1,115,348
	Spirit of America program growth		[-4,500]	[-4,500]	[-4,500]	
440	ARMY CLAIMS ACTIVITIES	225,358	225,358	225,358		225,358
450	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	239,755	239,755	239,755		239,755
460	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT READINESS	223,319	223,319	223,319		223,319
470	INTERNATIONAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS	469,865	469,865	469,865		469,865
480	MISC. SUPPORT OF OTHER NATIONS	40,521	40,521	40,521		40,521
530	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,120,974	1,120,974	1,146,474	20,000	1,140,974
	Additional SOUTHCOM ISR and intel support			[20,000]	[20,000]	
	Readiness increase			[5,500]		
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	8,124,246	8,111,606	8,145,246	4,500	8,128,746
UNDISTRIBUTED						
540	UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,112,000	-929,551	-847,900	-847,900
	Bulk fuel savings			[-260,100]		
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-83,400]		[-86,000]	
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-431,000]	[-431,000]	[-431,000]	
	Program decrease		[-5,000]			
	Prohibition on Per Diem Allowance Reduction		[3,300]			
	Streamlining of Army Management Headquarters			[-238,451]	[-180,900]	
	Unobligated balances		[-595,900]			
	Working Capital Fund carryover above allowable ceiling				[-150,000]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,112,000	-929,551	-847,900	-847,900
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	26,890,811	26,827,501	26,124,803	-75,300	26,815,511

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES						
OPERATING FORCES						
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	16,612	16,612	16,612		16,612
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	486,531	486,531	486,531		486,531
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	105,446	105,446	105,446		105,446
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	516,791	516,791	516,791		516,791
060	AVIATION ASSETS	87,587	87,587	87,587		87,587
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	348,601	348,601	348,601		348,601
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	81,350	81,350	81,350		81,350
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	59,574	59,574	91,974	32,400	91,974
	Readiness funding increase			[32,400]	[32,400]	
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	570,852	570,852	570,852	−13,000	557,852
	Unjustified program growth				[−13,000]	
110	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	245,686	259,286	245,686	13,600	259,286
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[13,600]		[13,600]	
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	40,962	40,962	40,962		40,962
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,559,992	2,573,592	2,592,392	33,000	2,592,992
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
130	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	10,665	10,665	10,665		10,665
140	ADMINISTRATION	18,390	18,390	18,390		18,390
150	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	14,976	14,976	14,976		14,976
160	MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	8,841	8,841	8,841		8,841
170	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	52,928	52,928	52,928		52,928
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	105,800	105,800	105,800		105,800
UNDISTRIBUTED						
190	UNDISTRIBUTED		−7,600	−13,611	−12,600	−12,600
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[−7,600]	[−7,600]	[−8,000]	
	Streamlining of Army Reserve Management Headquarters			[−6,011]	[−4,600]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		−7,600	−13,611	−12,600	−12,600
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES	2,665,792	2,671,792	2,684,581	20,400	2,686,192
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG						
OPERATING FORCES						
010	MANEUVER UNITS	709,433	1,094,533	709,433	385,100	1,094,533
	Increased Operations Tempo to Meet Readiness Objectives		[385,100]		[385,100]	
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	167,324	167,324	167,324		167,324
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	741,327	741,327	741,327		741,327
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	88,775	88,775	96,475	7,700	96,475
	ARNG border security enhancement			[7,700]	[7,700]	
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	32,130	32,130	32,130		32,130
060	AVIATION ASSETS	943,609	1,063,009	996,209	52,600	996,209
	ARNG border security enhancement			[13,000]	[13,000]	
	C3 High Frequency Radio System Unfunded Requirement		[5,600]			
	Operational Support and Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training		[69,900]			
	Readiness funding increase			[39,600]	[39,600]	
	Restoration of Flying Hours Unfunded Requirement		[43,900]			
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	703,137	703,137	703,137		703,137
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	84,066	84,066	84,066		84,066
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	166,848	166,848	189,348	22,500	189,348
	Readiness funding increase			[22,500]	[22,500]	
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,022,970	1,022,970	1,022,970	−24,000	998,970
	Justification does not match summary of price and program changes				[−14,000]	
	Unjustified growth				[−10,000]	

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (In Thousands of Dollars)						
Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
110	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	673,680	708,880	673,680	35,200	708,880
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[35,200]		[35,200]	
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	954,574	954,574	954,574		954,574
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	6,287,873	6,827,573	6,370,673	479,100	6,766,973
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
130	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	6,570	6,570	6,570		6,570
140	ADMINISTRATION	59,629	59,219	59,379	100	59,729
	National Guard State Partnership Program increase		[1,000]		[1,000]	
	NGB Heritage Painting Program		[-1,410]		[-900]	
	Reduction to National Guard Heritage Paintings			[-250]		
150	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	68,452	68,452	68,452		68,452
160	MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	8,841	8,841	8,841		8,841
170	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	283,670	283,670	272,170	-11,500	272,170
	Army Marketing Program unjustified program growth			[-11,500]	[-11,500]	
180	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	2,942	2,942	2,942		2,942
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	430,104	429,694	418,354	-11,400	418,704
UNDISTRIBUTED						
200	UNDISTRIBUTED		-25,300	-51,931	-46,200	-46,200
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-25,300]	[-25,300]	[-26,000]	
	Streamlining of Army National Guard Management Headquarters			[-26,631]	[-20,200]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-25,300	-51,931	-46,200	-46,200
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG	6,717,977	7,231,967	6,737,096	421,500	7,139,477
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY						
OPERATING FORCES						
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS		3,300			
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—CH-53 Contract Maintenance		[3,300]			
030	AVIATION TECHNICAL DATA & ENGINEERING SERVICES	37,225	37,225	37,225		37,225
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT		2,800			
	MV-22 Fleet Engineering Support Unfunded Requirement		[2,800]			
050	AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	376,844	390,744	390,744	13,900	390,744
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—AV-8B Program Related Logistics		[4,000]		[4,000]	
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—CH-53 Program Related Logistics		[1,900]		[1,900]	
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—MV-22 Program Related Logistics		[1,200]		[1,200]	
	MV-22 Fleet Engineering Support Unfunded Requirement		[6,800]		[6,800]	
	Readiness funding increase			[13,900]		
060	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	897,536	914,536	897,536	15,000	912,536
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—AV-8B Depot Maintenance		[11,200]			
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—CH-53 Depot Maintenance		[1,000]			
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—F-18 Depot Maintenance		[4,800]			
	Program increase				[15,000]	
080	AVIATION LOGISTICS	544,056	555,956	549,356	5,300	549,356
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—MV-22 Aviation Logistics		[5,300]		[5,300]	
	KC-130J Aviation Logistics Unfunded Requirement		[6,600]			
	Readiness funding increase			[5,300]		
140	ELECTRONIC WARFARE	96,916	96,916	96,916		96,916
150	SPACE SYSTEMS AND SURVEILLANCE	192,198	192,198	192,198		192,198
160	WARFARE TACTICS	453,942	453,942	453,942		453,942
170	OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	351,871	351,871	351,871		351,871
180	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	1,186,847	1,186,847	1,186,847	-15,000	1,171,847
	Unjustified program growth				[-15,000]	
190	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	123,948	123,948	123,948		123,948
200	DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	2,443	2,443	2,443		2,443
210	COMBATANT COMMANDERS CORE OPERATIONS	98,914	98,914	98,914		98,914

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
220	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	73,110	73,110	67,627		73,110
	Streamlining of Navy Combatant Commanders Direct Mission Support			[-5,483]		
230	CRUISE MISSILE	110,734	110,734	110,734		110,734
240	FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE	1,206,736	1,206,736	1,206,736		1,206,736
250	IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	141,664	141,664	141,664		141,664
260	WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	523,122	535,122	523,122	12,000	535,122
	Ship Self-Defense Systems Maintenance Backlog Reduction		[12,000]		[12,000]	
270	OTHER WEAPON SYSTEMS SUPPORT	371,872	371,872	371,872		371,872
280	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION	896,061	896,061	896,061		896,061
290	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	2,220,423	2,245,723	2,220,423	25,300	2,245,723
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[25,300]		[25,300]	
300	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	4,472,468	4,472,468	4,486,468		4,472,468
	Funding increase for Behavioral Counseling			[14,000]		
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	14,378,930	14,465,130	14,406,647	56,500	14,435,430
MOBILIZATION						
310	SHIP PREPOSITIONING AND SURGE	422,846	422,846	422,846		422,846
320	AIRCRAFT ACTIVATIONS/INACTIVATIONS	6,464	6,964	6,964	500	6,964
	Aviation Readiness Restoration—F-18 Aircraft Activations/Inactivations ..		[500]	[500]	[500]	
330	SHIP ACTIVATIONS/INACTIVATIONS	361,764	361,764	361,764		361,764
340	EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEMS	69,530	69,530	69,530		69,530
350	INDUSTRIAL READINESS	2,237	2,237	2,237		2,237
360	COAST GUARD SUPPORT	21,823	21,823	21,823		21,823
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	884,664	885,164	885,164	500	885,164
TRAINING AND RECRUITING						
370	OFFICER ACQUISITION	149,375	149,375	149,375		149,375
380	RECRUIT TRAINING	9,035	9,035	9,035		9,035
390	RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS	156,290	156,290	156,290		156,290
400	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	653,728	653,728	653,728		653,728
410	FLIGHT TRAINING	8,171	8,171	8,171		8,171
420	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	168,471	152,971	168,471	-6,000	162,471
	Civilian Institutions Graduate Education Program		[-16,500]		[-6,000]	
	Naval Sea Cadets		[1,000]			
430	TRAINING SUPPORT	196,048	196,048	196,048		196,048
440	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	234,233	234,733	234,233	1,000	235,233
	1-800 US Navy Call Center		[500]			
	Naval Sea Cadet Corps				[1,000]	
450	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	137,855	137,855	137,855		137,855
460	CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING	77,257	77,257	77,257		77,257
470	JUNIOR ROTC	47,653	47,653	47,653		47,653
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	1,838,116	1,823,116	1,838,116	-5,000	1,833,116
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
480	ADMINISTRATION	923,771	914,771	923,771		923,771
	Navy Fleet Band National Tours		[-5,000]			
	Unjustified Growth External Relations		[-3,500]			
	Unjustified Growth Navy Call Center		[-500]			
490	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	13,967	10,467	13,967		13,967
	Navy External Relations		[-3,500]			
500	CIVILIAN MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	120,812	120,812	120,812		120,812
510	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	350,983	350,983	350,983	-4,000	346,983
	Unjustified growth				[-4,000]	
520	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	265,948	260,948	265,948	-5,000	260,948
	Navy Fleet Band National Tour		[-5,000]		[-5,000]	
530	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	335,482	335,482	335,482		335,482
550	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	197,724	197,724	197,724		197,724

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
570	PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN	274,936	274,936	274,936		274,936
580	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	1,122,178	1,122,178	1,122,178		1,122,178
590	HULL, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SUPPORT	48,587	48,587	48,587		48,587
600	COMBAT/WEAPONS SYSTEMS	25,599	25,599	25,599		25,599
610	SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS	72,768	72,768	72,768		72,768
620	NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	577,803	577,803	577,803		577,803
680	INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND AGENCIES	4,768	4,768	4,768		4,768
710	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	560,754	560,754	560,754		560,754
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	4,896,080	4,878,580	4,896,080	-9,000	4,887,080
UNDISTRIBUTED						
720	UNDISTRIBUTED		-892,100	-779,123	-856,200	-856,200
	Bulk fuel savings			[-482,300]		
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-591,400]		[-610,000]	
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-87,000]	[-87,000]	[-87,000]	
	Program decrease		[-5,000]			
	Prohibition on Per Diem Allowance Reduction		[2,300]			
	Streamlining of Navy Management Headquarters			[-209,823]	[-159,200]	
	Unobligated balances		[-211,000]			
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-892,100	-779,123	-856,200	-856,200
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	21,997,790	21,159,890	21,246,884	-813,200	21,184,590
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS						
OPERATING FORCES						
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	227,583	227,583	227,583		227,583
040	MARITIME PREPOSITIONING	86,259	86,259	86,259		86,259
050	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	746,237	775,037	746,237	28,800	775,037
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[28,800]		[28,800]	
060	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	2,057,362	2,057,362	2,058,562		2,057,362
	Readiness funding increase for Criminal Investigative Equipment			[1,200]		
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	3,117,441	3,146,241	3,118,641	28,800	3,146,241
TRAINING AND RECRUITING						
070	RECRUIT TRAINING	16,460	16,460	16,460		16,460
080	OFFICER ACQUISITION	977	977	977		977
090	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	97,325	97,325	97,325		97,325
100	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	40,786	40,786	40,786		40,786
120	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	164,806	164,806	164,806		164,806
130	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	39,963	39,963	39,963		39,963
140	JUNIOR ROTC	23,397	23,397	23,397		23,397
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	383,714	383,714	383,714		383,714
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
150	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	37,386	37,386	37,386		37,386
160	ADMINISTRATION	358,395	342,595	358,395	-6,700	351,695
	Unjustified Growth Marine Corps Heritage Center		[-15,800]		[-6,700]	
180	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	76,105	76,105	76,105		76,105
200	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	45,429	45,429	45,429		45,429
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	517,315	501,515	517,315	-6,700	510,615
UNDISTRIBUTED						
210	UNDISTRIBUTED		-94,200	-77,588	-87,700	-87,700
	Bulk fuel savings			[-17,000]		
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-24,600]		[-25,000]	
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-28,000]	[-28,000]	[-28,000]	
	Program decrease		[-5,000]			

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	Prohibition on Per Diem Allowance Reduction		[800]			
	Streamlining of Marine Corps Management Headquarters			[-32,588]	[-24,700]	
	Unobligated balances		[-37,400]			
	Working Capital Fund carryover above allowable ceiling				[-10,000]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-94,200	-77,588	-87,700	-87,700
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	4,018,470	3,937,270	3,942,082	-65,600	3,952,870
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	563,722	607,222	563,722		563,722
	Reversing the disestablishment of HSC-84 and HSC-85		[43,500]			
020	INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE	6,218	6,218	6,218		6,218
030	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	82,712	82,712	82,712		82,712
040	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	326	326	326		326
050	AVIATION LOGISTICS	13,436	13,436	13,436		13,436
070	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	557	557	557		557
090	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	14,499	14,499	14,499		14,499
100	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	117,601	117,601	117,601		117,601
120	ENTERPRISE INFORMATION	29,382	29,382	29,382		29,382
130	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	48,513	49,213	48,513	700	49,213
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[700]		[700]	
140	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	102,858	102,858	102,858		102,858
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	979,824	1,024,024	979,824	700	980,524
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES					
150	ADMINISTRATION	1,505	1,505	1,505		1,505
160	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	13,782	13,782	13,782		13,782
170	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	3,437	3,437	3,437		3,437
180	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	3,210	3,210	3,210		3,210
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	21,934	21,934	21,934		21,934
	UNDISTRIBUTED					
210	UNDISTRIBUTED		-39,700	-41,086	-42,100	-42,100
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-39,700]	[-39,700]	[-41,000]	
	Streamlining of Navy Reserve Management Headquarters			[-1,386]	[-1,100]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-39,700	-41,086	-42,100	-42,100
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES	1,001,758	1,006,258	960,672	-41,400	960,358
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	OPERATING FORCES	97,631	97,631	97,631		97,631
020	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	18,254	18,254	18,254		18,254
030	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	28,653	30,053	28,653	1,400	30,053
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[1,400]		[1,400]	
040	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	111,923	111,923	111,923		111,923
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	256,461	257,861	256,461	1,400	257,861
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES					
050	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	924	924	924		924
060	ADMINISTRATION	10,866	10,866	10,866		10,866
070	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	8,785	8,785	8,785		8,785
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	20,575	20,575	20,575		20,575
	UNDISTRIBUTED					
080	UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,000	-2,473	-2,100	-2,100

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[−1,000]	[−1,000]	[−1,000]	
	Streamlining of Marine Corps Reserve Management Headquarters			[−1,473]	[−1,100]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		−1,000	−2,473	−2,100	−2,100
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE	277,036	277,436	274,563	−700	276,336
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	3,336,868	3,612,468	3,336,868	262,600	3,599,468
	A−10 restoration: Force Structure Restoration		[249,700]		[235,300]	
	A−10 to F−15E Training Transition		[−1,400]			
	EC−130H Force Structure Restoration		[27,300]		[27,300]	
020	COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	1,897,315	1,935,015	1,897,315	17,700	1,915,015
	Increase Range Use Support Unfunded Requirement		[37,700]		[37,700]	
	Unjustified growth				[−20,000]	
030	AIR OPERATIONS TRAINING (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS)	1,797,549	1,719,349	1,757,249	−107,200	1,690,349
	A−10 to F−15E Training Transition		[−78,200]	[−78,000]	[−78,200]	
	Readiness increase			[37,700]		
	Unjustified growth				[−29,000]	
040	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	6,537,127	6,537,127	6,537,127	−40,000	6,497,127
	Remove FY 15 contractor logistics support costs				[−40,000]	
050	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	1,997,712	2,132,812	1,997,712	135,100	2,132,812
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[135,100]		[135,100]	
060	BASE SUPPORT	2,841,948	2,841,948	2,841,948		2,841,948
120	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	900,965	900,965	885,585	−11,000	889,965
	Streamlining of Air Force Combatant Commanders Direct Mission Support			[−15,380]		
	Unjustified growth				[−11,000]	
130	COMBATANT COMMANDERS CORE OPERATIONS	205,078	205,078	164,078		205,078
	Cutting Joint Enabling Capabilities Command			[−41,000]		
135	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	893,272	893,272	910,072		893,272
	Increase One Program			[20,000]		
	Unjustified increase			[−3,200]		
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	20,407,834	20,778,034	20,327,954	257,200	20,665,034
	MOBILIZATION					
170	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	259,956	259,956	259,956		259,956
180	BASE SUPPORT	708,799	708,799	708,799		708,799
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	968,755	968,755	968,755		968,755
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING					
190	OFFICER ACQUISITION	92,191	92,191	92,191		92,191
200	RECRUIT TRAINING	21,871	21,871	21,871		21,871
210	RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)	77,527	77,527	77,527		77,527
220	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	228,500	228,500	228,500		228,500
230	BASE SUPPORT	772,870	772,870	772,870		772,870
240	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	359,304	379,304	402,404	20,000	379,304
	Readiness increase for RPA training			[43,100]		
	Remotely Piloted Aircraft Flight Training Acceleration		[20,000]		[20,000]	
250	FLIGHT TRAINING	710,553	726,553	710,553	16,000	726,553
	Consolidation of Air Battle Manager Resources not properly documented				[−4,000]	
	Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) Training		[16,000]		[20,000]	
260	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION	228,252	227,322	228,252		228,252
	Air Force Civilian Graduate Education Program Unjustified Growth		[−930]			
270	TRAINING SUPPORT	76,464	76,464	76,464		76,464
280	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	375,513	375,513	375,513		375,513
290	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	79,690	79,690	79,690		79,690
300	EXAMINING	3,803	3,803	3,803		3,803

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
310	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	180,807	180,807	180,807		180,807
320	CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING	167,478	167,478	167,478		167,478
330	JUNIOR ROTC	59,263	59,263	59,263		59,263
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	3,434,086	3,469,156	3,477,186	36,000	3,470,086
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES					
350	TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	862,022	862,022	852,022	-20,000	842,022
	Acquisition Management Adjustment			[-10,000]		
	Unjustified growth				[-20,000]	
360	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	61,745	61,745	61,745		61,745
370	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	298,759	298,759	298,759		298,759
380	BASE SUPPORT	1,108,220	1,108,220	1,096,220		1,108,220
	Reduce IT procurement			[-12,000]		
390	ADMINISTRATION	689,797	669,097	669,097	-8,000	681,797
	DEAMS reduction-Funding ahead of need		[-20,700]	[-20,700]	[-8,000]	
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	498,053	498,053	498,053		498,053
410	OTHER SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	900,253	900,253	900,253		900,253
420	CIVIL AIR PATROL	25,411	27,911	25,411	2,300	27,711
	Civil Air Patrol		[2,500]		[2,300]	
450	INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	89,148	89,148	89,148		89,148
460	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,187,859	1,187,859	1,182,959		1,187,859
	Unjustified increase			[-4,900]		
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	5,721,267	5,703,067	5,673,667	-25,700	5,695,567
	UNDISTRIBUTED					
470	UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,067,600	-848,903	-1,006,500	-1,006,500
	Bulk fuel savings			[-618,300]		
	Costs associated with preventing divestiture of A-10 fleet			[235,300]		
	Costs associated with preventing divestiture of EC-130			[27,300]		
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-562,100]		[-580,000]	
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[-217,000]	[-217,000]	[-217,000]	
	Program decrease		[-5,000]			
	Prohibition on Per Diem Allowance Reduction		[2,900]			
	Streamlining of Air Force Management Headquarters			[-276,203]	[-209,500]	
	Unobligated balances		[-286,400]			
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-1,067,600	-848,903	-1,006,500	-1,006,500
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	30,531,942	29,851,412	29,598,659	-739,000	29,792,942
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,779,378	1,781,878	1,779,378	2,500	1,781,878
	A-10 restoration: Force Structure Restoration		[2,500]		[2,500]	
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	226,243	226,243	226,243	-6,000	220,243
	Justification does not match summary of price and program changes for civilian pay				[-6,000]	
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	487,036	487,036	487,036		487,036
040	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	109,342	109,642	109,342	300	109,642
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[300]		[300]	
050	BASE SUPPORT	373,707	373,707	373,707	-3,000	370,707
	Air Force Support Standard Correction—transfer to SAG 11G not properly accounted				[-3,000]	
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,975,706	2,978,506	2,975,706	-6,200	2,969,506
	ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES					
060	ADMINISTRATION	53,921	53,921	53,921		53,921
070	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	14,359	14,359	14,359		14,359
080	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERS MGMT (ARPC)	13,665	13,665	13,665		13,665

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (In Thousands of Dollars)						
Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
090	OTHER PERS SUPPORT (DISABILITY COMP)	6,606	6,606	6,606		6,606
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	88,551	88,551	88,551		88,551
	UNDISTRIBUTED					
110	UNDISTRIBUTED		-101,000	-103,216	-107,500	-107,500
	Costs associated with preventing divestiture of A-10 fleet			[2,500]		
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-101,000]	[-101,100]	[-104,000]	
	Streamlining of Air Force Reserve Management Headquarters			[-4,616]	[-3,500]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-101,000	-103,216	-107,500	-107,500
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE	3,064,257	2,966,057	2,961,041	-113,700	2,950,557
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS	3,526,471	3,608,671	3,526,471	42,200	3,568,671
	A-10 restoration: Force Structure Restoration		[42,200]		[42,200]	
	Aircraft Support Equipment Shortfall Restoration		[40,000]			
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	740,779	740,779	743,379	2,600	743,379
	ARNG border security enhancement			[2,600]	[2,600]	
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,763,859	1,763,859	1,763,859		1,763,859
040	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	288,786	307,586	288,786	18,800	307,586
	Restore Sustainment shortfalls		[18,800]		[18,800]	
050	BASE SUPPORT	582,037	582,037	582,037		582,037
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	6,901,932	7,002,932	6,904,532	63,600	6,965,532
	ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE-WIDE ACTIVITIES					
060	ADMINISTRATION	23,626	24,626	23,626		23,626
	National Guard State Partnership Program increase		[1,000]			
070	RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	30,652	30,652	30,652		30,652
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE-WIDE ACTIVITIES	54,278	55,278	54,278		54,278
	UNDISTRIBUTED					
080	UNDISTRIBUTED		-162,600	-123,415	-200,300	-200,300
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[-162,600]	[-162,600]	[-168,000]	
	Restore A-10			[42,200]		
	Streamlining of Air National Guard Management Headquarters			[-3,015]	[-2,300]	
	Unjustified growth				[-30,000]	
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		-162,600	-123,415	-200,300	-200,300
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG	6,956,210	6,895,610	6,835,395	-136,700	6,819,510
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF	485,888	485,888	505,888	20,000	505,888
	Middle East Assurance Initiative			[20,000]	[20,000]	
020	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	534,795	534,795	530,795		534,795
	DOD Rewards reduction-funding ahead of need			[-4,000]		
030	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/OPERATING FORCES	4,862,368	4,946,968	4,862,368	-21,200	4,841,168
	Global Inform and Influence Activities Increase		[15,000]			
	Increased Support for Counterterrorism Operations		[25,000]			
	Overestimation of civilian FTE				[-21,200]	
	USSOCOM Combat Development Activities		[44,600]			
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	5,883,051	5,967,651	5,899,051	-1,200	5,881,851
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING					
040	DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY	142,659	142,659	142,659		142,659
050	NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY	78,416	78,416	78,416		78,416

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
060	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/TRAINING AND RECRUITING	354,372	354,372	354,372		354,372
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	575,447	575,447	575,447		575,447
	ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES					
070	CIVIL MILITARY PROGRAMS	160,320	180,320	160,320	20,000	180,320
	STARBASE		[20,000]		[20,000]	
090	DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY	570,177	570,177	570,177		570,177
100	DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY	1,374,536	1,374,536	1,374,536		1,374,536
110	DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY	642,551	643,551	642,551		642,551
	Critical Language Training		[1,000]			
120	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY	1,282,755	1,292,755	1,292,755	10,000	1,292,755
	SHARKSEER		[10,000]	[10,000]	[10,000]	
140	DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY	26,073	26,073	26,073		26,073
150	DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY	366,429	366,429	366,429		366,429
160	DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY	192,625	192,625	192,625		192,625
180	DEFENSE PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING AGENCY	115,372	115,372	115,372		115,372
190	DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY	524,723	524,723	517,723	−29,200	495,523
	Global Security Contingency Fund				[−22,200]	
	Reduction to Combating Terrorism Fellowship			[−7,000]	[−7,000]	
200	DEFENSE SECURITY SERVICE	508,396	508,396	508,396		508,396
230	DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	33,577	33,577	33,577		33,577
240	DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY	415,696	415,696	415,696		415,696
260	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	2,753,771	2,753,771	2,784,021	30,250	2,784,021
	Impact Aid			[30,000]	[30,000]	
	School lunches for territories			[250]	[250]	
270	MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY	432,068	432,068	432,068		432,068
290	OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT	110,612	135,612	57,512		110,612
	Congestion mitigation in urban areas related to 2005 BRAC		[25,000]			
	Defense industry adjustment			[−33,100]		
	Guam outside the fence infrastructure			[−20,000]		
295	OFFICE OF NET ASSESSMENT		9,092			
	Transfer from line 300		[9,092]			
300	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	1,388,285	1,361,693	1,378,785	5,250	1,393,535
	Commission to Assess the Threat to the U.S. from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack		[2,000]		[2,000]	
	OSD fleet architecture study			[1,000]	[1,000]	
	OUSD (Policy) unjustified growth				[−2,000]	
	OUSD AT&L Congressional Mandate (BRAC Support)		[−10,500]	[−10,500]	[−10,500]	
	Program decrease		[−24,000]			
	Readiness environmental protection initiative—program increase		[15,000]		[14,750]	
	Transfer funding for Office of Net Assessment to line 295		[−9,092]			
310	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/ADMIN & SVC-WIDE ACTIVITIES	83,263	83,263	83,263		83,263
320	WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	621,688	621,688	621,688		621,688
330	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	14,379,428	14,384,428	14,379,428		14,379,428
	Program increase		[5,000]			
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	25,982,345	26,025,845	25,952,995	36,300	26,018,645
	UNDISTRIBUTED					
340	UNDISTRIBUTED		−499,700	−1,011,952	−791,300	−791,300
	Bulk fuel savings			[−36,000]		
	Excessive standard price for fuel		[−29,700]		[−37,000]	
	Foreign Currency adjustments		[−78,400]	[−78,400]	[−78,400]	
	Program decrease		[−5,000]		[−5,000]	
	Prohibition on Per Diem Allowance Reduction		[2,700]			
	Streamlining of Department of Defense Management Headquarters			[−897,552]	[−670,900]	
	Unobligated balances		[−389,300]			
	SUBTOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED		−499,700	−1,011,952	−791,300	−791,300

SEC. 4301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	32,440,843	32,069,243	31,415,541	-756,200	31,684,643
	MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS					
	MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS					
010	US COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES, DEFENSE	14,078	14,078	14,078		14,078
020	OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER AND CIVIC AID	100,266	100,266	100,266		100,266
030	COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION	358,496	358,496	358,496		358,496
040	ACQ WORKFORCE DEV FD	84,140	84,140	84,140		84,140
050	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, ARMY	234,829	234,829	234,829		234,829
060	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY	292,453	292,453	292,453		292,453
070	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE	368,131	368,131	368,131		368,131
080	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE	8,232	8,232	8,232		8,232
090	ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FORMERLY USED SITES	203,717	203,717	203,717		203,717
	SUBTOTAL MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS	1,664,342	1,664,342	1,664,342		1,664,342
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS	1,664,342	1,664,342	1,664,342		1,664,342
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	138,227,228	136,558,778	134,445,659	-2,299,900	135,927,328

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	MANEUVER UNITS	257,900	257,900	257,900		257,900
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	1,110,836	1,110,836	1,110,836		1,110,836
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	261,943	261,943	261,943		261,943
060	AVIATION ASSETS	22,160	22,160	22,160		22,160
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,119,201	1,119,201	1,119,201		1,119,201
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	117,881	117,881	117,881		117,881
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	50,000	50,000	50,000		50,000
140	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	4,500,666	4,526,466	4,500,666	25,800	4,526,466
	Army expenses related to Syria Train and Equip program		[25,800]		[25,800]	
150	COMMANDERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM	10,000	5,000	10,000	-5,000	5,000
	Program decrease		[-5,000]		[-5,000]	
160	RESET	1,834,777	1,834,777	1,834,777		1,834,777
170	COMBATANT COMMANDS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT		100,000		100,000	100,000
	AFRICOM Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance		[100,000]		[100,000]	
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	9,285,364	9,406,164	9,285,364	120,800	9,406,164
	MOBILIZATION					
190	ARMY PREPOSITIONED STOCKS	40,000	40,000	40,000		40,000
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	40,000	40,000	40,000		40,000
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES					
350	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	529,891	529,891	529,891		529,891
380	AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT	5,033	5,033	5,033		5,033
420	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	100,480	100,480	100,480		100,480
450	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	154,350	154,350	154,350		154,350
530	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,267,632	1,267,632	1,267,632		1,267,632
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	2,057,386	2,057,386	2,057,386		2,057,386
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	11,382,750	11,503,550	11,382,750	120,800	11,503,550

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
OPERATING FORCES						
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	2,442	2,442	2,442		2,442
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	813	813	813		813
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	779	779	779		779
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	20,525	20,525	20,525		20,525
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	24,559	24,559	24,559		24,559
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES	24,559	24,559	24,559		24,559
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG						
OPERATING FORCES						
010	MANEUVER UNITS	1,984	1,984	1,984		1,984
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	4,671	4,671	4,671		4,671
060	AVIATION ASSETS	15,980	15,980	15,980		15,980
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	12,867	12,867	12,867		12,867
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	23,134	23,134	23,134		23,134
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	1,426	1,426	1,426		1,426
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	60,062	60,062	60,062		60,062
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
150	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	783	783	783		783
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	783	783	783		783
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG	60,845	60,845	60,845		60,845
AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND						
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE						
010	SUSTAINMENT	2,214,899	2,552,642	2,214,899		2,214,899
	Support for ANSF end strength		[337,743]			
030	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	182,751	182,751	182,751		182,751
040	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	281,555	281,555	281,555		281,555
	SUBTOTAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE	2,679,205	3,016,948	2,679,205		2,679,205
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR						
060	SUSTAINMENT	901,137	901,137	901,137		901,137
080	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	116,573	116,573	116,573		116,573
090	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	65,342	65,342	65,342		65,342
	SUBTOTAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR	1,083,052	1,083,052	1,083,052		1,083,052
	TOTAL AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND	3,762,257	4,100,000	3,762,257		3,762,257
IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND						
IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND						
010	IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	715,000	715,000	715,000		715,000
	SUBTOTAL IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	715,000	715,000	715,000		715,000
	TOTAL IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	715,000	715,000	715,000		715,000
SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND						
SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND						
010	SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	600,000	531,450	600,000	-68,550	531,450
	Realignment to Air Force		[-42,750]		[-42,750]	
	Realignment to Army		[-25,800]		[-25,800]	
	SUBTOTAL SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	600,000	531,450	600,000	-68,550	531,450
	TOTAL SYRIA TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND	600,000	531,450	600,000	-68,550	531,450

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY						
OPERATING FORCES						
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	358,417	358,417	361,717	3,300	361,717
	Readiness funding increase			[3,300]	[3,300]	
030	AVIATION TECHNICAL DATA & ENGINEERING SERVICES	110	110	110		110
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	4,513	4,513	4,513		4,513
050	AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	126,501	126,501	126,501		126,501
060	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	75,897	75,897	92,897	17,000	92,897
	Readiness funding increase			[17,000]	[17,000]	
070	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	2,770	2,770	2,770		2,770
080	AVIATION LOGISTICS	34,101	34,101	34,101		34,101
090	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	1,184,878	1,184,878	1,184,878		1,184,878
100	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	16,663	16,663	16,663		16,663
110	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,922,829	1,922,829	1,922,829		1,922,829
130	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	33,577	33,577	33,577		33,577
160	WARFARE TACTICS	26,454	26,454	26,454		26,454
170	OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	22,305	22,305	22,305		22,305
180	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	513,969	513,969	513,969		513,969
190	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	10,007	10,007	10,007		10,007
250	IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	60,865	60,865	60,865		60,865
260	WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	275,231	275,231	275,231		275,231
290	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	7,819	7,819	7,819		7,819
300	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	61,422	61,422	61,422		61,422
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	4,738,328	4,738,328	4,758,628	20,300	4,758,628
MOBILIZATION						
340	EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEMS	5,307	5,307	5,307		5,307
360	COAST GUARD SUPPORT	160,002	160,002	160,002		160,002
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	165,309	165,309	165,309		165,309
TRAINING AND RECRUITING						
400	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	44,845	44,845	44,845		44,845
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	44,845	44,845	44,845		44,845
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
480	ADMINISTRATION	2,513	2,513	2,513		2,513
490	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	500	500	500		500
510	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	5,309	5,309	5,309		5,309
520	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	1,469	1,469	1,469		1,469
550	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	156,671	156,671	156,671		156,671
580	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	8,834	8,834	8,834		8,834
620	NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	1,490	1,490	1,490		1,490
710	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	6,320	6,320	6,320		6,320
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	183,106	183,106	183,106		183,106
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	5,131,588	5,131,588	5,151,888	20,300	5,151,888
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS						
OPERATING FORCES						
010	OPERATIONAL FORCES	353,133	353,133	353,133		353,133
020	FIELD LOGISTICS	259,676	259,676	259,676		259,676
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	240,000	240,000	240,000		240,000
060	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	16,026	16,026	16,026		16,026
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	868,835	868,835	868,835		868,835
TRAINING AND RECRUITING						
110	TRAINING SUPPORT	37,862	37,862	37,862		37,862

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	37,862	37,862	37,862		37,862
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES					
150	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	43,767	43,767	43,767		43,767
200	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	2,070	2,070	2,070		2,070
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	45,837	45,837	45,837		45,837
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	952,534	952,534	952,534		952,534
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	4,033	4,033	4,033		4,033
020	INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE	60	60	60		60
030	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	20,300	20,300	20,300		20,300
100	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	7,250	7,250	7,250		7,250
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	31,643	31,643	31,643		31,643
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES	31,643	31,643	31,643		31,643
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	OPERATING FORCES	2,500	2,500	2,500		2,500
040	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	955	955	955		955
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	3,455	3,455	3,455		3,455
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE	3,455	3,455	3,455		3,455
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,505,738	1,548,488	1,502,238	42,750	1,548,488
	Air Force expenses related to Syria Train and Equip program		[42,750]		[42,750]	
	Retain Current A-10 Fleet			[-1,400]		
	Unjustified Increase			[-2,100]		
020	COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	914,973	914,973	905,273	4,300	919,273
	Readiness funding increase			[4,300]	[4,300]	
	Unjustified Increase			[-14,000]		
030	AIR OPERATIONS TRAINING (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS)	31,978	31,978	31,978		31,978
040	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,192,765	1,192,765	1,192,765		1,192,765
050	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	85,625	85,625	85,625		85,625
060	BASE SUPPORT	917,269	917,269	917,269		917,269
070	GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	30,219	30,219	30,219		30,219
080	OTHER COMBAT OPS SPT PROGRAMS	174,734	174,734	174,734		174,734
100	LAUNCH FACILITIES	869	869	869		869
110	SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	5,008	5,008	5,008		5,008
120	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	100,190	716,690	100,190		100,190
	Assistance for the border security of Jordan		[300,000]			
	Jordanian Military Capability Enhancement		[300,000]			
	Support to Jordanian Training and Operations		[16,500]			
135	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	22,893	22,893	22,893		22,893
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	4,982,261	5,641,511	4,969,061	47,050	5,029,311
	MOBILIZATION					
140	AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	2,995,703	2,995,703	2,995,703		2,995,703
150	MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	108,163	108,163	108,163		108,163
160	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	511,059	511,059	511,059		511,059
180	BASE SUPPORT	4,642	4,642	4,642		4,642
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	3,619,567	3,619,567	3,619,567		3,619,567

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
TRAINING AND RECRUITING						
190	OFFICER ACQUISITION	92	92	92		92
240	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	11,986	11,986	11,986		11,986
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	12,078	12,078	12,078		12,078
ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES						
340	LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	86,716	86,716	86,716		86,716
380	BASE SUPPORT	3,836	3,836	3,836		3,836
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	165,348	165,348	165,348		165,348
410	OTHER SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	204,683	204,683	141,683	−63,000	141,683
	Reduction to the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq			[−63,000]	[−63,000]	
450	INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	61	61	61		61
460	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	15,463	15,463	15,463		15,463
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	476,107	476,107	413,107	−63,000	413,107
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	9,090,013	9,749,263	9,013,813	−15,950	9,074,063
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE						
OPERATING FORCES						
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	51,086	51,086	51,086		51,086
050	BASE SUPPORT	7,020	7,020	7,020		7,020
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	58,106	58,106	58,106		58,106
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE	58,106	58,106	58,106		58,106
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG						
OPERATING FORCES						
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	19,900	19,900	19,900		19,900
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	19,900	19,900	19,900		19,900
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG	19,900	19,900	19,900		19,900
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE						
OPERATING FORCES						
010	JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF	9,900	9,900	9,900		9,900
030	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/OPERATING FORCES	2,345,835	2,424,835	2,345,835		2,345,835
	Classified adjustment		[64,000]			
	Global Inform and Influence Activities Increase		[15,000]			
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,355,735	2,434,735	2,355,735		2,355,735
ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES						
090	DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY	18,474	18,474	18,474		18,474
120	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY	29,579	29,579	29,579		29,579
140	DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY	110,000	110,000	110,000		110,000
160	DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY	5,960	5,960	5,960		5,960
190	DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY	1,677,000	1,677,000	1,577,000	−100,000	1,577,000
	Reduction from Coalition Support Funds			[−100,000]	[−100,000]	
260	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	73,000	73,000	73,000		73,000
300	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	106,709	321,709	106,709		106,709
	U.S. Special Operations Command inform and influence activities		[15,000]			
	Ukraine Train & Equip		[200,000]			
320	WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	2,102	2,102	2,102		2,102
330	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,427,074	1,427,074	1,427,074		1,427,074
	SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	3,449,898	3,664,898	3,349,898	−100,000	3,349,898
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	5,805,633	6,099,633	5,705,633	−100,000	5,705,633

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	37,638,283	38,981,526	37,482,383	-43,400	37,594,883

SEC. 4303. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BASE REQUIREMENTS.

SEC. 4303. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BASE REQUIREMENTS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY					
	OPERATING FORCES					
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	508,008	508,008	508,008		508,008
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	763,300	763,300	763,300		763,300
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,054,322	1,054,322	1,054,322		1,054,322
060	AVIATION ASSETS	1,546,129	1,546,129	1,546,129		1,546,129
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	3,158,606	3,158,606	3,158,606		3,158,606
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	438,909	438,909	438,909		438,909
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	7,469,274	7,469,274	7,469,274		7,469,274
	MOBILIZATION					
190	ARMY PREPOSITIONED STOCKS	261,683	261,683	261,683		261,683
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	261,683	261,683	261,683		261,683
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES					
350	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	485,778	485,778	485,778		485,778
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	485,778	485,778	485,778		485,778
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	8,216,735	8,216,735	8,216,735		8,216,735
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	4,940,365	4,940,365	4,940,365		4,940,365
020	FLEET AIR TRAINING	1,830,611	1,830,611	1,830,611		1,830,611
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	103,456	103,456	103,456		103,456
070	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	33,201	33,201	33,201		33,201
090	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	4,287,658	4,287,658	4,287,658		4,287,658
100	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	787,446	787,446	787,446		787,446
110	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	5,960,951	5,960,951	5,960,951		5,960,951
120	SHIP DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,554,863	1,554,863	1,554,863		1,554,863
130	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	704,415	704,415	704,415		704,415
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	20,202,966	20,202,966	20,202,966		20,202,966
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	20,202,966	20,202,966	20,202,966		20,202,966
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS					
	OPERATING FORCES					
010	OPERATIONAL FORCES	931,079	931,079	931,079		931,079
020	FIELD LOGISTICS	931,757	931,757	931,757		931,757
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	1,862,836	1,862,836	1,862,836		1,862,836
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING					
110	TRAINING SUPPORT	347,476	347,476	347,476		347,476
	SUBTOTAL TRAINING AND RECRUITING	347,476	347,476	347,476		347,476
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	2,210,312	2,210,312	2,210,312		2,210,312
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE					
	OPERATING FORCES					

SEC. 4303. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BASE REQUIREMENTS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
070	GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	930,341	930,341	930,341		930,341
080	OTHER COMBAT OPS SPT PROGRAMS	924,845	924,845	924,845		924,845
100	LAUNCH FACILITIES	271,177	271,177	271,177		271,177
110	SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	382,824	382,824	382,824		382,824
135	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	14,224	14,224	14,224		14,224
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING FORCES	2,523,411	2,523,411	2,523,411		2,523,411
	MOBILIZATION					
140	AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	2,229,196	2,229,196	2,229,196		2,229,196
150	MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	148,318	148,318	148,318		148,318
160	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,617,571	1,617,571	1,617,571		1,617,571
	SUBTOTAL MOBILIZATION	3,995,085	3,995,085	3,995,085		3,995,085
	ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES					
340	LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	1,141,491	1,141,491	1,141,491		1,141,491
	SUBTOTAL ADMIN & SRVWD ACTIVITIES	1,141,491	1,141,491	1,141,491		1,141,491
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	7,659,987	7,659,987	7,659,987		7,659,987
	TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	38,290,000	38,290,000	38,290,000		38,290,000

TITLE XLIV—MILITARY PERSONNEL

SEC. 4401. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

SEC. 4401. MILITARY PERSONNEL
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Military Personnel Appropriations	130,491,227	−291,492	−1,335,000	−1,022,339	129,468,888
A–10 restoration: Military Personnel		[132,069]		[132,000]	
Additional support for the National Guard's Operation Phalanx			[21,700]	[21,700]	
Basic Housing Allowance		[400,000]		[300,000]	
EC–130H Force Structure Restoration		[19,639]		[18,200]	
Financial Literacy Training		[85,000]	[85,000]	[85,000]	
Foreign Currency adjustments		[−480,500]	[−384,500]	[−480,500]	
National Guard State Partnership Program increase		[5,000]		[4,300]	
Prohibition on Per Diem Allowance Reduction		[12,000]			
Projected understrength				[−115,839]	
Reduction for anticipated cost of TRICARE consolidation			[−85,000]		
Reversing the disestablishment of HSC–84 and HSC–85		[30,700]			
TRICARE program improvement initiatives			[15,000]		
Unobligated balances		[−495,400]	[−987,200]	[−987,200]	
Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Fund Contributions	6,243,449				6,243,449
Total, Military Personnel	136,734,676	−291,492	−1,335,000	−1,022,339	135,712,337

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Military Personnel Appropriations	3,204,758				3,204,758
Total, Military Personnel Appropriations	3,204,758				3,204,758

TITLE XLV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 4501. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS.

SEC. 4501. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS (In Thousands of Dollars)					
Program Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, ARMY					
INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS					
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT—ARMY	50,432	55,432	50,432		50,432
Pilot program for Continuous Technology Refreshment		[5,000]			
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, ARMY	50,432	55,432	50,432		50,432
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, NAVY					
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		5,000			
Pilot program for Continuous Technology Refreshment		[5,000]			
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, NAVY		5,000			
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE					
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	62,898	67,898	62,898		62,898
Pilot program for Continuous Technology Refreshment		[5,000]			
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	62,898	67,898	62,898		62,898
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE					
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT—DEF					
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA)	45,084	45,084	45,084		45,084
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	45,084	45,084	45,084		45,084
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DECA					
COMMISSARY RESALE STOCKS					
COMMISSARY OPERATIONS	1,154,154	1,476,154	1,154,154	281,200	1,435,354
Restoration of Proposed Efficiencies		[183,000]		[142,200]	
Restoration of Savings from Legislative Proposals		[139,000]		[139,000]	
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DECA	1,154,154	1,476,154	1,154,154	281,200	1,435,354
NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND					
MPF MLP					
POST DELIVERY AND OUTFITTING	15,456	689,646	15,456		15,456
Transfer from SCN—TAO(X)		[674,190]			
NATIONAL DEF SEALIFT VESSEL					
LG MED SPD RO/RO MAINTENANCE	124,493	124,493	124,493		124,493
DOD MOBILIZATION ALTERATIONS	8,243	8,243	8,243		8,243
TAH MAINTENANCE	27,784	27,784	27,784		27,784
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	25,197	25,197	25,197		25,197
READY RESERVE FORCE	272,991	272,991	272,991		272,991
TOTAL NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND	474,164	1,148,354	474,164		474,164
NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND					
DEVELOPMENT		971,393			
Transfer from RDTE, Navy, line 050		[971,393]			
PROPULSION		419,300			
Transfer from RDTE, Navy, line 045		[419,300]			
TOTAL NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND		1,390,693			
CHEM AGENTS & MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION					
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	139,098	139,098	139,098		139,098
RDT&E	579,342	579,342	579,342		579,342
PROCUREMENT	2,281	2,281	2,281		2,281
TOTAL CHEM AGENTS & MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION	720,721	720,721	720,721		720,721
DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF					

SEC. 4501. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE	739,009	789,009	761,009	22,000	761,009
SOUTHCOM Operational Support for Central America		[50,000]	[30,000]	[30,000]	
Transfer to Demand Reduction Program			[−8,000]	[−8,000]	
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM	111,589	111,589	119,589	8,000	119,589
Expanded drug testing			[8,000]	[8,000]	
TOTAL DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF	850,598	900,598	880,598	30,000	880,598
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL					
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	310,459	310,459	310,459		310,459
RDT&E	4,700	4,700	2,100	−2,600	2,100
Funding ahead of need			[−2,600]	[−2,600]	
PROCUREMENT	1,000			−1,000	
Program decrease		[−1,000]	[−1,000]	[−1,000]	
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	316,159	315,159	312,559	−3,600	312,559
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM					
IN-HOUSE CARE	9,082,298	9,082,298	9,082,298	−119,372	8,962,926
Consolidated health plan unauthorized				[−29,719]	
Pharmacy benefit reform unauthorized				[−30,528]	
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases				[−59,125]	
PRIVATE SECTOR CARE	14,892,683	14,896,683	14,892,683	−5,753	14,886,930
Access to TRICARE Prime for certain beneficiaries		[4,000]		[4,000]	
TRICARE consolidation not authorized				[−9,753]	
CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SUPPORT	2,415,658	2,415,658	2,405,368	−115,494	2,300,164
Reduction of funds related to Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) project			[−10,290]		
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases				[−115,494]	
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	1,677,827	1,677,827	1,677,827	−23,013	1,654,814
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases				[−23,013]	
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	327,967	327,967	327,967	−2,059	325,908
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increases				[−2,059]	
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	750,614	750,614	750,614		750,614
BASE OPERATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS	1,742,893	1,742,893	1,742,893	−1,203	1,741,690
Removal of one-time fiscal year 2016 increase				[−1,203]	
RESEARCH	10,996	10,996	10,996		10,996
EXPLORATRY DEVELOPMENT	59,473	59,473	56,323		59,473
Reduction of funds related to Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) project			[−3,150]		
ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT	231,356	231,356	228,256		231,356
Reduction of funds related to Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) project			[−3,100]		
DEMONSTRATION/VALIDATION	103,443	103,443	103,443		103,443
ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT	515,910	515,910	515,910		515,910
MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT	41,567	41,567	41,567		41,567
CAPABILITIES ENHANCEMENT	17,356	17,356	17,356		17,356
UNDISTRIBUTED					
INITIAL OUTFITTING	33,392	33,392	33,392		33,392
REPLACEMENT & MODERNIZATION	330,504	330,504	330,504		330,504
THEATER MEDICAL INFORMATION PROGRAM	1,494	1,494	1,494		1,494
IEHR	7,897	7,897	7,897		7,897
UNDISTRIBUTED		−508,000	−36,400	−433,300	−433,300
Foreign Currency adjustments		[−54,700]	[−36,400]	[−54,700]	
Unobligated balances		[−453,300]		[−378,600]	
TOTAL DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM	32,243,328	31,739,328	32,190,388	−700,194	31,543,134
TOTAL OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS	35,917,538	37,864,421	35,890,998	−392,594	35,524,944

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (In Thousands of Dollars)					
Program Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE					
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS					
TRANSPORTATION OF FALLEN HEROES	2,500	2,500	2,500		2,500
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	2,500	2,500	2,500		2,500
WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE					
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT—DEF					
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA)	86,350	86,350	86,350		86,350
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	86,350	86,350	86,350		86,350
DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF					
DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE	186,000	186,000	186,000		186,000
TOTAL DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF	186,000	186,000	186,000		186,000
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL					
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	10,262	10,262	10,262		10,262
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	10,262	10,262	10,262		10,262
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM					
IN-HOUSE CARE	65,149	65,149	65,149		65,149
PRIVATE SECTOR CARE	192,210	192,210	192,210		192,210
CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SUPPORT	9,460	9,460	9,460		9,460
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	5,885	5,885	5,885		5,885
TOTAL DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM	272,704	272,704	272,704		272,704
UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE					
UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE			300,000	300,000	300,000
Provides assistance to Ukraine			[300,000]	[300,000]	
TOTAL UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE			300,000	300,000	300,000
COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND					
COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	2,100,000		1,000,000	–1,100,000	1,000,000
Program decrease		[–2,100,000]	[–1,100,000]	[–1,100,000]	
TOTAL COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	2,100,000		1,000,000	–1,100,000	1,000,000
TOTAL OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS	2,657,816	557,816	1,857,816	–800,000	1,857,816

TITLE XLVI—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (In Thousands of Dollars)								
Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Army	ALASKA	Fort Greely	PHYSICAL READINESS TRAINING FACILITY	7,800	7,800	7,800		7,800
Army	CALIFORNIA	Concord	PIER	98,000	98,000	98,000		98,000
Army	COLORADO	Fort Carson, Colorado	ROTARY WING TAXIWAY	5,800	5,800	5,800		5,800
Army	CUBA	Guantanamo Bay	UNACCOMPANIED PERSONNEL HOUSING	0	0	76,000		0
Army	GEORGIA	Fort Gordon	COMMAND AND CONTROL FACILITY	90,000	90,000	90,000		90,000
Army	GERMANY	Grafenwoehr	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	51,000	51,000	51,000		51,000
Army	MARYLAND	Fort Meade	ACCESS CONTROL POINT—MAPES ROAD	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000
Army	MARYLAND	Fort Meade	ACCESS CONTROL POINT—REECE ROAD	0	0	19,500	19,500	19,500
Army	NEW YORK	Fort Drum	NCO ACADEMY COMPLEX	19,000	19,000	19,000		19,000
Army	NEW YORK	U.S. Military Academy	WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT	70,000	70,000	70,000		70,000
Army	OKLAHOMA	Fort Sill	RECEPTION BARRACKS COMPLEX PH2	56,000	56,000	56,000		56,000
Army	OKLAHOMA	Fort Sill	TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITY	13,400	13,400	13,400		13,400

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Army	TEXAS	Corpus Christi	POWERTRAIN FACILITY (INFRASTRUCTURE/ METAL)	85,000	85,000	85,000		85,000
Army	TEXAS	Joint Base San Antonio	HOMELAND DEFENSE OPERATIONS CENTER	43,000	0	0	-43,000	0
Army	VIRGINIA	Arlington National Cemetery	ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY SOUTHERN EXPANSION (DAR)	0	30,000	0	30,000	30,000
Army	VIRGINIA	Fort Lee	TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITY	33,000	33,000	33,000		33,000
Army	VIRGINIA	Joint Base Myer-Henderson	INSTRUCTION BUILDING	37,000	0	0	-37,000	0
Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOST NATION SUPPORT	36,000	36,000	36,000		36,000
Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MINOR CONSTRUCTION	25,000	25,000	25,000		25,000
Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	73,245	73,245	73,245		73,245
Military Construction, Army Total				743,245	693,245	773,745	-15,500	727,745
Navy	ARIZONA	Yuma	AIRCRAFT MAINT. FACILITIES & APRON (SO. CALA)	50,635	50,635	50,635		50,635
Navy	BAHRAIN ISLAND	SW Asia	MINA SALMAN PIER REPLACEMENT	37,700	0	37,700		37,700
Navy	BAHRAIN ISLAND	SW Asia	SHIP MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY	52,091	0	52,091		52,091
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Camp Pendleton	PENDLETON OPS CENTER	0	0	25,000		0
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Camp Pendleton	RAW WATER PIPELINE PENDLETON TO FALLBROOK	44,540	44,540	0		44,540
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Coronado	COASTAL CAMPUS UTILITIES	4,856	4,856	4,856		4,856
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Lemoore	F-35C HANGAR MODERNIZATION AND ADDITION	56,497	56,497	56,497		56,497
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Lemoore	F-35C TRAINING FACILITIES	8,187	8,187	8,187		8,187
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Lemoore	RTO AND MISSION DEBRIEF FACILITY	7,146	7,146	7,146		7,146
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Miramar	KC-130J ENLISTED AIR CREW TRAINER	0	0	11,200	11,200	11,200
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Point Mugu	E-2C/D HANGAR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS	19,453	19,453	19,453		19,453
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Point Mugu	TRITON AVIONICS AND FUEL SYSTEMS TRAINER	2,974	2,974	2,974		2,974
Navy	CALIFORNIA	San Diego	LCS SUPPORT FACILITY	37,366	37,366	37,366		37,366
Navy	CALIFORNIA	Twentynine Palms	MICROGRID EXPANSION	9,160	9,160	9,160		9,160
Navy	FLORIDA	Jacksonville	FLEET SUPPORT FACILITY ADDITION	8,455	8,455	8,455		8,455
Navy	FLORIDA	Jacksonville	TRITON MISSION CONTROL FACILITY	8,296	8,296	8,296		8,296
Navy	FLORIDA	Mayport	LCS MISSION MODULE READINESS CENTER	16,159	16,159	16,159		16,159
Navy	FLORIDA	Pensacola	A-SCHOOL UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING (CORY STATION)	18,347	18,347	18,347		18,347
Navy	FLORIDA	Whiting Field	T-6B JPATS TRAINING OPERATIONS FACILITY	10,421	10,421	10,421		10,421
Navy	GEORGIA	Albany	GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS	7,851	7,851	7,851		7,851
Navy	GEORGIA	Kings Bay	INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEM INFRASTRUC- TURE	8,099	8,099	8,099		8,099
Navy	GEORGIA	Townsend	TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE EXPANSION PHASE 2	48,279	48,279	43,279	-5,000	43,279
Navy	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	LIVE-FIRE TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX (NW FIELD)	125,677	125,677	125,677		125,677
Navy	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL CLOSURE	10,777	10,777	10,777		10,777
Navy	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM RECAPITALIZATION	45,314	45,314	45,314		45,314
Navy	HAWAII	Barking Sands	PMRF POWER GRID CONSOLIDATION	30,623	30,623	30,623		30,623
Navy	HAWAII	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	UEM INTERCONNECT STA C TO HICKAM	6,335	6,335	6,335		6,335
Navy	HAWAII	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	WELDING SCHOOL SHOP CONSOLIDATION	8,546	8,546	8,546		8,546
Navy	HAWAII	Kaneohe Bay	AIRFIELD LIGHTING MODERNIZATION	26,097	26,097	26,097		26,097
Navy	HAWAII	Kaneohe Bay	BACHELOR ENLISTED QUARTERS	68,092	68,092	68,092		68,092
Navy	HAWAII	Kaneohe Bay	P-8A DETACHMENT SUPPORT FACILITIES	12,429	12,429	12,429		12,429
Navy	HAWAII	MCB Hawaii	LHD PAD CONVERSIONS MV-22 LANDING PADS	0	0	12,800		0
Navy	ITALY	Sigonella	P-8A HANGAR AND FLEET SUPPORT FACILITY	62,302	0	62,302		62,302
Navy	ITALY	Sigonella	TRITON HANGAR AND OPERATION FACILITY	40,641	0	40,641		40,641
Navy	JAPAN	Camp Butler	MILITARY WORKING DOG FACILITIES (CAMP HANSEN)	11,697	11,697	11,697		11,697
Navy	JAPAN	Iwakuni	E-2D OPERATIONAL TRAINER COMPLEX	8,716	8,716	8,716		8,716
Navy	JAPAN	Iwakuni	SECURITY MODIFICATIONS—CVW5/MAG12 HQ	9,207	9,207	9,207		9,207
Navy	JAPAN	Kadena AB	AIRCRAFT MAINT. SHELTERS & APRON	23,310	23,310	23,310		23,310
Navy	JAPAN	Yokosuka	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	13,846	13,846	13,846		13,846
Navy	MARYLAND	Patuxent River	UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING	40,935	40,935	40,935		40,935

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	Camp Lejeune	2ND RADIO BN COMPLEX OPERATIONS CONSOLIDATION	0	0	0		0
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	Camp Lejeune	RANGE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	19,400		0
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	Camp Lejeune	SIMULATOR INTEGRATION/RANGE CONTROL FACILITY	54,849	54,849	54,849		54,849
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station	AIR FIELD SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	23,300	23,300	23,300
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station	KC-130J ENLSITED AIR CREW TRAINER FACILITY	4,769	4,769	4,769		4,769
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station	UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FACILITIES	29,657	29,657	29,657		29,657
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	New River	OPERATIONAL TRAINER FACILITY	3,312	3,312	3,312		3,312
Navy	NORTH CAROLINA	New River	RADAR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITY ADDITION	4,918	4,918	4,918		4,918
Navy	POLAND	Redzikowo Base	AEGIS ASHORE MISSILE DEFENSE COMPLEX	51,270	0	51,270		51,270
Navy	SOUTH CAROLINA	Parris Island	RANGE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS & MODERNIZATION	27,075	27,075	27,075		27,075
Navy	VIRGINIA	Dam Neck	MARITIME SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FACILITY	23,066	23,066	23,066		23,066
Navy	VIRGINIA	Norfolk	COMMUNICATIONS CENTER	75,289	75,289	75,289		75,289
Navy	VIRGINIA	Norfolk	ELECTRICAL REPAIRS TO PIERS 2,6,7, AND 11	44,254	44,254	44,254		44,254
Navy	VIRGINIA	Norfolk	MH-60 HELICOPTER TRAINING FACILITY	7,134	7,134	7,134		7,134
Navy	VIRGINIA	Portsmouth	WATERFRONT UTILITIES	45,513	45,513	45,513		45,513
Navy	VIRGINIA	Quantico	ATFP GATE	5,840	5,840	5,840		5,840
Navy	VIRGINIA	Quantico	ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE	8,418	8,418	8,418		8,418
Navy	VIRGINIA	Quantico	EMBASSY SECURITY GUARD BEQ & OPS FACILITY	43,941	43,941	43,941		43,941
Navy	VIRGINIA	Quantico	TBS FIRE STATION REPLACEMENT	0	0	17,200		0
Navy	WASHINGTON	Bangor	REGIONAL SHIP MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY	0	0	0		0
Navy	WASHINGTON	Bangor	WRA LAND/WATER INTERFACE	34,177	34,177	34,177		34,177
Navy	WASHINGTON	Bremerton	DRY DOCK 6 MODERNIZATION & UTILITY IMPROVE.	22,680	22,680	22,680		22,680
Navy	WASHINGTON	Indian Island	SHORE POWER TO AMMUNITION PIER	4,472	4,472	4,472		4,472
Navy	WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCON DESIGN FUNDS	91,649	91,649	91,649		91,649
Navy	WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	22,590	22,590	22,590		22,590
Military Construction, Navy Total				1,605,929	1,361,925	1,665,289	29,500	1,635,429
AF	ALASKA	Eielson AFB	F-35A FLIGHT SIM/ALTER SQUAD OPS/AMU FACILITY	37,000	37,000	37,000		37,000
AF	ALASKA	Eielson AFB	RPR CENTRAL HEAT & POWER PLANT BOILER PH3	34,400	34,400	34,400		34,400
AF	ARIZONA	Davis-Monthan AFB	HC-130J AGE COVERED STORAGE	4,700	4,700	4,700		4,700
AF	ARIZONA	Davis-Monthan AFB	HC-130J WASH RACK	12,200	12,200	12,200		12,200
AF	ARIZONA	Luke AFB	COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY	0	0	21,000	21,000	21,000
AF	ARIZONA	Luke AFB	F-35A ADAL FUEL OFFLOAD FACILITY	5,000	5,000	5,000		5,000
AF	ARIZONA	Luke AFB	F-35A AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR/SQ 3	13,200	13,200	13,200		13,200
AF	ARIZONA	Luke AFB	F-35A BOMB BUILD-UP FACILITY	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500
AF	ARIZONA	Luke AFB	F-35A SQ OPS/AMU/HANGAR/SQ 4	33,000	33,000	33,000		33,000
AF	COLORADO	U.S. Air Force Academy	FRONT GATES FORCE PROTECTION ENHANCEMENTS	10,000	10,000	10,000		10,000
AF	FLORIDA	Cape Canaveral AFS	RANGE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY	21,000	21,000	21,000		21,000
AF	FLORIDA	Eglin AFB	F-35A CONSOLIDATED HQ FACILITY	8,700	8,700	8,700		8,700
AF	FLORIDA	Hurlburt Field	ADAL 39 INFORMATION OPERATIONS SQUAD FACILITY	14,200	14,200	14,200		14,200
AF	GREENLAND	Thule AB	THULE CONSOLIDATION PH 1	41,965	41,965	41,965		41,965
AF	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	APR—DISPERSED MAINT SPARES & SE STORAGE FAC	19,000	19,000	19,000		19,000
AF	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	APR—INSTALLATION CONTROL CENTER	22,200	22,200	22,200		22,200
AF	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	APR—SOUTH RAMP UTILITIES PHASE 2	7,100	7,100	7,100		7,100
AF	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	PAR—LO/CORROSION CNTRL/COMPOSITE REPAIR	0	0	0		0
AF	GUAM	Joint Region Marianas	PRTC ROADS	2,500	2,500	2,500		2,500

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AF	HAWAII	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	F-22 FIGHTER ALERT FACILITY	46,000	46,000	46,000		46,000
AF	JAPAN	Yokota AB	C-130J FLIGHT SIMULATOR FACILITY	8,461	8,461	8,461		8,461
AF	KANSAS	McConnell AFB	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER	0	0	11,200		0
AF	KANSAS	McConnell AFB	KC-46A ADAL DEICING PADS	4,300	4,300	4,300		4,300
AF	LOUISIANA	Barksdale AFB	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY	0	0	20,000		0
AF	MARYLAND	Fort Meade	CYBERCOM JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, INCREMENT 3	86,000	86,000	86,000		86,000
AF	MISSOURI	Whiteman AFB	CONSOLIDATED STEALTH OPS & NUCLEAR ALERT FAC	29,500	29,500	29,500		29,500
AF	MONTANA	Malmstrom AFB	TACTICAL RESPONSE FORCE ALERT FACILITY	19,700	19,700	19,700		19,700
AF	NEBRASKA	Offutt AFB	DORMITORY (144 RM)	21,000	21,000	21,000		21,000
AF	NEVADA	Nellis AFB	F-35A AIRFIELD PAVEMENTS	31,000	31,000	31,000		31,000
AF	NEVADA	Nellis AFB	F-35A LIVE ORDNANCE LOADING AREA	34,500	34,500	34,500		34,500
AF	NEVADA	Nellis AFB	F-35A MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE FACILITIES	3,450	3,450	3,450		3,450
AF	NEW MEXICO	Cannon AFB	CONSTRUCT AT/FP GATE—PORTALES	7,800	7,800	7,800		7,800
AF	NEW MEXICO	Holloman AFB	FIXED GROUND CONTROL	0	0	3,200		0
AF	NEW MEXICO	Holloman AFB	MARSHALLING AREA ARM/DE-ARM PAD D	3,000	3,000	3,000		3,000
AF	NEW MEXICO	Kirtland AFB	SPACE VEHICLES COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT LAB	12,800	12,800	12,800		12,800
AF	NEW YORK	Fort Drum	ASOS EXPANSION	0	0	6,000		0
AF	NIGER	Agadez	CONSTRUCT AIRFIELD AND BASE CAMP	50,000	0	50,000		50,000
AF	NORTH CAROLINA	Seymour Johnson AFB	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER/BASE OPS FACILITY	17,100	17,100	17,100		17,100
AF	OKLAHOMA	Altus AFB	DORMITORY (120 RM)	18,000	18,000	18,000		18,000
AF	OKLAHOMA	Altus AFB	KC-46A FTU ADAL FUEL CELL MAINT HANGAR	10,400	10,400	10,400		10,400
AF	OKLAHOMA	Tinker AFB	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER	12,900	12,900	12,900		12,900
AF	OKLAHOMA	Tinker AFB	KC-46A DEPOT MAINTENANCE DOCK	37,000	37,000	37,000		37,000
AF	OMAN	Al Musannah AB	AIRLIFT APRON	25,000	0	25,000		25,000
AF	SOUTH DAKOTA	Ellsworth AFB	DORMITORY (168 RM)	23,000	23,000	23,000		23,000
AF	TEXAS	Joint Base San Antonio	BMT CLASSROOMS/DINING FACILITY 3	35,000	35,000	35,000		35,000
AF	TEXAS	Joint Base San Antonio	BMT RECRUIT DORMITORY 5	71,000	71,000	71,000		71,000
AF	UNITED KINGDOM	RAF Croughton	CONSOLIDATED SATCOM/TECH CONTROL FACILITY	36,424	36,424	36,424		36,424
AF	UNITED KINGDOM	RAF Croughton	JIAC CONSOLIDATION—PH 2	94,191	94,191	94,191		94,191
AF	UTAH	Hill AFB	F-35A FLIGHT SIMULATOR ADDITION PHASE 2	5,900	5,900	5,900		5,900
AF	UTAH	Hill AFB	F-35A HANGAR 40/42 ADDITIONS AND AMU	21,000	21,000	21,000		21,000
AF	UTAH	Hill AFB	HAYMAN IGLOOS	11,500	11,500	11,500		11,500
AF	WORLDWIDE	Classified Location	LONG RANGE STRIKE BOMBER	77,130	77,130	77,130		77,130
AF	WORLDWIDE	Classified Location	MUNITIONS STORAGE	3,000	3,000	3,000		3,000
AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	89,164	89,164	89,164		89,164
AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	22,900	22,900	22,900		22,900
AF	WYOMING	F. E. Warren AFB	WEAPON STORAGE FACILITY	95,000	95,000	95,000		95,000
Military Construction, Air Force Total				1,354,785	1,279,785	1,416,185	21,000	1,375,785
Def-Wide	ALABAMA	Fort Rucker	FORT RUCKER ES/PS CONSOLIDATION/REPLACEMENT	46,787	46,787	46,787		46,787
Def-Wide	ALABAMA	Maxwell AFB	MAXWELL ES/MS REPLACEMENT/RENOVATION	32,968	32,968	32,968		32,968
Def-Wide	ARIZONA	Fort Huachuca	JITC BUILDINGS 52101/52111 RENOVATIONS	3,884	3,884	3,884		3,884
Def-Wide	CALIFORNIA	Camp Pendleton	SOF COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT FACILITY	10,181	10,181	10,181		10,181
Def-Wide	CALIFORNIA	Camp Pendleton	SOF PERFORMANCE RESILIENCY CENTER-WEST	10,371	0	10,371		10,371
Def-Wide	CALIFORNIA	Coronado	SOF LOGISTICS SUPPORT UNIT ONE OPS FAC. #2	47,218	0	47,218		47,218
Def-Wide	CALIFORNIA	Fresno Yosemite IAP ANG	REPLACE FUEL STORAGE AND DISTRIB. FACILITIES	10,700	10,700	10,700		10,700
Def-Wide	COLORADO	Fort Carson, Colorado	SOF LANGUAGE TRAINING FACILITY	8,243	8,243	8,243		8,243
Def-Wide	CONUS CLASSIFIED	Classified Location	OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY	20,065	0	20,065		20,065
Def-Wide	DELAWARE	Dover AFB	CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM	21,600	21,600	21,600		21,600
Def-Wide	DJIBOUTI	Camp Lemonier	CONSTRUCT FUEL STORAGE & DISTRIB. FACILITIES	43,700	0	43,700		43,700

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Def-Wide	FLORIDA	Hurlburt Field	SOF FUEL CELL MAINTENANCE HANGAR	17,989	17,989	17,989		17,989
Def-Wide	FLORIDA	MacDill AFB	SOF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FACILITY	39,142	39,142	39,142		39,142
Def-Wide	GEORGIA	Moody AFB	REPLACE PUMPHOUSE AND TRUCK FILLSTANDS	10,900	10,900	10,900		10,900
Def-Wide	GERMANY	Garmisch	GARMISCH E/MS-ADDITION/MODERNIZATION	14,676	14,676	14,676		14,676
Def-Wide	GERMANY	Grafenwoehr	GRAFENWOEHR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RE- PLACEMENT	38,138	38,138	38,138		38,138
Def-Wide	GERMANY	Rhine Ordnance Bar- racks	MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT INCR 5	85,034	85,034	85,034		85,034
Def-Wide	GERMANY	Spangdahlem AB	CONSTRUCT FUEL PIPELINE	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500
Def-Wide	GERMANY	Spangdahlem AB	MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC ADDITION	34,071	34,071	34,071		34,071
Def-Wide	GERMANY	Stuttgart-Patch Bar- racks	PATCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	49,413	49,413	49,413		49,413
Def-Wide	HAWAII	Kaneohe Bay	MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT	122,071	90,257	122,071		122,071
Def-Wide	HAWAII	Schofield Barracks	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/DENTAL CLINIC ADDITION	123,838	87,800	123,838		123,838
Def-Wide	JAPAN	Kadena AB	AIRFIELD PAVEMENTS	37,485	37,485	37,485		37,485
Def-Wide	KENTUCKY	Fort Campbell, Ken- tucky	SOF COMPANY HQ/CLASSROOMS	12,553	12,553	12,553		12,553
Def-Wide	KENTUCKY	Fort Knox	FORT KNOX HS RENOVATION/MS ADDITION	23,279	23,279	23,279		23,279
Def-Wide	MARYLAND	Fort Meade	NSAW CAMPUS FEEDERS PHASE 2	33,745	33,745	33,745		33,745
Def-Wide	MARYLAND	Fort Meade	NSAW RECAPITALIZE BUILDING #2 INCR 1	34,897	34,897	34,897		34,897
Def-Wide	NEVADA	Nellis AFB	REPLACE HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM	39,900	39,900	39,900		39,900
Def-Wide	NEW MEXICO	Cannon AFB	CONSTRUCT PUMPHOUSE AND FUEL STORAGE	20,400	20,400	20,400		20,400
Def-Wide	NEW MEXICO	Cannon AFB	SOF SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	11,565	11,565	11,565		11,565
Def-Wide	NEW MEXICO	Cannon AFB	SOF ST OPERATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES	13,146	13,146	13,146		13,146
Def-Wide	NEW YORK	West Point	WEST POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACE- MENT	55,778	55,778	55,778		55,778
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Camp Lejeune	SOF COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT FACILITY	14,036	14,036	14,036		14,036
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Camp Lejeune	SOF MARINE BATTALION COMPANY/TEAM FA- CILITIES	54,970	54,970	54,970		54,970
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Fort Bragg	BUTNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	32,944	32,944	32,944		32,944
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Fort Bragg	SOF 21 STS OPERATIONS FACILITY	16,863	14,334	16,863		16,863
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Fort Bragg	SOF BATTALION OPERATIONS FACILITY	38,549	38,549	38,549		38,549
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Fort Bragg	SOF INDOOR RANGE	8,303	8,303	8,303		8,303
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Fort Bragg	SOF INTELLIGENCE TRAINING CENTER	28,265	28,265	28,265		28,265
Def-Wide	NORTH CAROLINA	Fort Bragg	SOF SPECIAL TACTICS FACILITY (PH 2)	43,887	43,887	43,887		43,887
Def-Wide	OHIO	Wright-Patterson AFB	SATELLITE PHARMACY REPLACEMENT	6,623	6,623	6,623		6,623
Def-Wide	OREGON	Klamath Falls IAP	REPLACE FUEL FACILITIES	2,500	2,500	2,500		2,500
Def-Wide	PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	REPLACE HEADQUARTERS	49,700	49,700	0		49,700
Def-Wide	POLAND	Redzikowo Base	AEGIS ASHORE MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM COMPLEX	169,153	0	169,153		169,153
Def-Wide	SOUTH CAROLINA	Fort Jackson	PIERCE TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RE- PLACEMENT	26,157	26,157	26,157		26,157
Def-Wide	SPAIN	Rota	ROTA ES AND HS ADDITIONS	13,737	13,737	13,737		13,737
Def-Wide	TEXAS	Fort Bliss	HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT INCR 7	239,884	189,884	239,884	-50,000	189,884
Def-Wide	TEXAS	Joint Base San Antonio	AMBULATORY CARE CENTER PHASE 4	61,776	61,776	61,776		61,776
Def-Wide	VIRGINIA	Fort Belvoir	CONSTRUCT VISITOR CONTROL CENTER	5,000	5,000	5,000		5,000
Def-Wide	VIRGINIA	Fort Belvoir	REPLACE GROUND VEHICLE FUELING FACILITY	4,500	4,500	4,500		4,500
Def-Wide	VIRGINIA	Joint Base Langley- Eustis	REPLACE FUEL PIER AND DISTRIBUTION FACIL- ITY	28,000	28,000	28,000		28,000
Def-Wide	VIRGINIA	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek— Story	SOF APPLIED INSTRUCTION FACILITY	23,916	23,916	23,916		23,916
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN- SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	CONTINGENCY CONSTRUCTION	10,000	0	10,000	-10,000	0
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN- SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	ECIP DESIGN	10,000	10,000	10,000		10,000
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN- SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PRO- GRAM	150,000	150,000	150,000		150,000
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN- SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	EXERCISE RELATED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	8,687	8,687	8,687		8,687
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN- SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	13,500	13,500	13,500		13,500
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN- SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	42,183	42,183	42,183		42,183

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Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	31,628	31,628	31,628		31,628
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	1,078	1,078	1,078		1,078
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	3,041	3,041	3,041		3,041
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	27,202	27,202	27,202		27,202
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	5,000	5,000	5,000		5,000
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	3,000	3,000	3,000		3,000
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	15,676	15,676	15,676		15,676
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	EAST COAST MISSILE SITE PLANNING AND DESIGN	0	30,000	0	30,000	30,000
Def-Wide	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	31,772	31,772	31,772		31,772
Military Construction, Defense-Wide Total				2,300,767	1,909,879	2,251,067	-30,000	2,270,767
NATO	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	NATO Security Investment Program	NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM	120,000	150,000	120,000		120,000
NATO Security Investment Program Total				120,000	150,000	120,000	0	120,000
Army NG	ALABAMA	Camp Foley	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	0	4,500	4,500	4,500
Army NG	CONNECTICUT	Camp Hartell	READY BUILDING (CST-WMD)	11,000	11,000	11,000		11,000
Army NG	DELAWARE	Dagsboro	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	10,800	0	10,800		10,800
Army NG	FLORIDA	Palm Coast	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	18,000	18,000	18,000		18,000
Army NG	GEORGIA	Fort Stewart	TACTICAL AERIAL UNMANNED SYSTEMS	0	0	6,800	6,800	6,800
Army NG	ILLINOIS	Sparta	BASIC 10M-25M FIRING RANGE (ZERO)	1,900	1,900	1,900		1,900
Army NG	KANSAS	Salina	AUTOMATED COMBAT PISTOL/MP FIREARMS QUAL COURSE	2,400	2,400	2,400		2,400
Army NG	KANSAS	Salina	MODIFIED RECORD FIRE RANGE	4,300	4,300	4,300		4,300
Army NG	MARYLAND	Easton	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	13,800	13,800	13,800		13,800
Army NG	MISSISSIPPI	Gulfport	AVIATION CLASSIFICATION AND REPAIR	0	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
Army NG	NEVADA	Reno	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADD/ALT	8,000	8,000	8,000		8,000
Army NG	OHIO	Camp Ravenna	MODIFIED RECORD FIRE RANGE	3,300	3,300	3,300		3,300
Army NG	OREGON	Salem	NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BLDG ADD/ALT (JFHQ)	16,500	16,500	16,500		16,500
Army NG	PENNSYLVANIA	Fort Indiantown Gap	TRAINING AIDS CENTER	16,000	16,000	16,000		16,000
Army NG	VERMONT	North Hyde Park	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADDITION	7,900	7,900	7,900		7,900
Army NG	VIRGINIA	Richmond	NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING (JFHQ)	29,000	29,000	29,000		29,000
Army NG	WASHINGTON	Yakima	ENLISTED BARRACKS, TRANSIENT TRAINING	19,000	0	19,000		19,000
Army NG	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	20,337	20,337	20,337		20,337
Army NG	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	15,000	15,000	15,000		15,000
Military Construction, Army National Guard Total				197,237	167,437	248,537	51,300	248,537
Army Res	CALIFORNIA	Miramar	ARMY RESERVE CENTER	24,000	24,000	24,000		24,000
Army Res	FLORIDA	MacDill AFB	AR CENTER/AS FACILITY	55,000	55,000	55,000		55,000
Army Res	MISSISSIPPI	Starkville	ARMY RESERVE CENTER	9,300	0	9,300		9,300
Army Res	NEW YORK	Orangeburg	ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE SHOP	4,200	4,200	4,200		4,200
Army Res	PENNSYLVANIA	Conneaut Lake	DAR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT	5,000	5,000	5,000		5,000
Army Res	PUERTO RICO	Fort Buchanan	ACCESS CONTROL POINT	0	0	10,200	10,200	10,200
Army Res	VIRGINIA	Fort AP Hill	EQUIPMENT CONCENTRATION	0	0	24,000	24,000	24,000
Army Res	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	9,318	9,318	9,318		9,318
Army Res	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	6,777	6,777	6,777		6,777
Military Construction, Army Reserve Total				113,595	104,295	147,795	34,200	147,795

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N/MC Res	NEVADA	Fallon	NAVOPSPCEN FALLON	11,480	11,480	11,480		11,480
N/MC Res	NEW YORK	Brooklyn	RESERVE CENTER STORAGE FACILITY	2,479	2,479	2,479		2,479
N/MC Res	VIRGINIA	Dam Neck	RESERVE TRAINING CENTER COMPLEX	18,443	18,443	18,443		18,443
N/MC Res	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCNR PLANNING & DESIGN	2,208	2,208	2,208		2,208
N/MC Res	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCNR UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	1,468	1,468	1,468		1,468
Military Construction, Naval Reserve Total				36,078	36,078	36,078	0	36,078
Air NG	ALABAMA	Dannelly Field	TFI—REPLACE SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	7,600	7,600	7,600		7,600
Air NG	ARKANSAS	Fort Smith MAP	CONSOLIDATED SCIF	0	0	0		0
Air NG	CALIFORNIA	Moffett Field	REPLACE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY	6,500	6,500	6,500		6,500
Air NG	COLORADO	Buckley AFB	ASE MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY	5,100	5,100	5,100		5,100
Air NG	CONNECTICUT	Bradley	OPS AND DEPLOYMENT FACILITY	0	0	6,300		0
Air NG	FLORIDA	Cape Canaveral AFS	SPACE CONTROL FACILITY	0	0	6,100	6,100	6,100
Air NG	GEORGIA	Savannah/Hilton Head IAP	C-130 SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	9,000	9,000	9,000		9,000
Air NG	HAWAII	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	F-22 COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY	0	0	9,700		0
Air NG	IOWA	Des Moines MAP	AIR OPERATIONS GRP/CYBER BEDDOWN-RENO BLDG 430	6,700	6,700	6,700		6,700
Air NG	KANSAS	Smokey Hill ANG Range	RANGE TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITIES	2,900	2,900	2,900		2,900
Air NG	LOUISIANA	New Orleans	REPLACE SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	10,000	10,000	10,000		10,000
Air NG	MAINE	Bangor IAP	ADD TO AND ALTER FIRE CRASH/RESCUE STATION	7,200	7,200	7,200		7,200
Air NG	NEW HAMPSHIRE	Pease International Trade Port	BLDG MOD KC-46 FUSELAGE TRAINER	0	0	1,500		0
Air NG	NEW HAMPSHIRE	Pease International Trade Port	KC-46A ADAL FLIGHT SIMULATOR BLDG 156	2,800	2,800	2,800		2,800
Air NG	NEW JERSEY	Atlantic City IAP	FUEL CELL AND CORROSION CONTROL HANGAR	10,200	10,200	10,200		10,200
Air NG	NEW YORK	Niagara Falls IAP	REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT BEDDOWN BLDG 912	7,700	7,700	7,700		7,700
Air NG	NORTH CAROLINA	Charlotte/Douglas IAP	REPLACE C-130 SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	9,000	9,000	9,000		9,000
Air NG	NORTH DAKOTA	Hector IAP	INTEL TARGETING FACILITIES	7,300	7,300	7,300		7,300
Air NG	OKLAHOMA	Will Rogers World Airport	MEDIUM ALTITUDE MANNED ISR BEDDOWN	7,600	7,600	7,600		7,600
Air NG	OREGON	Klamath Falls IAP	REPLACE FIRE CRASH/RESCUE STATION	7,200	7,200	7,200		7,200
Air NG	WEST VIRGINIA	Yeager Airport	FORCE PROTECTION- RELOCATE COONSKIN ROAD	3,900	3,900	3,900		3,900
Air NG	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	5,104	5,104	5,104		5,104
Air NG	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	7,734	7,734	7,734		7,734
Military Construction, Air National Guard Total				123,538	123,538	147,138	6,100	129,638
AF Res	ARIZONA	Davis-Monthan AFB	GUARDIAN ANGEL OPERATIONS	0	0	0		0
AF Res	CALIFORNIA	March AFB	SATELLITE FIRE STATION	4,600	4,600	4,600		4,600
AF Res	FLORIDA	Patrick AFB	AIRCREW LIFE SUPPORT FACILITY	3,400	3,400	3,400		3,400
AF Res	GEORGIA	Dobbins	FIRE STATION/SECURITY COMPLEX	0	0	10,400	10,400	10,400
AF Res	OHIO	Youngstown	INDOOR FIRING RANGE	9,400	9,400	9,400		9,400
AF Res	TEXAS	Joint Base San Antonio	CONSOLIDATE 433 MEDICAL FACILITY	9,900	9,900	9,900		9,900
AF Res	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	13,400	13,400	13,400		13,400
AF Res	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Various Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	6,121	6,121	6,121		6,121
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve Total				46,821	46,821	57,221	10,400	57,221
FH Con Army	FLORIDA	Camp Rudder	FAMILY HOUSING REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION	8,000	8,000	8,000		8,000
FH Con Army	GERMANY	Wiesbaden Army Airfield	FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS	3,500	3,500	3,500		3,500
FH Con Army	ILLINOIS	Rock Island	FAMILY HOUSING REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
FH Con Army	KOREA	Camp Walker	FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION	61,000	61,000	61,000		61,000
FH Con Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FAMILY HOUSING P & D	7,195	7,195	7,195		7,195
Family Housing Construction, Army Total				99,695	99,695	99,695	0	99,695
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS	25,552	25,552	25,552		25,552
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASED HOUSING	144,879	144,879	144,879		144,879
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY FACILITIES	75,197	75,197	75,197		75,197
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	45,468	45,468	45,468		45,468
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	3,047	3,047	3,047		3,047
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MILITARY HOUSING PRIVITIZATION INITIATIVE	22,000	22,000	22,000		22,000
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MISCELLANEOUS	840	840	840		840
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES	10,928	10,928	10,928		10,928
FH Ops Army	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES	65,600	65,600	65,600		65,600
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Army Total				393,511	393,511	393,511	0	393,511
FH Con AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	IMPROVEMENTS	150,649	150,649	150,649		150,649
FH Con AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING AND DESIGN	9,849	9,849	9,849		9,849
Family Housing Construction, Air Force Total				160,498	160,498	160,498	0	160,498
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	38,746	38,746	38,746		38,746
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOUSING PRIVATIZATION	41,554	41,554	41,554		41,554
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	28,867	28,867	28,867		28,867
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE	114,129	114,129	114,129		114,129
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	52,153	52,153	52,153		52,153
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT	2,032	2,032	2,032		2,032
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES ACCOUNT	12,940	12,940	12,940		12,940
FH Ops AF	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES ACCOUNT	40,811	40,811	40,811		40,811
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Air Force Total				331,232	331,232	331,232	0	331,232
FH Con Navy	VIRGINIA	Wallops Island	CONSTRUCT HOUSING WELCOME CENTER	438	438	438		438
FH Con Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DESIGN	4,588	4,588	4,588		4,588
FH Con Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	IMPROVEMENTS	11,515	11,515	11,515		11,515
Family Housing Construction, Navy And Marine Corps Total				16,541	16,541	16,541	0	16,541
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	17,534	17,534	17,534		17,534
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	64,108	64,108	64,108		64,108
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	99,323	99,323	99,323		99,323
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	56,189	56,189	56,189		56,189
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT	373	373	373		373

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Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS	28,668	28,668	28,668		28,668
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES ACCOUNT	19,149	19,149	19,149		19,149
FH Ops Navy	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES ACCOUNT	67,692	67,692	67,692		67,692
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Navy And Marine Corps Total				353,036	353,036	353,036	0	353,036
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	781	781	781		781
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	20	20	20		20
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	3,402	3,402	3,402		3,402
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	10,679	10,679	10,679		10,679
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	41,273	41,273	41,273		41,273
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	344	344	344		344
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	1,104	1,104	1,104		1,104
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	388	388	388		388
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES ACCOUNT	31	31	31		31
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES ACCOUNT	172	172	172		172
FH Ops DW	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES ACCOUNT	474	474	474		474
Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Defense-Wide Total				58,668	58,668	58,668	0	58,668
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Base Realignment & Closure, Army	BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE	29,691	29,691	29,691		29,691
Base Realignment and Closure—Army Total				29,691	29,691	29,691	0	29,691
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DOD BRAC ACTIVITIES—AIR FORCE	64,555	64,555	64,555		64,555
Base Realignment and Closure—Air Force Total				64,555	64,555	64,555	0	64,555
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Base Realignment & Closure, Navy	BASE REALIGNMENT & CLOSURE	118,906	118,906	118,906		118,906
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON—100: PLANING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT	7,787	7,787	7,787		7,787
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON—101: VARIOUS LOCATIONS	20,871	20,871	20,871		20,871
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON—138: NAS BRUNSWICK, ME	803	803	803		803
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON—157: MCSA KANSAS CITY, MO	41	41	41		41
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON—172: NWS SEAL BEACH, CONCORD, CA	4,872	4,872	4,872		4,872
BRAC	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DON—84: JRB WILLOW GROVE & CAMBRIA REG AP	3,808	3,808	3,808		3,808
Base Realignment and Closure—Navy Total				157,088	157,088	157,088	0	157,088
PYS	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	AIR FORCE	0	−52,600	−50,000	−34,400	−34,400
PYS	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	ARMY	0	−96,000	−52,000	−56,600	−56,600
PYS	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DEFENSE-WIDE	0	−134,000	−120,000	−134,000	−134,000
PYS	WORLDWIDE UN-SPECIFIED	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	0	−103,918	0	−110,000	−110,000
Prior Year Savings Total				0	−386,518	−222,000	−335,000	−335,000

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Total, Military Construction				8,463,598	7,308,088	8,462,658	-228,000	8,235,598

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State/ Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Army	Cuba	Guantanamo Bay	UNACCOMPANIED PERSONNEL HOUSING	0	76,000	0	0	0
Military Construction, Army Total				0	76,000	0	0	0
Navy	Bahrain	Bahrain Island	MINA SALMAN PIER REPLACEMENT	0	37,700	0	0	0
Navy	Bahrain	Bahrain Island	SHIP MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY	0	52,091	0	0	0
Navy	Italy	Sigonella	P-8A HANGAR AND FLEET SUPPORT FACILITY	0	62,302	0	0	0
Navy	Italy	Sigonella	TRITON HANGAR AND OPERATION FACILITY	0	40,641	0	0	0
Navy	Poland	Redzikowo	AEGIS SHORE MISSILE DEFENSE COMPLEX	0	51,270	0	0	0
Military Construction, Navy Total				0	244,004	0	0	0
AF	Niger	Agadez	CONSTRUCT AIR FIELD AND BASE CAMP	0	50,000	0	0	0
AF	Oman	Al Mussanah AB	AIRLIFT APRON	0	25,000	0	0	0
Military Construction, Air Force Total				0	75,000	0	0	0
Def-Wide	Djibouti	Camp Lemonier	CONSTRUCT FUEL STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES	0	43,700	0	0	0
Def-Wide	Poland	Redzikowo	AEGIS SHORE MISSILE DEFENSE COMPLEX	0	93,296	0	0	0
Military Construction, Defense-Wide Total				0	136,996	0	0	0
Total, Military Construction				0	532,000	0	0	0

**TITLE XLVII—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL
SECURITY PROGRAMS**

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Discretionary Summary By Appropriation					
Energy And Water Development, And Related Agencies					
Appropriation Summary:					
Energy Programs					
Nuclear Energy	135,161	0	0	0	135,161
Atomic Energy Defense Activities					
National nuclear security administration:					
Weapons activities	8,846,948	237,700	180,000	-44,151	8,802,797
Defense nuclear nonproliferation	1,940,302	-39,000	5,000	1,198	1,941,500
Naval reactors	1,375,496	12,000	0	-15,500	1,359,996
Federal salaries and expenses	402,654	-6,000	0	-14,654	388,000
Total, National nuclear security administration	12,565,400	204,700	185,000	-73,107	12,492,293
Environmental and other defense activities:					
Defense environmental cleanup	5,527,347	-384,197	-451,797	-396,797	5,130,550
Other defense activities	774,425	4,200	0	-3,903	770,522
Total, Environmental & other defense activities	6,301,772	-379,997	-451,797	-400,700	5,901,072
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities	18,867,172	-175,297	-266,797	-473,807	18,393,365
Total, Discretionary Funding	19,002,333	-175,297	-266,797	-473,807	18,528,526
Nuclear Energy					
Idaho sitewide safeguards and security	126,161				126,161

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Used nuclear fuel disposition	9,000				9,000
Total, Nuclear Energy	135,161	0	0	0	135,161
Weapons Activities					
Directed stockpile work					
Life extension programs					
B61 Life extension program	643,300				643,300
W76 Life extension program	244,019				244,019
W88 Alt 370	220,176				220,176
W80-4 Life extension program	195,037				195,037
Total, Life extension programs	1,302,532	0	0	0	1,302,532
Stockpile systems					
B61 Stockpile systems	52,247	21,000			52,247
W76 Stockpile systems	50,921				50,921
W78 Stockpile systems	64,092				64,092
W80 Stockpile systems	68,005				68,005
B83 Stockpile systems	42,177	9,000			42,177
W87 Stockpile systems	89,299				89,299
W88 Stockpile systems	115,685				115,685
Total, Stockpile systems	482,426	30,000	0	0	482,426
Weapons dismantlement and disposition					
Operations and maintenance	48,049				48,049
Stockpile services					
Production support	447,527				447,527
Research and development support	34,159				34,159
R&D certification and safety	192,613	11,200		-7,613	185,000
Management, technology, and production	264,994			-6,467	258,527
Total, Stockpile services	939,293	11,200	0	-14,080	925,213
Nuclear material commodities					
Uranium sustainment	32,916				32,916
Plutonium sustainment	174,698	8,400			174,698
Tritium sustainment	107,345				107,345
Domestic uranium enrichment	100,000			-50,000	50,000
Total, Nuclear material commodities	414,959	8,400	0	-50,000	364,959
Total, Directed stockpile work	3,187,259	49,600	0	-64,080	3,123,179
Research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E)					
Science					
Advanced certification	50,714				50,714
Primary assessment technologies	98,500	21,600		5,600	104,100
Dynamic materials properties	109,000				109,000
Advanced radiography	47,000				47,000
Secondary assessment technologies	84,400				84,400
Total, Science	389,614	21,600	0	5,600	395,214
Engineering					
Enhanced surety	50,821	1,100			50,821
Weapon systems engineering assessment technology	17,371				17,371
Nuclear survivability	24,461	2,400			24,461
Enhanced surveillance	38,724		10,000		38,724
Total, Engineering	131,377	3,500	10,000	0	131,377
Inertial confinement fusion ignition and high yield					

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Ignition	73,334	-6,000			73,334
Support of other stockpile programs	22,843				22,843
Diagnostics, cryogenics and experimental support	58,587				58,587
Pulsed power inertial confinement fusion	4,963				4,963
Joint program in high energy density laboratory plasmas	8,900				8,900
Facility operations and target production	333,823	-11,000			333,823
Total, Inertial confinement fusion and high yield	502,450	-17,000	0	0	502,450
Advanced simulation and computing	623,006	-6,000		-6,000	617,006
Responsive Capabilities Program	0		20,000		0
Advanced manufacturing					
Component manufacturing development	112,256			-18,808	93,448
Processing technology development	17,800				17,800
Total, Advanced manufacturing	130,056	0	0	-18,808	111,248
Total, RDT&E	1,776,503	2,100	30,000	-19,208	1,757,295
Readiness in technical base and facilities (RTBF)					
Operating					
Program readiness	75,185			-15,185	60,000
Material recycle and recovery	173,859			-13,859	160,000
Storage	40,920				40,920
Recapitalization	104,327			-4,327	100,000
Total, Operating	394,291	0	0	-33,371	360,920
Construction:					
15-D-302 TA-55 Reinvestment project, Phase 3, LANL	18,195				18,195
11-D-801 TA-55 Reinvestment project Phase 2, LANL	3,903				3,903
07-D-220 Radioactive liquid waste treatment facility upgrade project, LANL	11,533				11,533
07-D-220-04 Transuranic liquid waste facility, LANL	40,949				40,949
06-D-141 PED/Construction, Uranium Capabilities Replacement Project Y-12	430,000				430,000
04-D-125 Chemistry and metallurgy replacement project, LANL	155,610				155,610
Total, Construction	660,190	0	0	0	660,190
Total, Readiness in technical base and facilities	1,054,481	0	0	-33,371	1,021,110
Secure transportation asset					
Operations and equipment	146,272			-6,272	140,000
Program direction	105,338			-8,220	97,118
Total, Secure transportation asset	251,610	0	0	-14,492	237,118
Infrastructure and safety					
Operations of facilities					
Kansas City Plant	100,250				100,250
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	70,671				70,671
Los Alamos National Laboratory	196,460				196,460
Nevada National Security Site	89,000				89,000
Pantex	58,021				58,021
Sandia National Laboratory	115,300				115,300
Savannah River Site	80,463				80,463
Y-12 National security complex	120,625				120,625
Total, Operations of facilities	830,790	0	0	0	830,790
Safety operations	107,701				107,701
Maintenance	227,000	24,000		25,000	252,000
Recapitalization	257,724	150,000	150,000	50,000	307,724
Construction:					

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
16-D-621 Substation replacement at TA-3, LANL	25,000				25,000
15-D-613 Emergency Operations Center, Y-12	17,919				17,919
Total, Construction	42,919	0	0	0	42,919
Total, Infrastructure and safety	1,466,134	174,000	150,000	75,000	1,541,134
Site stewardship					
Nuclear materials integration	17,510				17,510
Minority serving institution partnerships program	19,085				19,085
Total, Site stewardship	36,595	0	0	0	36,595
Defense nuclear security					
Operations and maintenance	619,891	12,000		12,000	631,891
Construction:					
14-D-710 Device assembly facility argus installation project, NV	13,000				13,000
Total, Defense nuclear security	632,891	12,000	0	12,000	644,891
Information technology and cybersecurity	157,588				157,588
Legacy contractor pensions	283,887				283,887
Total, Weapons Activities	8,846,948	237,700	180,000	-44,151	8,802,797
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation					
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs					
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation R&D					
Global material security	426,751	-90,000		-3,802	422,949
Material management and minimization	311,584	20,000			311,584
Nonproliferation and arms control	126,703				126,703
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation R&D	419,333	20,000			419,333
Nonproliferation Construction:					
99-D-143 Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility, SRS	345,000				345,000
Analysis of Alternatives	0		5,000	5,000	5,000
Total, Nonproliferation construction	345,000	0	5,000	5,000	350,000
Total, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs	1,629,371	-50,000	5,000	1,198	1,630,569
Legacy contractor pensions	94,617				94,617
Nuclear counterterrorism and incident response program	234,390	11,000			234,390
Use of prior-year balances	-18,076				-18,076
Total, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	1,940,302	-39,000	5,000	1,198	1,941,500
Naval Reactors					
Naval reactors operations and infrastructure	445,196				445,196
Naval reactors development	444,400			-14,000	430,400
Ohio replacement reactor systems development	186,800				186,800
S8G Prototype refueling	133,000				133,000
Program direction	45,000			-1,500	43,500
Construction:					
15-D-904 NRF Overpack Storage Expansion 3	900				900
15-D-903 KL Fire System Upgrade	600				600
15-D-902 KS Engineroom team trainer facility	3,100				3,100
14-D-902 KL Materials characterization laboratory expansion, KAPL	30,000				30,000
14-D-901 Spent fuel handling recapitalization project, NRF	86,000	12,000			86,000
10-D-903, Security upgrades, KAPL	500				500
Total, Construction	121,100	12,000	0	0	121,100
Total, Naval Reactors	1,375,496	12,000	0	-15,500	1,359,996

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Federal Salaries And Expenses					
Program direction	402,654	-6,000		-14,654	388,000
Total, Office Of The Administrator	402,654	-6,000	0	-14,654	388,000
Defense Environmental Cleanup					
Closure sites:					
Closure sites administration	4,889				4,889
Hanford site:					
River corridor and other cleanup operations:					
River corridor and other cleanup operations	196,957	72,000		72,000	268,957
Central plateau remediation:					
Central plateau remediation	555,163				555,163
Richland community and regulatory support	14,701				14,701
Construction:					
15-D-401 Containerized sludge removal annex, RL	77,016				77,016
Total, Hanford site	843,837	72,000	0	72,000	915,837
Idaho National Laboratory:					
Idaho cleanup and waste disposition	357,783				357,783
Idaho community and regulatory support	3,000				3,000
Total, Idaho National Laboratory	360,783	0	0	0	360,783
NNSA sites					
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,366				1,366
Nevada	62,385				62,385
Sandia National Laboratories	2,500				2,500
Los Alamos National Laboratory	188,625		20,000		188,625
Total, NNSA sites and Nevada off-sites	254,876	0	20,000	0	254,876
Oak Ridge Reservation:					
OR Nuclear facility D & D					
OR Nuclear facility D & D	75,958				75,958
Construction:					
14-D-403 Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility	6,800				6,800
Total, OR Nuclear facility D & D	82,758	0	0	0	82,758
U233 Disposition Program	26,895				26,895
OR cleanup and disposition:					
OR cleanup and disposition	60,500				60,500
Total, OR cleanup and disposition	60,500	0	0	0	60,500
OR reservation community and regulatory support	4,400				4,400
Solid waste stabilization and disposition					
Oak Ridge technology development	2,800				2,800
Total, Oak Ridge Reservation	177,353	0	0	0	177,353
Office of River Protection:					
Waste treatment and immobilization plant					
01-D-416 A-D/ORP-0060 / Major construction	595,000				595,000
01-D-16E Pretreatment facility	95,000				95,000
Total, Waste treatment and immobilization plant	690,000	0	0	0	690,000

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Tank farm activities					
Rad liquid tank waste stabilization and disposition	649,000				649,000
Construction:					
15-D-409 Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System, Hanford	75,000				75,000
Total, Tank farm activities	724,000	0	0	0	724,000
Total, Office of River protection	1,414,000	0	0	0	1,414,000
Savannah River sites:					
Savannah River risk management operations	386,652	11,600		3,000	389,652
SR community and regulatory support	11,249				11,249
Radioactive liquid tank waste:					
Radioactive liquid tank waste stabilization and disposition	581,878				581,878
Construction:					
15-D-402—Saltstone Disposal Unit #6	34,642				34,642
05-D-405 Salt waste processing facility, Savannah River	194,000				194,000
Total, Construction	228,642	0	0	0	228,642
Total, Radioactive liquid tank waste	810,520	0	0	0	810,520
Total, Savannah River site	1,208,421	11,600	0	3,000	1,211,421
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant					
Waste isolation pilot plant	212,600				212,600
Construction:					
15-D-411 Safety significant confinement ventilation system, WIPP	23,218				23,218
15-D-412 Exhaust shaft, WIPP	7,500				7,500
Total, Construction	30,718	0	0	0	30,718
Total, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	243,318	0	0	0	243,318
Program direction	281,951				281,951
Program support	14,979				14,979
Safeguards and Security:					
Oak Ridge Reservation	17,228				17,228
Paducah	8,216				8,216
Portsmouth	8,492				8,492
Richland/Hanford Site	67,601				67,601
Savannah River Site	128,345				128,345
Waste Isolation Pilot Project	4,860				4,860
West Valley	1,891				1,891
Technology development	14,510	4,000			14,510
Subtotal, Defense environmental cleanup	5,055,550	87,600	20,000	75,000	5,130,550
Uranium enrichment D&D fund contribution (Legislative proposal)	471,797	-471,797	-471,797	-471,797	0
Total, Defense Environmental Cleanup	5,527,347	-384,197	-451,797	-396,797	5,130,550
Other Defense Activities					
Specialized security activities	221,855	4,200		-3,903	217,952
Environment, health, safety and security					
Environment, health, safety and security	120,693				120,693
Program direction	63,105				63,105
Total, Environment, Health, safety and security	183,798	0	0	0	183,798
Enterprise assessments					
Enterprise assessments	24,068				24,068

SEC. 4701. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Program	FY 2016 Request	House Authorized	Senate Authorized	Conference Change	Conference Authorized
Program direction	49,466				49,466
Total, Enterprise assessments	73,534	0	0	0	73,534
Office of Legacy Management					
Legacy management	154,080				154,080
Program direction	13,100				13,100
Total, Office of Legacy Management	167,180	0	0	0	167,180
Defense-related activities					
Defense related administrative support					
Chief financial officer	35,758				35,758
Chief information officer	83,800				83,800
Management	3,000				3,000
Total, Defense related administrative support	122,558	0	0	0	122,558
Office of hearings and appeals	5,500				5,500
Subtotal, Other defense activities	774,425	4,200	0	-3,903	770,522
Total, Other Defense Activities	774,425	4,200	0	-3,903	770,522

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

MAC THORNBERRY,
J. RANDY FORBES,
JEFF MILLER,
JOE WILSON,
FRANK A. LOBIONDO,
MICHAEL R. TURNER,
JOHN KLINE,
MIKE ROGERS,
BILL SHUSTER,
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
DOUG LAMBORN,
ROBERT J. WITTMAN,
DUNCAN HUNTER,
VICKY HARTZLER,
JOSEPH J. HECK,
BRAD WENSTRUP,
ELISE M. STEFANK,
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO,

As additional conferees, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X:

DEVIN NUNES,
PETER T. KING,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 571 and 573 of the House bill and secs. 561-63 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

TODD ROKITA,
MIKE BISHOP,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 314, 632, 634, 3111-13, 3119, 3133, and 3141 of the House bill and secs. 601, 632, 3118, and 3119 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

FRED UPON,
JOE BARTON,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 1011, 1059, 1090, 1092, 1201, 1203-05, 1215, 1221, 1223, 1226, 1234-36, 1247-49, 1253, 1257, 1263, 1264, 1267, 1270, 1301, 1532, 1541, 1542, 1663, 1668-70, 2802, 3118, and 3119 of the House bill and secs. 1011, 1012, 1082, 1201-05, 1207, 1209, 1223, 1225, 1228, 1251, 1252, 1261, 1264, 1265, 1272, 1301, 1302, 1531-33, 1631, 1654, and 1655 of the Senate

amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
TOM MARINO,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of secs. 589 and 1041 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
CANDICE S. MILLER,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 1040, 1052, 1085, 1216, 1641, and 2862 of the House bill and secs. 1032, 1034, 1090, and 1227 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

BOB GOODLATTE,
DARRELL E. ISSA,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 312, 632, 634, 2841, 2842, 2851-53, and 2862 of the House bill and secs. 313, 601, and 632 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

PAUL COOK,
CRESENT HARDY,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of secs. 602, 631, 634, 838, 854, 855, 866, 871, 1069, and 1101-05 of the House bill and secs. 592, 593, 631, 806, 830, 861, 1090, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1105, 1107-09, 1111, 1112, 1114, and 1115 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

WILL HURD,
STEVE RUSSELL,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Rules, for consideration of sec. 1032 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

PETE SESSIONS,
BRADLEY BYRNE,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sec. 3136 of the House bill and sec. 1613 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

FRANK D. LUCAS,
STEPHEN KNIGHT,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 831-34, 839, 840, 842-46, 854, and 871 of the

House bill and secs. 828, 831, 882, 883, and 885 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

STEVE CHABOT,
RICHARD L. HANNA,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 302, 562, 569, 570a, 591, 1060a, 1073, 2811, and 3501 of the House bill and secs. 601, 642, 1613, 3504, and 3505 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

GARRET GRAVES,
CARLOS CURBELO,

As additional conferees, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of secs. 565, 566, 592, 652, 701, 721, 722, 1105, and 1431 of the House bill and secs. 539, 605, 633, 719, 1083, 1084, 1089, 1091, and 1411 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

DAVID P. ROE,
GUS M. BILIRAKIS,

Managers on the Part of the House.

JOHN MCCAIN,
JAMES M. INHOFE,
JEFF SESSIONS,
ROGER F. WICKER,
KELLY AYOTTE,
DEB FISCHER,
TOM COTTON,
MIKE ROUNDS,
LINDSEY GRAHAM,
JOE DONNELLY,
TIM KAINE,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

**NO SANCTIONS RELIEF FOR IRAN
WITHOUT PAYMENT TO U.S. VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, when economic sanctions were lifted on Libya a decade ago, the United States secured an agreement that the Qadhafi

regime compensate victims of terror attacks, such as the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Today Iran, a state sponsor of terror, owes more than \$43 billion in damages to victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism from over 80 different court-ordered decisions. Not 1 cent has been paid by Iran. And, yet, the President is moving forward to lift economic sanctions, giving Iran a \$100 billion windfall without compensating terrorist victims.

Madam Speaker, we should make sure that American victims of Iranian terror receive their judgments before any economic sanctions are lifted. We need to pass the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act to ensure that Iran will not see any sanctions relief until it first pays the money they owe to the families of Americans killed by Iranian-sponsored terrorism.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mr. YOUNG of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I will just cut to the chase. We are all aware of the boondoggle that is the Denver, Colorado, VA medical facility construction project.

The ongoing Denver veterans' hospital project has nearly tripled in initial VA cost projections. It is more than \$1 billion over budget, which is a gross disservice to our veterans during a time of scarce resources.

Section 502 of this legislation inserts basic project management requirements, like those I learned as a management consultant, over certain so-called super-construction projects at the VA, like the Denver facility.

Sadly, project costs and schedule overruns aren't unique to the VA, but they exist throughout the Federal Government. That is why I have introduced the Project Management Improvement and Accountability Act. This legislation would instill basic project management principles throughout all levels of the Federal Government, ensuring taxpayers save much-needed money during this down economy.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD MUST GO

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as our eyes turn toward New York both in terms of the Pope's visit last week and his call for us to address the mandatory needs of refugees around the world, in the last 24 hours, we heard

from the President of Russia, Mr. Putin, and our President on Syria.

I think it is important for this Congress to begin to look again at a man by the name of Assad, who is not only poisoning his own people, but bombing hospitals and ambulances and creating a situation of devastation. I think the President is correct that Assad must go, and there must be a reconciliation as to how that proceeds.

To Mr. Putin, who has a stake in this area, through Syria, you have to come with the world family and begin to think of those who are suffering. We can work together, but Assad cannot stay. We must find a way for the good people of Syria to be able to return in peace and justice and equality.

The United Nations must take a stand. We must come together in this Congress, working with the President and working with world leaders to restore tranquility and peace to this region with Assad gone and certainly ISIL done away with, if you will, to provide stability in the area.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANIK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, undeniably, the issue that we hear about the most in our districts across America is the need to create a climate that grows jobs to allow the dignity of work to be realized by our constituents and to enable them to earn a sound paycheck.

We can ill-afford to play games with the jobs agenda. We need to do everything within our power to be able to provide for those resources and develop those policies that will create that climate that grows private sector jobs and enables public sector jobs to administer the services that we require as a Nation.

For years, I have been coming to this floor, speaking with great fervor about the Make It In America agenda, making certain that we take great pride in that opportunity that we, as a Nation, have always embraced: the pioneer spirit, the innovation that challenges us today.

That Make It In America agenda has many, many needs. I have spoken to the need for implementing sound manufacturing policies, retrofitting our centers of employment, our manufacturing centers, so that they can compete with cutting-edge technology on their side.

I have advanced the concern and the issue of funding research, making certain that we do things smarter, which will enable us to be more competitive in those economic sweepstakes on an international scale.

I have focused on STEM education, making certain in this innovation

economy that we have those scientists, technology-driven types, engineers, math majors, that can take us forward with the sort of skills and talent that we require.

I have talked about improving our infrastructure to make certain that commerce's demands for sound infrastructure will be met so that they can ship their products and transport their products. I have talked about the need to grow our exports as a Nation.

Well, I believe this can be boiled down to a simple message. The idea is to make more, use less, and sell it everywhere, in other words, promote domestic manufacturing, enhance our efficiency—energy efficiency and, across the board, all types of efficiency—and then enable us to then export American-made goods.

Well, this trio has been hindered of late because of a refusal to reauthorize in this House the Export-Import Bank, which is a great service that allows for loans, loan guarantees, and can stand as an insurance policy, a government creditor, for contracts when bid upon by our private sector industries and businesses. That damage, that delay, had been troublesome.

I have come to this floor many times. I have joined with my colleagues in press conferences. I have invoked our leadership to bring the measure to the floor because I think, if we do, it passes.

I have talked also about signing on. I have signed onto petitions to discharge, to make certain, again, that we raise the public consciousness to this growing concern of lacking the reauthorization of our Export-Import Bank.

Well, the damage came and hit my district. I would say to America we in Congress, this House and its leadership, are playing with fire because now we have a major corporation—in this case, GE in my district—that will be transitioning hundreds, 500 or more, jobs to France because of the lack of an Export-Import Bank here.

There are some 84, 85 Export-Import Banks around the world. Some 60-plus nations have this concept at their grasp. So the French Government has authorized the Export-Import Bank to be utilized by GE.

Now I witness hundreds of jobs in my own district that will be transferred to another set of workers, damaging the American Dream of people that I represent. This is unthinkable, unthinkable.

This could be avoided. All it takes is a simple exercise to bring an issue to the floor, bring the bill to the floor, of which I am a cosponsor, and act on it. I believe wholeheartedly that, in a bipartisan fashion, that measure would pass.

So tonight we are going to use these minutes to advocate for the Export-Import Bank, to have that vote brought to the floor. We will begin with the

gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is a friend, a leader in our House, and is our minority whip.

Representative STENY HOYER, thank you for joining us this evening.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) has been a leader on our agenda of Make It In America. It is a jobs plan which has included reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank as a way of helping our businesses and workers compete on a level playing field internationally.

Since the bank's charter expired on July 1, many small- and medium-sized exporters have been left without a critical resource, forced to compete with foreign companies that have the support of more than 80 foreign export credit agencies.

Uncertainty over the bank's future has already led businesses to announce jobs being moved overseas. My friend from New York talked about General Electric moving hundreds of jobs from his district and other districts as well.

Jeff Immelt, the president and CEO of GE, was here. He talked to Democrats and Republicans and said: You are hurting American jobs. Yet, we do not have the Export-Import Bank reauthorization on the floor even though, Madam Speaker, it enjoys a majority support in this House.

We have heard a number of very sound arguments for why Congress ought to pass a multi-year reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank without further delay.

One of those, Madam Speaker, came from Chamber of Commerce CEO Tom Donohue, who wrote on September 17—this is the Chamber of Commerce president, not STENY HOYER, the democratic leader.

He said this: Every major trading nation has an export credit agency like Ex-Im. . . . Failure to reauthorize Ex-Im would amount to unilateral disarmament in the face of other governments' far more aggressive export credit agencies. He went on to say: American companies are being forced to compete with one hand tied behind their back.

Another comes from 28 Governors on a bipartisan basis who sent a letter to us and said this: Failure to act—meaning failure to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank—will place American industries at a significant disadvantage in the global marketplace and harm businesses in our States.

The Governors, bipartisan, said: We strongly urge you—we, the Congress; we, the House of Representatives—to pass a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Let me add, Madam Speaker, another voice to this discussion as well. That is the voice of Speaker BOEHNER, who said in April: There are thousands of jobs on the line that would disappear

pretty quickly if the Ex-Im Bank were to disappear. The Speaker has also said, when he took office, that the House ought to work its will.

Madam Speaker, the votes are on the floor of this House to pass the reauthorization. Republicans and Democrats are working together to help create American jobs, retain American jobs, grow our economy, and be competitive internationally. It is now time to put the principle into practice of letting the House work its will.

Sixty Republican Members of this House have cosponsored a bill to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

□ 1645

If you add up the 180-plus Democrats who have signed a discharge petition and those 60 Republicans, you get to 240. You only need 218, so clearly we have the votes to pass it.

I say to the Speaker and the majority leader, the House's will is clear. The effects of allowing the Ex-Im shutdown to continue are clear: more and more jobs being sent overseas. Our responsibility as the representatives of thousands of businesses and workers is very clear. Bring the Export-Import Bank to the floor for a vote.

I want to thank Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS, Ranking Member GWEN MOORE, and Representative DENNY HECK for their continued leadership on this issue. I want to thank my friend Representative TONKO from New York for leading today's Special Order on such a critically important issue, an issue that we all speak to, that we all say we are committed to, that we all say we want to work towards, and that is creating jobs for Americans in America. I thank my friend from New York.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his voice on this issue.

It is clear that the Democrats in this House are staunchly for reauthorization of this concept. When people talk about the tools in the toolkit that are required, growing exports is a very important part of the equation for economic recovery and economic growth.

This concept of an Export-Import Bank reduces the deficit by some \$675 million, at last annual count, and grows jobs to the tune of 164,000, per the last count. So reduce the deficit and grow jobs; isn't that the mantra that we hear time and time again from folks who represent all of America in this House of Representatives? It stands to reason that we bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

America should not tolerate this. The business community, the commerce voices of this Nation, from chambers of commerce across this country is resonating with we the Democrats in this House. We need reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. What don't we understand? Let's go forward and encourage that that vote be taken very, very soon.

One of the people that I get to serve with is a longtime friend. We have served in the New York State Assembly together, and we now serve here in the United States House of Representatives together. We have been very concerned about job growth in New York State and, in particular, along that manufacturing corridor called the Erie Canal which gave birth to a number of mill towns that then became epicenters of invention and innovation. Today they stand as inspiration as to how to speak to that pioneer spirit that is within our DNA as a nation.

I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my good friend. Thank you for sharing your thoughts this evening. Thank you for joining us.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Thank you, Mr. TONKO. I am delighted to be here with you.

Mr. TONKO has pointed out that he and I were elected to the New York State Assembly on the same day. We have worked diligently while we were there for the people of New York to try to better their lot, and it is so wonderful now that we are working for all 50 States and New York, again, in mind. The people who sent us here knew that we stood for things like the Ex-Im Bank, knew that we understood that if we did not have a strong economy, we couldn't do much of anything else in our district like provide a good education and health care, and that the economy was the backbone of what we are doing.

I appreciate your yielding me this time to discuss the importance of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. TONKO, it is incredible to me, frankly, that we should have to come to the House floor to call for the Ex-Im Bank's reauthorization. It is an important agency that has worked to ensure a level playing field around the world for the United States exporters for more than 80 years. Last year alone, Ex-Im supported 164,000 United States jobs through \$20.5 billion in export insurance, loans, and loan guarantees, and all while returning \$675 million to taxpayers, because it is essentially a revolving fund which is paid for by the user fees. So here we have an agency sponsored by the government costing us basically nothing, putting money back into the Treasury, which makes companies eligible to be able to sell their goods throughout the world.

Now, my district of Rochester, New York, is home to advanced manufacturers on the cutting edge of research and development, and we do need the Ex-Im Bank to help market our products worldwide. The Ex-Im has supported 685 jobs and \$158 million in exports in Rochester since 2010. In June, I toured Lumetrics, which is a leading Rochester manufacturing firm that Ex-Im has helped support the sales of precision instrument gauges to customers in 14 countries.

Now, unfortunately, since June 30, manufacturers like this in Rochester and across the country have lost a valuable tool and many nights' sleep because a handful of members of the House majority are blocking the Ex-Im's reauthorization for reasons we cannot divine. As Mr. HOYER pointed out, we have Governors, the Chamber of Commerce, people all over this country, as well as corporations, telling us that this won't do.

We are now starting to see the effects of this misguided policy. As stated before, General Electric announced that it was shipping 500 jobs abroad because other countries are willing to provide the financing help that we no longer will. Boeing has lost two major satellite contracts to foreign competitors because of the Ex-Im Bank. Those are two of our largest employers. I am even more concerned with the hundreds of small manufacturers and thousands of employees whose jobs are now at risk without the Ex-Im Bank's support, and for no reason that we can come up with.

I call on the House leadership to bring a reauthorization bill to the floor. It would pass without question and would allow this Ex-Im Bank to get back to the important work of helping to create quality, American jobs.

I thank you so much, Mr. TONKO, not only for putting this together, but for the extraordinary work that you have done here and in Albany to better the life of the people we serve.

Mr. TONKO. You are most welcome. I thank the gentlewoman from New York for lending her voice to this discussion.

As was made mention by the gentlewoman from New York, many small businesses, startups, innovative types, entrepreneurs, and medium-sized businesses utilize the Export-Import Bank. This is not just a tool for large industry. When we look at something like GE, when people say: "Well, doesn't a large business, an industry like that, sit upon enough funds to make this happen, to make this contract work?" they required for this contract on which they bid to have a government creditor to back up this bid. That means the Export-Import Bank.

There are certain elements of this concept that are utilized for different contracts, and in this case, the government creditor status of the Export-Import Bank made the deal possible for GE.

So, with that, we now move to a good friend, a very rigorous voice for his constituents in Minnesota and a very aggressive voice for job creation across this country.

Representative NOLAN, thank you for joining us for this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Thank you, Mr. TONKO.

I want to commend you. There is no more powerful and articulate advocate for good jobs—protecting good jobs and creating new jobs—in this Congress than you, yourself, Mr. TONKO.

In that regard, I would be remiss if I didn't also commend Representative HECK for some of his important leadership on this important issue, and Mr. HOYER for his buy American initiatives.

Mr. TONKO, as you and perhaps others know, I spent 32 years of my life in business as an owner and operator of a sawmill, a pallet factory, and an export trading company. In the process, you learn a few things. One is I learned that you expand an economy, you create new wealth, and you create new jobs in three important ways:

One is through innovation and discovery, developing new products and putting them out in the marketplace. Another is by providing financial incentives for people to invest in new products and new business. Thirdly, you do it by exporting those products to the rest of the world. That is one of the ways you bring some of your wealth back into your country.

That is one of the reasons why it is so vital and that it is so important. That is what the Export-Import Bank is all about, as you pointed out so eloquently, especially for small- and medium-sized companies; because the fact is the big companies, the big multinationals that are based here in the United States, they have got offices all over the world. They have got relationships with all the international banking institutions. They have got all the resources that they need to qualify a buyer or to provide the financing for the production and the sale of their product.

But the small- and the medium-sized companies don't have those kind of resources. They don't have those same kind of advantages. Yet they may be small and medium-sized by American standards, but by world standards, they are still big, good-sized companies, and they have got good products the rest of the world wants and the rest of the world needs, things that can improve the life of people all over the world.

To succeed in exporting, again, as you have pointed out, they need some help, and they need some support identifying and qualifying a customer. They don't have those offices around the world. Their local banks don't have those kind of offices around the world, so it makes it more difficult for them to secure the financing, to qualify the buyers, and to expand their sales into that export market. That is where the Ex-Im Bank comes in. The Export-Import Bank provides all of these essential services.

That is why the banking community supports a reauthorization. That is why the National Manufacturers Association supports reauthorization, and

that is why the National Chamber of Commerce supports this reauthorization. Anybody that knows anything about businesses and creating jobs supports the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank.

Again, as you pointed out, there is bipartisan support for this here if the Speaker would just allow us to have a vote on this because the American Export-Import Bank helps American businesses expand their export operations, increase their profits, and create all kinds of good-paying jobs.

Last year alone, Ex-Im was responsible for supporting 164,000 jobs. That is a remarkable, remarkable accomplishment. In my own district, there are at least a dozen companies that are using the Export-Import Bank to support their export sales creating hundreds of good jobs. They exported some of the world's finest products. In fact, Cirrus Aircraft in Duluth, Minnesota, one of our Nation's premier aircraft manufacturers, exports more than 30 percent of their products, and they rely on the Ex-Im Bank.

Remember—remember—as you pointed out, just as importantly, the Export-Import Bank doesn't cost the taxpayers a penny. The companies, the local bankers, all the parties to these transactions pay a fee for their services, and those fees pay for the Bank's operations. It is an incredible operation. Over the last two decades, the Ex-Im Bank has contributed over \$7 billion to deficit reduction from the profits they made through this.

We should have more government entities that can do this. However fortunate we are, Mr. Speaker, to have banking services like this and enjoy such broad support from both those who are concerned about reducing the deficit and from those who are concerned about expanding export sales, expanding business opportunities, and creating new jobs, that is what the Export-Import Bank does. It creates jobs, it expands opportunities, and it reduces the deficit.

Yet for reasons that truly defy explanation, there are elements in this Congress that oppose reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank and all the good that it does for business in reducing deficit.

So I applaud you, and I call on my colleagues to come to their good bipartisan senses and do what needs to be done here. Let's get this Export-Import Bank up and running again, growing our economy, creating good jobs, supporting our entrepreneurs, and bringing down the deficit.

Mr. TONKO, thank you so much for this Special Order and all the work you are doing to help bring this about and make it happen.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota.

We have very little time remaining, so we are going to reach to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and

the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) to offer a close here.

We thank Representative LIPINSKI for joining us this evening on a very important topic. Thank you for your strong voice in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

□ 1700

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you, Mr. TONKO.

I will just take a short time here to add my voice in strong support of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. It has been 3 months since the Bank's charter ended, and American companies and workers are suffering.

Mr. TONKO, you had mentioned what GE has recently done. We see manufacturing jobs being shipped overseas due to the inability of corporations and small businesses to access vital guarantees and financing. Every major trading nation in the world, other than the U.S. right now offers export financing. Without it, our manufacturers and workers are at a competitive disadvantage, something we cannot afford.

In 2014 alone, the Ex-Im Bank financed over \$27 billion of exports and supported 164,000 jobs in the U.S., all while generating a \$675 million surplus. When we are looking for money, the Ex-Im Bank generated a large surplus.

The Bank is vital to supporting small businesses. Nearly 90 percent of Ex-Im Bank transactions directly support small businesses. We need small business to succeed in this Nation if this Nation is going to succeed. Small businesses create the large majority of the jobs in this country. Small businesses need the Ex-Im Bank.

So it is time to reauthorize the Bank and support American jobs in manufacturing. We cannot wait any longer. We need to bring this to the floor, get this done, and get more Americans back to work.

Thank you very much, Mr. TONKO, for your work on this.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for joining us on this very important topic.

Finally, we will go to the gentlewoman from Ohio, (Ms. KAPTUR), who is such a strong voice for American jobs, American workers, and hits hard at that agenda.

It is not surprising to see you on the floor to join us in this effort. Welcome, Representative KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you so much, Congressman TONKO, for bringing us together and, as always, helping to be a vanguard for jobs in America and the importance of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today 3 months after my Republican colleagues in the majority have failed, failed, failed in their responsibility to guard our economy by not reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. Since 2009 alone, the Ex-

Im Bank has supported over 1.3 million jobs in our country. Yet today, it has been put into idle, in limbo, as Republicans let it wither on the vine.

Reauthorizing the Bank means jobs—let me repeat, jobs—here in America. Because when exports increase to other countries, American companies hire more workers to meet the added global demand.

Anyone serving in Congress who doesn't understand how important—vital—the Export-Import Bank is to jobs in America and to financing those exports to other nations shouldn't be serving here. You can't live in a cave and hope to compete globally.

Of special note, the Export-Import Bank pays for itself, contributing \$675 million alone in 2014 and nearly \$7 billion over the last 20 years to the U.S. Treasury. It is well-managed and has an extremely low default rate. Yet today, at a time when America needs more jobs to keep growing, the Republican majority has shifted the country again into idle.

More than 50 countries have an Export-Import Bank—I won't go through them all, China, Japan, Brazil, and Canada—many of our biggest trading partners. In many markets like Mexico, we can't move our products in there without the Export-Import Bank.

Ask Superior Products in Cleveland, Ohio, or A.J. Rose Manufacturing in Cleveland. Or how about First Solar in Perrysburg, Ohio; 98 percent of its exports are tied to Export-Import Bank financing.

Republicans have really put us on the brink of losing thousands more jobs in our country. Look at General Electric and what it just did. It decided because they didn't have Ex-Im Bank financing, they are going to move their operations to Britain and hire 1,000 people. Now, how backwards is that kind of thinking? It could not be any clearer that the shutdown of the Export-Import Bank will cost us so many jobs in this country.

And how demoralizing to people who fight for American jobs and American workers every day. What we know here, and we have seen it operate last week and this week, an extreme wing of the Republican Party has ignored warnings from their colleagues—leading economists, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and countless other organizations—as they hold hostage the Export-Import Bank, frankly, for reasons no rational person can understand. They are even ignoring its charter and the immeasurable good it does for this country and the ability of our companies to compete in foreign markets which are so difficult—so difficult—for them to leap over and to get over the walls, the barriers, that prevent our products from going abroad.

It is our desire that American companies will be able to compete and win. We try for it every day. That is why

many of us ran for office. And to have this kind of wrench thrown in the wheel of progress, of economic progress, for our country is something that any rational American simply can't understand. It doesn't have to be this way.

I thank the gentleman so very much for his time.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her insight and her powerful statement.

It is very clear, it is very straightforward: support American workers; support small business; support exporting of American manufactured goods; support industry. Let's grow our economy.

We are going to close with a very forceful voice, one with great passion, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), who also has been impacted by this failure to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Representative MOORE, thank you so much. It is an honor to serve with you. Thank you for being here.

Ms. MOORE. Thank you Representative TONKO. I want to associate myself with all the comments from my great colleague, MARCY KAPTUR.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, when I was elected to Congress, no one could have paid me to believe that we would be on this floor fighting the Republican Party to prevent them from basically neutering the economic progress of business here. And this is what has happened.

As the gentlewoman from Ohio just mentioned, GE, very close to my district, announced plans to leave our region, 350 jobs and 400 suppliers that they have notified that they are moving their facility plants to Canada. They say that the suppliers generate almost \$47 million in revenue in Wisconsin alone—\$47 million in Wisconsin alone. But they are leaving, they say, because they desperately cannot make the deals work without financing from the Export-Import Bank.

And many people have said, oh, they wanted to do this anyway and they are using it as an excuse, but GE says that this is the main reason, that they continue to urge Congress to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank because it is a very, very competitive world. And in a slow growth and volatile world, they have got to go where the markets are; they have got to compete in 170 countries.

And so I just wanted to express my grief, my condolences, to the 350 employees, to the entire supply chain, and to recognize that once again—once again—policies of this misguided Republican majority are going to increase the misery index among the people who live in my region.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

We have exhausted our time here this afternoon, but I will state clearly, we cannot afford to dull the competitive

edge of American business, American industry. We cannot afford to impact negatively the American worker. We should not suffocate the American Dream simply by this recalcitrance, this determination to shut down an Export-Import Bank that has helped as a tool in the toolkit.

Allow us to be strong. Allow us to be competitive, robustly competitive. Reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. The damage is already beginning to hit home across this great Nation. We must do better. The American worker deserves our support. American business and industry deserves our support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2051. An act to amend the Agricultural Market Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2961. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Kiwi From Chile Into the United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2014-0002] (RIN: 0579-AD98) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2962. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (RIN: 1991-AB94) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2963. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Single Package Vertical Air Conditioners and Single Package Vertical Heat

Pumps [Docket No.: EERE-2012-BT-STD-0041] (RIN: 1904-AC85) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2964. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's "Human Rights Report for International Military Education and Training Recipients for Calendar Year 2014", in accordance with Sec. 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2965. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's 2014 annual report on activities under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, in accordance with Sec. 614 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (7 U.S.C. 1738m); Sec. 710 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2430i); and Sec. 813 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2431k), as amended; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THORNBERRY: Committee of Conference. Conference report on H.R. 1735. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-270). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. VELA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COLE, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RIGELL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. MENG, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MI-

CHAE F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 3635. A bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees furloughed during a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California (for herself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 3636. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow labor organizations and management organizations to receive the results of visa petitions about which such organizations have submitted advisory opinions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. LEE, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 3637. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for Medicaid services furnished by Ryan White part C grantees under a cost-based prospective payment system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 3638. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe rules regulating inmate telephone and video service rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 3639. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 3640. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Mental Health Awareness Semipostal Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KIND, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 3641. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 3642. A bill to provide for increased flexibility in the extension of the Social Security program to Guam; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SAM JOHN-SON of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr.

FARENTHOLD, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PIN-GREE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 3643. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to authorize the Secretary of Energy to enter into contracts for the storage of certain high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, take title to certain high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, and make certain expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 3644. A bill to authorize grants for data collection for use in stock assessments of red snapper and other reef fish species in the South Atlantic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 3645. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to give the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, the authority to periodically increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to account for inflation in funding the acquisition of interests in land for the conservation of migratory birds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POE of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 3646. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the designation of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 3647. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that United States citizens' sons and daughters with mental or physical disabilities be considered immediate relatives for purposes of exemption from numerical limitations on visas issued to such sons and daughters; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 3648. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require the label of drugs intended for human use to contain a parenthetical statement identifying the source of any ingredient constituting or derived from a grain or starch-containing ingredient; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 3649. A bill to amend titles 10, 32, and 37 of the United States Code to authorize the establishment of units of the National Guard in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3650. A bill to authorize States to select and acquire certain National Forest System lands to be managed and operated by the State for timber production and other purposes under the laws of the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as

fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BRADY of Texas):

H.J. Res. 67. A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BRADY of Texas):

H.J. Res. 68. A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. FORTEBERRY):

H. Res. 447. A resolution calling upon the President to use the United States' voice and vote in the United Nations Security Council to condemn the ongoing sexual violence against women and children from Yezidi, Christian, Shabak, and other religious communities by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militants as crimes against humanity, to prosecute all perpetrators and those complicit in these crimes, and to support other United Nations member states prosecuting these perpetrators and those complicit; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power)

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California:

H.R. 3636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution [which] provides that Congress shall have power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 3637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, §8, Cl. 1: "The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States;"

Art. 1, §8, Cl. 3: "To regulate Commerce . . . among the several States . . ."

Art. 1, §8, Cl. 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers . . ."

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 3639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 3640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 3641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.

Article. I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 3642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 3643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3—To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 3644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 3645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 3646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 3647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 3648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The above mentioned legislation is based upon the following Section 8 statement:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 3649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.J. Res. 67.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5, clause 2, which grants each House of Congress authority to determine the Rules of its Proceedings.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.J. Res. 68.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5, clause 2, which grants each House of Congress authority to determine the Rules of its Proceedings.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills— and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 69: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 213: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 244: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 267: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 341: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 343: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 379: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 461: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 528: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 539: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GALLEG0, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 583: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 592: Mr. YODER and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 662: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 699: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 771: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 815: Mr. YODER and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 842: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 845: Mr. KILDEE and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 846: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 865: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 871: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 879: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 885: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 924: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 953: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 990: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1002: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1019: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 1090: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 1178: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 1197: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1209: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1220: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 1258: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1288: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1417: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 1427: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1441: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 1475: Mr. YODER and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1516: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1523: Mr. WALZ and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 1600: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1610: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 1671: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1686: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1726: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1737: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. HARPER, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1748: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BUCHSON, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1761: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1769: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.

H.R. 1786: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1886: Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 1941: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 2050: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 2077: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 2083: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2096: Mr. TAKAI, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 2156: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2169: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2254: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 2257: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2287: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 2291: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 2293: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2355: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 2400: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 2404: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 2442: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2510: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2546: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2568: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2622: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 2657: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 2663: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2694: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 2697: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 2698: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 2713: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 2730: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2744: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2785: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2799: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2855: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 2867: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2894: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2902: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2903: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2906: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2916: Ms. NORTON and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2923: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 2977: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 2980: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3012: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3033: Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 3036: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 3060: Mr. PETERS and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 3095: Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 3166: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 3178: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 3179: Mr. MACARTHUR and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 3183: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 3193: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 3220: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 3229: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 3237: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3255: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 3298: Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 3326: Mr. LONG and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 3337: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BASS, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3355: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3364: Mr. GALLEG0 and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 3365: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3378: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3381: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3411: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3412: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 3423: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3457: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. MCSALLY, Mrs. BLACKBURN,

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HARPER, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia,

Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LONG, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 3463: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 3466: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3473: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 3480: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

- H.R. 3491: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 3495: Mr. PALMER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 3516: Mr. KLINE and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 3517: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 3520: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3530: Ms. BASS and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 3531: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 3537: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 3543: Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3557: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 3558: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 3559: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3566: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 3573: Mr. POSEY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 3577: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 3598: Mr. MCCAUL.
- H.R. 3611: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MARINO, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BOST, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3623: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3628: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. COOK, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. JONES.
H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. LATTA, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. GOSAR.
H. Res. 12: Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 28: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
- H. Res. 54: Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 259: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. KNIGHT, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H. Res. 277: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. POLIS.
H. Res. 354: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. MARINO.
H. Res. 422: Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 423: Mr. OLSON and Mr. LATTA.
H. Res. 429: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 431: Mr. MULVANEY.
H. Res. 437: Mr. BURGESS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. COSTA, to honor the 125th anniversary of Yosemite National Park.

October 1, 2015 marks 125 years since President Benjamin Harrison signed the legislation establishing our third national park. This law preserved over 1,500 square miles for the public use, resort, and recreation of the American people for all time. Indeed, approximately 275 million people enjoy the majesty of the park annually.

The creation of Yosemite National Park added Tuolumne Meadows, the park's high country, Hetch Hetchy, and lands surrounding Yosemite Valley to those areas already protected by the Yosemite Grant Act of 1864.

Yosemite offers a vast expanse of natural beauty. This national treasure encompasses the iconic Half Dome and El Capitan, numerous waterfalls, deep valleys, grand meadows, ancient sequoias, and a vast array of recreational opportunities. Park visitors have the opportunity to explore an extensive trail system, camp at 13 different sites, bike, bird watch, fish in a number of streams and rivers, horseback ride, rock climb, swim, kayak, and raft. Yosemite is also home to the largest intact subalpine meadow complex in the Sierra Nevada, 30 properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and five National Historic Landmarks.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite National Park is undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary features of our national landscape. I hope that generations to come will be able to enjoy its many wonders.

CONGRATULATING THE VERMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Vermont Christian Church D.O.C. on the occasion of their 70th anniversary.

During the summer of 1945, members of the Flint community were concerned with the need of what they called a "Negro Disciples of Christ Church". After many visits from Rev. Courts and Rev. R.L. Jordan of Detroit, a

meeting was held on October 7th, 1945. The church was then formed with Rev. Courts as its first pastor and \$17.00 in its coffer.

Throughout the years Vermont Christian Church has assisted the community in many ways. In both 2009 and 2014 they assisted the International Academy of Flint with a Thanksgiving dinner that fed community members and the homeless. Other partners include the Genesee County Jail Forgotten Man Ministries, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and the Carriage Town Ministries homeless shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the long term involvement of the Vermont Christian Church D.O.C. in the community these past 70 years and their commitment to their fellow man.

HONORING SAINT BRUNO PARISH ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saint Bruno Catholic Church, an exemplary Catholic parish at 4751 South Harding on the southwest side of Chicago, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Founded on September 12, 1925, St. Bruno's mission has remained the same: proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, caring for the poor, the sick, and the elderly, educating children in the faith, and celebrating the sacraments. The parish first carried out this mission as a place of worship for Polish immigrants. Father Alexis Gorski presided over the first Mass at St. Bruno's.

Today, Father Antoni Bury is pastor and the parish is home to a diverse population with Masses offered in English, Polish, and Spanish. All parishioners, irrespective of their ethnicity, come together and work to live their faith and improve their community. St. Bruno's also has a parish school led by principal Colleen Schrantz.

On Saturday, October 3rd, St. Bruno's will be celebrating its 90th anniversary with a Mass presided over by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki. Bishop Paprocki is the nephew of the first parish priest, Fr. Gorski.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing St. Bruno Catholic Church and all its parishioners as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. May St. Bruno's continue to live out its mission of faith in service to God and others.

HONORING DALTON HUNTER HUNTLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dalton Hunter Huntley. Dalton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dalton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dalton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dalton has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dalton Hunter Huntley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DUSTY SHULTZ

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dusty Shultz, superintendent of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore upon the occasion of her retirement on November 2, 2015, after 42 years of service, including 14 years with the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in my district in Northern Michigan.

Ms. Shultz has had a long and industrious career with the National Park Service. Ms. Shultz's interest in a career with the Park Service began early. Following an opportunity to attend an Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site near her home in Central Pennsylvania, Ms. Schultz remained in touch with contacts at the event and was hired by the service upon her high school graduation.

After a long and distinguished career with the National Park Service, Ms. Shultz was appointed as Superintendent of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in August of 2001. Under her leadership, she worked with local residents, landowners, local communities, and the National Park Service to rework the plans for the general management plan of the lakeshore.

I was honored to work with all stakeholders, including Ms. Schultz, to pass legislation that codified the new general management plan

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that garnered tremendous support in our local communities. I was happy to sponsor the "Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act," which was signed into law by President Obama on March 13, 2014. This legislation ensures that the park will remain both protected and accessible for generations to come. Ms. Schultz played a key role in ensuring that the balance of accessibility and conservation in the park was maintained, and stakeholders from around our local communities have praised her efforts.

On behalf of all residents of Northern Michigan, I wish to salute Ms. Shultz for her many years of dedicated service to the National Park Service, and the citizens of the United States.

CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the second annual Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month. Cardiomyopathy is a chronic disease of the heart muscle that affects the heart's ability to pump blood. The disease can present in different forms and may, in severe cases, lead to heart failure and/or sudden death. The goal of this Awareness Month is to provide information and resources to help identify more at-risk children to prevent sudden death.

Knowing your family cardiac history is essential to preventing premature death. There is no low-cost diagnostic test that can quickly detect all forms of cardiomyopathy. A discussion of your family's heart health with a geneticist, cardiologist or pediatrician can help assess your child's risk for cardiomyopathy.

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation works to raise awareness for serious cardiac conditions and provides resources and supports to families struggling with the reality of discovering that their young children have critical conditions. CCF's work to bring attention to this issue and encourage better detection, prevention, and treatment for patients is important, and I thank them for these efforts. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this organization's lifesaving work.

HONORING THE DEWALT MECHLIN CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dewalt Mechlin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution which is celebrating its 100

year anniversary. I appreciate all the hard work the Dewalt Mechlin Chapter has done to assist the community through their service.

The NSDAR's mission is "to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism." For a century, the Dewalt Mechlin Chapter has excelled at fulfilling this mission.

The Dewalt Mechlin Chapter was organized by Minnie MacFarlane Prince and eleven charter members. Their first meeting on December 6, 1915, was held at the Ridge Park Field House. Mrs. Prince, as founding member, chose to name the chapter after her patriot ancestor, Dewalt Mechlin. The chapter placed its first historical marker in the Beverly/Morgan Park community and has continued to preserve history with historical markers in order to promote education.

The Dewalt Mechlin Chapter has a long history of community service. In both the First and Second World Wars, they assisted with the war effort by operating a Red Cross Shop and contributing to relief efforts. During the Second World War the organization invested in war bonds, urged membership in the Red Cross, recruited blood donors, and donated generously to veterans' hospitals in Chicagoland. This service continues with the chapter supporting veterans, recruiting blood donors, donating money and gifts to the veterans hospitals, supporting the Red Cross, serving as election judges, working to encourage voting, marching in the Beverly Memorial Day parade, donating food and clothing to needy families, and many other activities that enrich the community. The Dewalt Mechlin Chapter is particularly proud of its involvement in community education, particularly through its support of the Good Citizens and ROTC programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the women of the Dewalt Mechlin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all they have done over the past century. They have done a tremendous job and I wish them all the best.

HONORING OUR ALLY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor our ally the Republic of China (Taiwan) on their National Day. Since World War II, the United States and Taiwan have had a very close relationship and friendship.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free enterprise. Not only an important security partner, Taiwan is also a strong economic partner—in fact, our 10th-largest trading partner of the United States, and the 5th largest export market in Asia of my representing state—Michigan.

Taiwan always shares America's democracy, freedom, and awareness for human

rights. To protect these values, the United States has willingly supported Taiwan's security over the years. We have provided Taiwan aircraft, vessels, vehicles, technology, and many other necessities to protect themselves. In addition to self-defense, these tools are being used to demonstrate that Taiwan is our security partner in the Asia Pacific region.

Many Americans believe in a strong U.S. relationship with Taiwan. I would like to see the continuing support for Taiwan and policies that would promote our relationship going forward.

HONORING DRAKE NICHOLAS HANSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Drake Nicholas Hansen. Drake is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Drake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Drake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Drake has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Drake Nicholas Hansen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pain Awareness Month, which we observe each September to raise awareness for those suffering from chronic pain and to promote a greater understanding of pain management and treatment.

Pain is not only a debilitating medical condition that affects millions of Americans each day—it is also a serious strain on our economy and workforce. With an estimated annual cost of nearly \$600 billion in treatment and lost wages, our nation spends more money treating pain than almost any other disease, including heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

Unfortunately, chronic pain has long been viewed as a medical condition that can be cured with just a pen and prescription pad. But as we've learned over the past decade, this is simply not the case. Rather than curing or comforting individuals who suffer from chronic pain, the over-use of prescription pain medication can often lead those individuals only to

deeper pain and darker despair. It's time that we as a country treat pain as the complex medical issue that it truly is and pursue real, lasting solutions for all those who suffer from it.

In an age of unprecedented medical advancements, it's absolutely critical that we begin making stronger investments in effective and safe methods of pain management and treatment, so that those suffering from chronic pain can be freed from their burden, return to work, support their families and live full, independent lives.

While Pain Awareness Month reminds us of the devastating toll that pain takes on so many Americans, their families and our economy, it's important that this month also serve as a catalyst for swift and comprehensive action to help those who are suffering right now in my district and in every district across the country.

RECOGNIZING JAY POTESTA UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you and my colleagues today to applaud Mr. Jay Potesta upon his retirement from his position as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers. Jay has devoted his life to the interests of men and women in the trades, and to the communities of Northwest Indiana, Indianapolis, and beyond. He also has served in many leadership roles throughout his illustrious career. For his lifetime of service, Mr. Potesta will be honored at a retirement dinner taking place at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Plainfield, Indiana, on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

Jay Potesta started his apprenticeship for Sheet Metal Workers Local 20 in 1976, and I am assured that he can capably use tools. Following his apprenticeship, Jay worked tirelessly on behalf of his members and every American who wants to make a living wage. Among his many positions, he has represented the union as Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 20, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), President of the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Council, President of the Great Lakes State Council, Trustee of the Gary and the Indianapolis Pension Funds, General Vice President of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association's (SMWIA) General Executive Council, and his most recent position, Director of Governmental Affairs for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers, formerly known as SMWIA. Jay also has been a public servant, having been elected to the Hammond Indiana School Board. He has additionally served on numerous other boards throughout the communities in which he has lived, including the Capitol Improvement Board and the National Democrat Club. Jay also is a Master Mason, 32nd Degree Mason Scottish Rite, Orak Shrine.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty from the men and women in the trades. For many years, Jay Potesta has displayed this unwavering dedication to the members of the Building Trades, and his numerous positions have provided him with the opportunity to touch the lives of countless individuals.

Jay's dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Jay and his wonderful wife, Pam, have two children and four grandchildren.

In sum, Jay Potesta has led a life of dedication. A life in which he has been deeply serious about his responsibilities, all while possessed with a wonderful self deprecating sense of humor. I am blessed to have known Jay since 1983. He has been my friend for these many years, the type of friend who would be the last man standing if all others deserted you. For that I thank him and I respectfully request that you and my other dignified colleagues join me in commending Jay for his many years of service and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

HONORING ROBERT EARL NOE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Earl Noe. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Robert has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Earl Noe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FELICIA MORMILE

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Brooklyn's Felicia Mormile.

On October 3, 1915, Felicia Veronica Provisiero was born in downtown Brooklyn to parents Carmela and Ralph. The oldest of six children, she was always there to do her chores and help her younger siblings. When Felicia was just 16, her mother tragically passed away and her father pulled her out of school so she could take care of the family.

In 1934, Felicia was introduced to Alphonse Mormile through her Uncle Jimmy. After dating for four years, they married on April 3, 1938 and had six wonderful children. In addition to being a working mother, she volunteered non-stop; for twenty years, Felicia would clean up her church before Mass each day, and she would prepare and bring food to the homeless in her community. Furthermore, she volunteered her time at the Guardian Angel Home for Unwed Mothers by helping take care of the children and readying the new mothers for parenthood.

Every Christmas, Felicia and her family would make baskets for the poor to ensure that they had everything necessary in order to have a wonderful Christmas dinner. Each Tuesday, she would take the train to Saint Francis Assisi Church to attend a novena and from there she would always go shopping at Gimbels Department Store.

Mr. Speaker, Felicia Mormile's selflessness and commitment to volunteering is something to which we should all aspire. With six children, 11 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren, she has been a loving member not only of her family, but of the community as well. I commend her outstanding life, and I am proud to honor this citizen from New York's 11th District on her 100th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Ms. DeIBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 50 years of incredible work by the Job Corps program. For a half-century, Job Corps has been expanding hope and access to opportunity for millions of young people across the country.

Administered by the Department of Labor and funded by the Workforce Investment Act, Job Corps offers hands-on technical training, career planning, job placement, housing assistance and academic training at no cost to Americans aged 16 to 24.

It serves a vital pipeline to long-term career success for our youth, providing the tools necessary to find and keep a stable job that pays a living wage—a foundation that these students will be able to build from for the rest of their lives.

In Northwest Washington, we take real pride in the remarkable success of the Cascades Job Corps Center in my district.

Cascades Job Corps provides economically disadvantaged youth the opportunity to learn technical and career-based skills, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good-paying job.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the Cascades Job Corps classrooms and facilities on numerous occasions, and for the last two years, I have been honored to give the commencement speeches for their graduating students.

In Congress, I will continue to speak up for Cascades and the great work they do for students in the First Congressional District of Washington.

By ensuring everyone has access to these kinds of opportunities, as well as the chance to succeed through hard work and determination, we can shape stronger communities and finally build an economy that works for all Americans.

HONORING TURNER SAMUEL HESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Turner Samuel Hess. Turner is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Turner has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Turner has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Turner has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Turner Samuel Hess for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ALEXA IANNACE AS A 2015 NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Alexa Iannace on her selection as one of ten 2015 National Young Women of Distinction. This is an honor given by Girl Scouts of the USA to young women who have earned their Gold Award, the highest achievement attainable for a Girl Scout.

Alexa recently graduated from Emmaus High School. She earned her Gold Award for her documentary on child pornography, which she created with input from members of law enforcement and victims' advocates. She screened her film for an audience that included students studying criminal justice and social work at local area universities, as well as a cyber-crimes taskforce comprised of 10 law enforcement agencies including the US Department of Homeland Security and Lehigh County's Bar Association for District Attorneys.

Alexa's commitment to service and community extends beyond the Scouting. She participated in Keystone Girls State, is a recipient of the Union League of Philadelphia Good Citizenship Award and won the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award contest for Emmaus High School.

Alexa is now furthering her education at American University in Washington D.C.

where she is majoring in International Relations and Political Science. She has already been accepted by the school's prestigious Leadership program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Alexa Iannace, and her parents Margaret and Paul, for her accomplishments in earning Girl Scout's highest award, being named as one of 2015's National Young Women of Distinction, and for giving back to her community.

HONORING ELIZABETH T. HUF

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Elizabeth T. Huf on her retirement from the Centennial School District Board of Directors, with the thanks of a grateful school community for her 22 years of service on the Board including serving as President, Vice President, Assistant Secretary and Committee Chair.

Throughout her career, Betty, as she is known to her friends and associates, exemplified the true spirit of volunteerism and public service. She actively participated in, and contributed to the betterment of her community of Warminster, Bucks County, where she resided for more than 50 years. Additionally, she is the devoted mother of four children, and a proud grandmother and great-grandmother.

As she retires, Betty Huf's many contributions will be missed, but she leaves an example of public service for others to follow. Thanks for all you've done, Betty. Best of luck to you in your retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING "THE FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PRO- GRAM"

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of extending the Perkins Loan Program for one year so that students can complete their education and join our workforce.

Perkins Loans provide critical support to students with economic need, offering low-cost loans with flexible repayment terms and generous forgiveness options that are public-service oriented. In 2013-2014, close to 500,000 students with need were awarded nearly \$1 billion in Perkins Loans. And throughout its 57-year history, more than 30 million students with need have benefited from this program. It is also the only loan program used to support graduate and professional schools students.

According to the Congressional Budget office it has estimated that the Federal Government will reclaim nearly \$5 billion over the next ten years. This is \$5 billion that should be used to help keep college affordable for students in need of help.

Without Perkins, schools would lose the necessary flexibility to help students cover gaps left after Federal grants and Stafford Loans are applied or unforeseen circumstances jeopardize a student's ability to pay for college. Ultimately, if Perkins is allowed to expire billions of dollars in student aid would be eliminated from schools' revolving funds.

Perkins Loans themselves don't usually amount to more than several thousand dollars per student, but they can spell the difference between whether or not our students can attend college. In Texas, that means approximately over 12,000 students a year having an opportunity to finish their degree without unnecessary financial interruptions. This is not a time to abandon our students who are working hard to complete their education and have the same opportunities as so many other college graduates.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program.

HONORING BRADLEY EUGENE MORGAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradley Eugene Morgan. Bradley is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradley has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Bradley has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bradley Eugene Morgan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Cecilia Aguiar-Curry a City Councilwoman of Winters and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry is currently in her second term as Mayor of Winters, a city of 7,000 residents in Western Yolo County.

Cecilia has spearheaded many new initiatives for the city of Winters. She is an incisive leader with clear vision and the ability to make that vision a reality in tangible ways. She is an outstanding ambassador to the world at large for the city of Winters.

Whereas, under her leadership, the Yolo County Health and Human Services brought a branch to Winters. PG&E is also building a new training facility in Winters, providing more than \$500,000 in computer technology and training to the schoolchildren of Winters through a partnership with the Winters Education Foundation and the Yocha DeHe Foundation. She also was a successful advocate for the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, revived the local Hispanic Advisory Community and developed the Winters Youth Council.

Whereas, Cecilia also serves on the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the New Hope Community Development Corporation, the Yolo County Housing Commission, the Water Resource Association of Yolo County, and the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Previously, she served on the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities. Cecilia is hardworking, responsible, compassionate, and an effective leader who truly cares about her community.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.

HONORING THE WORK OF CRAIG WILLIAMS AND THE KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Craig Williams and the Kentucky Environmental Foundation. Twenty-five years ago, the Foundation formed the Chemical Weapons Working Group. This group was made up of residents who were concerned about building chemical weapons incinerators at eight sites across the country and one island in the Pacific. The CWWG has worked hard over the years at the grassroots level to successfully advocate for federal legislation that mandated research and implementation of safer weapons disposal technologies that did not include incineration.

The Chemical Weapons Working Group has done an excellent job of bringing people together from many different social and political persuasions and many different perspectives. These dedicated people have worked over the past twenty-five years to come to consensus on safe solutions for the disposal of U.S. chemical weapons. Currently, a non-incineration technology facility is under construction in the Sixth District of Kentucky. The project is being done with continued oversight by Mr. Craig Williams, as he also serves as the Host Community Liaison between local governments and the Pentagon.

Mr. Williams is a founding member and past Director of the Kentucky Environmental Founda-

tion. In addition to serving as Director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, he is a charter member of the Kentucky Governor's Chemical Material Demilitarization Citizen's Advisory Commission and currently serves as co-chair of the Kentucky Chemical Destruction Advisory Board.

Mr. Williams is the co-founder and secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. He has received several tributes in the United States Congress and was presented the John O'Connor Citizens Achievement Award in 2003. Williams is involved in many community activities. Williams and his wife live in Berea, Kentucky near their two children and two grandchildren.

The people of the Sixth District and our nation are safer today because of the determined work and excellent leadership of Craig Williams and the Kentucky Environmental Foundation. They have worked tirelessly and with great passion to mandate ways to dispose of chemical weapons in a safe manner. I join a grateful nation in congratulating the Kentucky Environmental Foundation on their twenty-five years and thanking Craig Williams for his excellent leaderships.

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF MIDDLE PASSAGE, NAACP MARCHER FOR JUSTICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, we mourn yet celebrate the life of NAACP justice marcher, Middle Passage, who passed away on September 12th, 2015. Passage, 68, died during America's Journey for Justice, a six week march that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement.

During Passage's earlier lifetime, he changed his name to Middle Passage to remind us of enslaved Africans. The "Middle Passage" represented the journey taken by slave ships from Africa to the West Indies.

Despite having several heart operations and surviving two wars, in Korea and Vietnam, Passage marched over 900 miles from Selma, Alabama to Washington, D.C. while serving as the flag bearer during the Journey for Justice March. From his work as a civil rights activist, a veteran, and an overall believer in the U.S. Constitution, Passage will be remembered for his continued dedication for fighting for justice and freedom for all.

While we grieve the loss of one of the many pioneers for civil rights, we will remember his legacy as a Marcher for Justice and more importantly, celebrate his memory and work in the community in efforts to ensure younger generations can learn and become inspired by him.

HONORING WILLIAM LEE HESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Lee Hess. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Lee Hess for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CATHLEEN OLSEN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Cathleen Olsen a nutrition advocate and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Cathleen Olsen was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Cathy is currently the Director of Nutrition and Food Services for the Winters Joint Unified School district and has been instrumental in educating students about good food habits and nutrition. When talking about meal plans, she always ensures it includes the numerous fresh fruits and vegetables that are in season.

Whereas, in 2001, Cathy championed the start of the Winters Farm to School Program. Its mission is to raise funds to provide fresh and local produce to our children's school food program, educate children about the food programs, and reconnect children to the rich agricultural heritage in the Winters Community. Cathy has developed a strong network of farmers that have helped her achieve remarkable statistics. Currently 93% of fresh fruits and vegetables purchased are locally sourced, 50% coming directly from farmers. To ensure that school children are getting fresh produce, Cathy and the Farm to School committee also started an annual fundraiser that last year, provided \$50,000 for the Winters Joint Unified School District's Nutrition and Food Services.

Whereas, additionally, Cathy helps host a weekly Farmers Market and started a school garden that allowed students to cultivate plants throughout the school year. This past summer alone, Cathy and her staff provided over 400 breakfast and lunches for students ages 5-18.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Cathleen Olsen.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on October 10, 2015.

The relationship between our two great countries has been long and prosperous, and will continue long into the future. During WWII, the Republic of China helped the allied forces defeat Japanese troops and ultimately win the war. In 1954, Taiwan signed the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, which ensured peace in the Taiwan Strait and allowed for continued Taiwanese development. Later, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), passed in 1979, guaranteed the future for a prosperous relationship.

Since that time, Taiwan has continued to be a strong security and trade partner to the U.S. America has provided Taiwan with \$18.3 billion in arms sales over the past seven years. In May 2015, the U.S. Congress passed initiatives aimed at increasing U.S.-Taiwan military exchanges, including participation in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise.

On the trade front, Taiwan has not only become one of the leading economies in the Asia-Pacific region, but the entire world. Taiwan is America's tenth largest trading partner and America is Taiwan's third largest trading partner after China and Japan. Taiwan has even been named the third best country to invest in and the U.S. is Taiwan's largest foreign investor.

In addition to being a strong trading partner, Taiwan has emerged as a responsible participant in the international market and an active member of prominent international organizations. Taiwan has been an outstanding member since becoming a member of the World Trade Organization in 2002. In 2008, the WTO Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures elected Lo Chang-fa, a professor specializing in international trade at National Taiwan University, to serve on its Permanent Group of Experts panel. Later that same year, Taiwan became a member of the Agreement on Government Procurement. These steps in the WTO show how the world has recognized Taiwan as a leading economy.

In January 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) made arrangements for Taiwan to become a party to the International Health Regulations.

This has enabled the Taiwanese to have direct contact with the WHO and gives it access to firsthand information on public health emergencies of international concern. Moreover, the WHO can dispatch personnel to provide assistance during any future health crisis in Taiwan.

Given Taiwan's proven track record of being a reliable member in international bodies, we

should encourage more international participation by Taiwan. For example, given that criminals do not care about boundaries separating countries, it is critical that nations are able to share information on criminals and suspicious activity with each other, but Taiwan cannot do that because it is not yet a member of INTERPOL. Taiwan should be granted observer status in INTERPOL as soon as possible.

It is critical that the United States and Taiwan maintain and enhance their present relationship. From rising insecurity in the region to economic challenges the world over, our two countries need to face the future arm in arm. I congratulate Taiwan on its National Day and look forward to many more years of a close partnership.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call vote 520, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "AYE."

IN APPRECIATION OF THE NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for its unyielding dedication to the restoration of Puget Sound and the protection of Tribal treaty rights for the First Peoples of the Pacific Northwest.

For Tribes, clean water and healthy salmon are not just perks of life in the Pacific Northwest; they are the centerpiece of the Tribes' history, culture, and way of life. Unfortunately, changing ocean chemistry, degrading habitats, and stormwater runoff are posing an existential threat to these resources.

Following a landmark victory reaffirming treaty-protected fishing rights, the Tribes created the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to assist them in developing biologically sound fisheries and restore the salmon runs that sustained their people for centuries. The interconnectedness of habitats and ecological systems throughout the Puget Sound region means that Tribal participation is vital to all aspects of natural resource management in the Pacific Northwest.

To that end, NWIFC provides a forum for member Tribes to jointly address natural resource management issues and enables Tribes to speak with a unified voice on issues of mutual concern. For decades, NWIFC and the Tribes have asked the Federal Government to fulfill its treaty obligations by protecting the Puget Sound and restoring salmon runs.

Today, I thank the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for its partnership and cooperation in the development of the Promoting United Government Efforts To Save Our Sound Act, or the PUGET SOS Act. This bill requires a more coordinated and deliberate effort within the Federal Government to restore and protect the Puget Sound, and it explicitly recognizes and prioritizes the treaty rights of the sovereign Tribes. I sincerely thank the Commission's staff for their assistance and advice in crafting this important piece of legislation.

I raise my hands to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and its member Tribes for their tireless efforts to save the Puget Sound.

HONORING BECKY BRUMMET

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Becky Brummet, a special education teacher and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Becky Brummet was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Becky is a dedicated Special Education teacher at Orland High School who previously taught students at the Continuation School and Head Start. Becky goes the extra mile to ensure her students who face challenges get the services they need. Becky is described by her colleagues as a Worker Bee and a fearless child advocate.

Whereas, Becky served the Glenn County Fair Board by appointment under Governor Schwarzenegger and has continued to support current appointees and activities since her departure. Becky was the co-founder of the "Avenue of Lights", an annual display installed at the fairgrounds during the holidays that has expanded over the years to encompass a full mile. It poses as a Winter Wonderland to delight local residents of all ages.

Whereas, additionally, Becky serves as President of the California Teachers Association in Orland where she is a strong voice for fairness in the workplace. Her voice is amplified each day with a powerful task: she leads by example.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Becky Brummet.

RECOGNIZING LAUREN WHALEY

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Lauren Whaley as she and her family begin a new chapter in their lives. I want to thank her for her service to the Carolinas

Credit Union League and all the credit unions in North Carolina they represent.

Lauren and her husband, Charles, are graduates of North Carolina State University, and have called Raleigh home for many years. Last year, they were blessed to welcome their beautiful daughter, Margaret Blaire Whaley, into their family.

Lauren has been with the League for over six years and has served as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs representing credit unions in both the North Carolina General Assembly and the United States Congress. She has represented credit unions with the highest degree of professionalism and has a work ethic that is second to none.

Lauren was instrumental in working to help pass legislation to curb elder financial abuse in North Carolina. Her accomplishments are many and her mark is as lasting as her impression on those she meets. As a freshman member, I appreciate the resource she has been to me and my staff.

I know Lauren will be missed as she departs from the League not only for her industry knowledge, but also for who she is as a person. I wish Lauren and her family the best.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON NATIONAL SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARE- NESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, during the month of September, we recognize National Sickle Cell Awareness month, which is significant to me because this rare blood disorder affects many constituents in my congressional district. I understand how important it is to not only be aware of the illness but also to ensure those with Sickle Cell receive proper treatment.

Sickle cell disease, most commonly found in individuals of African American, Hispanic, Indian, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and South Asian descent, affects more than 100,000 individuals worldwide. It is an illness that affects the red blood cells. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells with abnormal types of hemoglobin. This abnormal type of hemoglobin looks crescent-shaped, is difficult to pass through blood vessels and causes less blood to reach certain parts of the body. When the proper amount of blood does not circulate throughout the body, they can have damaging effects, causing anemia, jaundice and the formation of gallstones.

It is imperative that we not only educate ourselves but those around us as well. I am proud that in 2014, I co-founded the Congressional Sickle Cell Caucus with Rep. DANNY DAVIS (D-7th, IL) and Senator TIM SCOTT (R-SC) to support legislation, promote policies and inform the public about the disease. Together we are pushing to reauthorize the Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act which allows states to collect data, conduct health initiatives and identify and evaluate strategies for prevention and treatment of sickle cell disease

complications. I commend organizations like the Sickle Cell Disease Association and Sickle Cell Foundation Support Group, Inc. for their efforts and I will continue to support initiatives that will help improve the lives of those with Sickle Cell disease.

HONORING BARBARA LEVAKÉ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Barbara LeVake a County Supervisor of Yuba County and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Barbara LeVake was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, raised on a dairy farm in Merced, Barbara LeVake has been involved in agriculture and public policy issues all her life. She has been a member of the California Women for Agriculture for 40 years and is currently the State Legislative Director.

Whereas, a resident of Sutter County for over 30 years, Barbara is a County Supervisor having previously served from 1989–1992 and as a Governor appointee to the State Reclamation Board.

Whereas, since 1995, Barbara has been the CEO of Brazil/LeVake Government Relations providing services to clients ranging from agriculture to energy to water interests. She also actively represents the agricultural industry as a member of the California Elected Women's Association, California State Association of Counties, Capitol Network, National Association of Business Women Owners, Western Growers Association, California Farm Bureau, and Western Plant Health Association. She is also a member of the Sutter Buttes Flood Control Agency and the Sutter Yuba Farm Bureau.

Whereas, Barbara is respected as a bold leader who demonstrates grace under pressure. She works to shape policy to address the needs of today while being mindful of future generations yet to come. As a role model, Barbara helps to inspire in others, a reminder to advocate passionately, be a leader, and to always act with integrity and class.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Barbara LeVake.

HONORING NINE WORLD WAR II FEMALE VETERANS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the nine outstanding World War II female veterans from Palm Beach County who will soon be honored by the Palm Beach County Veterans Committee. They are a co-

hort defined by dedication, excellence, and selflessness in their willingness to serve.

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the men and women who throughout history and to this day have defended our Nation and our values through service in our armed forces. The debt we owe to these veterans is immeasurable, and we must always strive to be a nation worthy of their heroic sacrifice.

For the past eight years, the Palm Beach County Veterans Committee has sponsored annual Veterans Day parades and ceremonies honoring our Nation's veterans. This year, nine female World War II veterans will be personally honored as Grand Marshalls in the Palm Beach County Veterans Day Parade on November 8th.

Congratulations to Dorothy Echeverria, Maxine Bodman, Nina Gebrian, Marjorie Ulsamer, Florence Mascott, Virginia Stefan, Bernice Harwood, Eleanor McFadden, and Jean Mahonney on being chosen as Grand Marshalls in this year's Veterans Day parade. I am proud to honor them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and express deep appreciation for their service to our Nation.

HONORING BARBARA CHRISTWITZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Barbara Christwitz, a community leader and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Barbara Christwitz was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Barbara Christwitz is the founder of Citizens Caring 4 Clearlake, a non-profit organization that leads neighborhood clean ups of trash and debris. She is dedicated to making Clearlake a better place.

Whereas, in addition to Citizens 4 Clearlake, Barbara has been an active community member with an extensive volunteer resume. She volunteers for the Lake County Time Bank and Lake County Coop and is a coordinator of monthly Peace Prayer dances. Barbara helped establish the Highlands Senior Service Center Garden and is a leader in the Girl's Circle sponsored by the Lake County Family Resource Center.

Whereas, Barbara has been a tutor specialist at Yuba Community College for the past ten years. She is an amazingly giving person with an inexhaustible spirit who takes pride in her community.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Barbara Christwitz.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE PUGET
SOUND PARTNERSHIP

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank the Puget Sound Partnership for its tireless efforts to protect and restore America's largest estuary.

The Puget Sound Partnership is the agency of Washington state serving as the backbone organization for Puget Sound recovery. The Partnership coordinates the efforts of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists, businesses and nonprofits to set priorities, implement a regional recovery plan, and ensure accountability for results.

It is this kind of cooperative effort that can turn back the tide of degrading habitats and changing ocean chemistry, and I commend the Partnership for taking on the mantle of leadership in this vital mission.

The Puget Sound is not only a national environmental treasure; it is the centerpiece of our cultural identity and economic strength in the Pacific Northwest. If habitats continue to degrade and our cool, clean water is jeopardized by changing ocean conditions, we will lose much of what makes the Puget Sound and Washington state so special.

That is why I have worked closely with the Puget Sound Partnership and its Executive Director, Sheida Sahandy, to bring their model of cooperative, coordinated recovery to federal agencies through the Promoting Unified Government Efforts To Save Our Sound Act, or the PUGET SOS Act. This bill is a significant first step to bring more federal attention to bear on Puget Sound recovery, and I sincerely thank the Partnership's staff for their assistance and advice in crafting this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL EN-
DOWMENT FOR THE ARTS ON
ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts. Fifty years ago today, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act as an umbrella for creating the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.

Since President Johnson signed National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) into law 50 years ago, the NEA has been supporting artists and arts organizations across this country. The NEA's grant programs have helped support the creation of new artwork in our communities, taught generations of children the power of creativity and problem solving, preserved our nations artistic heritage, and brought art forms to stages, movie theatres, televisions, and public spaces across the United States.

The investment we make in the arts provides us not only with the enrichment of our communities across the country, but it is also a powerful economic driver. Each year, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity, providing 4.13 millions jobs, and returns billions to the federal government in income taxes. Additionally, for every one dollar of federal funds we invest in the arts, we return 9 nonfederal dollars back—an unprecedented return on investment. Through this federal investment, the non-profit arts industry generates \$22.3 billion in government revenue.

The NEA has been at the forefront of a national effort to support arts and health in the military through the NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership. This program supports writing, visual and music arts therapy, and yoga for service men and women at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICOE). These cost effective, non-invasive arts therapy programs rank consistently in the top five "helpful" and "wish to continue programs" on patient satisfaction surveys of men and women who have gone through the program. Through art therapy programs, our servicemen and women can transition away from large numbers of prescription medications to art therapy programs which allow for healing, psychosocial skill building, and self expression directly correlated to an increase in quality of life after leaving the treatment at NICOE.

The NEA also supports life-long learning in the arts through education programs that have been proven to help close the education achievement gap and help increase better grade point averages in core academic subjects.

As President Johnson said: "The arts and humanities belong to the people, for it is, after all, the people who create them." Please join me in recognizing the NEA on its 50th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF BAYSHORE SEN-
IOR HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
RECREATION CENTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center in Keansburg, New Jersey as it celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The Center's efforts to enhance the well-being of the community's senior population is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Through its activities, workshops, outings and classes, the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center provides an opportunity for seniors to receive resources, information, exercise and lunches, but also an opportunity to give back to the community through programs such as Crochet for a Cause and ESL lessons. In addition, the Center's community involvement extends beyond its services to seniors, offering internship and

practicum opportunities to college students pursuing nursing and social services degrees. Above all, the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center aims to provide a sense of fellowship in a safe, welcoming environment.

Since its inception, the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center has continued to grow and transform to meet the changing needs of its members. Its current location was recently expanded and renovated to include individual rooms dedicated to particular activities, including a computer lab and craft room, a community room and an upstairs hall that can be rented out for special functions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center on its 40th anniversary and thanking its staff and members for their extraordinary service to the community.

HONORING ANGIE GATES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Angie Gates a community organizer and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Angie Gates was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Angie Gates is inspired by the people she serves through her volunteerism. "After the floods, I saw the good in people," explained Angie. "It made me proud to call Yuba County my home."

Whereas, Angie has been a community organizer and volunteer in Yuba County for over 20 years. She spearheaded 'So You Can', a canned food drive and a critical networking agency. Originally designed to serve Olivehurst, the networking agency has expanded to include Linda, Arboga, Plumas Lake, and Marysville.

Whereas, hundreds of local families are helped each year by the organizations and annual events Angie provides leadership for, such as Olivehurst's Christmas Parade and Car Show, Marysville Boots and Brews, Operation Turkey Swap, Holiday Dinner and Toy Drive, Olivehurst Little League, Marysville Kiwanis, Yuba County Senior Center, and Duke Memorial Foundation.

Whereas, beyond providing food for the hungry and conducting toy drives during the holidays for low income families, Angie is passionate about creating positive family events that promote a sense of community wellbeing so that people feel good about where they live.

Whereas, what keeps Angie motivated are the smiles that she sees on the faces of many who return to say, "Thank you for helping our family out last year. Now that we are back on our feet, what can we do to help someone else this year?"

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional

District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Angie Gates.

FOUR U.S. AVIATORS FROM THE
GREAT WORLD WAR I

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, the United States came—not for the last time—to the free world's aid, as Europe descended into a bloody war that would ultimately end the Age of Empires. Much has been written about the First World War, its impact on subsequent history, and the future trajectory of the Western world. But what are often forgotten are the stories and sacrifices of brave individuals.

According to Blaine Pardoe's "Terror of the Autumn Skies," the average life expectancy of a new United States WWI pilot was just 19 days. These four men defied the odds and boldly fought their way through the war. These men deserve special tribute. They are all young Americans who came to the aid of our allies and helped make the world more secure and prosperous.

All four were recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military honor, and yet they are not household names. That is unfortunate.

We must remember our warriors from 100 years ago because the greatest tragedy of war is to be forgotten.

FIRST LIEUTENANT FRANK LUKE, JR.

Known as the "Arizona Balloon Buster," Lieutenant Luke was born into a family of nine siblings in Phoenix, growing up a keen sportsman and bare-knuckle boxer—a pursuit that would help prepare him for the fight to come. Lt. Luke enlisted in the Aviation Section of the U.S. Signal Corps in 1917 and received his training in the Great State of Texas before being deployed to the Western Front. Perhaps reflecting his childhood sports prowess, Lt. Luke went on to become one of an elite number of "fighter aces," and in September 1918, he successfully completed a record personal campaign against German observation balloons and aircraft, earning him his nickname. He died in combat on 29 September 1918. He was 21.

CAPTAIN EDWARD V. RICKENBACKER

Eddie Rickenbacker always had a knack for driving. He competed in the Indianapolis 500 four times as a racecar driver before becoming America's most successful WWI fighter ace. Born in Ohio to Swiss-German parents, Captain Rickenbacker had a personal connection to the turmoil engulfing Europe and even tried to join the Allied cause before the United States entered the war. With 26 aerial victories to his name, Captain Rickenbacker is widely considered one of the most accomplished military aviators of his generation. He was also one of the hardest-working, clocking up a total of 300 combat hours. Rickenbacker was lucky enough to return home after the war and went on to become an airline executive and advisor to the U.S. Air Force effort in WWII. He died in Columbus in 1973 aged 82.

CHIEF MACHINIST'S MATE FRANCIS E. ORMSBEE, JR.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Frank Ormsbee, Jr., was not even yet a pilot when he conducted the brave rescue attempt that would earn him a Congressional Medal of Honor. After being motivated as a patriot to enlist in the Navy in 1917, the following year, as an aircrew member stationed at Pensacola, Florida, Ormsbee witnessed a plane go into a tailspin and crash less than a mile out from his position. The young Navy recruit jumped overboard and swam to the wreck, partially extricating the gunner and making a number of attempts to save his life. While the rescue was unsuccessful, Ormsbee's heroism was extraordinary. He died in a plane crash two decades later at the age of 44.

ENSIGN CHARLES HAZELTINE HAMMANN

In addition to his congressional medal, Charles Hammann's service has been memorialized by two Naval ships named in his honor. Originally from Baltimore, Hammann joined the Naval Reserve in 1917. Less than 12 months later, the young naval aviator found himself flying a Macchi M.5 seaplane off the Austro-Hungarian coast when his colleague and compatriot Ens. George M. Ludlow was shot down. Despite his aircraft being deemed suitable for one person, Ensign Hammann dove to the water and pulled his fellow American onboard, saving his life amid danger of enemy fire from Austrian planes. He was killed on duty in Virginia on 14 June 1919. He was 27.

All four of these brave Americans, two of them barely more than boys, exemplify the very best in our fine tradition of military service. As the world reflects on the Great War on the occasion of its centenary, it is my hope that we remember the names and stories of these heroic individuals who risked or, indeed, gave their lives in service of this Nation.

The boys of the Great War were the fathers of America's Greatest Generation. Their efforts cannot and will not be forgotten.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 518, I was unable to vote due to a veterans event in the district with VA Secretary Robert McDonald.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

HONORING ANDREA ARMSTRONG

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Andrea Armstrong, a community leader and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and

Fifteen, Andrea Armstrong was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the Year.

Whereas, committed to the guidance and activities of Williams youth, in addition to serving as a school board member for 20 years, Andi has been a key organizer and speaker for the "Every 15 Minutes" program in schools. As a teenager, Andi was in a serious car accident involving a drunken driver. She has shared her story across the North State to encourage students to consider the consequences of drinking and driving or being a passenger in a car driven by an impaired driver.

Whereas, Andi's leadership was fundamental in the development and completion of the downtown mural project. The mural is the pride and the focal point in the City of Williams. She served for 7 years as President of Citizens for a Better Williams, dedicated to the improvement of the historic downtown business district. Andi organized the City of Williams annual events and parades while developing a Summer concert series in the park. Full of fun, residents will often see Andi serving strawberry shortcakes outfitted in the old-fashioned Car-Hop tradition.

Whereas, in 2012, local hero Sgt. Alejandro Jauregui lost both legs below the knees in Afghanistan. Andi, an Army Mom, orchestrated his homecoming. With over 200 town folks and veterans cheering and waving flags in the center of town, they honored and welcomed Sgt. Jauregui home. Later, Sgt. Jauregui received a home from "Homes for our Troops" in Woodland. It was Andi who spearheaded a fundraiser that generated over \$10,000 to help pay for handicap accessible home features.

Whereas, an inspiration to many and admired by all, Andi goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that a call for help is answered.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Andrea Armstrong.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN EXTENDING SOCIAL SECURITY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill that would provide flexibility to the Government of Guam in extending Social Security to local government employees. This bill provides the Government of Guam with the authority to determine employees who would participate in the Social Security program and it would help to address the significant shortfalls that many of GovGuam's employees may face when they retire from government service.

The retirement option currently provided to GovGuam employees is unsustainable and will leave many without sufficient means to care for themselves when they retire. Guam's public auditor has reported that the average government employee has about \$40,000 in their

retirement account and would not have enough money to support basic needs come their retirement age.

Local leaders have proposed reforming the retirement plan offered to GovGuam employees to one that is a hybrid of federal Social Security and local defined benefit plan. I believe that the proposal to extend Social Security to GovGuam employees, while at the same time revamping the local retirement system, would be the best course of action moving forward and would provide thousands of GovGuam employees with the resources needed to have a comfortable quality of life during their retirement.

Extending Social Security to GovGuam employees would be consistent with existing federal authority and it would be similar to an option exercised by the District of Columbia in extending Social Security to Washington, D.C. government employees. However Guam policymakers have expressed several concerns with the current federal law that requires it to extend Social Security to all employees. Specifically, the way the law currently reads, if GovGuam decides to extend Social Security to employees, it must do so for all employees regardless of their time of service or ability to benefit from the system when they retire. They are concerned that that if GovGuam exercised this option, thousands of GovGuam employees who already have years of government service, would not be able to contribute enough calendar quarters to qualify for Social Security. In essence, these employees would be forced to pay into the system but would not be able to receive any benefits when they retire.

This would cause a significant financial burden on the employees as well as Guam's local treasury, and I believe that flexibility should be extended to GovGuam to ensure that employees who pay into the system can benefit from it upon their retirement. The bill that I introduced today would solve this problem by leaving it to Guam lawmakers to decide how the term "initially hired" is defined. It is my understanding that the Guam Legislature intends to extend Social Security to employees who would be able to fulfill the Social Security's requirement that beneficiaries must contribute 40 calendar quarters into the system before they are eligible for the program. The Legislature is actively considering several options that on the payment and funding source that will be used to provide for any upfront costs as well as the employer contributions for GovGuam employees. Further, I have coordinated the development of this language with the Social Security Administration to ensure that it addresses the appropriate fix in statute that is needed to fully execute the local law should it be enacted.

I hope that my colleagues will support this bill and allow government employees in Guam to contribute into and benefit from Social Security, just as most government employees and all private sector employees throughout the country already do. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ROY CURTIS OF BEREA

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Roy Curtis. He served the city of Berea, Kentucky for thirty-four years as a firefighter. Mr. Curtis rose up through the ranks and eventually became fire chief. He is very well respected among his fellow firefighters and among the people of Berea.

Mr. Curtis recently retired from his position as fire chief. He was a caring and compassionate leader who will be greatly missed. Mr. Curtis reported that the hardest part of the job was seeing people suffer the loss of loved ones, pets, and possessions in fires.

Mr. Curtis was also an integral part of the team of Berea firefighters. His fellow firefighters showed much respect for Chief Curtis and his leadership. As firefighter Eric Lawson said, "He's just a top-notch guy. You can't find one better than Roy".

Like all his fellow firefighters, Roy Curtis was a brave public servant who went into dangerous situations many times to save lives and property. The willingness to sacrifice and to serve the public is part of what makes America great. A grateful nation joins with the citizens of Berea to say thank you to Roy Curtis.

HONORING SANDY HOLMAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Sandy Holman a Cultural Competency Educator, Mentor, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Sandy Holman was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Sandy Holman is the Director of United in Unity and The Culture C.O.-O.P. The 'C.O.-O.P.' which stands for Caring, Optimistic, Open-minded People was created to help individuals and organizations better meet the needs of diverse communities in a variety of settings. Both organizations focus on promoting respect for equitable practices, diversity, cultural competency, reading and a quality education for all.

Whereas, Sandy helped to create Davis' annual International Festival designed to bring people of all cultures together. She has written and published two beautiful children's books, 'Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?' and 'We All Have a Heritage.'

Whereas, known to many as 'The Purple Lady', Sandy has an unquenchable zest for life that has inspired thousands of Yolo County youth and adults over the past 30 years.

Whereas, through Sandy's mentoring programs and collaborative projects, she is a beacon of light who leaves an indelible imprint on the lives she touches.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Sandy Holman.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,061,200,913.26. We've added \$7,524,184,152,000.18 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MALNUTRITION EPIDEMIC

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important, but often unnoticed, epidemic in our country and to voice my support for the fight to end it. Malnutrition negatively impacts the lives of millions of Americans who do not have adequate access to nutritious food. While the symptoms can vary from hunger to obesity, one thing has become incredibly clear—malnutrition disproportionately affects senior citizens and people of color. All throughout the United States, the problem negatively impacts the livelihood of families and takes a toll on the nation's healthcare costs.

One of the contributing factors to malnutrition in the United States is poverty and lack of access to healthy foods. According to the 2014 Census, there are 46.7 million people living in poverty in our country. The lack of financial resources means that families often have to rely on cheaper foods with artificial ingredients. These foods are frequently high in caloric intake and do not possess the necessary nutritious properties to make up a healthy diet. Many health side effects, such as obesity, come as a result of this.

Just as troubling is the existence of food deserts in the nation, which are defined as an area of land where residences have limited access to affordable and nutritious food. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, at least one food desert exists in every state in the nation. Millions of Americans often go hungry or rely on unhealthy food simply because they do not have the means to get to a grocery store near their home. This is an unacceptable problem, particularly considering that food deserts are most prevalent in poor, urban localities that are home to many minorities. In order to address the growing malnutrition epidemic in our country, we must

encourage investments in our neighborhoods to make sure that everyone has easy access to nutritious foods.

Additionally, malnutrition impacts the healthcare systems in so many of our communities. Recent studies have shown that one in three patients arrive at hospitals malnourished. Patients with malnutrition have been known to be more likely to suffer longer hospital stays, have slower healing, and be at greater risk for re-hospitalizations and complications. Another study found that the economic burden of disease-associated malnutrition in the U.S. to be an estimated \$156.7 billion per year—and for those aged 65 and older, it is estimated to be \$51.3 billion per year. These numbers make clear that nutritional status deserves more attention.

A critical ingredient often lacking in malnutrition care today is engagement by the broader healthcare establishment. While healthcare providers are beginning to utilize standardized malnutrition screening, assessment, and appropriate interventions for older adults, more development in these areas are vital to leading healthier lives and saving on healthcare costs. We cannot afford to ignore such low-cost solutions.

Focus on malnutrition care will help yield transformative policies for patient-centered medical care and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our nation's older adults. September 28 to October 2 has been designated as Malnutrition Awareness Week. Let us use this time as a call to action to increase awareness and find solutions that better support the healthy aging of all citizens across our communities.

HONORING RAMONA PRIETO

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Ramona Prieto, a Peace Officer, Public Servant, Role Model, and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Ramona Prieto was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Assistant Commissioner (Ret.) of the California Highway Patrol, Commissioner Prieto has led by example, rising through the ranks to make a visible and lasting impact over her 38-year career of public service. Assignments took her up and down the state from Los Angeles to the Yuba-Sutter area where eventually she became the highest-ranking woman in CHP history as Assistant Chief and Deputy Commissioner.

Whereas, fresh out of the CHP Academy, Prieto was assigned to Central L.A. and made agency history in 1980 when she became the first female motorcycle officer. In 1986, Prieto was assigned to oversee special projects at the academy. In 1990, she was promoted to Sergeant and subsequently to Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, Assistant Commissioner and finally Deputy Commissioner—the post she retired from earlier this year.

Whereas, Commissioner Prieto's leadership is characterized by a warm, outgoing nature coupled with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. She has encouraged others and promoted transparency in agency operations. Thanks to her high level of leadership, more women have been hired into the CHP including her youngest daughter who has followed in her footsteps and entered into law enforcement.

Whereas, while Prieto has earned degrees in public administration and leadership, her family and husband, Ed are a top priority. She is ever mindful of setting good examples for their daughters to work hard, be goal-oriented and always strive to make things better.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Ramona Prieto.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN EDWARD (ED) L. TURLO

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II veteran Edward (Ed) L. Turlo, who passed away on September 25, 2015 at the age of 92.

Ed was born in Chicago, IL on July 13, 1923. He joined the Army after graduating high school, entering as the highest rank a civilian could join the military. He became a member of the 79th Infantry Division in the Army and was sent to fight on the D-Day invasion at Utah Beach in France. After D-Day, he began volunteering for the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA), which helped displaced citizens find their country representatives. While Ed was stationed in Germany, he met his wife Lydia, whom he married after the war.

Ed and Lydia returned to the United States after getting married, and he started college at Miami University in Florida. He earned his 4-year degree in 2½ years and was soon hired by Western Electric in Chicago, Illinois. While in Chicago, he continued his education at Northwestern University and earned a Master of Business Administration degree.

His involvement in charitable work throughout his life had a focus on inner city youth. In Chicago, Ed was involved in the Hawthorne Club, where he frequently took underprivileged children to baseball games and delivered toys and clothes to needy children. He even spent time as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawthorne Club.

In 1962, Ed and Lydia moved to Columbus, Ohio where they began a family. In Ohio, Ed served as the senior vice commander and on the Honor Guard unit for the VFW Post #2398. He also continued his charitable work by serving at the local food pantry and taking students from the Ohio School for the Blind to the circus. In 2011, Ed was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

Ed Turlo served our country bravely in World War II and remained committed to service after the war. Hundreds of youth were

positively impacted by his work throughout his lifetime. His commitment to service should serve as an example for us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that I was unavoidably detained on September 28, 2015, I missed the rollcall vote on House Bill 2835, the Border Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015. Had I been present on rollcall vote No. 519, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, this week, September 28, 2015 through October 2nd, has been designated as Malnutrition Awareness Week.

Malnutrition is a problem for millions of Americans nationwide, including in my home state of Ohio, and is often ignored in the delivery of healthcare.

We should recognize this critical, yet often unseen epidemic in our country, and fight to eliminate it.

Hunger, obesity, and food insecurity all contribute to malnourishment in our country and disproportionately affects senior citizens and low-income families.

In fact, patients with malnutrition have been shown to potentially suffer longer hospital stays, have slower healing times, and be at greater risk for re-hospitalizations and complications.

Focusing on malnutrition care will help yield transformative policies for patient-centered medical care and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our nation's older adults.

Additionally, systematic malnutrition screenings, assessments, and appropriate interventions for older adults are often not accessible, but could be vital to leading healthier lives, and result in health care cost savings.

We cannot afford to ignore such low-cost solutions.

That is why I, along with Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) urging improved incorporation of nutrition into programs and improvement in patient care and outcomes.

This week, let's have a call to action to increase awareness and find solutions that better support the healthy aging of all senior citizens and the health of vulnerable families through focusing on eliminating malnutrition in our country.

Healthy citizens mean a healthy society, economy, and future of our country.

HONORING CHERIE STEPHENS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Cherie Stephens a community volunteer and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Cherie Stephens was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Founder and Chair of the Yuba City Walk for Alzheimer's, Cherie Stephens has helped to raise more than \$68,000 since

its inception in 2013 and is on a personal mission to raise an additional \$48,000 by the end of this year.

Whereas, as President of the Yuba City-Marysville Soroptimists, Cherie helped to expand and grow the Girls on the Run program with the goal to unleash confidence in young women while establishing a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness as tomorrow's leaders. Utilizing last Fall's fundraising dollars, Soroptimists recently completed a beautiful bathroom remodel at the Salvation Army Depot Family Crisis Center, a project intended to instill a sense of dignity and self-confidence for the women housed there.

Whereas, Cherie is co-owner of Stephens Farmhouse where in addition to baking pies,

making jams, and tending to the storefront, she offers an educational program to local students called 'Kids in the Kitchen'. Cherie is a California Women in Agriculture Member and past member of several organizations including the CA State Fair Board, Prune Festival, St. Isidore's Parent Club, and Farm Day.

Whereas, despite the rigors of running and growing a successful business, Cherie manages to balance marriage, family, community service, and philanthropy with exceptionally good humor. She is a living example of what is possible for us all.

Resolved, That I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Cherie Stephens.

SENATE—Wednesday, September 30, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, through all the generations, You have been our refuge. We live our lives sheltered by Your love.

Enable our Senators to find hope in the knowledge that You are indeed in such control of our world that no weapon formed against us will prosper. Deliver our lawmakers from judgmental attitudes that prompt them to think about others in any way contrary to Your love.

Lord, transform us all by the power of Your Grace. We praise You and give You thanks because nothing can separate us from Your love.

We pray in Your compassionate Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO ED WHITFIELD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday Representative ED WHITFIELD announced that he will retire at the end of this term. ED has served the First District of Kentucky for more than 20 years. He will be missed in the Capitol when he retires. It is clear that his leadership will be missed in Kentucky too. Our troops at Fort Campbell will miss it. The workers at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant will miss it. Kentucky's countless coal families—hard-working Kentuckians he never failed to stand up for—will certainly miss it as well.

ED was rightly considered a western Kentucky trailblazer. He became the first Republican elected to represent that district in 1994. Our party, the Republican Party, never held that district going back to the Civil War. It was an enormous breakthrough. ED has worked hard and delivered for the Com-

monwealth in the two decades since. He will leave behind a record of service and accomplishment.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate will complete its work on the continuing resolution today.

We remember watching our Democratic colleagues swerve from crisis to crisis when they ran the Senate. Perhaps that is just all Democrats have known, but it is not right for them to again force America into another short-term funding situation such as this.

We are working to change the culture around here. Our determination remains to get the Senate back to normal, with a functional appropriations process. That is why for the first time in 6 years the Senate actually passed a budget. That is why for the first time in 6 years the Senate actually passed through committee the dozen appropriations bills necessary to properly fund the government.

Now that the CR appears to be on track, we can turn back to the last step in the Senate's normal appropriations process; that is, getting the funding bills passed on the floor. Democrats have blocked them all this year as part of some arbitrary strategy to force our Nation to the brink. They certainly succeeded in doing that, but I think the American people are ready for our colleagues to finally get serious and get back to work. Americans are ready to see Democrats start supporting, not blocking, the very bipartisan funding legislation Democrats previously voted for and bragged about in press releases. Our colleagues will have that opportunity this week when we turn back to the regular appropriations process.

It is true that moving forward will require Democrats to definitively turn the page on years of bad habits and dysfunction, but it is the right thing to do for our country. We will see if they are ready to do so later this week.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GRIDLOCK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend the Republican leader is reciting facts that are not real. Everyone knows what has happened in this body and in the House of Representatives the last few years—gridlock. Republicans in the

House cannot agree with Republicans in the Senate, and it appears Republicans in the Senate cannot agree among themselves. So for my friend to talk about how great things are going is not reality.

We need to start working together, not apart. And, working with Republicans, we find it is very difficult to develop any kind of partnerships, as we always did in the past until Republican leaders took over the Congress.

I would hope my friends the Republicans would understand we have to start doing things to help the country. We are in the situation we are in. It is September 30. The country will be out of money in just a few hours. Why do we wait until the last minute and then only provide enough money to get us to the first part of December?

We have received word that the House Speaker is going to resign. Why? He is resigning because everyone knows he cannot deal with the people he has to deal with in the House. He has tried very hard, and it hasn't worked.

I would hope my friend the Republican leader would start talking reality, not come in and boast about how great the country is doing under Republican leadership. We have gotten nothing done under the Republican leadership.

I am reminded of what Albert Einstein said when he defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. That is what we have been doing here. We have votes on everything, everyone knowing what the results are going to be. The latest episode was—what a waste of our time—we had a vote here to defund Planned Parenthood. It didn't even get a majority of the Republicans—well, it got a majority of the Republicans; it certainly didn't get a majority of the Senate. It didn't get a majority of the Senate and certainly didn't get 60 votes, which they were trying to do—revoting on things, always knowing the results are going to be the same. It appears that Albert Einstein had a few organizations in mind when he gave this definition of “insanity,” and one of them, as he looked forward, would be this Republican Senate we have.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES BILLINGTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in the original Hall of Representatives, which is now called National Statuary Hall, there is a beautiful clock that stands over the Chamber's doorway. The clock and its adjoining sculpture depict Clío,

the Greek muse of history, watching over the House of Representatives. The meaning of the clock and statue are clear: History will bear witness to all we do in Congress.

For the last 28 years—almost three decades—James Billington has served as the Librarian of Congress. He has been our Clio, ensuring that the annals of American history are complete and available to everyone.

Dr. Billington came to the Library of Congress in 1987. What a remarkable résumé—valedictorian at Princeton University, a Rhodes Scholar, and he earned his doctorate from Oxford College. Following his graduation from Oxford, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After his service in the Army, he taught history—first at Harvard and then at Princeton—for 16 years. During that time Dr. Billington became one of the foremost scholars of Russia.

I had the good fortune of being able to travel with Dr. Billington to the Soviet Union. It was like having an encyclopedia with you. It was wonderful to travel to this country with which we had been involved in a Cold War for so many years and to have a scholar with us to give us insight everywhere we went and on everybody we talked to. He has written a number of important scholarly works on Russian history, culture, and politics.

In 1973 James Billington came to Washington, DC, to lead the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a prestigious organization. As director, he founded the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies. He served as their director for 14 years before coming over here to become the director of the Library of Congress.

Dr. Billington has done extraordinary work during his tenure at the Library of Congress. He has brought the Library into the 21st century. Dr. Billington doubled the size of the Library's analog collections from 85 million to 160 million. He oversaw the creation of the Library of Congress's online portal, making hundreds of millions of documents, books, and material available to the American public.

Using his relationship with Russian scholars, Dr. Billington founded the Open World Leadership Forum. This important forum creates dialogue and cultural exchanges between U.S. and Russian leaders. James Billington has accompanied 10 congressional delegations to Russia. I was fortunate to be on one of them, as I just said. In June 1988, he accompanied the President and Mrs. Reagan to the Soviet summit in Moscow, and I am confident President Reagan and his staff depended on James Billington's outstanding mind.

Dr. Billington helped establish the congressionally mandated Veterans History Project, which collects and preserves first-person accounts from U.S. veterans dating back to World War I. Dr. Billington helped create the

National Book Festival, which brings thousands of authors and readers to the National Mall every year.

In every way imaginable, Dr. James Billington has made the Library of Congress and, by extension, the United States better—a better library, a better country. As he embarks on a well-deserved retirement after 28 years of exemplary service, I wish him the very best. I have no doubt Dr. Billington will enjoy time with his wife Margorie—a lovely woman I have come to know and admire greatly—and their 4 children and 12 grandchildren.

James Billington, thank you for a job well done. We will all miss you.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have never been a sentimental person—I have never tried to be one—but today I can't help but think back to a time when keeping the government open and funded wasn't a last-minute exercise. Looking at the clock now, we are almost 14 hours away from what could have been another Republican shutdown of the Federal Government. This kind of brinkmanship is totally unnecessary. Although we will likely avert a shutdown tonight, Republicans brought us dangerously close to a shutdown.

This continuing resolution only funds our government through December 11, as I said earlier. That means that within the coming weeks, we need to negotiate with Republicans to keep our government open.

Yesterday Senator MCCONNELL finally took Democrats up on our call to begin budget negotiations. I welcome that, and I welcome Senator MCCONNELL to the table. We should have started this process months ago, but better late than never, so I am pleased he has come around.

Lifting the sequester has been one of my top priorities for years, and I am hopeful that we can finally achieve this key Democratic goal. Just take what it has done in the past—just take one entity. The National Institutes of Health lost almost \$2 billion and they have never gotten it back. It has been devastating to the most prestigious, important medical research facility in the world. That is what sequestration did.

This time around, we have to do better than just keeping the Federal Government operating by a continuing resolution. We have to stop devastating sequester cuts from hitting our military and our middle class. Even the Republican leader agrees, it appears, because a week or 10 days ago he said: "We are inevitably going to end up in negotiations that will crack the Budget Control Act once again." And I say hallelujah.

Here we are, ready to negotiate months before the December 11 deadline. After all, that was the original in-

tent of sequestration—to force Democrats and Republicans to the negotiating table. That should be easy to do. We hate sequestration, and I know there are a significant number of Republicans who don't like it. I have heard Senator GRAHAM, and I have heard Senator MCCAIN give speeches in committees and publicly about how terrible it is. So let's get rid of it for the good of the country. This is a so-called no-brainer.

Let's work together—not in December—to repeal the sequester caps, but let's work now to repeal the caps and build a long-term, bipartisan funding bill. Then we can turn our attention to the other matters that deserve our immediate attention, such as the debt ceiling.

We can't put off the debt ceiling much longer. I don't know the exact date when we are going to run out of money, but I am sure it is going to be sometime before Thanksgiving. We all know that in a matter of weeks, unless we act, the United States will lose its ability to pay its bills. And if you think shutting the government down is bad, which I do, that pales in comparison to the government of the United States defaulting on all of our debts. The consequences would be dire and the fallout would be felt around the world.

We also need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. It is closed. Republicans made a terrible mistake by allowing the Bank's charter to expire, jeopardizing hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Congress must also craft a long-term highway bill to ensure the highway trust fund will be solvent for years to come.

We have a lot to do in the coming weeks and months, and we certainly don't have time for any more manufactured crises. So I sincerely hope the Republican leadership will instead choose to do what is right to meet our country's obligations.

Would the Chair tell us what we are going to do the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 719, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 719, an act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 2689, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

McConnell amendment No. 2690 (to amendment No. 2689), to change the enactment date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to speak to the vote we are about to cast this morning at 10 o'clock. This is a vote to basically extend the authority and budget of the Federal Government until December 11. This September 30 is the end of our fiscal year, and at least legally, the authority to continue the government depends on budget and appropriations bills being passed by the House and Senate. That has not happened. So what we are doing is a continuing resolution. It basically extends last year's budget until December 11.

Now, that will keep the lights on at Federal agencies, and it will avoid the catastrophic outcome of a government shutdown, but it is not good policy. We have done it on our side—on the Democratic side—and now the Republicans, in control of the Congress, are doing it on their side. It buys time to reach some sort of agreement that is longer lasting and more thoughtful.

We know the notion of a government shutdown is a disaster, but it is not a unanimous opinion in the Senate or in the House of Representatives. There are actually Members of the Senate and the House who are applauding the possibility of a government shutdown. Some of them were the same people who inspired the shutdown several years ago—a shutdown which cost us 800,000 jobs in America because of the uncertainty created by it and which created real hardship for people around our country. A shutdown, if it happened again in this context, would be even more serious in terms of its impact on the American economy.

So we have a chance. And I would just say to those who follow this debate—and there is no reason why people would follow the minutia—that in June of this year we asked on the Democratic side for the Republican leader to sit down and avoid this actual confrontation we are having today. We asked Senator McCONNELL and Speaker BOEHNER to negotiate with the President a new budget—a budget that is realistic and will not harm innocent people.

I am troubled by the notion that Republicans have that we should find war funds to continue funding the Department of Defense and ignore the non-defense parts of the budget. Senator REID made reference to one. National

Institutes of Health medical research, which is critical to America and its future, is now facing the uncertainty of no budget, and that is unfair.

Last night we had a meeting with some of the major medical researchers in the United States, and they said it is hard to convince the next generation of researchers that we as a nation are seriously committed, and it is because of this uncertainty in budgeting. It is a political problem, and one that should be solved by politicians, namely, Members of the House and Senate working with the President.

So we will likely vote—and I certainly will vote in the next few minutes—to extend the operations of the government until December 11. But if it is only for more speechifying and breast-beating by those who want to shut down the government to prove some political point, I have to say they are seriously mistaken. It is the wrong thing for America to shut down the government. It is the wrong thing for job creation to shut down the government. It is the wrong thing for our future, when it comes to medical research, education, and critical programs, to shut down the government. Those who are preaching that gospel should be reminded that 3 out of 4 Americans think they are not very thoughtful—I will clean up my words a little bit—not very thoughtful in using this approach.

So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this continuing resolution but really to light a fire under the leadership in the Democratic and Republican precincts and to come together in the House and Senate in the next few weeks of this continuing resolution. Let's make sure we have a budget and one that is befitting a great nation.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today we are voting on a clean, short-term continuous funding resolution, CR. Passing this legislation means no government shutdown. There may be some drama, but we intend to keep the government open and avoid shutdown, slamdown politics.

Shutdowns are bad for everyone. Shutdowns create uncertainty which slows economic growth, hurts the health and well-being of the entire Nation, and causes the loss of private sector jobs. Shutdowns make it impossible for Federal agencies to meet missions that serve the American people.

Let's show the American people we can work across the aisle and across the dome to get the job done.

Avoiding a shutdown is just the first step. Next, we need a budget deal to cancel sequester. Right now, our budget caps spending, but doesn't cap tax breaks for billionaires and corporations that send jobs overseas.

Americans are angry. They feel like the rules are rigged against them and

that those who write the rules don't care.

Let's show them this Congress cares. The people deserve a government on their side.

That is why I am fighting to make sure they have a government that works as hard as they do. After we pass the bill to fund the government, we can move on to a new budget deal that cancels sequester, raising the caps equally for defense and nondefense domestic spending.

The budget deal will give us a framework for an omnibus funding bill that invests in America, protecting national security, rebuilding our physical infrastructure, creating jobs for today and jobs for tomorrow, and meeting our compelling human needs. The Appropriations Committee needs 30 days to get the job done after a new budget deal is passed.

I challenge leadership to work with Speaker BOEHNER to enact a new topline budget deal by the end of October. We can't let October brinkmanship become a Christmas crisis.

It is clear we need to cancel sequester. And it is clear that the 2013 shutdown was a disaster for everyone—not to be repeated.

This bill provides the resources to keep our government open so agencies can continue to serve the American people, keeping us safe, healthy, educated, moving, and thriving.

The bottom line is we need a new topline. With a new budget deal we get a new topline to invest in America's safety and future.

But we need to pass this short-term CR to get to a deal and not to another shutdown.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2690 WITHDRAWN

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 2690.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to concur with amendment No. 2689 in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Murphy
Baldwin	Franken	Murray
Barrasso	Gardner	Nelson
Bennet	Gillibrand	Perdue
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Booker	Hatch	Portman
Boxer	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Cantwell	Hirono	Roberts
Capito	Hoeven	Rounds
Cardin	Isakson	Sanders
Carper	Johnson	Schatz
Casey	Kaine	Schumer
Cassidy	King	Shaheen
Cochran	Kirk	Stabenow
Cullins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Udall
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Ernst	Merkley	Wicker
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—20

Blunt	Heller	Sasse
Boozman	Inhofe	Scott
Burr	Lankford	Sessions
Coats	Lee	Shelby
Cotton	Moran	Toomey
Crapo	Paul	Vitter
Cruz	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Rubio
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 98, H.R. 2029.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 98, H.R. 2029, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 98, H.R. 2029, an act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Deb Fischer, Thad Cochran, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, Richard C. Shelby, Cory Gardner, Richard Burr, Jerry Moran, Jeff Flake, Steve Daines.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call for this cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning I said the American people are ready to see Democrats start supporting, not blocking, the very bipartisan funding legislation they previously voted for and actually bragged about. I also said we would give our colleagues a chance to do so this week. So I have just set up a vote that will give them that opportunity.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill is one of the 12 pieces of appropriations legislation we must pass to properly fund our government. It is a bipartisan bill that does a lot of important things for our country, but here is the headline: It supports our veterans.

This bipartisan bill passed committee with support from both Democrats and Republicans. Democrats have said nice things about it in press releases that were sent out to their various States. Now it is time to cooperate across the aisle to finally pass it and support our veterans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

PTC EXTENSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise on a subject of urgency and importance to our Nation's economy. The looming deadline for implementing a new railroad safety technology known as positive train control, or PTC, could soon wreak havoc on our Nation's transportation system. This havoc would not just affect the millions of Americans who board commuter trains every day but also Americans who depend on critical freight rail deliveries. These services could be interrupted because—despite years of warning—implementation of PTC has not kept pace with an overly ambitious schedule set by Congress.

Let me explain how we got here. Seven years ago, following a deadly Metrolink passenger train collision in California caused by an engineer who was texting and failed to react to track signals, this body passed legislation mandating the installation of PTC, an innovative safety technology on over 60,000 miles of rail lines. Though a

meaningful and important safety upgrade, PTC is not a panacea. It will not make a difference when rail tracks are damaged or in situations when people trespass on tracks or at highway rail crossings where the most accidents occur, but PTC can and will have an impact in preventing three specific accident scenarios; first, the technology will prevent train-on-train collisions when both trains and the track they are traveling on have fully functioning PTC systems installed; second, the system will prevent accidents or derailments caused by excessive train speeds like the deadly Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia earlier this year; and, third, the technology will help protect individuals working on railroad tracks from being hit by a train accidentally routed onto the wrong track.

PTC systems operate by relying on ground-based computer systems, equipment installed on train locomotives, satellites and wireless radio spectrum-based communications coming from a network of thousands of towers being built along rail tracks. A PTC system can help certain trains automatically communicate with one another and sense if operator instructions—namely speed—are appropriate for where the train is operating. Because it isn't effective unless all trains are linked together on a network, PTC will be required on all passenger and freight trains that travel on rail tracks that carry passengers or certain hazardous materials regardless of what an individual train might be hauling.

Our colleague, the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, championed the legislative provision that put this requirement in place back in 2008. The legislative mandate was forward-looking and set an aggressive schedule for fully implementing the technology.

Seven years later, both freight and commuter railroads have made substantial progress in implementing positive train control, but there have been some unexpected delays in implementing the technology.

The Federal Communications Commission halted the construction of necessary communications towers for over a year in 2013 over concerns about historic preservation and potential impacts on tribal lands. There have also been delays in regulatory approvals, problems in obtaining necessary communications spectrum, and many difficulties that come with building a new technology.

The complexity of a positive train control system falls somewhere in between a new version of computer operating software and driverless cars. Any of us who have had a just-released version of software installed on our computer know about bugs that have to be worked out, and like driverless cars, when lives are at stake, you have to get the technology right before relying on a system as advanced as PTC.

Over \$5.5 billion in private funding has already been spent on implementing PTC. The debate on the need, costs, and benefits is long over. When this body voted in 2008 to mandate full and certified implementation of PTC by December 31, 2015, there were concerns that the timeline was too aggressive. Those concerns have steadily grown. Both the independent Government Accountability Office and the Federal Railroad Administration, which regulates railroad safety, have warned for years that the deadline set by Congress was unrealistic.

Some saw great value in keeping this overly aggressive deadline in place. It was a way of maintaining pressure on freight and commuter railroads to move aggressively. At the end of the day, the thinking went that if railroads did not meet the deadline, they would be subject to financial fines, and these penalties would motivate to quickly finish work on PTC. If the pressure didn't work, these individuals assumed things could go on much as if the law hadn't been put in place at all, and freight railroads could just continue to haul critical shipments of products like chlorine and fertilizer, which would pose greater public hazard if hauled on highways.

There was even a naive belief that commuter railroads run by State and local governments could get exempted from fines mandated under the law. Some believed commuter railroads could continue to move passengers instead of adding to the congestion and safety risks on our Nation's roads, but over the past month, these myths have been put to rest as the real consequences of failing to meet the legal deadline for positive train control implementation have come into focus.

Both freight and commuter railroads have informed Congress, regulators, and even stockholders that an inability to comply with the PTC mandate could halt some freight and passenger services by January 1, 2016. In fact, the effects would be felt weeks earlier when it comes to the shipment of hazardous materials such as anhydrous ammonia, a critical fertilizer for our Nation's crops, because it takes time to move tank car traffic off the rail network.

The Obama administration—in testimony before the commerce committee this month—noted that the law leaves no possibility of exempting publicly owned commuter railroads that do not meet the PTC deadline from fines, but the threat of Federal fines is only one worry for railroads among other much larger consequences of missing the PTC deadline. Remember, the vast majority of passenger rail service relies on track owned by freight railroads. To run commuter rail service on freight lines in compliance with the PTC mandate, not only must commuter rail trains and tracks be fully equipped but all freight tracks and freight trains that

run on them must also be properly equipped.

There are approximately 40 railroads, mostly commuter railroads in the United States, that will be affected by the December 31, 2015, deadline for certified implementation of positive train control. I asked them to tell us about their situations in dealing with the upcoming mandate.

I will tell you what we heard. Not one railroad said they have met the legal obligation for implementing PTC. I will repeat that. Not one railroad, commuter or freight, told us that after 7 years of work, and with 3 months to go before the legal deadline for full implementation of positive train control, that they have been certified by the Federal Railroad Administration as compliant with the requirement.

We had one railroad, Metrolink in California, that would go so far as to express that they were "cautiously optimistic" that they could meet the end-of-the year deadline for implementing PTC, but neither Metrolink nor any other railroad advised us against the legal deadline for positive train control. Some commuter railroads bluntly told us they saw no option for continuing passenger service after December 31 without action by Congress to extend the deadline.

Last week, the board of directors of Metra in Chicago, with over 70 million riders annually, voted in favor of a resolution to shut down on January 1, 2016, if the deadline is not extended.

Our Nation does not have the transit bus capacity to move these displaced riders. This will dramatically increase the number of people who are stuck in traffic each day and decrease the safety of our transportation system.

Sarah Feinberg, the Acting Administrator for the Federal Railroad Administration, testified last week that she had not recently spoken to a railroad that planned to continue operating on January 1, 2016.

Why are railroads so concerned about running over the legal deadline for PTC? Railroads point out that, regardless of fines, their insurance would not cover an incident if the railroad had knowingly violated a safety law regulation like operating in noncompliance with the PTC mandate. They also point out that Federal law provides individual workers with the right to refuse instructions that are counter to Federal safety laws or regulations. In effect, railroad workers across the country would have an individual right, and protection from consequence, to refuse to participate in the operation of trains in noncompliance with the PTC mandate.

Different railroads have different concerns. Freight railroads have expressed some varying ideas about how they interpret the law. But, remember, railroads are interconnected. Let me explain a common view we have heard

and how it will affect the Nation's interconnected rail system and economy more broadly.

The PTC mandate applies only to routes where there is passenger travel or shipment of certain hazardous materials, such as chlorine used for water reservoir purification. Under normal circumstances, freight railroads are bound by something called the common carrier requirement. This means that freight railroads can't refuse to haul a specific cargo such as chlorine simply because it is unprofitable or inconvenient, but railroads argue that this common carrier requirement cannot be reasonably interpreted as requiring them to haul cargo on tracks if doing so would violate Federal law.

Dan Elliott, the Chairman of the Federal Surface Transportation Board, which regulates railroad business practices, added weight to these concerns. In a letter to me this month about the situation, Mr. Elliott stated to me that the "common carrier obligation is not absolute." He informed us that he "cannot predict" how regulators would rule on specific railroad decisions to exclude cargo or passenger traffic in order to comply with the PTC mandate.

So how do we avert this safety and economic disaster? The independent experts at the Government Accountability Office who studied this issue and released a report told us that the railroads would need an additional 1 to 5 years to meet the requirements of the implementation. They documented the immensely complex technological challenges associated with new PTC components. This report and the letters I received from both railroads and regulators about the positive train control deadline are posted on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Web site: commerce.senate.gov/ptc.

The Senate acted in July by passing a provision on the multiyear highway reauthorization bill that would extend the deadline on a case-by-case basis. The Senate's bill, which passed by a vote of 60 to 34, took the best parts of legislation to extend the deadline that had been put forward by the Obama administration, by Senator FEINSTEIN, who championed the PTC requirement, and by Senators ROY BLUNT and CLAIRE MCCASKILL of Missouri, who saw this problem coming some time ago and have worked with me to prevent it.

Under the bipartisan Senate plan, the Secretary of Transportation gets the legal authority to approve or disapprove requests for extensions submitted in plans where railroads show how and when they will meet the full requirements of PTC implementation. If approved, this essentially becomes a contract, and railroads will face consequences if they do not adhere to it, including fines. Under no circumstance could the Secretary approve a date for

full PTC installation that is later than 2018. The Secretary also has the authority to identify and require changes to deficient schedules that do not show safe and successful implementation as soon as practicable.

The proposal is specifically designed to maintain pressure on railroads to install and implement PTC systems without undue delay. It also recognizes that review by regulators after installation, which is necessary to achieve legal certification of full PTC implementation, may take additional time. Of serious concern to the many commuters and shippers who rely on railroad transportation, the deadline for congressional action on the PTC mandate is actually well before December 31 of 2015. Without a legal extension, railroads will have to begin preparations weeks in advance to operate under the assumption that no change would be made. This will mean railroads will be contacting customers such as water treatment facilities by Thanksgiving to cancel critical shipments. It will mean contacting passenger and commuter rail customers to have tickets refunded because passenger railcars will have to be cleared off the rail system before January 1.

To avoid this calamity, not to mention the other backups that such changes could have on a vast rail network, we need to pass an extension into law before these cancellations begin. Working on a bipartisan basis, we can help our constituents avert a transportation calamity that would have a much more serious impact on our economy than last year's west coast ports slowdown.

This is about helping millions of Americans who are dependent on railroads for their livelihood and essential deliveries. We have a responsibility to act.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation have received from railroads and officials that I have with me here today, which I think explain very clearly what the consequences are if this body fails to act before these deadlines are upon us.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

METRA,

Chicago, IL, September 10, 2015.

Hon. JOHN THUNE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THUNE, Thank you for your letter requesting information about Metra's positive train control (PTC) installation and the impact on our system if Congress does not extend the December 31, 2015 implementation deadline. As the commuter rail service provider for the northeastern Illinois region, our primary goal is the safe operation of more than 750 trains that run daily throughout our system, providing about 300,000 passenger trips each day and

83.4 million passenger trips per year. We remain committed to the implementation of PTC in a safe and prudent manner. However, many significant challenges prohibit our ability to meet the federally-mandated deadline.

METRA OVERVIEW

Metra is one of the largest and most complex commuter rail systems in North America, serving Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kane and McHenry counties in Northeastern Illinois. The agency provides service to and from downtown Chicago with 241 stations over 11 routes totaling nearly 500 route miles and approximately 1,200 miles of track.

Metra owns and operates four of its 11 lines, has trackage-rights or lease agreements to operate Metra trains over freight railroads on three lines, and has purchase of service agreements with two freight railroads which operate commuter service on four other Metra lines.

Metra's core business is to serve people traveling to downtown Chicago to work. Approximately half of all work trips made from suburban Chicago to downtown are made on Metra. Our customers come from all parts of our region's 3,700 square miles.

METRA PTC IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Metra faces unique challenges implementing PTC as a result of Chicago's complex railroad infrastructure and role as the nation's busiest transportation hub. In fact, Chicago handles one-fourth of the nation's freight rail traffic each day, handling 37,500 rail cars.

More than 1,300 trains operate in the Chicago area each weekday, including 750 Metra trains, 500 freight trains and the remainder Amtrak trains. Metra must interact and coordinate its railroad operations on a daily basis with all railroads operating in Chicago—including six of the seven Class 1 railroads. PTC implementation must be closely and carefully coordinated with each of them. As a result, Metra has directed much of its initial resources toward our contract carriers, Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and BNSF Railway (BNSF).

Despite these challenges, we have made steady and consistent progress in implementing PTC. We currently expect to have on-board equipment completely installed on BNSF by the end of this year and on UP by the second quarter of 2016. After those systems are tested and become operational, more than 40 percent of Metra's train fleet will be PTC-compliant.

Metra has also made significant progress toward implementing PTC on the lines we own. To date, that includes:

Allocating \$153 million in capital funding from federal formula funds and state sources toward PTC.

Installing PTC equipment on half of our 530 locomotives and cab cars.

Continuing signal upgrades at 12 interlocking locations—half the all signal locations on our system.

Installing 118 wayside interface units.

Hiring a system integration team to design Metra's PTC system.

Awarding contracts to engineering firms to design necessary upgrades to our signal system and to draft specifications for other tasks.

Filling key leadership positions on the PTC project, as well as hiring more than 50 full-time employees to install PTC in the field and on our trains.

CONTINUING PTC CHALLENGES

However, despite our progress, many significant challenges remain, including cost

and funding. PTC implementation is an unfunded mandate and expected to cost Metra more than \$350 million. Our agency receives approximately \$150 million each year in federal formula funding for all of our capital needs, such as bridges, track and signals. Thus, to fully fund PTC, Metra would need to spend 100 percent of its federal funding for two and one-half years. Nationwide, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) estimates that it will cost more than \$3.48 billion to fully implement PTC on all commuter railroads.

In addition, Metra, like all other railroads, has been constrained by the limited number of firms that can provide signal design services and the limited expertise available to accelerate design and deployment. Those firms and expertise are needed by most railroads to help redesign and renew existing signals and install trackside components—a tough job made even more so by the sheer volume and complexity of the task. We have also been limited by the availability of the needed equipment.

Another challenge has been the deployment of a national 220MHz communications network for PTC among U.S. railroads. The network is critical. The onboard, trackside and back office components of every railroad's PTC system have to be able to communicate via a radio network. In Chicago, it is undetermined if we have enough spectrum available for the PTC needs of the region's railroads until a spectrum study is completed by Transportation Technology Center, Inc.

Another challenge is that the initial technology continues to be revised. A major prerequisite for the PTC system is the creation of a detailed database of every route on the system—a time-consuming and extremely labor-intensive process. A process will be needed to document and update GPS coordinates every time a critical PTC asset is moved more than one foot. These processes are dependent upon the final onboard software. A final production release date is not known at this time.

Other challenges include expected issues with components and software as full system testing continues this year. So far, only partial testing of individual segments of the system has taken place. And, the fear of component failure is driving designs with more redundancy, which is further lengthening the design process. In addition, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) must review and certify every railroad's plans.

Metra's current timeline for full PTC implementation is 2019, although we expect several lines to be completed before then.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO EXTEND THE PTC DEADLINE

Metra has been tirelessly advocating for an extension of the PTC deadline due to numerous technical, regulatory and operational challenges. The railroad industry and the FRA have also known that the 2015 deadline is unattainable. In our view, the time has come to adjust the implementation schedule to reflect reality.

Working with the American Public Transportation Association and the American Association of Railroads, we have asked Congress to allow the FRA to give waivers to agencies that have made a good faith effort to meet the 2015 deadline. We remain hopeful that we can work with Congress and the FRA on a solution that will allow us to safely implement PTC on our system and continue to provide 300,000 daily passenger trips.

Time is now running out. It is with great concern and trepidation that we must begin

to prepare contingency plans in the event that the December 31, 2015 PTC implementation deadline passes. In addition, our plan is to fully brief our Board of Directors at its September 21st meeting to discuss the path forward.

In addition, we are currently working with the FRA to obtain further clarification on the legality of our ability to operate past the December 31, 2015 deadline. Metra along with other APTA members will be meeting with the FRA to discuss these concerns at the end of the month.

In the absence of an extension, there is a strong possibility that Metra will not be able to operate our trains beginning January 1, 2016. Additionally, the two railroads with which we have purchase of service agreements—UP and BNSF—have stated that they do not plan to operate passenger rail until PTC is fully implemented and operational. Both have stated that they will not have PTC fully operational by the December 31, 2015 deadline. These lines are our busiest and carry more than 50 percent of our customers.

While it will be a limited option, we have already reached out to our transit partners at CTA and Pace to learn if any operational changes can be made to accommodate an increase in passengers on their systems. However, we recognize that there is no way our transit partners can accommodate any but a small fraction of our 300,000 riders. We are also developing communication plans to alert our customers of a decision before October 31 so that they can begin to consider and prepare for alternate transportation.

As background, under federal regulations all qualified maintenance personnel must ensure locomotive and cab cars have the required safety systems and that they are functioning properly. After December 31, 2015, procedures for pre-service inspections will include PTC as a legal requirement. To be clear, Metra does not and will not support any action that would cause our employees to operate our trains in violation of any regulation.

This is not a decision we plan to make without thoughtful consideration of all of our options and the impact this would have on our customers and our employees. Operating in violation of regulations poses serious consequences. Our employees could face a personal civil fine of \$25,000 per violation as well as loss of their certifications. We place a tremendous value on our employees and will not put them at risk in this way. If these fines were to be paid by Metra, we anticipate they could cost our agency nearly \$19 million per day.

The potential impacts of a shutdown of Metra service on our customers, employees, Chicago area residents and others are severe and far-reaching.

First, if Metra is unable to operate past the deadline and we shut down our operations, our 300,000 weekday passenger trips will have to be made by alternate means.

The great majority of our riders will likely be forced onto our region's already congested roads and highways. In fact, a report by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute found that five of the 20 most congested roads in the nation are in the Chicago area. This resulted in 61 extra hours behind the wheel on average in 2014 because of delays caused by gridlock.

A shutdown would result in an increase of vehicles on our local roadways. Such action would be forcing our customers to move from one of the safest modes of transportation to one that is less safe, which was not the intent of the 2008 Rail Safety Act. If Metra

service did not exist, it would take 29 extra lanes of expressways to accommodate our riders. As you know, mass transit also reduces the carbon footprint in an already congested and polluted region.

The shutdown would put many of our customers—those with little or no other transit options—at risk at the beginning of one of the historically coldest months in Chicago. This includes seniors, students and low-income riders who depend on Metra to get to work, school and doctors' appointments. Metra is a lifeline for many in our region.

The shutdown would impact our local economy by contributing to roadway congestion that already costs our region \$7.2 billion annually and by impacting communities whose residents may not be able to go to work and collect their paychecks.

In 2014, Metra experienced the second-highest ridership in history. Clearly, at a time when customers and their families need us the most, a shutdown would be devastating. At a time when funding sources are scarce, now more than ever we depend upon growing our ridership revenue.

Further, if Metra shut down it could take several months to restart our operations as a result of furloughs of train crews and maintenance forces. This would place an enormous financial burden on our employees, who would cease to collect the wages they need to support their families. I want to assure you that we take these matters seriously. We will do all we can to prevent this crisis from happening within the confines of the law as it exists today.

I would like to thank you for your support for legislation that would responsibly extend the PTC deadline. As always, Metra remains committed to implementing PTC as quickly and as safely as we can, but like most of the rest of the U.S. railroad industry, we simply need more time. We remain hopeful that with your leadership, Congress will take appropriate action. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

DON ORSENO,
Executive Director/CEO, Metra.

UNION PACIFIC CORPORATION,
Omaha, NE, September 9, 2015.

Hon. JOHN THUNE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THUNE: Thank you for your letter requesting information on positive train control (PTC) installation, and the impacts if Congress does not extend the December 31, 2015, implementation deadline. This is an incredibly important issue for the nation's rail shippers and passengers, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Union Pacific is implementing PTC, and since the mandate in 2008, we have worked tirelessly to design, install, and test the system. However, despite our best efforts, we will not make the installation deadline. This is because PTC isn't a simple and established off-the-shelf technology. Rather, PTC is a complex new system comprised of several independent technologies. Installing PTC requires integrating thousands of components across the telecommunications spectrum along tens of thousands of miles of track. The software must continuously relay critical information such as speed limits, train movement authorization, switch positions, work zone locations, and other operational data. It must also factor in locomotive and rail car mix, train length, weight, speed,

track conditions and terrain to determine safe stopping distances. Based on this data, the system must calculate, multiple times a second, all of these measurements to allow the train to move safely. Finally, PTC must also be interoperable, meaning that the Union Pacific system must work with the systems of other railroads. Beyond these formidable technical elements, we also face regulatory obstacles to obtain the necessary spectrum and permits to install wayside communication towers.

While we will not make the deadline, I want you to know we take our responsibilities seriously, and we have made monumental efforts to implement PTC. These include:

Investing \$1.8 billion through June with another \$200 million for the rest of this year.

Hiring nearly a thousand workers to implement the technology.

Acquiring spectrum and developing custom radio equipment.

Developing the software necessary to create an interoperable PTC system.

Working with more than 50 vendors to develop or acquire components.

We have made enormous strides toward implementation, and I am very proud of the Union Pacific people who have gotten us to this point.

We have installed PTC hardware and software on 13,480 miles out of approximately 20,000 miles. The 20,000 miles we need to equip represents roughly two thirds of our network.

We have installed 6,275 out of 10,000 wayside antennas.

We have partially installed (phases one and two) PTC hardware on 4,500 locomotives, out of 6,500. (Locomotive hardware installations must be done in three phases due to the need to design and build the necessary components. The first phase takes the locomotive out of service for one week. The second phase takes the locomotive out of service for a couple of days, and the third phase will take the locomotive out of service for several hours.)

We expect to have PTC fully installed throughout our network by the end of 2018. Then we will need time to test the system before the FRA can certify it as implemented. PTC is the largest and most complex technological undertaking ever attempted by the freight rail industry. Without a period to test the system to ensure that it works properly across the estimated 63,000 miles of freight rail lines where it will be installed, gridlock could occur as trains will simply stop when they shouldn't. This could cause the entire national rail network to meltdown, and the thousands of customers and communities we serve would be significantly impacted.

What will happen if Congress does not extend the deadline? As you know, we have been contemplating that question for several months now. Because we would be operating in violation of federal law, and because we would be potentially subject to hundreds of millions of dollars in fines and expose ourselves to untold liability should a toxic by inhalation gas (TIH) or passenger accident occur on a line that was supposed to be equipped with PTC, it is our plan to embargo all TIH traffic as well as passenger traffic on our railroad. TIH traffic would be embargoed several weeks prior to January 1, 2016, to ensure an orderly shutdown and clear our system of TIH carloads prior to the end of the year. We expect to issue the TIH embargo notice prior to Thanksgiving. Commuter operations would cease before midnight on December 31, 2015, and long distance passenger

trains will stop originating several days earlier to ensure that all passengers reach their destinations before the deadline.

I want you to know these decisions are not made lightly or in haste. We carefully reviewed our options, which are limited. Embargoing this traffic, which is the traffic that necessitates PTC installation, is in the best interest of our employees and shareholders. We simply don't see another option.

This will cause significant economic disruption for our country. Chlorine and anhydrous ammonia (fertilizer) are the two largest TIH commodities we carry. Chlorine is not only a feedstock for many products, it is also critical for many cities to purify their drinking water. The suspension of anhydrous ammonia shipments will mean farmers will be unable to get the fertilizer they need to ensure healthy crops. Finally, millions of commuters will be forced onto already congested highways and roads. Again, we did not make this decision lightly. We are in the process of notifying our customers of this decision, and within the next month, we will be letting them (and you) know of the exact date we will have to start embargoing TIH to clear the network by the end of the year.

Our decision to stop only the traffic that led to the requirement to install PTC will be revisited if the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) imposes fines on freight trains without TIH, as they are authorized to do. Should the FRA take such a broad action, we will have to consider an embargo on virtually all rail freight that we handle on lines that are to be equipped with PTC despite its untold consequences for the U.S. economy.

Finally, you asked how this decision could impact safety. Extending the deadline would not diminish safety in the rail industry. We are a safe industry. In fact, last year was the safest year on record as was the year before that. PTC, when ready and fully implemented, will be another mechanism to continue that improvement, but it is not the only one we employ and are pursuing. Rail inspections, wheel testing, innovative technologies that predict when something will fail so that it can be repaired or replaced before failure, and employee engagement are just some of the other tools we use to ensure a safe and efficient rail system.

However, failure to extend the deadline will increase safety risks, not for the rail industry, but for the public at large. Rail is the safest way to transport hazardous chemicals. Overall 99.997% of all hazardous material shipments by rail reach their destination without release caused by train accident. However, if services cease, TIH traffic will be forced to move by trucks on our nation's highways. Union Pacific carries 27,000 carloads of TIH traffic a year. If this commodity were to still move in commerce, it would need to be carried by about 100,000 trucks. Moreover, people who currently use commuter trains would be forced onto the highways, creating an even more congested mixture in some of our country's most dense urban environments.

Chairman Thune, I thank you for your letter and your leadership on this issue. We are committed to install PTC as rapidly and safely as we can. I think our actions have shown that. However, we will not make the end of the year deadline. If Congress does not extend the deadline, we will embargo TIH and passenger traffic on our network. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

LANCE M. FRITZ,
President and CEO.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD,
Washington, DC, September 3, 2015.

Hon. JOHN THUNE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THUNE: Thank you for your letter dated August 28, 2015, concerning the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). RSIA requires rail common carriers to install positive train control (PTC) on lines that carry passengers and toxic-by-inhalation hazardous materials by December 31, 2015. In your letter, you observe that railroads are not likely to meet that deadline, and you note that some railroads have indicated that they may curtail service absent an extension of the deadline. Given the likely disruptive effect that a curtailment of service could have on the economy, you requested that I respond to three questions. I will answer each in turn.

First, you ask what information we have sought or received from freight and passenger railroads on the actions they might take absent an extension. On July 13, I sent the Nation's largest freight railroads, as well as short line carriers, a "fall peak letter" requesting information about their ability to meet forecasted freight rail demand and any challenges they see for the upcoming season. Two carriers, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) and BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), stated in their response letters that they foresaw PTC compliance as a significant challenge. CSXT stated that the industry would not make the current year-end PTC installation deadline but indicated that it was "premature to anticipate what decisions might be necessary should an extension not pass." BNSF confirmed that it would not meet the deadline and offered the possibility that "neither passenger nor freight traffic would operate on BNSF lines that are required by federal law and regulation to have an interoperable PTC system" after the current deadline. Additionally, we have received information about the railroad industry's concern with the potential repercussions of the deadline from reviewing recent testimony before Congress.

The Board has also obtained information about the status of PTC compliance through informal meetings. These include discussions at Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council meetings and conversations that the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Government Affairs and Compliance has had with rail and shipper stakeholders. Based on these informal channels, it appears that some railroads are considering suspending all freight and passenger service on lines that are required to be RSIA-compliant if an extension is not authorized.

Second, you ask what would be the primary legal or economic factors that could cause freight and passenger railroads to consider suspending or reducing service. I understand that railroads are considering a broad array of legal and economic factors in deciding whether to suspend or curtail service if the PTC deadline is not extended. Without commenting on the merits of any particular concern, it would seem that the railroads would be considering how noncompliance would affect them in matters such as: insurance coverage; exposure to tort or other commercial liability; labor-relations issues; and potential civil penalty assessments by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)/USDOT. And I assume that railroads are also considering whether a railroad that has not implemented PTC may suspend or curtail service (in the event the PTC deadline is not

extended) without violating its common carrier obligation and without incurring liability to its shippers. Additionally, railroads would likely consider competitive and commercial factors, such as relative market share and the likelihood of permanent loss of traffic, revenue, and goodwill.

While many of the legal and economic factors identified above are not directly within the Board's jurisdiction, freight rail carriers do have a common carrier obligation to provide service pursuant to a reasonable request. The common carrier obligation includes service for hazardous materials such as the toxic-by-inhalation commodities that partly motivated RSIA's PTC requirement. At the same time, the common carrier obligation is not absolute, and railroads can lawfully suspend service for various reasons, including safety. Prior agency cases assessing the reasonableness of service embargos have been very fact-specific, examining the reasons for the service suspension, the length of the suspension, and the impacted traffic (among other factors). Sometimes the Board has found that a railroad's actions in initiating and maintaining an embargo were reasonable, but other times the agency has concluded that a carrier acted improperly by refusing to serve. Because prior safety-related curtailment-of-service cases often involved services that complied with comprehensive safety regimes administered by FRA (and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration), a carrier-initiated curtailment of service due to a failure to comply with RSIA would present a case of first impression before the Board. I cannot predict the outcome of such a case. My expectation is that the views of the FRA, which has primary jurisdiction over rail safety in general and over implementing RSIA in particular, would be a critical consideration.

Third, you ask how the Board plans to proactively monitor and analyze potential service issues that could arise if the current statutory deadline is not extended. As I noted during my confirmation hearings, I will continue to ensure that service quality for all shippers remains a primary focus of the Board. I have been reaching out to railroads and to shippers, and I have directed our Office of Public Assistance, Government Affairs and Compliance (OPAGAC) to continue its outreach to freight and passenger railroads, shippers, and other stakeholders affected by issues related to PTC compliance. OPAGAC has held informal conversations with our stakeholders and will continue to do so in order to keep the Board abreast of developments and informed on the perspectives of the public. Indeed, the rail service problems that occurred in 2013-14 made clear that obtaining timely information is one of the keys to managing service issues. The STB has continued to collect and analyze rail service data, including Amtrak passenger service data, as part of the interim initiative we began in 2014. We also continue to make progress on a permanent data collection rulemaking. My staff speaks regularly with railroads and shippers to hear about any potential service issues in real time. We will continue these efforts with regard to the impact of RSIA and other service issues, using a fair and balanced approach.

I recognize that PTC is an important tool to enhance the safety of the Nation's freight and passenger rail network, and that it needs to be deployed in a timely way. Following up on our success in working closely with your Committee to help resolve the service issues shippers faced in 2013-2014, I look forward to the important dialogue about the issues

raised in your letter. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my views. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

DANIEL R. ELLIOTT III,
Chairman.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING WALTER DALE MILLER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday South Dakotans were saddened to learn that former South Dakota Gov. Walter Dale Miller passed away on Monday evening.

Governor Miller served as South Dakota Governor for just 20 months—from April 1993 to January 1995—but during his brief tenure, he steered South Dakota through a number of challenges and provided a sense of stability and calm during a period of upheaval.

In the wake of Governor Mickelson's tragic death, Governor Miller led the State in grieving and secured funding for a memorial to the Governor and the seven other South Dakotans who died when their plane crashed as it was returning to our State.

When inmates at the State penitentiary rioted less than a month into his tenure, Governor Miller succeeded in ending the standoff without loss of life.

When the Great Flood of 1993 struck the Midwest, he led South Dakota's response and worked tirelessly to help those who were affected.

And when a Supreme Court decision shut down South Dakota's video lottery, resulting in a sudden revenue loss, Governor Miller ensured that South Dakota's most important needs were met.

In all, Governor Miller spent nearly 30 years serving South Dakota in State government—first in the State legislature, then as Lieutenant Governor, and finally as Governor. In every office he held, he served with a commitment and integrity that were recognized by South Dakotans of all political persuasions.

I always felt a particular kinship with Governor Miller since we both hailed from western South Dakota, which we in our State like to call West River. The Governor was from Meade County, and I grew up in a little town called Murdo.

I think for many South Dakotans, Governor Miller embodied the West River cowboy: independent, self-reliant, and courageous, with a deep and abiding love of the wide open spaces

that still characterize South Dakota's landscape. I know that is how I, along with many other South Dakotans, will remember him.

I want to offer my deepest condolences to Governor Miller's wife Pat and to the Governor's children. You are all in South Dakotans' thoughts and prayers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized.

RUSSIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, we now have information that the Russians have now launched airstrikes in Syria, ostensibly against ISIS. In reality, it is not clear. In fact, there is information that some of those strikes were at Homs, and the latest information is that the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports that at least 27 people were killed, and that 6 children were among the dead.

These strikes near the city of Homs, which is not under control of ISIS, of the Islamic State—so already we are seeing the true intentions of Vladimir Putin, which are to maintain a strong position in Syria, his foothold in the Middle East, and his propping up of Bashar Assad—Bashar Assad, who has killed at least 250,000 of his own citizens through the horrible process of barrel bombing and has driven millions into refugee status with the full and complete support of Iran and Vladimir Putin.

I say to my colleagues, over the past 6½ years President Obama has sounded retreat across the Middle East. In fact, it was 1 year ago at this time when the President of the United States said: Our strategy is to degrade and destroy ISIS. A report yesterday said some 28,000 Europeans and some Americans have come into the fight on the side of ISIS. Mosul and Ramadi remain in the hands of ISIS. Of course, the continued advances of ISIS in Syria are well known.

In short, a year after the President made that statement, there is no strategy, and there is no success. In fact, we now see the results of this failure, which is a flood of refugees out of Syria and Iraq because they have given up hope of ever returning to their homeland. Our hearts go out to those who

are victims and have had to flee their homeland. We see these refugees. It breaks our hearts when we see a little baby's body washed up on the beach.

It did not have to happen. It did not have to happen. Everybody knows that when the President of the United States said that we have drawn a red line in Syria and did not do it, it had a profound effect on the Middle East, including Sunni Arab States, as well as Shia. Everybody knows that when the President turned down the recommendations of his Secretary of Defense, his Secretary of State, which happened to be Secretary Clinton at the time, and his Secretary of Defense, to arm the Free Syrian Army—and he turned it down—that was another seminal moment.

This is a series of decisions or non-decisions which has led to the situation we see today, where Vladimir Putin may have inserted Russia into the Middle East in a way that Russia has not enjoyed since 1973 when Anwar Sadat threw the Russians out of Egypt. He is still on course to repeat this nightmare by withdrawing nearly all U.S. forces from Afghanistan as well.

As we see in the last couple of days, the Taliban is capturing the strategic city of Kunduz. That is terrible in the respect that Kunduz is in the northern part of Afghanistan, where it was believed it was fairly stable, showing the ability of the Taliban and the effects of our withdrawal.

But I come back to Syria and the Russian activities today. After 4 years in Syria, the United States has stood by as Bashar Assad with his war on the Syrian people goes on and on and on.

It is this slaughter that has been the single greatest contributor to the rise and continued success of ISIL. Have no doubt, it was Bashar Assad that gave birth to ISIL. The President has said for years—for years—that Assad must go. But he has done nothing that has brought us any closer to achieving that outcome. My friends, it is not that we have done nothing, but we have not done anything that would reverse the trend and in any way further the goal that the President articulated a year ago—that we would degrade and destroy ISIL.

In short, this administration has confused our friends, encouraged our enemies, mistaken an excess of caution for prudence, and replaced the risks of action with the perils of inaction. Into the wreckage—into the wreckage of this administration's Middle East policy—has now stepped Vladimir Putin. As in Ukraine, as elsewhere, he perceives the administration's inaction and caution as weakness, and he is taking full advantage.

Over the past few weeks, Vladimir Putin has been engaged in a significant military buildup in western Syria, deploying strike aircraft—by the way, he is also deploying aircraft that are air-

to-air, not air-to-ground; my friends, ISIS has no air force—significant buildup of bombers, tanks, artillery, Russian military personnel.

Meanwhile, our Secretary of State calls Lavrov frantically and asks him what is going on—not once, not twice, three times. My friends, it is obvious what Vladimir Putin is doing. These airstrikes are a logical follow-on to his ambition, which he is realizing to, one, play a major role in Syria, preserve the port of Latakia, prop up Bashar Assad, and play a major role in the Middle East.

All of this is not lost on countries in the region. Today Vladimir Putin escalated his involvement as Russian pilots carried out their first airstrikes in Syria. Initial reports, as I mentioned, are that they are hitting targets that are not controlled by ISIL. That should fool no one because Vladimir Putin's primary authority and responsibility and ambition are to prop up Bashar Assad against all of his enemies.

The White House has said: "It's unclear exactly what Russia's intentions are." My friends, I am not making that up. The White House has said: "It's unclear exactly what Russia's intentions are." If the White House is confused about Putin's intentions and plans in Syria, then the United States is in even worse trouble than many fear because it is not hard to discern what Vladimir Putin wants.

In fact, from Russia's military buildup in Syria to its recently announced military and intelligence coalition with Syria, Iran, and Iraq—remember, Iraq is the country where we lost thousands of American lives. Now, the Iraqi Government announces sharing intelligence with Syria and Iran—amazing, amazing. Putin's ambitions are blindingly obvious, my friends. He wants to prop up Assad, play kingmaker in any transition, undermine U.S. policy and operations, and ultimately expand Russian power in the Middle East to a degree, as I mentioned, unseen since 1973.

This week at the United Nations, President Obama said: "The United States is prepared to work with any nation, including Russia and Iran," to resolve the Syrian conflict. It requires self-delusion of tremendous scale to believe that Russia and Iran have any interest in resolving the Syrian conflict. They seek only to keep the murderous Assad regime in power. Russia's intervention in Syria will prolong and complicate this horrific war. The main beneficiary will be ISIL, which has fed off the ethnic and sectarian divisions fostered by the Assad regime.

It is tragic. It is tragic, my fellow Americans, that we have reached this point. It is a Syrian conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people, created the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, spawned a terrorist army of tens of thousands, and now created a

platform for a Russian autocrat to join with an Iranian theocrat to prop up a Syrian dictator. It did not have to be this way. But this is the inevitable consequence of hollow words, redlines crossed, tarnished moral influence, leading from behind, and a total lack of American leadership.

My friends, today in the Washington Post there is an article by David Ignatius, who quotes Ryan Crocker, one of the greatest diplomats I have ever had the honor and privilege to know.

The article says:

"Russia has played a horrible hand brilliantly. We folded what could have been a pretty good hand," argues Ryan Crocker, a retired U.S. diplomat who has served in nearly every hot spot in the Middle East and is among the nation's wisest analysts of the region. "The Russians were able to turn a defensive position into an offensive one because we were so completely absent."

Ryan Crocker is right.

I would also remind my friends that because of American inaction, the countries in the region are making their own accommodations. Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar have all been to Russia for arms deals. The Saudi Arabians have bought \$17 billion worth of weapons from Russia; UAE, \$7 billion; Qatar, \$5 billion. Would that have ever happened 10 years ago? Of course not. But they see America leaving, and they are accommodating. And we have, of course, refused in many respects to give the kinds of weapons particularly that the Kurds need.

I won't go on too much longer. I will summarize by saying that this is a very sad day for America and the world. The world is watching. It is not confined to the Middle East. We see Vladimir Putin continue to dismember Ukraine, and now some phony separatist elections are going to be held in the area he now controls. The Chinese leader made some nice comments about how they would stop the hacking that allowed them to compromise our most important industrial, military, and other secrets. We will see if that happens, but they are also continuing their expansion in the islands in the South China Sea.

An absence of American leadership is very visible and very understood by nations throughout the world.

Today we see Vladimir Putin attacking with his airplanes not just ISIS but others who are enemies of Bashar al-Assad. I would like to add that these airstrikes are indiscriminate in nature, and there has been no attempt whatsoever to stop the horrible barrel bombing, as GEN David Petraeus recommended before the Armed Services Committee just a few days ago.

So this is a bad day, and it is time for American leadership. It is time that President Obama woke up to the realities in the world and reassert American leadership. That does not mean we are going to send thousands of ground troops back into Iraq or Syria, but it does mean that we develop a policy.

I am told that these bombings—that the American Government had said that American planes should not fly and that we have somehow approved of these airstrikes. I do not know if that is true. I hope that is not true. What we should be saying to Vladimir Putin is "You fly, but we fly anywhere we want to when and how we want to, and you had better stay out of the way." That is the message that should be sent to Vladimir Putin.

So I hope the American people understand how serious this is and that this rogue dictator named Vladimir Putin, who is a thug and a bully, can only understand a steadfast and strong American policy that brings America's strength back to bear. We are still the strongest Nation in the world. Now it is time for us to act like it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND ABORTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the Senate has now passed a continuing resolution to keep the lights on, to keep the government employees paid, to pay our military and make sure our veterans get the benefits they are entitled to from now until December 11.

I think it is important to reflect on why it is we had to do this in this way, with all of the attendant drama and the suggestion that we were going to somehow shut down the government, which was never a likelihood. The main reason we find ourselves in this posture is because for the first time since 2009, the Senate has actually passed a budget. This new majority that was elected last November saw that one of the most important things we could do in terms of the basic fundamentals of good governance was to pass a budget—something that hadn't happened since 2009.

There are many benefits, of course, of passing a budget, but one of the benefits was to allow the Appropriations Committee to begin to go to work and take up and pass 12 different appropriations bills that would keep the whole of the Federal Government funded.

As the Presiding Officer knows, there is a lot of policy written in those Appropriations Committees. You can make a decision not to fund something because it is not working or maybe it is obsolete or outdated or perhaps to fund something else; say perhaps we need to reform the way this particular service is delivered and consolidate it in a way that it is cost-effective and more efficient.

So it is important to pass a budget and to pass appropriations bills. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues are trying to use the appropriations process to hold it hostage in order to force us to increase government spending. The way they try to do that is to filibuster the appropriations bills and to say: We are not even going to take up a defense appropriations bill, the one that actually pays our troops and takes care of their families. Well, they are going to have a chance to vote on a veterans appropriations bill very soon, and we will see whether they keep up this tactic of holding hostage our appropriations process, creating all this unnecessary drama associated with whether there is going to be a shutdown here or a shutdown there. It is very important that we get back to work and we do the basic work of governance—passing a budget, passing appropriations bills. I know the Presiding Officer agrees with that.

I think lost in all of this debate over government shutdowns and over appropriations bills has been the shocking videos we saw of Planned Parenthood, these Planned Parenthood videos that showed Planned Parenthood executives speaking callously about the unborn. These are late-term abortions. These are unborn babies who could well be viable outside of the womb, because after 20 weeks, give or take 2 weeks, it is amazing what neonatologists and what medical science can do. I know we have all seen babies as small as 1 pound or less who actually grow into thriving adults later on, and it is amazing what can be done even with these young babies as young as 20 weeks or more. But of course these videos I think have served one important role; that is, to be a wake-up call, to try to wake up the moral conscience of our Nation. Somehow we have trivialized this whole process and talked about choice and talked about the convenience of adults, when in fact there is another competing interest involved; that is, the potential life of a human being that is being overlooked.

At different times in our Nation's history I think we have seen that somehow we became so desensitized, we became so self-focused on ourselves that we forgot the fact that this speaks about our humanity and who we are as a people. So I think these sorts of wake-up calls that these videos have provided have been useful if we make the most of them.

I know that as we have talked about the continuing resolution and the so-called shutdown scenario—which is not going to happen—there has been concern that this might be the only way that we stop this horrific practice of late-term abortions and harvesting of fetal body parts for sale that were depicted in these videos. But I am thankful there are a number of pro-life groups in Texas and nationally who un-

derstand that we need to make sure this is a long-term agenda and not just a one-vote situation. As I mentioned yesterday, earlier this week two groups involved in the pro-life mission in my home State announced their support for efforts in Congress to hold Planned Parenthood accountable and to work toward long-term, meaningful change on the pro-life agenda. One of those groups, the Texas Alliance for Life, released a statement that affirmed actions taken last week—a vote to defund Planned Parenthood and to redirect funding to other providers of women's health services that are not involved in the abortion industry. If we are truly concerned about women's access to health care—and we all are—then why can't we take the money that goes to pay the No. 1 abortion provider in America and redirect it to community health centers that actually do provide women's health services?

The statement of the Texas Alliance for Life went on to say that the group was “not asking for a government shutdown over the issue” and that “better options exist for achieving success.”

I want to spend a moment or two focusing on “better options [than a shutdown] exist for achieving success” because the Senate continues to work on several measures, including key pieces of legislation that would advance the culture of life in this country—legislation such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This would do what Texas has already done, which is to say there can be no elective abortions after 5 months of gestation. It is at this stage in development—just 20 weeks—that many experts believe an unborn child can feel pain. I am still unclear why our Democratic friends across the aisle would block such a simple, moral imperative like protecting these young lives as they did last week, but I would like to also remind our friends across the aisle that this legislation is not going away, and we will not stop raising the visibility of this issue and making the point that a child at 5 months—a child with fingerprints and taste buds—deserves protection under the law.

Our country also needs another piece of legislation that I cosponsored and that actually passed in the House. This is called the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, which the Presiding Officer is the lead sponsor of. Quite simply, this bill would mandate that doctors provide infant care to newborns who survive an abortion procedure. This is different, I think, in kind from the defund Planned Parenthood debate. This is about the delivery of a born child and whether a physician or the abortion provider has any duty—which they should—to make sure that child gets the care they need so they can survive or whether they can, at their option, simply end that life as part of

an abortion practice. It is a sad commentary on the conscience of America when we need a law like this to spell out the fact that doctors should care for babies once they are born.

This legislation was introduced last week, and I hope we are successful—as I said, the Presiding Officer is the lead cosponsor—in getting broad support of cosponsors on this bill. Then we can go to Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate majority leader, and ask him to schedule this legislation for a vote.

So this bill, along with the pain-capable bill, will not only save thousands of unborn lives a year, but if enacted would be the biggest step forward for the pro-life movement since the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act was signed into law a decade ago.

Both of these bills are part of a long-term, proactive strategy to fight for the lives of the unborn and to make this country one that truly prizes the life of the unborn as a young life with limitless potential. It took time for the enactment of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. I was in the Senate when we passed that legislation. It is incredible to me it took as long as it did for that to pass, but it also took a commitment from leaders to stand up, time and time again, not to just have one vote and then call it quits, to say we tried and we were unsuccessful, but to stay after it until we actually achieved passage of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. I believe, with the same sort of long-term commitment on the Pain-Capable bill and on the Born-Alive bill, we can continue to make progress in this House, as well as the House of Representatives, and to be able to tell our constituents back home we have changed the culture of Washington, DC, and on a national level and shown the respect for unborn life it deserves.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

MR. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SEA LEVEL RISE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

MR. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to talk about what is happening to our environment in South Florida as a result of sea level rise. We can put this into political terms of climate change, but that seems to be an issue some want to deny. So I want to talk about what you can't deny, and that is that the sea is rising, particularly as shown in South Florida.

A year and a half ago, I brought the commerce committee to Miami Beach and brought a whole series of witnesses, one of whom was a NASA scientist who testified that measurements—now, this is not a forecast and

this is not a projection; these are measurements of the level of the sea over the course of the last four decades—that the sea has risen in South Florida between 5 and 8 inches.

The reason I am bringing this to the attention of the Senate today is that I just returned from Miami, where the latter part of September, the first part of October is the seasonal high tide, and the streets of Miami Beach are flooded. As a matter of fact, 2 years ago the mayor of Miami Beach, when he was campaigning for that position, did a campaign commercial in a kayak on Alton Road, which is on the western side of the barrier island, away from the ocean, and it was flooded. In the intervening 2 years, the city of Miami Beach, in cooperation with the local governments of all of the southeast Florida governments, has spent millions of dollars on big pumps so that when the tides come, they can get the water out of the streets.

A year ago, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and I went down there at this time of year—the seasonal high tide—and lo and behold the pumps worked and the pumps got the water back into Biscayne Bay so that the roads stayed dry.

But look what happened 2 days ago, as shown in this picture. This is downtown Miami Beach. Do you see the fellow? It is above his ankles, and he is up on the curb. Right here is the curb. He steps down, and it comes up to just below his knees. You see the cars. You see the water. That is downtown Miami Beach. This is not just the phenomenon of the full Moon; this is the phenomenon of sea level rise.

Let's take another view. Here is a lady who is trying to keep her feet dry, up on a wall. You can see that here is the sidewalk. Here is the curb. Here is the street. As you can see, this is a middle part of the barrier island of Miami Beach. This isn't right next to the beach. This isn't right next to Biscayne Bay, on either side, the east and the west, of the barrier island. This is in the middle where you have all of these—in this case, it is condominiums where people live.

What is causing this? What is causing it is that planet Earth is heating up. The measurements are there. Why is it heating up? It is simply this: As the Sun's rays come in and hit the Earth, they reflect off of the Earth, and that heat radiates back out into space.

It is the same principle, for example, on the space shuttle. When I participated in the space program 30 years ago, when we were in orbit—in the early part of the space shuttle program, on the space shuttle *Columbia*, once we got in orbit, we opened those payload bay doors—and they served as radiators of all the heat that is generated onboard the spacecraft. We radiated it back out into space so that the spacecraft does not overheat. So, too, planet Earth.

The natural phenomenon is that the Sun's rays hit the Earth and reflect back out. Some of the heat is retained, but most of that heat is radiated back out into space, until you start to create the effect of a ceiling high in the atmosphere of the greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Those gases start to create a ceiling effect, so that as the heat is radiating back towards space, it is trapped, and therefore the whole planet starts to heat up. What is most of the Earth covered with? The oceans. That is where most of that additional heat is absorbed. Ninety percent of the heat that is trapped in the Earth's greenhouse effect is absorbed into the oceans of the planet. As a result, when water is heated, water expands, and thus one of the phenomena of seeing the seas begin to rise. The melting of the glaciers, the melting of the polar ice caps, adding more—instead of frozen glaciers, that is going into the sea, displacing water. And those glaciers are melting. That adds to it as well, but it is the trapping of the heat that is causing this phenomenon.

We have made projections as to what the heat is that we are trapping, but now we have an instrument out in space that can precisely measure because there is a spacecraft that was launched earlier this year, *Discover*, that has several instruments on it. One of the instruments, by the way—you can go to the NASA Web site and you can see in real time, every hour and a half, another picture of the entire Earth on the daylight side of the Earth. The spacecraft is placed 1 million miles away from planet Earth, between the Earth and the Sun. So the spacecraft, looking back at Earth, is always looking at the daylight side of the Earth as it revolves about its axis 365 days a year, as it revolves around the Sun. That is one instrument.

There is another instrument, and that is the instrument which measures the amount of the Sun's heat that goes into the Earth and the amount of heat that is radiated back out. If you subtract the amount radiated back out into space from the amount of heat that goes into the Earth, you get a precise measurement of how much of the heat sent by the Sun is trapped in the Earth's atmosphere. Now we have a precise instrument that will tell us exactly what that is instead of the scientific projections that we have used, and that is as a result of this new satellite spacecraft called *Discover* that we just put up earlier this year.

We can't keep denying what in fact is happening. The proof is in the pudding. The proof is right here. There is no other way you can explain this seasonal high tide when for the last two centuries this barrier island has basically been dry during the seasonal high tide but now we are seeing this.

The consequences of this are quite severe. First of all, 75 percent of Flor-

ida's population is along the coast. Florida is now the third largest State. We have surpassed New York. We have 20 million people now, and 75 percent of that population is along the coast. As the sea level rises and people have to start dealing with this, what do you think is going to happen to the value of their property? What about their freshwater? Florida sits on a honeycomb of limestone that is filled with freshwater. Saltwater is heavier than freshwater. As the sea level rises, it starts to penetrate that honeycomb of freshwater. That is the substructure of the peninsula of Florida. That then causes saltwater intrusion into our drinking water, into the water we have to use to sustain life.

There are no good results as a consequence of sea level rise.

I once again bring up to the Senate that we have some who say this is not real. In fact, here is the proof. The proof is in the pudding. There is something we can do about it. What we can do about it is start adopting policies that will put less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and that means we have to be diligent in making sure we enact policies to do it.

There are several different ways you can do that. One, of course, is the regulatory way, which is going on right now, which a lot of our colleagues don't like. You regulate smokestacks. You regulate the amount of pollutants that can be put out and so forth. There is another way, and that is to use the private marketplace of supply and demand by putting a price or a fee on the use of carbon, and therefore the market will dictate whether a person puts more CO₂ into the air as a result of burning carbon. That will drive the marketplace to find alternative fuels that are a lot cleaner so that we can show the rest of the world what we are going to have to do.

I think it was rather prophetic that last week the Pope continuously talked about climate change in all of his speeches. I think it was also prophetic that the Chinese President, in his visit to the United States—apparently they are so choked because of the pollutants in the air in major cities in China that they are finally coming to the altar, so to speak, and realizing that they have to do something about it. Otherwise, they are threatening the complete health of their people in China.

With this newfound attention to this problem, let's do something about it by building bipartisan support for a solution. That is the right thing to do. And this is just another reminder that what is happening in Miami Beach right now is the wave of the future unless we change our policies.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with Senators AYOTTE, ALEXANDER, BURR, COLLINS, and GARDNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Montana's national forests and public lands have been a pleasure and a part of our State's heritage for generations.

As a fifth-generation Montanan and as someone who loves the outdoors, I recognize how valuable our public lands are and the importance of ensuring access for generations to come to hunting, backpacking and fishing—traditions that I, like many Montanans, have been thankful to pass along to my kids. I know firsthand the important role that the Land and Water Conservation Fund holds in protecting and increasing Montanans' access to our public lands.

That is why since coming to Congress I have been actively working to secure funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund every year. In fact, through the appropriations process this summer, Senator SUSAN COLLINS and I successfully passed an amendment to increase the funding for the LWCF program by nearly \$14 million. This brought the overall funding for LWCF to \$306 million and ensured that LWCF did not lose out on work for permanent authorization.

In Montana and throughout the country, the Land and Water Conservation Fund plays a critical role in achieving the goal of increased access. Despite the tireless efforts and the work of Senators BURR, COLLINS, AYOTTE, ALEXANDER, and GARDNER to move reauthorization forward, yet again today, the authorization for LWCF will expire tonight. The Continuing Resolution did not include a reauthorization for LWCF.

Because LWCF is funded through royalties generated from offshore energy development, it is a fundamental tool to help preserve and protect Montanans' opportunity to enjoy hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. In fact, during the August recess while I was back home in Montana, this is where I was: On the public lands of Montana. This is the Beartooth Wilderness area. This is my wife Cindy and our dog Ruby. I have my fly rod on my back. This is, in fact, up near Granite Peak, Montana's highest peak. That is over 10,000 feet where that picture was taken. It was a chance to enjoy our public lands—something that is an absolute treasure for the people of Montana and the people of our great country.

LWCF keeps family ranches in the family and working. It is a funda-

mental tool that preserves and protects our opportunities to enjoy hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. It keeps forests in productive use through the Forest Legacy Program, as in the Haskill Basin where my good friend Chuck Roady of Stoltz Land and Lumber works.

That is why it is so disappointing that reauthorization was not included in the CR we voted on today.

Under the current CR, LWCF will be funded, as will the rest of the Federal Government, through December 11. LWCF will be funded at fiscal year 2015 levels and all projects will continue as planned. However, any new deposits into the fund will stop tomorrow, on October 1.

I have heard from many Montana businesses, outfitters, and guides who love the outdoors and are very concerned about the program's lapse in authorization. These small businesses rely on it for public access to Montana's treasured public lands for outdoor recreation which supports millions of dollars of revenue and hundreds of jobs for our State.

Like Eric Grove of Great Divide Cyclery in Helena who has built his mountain bike business around the South Hills Trail System outside of Helena which was facilitated by LWCF. There are many other small businesses such as Eric's in Montana.

Before being elected to the Senate, before coming to Congress, I spent more than 12 years growing a technology company in Bozeman. We were able to attract quality employees not only because we offered good-paying salaries, but also because of Montana's unparalleled quality of life. In fact, our slogan was "work where you also like to play." The LWCF is a critical tool that facilitates recreation on our public lands, allowing Montana businesses to attract world class employees. We can't let it slip away.

I remind the Members of the Senate, we passed the reauthorization of LWCF. We have that in the bipartisan energy bill that passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee this year. I hope for cooperation from our friends across the aisle to bring that to the floor for a vote and move it forward in regular order, which is the way the Senate should operate.

Now I wish to pause and yield to my distinguished colleague from the great State of New Hampshire, Senator KELLY AYOTTE, who is also a big supporter of LWCF. I am glad she has come to the floor today and is joining me in our fight to make sure we keep LWCF reauthorized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Montana for his incredible support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I love the picture showing the Senator from Mon-

tana and his wife because, just like Montana, in my home State of New Hampshire, there are so many beautiful places to hike. We have the White Mountain National Forest and places where the Land and Water Conservation Fund has made such a difference in giving anyone an opportunity to ensure the use of our public lands. In fact, having been born in New Hampshire and having grown up there, I have so many fond memories of my childhood of hikes in our beautiful forests in New Hampshire.

Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we would not have been able to do—at this point there have been 650 individual acquisition projects in the State of New Hampshire that have been supported by this incredible fund. In fact, one of my favorite things to do—as we think about the important work that the Land and Water Conservation Fund does, it is in our forests such as the White Mountain National Forest, but it is also in our cities. I live in Nashua, NH. It is our second largest city. We have Mines Falls Park, which is a real jewel right in the middle of the city. In the mornings, when I am in New Hampshire, my favorite thing to do is get up early and go for a run through these parks that are beautiful with forested areas in the middle of the city that so many people in Nashua enjoy every single day, including myself and my children. As I am running along, I see so many Granite Staters who are taking a beautiful walk in the morning in the beautiful woods in the second largest city in New Hampshire.

So as Senator DAINES has said, I am very disappointed that we did not include the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the continuing resolution. Within hours, the authorization for LWCF expires, so I believe we should act immediately to reauthorize this program. We should be permanently reauthorizing this program. That is what I have supported in legislation so that we are not in this position and in this situation again in the future.

It is important to understand that the funds that go to LWCF under the law were supposed to be there from leasing revenues from oil and gas leasing that were supposed to be specially dedicated for this purpose of giving the American people more access to public lands and preserving our natural beauty. Yet, historically, unfortunately, this money has been diverted, and not all of it has gone to the purpose for which it was collected, which is a classic Washington move. That is why I would like to see the funds go to where they were designated. I would like to see reauthorization of this important program because there is bipartisan support for reauthorizing it and for preserving our great outdoors for everyone to enjoy.

There have been thousands and thousands of acres in New Hampshire that have been preserved and protected for people to be able to use for all kinds of outdoor recreation in our State. In New Hampshire, as in Montana, the outdoor industry is important to the economy and to who we are in the "live free or die" State. In fact, if we look at what the outdoor recreation industry generates, it is \$4.2 billion in consumer spending in our State annually, which directly supports 49,000 New Hampshire jobs. In addition to that, the Outdoor Industry Association estimates that at least 76 percent of Granite Staters participate in outdoor recreation each year, but that doesn't surprise me. Having been born in New Hampshire, having grown up there, I love our State, and the great outdoors is such an important part of our State. People in New Hampshire love to go hiking, fishing, hunting, and use all types of recreation in enjoying the beauty of our great State.

Protecting our outdoor spaces is not a partisan issue. We need to work together to ensure the preservation of our environment for future generations to enjoy. As the mother of a second grader and a fifth grader, a big part of my kids' life too is enjoying the beauty of New Hampshire. I know that if we reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, not only in New Hampshire but across this country, we will continue to preserve the beauty of our country and the open spaces so that everyone can enjoy them and get the exercise and be healthy and enjoy the clean, fresh air they have an opportunity to breathe, as well as our beautiful forests and beautiful lands in this country.

LWCF also has funds granted to the Forest Legacy Program, which has helped conserve New Hampshire's forests, supporting our forest products industry, and aiding wildlife preservation, to make sure we have healthy, working forests, which is so important to our forest industry.

I call on my colleagues to act immediately to reauthorize this essential program, which has helped preserve the beauty of New Hampshire and our Nation. This is one that I hope, with pending legislation we bring to the floor, we will include a vote on reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Our country is beautiful, and this money was specially designated for this purpose. We should stop diverting it. We should continue to use it for this very purpose so that everyone can enjoy the great outdoors and the beauty of the United States of America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to thank Senator AYOTTE for her great comments and for speaking as well about her heritage that has been passed down in New Hampshire.

In this picture, this is not a selfie that was taken with a selfie stick. The reason we happened to have this picture is that we had our son along. Our son took that picture of my wife Cindy, our dog Ruby, and me.

These are lands that I hiked in when I was a little boy, when my parents introduced me to the public lands of Montana wilderness areas. Outdoor heritage is an important part of who we are as Americans, as is the importance of preserving and protecting our clean water and our clean air.

I know our States' Governors don't want this program to lapse either. In fact, in a letter sent yesterday from the National Governors Association, they stated that a lapse in authorization would create uncertainties for our States.

We can still do the right thing. We can still reauthorize this important program.

There was an appropriations bill that was passed which gave us funding at the same level we had from last year, at \$306 million. It is short of where I would like to have it, and I know it is short of where Senator AYOTTE would like to see it funded, but at least we held our funding consistent with where we were at last year.

The energy committee, through the Energy Modernization Act, had the reauthorization provisions in it. That would permanently reauthorize the program.

So there are a lot of options on the table to get this done. We can still do the right thing. We need to double down our efforts and reauthorize this most important program. I am a proud cosponsor of the multiple-piece legislation to make the LWCF permanent and the fight to reauthorize this program. In fact, I am the only Republican member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to cosponsor S. 338, Senator BURR's legislation, that will secure a permanent solution for LWCF.

Permanent reauthorization of LWCF is also included in the Senate Energy Policy Modernization Act that we just talked about. It passed the committee on a large bipartisan vote. In the coming days I think the momentum behind reauthorization is only going to grow stronger. We have that evidenced here today as I am joined by a number of my colleagues who support the LWCF, and we are not going to let this conversation die. We are going to continue to fight for the permanent reauthorization of LWCF. It is a tool for public access. It is a tool to ensure that Montanans and the American people can have access to the public lands.

I am hopeful the momentum will lead the House to prioritize reauthorization in the near future. It is vital that we permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and not allow reauthorization to lapse. We need

to get this reauthorization passed and on the President's desk.

I see that another supporter of LWCF, the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. LAMAR ALEXANDER, has joined us in this colloquy. I am glad to have Senator ALEXANDER here and look forward to his comments on LWCF.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I salute Senator DAINES. Since his arrival in the Senate, he has been a strong fighter for the great American outdoors, which he enjoys so much in the beautiful State of Montana.

He and I were talking not long ago about his next hunting trip. One thing that unites us on both sides of the aisle and unites Americans is the great American outdoors. I often say that Egypt has its pyramids and Italy has its art; England has its history and we have the great American outdoors.

One of the best ideas we have had in the government to support, protect, and conserve the great American outdoors for the benefit of all Americans is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It was first proposed in the 1960s by the Commission headed by Laurance Rockefeller. The Commission recommended a number of conservation issues. The idea was very simple. It was to say that when we have an environmental burden, we should have an environmental benefit. If we are going to drill for oil offshore, for example, that is an environmental burden. Let's take some of those revenues and use it for an environmental benefit. So we have, since that time in the 1960s, money for the Federal Government and for State and local governments to conserve important parts of America.

I know in our State of Tennessee we celebrated just in the last few weeks the final acquisition of the Rocky Fork tract, about 10,000 acres in Unicoi and Greene Counties, which was a national priority of the Forest Service. It provides great opportunities for Tennesseans to go hiking, to go hunting, and to go fishing. Those are the kinds of things we like to do in our State. We don't have a lot of protected land like they do in the Western States, and this was something the Land and Water Conservation Fund helped us to do.

In the 1980s President Reagan asked me to chair the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. I worked with Gil Grosvenor, Chairman of the National Geographic Society; Patrick Noonan, the founder of The Conservation Fund; and others. Our recommendation included full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and continuing to tie it to some of the proceeds from offshore oil drilling.

In the Energy bill 9 years ago, when Senator Domenici was chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we actually made mandatory a little bit of funding from the offshore

drilling in the Gulf of Mexico into the State side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. But, we need to recognize the broad support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, pass Senator BURR's bill, the Senator from North Carolina who has fought tirelessly to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and then we need to appropriate \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and gradually set aside those special areas of our country that deserve to be protected.

I am here to say that even though it expires today, I am very hopeful we can take some action very quickly to extend it at least temporarily and that soon we will have a chance to do what Senator BURR and Senator DAINES proposed and something I proposed—and have supported during my entire adult life.

I see the Senator from Maine. I know of her interest in conservation and the outdoors. We need to get this done. The American people expect us to do it, and I fully support it.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

Mr. DAINES. I want to thank the Senator from Tennessee for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the LWCF through the many years.

We are also joined by the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS. Senator COLLINS comes from the beautiful State of Maine and shares a passion for the outdoors. I am grateful to have Senator COLLINS speak on behalf of the LWCF.

Senator COLLINS.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

It is such a pleasure to join my colleagues in supporting legislation that would provide a short-term extension for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I think you can see by the breadth of the number of Senators on the floor on the Republican side of the aisle supporting this extension that this program has widespread support from Montana to North Carolina, to Tennessee, to New Hampshire, to the great State of Maine. All of us have come together to urge the Senate not to allow this important conservation and recreational program to expire.

It was 50 years ago that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act established America's most successful conservation and recreation program. The fund was designed to assure that outdoor recreation lands would be secured on a pay-as-you-go basis for future generations. As we mark this anniversary, it is inconceivable to me that we would allow this successful and valuable program to expire.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is arguably our most important and successful program of this type. There is nothing else like it, and it has

widespread bipartisan support. While the funding for this program could continue to be appropriated beyond the September 30 expiration date, the authority to collect new revenue into the fund would expire. So we must act quickly today to reauthorize the LWCF so we do not lose the important connection between the funding stores for this conservation program and the program itself.

Investments in this landmark conservation program expand assets to the outdoors to all Americans. We are living in a time where so many children and so many teenagers are spending all of their time inside before computer screens and tablets and iPhones. This is the program that helps ensure that they have access to recreational activities outside—the great American outdoors. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has created numerous outdoor recreational opportunities in every single State in the Nation and 98 percent of the counties across our great country. It is funding that will open key areas for hunting, fishing, and other recreational access to support our working forests and ranches, to acquire inholdings and protect critical lands in national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, Civil War battlefields, and other Federal areas that are so special to our heritage, and to support State and local projects from ball parks to recreational trails.

If you have a bike trail, a ball park or a hiking path in your community, it may well have been constructed with funds from the Land and Water Conservation Program. I support the permanent reauthorization of the program that has been introduced by Senator BURR and believe that Congress has an obligation to make good on the promise that was made to the American people back in 1964 to take the proceeds from natural resource development and invest a portion in conservation and outdoor recreation.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has favorably reported a bipartisan bill that would permanently extend the program. A short-term extension is needed now to provide the time over the next few weeks for us to work together to achieve that permanent authorization and consistent funding for this program and to help ensure that the fund plays the strongest possible role in helping to revitalize local communities for another 50 years.

I remain committed to working with Senator DAINES, Senator BURR, and the other leaders in this area, along with the bipartisan coalition that truly spans the country to support creating a more stable long-term plan for the LWCF that allows landowners, States, local communities, and conservation partners to plan for the future recreational and conservation opportuni-

ties for our country. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this 60-day extension.

Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I thank the Senator from Montana for organizing this colloquy and the Senator from North Carolina for his leadership in this area.

Mr. DAINES. I thank the Senator from Maine for those great remarks.

It is important to get our young people outside—outdoors. In fact, this picture was taken about 5 weeks ago by my son with his smartphone. The good news is that the smartphone wasn't working because it was so far away from cell phone towers, but the camera did work, so he took the picture.

It is important to get out and pass it on to the next generation to get our children out on the public lands. The LWCF has an important role in ensuring that access and preserving it for generations to come.

We heard from the Senator from New Hampshire, Ms. AYOTTE; from the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER; and the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS. I spoke from Montana. You can see the geographic diversity across our entire country to support this program.

It is only fitting that the Senator from North Carolina is here now, Mr. BURR. He has been the leader in permanent reauthorization for LWCF. That is why both Senator COLLINS and I are proud cosponsors of S. 338, which would permanently reauthorize the LWCF. I thank the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR, for his leadership and what he is doing to remove this uncertainty we have today in the LWCF and get it permanently reauthorized.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank Senator DAINES and my colleagues who have come to the floor and spoken.

It was my intention to come and ask unanimous consent for the Senate to consider a 60-day extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in terms of its configuration. I will not be doing that. I think we are making progress toward unanimous consent in the Senate, which is the best way to get things done. So I will refrain from asking for that UC at this time.

If we don't act now, this program which has been successful for over 50 years will expire today—tonight at midnight. This program has delivered on its promise to conserve and enhance our natural landscape.

LWCF was set up for three reasons; No. 1, to protect areas within our national parks' and national forests' existing boundaries. Let me emphasize that—the existing boundaries. There are some who claim the Land and Water Conservation Fund is only to create new national parks or to expand our current national parks. In many cases we have in-parcels that have been owned by individuals and we have waited for generational change for the opportunity to complete that footprint of

our historic treasures. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is that seed money to go in and match it with private dollars to get that in-parcel and buy it from a generation that also believes it should be protected.

No. 2, it provides the buffers for national trails and parkways, wildlife refuges and military battlefield parks—and I would also add military bases, such as Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg—I call it the “Pentagon of the Army”—in Fayetteville, NC, actually received conservation awards for the last several years for how they have treated the buffer zone around active military bases. Everybody is in conservation to some degree. It also was designed to provide matching grants to States and local governments for working forests, State and local parks, as well as recreation projects, what Senator COLLINS talked about.

A lot of my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol have said: We don’t want to reauthorize this because it does not do anything. This ought to all go to State and local. Boy, I don’t know how to do it any fairer than to let those who are really involved in conservation every day decide where the most valuable leverage of those dollars can go. As you notice, I am tongue-twisted because we always have a tendency here to say Federal dollars. These are not Federal dollars. These are dollars that were designed as royalties of the exploration of the Outer Continental Shelf. They should come to about \$900 million a year. But the Land and Water Conservation Fund, when they go through this gauntlet of appropriations in Washington, seems to only get somewhere between \$300 and \$400 million a year.

On a continual basis, they have been cheated from what the American people embraced and said: We want you to have this. Imagine, what they could have done if they had the money. But that gets thrown into the general fund and dissipates. Some have said: You don’t need to reauthorize this today. There is \$20 billion in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. No, I hate to tell you, America. It is sort of like Social Security. We have used that money for something else. There is an IOU in there, but it has been designated for general funding reasons.

So, it is important that we not decouple the funding mechanism, which is the royalty, from the authorized program. Now, some have said: This is a land grab. Let me suggest to my colleagues that this is a land solution. This is actually one of the Federal Government programs that I can honestly say works. LWCF has supported 41,000 projects across the country in its life.

In my State alone, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has protected over 900 sites, from the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Ref-

uge to Mount Mitchell State Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Pisgah National Forest. In North Carolina, outdoor recreation contributes \$7.5 billion to our State’s economy and supports 95,000 jobs. This is not just about conservation. It is about the economy.

It is hard for me to say to somebody from the West that the most visited national park in America is the Great Smokies, in Tennessee and North Carolina, where most Americans would think it is out where you are. The most traveled national treasure, the Blue Ridge Parkway, is the entry point to North Carolinas from Virginia. More Americans travel that road than any road in our Federal park system.

Now, let me just suggest that Senator DAINES is not the only one that has pictures. This is from the Pisgah National Forest, where we have many spectacular sites. But without the LWCF, we would not have protected this piece—an unbelievable environmental component. Now, they get better. This is a recent one—Catawba Falls. It is an LWCF success story. It was acquired in 2010 through LWCF money. It made this fall open to the public. So for my detractors who say LWCF shuts it down, it becomes part of the Federal Government, and nobody can use it, no, LWCF’s mission is to open up treasures such as this for the use of the American people.

In the case that we put it to States, hopefully States convert that to access for hunters and to recreational use. As to the last one, I don’t think Senator DAINES has one that looks like this—Chimney Rock. How do you not protect something like this? Chimney Rock is in North Carolina. The site is a good example of a project that will be suspended if LWCF is not renewed. It is probably one of North Carolina’s most loved monuments, but expansion of the site will halt eventually if LWCF does not receive support.

You see, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is dollar-for-dollar the most effective government program that has ever existed. It is hard for me to believe, with as much support on both sides of the aisle as this fund has, that it would be so difficult to get a unanimous consent request. But I am committed to work with my colleagues who still have reservations for some reasons to try to work through those reservations and then to shorten our differences with our brethren on the House side who might not see this in the same light as I do.

But I think when most Americans see a picture like this, they see something to save, something to protect, something that is enjoyed not by Federal bureaucrats but by average folks who travel there over the Blue Ridge Parkway and end up at Chimney Rock, who go on the Blue Ridge Parkway and end up at the Great Smokies. They were not acquired because of the Land and

Water Conservation Fund, but they are protected, in many ways, because of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

So I urge my colleagues, let’s have a unanimous consent request. Let’s pass this and send it to the House, and let’s at some point in the not-too-distant future talk about a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This should not be an exercise that we have every predetermined number of years. It should last as long as the revenue source, which is our ability to explore our natural resources. Those natural resources fund the preservation of these historic and significant landmarks of America.

I thank the Senator for his time.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DAINES. I want to thank the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR. I thank you for your leadership on the LWCF. Senator BURR has been truly out in front, working first to get the temporary reauthorization here as a bridge until we get the permanent reauthorization. I appreciate the comments. See, this is not about a land grab. This is about a land solution, as Senator BURR said. It allows us, in many cases, to provide access to public lands that we currently do not have access to because they might be landlocked through private holdings.

So thank you, Senator BURR. In conclusion, I am hopeful that the momentum that we are seeing here in the Senate will lead the House to prioritize the LWCF reauthorization in the near future. It is vital that we permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and do not allow authorization to lapse. We have less than 11 hours and this program will lapse. We need to get reauthorization passed, and get it on the President’s desk, and get this signed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to join several Senators who have come to the floor to talk about the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I know Senator BURR and Senator DAINES have spoken, and I think there were several others who spoke about this very worthwhile program that has been on the books for a very long time. I come to the floor to say I support their effort. I support the idea that we should be able to get a unanimous consent request so that we can extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I thought I would talk first a little bit about the history because my father, Stewart Udall, was one of the people who actually worked with Congress to create the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the 1960s. He worked with Wilbur Mills in the House of Representatives and a number of other Members of Congress. The idea at

the time was, here we had this resource—offshore oil—and we were taking a resource that was irreplaceable—the idea that once you use it, it is gone—and we were saying: Why don't we dedicate some of those resources to the permanent protection of land, of parks, for the American people? So that was the idea behind it, and it was endorsed by a nationwide commission of very distinguished Americans who said: We aren't keeping up with the amount of parks and other public lands that our growing population needs. We all knew that the American people loved their parks, and the same is true today.

So this outdoor commission recommended something along this line of, how do we make sure we are able to create these great national parks and create parks at the State and the city level? So the fund was designed in such a way that there was a State-fund side of the program, and on the State-fund side of the program, you could take dollars that were dedicated to the State program, which would be Federal dollars, and match them at the State and local level and create a Federal park. So in most of your communities today, if you drive around and you see a beautiful park, if you go and look at the plaque, most of the time that plaque will say: Done in cooperation with the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

What local people have told me many times is that in the planning they do to try to create a new park—they have an area that is growing or they have a housing development that has gone in—they say: How do we get the money? Well, if they know there is going to be a Federal match and they are able to get the Federal money, they can do the planning. They can go to their local taxpayers, raise some funds, and then pool the money together and get a city park or a State park, that kind of thing.

As everybody knows well, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has funded Federal purchases of land, from our national parks, to national wildlife refuges, to many other public lands. For example, in my home State of New Mexico, we have 14 national parks. We have a brandnew national park that was just put into place within the last year called the Valles Caldera National Preserve, which is one of the newest parks in the country. Here you have about 89,000 acres which is a collapsed volcano that has been used in many different ways in the past but now is available for hunting, fishing, camping, and all sorts of outdoor recreation. So this is something the people of New Mexico know.

I think the crucial point to make here is the economic one. We don't have any doubt that investments in parks, wildlife refuges, and other Federal lands create many jobs outside

those parks. They create jobs in the gateway communities, but they also create jobs in the outdoor industry. We have seen, with two new national monuments that were just created in New Mexico, big economic growth 6 months and a year after the creation of those monuments. So this is about the economic integrity of our communities.

In less than 11 hours right now on the clock, the Land and Water Conservation Fund could expire. It has been in place for decades, and we could let it expire because of the gridlock here. Well, we aren't going to do that. And why aren't we going to do that? Because we have Members on both sides of the aisle who care about this.

I would like to say a word about Senator BURR. I have worked with him very well. He is a member of the International Conservation Caucus in the Senate, and he has taken a real interest in conservation around the world and has been a real leader. Senator BURR has been out front on this land and water conservation issue. He has led a letter to various officials that 53 Senators signed that said: We want the Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorized before it expires. He has shown real leadership to make sure that as we approach this deadline, this doesn't happen.

Senator BURR was on the floor just a few minutes ago. I want to say to him and the other Senators who worked with him that I think it is very important that we continue to work in these last 11 hours to make sure the Land and Water Conservation Fund is continued. Obviously, what we are trying to do right now is a 60-day period, but, as Senator BURR mentioned, the important thing is permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Then the big task we need to get these Presidential candidates to face is we have to have the funding for it. It always had a funding level that was reasonable and rational and supported, but unfortunately we don't ever meet the funding level. The money is there. The money is in the fund. It comes out every year from the offshore oil resources into the fund; it is just taken for other purposes. So we have to make sure we get a permanent Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorization and the funds in that are going to really make a difference.

Mr. President, I see my good friend Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania. I know he is waiting in line, and I am sure you are going to hear some wise words from him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the American people have gotten used to hearing bad news about their health care ever since the Democrats passed

ObamaCare. It seems that each and every day there is another headline about another way that the health care law is hurting people. Last Wednesday there was a remarkable amount of bad news in just 1 day. The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday, September 23, had this headline: "Health Insurers Defend Deals."

If you flip the page over, the bottom half of that page has "Cost of a family health plan tops \$17,000" with a chart of rising costs. The annual cost of an employer family health coverage, the portion paid by workers, continues to go up—1 day, one page. The top article is about a wave of health insurance company mergers which we have been seeing recently.

Now, the President said that his health care law would actually increase competition among insurance companies. But just like a lot of the other predictions that President Obama made, this one has not come true. You know, back in June, the insurance company Aetna announced plans to buy Humana. Then the company Anthem decided to buy Cigna.

Now, if these mergers are approved and continue to go through, it means that the five largest insurance companies in the United States will now be down to three. The President said there would be more competition. Well, Americans are about to have much less competition. It is not only because of the giant insurance company mergers. You know, ObamaCare also set up health co-ops in 24 States. Now, these co-ops were supposed to add competition to help keep prices down.

Taxpayers put up almost \$2.5 billion to help these companies get started. Over the past few months, what has happened? These co-ops have been dropping like flies. Just the other day, regulators in New York shut down the largest ObamaCare co-op in the country. Why? Because it lost so much money. Now 215,000 New Yorkers have fewer options for where they can go to buy Washington-mandated insurance. This is the fourth co-op to fail in the past few months. Another one failed right before it. It had not even enrolled a single person. Think of that: Government loans set up a co-op that doesn't enroll anyone and closes shop. There is only one co-op of the original 24 that is actually making any money so it can stay in business.

Look, the American people know they are not getting the increased competition the President has promised. They also know they are not getting the lower prices the President has promised.

Another article came out last Wednesday that talked about how much more Americans are paying for their health care. This was a September 23 New York Times headline: "Health insurance deductibles rising faster than wages." "Health insurance

deductibles rising faster than wages.” Here it is—unaffordable care. This is from 2010 to 2015. Wages are up 10 percent, premiums up 24 percent, deductibles up 67 percent. The article describes a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation. According to Kaiser, health insurance premiums for a single person have gone up more than twice as fast as people’s earnings since ObamaCare became law.

We are talking about all of the people that get their health insurance through work, which is about 150 million Americans. This is not just a small group of people. This is all of the people that get their insurance through work. Deductibles have gone up almost seven times as much as earnings. It is an enormous hit to the finances of American families. The article talked about how these high deductibles are hurting a woman named Beth Landrum. She is 52. She is a teacher.

The article says that about 2 years ago, “Beth saw the deductible on her family’s plan increase to \$3,300 a year.” She is a teacher. She is 52—\$3,300 a year for the deductible under Obama’s health care law.

So a couple years ago was when a lot of these ObamaCare mandates were really starting to bite. The woman survived a brain tumor 10 years ago. So here she is. She has insurance. She had a brain tumor 10 years ago, successfully treated, but she is putting off having the MRI that has been recommended by her doctor. She says: “My doctor’s mad at me because I haven’t had the MRI.”

They want to see if there is any recurrence of the tumor. She said that she and her husband need to save up money to pay for the test, to pay for the deductible—the \$3,300 deductible. She has health insurance under ObamaCare, and she can no longer afford to get care—coverage without care. The President continues to ignore this fact about his unaffordable health care law. You cannot afford to get care, not under ObamaCare.

Now, President Obama promised that people would save \$2,500 per family per year under the health care law. But average premiums are up nearly \$4,000 since the law passed. Does the President really believe it is affordable? The new study by Kaiser only looked at insurance that people get, as I say, through their jobs. It did not look at the deductibles people are paying when they buy their own insurance through the ObamaCare exchanges.

President Obama said that these plans would be cheaper than a cell phone bill. That is what he said—cheaper than a cell phone—easier to use than Amazon for shopping on the web and cheaper than a cell phone. Well, let’s take a look at the article in the New York Times. That is not how it has worked out for Rebecca Bullard.

Now, Rebecca is 27. She purchased her plan through her State exchange

for \$129 a month. To get that plan, she had to accept a deductible of \$6,000. But she has ObamaCare. Oh yeah, the President can say: I did her a favor—a \$6,000 deductible.

The article says that when she was worried that she had a cracked rib—do you know how she chose to take care of it? She chose to ask friends on social media about what to do rather than go to a doctor because of the ObamaCare that was actually not worth very much to her. That is how concerned she was about paying the out-of-pocket costs that ObamaCare brought her. She said, “Now I don’t even want to go to the doctor.”

Is that what the President promised the American people—deductibles so high that people don’t even want to go to their doctor?

People may have coverage, but they cannot afford care. It is unaffordable under the President’s plan and mandates. People are paying more and they are getting less. So it is not surprising that this administration is starting to worry. They have to figure out how to convince people that it is worth signing up for this outrageously expensive ObamaCare insurance. That is what the Wall Street Journal said in another article on September 23. There is a picture of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell. There is a picture of her right here on this page. It says: “Insuring More People Seen as Tough.” According to this article, the Secretary of Health and Human Services says that “this open enrollment is going to be tougher than last year.”

We know it is going to be tough for families who are getting hit with higher premiums and other costs. Now, the Obama administration isn’t worried about these people; what the Obama administration is now worried about is how tough it is going to be to sign up enough customers for this awful law. You know, by now they were supposed to have 21 million people signed up for ObamaCare by next year. Right now they have fewer than 10 million. They are not even halfway to where they need to be and where they said they would be. What this means is if they don’t get more young, healthy customers to sign up, this whole system is likely to collapse. That is why the Obama administration is worried. They are worried about the impacts of their ability to sustain this law.

There is a reason that people haven’t signed up. The people who haven’t signed up yet know this insurance is not a good deal for them. It is not good for them personally; it is not worth it. About half of the people who still don’t have insurance have less than \$100 in savings. How is someone with less than \$100 in savings supposed to pay a \$6,000 deductible?

Why won’t the President answer these questions? Why won’t the Demo-

crats come to this floor and answer these questions? I haven’t seen a Democrat come to address these issues or any of these headlines.

Look, President Obama promised the American people that his health care law would produce lower costs and produce more choice. Instead, he has given people fewer choices, more powerful insurance companies, higher deductibles, and higher premiums.

We have had too many of these alarming headlines—and that is in just 1 day alone—and too much bad news about ObamaCare. The American people get it. It is a bad deal for them personally.

President Obama is a lameduck. He forced a terrible program through Congress. It is time for Democrats in Congress to sit down with Republicans and start talking about the kinds of health care reforms that the American people need, that the American people want, and that the American people deserve.

I yield the floor.

Mr. UDALL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak today about the Perkins Loan Program, which we spent some time on yesterday and over the last couple of weeks. Senator BALDWIN from Wisconsin, who is with us now on the floor, has worked so hard on this, as have many others. We have more than a quarter of the Senate working together to try and get an extension of the Perkins Loan Program.

Many Americans are familiar with this program. It is one of the best ways to guarantee access to higher education for young people across the country. We have always said, and I have always said—and we will say it again—if young people can learn more now, they will earn more later. It is not just a rhyme. There is a direct connection between learning and earning in the context of early education as well as higher education.

We need to make sure all students, regardless of their income or the circumstances of their birth, have a fair shot to go to college and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Perkins allows those students to do just that. These are fixed-rate, low-interest loans meant for students with exceptional financial needs. Because these loans are part of a revolving fund, as one student pays them off, another student can use the dollars to receive a loan.

By way of example in one State, in Pennsylvania, in the academic year

2013–2014, some 40,000 students at some 100 colleges and universities were able to go to school because of these loans. That 40,000 student number in Pennsylvania is a much bigger number nationwide, of course—almost 540,000. The actual number is 539,000 students.

So for many students this is the choice between going to college and not going at all. It is that stark. For example, the Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations tells us that one quarter of all loan recipients are from families with incomes less than \$30,000 a year. Unfortunately, because of inaction here in the Congress, these students will be left high and dry if we don't take action.

I shared a story yesterday of Nikki Ezzolo, who is going to school and is a recent graduate of Edinboro University in Northwestern Pennsylvania. I mentioned yesterday also Kayla McBride—she is from Temple—and I will refer back to her story in a moment. But when we consider Nikki's story or Kayla's or so many other young people in Pennsylvania or across the country, we have to focus on what our priorities are here in the Senate.

We do have a bipartisan opportunity here. Democrats and Republicans are coming together to extend the Perkins Loan Program. By way of example, when you consider those students in Pennsylvania, here is what it breaks down to when you go institution by institution. This will not be a full recitation of all the institutions in Pennsylvania, but here are a few. In Pennsylvania, this is what this program could mean for individual students and schools: At Temple University, 6,200-some students; at Penn State, 3,100; at the University of Pittsburgh, 2,800; and at West Chester University, 1,000. So those are the kind of numbers just to give a few examples of the impact.

We know Perkins has been part of our law and part of the life of our colleges and universities for decades. Some 30 million Americans have benefited. We have to consider what this means for those students, what this means for our States and, of course, what it means for the rest of the country.

I know we are going to be having more of a discussion here and offering a consent request, so at this time I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, while it appears we will avert a government shutdown, another serious deadline with serious consequences looms over this body. Tonight, unless the Senate acts by midnight, the Federal Perkins Loan Program will expire, impacting the education of over one-half million students across America. I am here now to call on all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the extension of this critical investment in our Nation's students.

I am not alone in my desire to see us take action instead of creating what I would consider another manufactured crisis—a crisis of our own making. In fact, we have already seen strong bipartisan support for this investment in our future. Senators PORTMAN, COLLINS, KIRK, AYOTTE, and THUNE have joined with more than 20 Senate Democrats on a resolution urging the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan Program supporting low-income students in their pursuit of a higher education.

Yesterday Senators COLLINS, PORTMAN, and AYOTTE joined me and Senator CASEY and Senator MURRAY here on the Senate floor in support of saving this program. I am pleased the junior Senator from New Hampshire and Senator CASEY are here with me now, once again calling to protect this incredibly important investment.

On Monday, our colleagues in the House of Representatives unanimously passed a measure that would extend this student loan program for 1 year, and I am here to call on my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

While I look forward to a much broader conversation about improving Federal support for students as we look to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, we can't sit idly by and watch it expire as America's students are left with such uncertainty.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3594

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3594, which is at the desk; that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Reserving the right to object, rather than making a statement, I hope it will be suitable to the Senator from Wisconsin for me to make my explanation of why I am objecting after I object. And I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the goal here is to help students. The goal here is to find ways to help college students find easier ways to apply to a college and to avoid overborrowing. The goal would be to give them a year-round Pell grant. The goal would be to simplify the application form they have to complete. The goal would be to keep the interest rates as low as we can. The goal would be to make it easier to repay student loans. That is our goal.

Our education committee, in which the Senator from Wisconsin and the Senator from Pennsylvania are very valuable members, is completing work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with just those goals.

We have had eight hearings. We are considering a number of bipartisan proposals to, as I said, simplify the grants and loans for college, to provide for year-round Pell Grants, to make it easier to repay student loans and to discourage overborrowing, which is weighing down these students.

One of the most important of those proposals, which was recommended to us by witnesses, is that we should simplify the process so there is one grant and one loan. That would be a Pell grant and a loan. In the last reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 2008, Congress agreed to sunset the Perkins Loan Program, and that is what is happening now. I support sunsetting this program, although students who currently receive a Perkins loan would continue to do so.

As I said, our committee is hopefully finishing by the end of the year our work on reviewing our student loan programs, including Perkins loans. The Perkins loan has a higher interest rate than other undergraduate loans. It does not give students the advantage of participating in income-based repayment programs—this is available in the law for all students receiving Direct Loans which are not affected by this discussion—which allow students to pay back their student loans at no more than 10 to 15 percent of their disposable income every year, and if after 20 to 25 years it is not repaid, it is forgiven. You can't get that with a Perkins loan.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, reauthorizing the Perkins loan will cost nearly \$5 billion over 10 years. Many witnesses before our committee have said that \$5 billion would be better spent paying for more Pell grants, which will be necessary for simplifying the student aid application, from authorizing a year-round Pell grant and from simplifying the repayment process.

So the question is, Do you spend the \$5 billion for that or do you spend it for a program with a higher interest rate and without an income based repayment program, and which many of our witnesses said it is time for this program to expire? I am one of a bipartisan group of Senators who propose we replace the Perkins Loan program with student loans that are simpler, have a lower interest rate and more generous repayment opportunities.

We will finish our review of higher education by the end of the year. It will be ready for the full Senate. We can look at all the various loan programs. We loan more than \$100 billion a year. The Perkins Loan program is a very small part of that. All those other loan programs are still available at a lower rate with a better income based repayment program. In the meantime, as I said, students who currently have Perkins loans will continue to have them while we continue our work.

So our goal is to simplify the system, make it easier for students to apply for grants and loans, allow them to have year-round Pell grants, allow them to not overborrow so much, and to allow them to repay their loans back easier. The Perkins loan is not as effective a loan in meeting those goals as the other loans that we have.

So I object at least until we have a chance to further continue our review in the Senate education committee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I am very disappointed that my offer to extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program was just blocked by my Republican colleague from Tennessee. While I understand and, frankly, I share his desire to have a broader conversation about Federal student aid as part of the Higher Education Act's reauthorization effort, I do not think it is right or fair to end this program today with nothing to replace it to the detriment of thousands of students in need.

I want to mention briefly the issue of the cost of its reauthorization because when the decision was made to sunset the program, a clawback provision was included that basically collects the loan funds back from the institutions that loan it out. It is actually a revolving fund—which I will return to later—which makes it such a fiscally responsible loan program.

When I travel around my home State of Wisconsin, one of the things I hear the most about these days from my constituents is their frustration that Congress isn't doing enough to make higher education more affordable and more accessible. Yet, today, the fact that we just saw a single Senator stand up and reject a bipartisan and commonsense measure to do just that is, frankly, a perfect example of why my constituents and the American people are so upset with Washington.

Since 1958 the Federal Perkins Loan Program has been successful in helping Americans access affordable higher education with low-interest loans for students who cannot borrow or afford more expensive private student loans. In Wisconsin, the program provides more than 20,000 low-income students with more than \$41 million in aid. But the impacts of this program aren't just isolated to the Badger State. In fact, the Federal Perkins Loan Program aids over half a million students with financial need each year, and it does that across 1,500 institutions of higher education.

Schools originate, service, and collect the fixed-interest-rate loans. And what is more, institutions maintain loans available for future students because it is managed within a revolving fund. Since the program's creation, institutions have invested millions of their own dollars, their own funds, into

the program. And in addition to making higher education accessible for low-income students, the program serves as an incentive for people who wish to go into public service by offering targeted loan cancellations for specific professions in areas of national need, such as teaching, nursing, and law enforcement.

As a Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and as a Senator representing a State with such a rich history of higher education, it is one of my top priorities to fight to ensure that the Federal Perkins Loan Program continues for generations to come. But, unfortunately, as we just saw, a single Senator stood up today and said no to students across America who ask for nothing more than an opportunity to pursue their dreams—students such as Benjamin Wooten, a 2004 UW-Madison graduate and small business owner from Genoa City. His family fell on really hard times when he was attending school. Ben told me:

The fact that I didn't have to pay interest while I was in school was a huge help to me.

I was attending school full time, working and trying to live on a meager budget. . . . I am a grateful and successful small business owner.

I paid my loan off in full about a year ago with pride and excitement.

I know that when I repaid my loan it was returned to a revolving fund and will be lent back out to other students in need.

Today this body has stood up and said no to students such as Brittany McAdams, a medical school student with a passion for pediatrics and a passion for helping the most vulnerable among us—something that doesn't always yield a significant paycheck. Brittany said to me:

I want to be able to treat patients from all socioeconomic levels, despite their ability to pay.

In other words, I want to do important work for less money than most other physicians. . . . The Perkins Loan is so valuable because it does not collect interest while we are in school.

To me, that says the government believes that what I am doing with my life is important.

That our country needs more doctors willing to tackle primary care.

That while we need to pay for our graduate degrees, that they are going to do their part to make it just a bit easier.

The Perkins Loan makes me feel valued and respected and even more passionate about my work.

Finally, I am disappointed that, because of this body's inaction here today, we are letting down students such as Nayeli Spahr. Nayeli was raised by a single immigrant mother who worked two full-time jobs. She attended ten different schools in three different States before she finished high school. Without the Federal Perkins Loan Program, Nayeli said her opportunity to get a college education would have been "an illusory dream." Today Nayeli is the first in

her family to finish college and is now in her last year of medical school and is planning to work with those in underserved urban communities. She finished by telling me:

The Perkins loan program helped me reach this point.

And, its existence is essential to provide that opportunity for other young adults wanting to believe in themselves and to empower their communities to be better.

Please save it!

We don't have to look very far to find the very significant impact this investment has on American students. There are thousands of stories like the few I just shared, representing thousands of students who are still benefiting from the opportunities provided to them by this hugely successful program.

I am disappointed that the bipartisan effort I have led has been obstructed. I will continue to fight to extend this support for America's students, and I hope the senior Senator from Tennessee will change his mind so we can find a way to show the half million students who depend on the Federal Perkins Loans that we stand with them and are committed to helping them build a stronger future for themselves and our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I come today to the floor first to thank the Senator from Tennessee for taking my call last night as we discussed his objection to extending this, which, from my standpoint, for the many reasons my college from Wisconsin stated, I think is a reasonable proposal to extend the Perkins Loan Program for a 1-year time period. But I certainly understand some of the concerns my colleague from Tennessee has with this particular loan program—and, quite honestly, all the loan programs—often in terms of the affordability of college loans.

But as the Senator from Tennessee stated, we share the same goal here. Everyone in this body really does want every American to have the opportunity to get a good education, to get the tools so they can lead a productive life and build a good life for themselves and their families. That is a goal we all share, and we understand the importance of education and the affordability of it—making it accessible to every American. But that is the point I want to make here.

We held a pretty interesting hearing in our Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and we really took a look at these student loan programs and the potential effect on the affordability of college. In testimony today, we certainly found out that the student loan program has exploded over the last 20 years, from a level of about \$100 billion in 1994 to now \$1.3 trillion. On average, students graduating with a 4-year degree are about

\$29,000 in debt. That is a concern. One of the reasons we are concerned about affordability is that the cost of college—again, in testimony—has increased somewhere between 2.5 and 2.8 times the rate of inflation over the last few number of decades. I think it is a legitimate question to ask: Why? What is so different about what colleges and universities spend their money on that the cost would increase 2.5 to 2.8 times the rate of inflation?

We had some explanation provided to our committee today, and it does involve Federal Government involvement, for example, in the accreditation process. We had one witness state that the supply of colleges since the mid-1970s has increased about 14 percent, and yet, because we want to have more access for college, the demand for college education has increased 111 percent. Part of the problem, in terms of the increasing cost of college, is the fact that we are creating barriers to entry through the accreditation process. So I think we have to take a very serious look at that.

Another thing that was quite troubling during our hearing is that there have been a number of studies, including one from the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, one from Northeastern University, that show that 40 to 50 percent of recent college graduates are either unemployed or underemployed, which means they are getting these college degrees and are not being able to put them to good use. That is something we should really be taking a look at.

Again, I think it was a reasonable proposal to extend the Perkins Loan Program for another year for many of the reasons my colleague from Wisconsin stated. A lot of people are counting on these. But I fully respect what the Senator from Tennessee is trying to do—to consolidate these programs, to make them more streamlined, to address the affordability issue—which really is something that we are really ignoring far too often in this body as we take the Federal Government and we involve it more and more in higher education. We really have to take a serious look at what the Federal Government's involvement has actually been in terms of the unintended consequence of making college less accessible because we have made it so much more unaffordable.

Again, I thank the Senator from Tennessee for taking my phone call and listening to my viewpoint. And I certainly appreciate his dedication to trying to achieve that same goal that we all share—providing the accessibility for every American to have a good quality education so they can build a good life for themselves and their family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I have great respect for the senior Senator from Tennessee, but I disagree with him on his objection to extending the Perkins Loan Program for 1 year. This is why I disagree. I very much appreciate the work he has laid out and the goals he has laid out in reauthorizing the Higher Education Act. Certainly, I think we all want to make sure it is easier for students to repay their loans, and I share the goal of also making college more affordable and more accessible for everyone.

But as I look at this timeframe of where we are with the work that will be done by the HELP Committee, which the Senator from Tennessee chairs, by the end of the year, this is, unfortunately, what happens too often in Washington. With the Perkins Loan Program, 5,000 of our students in New Hampshire receive a loan from this program. So it is important to 5,000 Granite Staters.

If we wait until the end of the year and let it lapse, and then the Committee does its work, there are so many other pressing things that need to be addressed in the Senate—this is pressing too—and if we don't get to it, we are in the position where the Perkins loans lapse.

I appreciate the work done by the HELP Committee—which I hope is bipartisan—to address this important issue of making it easier for students. But I don't think we should let this program lapse in the interim. I think there is a very reasonable position here to say, let's extend this program and not leave people hanging out there.

Apparently, the House of Representatives agreed unanimously to extend it a year, to give that breathing room, and send over here earlier this week the Higher Education Extension Act of 2015, to do that for the students who are including the Perkins loan as part of their student aid package and, as I understand it, for those for whom this loan makes sense—low-income students, vulnerable students, the ones we want to fight for here—to make sure they have access to the American dream. That is about \$2,000 for students who are some of the most financially in need.

I understand there are other loans available. But when you look at a student aid package, it is usually a combination of loans, especially if you are someone who comes from a background where you aren't able to pay for college yourself. I think the reasonable position here would be this: Let's extend this; let's provide that certainty while the HELP Committee is doing the work that I think we all agree on needs to be done to address higher costs, to make it easier for students, to give more transparency in this system for students and for parents, and to make it easier for students to repay these loans.

I am here fighting for the 5,000 students in New Hampshire and for others like them. I don't want them to be a victim of Washington uncertainty or those who come after them for whom the Perkins loans make sense. Until we get to this broader discussion, which is an important discussion, let's not let this lapse on behalf of those students. I think there is a reasonable position that allows the important work of the HELP Committee to go forward, but it extends this important loan program.

With all the respect I have for the senior Senator from Tennessee, this is something on which I agree with my colleague from Wisconsin and others who have said: Let's not leave them hanging on this issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the Senator from New Hampshire is always eloquent as she is fighting for students in New Hampshire. I want to assure her and any of those 5,000 New Hampshire students who already have a Perkins loan are not affected by this. In fact, almost no students across the country who have a student loan are affected by this. There are about \$8 billion worth of outstanding Perkins loans out of \$1.3 trillion in student loans. We are talking about less than 1 percent of all student loans. We are talking about students that might be awarded loans a year from now. No one who currently has a Perkins loan is affected by this.

What is our goal here? Our goal is to help students afford college. How do you help students afford college, No. 1, by continuing a program that has a higher interest rate than the loan they could get in a regular student loan? No, the Perkins loan rate is higher than the interest rate on a Direct Loan that every single undergraduate student who applies for federal aid is entitled to. No. 2, by continuing the Perkins loan which does not have the income-based repayment program offered in the Direct Loan program?

What is that income-based repayment plan? It says that you can pay your loan back over 20 to 25 years, not paying more than 10 percent to 15 percent of your disposable income each year. If you are a teacher or a firefighter or if you have a lower-income position, you are not treated the same as someone with a higher income. You pay back less because you earn less. If you get to the end of the 20 years and you haven't paid it back, your loan is forgiven. That is the law today. That is a loan that is available to every single student going to college. A low-income student can take advantage of that.

What we are seeking to do in our discussions—and they are indeed bipartisan as are the proposals to change the structure of the loan programs—is to say that instead of a combination of student loans, which is where you have

a whole stack of confusing student loans and you pay one to this part of the Federal Government and another to this part, you will have one student loan at the lowest possible rate. Under our proposal, you will make only one payment to the Federal Government, and you will have the advantage of a 20-year repayment. If you haven't paid it off, it is forgiven.

We will simplify your application for that loan from a 108-question form, which I can't hold up according to the Senate rules, to 2 questions, and we will simplify the process for paying it back. That is how we are proposing to replace the Perkins Loan program, but we haven't made a decision about that.

We have had eight hearings. I am working with Senator MURRAY, the senior Democrat on the education committee, and other members of the committee to make sure that we come to a conclusion. I am not sure what conclusion we will come to. But the argument I am making is the same argument that so many witnesses before our committee said: Simplify the student aid process. You are discouraging low-income kids whose parents may never have gone to college. Those parents may say: Ok, you can go to college and we will help you, but in your senior year of high school you need to fill out this 108-question form requiring information about your taxes before you file your tax return. And sorry, you can't use your Pell grant year-round.

After completing college, there is a complex repayment form. The program is generous, but it is so complex that you will never use it. We are losing millions of students, most of them lower income, most of them are the first in their families to go to college, because of the complexity of our student aid system. We have bipartisan proposals to simplify it, and this is part of that. Instead of getting three Federal loans, you get one. You will be able to potentially borrow more, but you will get a loan with the lowest rate and a generous income based repayment program. Why wouldn't that be a better deal for the students we are trying to help? Why would we extend something with a higher rate and no generous repayment program? That is the argument here.

I see no need to rush through the House and the Senate a subject that we are considering in our committee—and debating it fully in a bipartisan way. We plan to mark up and have ready for the full Senate our proposal by the end of the year. I see no need to rush that through so fast. Every student with a Perkins loan today still has one tomorrow. Those who might apply for one next year will have time to do that if for some reason the program is reinstated. They will also be able to apply for a Federal loan that now exists with a lower interest rate and a better repayment plan. That is my reason for

standing here today because we are trying to help students afford college by simplifying the process of applications and the process of paying their loan back. You don't make it easier with a loan with a high interest rate, no income based repayment program and a confusing bunch of loans.

You could come back and say: But this is an additional loan, and that would be true. We haven't decided yet exactly how much a full-time student may borrow from the Federal Government in our new reauthorization. This is a third loan on top of the other two federal loans. How many Senators have stood up on this floor and complained about the overborrowing of students, about how we have \$1 trillion-plus of loans outstanding, and about how students can't pay back their loans? What we are saying to students is that we don't want to encourage you to overborrow. We don't want you borrowing more than you can afford. What we want to offer you is a plain, clear, simple opportunity to borrow an amount of money at a low interest rate with a generous repayment plan, and we want to give the university you are attending more latitude in explaining to you whether you can pay that back or not. Now they are handcuffed. Who is putting them in handcuffs? The federal government is. We have Federal laws that make it hard for universities to counsel students about how much to borrow. I don't think we are doing students any favor by extending this loan. We are not cutting anybody out of a loan who already has one. In fact, we are offering all students a low-interest-rate loan.

The last point I want to make is that it is a revolving fund. It is true that the Federal Government has contributed about two-thirds of the revolving fund and the universities themselves contribute the rest. I heard from university presidents that they find this loan useful as they put together their financial aid package. I have heard all of that. But for the last number of years, the Federal Government hasn't been contributing to the Perkins fund. For the last number of years, Congress has said that it is time to sunset the Perkins Loan program. Both President Bush and President Obama at one time or another have recommended that we sunset the Perkins Loan program. Many of the witnesses before our committee said the same thing. They said: You are overwhelming these students and their families. Give them something simple. Give them something direct. Give them one grant. Give them one loan.

That is our proposal—one grant, one loan, and the loan will be at the lowest possible rate—which is currently lower than a Perkins loan—with the most generous repayment terms that are responsible. The Perkins loan doesn't have those repayment plans. Make it

available to every single student at an amount that we would agree upon and then allow the universities, colleges, and technical schools to be able to counsel these students. Don't borrow too much, because a loan is not a grant. You can keep a grant. You are going to have to pay back a loan.

There has even been some talk—and I support the concept—of saying to the universities and schools that you are going to have to have some skin in the game. If you are one of those schools or universities with too great a default rate on your student loans, you will have to pay some of the amount borrowed because we want you to take some responsibility for it.

I, actually, am not one of those Americans who is so concerned about the amount of student loans outstanding today. I think it is a pretty healthy indication in many ways. We have \$1.2 trillion or \$1.3 trillion in outstanding student loans. We have about \$900 billion in outstanding car loans. The average student loan for a 4-year graduate is about \$29,000. The average car loan is about \$27,000. Your car will depreciate. Your degree will appreciate. Some say it will earn you a million dollars more in your lifetime than you would otherwise.

The unemployment rate in America today for Americans with a 4-year degree is 3 percent. The average income for those Americans is in the mid-40s. I think it is a pretty good investment if we can say to Americans: Go on to the community colleges where the average tuition is \$3,300—and the average Pell grant is about \$3,300—if you are low-income. For all intents and purposes, it is free today for most low-income students. Go on and earn that degree and improve your skills. That is the way you make it up the ladder in this country. In order to help, we will loan you some money at a lower rate with a generous repayment term on top of that if you need it. But we are going to take steps to make sure we don't loan you more than you can pay back.

I think that is a pretty good picture of the American dream—the unemployment rate of 3 percent, the average income that is almost twice what the average total student loan debt of an individual, a chance for 2 years of community college or any 2-year school if you are low-income, with the taxpayer paying the average tuition of \$3,300. That is a pretty good system. We are trying to make it better. But the right way to do this is to take all of this discussion that we have had in a bipartisan way—all of these things I have talked about have been proposed by Democratic Senators and Republican Senators—and finish our work in the committee, which is the way our Senate is supposed to work, and then recommend to the full Senate what the student loan program ought to be. If some Senators want to say that we

want to take \$5 billion and for the next 10 years authorize extending the Perkins Loan Program—that is what it costs, according to the Congressional Budget Office—I am probably going to stand up and say: Let's take that \$5 billion and instead give a year-round Pell grant for students. Let's pay for the Pell grants for all those students who are persuaded to go to college because we have simplified their application form and their repayment form. We are going to have a lot more Pell grants, a lot more students getting degrees. If we do, we will have a lot more Americans joining the middle class.

We are all for helping students. We want you to succeed. But my argument is that so far I am not persuaded that you succeed more with a Perkins loan that has a higher rate and no repayment program than you do with a student loan that I have described that is already available to you with a lower rate and a generous repayment program. This is a healthy debate. It is one we are having in our committee. Actually, I am glad it has gotten the attention of enough Senators. We are hearing from college presidents all over the country. Soon we will have this debate in our full committee and then on the Senate floor. I look forward to it, and I think the students of America will benefit from the work we are doing in a bipartisan way.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I have been coming to the floor for 22 weeks now—every time the Senate has been in session during this cycle—to address another waste of the week, and that is what I am doing here this afternoon.

The amount of money we would be able to save that has been designated as waste, fraud, and abuse has an estimated total of nearly \$116 billion, and though people continue to say we can't cut a dime because every dime of taxpayer money is used for an essential function, that is simply not true.

While we have not been able to come forward with what I believe is absolutely necessary to stop this continued deficit spending and plunge into debt—the larger issues that we will be dealing with later in this session—we can at least hopefully stand together and support those documented spending waste, fraud, and abuse issues that have been presented to us by the various nonpartisan agencies that audit and look at how we control our spending.

Today I will add some more money to that amount by discussing an agency called the National Technical Information Service, NTIS. This is an agency within the Department of Commerce. It was created during the Truman ad-

ministration to keep all the reports produced by the Federal Government in a central location and make them available to the American public through sale. The idea here was that various research papers, and other studies which were conducted by various agencies in the government, would be centrally located in one place and that the American people would have access to that research and information. They had to pay for the receipt of that, and it was a modest pay-for, but the money they paid for that was to be used to pay for the administrative costs of storing this information and providing it and making it available for people. Frankly, it was a good idea. It was the only way we could truly access that. It had important information that the government could access as well.

Times have changed. Obviously, the way we store information and the way we make information available to people is entirely different than it was back during the Truman administration some 70 years ago. Today the American people access and conduct research using a variety of tools and methods, largely online and largely for free. The abundance of free information has obviously greatly decreased the need for the NTIS.

In fact, last year, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, found that three-quarters of the documents added to the NTIS collection in the past 20 years can be found elsewhere, and 95 percent of it can be found for free by using a basic search on Google.

When testifying before the Senate, the Government Accountability Office said “the legislation that established NTIS requires it to be financially self-sustaining to the fullest extent feasible. However, the increasing availability of the information that NTIS collects and disseminates—primarily through the Web—has called the service's basic statutory function into question.”

Well, that is a mild way of saying: Look, this is an outdated, antiquated way of providing benefits to the American people to get these scientific papers and research. They no longer have to go through NTIS to get this information. It is available for free.

The irony here is that if you do dial up NTIS on their Web site, a large message comes up—first thing on the screen—saying “Before purchasing from NTIS, you may want to check for free access from” and then they list those Web sites. NTIS says you can use their Web site to get this information for free. They list the U.S. Government Publishing Office's Digital System Web site, the Federal Government Internet portal, usa.gov, or a Web search conducted by a commercial search firm, such as Google.

In fact, one of my colleagues, who retired from the Senate just last year,

actually introduced a bill called Just Google It Act, a clear indication that we no longer need this agency and it no longer serves its function. That has been introduced again by Senator KIRK this year, and I have cosponsored it. This is an agency that is saying: Don't use us anymore. You can get it for free, and we will even show you how to get it for free. Why are we covering the cost of NTIS at a rate of \$880 million over 10 years when that savings could be applied to reducing our deficit, giving money back, and not requiring that amount of money to come from taxpayers—or better used for another essential purpose of the Federal Government.

What we are putting up and adding to our “Waste of the Week” this week is another \$880 million, bringing our total to nearly \$117 billion of savings that has been declared through nonpartisan government agencies that oversee our spending as waste, fraud, and abuse. So Members cannot come down here and simply say: Where are we going to get the money to cover this or do that? They can't come down here and say: It is impossible to cut any more spending. We have done all that we can do, and now we need more revenue. That is simply not the case.

Each week I will continue to bring up examples that are documented by nonpartisan agencies to be totally unnecessary. This is a small step in the direction of trying to deal with a much larger problem. That much larger problem is something I have been dealing with since I came back to the Senate after the election of 2010, and I am going to continue to talk about it even though it is not foremost on many people's minds right now, given all of the dysfunction and other problems we are dealing with. We must not ignore the fact that we are continuing to act on a deficit-spending basis, meaning we spend more than we take in each year, and we have to borrow the money to cover the difference.

Our national debt has moved to a staggering level of nearly \$19 trillion, and almost \$9 trillion of that amount accumulated in less than a decade. It was more than 200 years before we first reached the \$1 trillion mark. We have been on a spending binge ever since then, and it has to stop or we will pay a huge price. The debt collector will be at the door.

We need to make a major effort, and hopefully we will make an effort this year. I have already announced that I will not support any spending effort to continue funding for this government unless we put some policy changes in to start us down the path to fiscal responsibility. We are working hard on that, and I will outline a number of ways in which we can do that.

In the meantime, I am saying: If you can't go big, let's at least start small. Let's at least take those things that we

already know have been declared waste, fraud, and abuse by nonpartisan agencies. At least we are taking steps in the right direction.

Mr. President, with that, I yield back my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISAN DIALOGUE IN THE SENATE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today with my friend and colleague, TOM UDALL, the Senator from New Mexico, to talk about how to come together to fix our broken Senate and specifically to invite our colleagues from both sides of the aisle to engage in a dialogue together to address the dysfunction that we see so evident on the floor of the Senate day after day. What we have come to understand in the course of 2015 is that the frustration with a broken Senate is a bipartisan, equal opportunity frustration.

In 2013 and 2014, Democrats were in the majority and Republicans were in the minority. The majority was frustrated and couldn't get onto bills to start debate, and when we did get on the bills, we couldn't start the process of having amendments; the time on the floor was being wasted. Now here we are in 2015 and the roles are reversed. Republicans are in control, and Republicans are frustrated that we can't get to bills and have them on the floor and that the amendment process is broken. And on amendments, it affects the minority and the majority. So here we have Democrats and Republicans with something deeply in common: a common interest in fixing this broken Senate.

The perspective I bring to this goes back to when I first came to this Chamber in the summer of 1976. I was an intern for Senator Hatfield. I was assigned to work on a bill called the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that came up on the floor of the Senate. I was assigned to follow the debate because, of course, we didn't have television coverage at that point and we didn't have emails at that point. I would meet Senator Hatfield out at the elevators, just outside these beautiful double doors, and brief him on the amendment, and he would go in and vote. Then, an hour later, we would do it all over again. Debate was largely on amendments that were relevant to the main underlying bill. There was no delaying, no wasted time between amendments. There was no agreement that had to be negotiated between the Democratic and the Republican leaders; it was simply whoever got the attention of the Presiding Officer after the preceding amendment

was completed. In a lot of ways, it represented how the Senate had operated since our founding.

But today we are in a very different place. Today we are in a place where multiple aspects of the Senate are broken. We all wrestle with getting bills to the floor. We wrestle with wasting time and not being able to bring our amendments forward. We wrestle with the responsibility of the Senate to execute advice and consent responsibility on nominations in a responsible fashion. So I wish to speak a little bit about these three areas, and, again, at the core of my message is an invitation to a bipartisan dialogue to try to address these issues.

Let's talk first about the motions to proceed to the floor. These motions used to be routine. This is a chart which shows when there was a necessity of doing a cloture motion—a motion to close debate on a motion to get to a bill. This chart goes back to about 1915. From 1915 through 1960, no one ever contested a vote on whether to bring a bill to the floor. It just was not done. It was a social contract. It was voted either up or down; let's go to the bill or not go to the bill.

Starting in 1962—and we see the accelerating number of red bars—it became more and more routine, through times when Democrats were in the majority and through times when Republicans were in the majority, to contest and obstruct the effort to even start debate on a bill. So this is an area we can work together to address.

Let's talk about the frustration of actually being able to debate amendments. I thought one way of contrasting this would be to look at the number of amendments the Senate has considered in different years. Back in the 1993 through 1995 session, 2000, roughly, or 1,961 amendments were debated and voted on here in the Senate. The following 2-year period, 1995 through 1997, 2,540 amendments were voted on. How does that contrast with the two previous Congresses? In 2011 through 2013, we were under 1,000—974; from 2013 to 2015, just over 500 amendments, or roughly one-fifth of the number that were considered 20 years earlier. So those are the numbers.

But what it really looks like here on the floor is we get onto a bill, and then nothing happens because the tree has been filled—filled by the Democratic leader when the Democrats have been in the majority, filled by the Republican leader when the Republicans have been in the majority—so no one can introduce an amendment unless they have unanimous consent, and there is always someone willing to object. Therefore, we are paralyzed. This is an area we can address.

Virtually every Senate legislature has worked out a system where they can come to the floor on a bill and immediately start considering amend-

ments. There are many different ways we can solve this problem, but we won't solve it unless we come together as Democrats and Republicans and work together to figure it out—figure out a way that will work for both sides.

Let's turn to nominations. Here again we see that before 1960—this chart goes back to about 1915—we never had cloture votes on nominations. The nomination was proposed, debated, and then there was an up-or-down vote. That was the social contract. There could have been an objection to closing debate, but there wasn't. People understood that the time is short and if a nominee has majority support, then that nominee for a judicial position, for an executive position, should be in that position; that we shouldn't allow one branch of government—the legislative branch—to systematically undermine and attack the other branches of government.

Now, it is true that we haven't quite reversed roles at this point in time the way we did in terms of being here on the floor of the Senate simply because both last session and this session we still have the same President—we still have a Democratic President. But let's turn our minds to the next election in November of 2016, which is not that far away—a year and a month a way—and then January 2017, when that new President is going to take office. At this point, we have no idea whether that will be a Democratic President or a Republican President and we have no idea whether control of this Chamber will be in Democratic hands or Republican hands. But I do know that my Republican colleagues across the aisle—if there is a Republican President, they don't want this Chamber to systematically obstruct the ability of that Republican President to be able to put capable people into the necessary positions to operate the government. Our role is to screen out terrible nominees, not to systematically undermine the ability of an administration to function.

So as we look forward to 2017, not knowing who will be in charge, maybe this is a window of opportunity where we can come together and work out a plan to expedite nominations so that we can return to the traditions of the Senate and serve our role of advice and consent without conducting a war on the judicial branch or a war on the executive branch.

This concept of a supermajority was not the vision of the Founding Fathers. In fact, they worried about this. Madison spoke to it. So did Hamilton. Madison talked about the danger of a supermajority. He said:

It would be no longer the majority that would rule: The power would be transferred to the minority. Were the defensive privilege limited to particular cases, an interested minority might take advantage of it to screen themselves from equitable sacrifices to the general weal, or, in particular emergencies, to extort unreasonable indulgences.

He continues to address supermajority rule and says: "The fundamental principle of free government would be reversed."

Let me translate that. What he is saying is that in a principled democracy, there is wisdom in the majority; that if the majority says this is the right decision, that is the decision we should make. But if we systematically go in the direction in which the minority says we should go, then we have chosen the less wise option. Those decisions build up over time and undermine the success of the Nation, and that would be a huge mistake.

Hamilton addressed this as well. He said—and this is Federalist Paper No. 22, and he was speaking from painful experience as a New York Representative in Congress that was created under the Articles of Confederation. He said that supermajority rule results in "tedious delays; continual negotiation and intrigue; contemptible compromises of the public good."

I think a lot of Americans, when they think about the way Congress is operating now, would say: That is what we see. We see contemptible compromises of the common good. We don't see 100 Members of the Senate working together for the public. Instead, we see a lot of special interest deals, contemptible compromises, really abuse of minority role in blocking.

They have seen both the Democrats in the minority this year, Republicans in the minority before, so it is an equal opportunity critique, if you will, toward both parties. Of course, our national rating is very low.

Again, as we look toward the future and have no idea whether the next President will be a Democrat or Republican, and we don't know whether the next majority leader will be a Democrat or a Republican, we have a chance, an opportunity, an incentive to work together to establish new rules—rules that will make this place work again, rules that will restore the Senate.

Senator UDALL and I have laid out ideas on how we might address these things, but those ideas—there is no one wisdom, no silver bullet. So let's come together in a dialogue.

There are ideas that I absolutely love. I love the idea of a talking filibuster. That is, let's get rid of the filibuster on motions to proceed. That is in sync with the way the Senate used to operate. Let's get rid of it on conference committees. That is the way the Senate used to operate. And on final passage, if 41 Senators want to continue debate, then let's insist that one of them be on the floor speaking. That makes it both a commitment of time and energy, which is not required now under the supermajority requirement, and it makes it visible and transparent to the American public. So I love that idea, but perhaps that is not an idea on which we can build a bipar-

tisan bridge. I don't know, and I won't know unless we can come together in a bipartisan way to discuss it.

I love the idea of coming to the floor with a protocol for amendments, since we have been so paralyzed, so that immediately five amendments from the minority and five from the majority that are relevant to the bill and that are in order could be offered. That would be terrific. It would be a simple majority passage. I think if that was done, then the majority and minority Members would hear from their leaders and say: Let's do five more on each side. But we wouldn't come to the floor and play music on C-SPAN because we can't even start debate on an amendment. Let's use the valuable time we have on this floor to do the people's work, not to sit here in deep-freeze paralysis.

I love the idea of establishing a rule that creates a specific way to discuss and debate rule changes. We don't have that right now. When we start every 2-year Congress, we wrestle with how can we create a conversation over rules. There is no systematic way in our rules to do that. I love the idea of us working together to lay out a way to do that. I think it would serve this body well.

We need to work together to restore this body. It has often been referred to by the nickname "the world's greatest deliberative body." That certainly is not an accurate description today, but together we can restore that. We have a responsibility to the citizens of the United States to restore that vision.

Let's make deliberation work and characterize this body, not deep freeze. Let's engage in respectful dialogue, not rigid partisanship. Let's take this moment, as we plan toward January 2017, and build a vision together, dialogue together, a vision of how to make the Senate work for Americans.

Thank you, Mr. President.

It is my privilege to introduce my colleague from New Mexico, who has wrestled with this issue even before he came to the Senate and has been engaged in it from day one and has brought so much insight and wisdom to bear on this challenge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I have said many times. The Senate is too often a graveyard for good ideas. And the shovel is the broken filibuster. I want to thank Senator MERKLEY for his remarks about the need to reform the Senate rules. And I want to say a few words myself, because this issue continues to prevent this body from working for the American people.

That is why we pushed for reform in the 112th Congress and in the 113th Congress. Some said it was just a power grab by the majority—a partisan push—nothing could be further from the truth. Now that the shoe is on the

other foot, I think many Republicans are realizing the modern filibuster may need reform.

Some of the same people who voted for, or supported, record numbers of filibusters in recent years are now complaining about the filibuster when Democratic Senators use it.

Conservative commentators, House Members, and Republican Presidential candidates all are now talking about the filibuster.

Several years ago, a number of senior Republican Senators said Senator MERKLEY and I would step back once we were in the minority. They said we would not try again, but we renewed our fight at the beginning of this Congress. We are in the minority today. We hope that does not last long, but we support filibuster reform—regardless of who is the majority leader. The American people want a government that works. Majorities will change, but the need for responsive government does not—at least it should not. So we will keep pushing for reform that is fair, that reins in abuse, and protects the minority. That was our goal before and that is our goal now.

The heart of our proposal is the "talking filibuster." It is simple, it is reasonable, and it makes sense. If you oppose a bill, then go to the floor and explain why. The filibuster was once used sparingly. It allowed the minority to be heard. But under the current rules, it is used too much and too easily. One Senator just needs to notify the floor staff of his or her objection. The American people deserve a real debate, not one Senator picking up a phone.

This is not news to our Republican colleagues, who are now in the majority. In the last Congress, we voted on cloture 218 times. To put that in perspective, the Senate voted on cloture only 38 times in the 50 years after the rule was adopted in 1917. Filibuster reform will allow a majority to pass more legislation in the Senate. But as everyone who has served here knows, floor time is a precious commodity. The ability to come to the floor and delay action by debating forces compromise, and most importantly, filibuster reform would apply to both parties equally going forward.

If legislation is passed more easily under a reform scenario, it can also be reformed, amended, or repealed more easily. Demanding one party to give up its rights under the rules will never succeed. The solution is to change the rules for both parties going forward on a permanent basis.

We made some progress in the last Congress by allowing for simple majority votes for qualified nominees for judicial and Executive appointments, and the Senate is working better. By changing the rules, we confirmed 96 judges—more judges than any modern Congress since 1980.

We also confirmed 293 Executive nominations in 2014—the most since 2010. That was an important change. It was bold. It was necessary. And the unprecedented mass obstruction by the new majority of this President's nominees only underscores that we did the right thing last year. But, we still need broader filibuster reform.

We said it before, and we will say it again: We can do this with respect for the minority, with respect for differing points of view, and with respect for this Chamber, but most of all with respect for the people who send us here. The right to change the rules at the beginning of a new Congress is supported by history and by the Constitution. Article I, section 5 is very clear. The Senate can adopt and amend its rules at the beginning of a new Congress by a simple majority vote. This is known as the Constitutional Option. It is well named. It has been used numerous times—often with bipartisan support—since the cloture provision was adopted in 1917.

We opened the door, as we said we would, at the beginning of this Congress. Our reform proposal remains on the table. The majority leader can bring it up at any time. This is not just about rules. It is about the norms and traditions of the Senate.

I support any Senator's right to oppose bad legislation. The filibuster has a role to play. The abuse of the filibuster does not.

Our constituents are waiting. There is a lot of work to be done. We need to make sure we get it done, and get it done right. These are commonsense reforms to restore the best traditions of the Senate. Neither side is 100 percent pure. Both sides have used the rules for obstruction. And no doubt they had their reasons. But most Americans don't care about that. They don't want a history lesson or a lesson in parliamentary procedure. They want a government that is fair, reasonable, and works no matter which party is in the majority.

We changed the process for nominations, and that was a good start, but, it was the beginning, not the end. We still have a lot of work to do.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to carry on a short colloquy with Senator MERKLEY or maybe other Senators who could join us and also for as much time as we may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator MERKLEY, I have listened very carefully, and I think you and I have worked diligently since we got into the Senate to try to make sure the Senate functions properly. What we want to see more than anything is bipartisanship, working together.

Whenever we have worked on the rules, I know one of our principles—

which was a good one—was to draft rules so that they apply to either the majority or minority. That is something I think we have done on a regular basis, is to look at the rules and say: If we do the right set of rules, then if we are in the minority, we will feel good about it, and if we are in the majority, they will work for us that way also.

I am wondering. I see calls of reform all around the Senate right now. You see the Presidential candidates who look at our Senate rules and say there ought to be reforms. There ought to be filibuster reform. You see Republicans over in the House almost every week raising the issue that there should be filibuster reform. We need democracy to work.

Many of the outside scholars—people such as Thomas Mann, Norm Ornstein, and scholars like them—write books over and over again, and always a big part of the reform package goes to the Senate rules.

So I would ask the Senator, do you think that we are really talking about there being fertile ground right now for us to come together; that this is a time, when enough people are speaking about this, that we should be able to come together? And what we are urging—are we urging them to join us in some kind of format on the floor, off the floor, to have a meeting with various Senators who have worked on this in the past? Is this a good time to do this?

Mr. MERKLEY. I think Senator UDALL is absolutely accurate that this is the perfect moment to do it.

When we first engaged in this dialogue, we reached out to our Republican colleagues. We held one-on-one meetings. We sought to champion this. What we found was that the view of reform was polarized on whether you were in the majority or the minority.

We said that we were going to have this test for what we put forward: that what we put forward when we were in the majority is what we put forward when we are in the minority. If we don't think it would work for us in the minority, then it is not an honest or fair appraisal of making the Senate work.

So now we have come to that test because here we are now in the minority and we are proposing the same set of ideas. This Senator absolutely believes these ideas would make this place work better. It would enable more bills to be debated, which is—to have that value when you are in the minority, to actually put your amendments forward and have that debate, is a gift.

Certainly it says that if you really believe—the idea that we put forward, a talking filibuster—if you really believe you want to block something, you have to stand on this floor and debate it. I think that is a way to keep the theory of the filibuster and return it to the social contract of the past where

people understood that it was a simple-majority body, as envisioned in the Constitution, as envisioned by Hamilton, as envisioned by Madison; that they had the experience of the super-majority and knew that caused deep damage, but that if you really believe in something so deeply, then you are willing to spend the time and energy.

So I think the things we crafted in the majority still hold up. But the bigger point is this: Now that we have had a reversal, many of our colleagues are experiencing firsthand the frustrations the minority can inflict on the majority. I think that opens a window of opportunity.

I have a list of 20 quotes. The Senator referred to people in the House—he is a former Member of the House—saying to their Senate Republican colleagues: Why don't you do something to fix the Senate? And now we are standing here saying: Join with us in a dialogue to fix the Senate.

Mr. UDALL. I say to Senator MERKLEY, I couldn't think of this being a more appropriate time. I think it is fertile ground, and I think it is great that we have come here.

The important thing to remember is a point you and I both made in the past, and it has to do with the old movie everybody knows called "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." People always thought the filibuster was as it is portrayed in that movie. You have Mr. Smith coming to Washington, and he is concerned with a passion about an issue, and he thinks he may be in the minority, but he wants to fight it out. He comes to the floor and he speaks about it, and he rallies people outside.

Now today, as we know, you don't see that very often. Actually, sometimes what people call a filibuster, we are at the early stage of a motion to proceed before we even get onto the bill.

What we are doing is trying to return to "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." What we want to see happen is a talking filibuster where every Senator gets to talk.

As you and I know—you have been a real scholar and a student of the Senate in terms of its history—before there was this rule in place on the filibuster, the tradition was always that every Senator had an opportunity to speak. That was a fine Senate tradition. It was established. They didn't have to write it down. Everybody said: We are not going to take any action until we let every Senator speak.

The other part of it was just what you talked about in our amendment proposal—allowing Senators to offer amendments. Today we are so far away from that.

We have this motion to proceed. We don't even get onto the bill. That causes so much mischief because you have all these procedural things that happen in advance of even getting on the bill.

You were a leader in the Oregon Legislature, so I would ask you to just reflect a little on that because you have seen that when you get a bill on the floor, you work on it, you get to amend it, to debate it—and most of the time when people are working on it, they want to get to the end game, but we are not able to do that. Was that your experience in working in the Oregon Legislature? If you get on the bill, that is half the work right there. And we are blocked here on the motion to proceed and the filibuster on the motion to proceed.

Mr. MERKLEY. Indeed, my experience in the Oregon State Legislature was dramatically different. In many ways, it was much more similar to the way I thought the Senate was operating when I was here in the 1970s and then working for Congress in the 1980s. Once we got to a bill on the floor of the Oregon House, where I served for 10 years and spent 2 years as speaker, every moment was utilized in debate. There was no paralysis. People only had limited time. We were there to hear each other and to make decisions and certainly in a more expeditious style than is the custom in the Senate. But what we had in common was floor time was well utilized in the Senate in the past and well utilized in Oregon.

As you were speaking about tradition and how the Senate worked, I was thinking about how all this began. When they had the first U.S. Senate, they had in their rule book a motion to force a vote. They had that rule, but they never used it. Why didn't they use it? Imagine if there are 13 States and just 26 Senators and they stand here occupying a quarter of the space we now occupy and they say: Well, we certainly can extend the courtesy of hearing each person's insight or opinion before we vote.

So after a couple of years, when they rewrote the rule book, they decided not to include the rule. They didn't need it because they had the courtesy of hearing each other. So suddenly there is a Senate with no rule on how to close debate and force a vote. And over time that courtesy eroded. It was after World War I that the first time occurred when the Senate said: Well, let's enable a majority—a supermajority of the Senate to close debate if there is too much abuse or paralysis.

The point is that the filibuster is not in the Constitution. Some of my colleagues have said this is the way the Founders designed the Senate—to be a supermajority body. That is wrong, wrong, wrong. It is not in the Constitution, it was not in the early Senate, and it was not a major feature of the Senate in terms of it being a common experience until these recent years.

So if we can recapture the spirit and the courtesy of hearing each other's opinion but enable us to get onto the bill, debate the bill, do amendments,

and then if someone finds a moment of great principle, great heartfelt objection, and wants to spend the time and energy to extend debate, they do so in this visible talking-filibuster fashion, I think that would be a huge improvement and well worth our time.

Mr. UDALL. I say to Senator MERKLEY, what you point out that is so important for people to understand—when we put the original bill back in there in World War I, it was put in so that a minority could not block it. We had Woodrow Wilson as President. He was very concerned. We were talking about national security during a war, and he wanted to arm our merchant ships. He got a bill out of the House of Representatives, and it was rolling toward the Senate. It was near the end of the session, and he took that bill very seriously. He thought it was vital to the national security of the country, and he asked the Senate to act on it. There were about 11 or 12 Senators, I believe, who had decided: We are near the end of the session; let's just run out the clock. There was no procedure to be able to get to the bill before the clock ran out. These 11 Senators took to the floor and they ran out the clock, and Woodrow Wilson said: No way am I going to allow that to happen again. He got a bee in his bonnet on that one.

The next Congress that came in, the President said he wanted a rule so that wouldn't happen again. So they put in a rule which was at the time 67 votes in order to cut off debate, and that rule has really been turned on its head with what is happening in recent times. The rule was originally so that a small minority could cut off debate and could proceed to the issue. Now we have calls to the cloakroom, calls to the leadership. You and I don't know what is going on. We don't know why we don't get on an issue. We go on a motion to proceed, and we have a motion to invoke cloture and all these procedural things nobody understands, until people say: Why can't you get on the bill? Well, because the filibuster rule has been turned on its head. That is something people have to understand. We are not using this filibuster rule the traditional way that we used it in the Senate for the purpose it was originally put in.

As Senator MERKLEY pointed out on the motion to proceed—and I wanted to ask one more question about the motion to proceed. You talked about how in 1962 we increasingly started to see obstruction in terms of the motion to proceed. It would prevent bills from getting to the floor. There wasn't any way to get on these bills. It jammed things up.

I will never forget the Senator whom I succeeded, Senator Pete Dominici, a solid Republican who believed in the Senate. He came out and said we shouldn't have filibusters on a motion to proceed; we should get right on the

bill. I remember several Senators who came in in our class and after—Republican Senators—who said the same thing. So I think there is a lot of room here.

I am asking you again, in terms of the motion to proceed and us calling for a bipartisan effort—we should be able, with the people who are here, to either work on a motion to proceed, work on the talking filibuster, or work on a variety of other amendment issues that are crucial. Don't you think this is the time?

I just want to make sure before you leave that we make sure there is an invitation from us to 98 other Senators to sit down in some format, whether it is a bipartisan conference or something else, and talk about how we make this place work better and how we make it more democratic.

Mr. MERKLEY. There are two former Members of the Senate right now who are working on a book that is coming out in January that will be addressing reform in the Senate, and that is Trent Lott and Tom Daschle. They have already issued a number of ideas about how to reform this.

The point I am making is that when people leave the Senate, they reflect back and say: You know, there is a bipartisan opportunity, a bipartisan responsibility to make this Chamber work.

What we are saying is that this can't be accomplished through folks who have left the Senate; that we must invite bipartisanship here and solve it ourselves; and that any rule changes that are envisioned, any agreements that are forged have to be done here on the floor, and we are extending that invitation, as you put it, to our 98 colleagues to be part of that dialogue.

We can draw on the ideas that our former Members have put forward as a starting point. We can draw on the ideas that you and I have put forward, but these ideas, there is no one way to address this. We are inviting others to brainstorm together in a dialogue to try to gather a vision that perhaps we can commit ourselves to, in a bipartisan fashion, to enact at the start of the next legislature, when we realize we may not be minority or majority, and that becomes a magical way to escape our current status as we are embattled and we are having deep emotional fights over foreign policy, social policy, and how to create jobs in America—but to get some distance on that and say how to make this Chamber work the way it was envisioned, because certainly I think 100 Members can agree the Senate is broken. Would it not be phenomenal if, in a bipartisan effort, we were able to restore the U.S. Senate to being a great deliberative body?

Mr. UDALL. Yes, I say to Senator MERKLEY, you are absolutely right. I am just going to close by saying that

the thing we have—and I said this in the beginning. The thing we have worked on and tried to achieve is to make sure that when we crafted changes to the rules—motion to proceed, talking filibuster, how we allow each side to have amendments—we have always said we could live with them if we were in the minority.

We have been in the minority now for almost a year. In a couple of months it will be a year. We came out right at the beginning of the Congress and talked about our rules again. We proposed the same rules in the majority. We want to be fair to both sides, but what is more important isn't that fairness; it is the fairness to the American people to get their democracy back again so it works.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Colorado.

AURORA, COLORADO, VETERANS HOSPITAL

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today marks a pivotal day for veterans in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Just minutes ago, the House of Representatives approved the Senate bill to extend several important authorizations to Coloradans, authorizations important to the health care of our country's veterans because the bill includes the authorization to complete the Denver VA replacement medical facility.

After years of persistence, years of passion, years of emotion, we have finally passed a bill to finish the job at the Denver VA replacement facility in Aurora, CO. This bill will allow us to finish the job, allowing the replacement facility that is critical for the care of veterans in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region to move forward, to fulfill the promise we have made to our veterans.

This bill also turns the page on the gross mismanagement by the VA of this project and will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to take over the management of the project to ensure its completion without further delay.

There is simply no acceptable excuse for how the project ended up in this current state—years delayed, hundreds of millions of dollars over budget. While the bill will turn the page on this day, it will not turn our focus away from reforms at the VA to ensure accountability and to ensure this never happens again. I have worked with a number of my colleagues to initiate these reforms, including an amendment to the Defense authorization bill that will get the VA out of the big construction business.

I come to the floor to say thank you—thank you to my colleagues, specifically Senator ISAKSON, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator KIRK, Senator TESTER, the majority leader, their staff, and my colleague MICHAEL BENNET for their leadership on this issue.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible work of

MIKE COFFMAN, the Congressman representing the area, ED PERLMUTTER, the entire Colorado delegation who worked so hard to make this happen. They have all provided a great service to veterans in passage of the legislation out of the House today. Years from now, when veterans go to this hospital to receive the care we have promised, they will enter into what will be the crown jewel of the VA infrastructure, the crown jewel of the VA system. It took a lot of hard work to get here.

Today I am excited, with the passage of the House bill, passage in the Senate, that a bill is on its way to the President to finish the job, to complete the hospital, and to fulfill our promise.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDUCT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE ST. PAUL
OFFICE OF THE VBA

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern and disgust at recent revelations of improper and dishonest conduct by senior executives at the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the director of the St. Paul office of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

According to a report released by the VA's Office of the Inspector General this week, two Veterans Benefits Administration executives used their positions to assign themselves to different jobs that involved fewer responsibilities while maintaining their high salaries. One of them has been the director of the VBA St. Paul regional office since October of 2014. The inspector general found that the St. Paul VBA director used her influence as director of the VBA Eastern Area Office to compel the relocation of the previous St. Paul office director. She then proceeded to submit her own name for consideration to fill the vacancy she herself had created.

Taking on the job of directing the St. Paul regional office was actually a step down in responsibility for this administrator. In the inspector general's words, she "went from being responsible for oversight of 16 [regional offices] to being responsible for only 1 [regional office]." But she kept her previous senior executive service salary of \$173,949 per year. She also received over \$129,000 in relocation expenses.

So look at this: She had a responsible job managing 16 regional offices. She created an opening by transferring the person under her. She took that opening and went from supervising 16 regional offices to supervising 1. Then

she kept the same salary, going from 16 offices to 1 office, and then took \$129,000 in relocation expenses.

This is the kind of action that has created the breach of trust between our veterans and the departments that exist to serve their needs. There are so many people who have such good will who work at the Veterans' Administration, including in Minnesota, and there are so many deserving veterans who deserve their help. But to make this truly work, we have to show that the people at the top are accountable.

What this director did was not responsible, it was not a good use of taxpayer money, and it certainly was not fair to our veterans. This is a senior executive who is supposed to be focused on ensuring that veterans are being served the way they deserve and who instead used her position to push out one of her colleagues and get herself a plum assignment where she would have fewer responsibilities but at the same time keep the same salary. This conduct is unacceptable. It erodes the public's trust in the VA. It is commendable that the VA inspector general took action by referring these two cases to the U.S. attorney for possible criminal prosecution. The VA needs to do right by our veterans and our taxpayers by holding bad actors accountable and implementing reforms to prevent exploitation such as this from ever happening again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to talk today about the bill we are considering currently—the MILCON-VA bill. I urge the Senate to take up and pass an appropriations bill that does right by our Nation's veterans. I think it is very important. But the MILCON-VA bill before us today—and I might add along with the rest of the appropriations bills—is shackled to an unwise and unrealistic budget that locks in destructive sequestration cuts and vastly underfunds programs vital to this Nation's security and prosperity, and it doesn't deal with the challenges the Veterans' Administration faces. Make no mistake about it, America's veterans would be severely shortchanged by this bill as it is currently drafted.

Coming from the State of Montana, where we have the second highest per capita veterans population, I cannot look in the eyes of our Nation's brave men and women and say to them that this bill will fulfill our promise to you. This bill underfunds our veterans by

over \$850 million, subjecting the VA to the across-the-board spending caps the majority is desperate to avoid on the Defense bill. That is hypocritical because, let's be honest with ourselves, caring for our veterans is a cost of war.

What we know and what the majority knows is that this bill is severely limiting the VA's ability to fulfill its mission—caring for those who have borne the battle. Need I remind everyone that just a few weeks ago, because of a surge in demand for hepatitis C treatments and a historic increase in non-VA care referrals, the VA medical services account ran out of money. As a result, we had to pass emergency legislation to allow Choice Act funding to be used to shore up the VA and prevent a serious disruption for veterans across this country.

The budget pressures that caused that shortfall are the result of an unprecedented demand for services in terms of both numbers and complexity, and that demand will only continue to grow. At some point during the next year, nearly half the veterans will be 65 years old or older. Many of these folks will be seeking treatment to deal with the effects of toxic exposure—something we are struggling to better understand and treat and something that could have effects on their children and grandchildren.

At the same time, a younger generation of veterans is struggling to cope with the unseen wounds of war. They are fighting to keep their lives and their families together, and for some of them it is a daily struggle to overcome the suicidal thoughts that claim the lives of at least 22 of their peers each and every day. Those are the stakes here. They are that high.

We are also talking about an unprecedented demand for expensive new treatments for diseases, such as hepatitis C, which are shorter in duration and which have fewer side effects and have cure rates approaching 100 percent. That is good news, but we have to have money to do that. We are talking about addressing a chronic shortage of medical professionals, particularly mental health professionals in rural America, which greatly hinders our ability to provide veterans with timely and quality care. We are talking about a growing population of caregivers who have been forced to abandon their jobs and their livelihoods to care for loved ones with debilitating medical conditions, and we are talking about facilities that are literally crumbling in some cases and severely impacting the delivery of care.

I believe we need more transparency and accountability from the VA to ensure it is spending taxpayer dollars in a responsible way. But let's be clear. Today we are asking more and more of the VA, and this bill gives them less than they need. Now is not the time to take a step backward. If we do that, we are never going to catch up.

If we don't enact a commonsense, long-term budget that better reflects our priorities, our values, and provides the tools and resources required to fulfill our promises to veterans and their families, then we should all question just what are we doing here.

Mr. President, there are cases when each of us has looked at a bill or amendment and said: You know, it is not perfect, but it is good enough. Sometimes that is what it takes to get work done around here. But when it comes to our veterans, when it comes to restoring confidence in the VA after the problems they have had in the last 2 years, I don't think that is a path we should take.

I know my chairman, Senator KIRK, did his best in writing this bill to soften the blow of budget constraints that he was forced to meet. I truly appreciate his efforts and his inclusiveness in working with me. But the fact is that he was handed a no-win allocation by his party's budget. You can't patch the holes in the VA budget created by sequestration. You can't shift money from known medical care requirements—treatment for cancer, diabetes, or kidney disease, to name just a few—to plug gaps in emerging requirements, such as lifesaving but costly new hepatitis C treatments.

That is why I offered an amendment in committee to restore \$857 million to bring the VA to its requested level. Unfortunately, none of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle joined me, and it failed on a party-line vote. I am at a complete loss as to why we are now being asked to move to a bill that we all know underfunds the VA by almost \$1 billion. For what? So that we can send this bill to conference with the House, whose own VA bill underfunds the VA by \$1.4 billion—\$600 million more than the Senate. That will not improve the quality or the timeliness of veterans health care nor will giving the VA authority to fire more doctors and nurses without due process.

It is time to stop the political games and maneuvering. To serve our veterans, to serve this country, and to serve all Americans, Congress must establish funding levels driven by what the VA actually needs, not by some arbitrary mathematical formula. We need a rational, realistic, bipartisan budget agreement to replace the draconian sequestration funding levels entrenched in the majority's fiscal year 2016 budget.

I have been calling on Senate leaders for months to sit down and hash out a long-term budget agreement. The majority leader's response was to wait until the day before the government was scheduled to shut down and then pass a short-term CR. As early as tomorrow, we expect to vote on an appropriations bill that will drastically underfund the VA for the next fiscal

year. This is clearly an attempt to paint those of us who think this bill is insufficient as voting against veterans.

That plan will not work because I am here to tell you that veterans are well aware of the funding shortfall. It is one of the chief problems that is currently plaguing the VA. I will continue to provide adequate funding to support America's veterans.

While I am disappointed the majority wouldn't work with us on a broader budget deal this summer, the CR that we passed today gives us just over 2 months to reach a reasonable budget agreement—an agreement that will support our veterans, an agreement that Members on both sides of the aisle agree we need. That is the job we are elected to do. But make no mistake, if we are having this same conversation on December 10, we have failed—failed our veterans, failed the American people.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to proceed to this bill so that we can finally negotiate a bipartisan budget agreement that will do away with the devastating impacts of sequestration and will instead provide a responsible way forward to fund our government, to protect our national security, and to care for this Nation's veterans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on climate change's radical alteration of the Earth's marine environments—particularly in the Arctic—and how these epic changes in the environment strengthen the case of U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Competitors of the United States in the global economy are taking advantage of climate change's environmental impact on the Arctic, particularly how the disappearance of Arctic sea ice is opening new shipping lanes and access to the mineral resources in the Arctic seabed. Our competitors' advances in the Arctic are happening at the expense of U.S. national security, energy development, and maritime transit interests, and it is the failure of the United States to join the treaty that is giving those countries a huge advantage of staking a claim in largely unclaimed territory.

In the 3½ years since a partisan effort thwarted the Senate from providing the necessary advice and consent of the Law of the Sea Treaty, the United States has ceded millions in potential economic opportunity in the Arctic, and we have no recourse to dispute the legality of any of the territorial and economic zone expansions countries like Russia are making in the Arctic waters and sea ice.

While the economic and territorial claims—including mineral, oil, and gas extraction rights—in the Arctic are not the only reason for the United States to accede to the Law of the Sea Treaty, the situation in the Arctic is arguably the most dynamic due to the impact climate change is having on the Arctic Ocean environment. As long as the United States sits on the sidelines by not being a party to this treaty, our global economic competitors will continue to take leaps and bounds ahead of the United States, accessing the opportunities we are squandering.

The Arctic Ocean environment has experienced notable changes that have tracked ahead of the global rise in temperatures. Starting in the mid-1970s, global average temperatures have risen 0.5 degrees Centigrade, with each of the last three decades being successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, the 10 hottest years, based on average global surface temperatures, have all occurred since 1998, with 2014 being the hottest year on record. However, many climate scientists are projecting that this year, 2015, will surpass last year as the hottest year on record. Temperature increases at the Poles have been even more significant, and the impacts and consequences are more severe.

I show this photograph here that points out that the data from the National Snow and Ice Data Center shows that over the past 30 years, the Arctic has warmed at a higher rate than any other region on Earth. Arctic warming is causing changes to sea ice, snow cover, and the extent of permafrost in the Arctic.

According to NOAA, in the first half of 2010, air temperatures in the Arctic were 4 degrees Celsius—7 degrees Fahrenheit—warmer than the 1968-to-1996 reference period. Satellite data shows that over the past 30 years, Arctic sea ice cover has declined by 30 percent during the months of September—the month that historically marked the end of the summer melt season.

In this NASA survey photo from April 2012, you can see for miles toward the horizon how thin the ice is over the Arctic Ocean, and you can see open channels in the ice with icebergs in the background. That is a new phenomenon. That didn't exist many years ago.

This image is of the Arctic Ocean in April, 1 month into the spring melt

season. It shows just how thin the aerial coverage of Arctic sea ice is and in some places where the ice has disappeared altogether. While annual variation in ice coverage has always followed the seasons, the melt periods are growing longer annually, meaning that much of the ice is never restored during the colder winter months.

The peak melt periods during the protracted melt seasons have opened up new shipping channels that we must start paying greater attention to.

A 2013 report in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" entitled "New Trans-Atlantic shipping routes navigable by mid-century" shows how declines of ice in the Arctic's rapidly changing environment will have dramatic changes in international freight movement.

Russia is already declaring that the Northern Sea Route through Russian territorial waters will rival the Suez Canal as a faster and more efficient maritime passage between Europe and West Asia and the west coasts of the United States, Canada, and East Asia. Climate, surface temperature, and sea ice data were run through extensive computer modeling at UCLA, and the outcome produced pretty alarming results showing how wide open the Arctic will likely become for trans-hemispheric transit between North America, Europe, and Asia.

Historically, Arctic shipping lanes to Western Europe and the North Atlantic, via the Bering Strait, which connect the ports of the Pacific, including Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Alaska, and all of East Asia to Western Europe and the North Atlantic, have depended on ice breakers to clear channels and were only open during narrow summer melt seasons. These northerly routes have historically been across the Russian side of the Arctic.

In recent years, the shipping channels have grown shorter in distance as what was once permanent and thick ice located at the Poles has become increasingly thinner with each passing warmer year. Each year, the shipping routes across the Arctic are getting closer and closer to being "over the top."

The blue lines I depict on the chart I brought to the floor, this chart—this would not require any ice-breaking ships to assure clear passage during the peak of the summer melt seasons. The red lines are routes that are passable by ships that can either break ice or follow behind ice breakers. As you can see, from 2006 to the present, the ice-breaking routes are very close to traversing directly over the North Pole and all the other routes are in the Russian Kara, Barrents, and Laptev Seas.

The modeling data run through this peer-reviewed study, however, projects that in 30 years the Arctic Ocean will reach near open water status, passable

by most ships on either the Canadian or Russian side of the Arctic.

In the simplest of economic terms, climate change's impact on diminished sea ice in the Arctic will be a major boon to foreign ports at the expense of U.S. ports.

The geopolitical consequences of a more open and expansive Arctic Ocean is something we cannot afford to observe from the sidelines. The Arctic's rapidly changing marine environment is influencing the territorial claims our Arctic neighbors Canada, Russia, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway are making, and all these countries are making legal advances under the law of the sea—the treaty we have not ratified. The United States is the only Arctic nation not staking any expanded claims in the Arctic, nor are we willing to challenge the actions of neighbors who may be encroaching on waters we may have claims to.

The State Department cannot be blamed for not making claims or challenging our neighbors because it is the U.S. Senate that has failed to give the State Department the ability to rightfully stake claims and challenge the legality of our competitors' claims purely out of unfounded and ideologically partisan opposition to the United States being party to the Law of the Sea Treaty.

The law of the sea establishes international conventions allowing our neighbors to expand the reach of their economic zones, providing a framework for parties to the treaty to stake legal claims to mineral, oil, and gas deposits along the Continental Shelf beyond the 200 miles of a country's conventional territorial seas—they can do that under law of the sea, and we cannot; and to enjoy navigational freedom between parties to the convention, making passage through treaty partners' territorial seas easier—they can; we cannot. We have not ratified the law of the sea. It provides legal certainty to their nations' industries operating in these dangerous yet potentially productive waters—certainty that the United States simply cannot validly claim without being party to the Law of the Sea Treaty. Once again, they can give certainty to their industries; we cannot.

Our Arctic neighbors' exploitation of Arctic resources is happening right now and is as real as climate change's impact on the Arctic ecosystems that is making these foreign economic ventures possible. They couldn't do it before, but now they can do it. The reports our Arctic Coast Guard fleet are making on the dramatic increase of commercial vessel activity in Alaskan waters are testament to this new reality. The Coast Guard has monitored and reported on this growth, all of which has happened in the last decade. Heightened Arctic maritime activity is directly contributing to the declining sea ice.

Both the Washington Times and the New York Times, while covering the President's recent trip to Alaska, reported on the increase of commercial and naval fleet traffic transiting through and across the Arctic.

In the New York Times story, Coast Guard Commandant ADM Paul F. Zukunft stated: "We [the Coast Guard] have been for some time clamoring about our nation's lack of capacity to sustain any meaningful presence in the Arctic."

U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Treaty has been a failure of many Congresses, not just this one. The United States played a critical role in the development of the treaty going back to the 1970s. The United States has the most to gain from being part of this treaty. For example, we shaped the constructs of the treaty to be very favorable to the United States, including giving the United States the only permanent seat on the international council that will oversee and make decisions about seabed mining. Obviously that permanent seat remains vacant and decisions are being made about seabed mining in international waters without U.S. participation.

The estimated area of territorial expansion over which the United States can claim sovereignty under the Continental Shelf expansion conventions of the treaty is estimated to be about 291,000 square miles or roughly one and a half times the size of Texas.

A broad set of stakeholders, ranging from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to environmental organizations, our Nation's military brass, industry-specific trade groups representing commercial fishing, freight shipping, and mineral extraction, all support the ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty.

The combination of changes in the Arctic environment and changes and advancement in the maritime industry technologies is making the benefits this treaty stands to provide the United States greater and greater with each passing year. As long as the United States is outside the convention, our companies are left with two bad choices: Either take their deep sea mining businesses to another country or give up the idea altogether. Meanwhile, China, Russia, and many other countries are already securing their licenses under the convention to begin mining for valuable metals and rare Earth elements.

Accompanying the previously mentioned New York Times story is a map depicting the breadth and scope of the international claims that are being made in the Arctic, the most concerning of the claims are the ones that Russia is making. This map demonstrates the urgency for U.S. action to ensure that these emerging opportunities don't pass us by and go to our competitors.

The Law of the Sea Convention provides the international framework to deal with these new opportunities. We are the only Arctic nation outside the convention. Russia and other Arctic states are advancing their Continental Shelf claims in the Arctic. Some of these claims encroach on waters that we could have a viable claim to if the United States were a party, but we are not a party to the convention. Yet we will willfully remain on the outside looking in, painfully complicit to let foreign businesses better our U.S. industries. If the United States were a party to the convention, the United States would have a much stronger basis to assert our interests throughout the entire Arctic region.

Lastly, the absence of the United States from the treaty weakens our national security. In 2012, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff GEN Martin Dempsey testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—I was present during that testimony—on how our security interests are intrinsically linked to the freedom of navigation. They testified in favor of the Law of the Sea Treaty ratification.

The United States stands to gain considerably more from the legal certainty and the public order this treaty provides on the oceans than any other country. The U.S. Armed Forces need the navigable rights and freedoms provided under the Law of the Sea Convention, granting global access to the world's oceans to ease and expedite movement to combat areas when necessary and to sustain our engaged deployed forces. In 2012, the former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman and ranking member Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana made one of the most cogent set of arguments for U.S. accession to the treaty. In conclusion, let me quote what Senator Lugar told us at that time. I think it is still relevant today. He said:

The substantial case for Law of the Sea is even stronger today than it was in 2004 when I brought it up as chairman of the committee. . . . Every year that goes by without the United States joining the convention results in deepening our country's submission to ocean laws and practices determined by foreign governments without United States input.

Our Navy and our ocean industries operate every day in a maritime environment that is increasingly dominated by foreign decision-making. In almost any other context, the Senate would be outraged at subjecting Americans to foreign controls without United States input.

What many observers fail to understand about Law of the Sea is that the convention already forms the basis of maritime law regardless of whether the United States is a party or not. International decisions related to resource exploitation, navigation rights, and other matters will be made in the context of the convention whether we join or not.

By not joining the treaty, we are abetting Russian ambitions in the Arctic. We are

making the job of our Navy more difficult despite the longstanding and nearly unanimous pleas of Navy leaders that the United States participation in Law of the Sea will help them maintain navigational rights more effectively and with less risk to the men and women they command.

We are turning our backs on the requests of important American industries that use the oceans and must abide by rules established under this convention, and we are diminishing our chances for energy independence by making U.S. oil and gas exploration in international waters less likely. . . . We will feel these costs more keenly in the Arctic.

The decision . . . is whether the Senate should continue to consign the United States to a position of self-imposed weakness in our ability to influence ocean affairs despite the fact that no organization has a greater interest in navigable freedoms, a larger exclusive economic zone, or a more advanced technological capacity to exploit ocean resources.

The Senate should enthusiastically affirm the leadership of the United States in this vital area of international relations by giving advice and consent to the Law of the Sea Convention.

I took the time to give a long explanation as to why I believe it is important for the Senate to exercise its responsibility to give advice and consent to a treaty that is the Law of the Sea. It is critically important that we take this issue up and that we ratify the treaty. As I said earlier, it is supported by the Chamber, it is supported by our military, and it is supported by businesses. Laws are being made that affect the United States without our participation. By ratifying the treaty, we will have a seat at the table, and we will be able to protect our interests—our commercial interests, our security interests or whether it is the interests of our military.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE).
The Senator from Iowa.

ENERGY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I don't know how many times I have come to the floor in the last several years or maybe in the last several days to talk about energy. In the process of talking energy, I always say I am for "all of the above," as a lot of my colleagues do; meaning all forms of energy, which would be petroleum, natural gas, alternative energies, including biofuels and wind, conservation as a third one, and nuclear energy as a fourth one. I still believe that. Although I believe some of my colleagues who say they are for "all of the above" are for everything that is underground but not much above the ground. So I think there is an inconsistency there.

With that background, I want to talk about something that is going to happen tomorrow morning. The Senate banking committee is scheduled to mark up legislation called the American Crude Oil Export Equality Act. I don't have any fault with that action tomorrow.

This bill would repeal the four-decade ban on the export of domestically

produced crude oil. This ban was put in place in response to the Arab oil embargo, which created an energy crisis and led to fears of crude oil shortages. That goes back to the 1970s. The recent technologies of horizontal drilling and fracking of oil shale has resulted in enormous increases in domestic crude oil production and reduced oil and gas prices. This has led to the domestic oil industry's insistence on repealing the export ban.

I am all for fair and free trade. I recognize that Iowa manufacturers and farmers benefit from the export markets. One of every five tractors produced by John Deere is exported. Much of Iowa's agricultural abundance, both commodities and livestock, is exported. I understand, then, the economic benefit and economic impact that vibrant export markets can have on the domestic economy, creating good-paying jobs, and on productivity.

What bothers me is not that Big Oil is on the cusp of achieving their highest priority in getting Congress to pass a bill to repeal the export ban, what bothers me is that Big Oil is pushing Congress to repeal the ban, while at the very same time continuing to attack and undermine domestic renewable fuels. Iowa does not produce any crude oil or natural gas, but Iowa farmers lead the Nation in the production of homegrown, renewable, clean ethanol and biodiesel.

Congress created the renewable fuel standard to guarantee that consumers have a choice to buy clean renewable fuel. Big Oil has fought tirelessly to repeal and undermine the renewable fuel standard law because they are afraid of competition. If Big Oil wants to get the export ban lifted, I would suggest they end their selfish pursuit of the repeal of the renewable fuel standard.

Big Oil should be satisfied with achieving their highest priority, a repeal of the export ban, and drop then their crusade against clean-burning biofuels. It is time for Big Oil to stop acting like pigs at the trough. It is time for Big Oil to lay off the renewable fuel standard.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I understand the pending business is that we are discussing the motion to proceed to the VA-Military Construction bill, and I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote against this motion to proceed. And why? Well, because, quite simply, this is a parliamentary maneuver. This isn't a real deal to get to real

benefits and real help for America's veterans or to modernize our military bases. This maneuver, quite simply, is a scam. The Republican leadership knows we do not have enough resources for our veterans. This bill is inadequate. And to bring up an appropriations bill before we have a new budget deal is really just a hollow gesture.

We passed a continuing resolution. I am so pleased we did that so we would not have a government shutdown. We do not need a government shutdown. It is not in our national interest, it is not good for the economy, it is not good for our standing in the world, and most of all it is not good for the way we need to help the American people, whether it is in the area of national security or economic security.

Having passed the CR, it is well known that the leadership on both sides of the aisle and the President want to negotiate a new budget deal. So what does that mean? A new budget deal gives the Committee on Appropriations a top line—something called a 302(a). A 302(a) tells the Committee on Appropriations what it can spend. We can't spend over a 302(a) unless we waive the Budget Act. And the whole purpose of the negotiation for the budget is to lift the cap through responsible, bipartisan, bicameral negotiations and to come up with additional revenue by either cuts or new revenue.

My advice to my colleagues is don't go through trying to pass the bill when we know we are going to be getting a new allocation to truly try to meet America's needs. We all say we love our veterans. Everybody wants to wear yellow ribbons, and we all want to go to Veterans Day observations and so on. But I believe you show your support for veterans by deeds and in this case by putting forth the help we do need for our veterans.

The bill pending now shows we need a new budget agreement. We need to cancel sequester—these across-the-board draconian cuts—so we can keep our promises to our veterans. Cloture on the motion to proceed is Washington-speak in order to filibuster a debate. The real debate here is whether the Senate will move forward with spartan Republican budget levels or whether we will come up with a new deal that will enable us to lift the cap we have and move ahead to getting a real deal. The Senate passed the bill to keep the government open. Now we need a budget deal that lifts the caps to make sure we have a 50-50 split between defense spending and domestic spending, acknowledging that domestic spending also meets national security needs.

This bill is a perfect example. Military construction doesn't come out of DOD. There it is, in a domestic bill, and it is in the same subcommittee as funding our veterans. In terms of funding our veterans, the bill before us has

an unacceptable cut of over \$850 million from the VA, yet at the same time VA costs are rising.

What am I talking about? Well, let's go to the new hepatitis C drugs that are causing veterans to seek treatment and really get the help they need. This inhibits us from buying the lifesaving drugs we need. Then there is the cost of the caregiver program. Those costs have nearly doubled since the original fiscal 2016 estimates that we received. And who are these caregivers? They are wives, spouses, parents taking care of really sick wounded warriors. You know those pictures we see when we have a concert for a fundraising drive for a veterans charitable organization—those men who are bedridden, many who can't talk, and some who have traumatic brain injury or some causing injury that causes paralysis—your heart goes out to them, and we have families taking care of them. Those families need help. The cost for that care is doubling. Yet this bill doesn't take care of it. We say: Oh, a grateful nation never forgets. Well, we seem to forget when it comes time to voting on the budget.

We have held in the Committee on Appropriations hearing after hearing. The VA's Secretary McDonald testified that the budget request for hepatitis C is too low by as much as \$1 billion. In fiscal year 2015 alone, the VA spent close to \$700 million just on hepatitis C drugs. I think we need to be able to give veterans the medications they need.

Veterans care should not be held hostage to artificial budget caps, and veterans in the audience watching this should understand this is not a single-year problem. This cap will be in place until 2021. Remember, we are not funding an agency; we are funding help for our veterans. We want to reduce that backlog. We want to make sure our hospitals are fit for duty. We want to make sure there are no waiting lists for veterans. We want to be sure that the way they showed up for America, we are showing up for them. These veterans deserve to know that promises we made will be the promises we keep.

I am asking my colleagues to get serious. Let's get a real budget deal. I know the Republican leadership has been in contact with the President. We need our Democratic leadership to be a part of that conversation. I am the vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations. This is the committee that puts the money in the Federal checkbook. I want to be complimentary about the chairman, the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN. We know how to move bills, but what we need are the right allocations given to us so we can make the right decisions.

Now, can we make some trims here, can we make some strategic cuts? Yes, but we need a new budget deal that lifts the caps. So I therefore will vote

no on the motion to proceed, which is parliamentary-speak, but by voting no on the parliamentary maneuver I am saying we vote yes in meeting the compelling national needs we have.

Let's get a new budget deal, let's lift the caps, let's do it in a responsible way, and let's help move America forward.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Colorado be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Wednesday, September 30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2101

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, from coast to coast the Land and Water Conservation Fund is the primary tool that our Nation uses to fund the protection of our natural and our cultural heritage. In my home State of New Mexico, the LWCF has protected some of our most iconic and famous landscapes—places such as the Valles Caldera National Preserve, Ute Mountain, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. These are places families go back to year after year, generation after generation to camp, hunt, hike, and fish.

Our public lands are uniquely American, but the future of our outdoor places—all the places we enjoy as public lands—depends on the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We must permanently authorize and fully fund the LWCF. Permanently and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund will help ensure the outdoor places we all enjoy will be protected for future generations to enjoy as well.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2101; I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I wish to point out the Federal Government currently owns over 600 million acres of land throughout the United States. In the opinion of many

Americans, that is way too much. Some of my colleagues are pushing a piece of legislation that would reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund—or LWCF—a program that is primarily used for land acquisition, and they want to do this without making a single reform to that same program.

Before taking such a drastic and I believe misguided step, I would ask my colleagues to examine the Federal Government's current landholdings and in particular evaluate the manner in which they are being maintained.

In many Western States, the largest landholder is the Federal Government. In my home State of Utah, the Federal Government owns close to 70 percent of the land within the State. This reality is hard for a lot of my colleagues from States east of the Mississippi River to even comprehend.

Imagine if the Federal Government could tell your constituents where they could live, recreate, hunt and fish, and how they could earn a living. Imagine that the Federal Government used its vast landholdings to block developments of the valuable natural resources. Imagine further that the Land and Water Conservation Fund was used to acquire privately held lands from your constituents.

Given how much land the Federal Government owns, it is not surprising to find out that much of it is rather poorly maintained. Specifically, the Department of the Interior currently has a maintenance backlog on Federal public lands with an estimated cost between \$13.5 and \$20 billion. Instead of looking to acquire even more land through the LWCF, the Federal Government should focus on properly managing the land it already owns.

Make no mistake, LWCF is a land acquisition program. According to a Congressional Research Service report from October 2014: "The \$16.8 billion appropriated throughout the history of the LWCF program has been unevenly allocated among federal land acquisition (62%), the state grant program (25%), and other purposes (13%)."

Today we are talking about the expiration of the LWCF's ability to accrue additional revenues to the fund—nothing more, nothing beyond that, just that. According to CRS, LWCF currently has an unappropriated balance of around \$20 billion that can be appropriated to implement LWCF projects. If we assume the current rate of appropriations, roughly \$300 million per year, it would take around 60 years before that Fund was exhausted. At full appropriation, \$900 million, it would take about 20 years. When we wake up tomorrow after allowing LWCF's authorization to expire, nothing will have substantively changed. Both the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee are working to re-

form the LWCF to address the numerous issues I have raised. I know I speak for many of my colleagues in the West when I say that LWCF reform, especially with regard to Federal land acquisition, is a necessary condition of reauthorization.

On that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I also wish to speak to the issue of the objection on this, the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Twenty-nine percent of all the land in the United States is already under Federal ownership. Let me clarify. This is not Federal control—Federal ownership, 29 percent of the land. There is \$20 billion in deferred maintenance on that land—\$20 billion. So there is a significant issue we face where a tremendous amount of land that is owned by the Federal Government is not being managed properly, including over \$11 billion of that just in our national parks.

The issue here is, what is this Land and Water Conservation Fund going to be used for? Continuing to acquire new land. It is actually prohibited under the structure of this account, to actually do any of the maintenance. So we are continuing to acquire new land constantly, expanding landholdings, already at 29 percent of the total property in the United States, but we are not doing maintenance on what we already have, and we continue to complain there is not enough money to be able to go around and get this done.

If only this was the only program that actually did land acquisition in Federal control. In the past several years, there have been 130 conservation banks also set up by the Fish and Wildlife Service. These 130 different conservation banks that are scattered around the United States actually take private land and set it aside for what they call perpetual—perpetual—set-aside. This is land that is still in private ownership, but that is under conservation that can never be changed from its current status. Just in the recent decades, 160,000 acres have been moved into what they are calling these conservation banks.

To reiterate, we have a growing amount of land that is being taken in Federal ownership through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and then we have a separate set of programs—and this is only one of many programs—that is moving other land into Federal control and mitigation, and we have this expanding control of the Federal Government.

We should have National Parks. We should have land that is set aside for public use. That is not the issue, but we are not taking care of what we currently have. The key issue is, what do we do with this program, and how do we reform it. As has already been mentioned, it is the key issue. If the Land

and Water Conservation Fund has a reform, there are ways to be able to handle some of our deferred maintenance and the backlog that is there. If it doesn't have any reform at all, we are continuing to purchase new land, but one key thing that is in this as well, as it currently stands right now, the Land and Water Conservation continues to function. Nothing changes about it. The only thing that changes, as of tomorrow, is that we are not adding new dollars into it. Twenty billion dollars is already sitting in that fund, enough money to fund this program at current rates for 65 years'—65 years'—worth of savings that is already built up in this program. I think it is fairly safe at this point. Strangely enough, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is more stable than Social Security is.

So the argument is that there is some urgent emergency here to be able to take care of it, and to continue to add dollars to it without reform I think will not work. We need to reform this program. We need to manage carefully the land we have, and we can do that.

I would highly suggest that the committees continue to do their work to be able to continue to reform this program. With that, I would also join in the objection to extending it as it currently exists today.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, my colleague from Utah purports to speak for westerners. I want to make it clear, he doesn't speak for New Mexico, he doesn't speak for me, he doesn't speak for my constituents, and he certainly doesn't speak for the businesses that write letters to me speaking about how the Land and Water Conservation Fund has benefited their businesses—particularly businesses that rely on tourism and outdoor recreation, that rely on places like the Valles Caldera National Preserve, that rely on places like the Rio Grande National Monument for their livelihood. The reason why, as westerners, I can take my kids out and go hunting on public land and the reason we can go camping and cut firewood to heat our homes is because of the public land the Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided in places like New Mexico.

We had a hearing in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. If anything, what we heard is that we didn't need to reform this program; that, frankly, it was working better than just about any program in the Federal Government.

LWCF works. It has broad bipartisan support. It creates recreation jobs that are key to Western States. LWCF buys from willing sellers in places that oftentimes reduce how much we spend on maintaining, protecting, and managing our Federal lands. Imagine in-holdings

that make it harder for our foresters to manage wildfires and to protect and do the work. We need to do a better job of managing wildfires across the West.

So many of these issues that have been raised, particularly reform, are a red herring for what is truly an ideological opposition to the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a program that has put soccer fields and baseball diamonds in just about every little town across the United States. All of my counties, many of my cities, have benefited from sports fields specifically from this fund for decades now, as well as purchases like the new National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque's South Valley, the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, something the local community has enormous pride in. They had a friends group set up for this wildlife refuge before the refuge even existed.

So it is an indication of just how off base and out of the mainstream some of our conversations in Washington, DC, have become that we have this ideological opposition to the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a program that is actually working as it was designed to work and that has broad bipartisan support from one coast to the other in this Nation.

So I am disappointed in the actions of my colleagues. This issue is not going away. We have a strong coalition. We are going to continue to fight for the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I would argue that we ought to stop taking money out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and using it to cover other expenses within the general fund; that we should remain true to the concept of this fund as it was created back in the 1960s, under Secretary Udall, and return to a level of fiscal responsibility, where the money flowing into the Land and Water Conservation Fund actually benefits land and water.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, time is running out for the Senate to act to save the Federal Perkins Loan Program.

If we do nothing, this critical program that makes college affordable for 30,000 students per year in Illinois will expire at the end of the day.

Perkins was first authorized as part of the National Defense Education Act of 1958; and, unlike Federal student loans that we often think about, Perkins is a campus-based loan program.

Participating colleges and universities make low-interest federally subsidized loans to students with exceptional financial need.

The program also offers forgiveness and cancellation options to qualifying borrowers.

The real key to Perkins is the flexibility it offers to schools to provide financial aid to students to make up for gaps in costs that Pell or other financial aid may not cover.

If a student has an unexpected change in the financial situation of their family, say a parent loses a job, Perkins allows a college or university to step in and provide aid to that student to allow them to continue their studies.

The campus-based nature of the program means that students' individual financial needs can be met more effectively, and in my home State of Illinois, more than 150 institutions of higher education provide Perkins loans.

College presidents and financial aid administrators across Illinois have told me that without this key piece to the Federal financial aid puzzle, many students may be left behind, unable to afford a college education.

But it does not have to come to that. The House sent us a bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support that would extend this worthy program for another year.

I am disappointed that an attempt to take up and pass this House measure to continue the Perkins program was blocked today on the Senate floor.

Despite today's setback, I hope the Senate will still act to extend the Federal Perkins Loan Program and help keep college in reach for more than half a million students across the country who rely on this program.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while section 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allows the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocation, aggregates, and levels consistent with those

adjustments. Today, the Senate passed H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015, with Senate amendment 2689, the continuing resolution. This measure included a provision providing \$700 million to the wildland fire management account for the U.S. Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture that was designated as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985. The inclusion of this designation makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

As a result, I am revising the budgetary aggregate for 2016 by \$700 million in budget authority and \$700 million in outlays. I am also revising the 2016 allocations for budget authority and outlays to the Appropriations Committee by \$700 million in budget authority for

the revised nonsecurity category and \$700 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that this notice and the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—	
[Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016]	
\$ Millions	2016
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	3,032,788
Outlays	3,091,273
Adjustments:	
Budget Authority	700
Outlays	700
Revised Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	3,033,488
Outlays	3,091,973

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—

[Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974]

\$ Millions	2016
Current Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority ...	523,091
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	493,491
General Purpose Outlays	1,156,644
Adjustments:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority ...	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	700
General Purpose Outlays	700
Revised Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority ...	523,091
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	494,191
General Purpose Outlays	1,157,344

Memorandum: Adjustments by Designation

	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	700	700
General Purpose Outlays	0	0	700	700

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

I will object because the Department of State has failed to fully respond to almost a dozen outstanding letters dating back to 2013. In addition, on August 20, 2015, my staff met with Department officials in an effort to prioritize material for production. The Department has failed to comply with its commitments, producing material late, failing to provide all requested material, and even failing to provide material to the Senate Judiciary Committee contemporaneously with providing the same documents to Freedom of Information Act requestors.

This past August, I warned the Department that if it failed to change its ways that I would be forced to escalate the scope of my intent to object to unanimous consent requests for Department nominees. Since then, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee chairman has joined me in requesting witness interviews of Department employees. Despite the Department's commitment to make witnesses available and assist in the identification of additional relevant witnesses, none of these interviews have actually been scheduled. The Department needs to respond in good faith to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Thus far, it has primarily been promises with little or no followthrough. The Department's good faith will be measured in docu-

ments delivered and witnesses provided.

My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Mr. Egan in any way. However, the Department must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as the Marine Mammal Center, MMC, celebrates its 40th anniversary, I want to congratulate the staff, volunteers, and supporters of this extraordinary center for all they have done for decades to rescue and rehabilitate more than 20,000 marine mammals along our California coast.

MMC was founded in 1975 by a small group of local residents who wanted to aid sick and injured marine mammals such as elephant seals, sea lions, whales, sea otters, and dolphins. Over the years, MMC steadily expanded its efforts to emerge as the only organization authorized by the National Marine Mammal Fisheries Service to rescue ill or injured marine mammals along 600 miles of California coast. This mission has become increasingly important as the effects of climate change threaten our oceans and the marine life that depend on them.

MMC also has a robust scientific research program that serves as an incredible resource for information about mammal care, medicine, and health.

MMC offers educational programs that engage the public and enrich science education for children, and their recently renovated headquarters will expand these efforts by allowing visitors to watch rescued animals be cared for at their modern animal hospital facility.

For 40 years, MMC has worked tirelessly to protect our magnificent marine animals, and I know their work will continue to make a profound difference for this generation and every generation to come.●

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor Calvary Baptist Church of Charleston, SC, who will celebrate their 150th anniversary on October 10, 2015.

In 1865, the Calvary Baptist Church was founded by Reverend Charles Smalls as the Baptist Church in Charleston. The church is known as a the founding member of the Baptist Education and Missionary Convention of South Carolina and Gethsemane, the first African American Baptist Association in South Carolina.

Calvary was damaged, but not destroyed, by an earthquake in 1886, rebuilt after being burned down in April 1887, and repaired after a 1938 tornado. Commendably, Calvary Baptist Church has endured tough times, but still managed to greatly prosper.

Calvary Baptist Church is an example of a group who remains committed to Christ and community. During the civil rights movement, the church fought for justice and equal opportunity. Their leadership has helped

both the Charleston community and our beloved country march forward.

Today, Reverend Arthur Evans, Sr., continues to lead the congregation with praise, love, and worship. Calvary has shown tremendous faith through works of charity, and their honorable legacy will forever be appreciated. I acknowledge with pleasure the church's influence in Charleston and therefore recognize their growth, success, and 150 years rooted in faith.●

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS.

Ottawa University has grown from a single building in 1865 to a comprehensive, global institution of higher learning dedicated to preparing and educating students to have a lifetime of enlightened faith, exemplary service, inspired leadership, and personal growth and significance.

The university traces its roots to a strong partnership between Baptist missionaries and the Ottawa Indian tribe. In 1865, the partnership between members of the Baptist church and the Ottawa Indian tribe, under the leadership of Taui Jones, led to the founding of a school for the benefit of children of the Ottawa Indian tribe. Originally chartered as a boarding school, OU's leaders also recognized the importance of offering a college-level education and having a college to serve as an economic growth engine for the community emerging around the Marais des Cygnes River.

Ottawa University's partnership with the Ottawa Indian tribe remains strong. In 2008, Kevin C. Eichner, president of Ottawa University, and Chief John Ballard of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, entered into an agreement to grant, in perpetuity, free tuition and room and board to all certified members of the Ottawa tribe who wish to attend the residential college in Ottawa, KS, or any of OU's adult on-ground or online programs. This 2008 agreement has been widely embraced and celebrated by members of the tribe and the faculty, alumni, board members, and friends of OU as emblematic of the institution's core mission and principles and its enduring commitment to maintaining a strong partnership with the Ottawa Indian tribe.

Throughout its history, Ottawa University has pursued an innovative approach to higher education. In the 1970s, OU was among the first universities to embrace a growing demand for programs of higher education specifically tailored to the needs of adult students, opening an adult campus in Kansas City in 1974; Phoenix, AZ, in 1977; Brookfield, WI, in 1992; Jeffersonville, IN, in 2002; and Chandler, AZ, in 2009. In 2008, OU began offering complete degree programs online.

Today, Ottawa University serves more than 5,000 students from 50 States and six countries. The university employs more than 200 faculty and staff who are committed to ensuring that each student receives a high-quality education that honors OU's mission and history. Today there are more than 23,000 distinguished OU graduates serving their communities, professions, and churches around the world.

Congratulations to Ottawa University on the 150th anniversary of its founding, its enduring partnership with the Ottawa Indian tribe, and the achievements of all faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have contributed to the university's success.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE HORSLEY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and the highest regards that I speak on the retirement of my long-time friend and valued constituent James Michael Horsley. Mike announced his retirement as president of the Alabama Hospital Association earlier this year and is planning to transition to his next venture in November.

Mike has had a long and distinguished career with the Alabama Hospital Association and has represented well the interests of hospitals and the patients they serve. His tremendous knowledge of the health care industry has been a valuable resource for members of the Alabama delegation. This knowledge is grounded not only in his 24 years of service to the association but also in his service to the State as commissioner of both the Alabama Medicaid Agency and the Alabama Department of Mental Health. His knowledge of health policy is unparalleled in the State and his expertise will be sorely missed as we continue to discuss the myriad of issues concerning health care delivery.

Not only is Mike well versed in health policy, but he is also a skilled negotiator, who has been able to convene diverse interests and facilitate lasting solutions that benefit all parties. He is respected as a man for his word, with a reputation for being ethical in all of his endeavors.

Mike is a strategic thinker who possesses the ability to find innovative solutions for seemingly insurmountable challenges. Under his leadership, Alabama's hospitals have been able to provide extraordinarily good care with very limited resources. In addition, he has been very active in highlighting the inequalities of the current Medicare wage index payment mechanism and advocating for a change of the broken system. I commend Mike's tireless work to reform the Medicare Area Wage Index, and I am proud to have worked with him on many successful endeavors to improve the wage index. In 2003, after leadership by the Ala-

bama Hospital Association, the Congress passed legislation that improved the wage index for several rural States. The action resulted in payment gains for hospitals in Alabama of approximately \$1 million per hospital per year. The State of Alabama has been lucky to have him as their champion on this issue.

I also want to commend him for his exemplary service to his country as an active member of the U.S. Navy and as a long-time reservist. Mike was a respected intelligence officer who retired at the rank of captain and was responsible for keeping many of our Navy men and women out of harm's way.

In addition to this remarkable career and military service, Mike is also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He has been married to Wanda for almost 40 years, and together, they have one son and two grandchildren. In light of these and all of his many accomplishments, I want to congratulate him on his outstanding career and to wish him the best in his impending retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATIONS OF SEYCHELLES, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under

the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a "high income" country, as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank (the "World Bank"), the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program, because they have become high income countries as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, their eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATION OF SEYCHELLES AS A BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY UNDER THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA) PROGRAM—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designation of Seychelles as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) program.

Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)) authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for the benefits described in section 506A(b) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(b)), if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), subject to the authority granted to the President under subsections (a), (d), and (e) of section 502 of the 1974 Act.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Seychelles has become a "high income" country and its designation as a beneficiary sub-Saharan country is no longer within the authority granted to the President under section 502 of the 1974 Act. Accordingly, pursuant to section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C.

2466a(a)(1)), I have determined that Seychelles is no longer eligible for benefits as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for the purpose of section 506A of the 1974 Act, effective January 1, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:55 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3495. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions.

At 3:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2082. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 136. An act to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

S. 139. An act to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 565. An act to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

S. 2082. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3614. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER).

At 5:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations

regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 209. A bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-149).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2102. A bill to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2103. A bill to modify a provision relating to adjustments of certain State apportionments for Federal highway programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2104. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide relief to Medicare Advantage plans with a significant number of dually eligible or low-income subsidy beneficiaries and to prevent the termination of two star plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2105. A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2106. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and publish an action plan for improving the vocational rehabilitation services and assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2107. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to help build a stronger health care workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2108. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of certain long-term care hospital payment rules and the moratorium on the establishment of certain hospitals and facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2109. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2110. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2111. A bill to establish an alternative, outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative, high-quality higher education providers to participate in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2112. A bill to require law enforcement agencies to report the use of lethal force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2113. A bill to harness the expertise, ingenuity, and creativity of all people to contribute to innovation in the United States and to help solve problems or scientific questions by encouraging and increasing the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science methods within the Federal Government, as appropriate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 272. A resolution congratulating the University of Kansas for 150 years of outstanding service to the State of Kansas, the United States, and the world; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to amend section 520J of the Public Service Health Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

S. 931

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 931, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 968

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 1521

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1521, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase access for the uninsured to high quality physician care.

S. 1539

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by

acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1742

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to improve the provision of postal services to rural areas of the United States.

S. 1757

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1757, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote health care technology innovation and access to medical devices and services for which patients choose to self-pay under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1844

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1844, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for voluntary country of origin labeling for beef, pork, and chicken.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1974

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1974, a bill to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to amend its regulations relating to qualified mortgages, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma

(Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2071

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2071, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage and to express the sense of the Senate that the resulting revenue loss should be offset.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. TESTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2101, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S.J. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 16, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

S. RES. 267

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 267, a resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2107. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to help build a stronger health care workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by Senator BLUNT in the reintroduction of the Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, by 2025, there will be a shortage of up to 90,000 physicians. Approximately 1/3 of the shortage, up to 31,100 will be in primary care. Individuals and families living in underserved areas, urban and rural, will continue to be those most disadvantaged by this shortage.

Last year, we expanded our health care system to provide health insurance to millions more Americans. In fact, recent studies have shown that the uninsured rate has decreased to the lowest level since 1997 over the last 2 years. In Rhode Island, the uninsured rate decreased by half, down to 5 percent. As a result, millions of Americans are going to the doctor for preventive health care for the first time. In order for these efforts to be successful, we must expand our health care workforce to ensure that we have enough health care professionals to treat the newly insured.

The Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act would authorize programs that would grow the overall number of health care providers, as well as encourage providers to pursue careers in geographic and practice areas of highest need.

Building on the success of the National Health Service Corp, NHSC, Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs, and the State Loan Repayment Program, this legislation would establish a state scholarship program. Like the NHSC State Loan Repayment Program, States would be able to receive a dollar-for-dollar match to support individuals that commit to practicing in the State in which the scholarship was issued after completing their education and training. At least 50 percent of the funding would be required to support individuals committed to pursuing careers in primary care. The States would have the flexibility to use the remaining 50 percent to support scholarships to educate students in other documented health care professional shortages in the state that are approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act would also authorize grants to medical schools to develop primary care mentors on faculty and in the community. According to the Association of American Medical

Colleges, graduating medical students consistently state that role models are one of the most important factors affecting the career path they choose. Building a network of primary care mentors in the classroom and in a variety of practice settings will help guide more medical students into careers in primary care.

The legislation would couple these mentorship grants with an initiative to improve the education and training offered by medical schools in competencies most critical to primary care, including patient-centered medical homes, primary and behavioral health integration, and team-based care.

It would also direct the Institute of Medicine, IOM, to study and make recommendations about ways to limit the administrative burden on providers in documenting cognitive services delivered to patients. Primary care providers treat patients in need of these services almost exclusively, and as such, spend a significant percentage of their day documenting care. That is not the case for providers who perform procedures, like surgeries. This IOM study would help uncover ways to simplify documentation requirements, particularly for delivering cognitive services, in order to eliminate one of the potential factors that may discourage medical students from pursuing careers in primary care.

Providers across the spectrum of care recognize that this bipartisan legislation is part of the solution to addressing the looming health care workforce shortage and have lent their support, including: the Alliance for Specialty Medicine, the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the Association of Academic Health Centers, and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

I look forward to working with these and other stakeholders as well as Senator BLUNT and our colleagues to pass the Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act in order to help ensure patients have access to the health care they need.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2110. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Women's Pension Protection Act of 2015.

Out in Washington State, I recently heard from a woman named Cathy. A few years ago, Cathy said she got a taste of what it is like to have serious doubts about her future in retirement. Her husband was unemployed. On one income, they were trying to pay the bills, pay for health insurance, and pay for college tuition for their younger son. Every month, Cathy said they had to dip further and further into their retirement savings. She said she would stay awake at night, worrying how they were going to make it all work.

When I hear stories like Cathy's, it reaffirms for me what we should be working on in Congress. We need to grow our economy from the middle out, not the top down. Our country should work for all families, not just the wealthiest few. That is especially true for seniors—who, after a lifetime of hard work, deserve to live healthy, full, and financially secure lives.

I believe a secure retirement is one of the surest hallmarks of a strong middle class. But seniors today are facing some daunting challenges, just like Cathy.

Many Americans simply don't have enough savings. They are relying on thin Social Security checks that barely last until the end of the month. Sometimes, they are forced to choose between paying for groceries or paying for a prescription.

Too often, it is women who struggle the most with financial hardship in retirement, more so than men. Why is this? Well, for one, women live longer than men. So, they are more likely to outlive their retirement savings.

But there are also some systemic challenges we need to address to make sure women are better able to have a secure retirement. During their working years, women earn less than men. Today, women make just 78 cents for every dollar a man makes. That is just patently unfair. Women are more likely than men to work low-wage jobs. In fact, women comprise two-thirds of all minimum-wage workers. It is plain and simple math: Lower wages make it hard to support a family, let alone save enough for retirement. Women are also much more likely to work part-time, sometimes so they can take on caregiving responsibilities.

This earnings gap leads to a retirement gap later in life. Don't forget, workers in low wage and part-time jobs, often don't have access to a retirement savings plan at work. A new GAO report shows that workers in low-wage and part-time jobs are among the least likely to participate in a workplace retirement plan. It is mainly because these plans are not offered or because they are not eligible. Keep in mind this is particularly problematic for women, because they make up the majority of low-wage and part-time workers.

It is not that these workers don't want to save for their future. This

same GAO report found that when given the opportunity, a majority of part-time workers and workers in low-wage jobs do participate in retirement plans. For a long time, people assumed that these workers would not take advantage of a workplace retirement account or that they couldn't afford to save. This report busts that myth. Instead, it is the lack of access to retirement plans that prevent many workers from saving.

But, as if all that wasn't enough, 401k plans today lack basic consumer protections. I have heard from advocates who work with women whose husbands cashed out their 401k during a separation or right before a divorce. Right now, there is nothing in the law that prevents that from happening. That is just not right.

Without consumer protections, both husbands and wives are at risk of having the rug pulled out from under them because their spouse made a financial decision without their knowledge.

These challenges—from inequality in the workplace to gaps in consumer protections—won't just go away. In fact, they will only get worse until we resolve to do something about it for seniors today, for those who want to retire in the next few years, and for future generations.

Thankfully, we can do something about it. We need to address the inequalities that women face during their working years. It is time to finally ensure women get equal pay for equal work. The Paycheck Fairness Act would tackle pay discrimination head-on. I hope we can all agree that in the 21st century, workers should be paid fairly for the work they do, regardless of their gender.

We should raise the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020. It will put more money in workers' pockets so they can spend it in their local communities and put more away for retirement. My bill will provide a strong floor—a Federal bare minimum—that workers and cities can build off of and go even higher where it makes sense—like in Seattle in my home State of Washington.

It is time to make more progress on paid sick leave, so women aren't penalized for taking care of their families. I have introduced a bill called the Healthy Families Act to allow workers to earn paid sick days. Those solutions to empower women in today's workplace will pay off for their golden years to come.

Today, I am proud to introduce a bill with a number of my Democratic women colleagues. It is called the Women's Pension Protection Act, and it would take three major steps to protect women's retirement security.

First, my bill would expand spousal protections to cover defined contribution plans, like 401(k)s. These protections already exist for defined benefit plans, and it is just common sense to

extend these protections to defined contribution plans as well. It would help improve access to retirement savings plans for part-time workers. This bill would improve women's financial literacy. With fewer traditional pensions, people will need to make some difficult financial decisions in retirement. So, increasing financial literacy will be very important in the years ahead.

Ensuring women are able to access a secure retirement is part of my ongoing work to help our economy grow in the way we know is strongest: from the middle out, not the top down.

Eighty years ago, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. At the time, he called it "a cornerstone in a structure, which is being built, but it is, by no means, complete." We added on to that original cornerstone with Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. Those programs laid the foundation for seniors to have solid footing in America's middle class.

Now, it is time to build on that foundation. Because like FDR foresaw 80 years ago, the structure of retirement security is still incomplete. We need to start the next phase to address the pressing challenges that seniors face today. I am going to be fighting to make sure more workers, more seniors and more families have access to a healthy, independent, and financially secure retirement. I am going to keep fighting to build an ever-stronger foundation for families in my home State of Washington State, and across the Nation, for generations to come.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 272—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FOR 150 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE STATE OF KANSAS, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WORLD

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 272

Whereas the University of Kansas was founded in 1865 as the State university for the State of Kansas, embodying the values and ideals of the people who fought and died to ensure that Kansas would enter the Union as a free State, as symbolized by the mascot of the university, the Jayhawk;

Whereas, 150 years after its founding, the University of Kansas is home to 28,000 students and 2,800 faculty;

Whereas the university graduates more than 6,700 individuals each year who join the ranks of the 338,240 Jayhawk alumni living throughout Kansas, the United States, and the world;

Whereas the University of Kansas has been a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities since 1909;

Whereas the University of Kansas has been open to all genders and races since its founding;

Whereas the first valedictorian of the university was Flora Richardson in 1873;

Whereas the University of Kansas has 13 schools, offers more than 600 degree programs, and has students come from all 50 States and 105 countries to study at the university;

Whereas the University of Kansas recognizes that the understanding of world cultures is essential for the progress of the United States;

Whereas the university offers more than 40 separate language courses;

Whereas continuing education programs at the University of Kansas include fire and law enforcement training centers that annually train over 5,000 public safety officers across Kansas;

Whereas basketball was first played at the University of Kansas in 1898, coached by James Naismith, the inventor of the game, and the university has one of the most successful programs in the country, winning 5 national championships and more than 2,150 games;

Whereas Allen Fieldhouse has hosted the University of Kansas basketball games since 1955 and the building remains one of the most historically significant and prestigious buildings in college athletics;

Whereas President Theodore Roosevelt pronounced the chant of the university, Rock Chalk Jayhawk, the "greatest college cheer ever devised";

Whereas the University of Kansas has a long history of working with the United States Armed Forces, is one of only 53 schools to host all 3 Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, and works with the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth to produce military and civilian faculty with the advanced degrees necessary to teach at the highest level;

Whereas, in 1917, the first United States officer killed in World War I combat was a University of Kansas Medical Center student;

Whereas research at the University of Kansas provides numerous economic and societal contributions;

Whereas helium was first isolated in Bailey Hall, located on the main campus of the University of Kansas, and the first time-release capsule was developed by a university professor;

Whereas the Spencer Museum of Art houses an internationally known and diverse collection with approximately 38,000 artworks and artifacts in all media;

Whereas the Kenneth Spencer Research Library is home to some of the rarest and most precious volumes and materials in the world, including cuneiform tablets written 4 millennia ago;

Whereas astronauts, artists, authors, business leaders, Pulitzer Prize winners, a Nobel laureate, and Governors and Senators have launched careers at the University of Kansas, including former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole; and

Whereas the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics offers opportunities for all citizens to discover how to best serve their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the diverse elements of the University of Kansas are united by the mission to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that benefit and improve society; and

(2) congratulates the University of Kansas for 150 years of outstanding service to the

State of Kansas, the United States, and the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2704. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1493, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2705. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

SA 2706. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2704. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1493, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, strikes lines 8 through 14 and insert the following:

(c) RATE OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by 0.9 percent.

SA 2705. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. MINIMUM WAGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) MINIMUM WAGE.—Paragraph (2) of section 8103(b) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

“(A) the applicable wage rate in effect for each industry and classification as of September 29, 2015; and

“(B) increased by \$0.40 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning on September 30, 2015, and on September 30 of every third year thereafter, until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.”.

(b) GAO REPORTS.—Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “September 1, 2011” and inserting “April 1, 2017”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Government Accountability Office shall submit a subsequent report not later than April 1, 2020.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “the study under subsection (a)” and inserting “any report under subsection (a)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of ‘An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa’, the Government Accountability Office shall transmit to Congress a report on alternative ways of increasing the minimum wage in American Samoa to keep pace with the cost of living in American Samoa and to eventually equal the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect as of September 29, 2015.

SA 2706. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Brian James Egan, to be Legal Advisor of the Department of State, dated September 30, 2015.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Economic Crisis on Ukraine.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “A Review of the Department of Education and Student Achievement.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-224 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Prudent Planning or Wasteful Binge? A Look at End of the Year Spending.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND WATER

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers’ Participation in the Development of the New Regulatory Definition of ‘Waters of the United States.’”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES, INSURANCE, AND INVESTMENT

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 30, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Pension Advances: Legitimate Loans or Shady Schemes.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 238, S. 2078.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2078) to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2078) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2078

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(1) was created by Congress to independently assess and to accurately and unflinchingly describe threats to religious freedom around the world; and

(2) in carrying out its prescribed duties, should use its authorized powers to ensure that efforts by the United States to advance religious freedom abroad are timely, appropriate to the circumstances, prudent, and effective.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is

amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

SEC. 4. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431).

(3) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means a member of the Commission.

(4) VICE CHAIR.—The term "Vice Chair" means the Vice Chair of the Commission who was appointed to such position by an elected official from the political party that is different from the political party of the elected official who appointed the Chair of the Commission.

(b) STRATEGIC POLICY AND ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW PLANNING PROCESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than biennially thereafter, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, in coordination with the Commissioners, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Commission staff, and others jointly selected by the Chair and Vice Chair, shall carry out a strategic policy and organizational review planning process that includes—

(1) a review of the duties set forth in section 202 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432) and the powers set forth in section 203 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6432a);

(2) the preparation of a written description of prioritized actions that the Commission is required to complete to fulfill the strategic plan required under subsection (d);

(3) a review of the scope, content, and timing of the Commission's annual report and any required changes; and

(4) a review of the personnel policies set forth in section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) and any required changes to such policies.

(c) UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the greatest extent possible, the Chair, Vice Chair, and all of the Commissioners shall ensure that this section is implemented in a manner that results in unanimous agreement among the Commissioners with regard to—

(A) the strategic policy and organizational review planning process required under subsection (b); and

(B) the strategic plan required under subsection (d).

(2) ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS.—If unanimous agreement under paragraph (1) is not possible, items for inclusion in the strategic plan may, at the joint discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair, be approved by an affirmative vote of—

(A) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party of the President; and

(B) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party that is not the party of the President.

(d) SUBMISSION OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, and not less frequently

than biennially thereafter, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission shall jointly submit, to the appropriate congressional committees, a written strategic plan that includes—

(1) a description of prioritized actions for the Commission for a period of time to be specified by the Commissioners;

(2) a description of any changes the Commission considers necessary with regard to the scope, content, and timing of the Commission's annual report;

(3) a description of any changes the Commission considers necessary with regard to personnel matters; and

(4) the Commission's funding requirements for the period covered by the strategic plan.

(e) PENDING ISSUES.—The strategic plan required under subsection (d) may identify any issues or proposals that have not yet been resolved by the Commission.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONNEL PROVISIONS AND ANNUAL REPORT.—Notwithstanding section 204(a) and 205(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b(a) and 6533(a)), the Commission is authorized to implement provisions related to personnel and the Commission's annual report that are included in the strategic plan submitted pursuant to this section.

(g) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Upon request, the Commission shall—

(1) make available for inspection any information and documents requested by the appropriate congressional committees; and

(2) respond to any requests to provide testimony before the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission \$3,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2016 to 2019 to carry out the provisions of this Act and section 4 of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015.

"(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until the earlier of—

"(1) the date on which they have been expended; or

"(2) the date on which the Commission is terminated under section 209.

"(c) LIMITATION.—In each fiscal year, the Commission shall only be authorized to expend amounts that have been appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) if the Commission—

"(1) complies with the requirements set forth in section 4 of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015; and

"(2) submits the annual financial report required under section 208(e) to the appropriate congressional committees."

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 266 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 266) designating September 2015 as "National Kinship Care Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 266) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 22, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2617, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2617) to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Isakson amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the amendment to the title be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2705) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce an increase in the minimum wage for American Samoa, to adjust the reporting requirements of the Government Accountability Office regarding the proposed minimum wage increases for American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. MINIMUM WAGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) MINIMUM WAGE.—Paragraph (2) of section 8103(b) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

“(A) the applicable wage rate in effect for each industry and classification as of September 29, 2015; and

“(B) increased by \$0.40 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning on September 30, 2015, and on September 30 of every third year thereafter, until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.”.

(b) GAO REPORTS.—Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “September 1, 2011” and inserting “April 1, 2017”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Government Accountability Office shall submit a subsequent report not later than April 1, 2020.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “the study under subsection (a)” and inserting “any report under subsection (a)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of ‘An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa’, the Government Accountability Office shall transmit to Congress a report on alternative ways of increasing the minimum wage in American Samoa to keep pace with the cost of living in American Samoa and to eventually equal the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect as of September 29, 2015.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2617), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 2706) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.”.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein; further, that the time be equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half; further, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2029, with the time until 1:45 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2029 at 1:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:36 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. MARKOVICH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANTHONY J. ROCK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARTA CARCANO

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. FRANK D. EMANUEL

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN E. WISSLER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 30, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 30, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

EXCHANGE INCLUSION FOR A HEALTHY AMERICA ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. The Pope visited America and he inspired a lot of people, even cynical Washington, D.C. For one, he inspired Speaker BOEHNER to wake up the next morning and announce his resignation.

As I said last week, it must be hard for a decent man like Speaker BOEHNER to be head of a new know-nothing party of increasingly extreme measures to cut health care for women and to round up and deport millions of undocumented immigrants. It remains to be seen how Republicans in the House will conduct themselves without adult supervision, but the Speaker is going out on a high note.

Having the Pope speak to America from the floor of the House of Representatives was a crowning achievement for the Speaker. Now that his job is no longer on the line, I hope we will see immigration reform as the jewel in that crown and act before he steps down. But we all know that is unlikely. The concurrent hysteria on the cam-

paign trail makes action by these Republicans or any Republicans unlikely.

Even though I still believe we have the votes—like we did for the last several years—to pass immigration reform in the House, I don't think the Speaker, even as a lame duck, will allow a vote. But the Pope's visit certainly inspired me to think about the moral example he sets.

Look, the Holy Father simply reminded Members of Congress about the Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"—and he could not even complete his sentence before he got a standing ovation.

If we had a daily reminder of the Golden Rule, we could cut through a lot of the bull in Congress and have a better country and a better world. It is the Golden Rule I am here to discuss. Treat your brother and your sister and your neighbor with compassion as you would like to be treated yourself.

And in the case of health care and access to health care, it is not simply out of a sense of moral altruism, although that is part of it. Rather, it is out of the reality that treating our brothers and sisters and neighbors as we want to be treated when it comes to health care and access to health care and access to health insurance is in our own self-interest as well.

That is why I am introducing the Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America Act of 2015, a bill to give complete access to the Affordable Care Act regardless of their immigration status. The Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America will extend healthcare insurance access to millions of our neighbors and family members who live here, work here, raise families here, and will probably live here for the rest of their lives, but who lack legal immigration status.

It gives them access to healthcare exchanges in ObamaCare under the ordinary rules of residency in the States in which they live and makes them eligible for subsidies if and when they file taxes, just like the rest of us. It also subjects them to the individual mandate that requires individuals to have health insurance.

The goal is to make integration and inclusion real for millions of families that are locked out under current law.

Now, if I remember correctly, the President was standing right here in 2009 talking about his healthcare reform proposal would exclude undocumented immigrants and one of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle interrupted him by shouting, "You lie"

to the President of the United States of America, who, we should all note, was reelected comfortably in 2012.

I do not expect that Member of Congress to join me as a cosponsor. But, in fact, as we all know, he was dead wrong about the Affordable Care Act. In addition to death panels and a number of other fictions, the Republicans were wrong that undocumented immigrants were included in ObamaCare. They just weren't.

I am and have always been an advocate for the single payer approach to universal health coverage, and I fought to include all of the people who live in this country in the Affordable Care Act, but they were written out. As it stands right now, undocumented immigrants are not subject to the individual mandate and cannot buy into the health insurance exchanges, even if they use their own money.

My legislation will change that. It says that we stand for inclusion. It says that we understand the principle that, if you are here, if you are working and caring for your family and contributing to society, you should be healthy. Not only that, but your health and your protection from diseases, injuries, and preventable illnesses impacts my health care and the health care of my family.

As a nation, we all benefit when we spread the risk, invite younger, healthier workers to join our exchanges, reduce the costs of compensating hospitals for caring for the uninsured, and reducing the number of uninsured who live and work here.

Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you means moving forward with no restrictions on which brother and sister and neighbor we think of as eligible or deserving or is, in fact, considered my neighbor, my sister or my brother.

My party and the vast majority of my country understands that getting immigrants on the books and into the system and integrating them into today's American society should be the goal, just as we have done with every other group of immigrants throughout our history. My legislation, the Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America Act, is a step in that direction.

NORTH EAST BLUE RIBBON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

two schools in my district that were named this week as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program was started by the United States Department of Education in 1982 and recognizes overall academic excellence or the success of the schools in closing achievement gaps in their student population.

Youngsville High School in Warren County and North East High School in Erie County both received this honor. They are among less than 20 schools in the State of Pennsylvania to be recognized, which is quite an accomplishment when you consider the many hundreds of schools in Pennsylvania's 500 school districts. Overall, 285 public schools across the Nation received this honor.

For Youngsville High School, this honor is many years in the making. The school has greatly improved its test scores and is using the collaboration of teachers, students, and staff, along with community members, to make sure its academic success continues to grow.

In Erie County, administrators at the North East High School say that their learning model is built on heart, trust, and respect. School organizations such as National Honor Society, student council, and the school's Inspire group are intended to boost student performance in the classroom and highlight their service in the community.

I know that the administrators for both the Youngsville and North East High Schools have worked for many months toward this goal. I congratulate them, their students, and teachers on this major accomplishment.

TAX REFORM AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Politico yesterday had a fascinating story about CHUCK SCHUMER, widely expected to become the next Democratic leader in the Senate, in talks with Republican leaders in the House and Senate about a major tax and infrastructure deal.

It would give a lower tax rate on hundreds of billions of dollars parked overseas by international corporations and use the tax on those proceeds to finance a more robust 6-year transportation bill. What is not to like?

I have been working tirelessly for us to be able to finance America's failing infrastructure, having introduced the first gas tax increase on the Federal level in 22 years. I have been working with stakeholders, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, organized labor, truckers, AAA, contractors, transit, the whole array of people who build,

operate, use, and rely upon American infrastructure.

I am sympathetic to getting this job done. America is falling apart while we are falling behind. It doesn't work to try to pay for 2015 infrastructure with 1993 dollars.

The simple answer that Ronald Reagan successfully championed as President was raising the gas tax, in his case, 125 percent. It is taking hold around the country as even very red Republican States—six already this year—have raised their gas taxes, and our legislation in Congress is gaining more attention as people understand that this is the best way forward to solve the problem.

What is wrong with the deal that is being examined by Senator SCHUMER? Well, first of all, the path towards international tax reform is very complex and rocky, with many competing interests. No one disputes that the patchwork of our corporate tax system that we have currently is unfair to some and produces distorted results.

We have the highest stated statutory corporate tax rate in the world. But, for many corporations, that is not so much of a problem because they have been working to carve out their own exemptions and loopholes so that what the average that corporations pays is much less than the stated rate. But, for some, particularly those that build and operate in the United States, they do pay that statutory rate and it is a problem and it is unfair.

There is also still the incentive for some to park more money overseas. Most of us think that it is going to require revenue to buy down the corporate rate, to reform it, and repatriated dollars would be a source to adjust that in a way that doesn't make the deficit much, much worse.

There is also a problem of competitiveness. Some organizations actually have offshore operations to be closer to their markets. If you are going to sell in China, for instance, it makes sense perhaps to manufacture it there rather than ship it halfway around the world with all the complexity and expense.

I have been meeting with a wide variety of corporate tax officers who ask the question about equity. Why should they with their overseas operations pay for domestic infrastructure that everybody benefits from? That is a great question.

This has the potential of actually costing the Treasury more in the long run, making it harder to have an equitable adjustment in corporate tax reform, and shift the burden that should be paid by all American users instead concentrated on a small portion of American taxpayers on their overseas operation. They ask where is the equity, and it is hard to see.

That is why we have the basic principle of a user fee: People use a service and they pay for it. The gas tax for

decades has served that purpose since it was first introduced in my home State of Oregon in 1919 for road construction. It is still the simplest, most direct, most fair, easiest to administer, and would enable us to solve this problem in a matter of months.

Unfortunately, the path we are on is very uncertain as well as unfair. We are going to have the 35th short-term extension of the highway trust fund next month. No country has become great building its infrastructure 10 months at a time.

The answer is not an elaborate deal that is being discussed which makes it less likely we solve the problems. Why don't we just deal with it directly, put hundreds of thousands of people to work at family-wage jobs, actually reduce the deficit, increase the economy, and strengthen the quality of life in communities large and small all across America.

Let's not engage in gimmickry. Let's rebuild and renew America.

HONORING SPECIALIST KYLE GILBERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of U.S. Army Specialist Kyle Gilbert.

Specialist Gilbert was recently killed in Afghanistan while serving our Nation just days before his 25th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my most sincere and heartfelt condolences to Kyle's family and to let them know that I and we have them in our thoughts and our prayers.

Kyle is survived by many loving family members and friends, including his mother and stepfather, Ceann and Clyde Tate; father and stepmother, Ralph and Sandra Gilbert; sisters, Sasha Ashley and Becky Bailey; brother, Myles Gilbert; as well as his grandmother, Jean Ann Carrington; his stepbrother, Chris Manning; as well as a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle was born in Lawrenceville, Georgia, and graduated from Mill Creek High School in 2009 and in 2013 joined the United States Army. He was a 10th Mountain Division soldier with the 2nd Battalion, the 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to share with you that Specialist Gilbert received the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, Kyle received the Bronze Star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the NATO Medal.

□ 1015

Though I did not have the privilege of meeting Kyle personally, I would like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank him for his incredible service to the State of Georgia and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been relayed to me that Specialist Gilbert's deepest dream was to serve our Nation in the military, and I thank him for his incredible service and sacrifice so that so many others can share the American Dream. Kyle leaves a legacy of service, dedication, and kindness that will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I humbly ask that you join me in praying for Specialist Gilbert's family during this time of their bereavement.

21ST CENTURY WOMEN'S HEALTH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the 21st Century Women's Health Act to increase access to reproductive health care and to provide compassionate care to survivors of sexual assault.

Funding for the government runs out in a matter of hours. Rather than crafting a bipartisan solution on the Nation's budget, House leadership has been focusing on denying women their right to make their own healthcare decisions.

This is 2015. We should be doing all we can to increase access to health care for women. We should not be rolling back women's rights and cutting access to lifesaving cancer and preventative health screenings for women, men, and youth across the country.

As a mother, a daughter, and a Member of Congress, I understand the value of increasing access to health care for women; and that is why I am proud to introduce the 21st Century Women's Health Act, with my colleagues Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE, and with our leadership of our ally in the Senate, Senator PATTY MURRAY from Washington.

This comprehensive bill will increase access to preventative health services and contraception for low-income women, and it will help women report instances of inappropriate charges for birth control, a problem that affects too many women across the country. It will also expand the primary care workforce and ensure that survivors of sexual assault are provided with free emergency contraception and compassionate care.

I want my daughter and every woman in this country to live in a place where they have access to affordable healthcare providers like Planned Parenthood, a full range of reproductive

choices, and, most importantly, the ability to make their own healthcare decisions.

Colleagues, I grew up before Roe v. Wade, and I know what our country looks like when women don't have access to a full range of reproductive healthcare options. We know that if abortion is restricted, it does not go away.

Let us not return to a time when women had to seek care in the shadows or the back alleys. Let us come together to prevent unwanted pregnancies, and let us champion our march forward toward a more equal society with the introduction of the 21st Century Women's Health Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors, and I look forward to working toward the passage of this important bill.

THANK YOU STATE SENATOR BRANDEN PETERSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Senator Branden Petersen of Andover for his public service. Branden was elected to the Minnesota House in 2010 at the young age of 24 and then re-elected to serve his constituents, but this time in the Minnesota Senate in 2012. Recently, Branden resigned to spend more time with his young family. His leadership in the Minnesota Legislature will be sorely missed.

Branden represents portions of my district, and I have been honored to work with him and to know him. He is a man of great character and principle.

While in office, Branden worked hard to improve Minnesota's schools, economy, and budget, all while being part of a growing family that now includes three little ones at home. It has been wonderful to see Branden's dedication over the past 5 years, and I believe that the people of his district are so lucky to have benefited from his service. Branden's leadership will be truly missed, but I have no doubt that he will find success and happiness in his future endeavors.

Enjoy your time with your family, Senator. You deserve it.

MANUFACTURING DAY 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Manufacturing Day and the importance of Minnesota's manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing is one of the main drivers of the economy in my district and my State. Manufacturers generate billions of dollars in revenue for my State each year, making them a key pillar of Minnesota's economy.

Minnesota is home to an impressive 292,000 manufacturing jobs, and the State's manufacturing industry has the second largest payroll of any business sector.

Minnesotans are hardworking people, and they deserve the best that life has to offer. They deserve a strong State economy, which allows for individual growth, prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness. That is why I will continue to emphasize the importance of manufacturing-friendly policies for as long as I serve in Congress.

I am proud to support Manufacturing Day in our country, but I want to make it clear that every day is Manufacturing Day in Minnesota.

HAL BECKER, A SERVANT TO DELANO

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Becker for his tireless service to the city of Delano and to wish him luck in his upcoming retirement.

Hal graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1977 with a degree in mathematics. Not long after completing his education, Hal began to work at Delano Municipal Utilities and served as the general manager there for 30 years. He was the perfect candidate for this position, as he also graduated from the St. Paul Public Schools electricity course, holds an electrician's license and a water supply system operator license.

Hal has done an outstanding job over the past 30 years, which is proven by the recognition he has received for his work. In 2013, he was the recipient of the impressive American Public Power Association's Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award.

Hal has been a great neighbor and member of our Delano community and, above all, our friend.

Hal, your shoes will be tough to fill, and we will all miss your service. I wish you a peaceful and happy retirement.

MARCO, INC., OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Marco, Inc., of St. Cloud, Minnesota, for making Fortune's list of best small- and medium-sized companies to work for.

Marco has an incredible story and is proof that the American Dream is alive and well. What began as a small typewriter shop in St. Cloud quickly evolved into one of the top technology providers in the country, with offices located throughout the Midwest.

However, what truly stands out about Marco is that they are one of the first companies to create an employee stock ownership plan, and they are among the few companies in this country to be 100 percent employee owned.

I truly commend Marco, Inc., for understanding that employees are the heart and soul of every company and that they must be taken care of and rewarded. Your quick rise and large success is undoubtedly due to the way you treat your employees and your positive work environment. I am proud to recognize you here today.

NORTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American, Howard Curtis Jones, a constituent and dear friend who is the founder and president of the Wilson, North Carolina, Opportunities Industrialization Center.

This past Monday, September 29, Mr. Jones was presented with the Outstanding Rural Leader of the Year award at an auspicious occasion in Raleigh, North Carolina, the highest award bestowed by the North Carolina Rural Center and the Rural Economic Development organization.

This recognition could not be awarded to a more deserving individual. Mr. Jones has long been an inspiration to many with his compassion and work. I am honored to call Howard Jones my friend of more than 45 years.

The Rural Leader award recognizes an individual who demonstrates remarkable commitment to improving the way of life in rural North Carolina by enhancing the community and positively impacting the quality of life for its residents.

Mr. Jones has been helping people from Wilson and surrounding communities for more than 40 years. He has earned this recognition through decades of hard work and community involvement.

Born in Sims, North Carolina, during the Depression in 1933 as one of 16 children, Howard has spent the majority of his life trying to empower disadvantaged populations in rural eastern North Carolina. He motivates them to reach their full potential by teaching vocational skills and helping them secure gainful employment.

In 1972, after returning to his home community from employment in New York City, Mr. Jones started OIC of Wilson, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, with the goal of helping to empower individuals to find employment opportunities.

Wilson OIC, as we call it, provides services to disadvantaged youth and adults, including prevocational training, employment readiness and referral services, health educational programs, and programs to help dislocated workers transition to new careers.

Remarkably, Mr. Jones began OIC with little more than his faith in God and an unshakeable resolve and steadfast dedication that it could be done. He had no funding. He had no staff when he started except volunteers.

Over the years, Wilson OIC has expanded to employ 35 workers and place more than 200 citizens per year in jobs. Importantly, Wilson OIC adapts the services and training they provide through our changing world and assists

clients in acquiring the skills needed to compete in the 21st century economy.

For 10 years, I had the honor of serving as board chair for Wilson OIC and was involved in helping to secure its present site, which was an abandoned elementary school in the city.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to Mr. Jones' work with OIC, he has been a leader among OICs nationally and internationally. He was a personal friend and confidant of the national founder, the Reverend Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan, who must be remembered as the first African American to serve on the board of directors for General Motors and the author of the Sullivan principles, which led to the dismantling of South Africa's system of apartheid.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Jones has received more than 100 awards during his career: in 1987, he received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service; in 1987, he was recognized at the national level with the Thomas Jefferson Award; in 1997, President Clinton presented Mr. Jones with the Lifetime Achievement Jefferson Award; and in 2009, he received the First Community Stellar Award by Success Dynamics. The list goes on and on.

Finally, Howard Jones and Wilson OIC, four times each year, distribute thousands of pounds of food to low-income families in the community. When they conduct their food distribution program, hundreds of citizens literally line up through the night to receive these commodities. Howard Jones, Mr. Speaker, is an icon in our community.

Howard has been married to his wife, Sylvia Neal Jones, for many years. He is the father of five adult children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Howard Curtis Jones on being selected as Outstanding Rural Leader of the Year. He is most deserving of this honor. Mr. Jones is an example of how a single individual can make an immense positive impact in his community, in his State, and in his country.

RUSSIA'S ATTACK ON SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of coming to the floor and actually speaking this morning—I have a committee hearing, in fact—until I saw the news.

Now, let me paint a picture just briefly. Every day there are men, women, and children that live in a nation called Syria that wonder if the next barrel bomb is going to come and drop in their neighborhood. Now, this isn't a barrel bomb targeted, by the way, at any real opposition. It is tar-

geted at inflicting the maximum amount of pain on innocent civilians so that a brutal dictator by the name of Bashar al-Assad can ruthlessly, heartlessly keep power for himself in a country that does not want him.

We know that Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against his own people. Young kids were choking and gasping for air, knowing that this was their last breath and knowing that their dreams of becoming a doctor, a police officer, maybe a teacher, was cut short by this ruthless, heartless man, Bashar al-Assad.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the President said a few years ago, almost divisively, that the opposition to Bashar al-Assad is just a bunch of doctors, lawyers, and pharmacists, as if that were a bad thing.

□ 1030

I believe that a bunch of doctors, lawyers, and pharmacists in charge of Syria today would be a very good thing. Mr. Speaker, about 2 weeks ago I stood in this Chamber and gave just a 1-minute address and said: Let me be clear. There is one reason and one reason only that Russia finds itself in the Middle East and one reason and one reason only that Russia finds itself in Syria, and that one reason is to prop up this brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Now, let me remind people that ISIS would not exist in Syria had it not been for Bashar al-Assad brutally cracking down on the opposition, the peaceful opposition of his own people, but today we see that ISIS calls Syria home and we find ourselves engaged—albeit halfheartedly—in a war against ISIS because of this brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad. I stood in this Chamber and warned that the reason Russia is there is to prop him up.

Now, I told you that this morning I had no intention of coming onto the floor, Mr. Speaker, except this morning I saw the news that Russia has begun airstrikes in the Middle East. Now, if they were striking against ISIS, some could maybe argue that, hey, this is an opportunity to unite a world coalition. But it appears that, actually, the Russians have struck the doctors, lawyers, and pharmacists that are the loyal opposition for a free Syria against Bashar al-Assad.

This is not a Russia interested in defeating ISIS for the sake of the peace of the world. This is a Russia interested in rebuilding the Soviet empire and propping up their dictators in the Middle East, regardless of that dictator having killed a quarter million of his own people. This is not a choice between Bashar al-Assad or ISIS. Mr. Speaker, to defeat ISIS, you must defeat Bashar al-Assad. The two choices are not separate. They are one and the same.

Sometimes in my party's Presidential debate I hear candidates, one or

two in particular, that say Assad is our best choice in the Middle East. Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me, as a Christian, to say, as a follower of Jesus myself, no Jesus Christ I follow would call a man who brutally murders 250,000, at least, of his own people, especially women and children—no Christ I follow would call that man an ally or a friend in any way.

This is not a choice that is just one layer deep. This is a complicated situation in the Middle East that must be handled with American leadership. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the President sees this as an opportunity to reassert America's role in the Middle East. It doesn't mean he has to send 300,000 troops back into the Middle East. Not a single person I have heard on either side of the aisle has suggested even once another 300,000 troops in the Middle East.

What is being suggested is that, in the absence of American leadership, chaos, violence, death, and poverty follow suit. What we are seeing in the Middle East is a lack of American leadership and a situation spun out of control.

Mr. Speaker, I know George W. Bush has taken his licks for his policy in the Middle East, but at the end of the George W. Bush administration, if you looked at the Middle East then compared to the Middle East today, it is no comparison.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I wake up tomorrow and hear on the news that President Obama has said that America will reassert its leadership in the Middle East, but I won't hold my breath.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL has described the Republican House and Senate as a "responsible right-of-center governing majority." But how responsible is it that we are about to start a new fiscal year with no plan for how to fund our government? We are hours away from a shutdown, and Congress has yet to even begin budget negotiations.

Instead of doing the job the American people sent us here to do, we are celebrating that maybe we have found a way to keep the government open for 2 months—2 months. That is what we consider a bipartisan victory these days. Now, we may prevent a shutdown today, but let's be clear. Doing the bare minimum to keep the government from closing is not responsible. It is hardly governing at all.

The American people sent us here to take on the big issues and to get things done. They want us to fight for infrastructure, for education, for jobs, not

just to keep the lights on. We are letting partisan games get in the way of governing, and it is not only hurting our government, it is hurting our constituents.

Unreliable, unpredictable short-term funding prevents the government from operating effectively and efficiently, and it costs taxpayers money. We are short-term funding, and we are ignoring changes in our policy priorities and restricting agencies from shifting dollars around to meet emerging challenges.

Defense officials recently warned that forcing the Pentagon to operate on a short-term CR would hurt our national security by restricting our ability to respond to new threats. Moreover, a CR severely limits the government's ability to plan ahead or start new projects. That is because there is no guarantee the money will be there in 2 months.

How do agencies manage this uncertainty? By freezing hiring and training, shortening terms for grants and contracts, forgoing maintenance, and delaying scheduled pay raises. In addition, agencies have to waste countless resources preparing for contingency plans for shutdowns that may or may not happen.

Republicans like to talk about running government more like a business. Is this how they would run a business? What successful business budgets 2 months at a time?

What we need and what Democrats have been demanding is for Republicans to sit down with us and craft a long-term, bipartisan budget so we can finally get rid of the harmful, across-the-board spending cuts of sequestration so we can reprioritize and restore funding in areas like education, R&D, infrastructure, and national security in a fiscally responsible way so we can plan for the future.

The best way to do that is to return to regular order. That means offering pro-growth budget resolutions that address our long-term fiscal challenges in a responsible way. No partisan austerity plans that keep the indiscriminate and harmful sequestration in place. It also means bringing appropriation bills to the floor free of ideological policy riders. There is a time and place to debate controversial issues. That is why we have authorizing committees.

I am confident that, as long as we can put partisan politics aside and ignore obstructionist demands, we can get back to passing budgets under regular order, not a partisan budget that fails to address the sequester, not a CR that operates to keep agencies from planning more than 2 months out, and definitely not the threat of another shutdown.

My hope is with the new Republican leadership will come a renewed effort to bring back long-term budgeting

under regular order. That is the kind of responsible government the American people expect of us. That is the kind of responsible governing that the American people deserve.

PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have come to this floor numerous times to stand for a priority that I have committed myself to here as a Member of this Congress, and that is to stand up for individuals and protect the private property rights that our fellow American citizens enjoy in owning their properties, their homes, their family farms, and their other property that they have worked tirelessly to obtain.

I care about defending the constitutional rights given to all Americans and the generations that will follow us in the future. I fundamentally believe, Mr. Speaker, the American citizens' land is their land; it is not our government's.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, I am getting more and more input in our office about examples of Big Government taking people's property without just compensation and abusing the power of eminent domain. I have heard of family farms. I have heard of homes. I have heard of rights that have been squashed time and time by Big Government.

And individuals have nowhere to go. They essentially have two choices, either roll over, submit to the government and take what the government gives them or they try to fight and they use up their own precious resources while they fight a Big Government that seems to have endless amounts of resources and time, Mr. Speaker, on their side.

I want to put this in a personal perspective for my fellow Members and American citizens. This gentleman is a gentleman by the name of Charlie Birnbaum of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mr. Birnbaum is the son of immigrants who came to America after surviving the brutality of the Holocaust. His parents bought a home, raised a family, and passed that home on to Charlie. They lived and are living the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, this is that home. This is something where they have raised their family, enjoyed family memories, and where Mr. Birnbaum is living the American Dream and providing resources by teaching piano lessons out of this home and renting portions of it to tenants to make ends meet.

Since early 2014, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority of New Jersey wants to take this home and give it to an unknown entity. They don't even have a plan to redevelop

this home. They just want his property. That is not right, Mr. Speaker. That is not the American way of life. That is not the American Government that I am going to allow to abuse this man's precious home.

The solution is something that I have put together. The Defense of Property Rights Act is a piece of legislation that has come out of the Property Rights Caucus, working with my fellow Members from Maine to Alabama, to California, to stand up for private properties in America.

I introduced the legislation in January. The Defense of Property Rights Act would stand with people like Charlie and say: What America and the Big Government mentality of today is doing is wrong, and there are Members in Washington, D.C. who are joining us in the fight to say no more. We will force through that legislation accountability. We will make sure that government thinks about what it is doing before it destroys Charlie's American Dream and the Charlies across the country. Because, if it can happen to Charlie, Mr. Speaker, it can happen to anyone.

On my watch in Congress, I will do whatever I can to stand with those fellow American citizens and say: We are not going to let this happen.

HONORING FRED SIMON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend who has not only left his mark on a nationally recognized Omaha business, but also on the city itself. Fred Simon joined the family business Omaha Steaks back in 1959, helping to make it the household name and success story it is today.

But the memory of Fred Simon goes beyond the bottom line. Through his love of the arts, he spent many years helping propel the city of Omaha into a world-class community. Art lovers in Omaha have long recognized the role Fred played in elevating the city's cultural stature. It has been said that he knew that great cities need great art. With that goal in mind, Fred helped bring a full-time professional opera company to Omaha, and he didn't stop there.

Serving as Opera Omaha's board president, financially backing and attending the opera for more than four decades, Fred once said that he was sensitive to the meaning of words and the power of music. Fred, you will certainly be missed on many levels. Omaha thanks you for a life that has indeed been well lived.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act. Iran currently owes \$43.5 billion to victims of state-sponsored terrorism. Hundreds of Americans have personally felt the impact of Iranian terrorism. In the last 30 years, Americans studying abroad, teaching or traveling through the Middle East have been taken hostage, killed in suicide bombings and gunned down by members of the Islamic jihad.

The damages owed have been previously awarded by U.S. courts under Federal law, and the judgments remain unsatisfied by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under the President's Iran deal, sanctions on Iran will be lifted, and an estimated \$150 billion in assets will be released to them, and not one single cent will be used to pay the debts owed to the victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism.

□ 1045

H.R. 3457 holds Iran accountable to the victims of its terrorism by ensuring that not one cent of sanction relief goes to Iran until the victims are paid.

I am a proud cosponsor of Mr. MEEHAN's legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

UNWAVERING BOND WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the United Nations will take yet another action that only serves to further undermine the prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians and underscores the lengths to which the United Nations and many of its member states will go in order to wrongly isolate and delegitimize the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

By raising the Palestinian flag for the first time ever at the U.N., that body is allowing Palestinians to continue with their scheme to achieve unilateral statehood without having to honor their obligations to reach a peaceful settlement through direct negotiations with Israel.

While addressing the U.N. General Assembly this week, President Obama had an opportunity to denounce this latest stunt and press for the United Nations to abandon its course of action and return to the principles of its own diplomatic agreements with regard to resolving the peace process; yet, as usual, the President remained silent. That silence speaks volumes about the administration's policy toward Israel, our closest friend and ally, and it will surely only serve to embolden Abu Mazen. Today, Abu Mazen will address the U.N. General Assembly, and his speech will be nothing more than political theater.

In his speech later today, Abu Mazen will surely continue his ploy to achieve unilateral statehood recognition from sympathetic states and U.N. entities that are dominated by anti-Israel bias, like the Human Rights Council. What a misnomer. And, of course, he will blame Israel for not being able to achieve peace, when it is Abu Mazen who repeatedly has rebuffed overtures from Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu to return to the table to discuss a mutually agreeable resolution.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen over the past several years—a sight unseemly and unbecoming—the administration publicly admonish and insult our ally Israel and its leaders, applying a false moral equivalency between Israel and the Palestinians; yet when it comes to Abu Mazen's intransigence or Palestinian incitement, the Obama administration remains reserved in its condemnation, if it feigns the appearance of disapproval at all.

For peace, Abu Mazen must recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, must renounce the use of violence and put an end to the repeated rocket attacks and acts of terror, and must sit down with Israel to be an earnest partner for peace.

Abu Mazen, who is currently in his 10th year of a 5-year term as the leader of the Palestinian Authority, is only interested in self-preservation and self-interest. The onus lies with Abu Mazen and the Palestinian Authority to live up to their obligations and previous diplomatic agreements. If and when it doesn't—for surely, I know that they won't—the U.S. must be ready to cut off financial assistance to the Palestinians.

We must see that our assistance is used as leverage to ensure that the Palestinians honor their commitments and negotiate a peaceful two-state solution directly with Israel without any preconditions. We must also veto any attempts by the Palestinians to bring another resolution to the U.N. Security Council to advance their illegal unilateral statehood scheme and must make Abu Mazen pay for the consequences of these destructive actions.

The Obama administration will offer platitudes, and the administration officials will say that no other President has done more for Israel's security. But I caution that it isn't what the administration or the President says regarding Israel; it is what they don't say that we should also be paying attention to. That is why the President's silence on Israel and the Palestinians at the U.N. General Assembly this week is all too telling, and that is why it is up to us in Congress to do what we can to support Israel, to support the Jewish state's right to exist and its right to defend herself, and to use the leverage we have.

Ladies and gentlemen, nearly \$10 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars, your

money, is being sent to the U.N. We must use that leverage at the U.N. to hold those entities accountable and to fight back this fraudulent unilateral statehood scheme and these efforts to delegitimize Israel.

We need to make every effort we can to signal to the world that our commitment is an unbreakable bond between the U.S. and the democratic Jewish state and that that bond is unwavering.

ARE WE IN OR OUT IN ELIMINATING ISIS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 2014, President Obama announced that the United States would “degrade and ultimately destroy” ISIS. ISIS has obviously not gotten the memo. This terrorist group keeps moving across the Middle East, killing those who stand in its way by raping, pillaging, and murdering those who disagree with them. ISIS controls half of Syria and large parts of Iraq. Civilized society is losing to these barbarians.

Despite the U.S. spending billions on a counterterrorism strategy, the terrorist group's numbers have not decreased. In fact, ISIS has grown in size, with affiliates all over the world, including Indonesia, Yemen, Egypt, and even Libya.

A \$3 billion U.S. airstrike campaign has been plagued with little measurable successful results. From the very beginning, military officials warned that airstrikes alone that relied on virtually no human intelligence or on-the-ground intelligence would not be successful. Without good intelligence, the number of airstrikes the U.S. has carried out have been few, and the results are uncertain.

Also, ISIS fighters killed by our airstrikes are just replaced by other jihadists. Our intelligence estimates that ISIS' numbers are the same as they were when our airstrikes began.

In addition, the administration's \$500 million train and equip program has proved to be a failure by anyone's measure. In July, officials reported they had identified 7,000 planned participants but only trained 60 of these mercenaries. Later that month, 54 fighters crossed into Syria to fight ISIS forces that numbered in the tens of thousands. Of those 54 mercenaries, virtually all were killed, captured, or scattered when attacked. We are now down to four or five U.S.-trained mercenaries, according to General Lloyd Austin of CENTCOM.

Despite this failed policy, just last week, we sent a second group of 70 U.S.-trained mercenaries into Syria. Just 1 day later, reports suggested that one of the officers defected and surrendered his arms to al Qaeda's Syrian af-

filiate, and several truckloads of weapons were allegedly traded to the terrorist group al-Nusra for safe passage.

It is time to abandon this failed train and equip program.

The reality is just as bleak on the on-line battlefield. ISIS has 30,000 to 40,000 social media accounts. It uses the Internet to spread propaganda, raise money, and find recruits as far away as Washington State.

In 2011, the administration promised a strategy to combat terrorist use of social media. Four years later, we still haven't seen that plan. No plan, no degrading ISIS, no defeating ISIS.

The intel given to the administration has also been doctored to cover up how badly the war against ISIS is going. Meanwhile, thousands of people are fleeing the Middle East—flooding Europe and demanding entry into other Western nations because of the ISIS carnage and the chaos in Syria as well.

In the face of our failure to destroy ISIS, we should be focusing on what we can do better and how we can improve our strategy without using U.S. ground troops.

ISIS' advances in Syria translate into more direct threats to our national security and interests, both abroad and at home. ISIS wants to destroy the United States and everything we stand for. ISIS fears no one—certainly not the United States—so it continues to murder in the name of its radical jihad. It has already killed innocent Americans.

We need a strategy that protects American people from this radical Islamic threat. So what is the plan? Let the Russians defeat ISIS and prop up the butcher of Syria, Assad, and let him remain in power? Who knows. The current U.S. plan seems to be like the war in Vietnam: don't win, don't lose.

The American people need to know if the U.S. is in or out in the fight against ISIS. If it is in the national security interest of the United States to degrade and defeat them, we need to define the enemy and defeat them.

And that is just the way it is.

SITUATION IN SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I am not generally in the habit of agreeing with my friend from Texas, but I do thank him for posing some really challenging questions about our activities in Syria.

I think it is fair to say that the situation in Syria has gotten worse, not better. And only now that the chaos in Syria results in the flow of hundreds of thousands of people into Europe and into surrounding and delicately constructed countries, only now that we are having a conversation about how many Syrian refugees we will take in the United States are we beginning to

take notice of the moral tragedy that has been with Syria for many, many years.

The civil war in Syria has resulted in the deaths of more than 300,000 people. It has created 4 million refugees and displaced more than 6.5 million people into places like Jordan and Turkey—and now, in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

Sadly, it appears that the efforts that we have made, which my friend from Texas referred to, have been ineffectual, to put it mildly, and the situation grows worse. We watch now the Russians introducing military equipment into Syria, something that can only result in more violence, more death, and more refugees. We see, sadly—and I have watched this closely from my perch on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—ISIS gaining in strength, not losing strength.

There are lots of conversations to be had about U.S. efforts to train and equip the so-called Syrian moderates. There are conversations to be had about how we deal with Russian influence in the area. But something we must focus on now, and something that is the subject of a letter that I and 54 of my colleagues have sent to the President of the United States, is that the only real solution in Syria, a solution that should be implemented today, is for the international community, all of the players that have a stake and influence in Syria, to come together today to begin the process of working out an international agreement, the terms of which will undoubtedly be uncomfortable for us, but an agreement that will bring an end to the civil war. This agreement should provide for the exit of Bashar al-Assad. He has lost all credibility as a global leader, but he remains there.

Apart from ending the humanitarian and moral crisis in Syria, that conference would allow us to finally align behind an objective that I believe is shared by pretty much everybody in the region, which is the destruction of ISIS.

Until we take this step of coming together around a table that, yes, will involve some unsavory characters, that, yes, will not lead to an agreement that we regard as perfect, until we do that, we will simply be managing chaos. And maybe we will manage chaos well, but it will still be managing chaos: hundreds of thousands of refugees and the destabilization that that will cause, more weaponry being introduced, more U.S. taxpayer dollars expended.

We can do that. That is what we have been doing. We can do it for more months and more years. Or we can do the obvious thing, which is get around a table—and I do call on the President of the United States to show American leadership in this—and say we don't leave the room until this moral tragedy is stopped.

This is what it would mean to be a leader in the world. We can bomb. We can send military equipment. We do that a lot. Real leadership will involve saying we will come together with people we like and people we don't to solve this problem.

I call on this House to assist me and others in the effort to make sure that this becomes a national priority so we can finally bring this tragedy in the Middle East to an end.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House of Representatives amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) "An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend William Vanderbush, Cathedral of Praise, Austin, Texas, offered the following prayer:

My gracious Heavenly Father, I stand in awe and gratitude at Your goodness and Your grace for our Nation.

I pray today that You would grant our Congress, our Representatives, and our President a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You and of Your love.

Fill them with Your Holy Spirit, and may You give them visions, dreams, and new ideas that will shape the course of history for Your glory.

May they display in every decision the States united and not divided. Jesus, let us be one with each other just as we are one with You.

I pray for their families, that You would bless them in their sacrifice and service. I declare healing, grace, wholeness, and peace for all of our Representatives and our Nation today.

Let Your kingdom come, and let Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND WILLIAM VANDERBUSH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Reverend Bill Vanderbush for serving as guest chaplain of this body today.

When I was a little girl living on a ranch in South Dakota, every Sunday morning, my dad would load us up in a big Oldsmobile four-door diesel car and drive us the long way into town to church. And every Sunday morning he religiously would turn on the radio to KWAT, and we would listen to the sound of Henry Vanderbush's voice fill the car all the way to town.

My dad loved Henry Vanderbush. He was proudly known as the "cow barn preacher," and he spoke to us every single Sunday growing up. When I hear his voice today still, my eyes fill with tears thinking of my dad and how much he loved him.

In a God-ordained meeting a few years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Bill Vanderbush, his son, on an airplane. They have prayed for me; they have encouraged; they have lifted me up, and they have been wonderful

friends and prayer partners throughout that.

I want to thank him for coming today and opening this House floor with prayer.

I ask God to continuously bless him and his ministry. They are working to expand it, not only just to people in the country, but people in the city and people across the world. They carry a burden for people's hearts in their souls, and I appreciate them and ask God to richly bless them and their family.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AN AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I sit by an American hero, my friend, SAM JOHNSON, to recognize three American heroes in my own hometown: a brave police officer and two sisters, Bre and Kaylie Lasley.

Last week, a man broke into their house and began to viciously attack these two sisters with a knife. They defended each other, they supported each other, and they fought for each other's lives.

Fortunately, a police officer was in the area and, when he heard their screams, he ran to the rescue. Just seconds before this intruder was expected to take Bre's life, this heroic police officer entered the scene and saved her.

Speaking of this officer, Bre said: "Right when we made eye contact, I knew that I was safe. It's a miracle that he had so much composure. He was our angel."

I am proud to serve in a country where police officers put their lives on the line every single day to save us. I am proud to serve in a country where we know that the country isn't great because of the actions of the government; it is great because of heroic and courageous actions of individuals, which is why I would like to present this police officer with my first Profile of Courage award.

MANUFACTURING DAY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, October 2, is Manufacturing Day, a day to celebrate the American manufacturing industry that has made our country great and to highlight

emerging opportunities in the field of advanced manufacturing.

My home State of Rhode Island is the birthplace of the American industrial revolution. It was in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where Samuel Slater opened our country's first successful cotton spinning factory that marked the beginning of a new era in American innovation.

From the textile mills in Woonsocket to the shipyards in Newport, good-paying manufacturing jobs helped build a thriving middle class in Rhode Island and all across our country.

Today, advanced manufacturing fields like 3-D printing, medical device production, and renewable energy offer the promise of new opportunities to a new generation of Rhode Island and American workers. It is critical that we seize these opportunities to help our country lead the world in manufacturing.

Let's honor the great manufacturing history of America by investing in policies that create good-paying American jobs. I urge my colleagues to stand up for commonsense policies that will enable the American manufacturing industry to lead the world. Let's move forward in a bipartisan way with our Make It In America agenda.

GOLD STAR PARENTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this weekend was Gold Star Mother's Day, a day we set aside each year to honor the women who have lost a child or a grandchild who was actively serving in our great Nation's military. It is a time to honor their strength, will, and perseverance. It is also a time to honor the memories of their loved ones.

Freedom is not free. There is a cost, and that cost is paid first by our veterans and their families. That is why I am glad this week the House also did something to honor America's Gold Star Fathers with the Gold Star Fathers Act. This bill grants these men the same status as Gold Star Mothers, regardless of their eligibility for civil service.

To all Gold Star parents, please know your Nation supports you and that we are grateful for the service and sacrifice of your loved ones.

RECOGNIZING JIM GILLIAM, SR.

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of Mr. Jim Gilliam, Sr.

Mr. Gilliam was one of Delaware's most prominent leaders. He fought

tirelessly for social justice, gave voice to the voiceless, and created opportunities for generations of Delawareans. We are unquestionably better off because of the work to which Mr. Gilliam devoted his life.

Mr. Gilliam served our country as a Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army. Afterwards, he served Delaware in many capacities, from being a peace-maker after the assassination of Martin Luther King to the director of New Castle County's Department of Community Development and Housing.

I was privileged to work with Mr. Gilliam in New Castle County, and since then, I have often sought and respected Mr. Gilliam's counsel. He never minced words or pulled punches when giving you his opinion.

I joined Mr. Gilliam for lunch recently, and he was as engaged as ever in challenging me to do the right thing and take on those in Congress who are getting in the way of progress.

Mr. Gilliam was a real leader and great Delawarean whose legacy will live on through those who continue to fight for fairness and equal opportunity for all Americans.

HONORING HARRY WEBB

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a pharmacist in my district, Harry Webb, for his dedication to curbing the meth epidemic that has taken America by storm.

Meth has infected rural communities across America, consuming working class Americans who build meth labs in rural areas using household products and ingredients.

Make no mistake, Indiana's meth problem is appalling. In 2013, the Hoosier State had more meth incidents than any other State in the U.S.

Harry and his team, the Citizen Action Committee, are working to curb meth production by partnering with local and State officials and pharmacies to reduce pseudoephedrine sales, the active ingredient in producing meth. They have taken the initiative in marketing drug abuse resistant products to their customers.

This is a critical issue for the whole country, but I am grateful for Harry's dedication and work to reduce the amount of meth labs in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, join me in honoring Harry Webb for his meth lab reduction program and his service to our State.

WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Wear Red Wednesday to bring back our girls. All summer we have heard reports of Boko Haram's atrocities. This summer of savagery and brutality left us fearful for the fate of Nigeria and the Chibok girls.

But with a change of the seasons comes renewed help. We have learned of the reopening of public schools in Borno State, the very region where the Chibok girls were kidnapped over 500 days ago simply because they wanted an education. This reopening of schools gives us hope that, once the girls are returned, they will receive the education Boko Haram tried to steal from them. There are also negotiations taking place for the release of the girls.

Until these precious girls are returned and Boko Haram is defeated, we will wear red every Wednesday and we will continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls.

Tweet, tweet, tweet #joinrepwilson.

RURAL CALIFORNIA HARMED BY OBAMACARE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is simply failing rural America. A recent report showed that rural residents are left with even higher skyrocketing costs and even more barriers to care.

A knee replacement in northern California, for example, is \$43,000, but the price tag for that same service for a knee replacement in Los Angeles is \$27,000. In addition, residents in northern California face a 7 percent increase, or a total of \$384 a month or \$4,600 a year, under Covered California.

Our health industry needs competition, the key to driving costs down and increasing options for quality care. Unfortunately, the ACA has only discouraged competition, especially in rural areas where more and more physicians and providers are closing up shop, citing difficulties to operate under arbitrary regulations coming out of D.C.

Mr. Speaker, rather than hindering small business with red tape, let's work to advance policies that encourage competition and location of doctors and nurses coming to rural America; and reward that innovation so we can tackle the issues plaguing rural health care, such as the staggering doctor and nurse shortage and increasing premiums and barriers to timely care.

□ 1215

CONGRESS NEEDS TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, it looks like Congress will narrowly avoid another costly and unnecessary shutdown. That is the good news. The bad news is that Congress will have the same fight again just before the holidays start.

Why does this place keep playing the same dysfunctional record over and over? In my region, the last shutdown cost furloughs at our military installations; Olympic National Park closed its doors, hurting local employers; tribes and social service providers and others faced painful disruptions of funding. I don't want to see that happen again.

This place is spending a lot of time and energy obsessing about who the next Speaker will be. That is one job. We should be more concerned about the thousands of jobs we need to grow and keep not just in my region, but all around this country.

Congress needs to end the grandstanding and sit down at the table. Let's hammer out a budget agreement that finally ends the across-the-board sequestration cuts and focuses on this Nation's economy and its long-term growth.

HONORING CHERYL THIBODEAU WITH THE FRIST HUMANITARIAN AWARD

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of New Hampshire's leading citizens, Cheryl Thibodeau of Portsmouth Regional Hospital. The hospital, serving the seacoast region of my State, awarded Cheryl its 2015 Frist Humanitarian Award for her service to the local community.

A nurse in the emergency ward, Cheryl is a consummate teammate to her coworkers, frequently going above and beyond the call of duty. Outside work, she donates her time as part of the Pease Greeters organization to welcome home returning troops at Portsmouth airport.

She is an active participant in Sarah's Ride, a charity that raises money for the Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Association. Also in her spare time, Cheryl lends her medical expertise and friendly bedside manner to others in need of home care and she teaches New Hampshire's young about the valuable profession she is engaged in.

It seems that everyone has something positive to say about Cheryl and her efforts to make our State a better place. I have seen up close what she and the fantastic doctors and nurses at Portsmouth Regional Hospital do and could not be prouder of her work.

DO YOUR JOB

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have brought us again to the brink of another government shutdown. Here we are, the last day of the fiscal year, and what we have before us today is a temporary, 2-month budget to keep the government open, basically kicking the can down the road, failing to take up the priorities of the American people, failing to bring any kind of a jobs plan, any kind of a plan to fix our roads and bridges in this country to put Americans back to work.

When I go home, I hear one thing over and over again, and I imagine other Members do, too. They tell us: Do your job. Do your job. You have had months to bring budgets to this floor. Do your job.

It is that simple. We may disagree on what the outcome looks like, but what we can't accept is the fact that the Congress of the United States fails to do the one thing that it is directed to do under this Constitution. Do your job.

This has gone on far too long. Democrats are ready to sit down and negotiate, to work together to try to come up with solutions to the big problems we face, but we can't do it all by ourselves. We need a partner. Do your job.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS APPRECIATION MONTH

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor October as Special Operations Appreciation Month. The significance of October dates back to the roots of the first Special Forces service, aka the Devil's Brigade. This unit, like others—Scouts and Raiders, Rangers, and Naval Demolition Units—is where modern Special Operations Forces draw their roots.

We should also recognize the sacrifices of the families of these warriors. From my own experience, having served 23 years as a Navy SEAL and commander at SEAL Team 6, my wife, Lola, was oftentimes both mom and father. At one time during the war in Iraq, my wife, Lola, was at home with our two young boys while her husband, daughter, and son-in-law were all forward deployed.

Special Operations Appreciation Month is just as much about the heroes at home as it is the heroes abroad. I ask you today to please join me in supporting and recognizing October as Special Operations Appreciation Month. May God bless America and the troops that defend her.

DO THE BUSINESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, from the moment that House Republicans came to power, the majority has failed to do its job. They have consistently abdicated their responsibility to govern. They have consistently taken the American people on reckless legislative joyrides guaranteed to crash and burn. As former New York Knick Michael Ray Richardson once famously observed as his team's season was headed in the wrong direction, this ship be sinking.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans need to end their obsession with the Affordable Care Act, end their obsession with hurting immigrant families, end their obsession with Planned Parenthood. It is time to end sequestration, to fully fund the government, and get back to doing the business of the American people.

OUR NATION'S DEBT IS EATING US ALIVE

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's debt is eating us alive, and without changing our disastrous fiscal course, the CBO warns that our interest costs will exceed our entire defense budget in just 8 years.

For the first time in a decade, this Congress has adopted a budget to restore fiscal solvency. Having set that course, we now must stay that course. That is what the appropriations process is all about.

For months, Senate Democrats have blocked consideration of any of the appropriations bills we have sent them unless we discard the budget and put our country back on the road to bankruptcy.

Today we have reached the fiscal deadline. A temporary funding bill is necessary to keep the government open, and I would support it if the House and Senate leadership announced a timetable to complete our work and pledged to keep to that timetable. Without that announcement, a short-term CR simply continues us on an unsustainable course.

HUNGER TOUCHES EVERY COMMUNITY

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this September Feeding America's national network of food banks and hunger advocates took part in Hunger Action

Month, yet here in Congress, as September comes to an end, I am not sure that Hunger Action Month ever began. Nearly 49 million Americans, including over 15 million children, live in food-insecure households. That is shameful.

Hunger touches every community—every community. In my own Florida district in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, about 15 percent of households are food-insecure. That is nearly half a million people who don't know where their next meal will come from.

Thankfully, the generosity of our community and the work of groups like Feeding South Florida help keep hungry families fed, but those with the greatest power to end hunger are right here in the United States Congress. As Pope Francis said to this Chamber just last week: The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts. Let's heed his words.

This week I will introduce the Food Security Improvement Act of 2015, a bill to ensure SNAP benefits reflect the real costs of feeding a family in need. I invite my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation. Let's mark the end of Hunger Action Month by taking action here in this House.

NATIONAL PEDIATRIC BONE CANCER AWARENESS DAY

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Every year countless children are diagnosed with different cancers, altering their lives forever.

Fourteen-year-old Kaitlyn Jankovsky of Corpus Christi was diagnosed last year with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Although her cancer and treatment have been a challenge, Kaitlyn has shown great tenacity in her fight against cancer.

Our country should take inspiration from children like Kaitlyn and thousands of others living with cancer every day. It is why I have introduced H. Res. 102 to designate a day in September as National Pediatric Bone Cancer Awareness Day.

Today we wish Kaitlyn and all the other children living with pediatric cancer well. Treatment and survival rates for pediatric bone cancer have remained virtually unchanged for a quarter of a century. For Kaitlyn and other children, let's start changing that.

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a topic near and dear

to my heart: sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell is an inherited blood disease where red blood cells are abnormally shaped, making it hard to deliver oxygen throughout the body, often causing extreme pain, damaging vital organs, and possible stroke.

I have seen these effects firsthand. My sister died from sickle cell just 2 weeks before her 27th birthday. I will never forget the many night trips to the emergency room to get care for her, since we didn't have health insurance.

Back then we didn't know much about sickle cell disease. Today medical treatment and research for sickle cell has evolved. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more people now have health insurance, but we must still support Federal efforts to fund additional research and treatment opportunities.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1807, the Sickle Cell Research Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act, which supports funding for advanced medical treatment and research.

My colleagues, please join me in recognizing September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month by supporting legislation to treat this disease and by keeping our government running so critical sickle cell research and treatment can continue at the National Institutes of Health.

SEQUESTRATION IS HURTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to how sequestration and the current dysfunction in the House is hurting the American people, our infrastructure, our education, our national security, and our veterans. Sequestration has caused a severe slowdown in our job growth in this country, especially as it affects the middle class.

We have seen reduction of job growth resulting in the potential loss of close to 800,000 American jobs. These are jobs my constituents in Baltimore County region desperately need. Just yesterday my staff met with a constituent from Owings Mills, Maryland, who was laid off from a defense contractor due to sequestration cuts.

The current fiscal year 2016 transportation and housing appropriation bill cuts TIGER grants, which are used to fund critical highway, transit, and important investments, by approximately \$400 million. That is less than the fiscal year 2015 level and \$1.2 billion less than the President's request. We need this transportation money for jobs. Our infrastructure is failing.

We cannot stay competitive without investment. Sequestration is not the

answer. Continuing resolutions are not the answer. Passing the buck is not the answer. It is time for Congress to stop the nip-and-tuck tactics and make tough decisions about our priorities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.
- TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE
- Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.
- Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.
- Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.
- Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.
- Sec. 107. Extension of authority for DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.
- Sec. 108. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense–Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Sec. 109. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.

Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.

Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.

Sec. 303. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.

Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

Sec. 308. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department facilities.

Sec. 402. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

Sec. 403. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 407. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.

Sec. 408. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.

Sec. 409. Extension of authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.

Sec. 410. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.

Sec. 411. Extension of requirement for annual report on Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.

Sec. 412. Modification of authorization of fiscal year 2008 major medical facility project at Department medical center in Tampa, Florida.

Sec. 413. Authorization of major medical facility projects.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER

Sec. 501. Increase in authorization for Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility project previously authorized.

Sec. 502. Project management of super construction projects.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Technical and clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.

Section 1720G(e) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2016."

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "October 1, 2015" and inserting "October 1, 2016".

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking "and 2015" and inserting ", 2015, and 2016".

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2016".

SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DODVA HEALTH CARE SHARING INCENTIVE FUND.

Section 8111(d)(3) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND.

Section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), as amended by section 722 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3417), is amended by striking "September 30, 2016" and inserting "September 30, 2017".

SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking "and 2015" and inserting "2015, and 2016".

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Section 3692(c) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.

Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking "October 1, 2015" and inserting "October 1, 2016".

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2015,” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2041(c) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Section 2044(e)(1)(E) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2013 through 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2016”.

SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

(b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 521A(g)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.

Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 407. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016”.

SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.

Subsection (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SEC. 410. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.

Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended by striking “one-year” and inserting “two-year”.

SEC. 411. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTERAGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.

Section 1635(h)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 412. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTER IN TAMPA, FLORIDA.

(a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION.—In chapter 3 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 122 Stat. 2326), in the matter under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental

Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, after “Five Year Capital Plan” insert the following: “and for constructing a new bed tower at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Tampa, Florida, in lieu of providing bed tower upgrades at such medical center”.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 413. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Construction of a community living center, outpatient clinic, renovated domiciliary, and renovation of existing buildings in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$158,980,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$126,100,000.

(3) Seismic correction of 12 buildings in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$70,500,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury building and seismic corrections in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$205,840,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, a total of \$561,420,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized under this section may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2015 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER

SEC. 501. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215), as amended by section 1 of Public Law 114-25, is further amended by striking “\$1,050,000,000” and inserting “\$1,675,000,000”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Continuing Appropriations

Resolution, 2016 authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transfer discretionary unobligated balances appropriated for fiscal year 2015 and discretionary advance appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(c) **PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

SEC. 502. PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF SUPER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 8103 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) In the case of any super construction project, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department Federal entity to provide full project management services for the super construction project, including management over the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes.

“(2) An agreement entered into under paragraph (1) with a Federal entity shall provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Federal entity for all costs associated with the provision of project management services under the agreement.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘super construction project’ means a project for the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a medical facility involving a total expenditure of more than \$100,000,000.”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the following:

(1) The medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(2) Any super construction project (as defined in section 8103(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) that is authorized on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (g)(2)(A)” and inserting “subsection (g)(2)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 1395(l))” and inserting “(42 U.S.C. 1395m(1))”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title, by striking the item relating to section 521A and inserting the following:

“521A. Adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.”;

(3) in section 1503(a)(5), by striking “subclause” and inserting “subparagraph” each place it appears;

(4) in section 1710(e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (F)(viii), by striking “Myelodysplastic” and inserting “Myelodysplastic”;

(5) in section 1710D(c)(1), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(6) in section 1720G(a)(7)(B)(iii), by striking “has” and inserting “have”;

(7) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking the semicolon and inserting a comma;

(8) in section 1832(b)(2), by striking “(b)(2)” and inserting “(b)(3)”;

(9) in section 2044(b)(1)(D), by striking “federal” and inserting “Federal”;

(10) in section 2101(a), by moving the margins of paragraph (2), and of the subparagraphs, clauses, and subclauses therein, 2 ems to the left;

(11) in section 2101(a)(2)(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause (ii):

“(ii) The disability is due to—

“(I) blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus

“(II) loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.”.

(12) in section 2109(a) by striking “provisions of section” and inserting “provisions of sections”;

(13) in section 2303(c), by striking “internment” and inserting “interment”;

(14) in section 2411(e)(1), by striking “federal official” and inserting “Federal official”;

(15) in section 3108(b)(4), by inserting “the” before “rehabilitation program concerned”;

(16) in section 3313, by striking “1070a” each place it appears and inserting “1070a(b)”;

(17) in section 3313(e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking the second period;

(18) in section 3313(g)(3)(A)(iii), by inserting a comma after “books”;

(19) in section 3319, by striking “armed forces” each place it appears and inserting “Armed Forces”;

(20) in section 4102A(c)(9)(A)(ii)(III), by striking the quotation mark at the end;

(21) in section 5302A—

(A) by amending the enumerator and section heading to read as follows:

“**§ 5302A. Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone**”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “(as that term is defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”; and

(22) in section 7309(c)(1), by inserting “the” before “Veterans Health Administration”;

(23) in section 7401(3)(A)(ii), by striking “that”;

(24) in section 7683(d), by inserting a period at the end; and

(25) in section 8162(a)(2), by inserting “if” after “housing and”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2082.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, which is sponsored by our Senate colleague, Senator ISAKSON, chairman of the Senate VA Committee, would extend a number of expiring current authorities and critical programs at both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. These include extensions for veterans' health care and homeless programs; benefits for disabled veterans; vocational rehabilitation programs for servicemembers and veterans; home loan programs; and a variety of advisory committees, pilot programs, and medical facility projects.

Absent passage of this legislation today, these important and non-controversial authorizations and programs are set to expire at the end of this fiscal or calendar year. These are not new programs, and the costs have either been fully offset or have been assumed in the baseline budget for fiscal year 2016. Furthermore, both the majority and minority of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have worked on this language and agree on the need to extend all of these programs.

In addition to the extensions that are included, this bill also contains language that would increase the total authorization for the Denver Replacement Medical Center project to \$1.675 billion. This is an increase of \$625 million above the amounts that have previously been authorized for this project.

To ensure that the many egregious mistakes the VA has made in Denver are not repeated in the future, this bill would put into place initial reforms for managing the most expensive VA construction projects. Namely, these reforms include creating a new classification category called a super construction project.

A super construction project would be defined as the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a VA medical facility involving the total expenditure of more than \$100 million. Each super construction project would be managed not by VA, but instead by a non-Department Federal entity, such as the Army Corps of Engineers. Importantly, the bill would classify the Denver project as a super construction project.

While I am supportive of the provisions of this bill up to this point, I vehemently oppose and disagree with the Department's proposal to cover some of the increased costs of the Denver project. This bill could allow VA to proceed with the Department's proposed plan to use \$200 million in offsets from the medical services account and

through delayed activations for other construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, to understand the magnitude of the management incompetence of the Department of Veterans Affairs as it relates to construction, I think a little history is in order.

The replacement of the existing Denver VA Medical Center began as a discussion item back in 1999. The project was first envisioned as a shared facility on the former Fitzsimons Army Base in Aurora, Colorado. The initial estimate for a shared facility was \$328 million.

After undergoing numerous scope changes over a period of several years, VA requested appropriations in 2010 for a stand-alone medical center replacement with a total estimated cost of \$800 million. However, in December of last year, with less than 50 percent of the facility complete and staring down the \$800 million authorization cap, the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals found VA to be in breach of its contract with its general contractor Kiewit-Turner. As a result, VA had no choice but to come to Congress and finally admit the severity of the mismanagement and the cost and schedule overruns that have come to characterize the Denver project.

In June, following an assessment to determine the probable cost of completing the project, the Army Corps of Engineers provided the final total required to finish the Denver project: \$1.675 billion.

Several weeks ago, VA provided the committee with their plan as to what budget resources would be made available to fund the remaining dollars necessary for this project. This bill assumes that VA's plan is an appropriate way to move forward on this project.

VA first proposes to use \$100 million in offsets derived from the higher than budgeted medical collections VA expects it will receive in fiscal year 2015 and 2016. Under law, VA medical care collection funds are retained by VA medical facilities to supplement their budgets to care for veterans. Thus, their proposed offset actually reduces VA's medical care budget by \$100 million in fiscal year 2016 to partially fund the remainder of the Denver project.

I would have reservations about reducing VA's medical care budget in any year, but I am particularly concerned this year, because just a few weeks ago, I am sure the Members will recall, VA sounded the alarm that the funds budgeted for hepatitis C medications and care in the community for fiscal year 2016 are short.

VA also stated that they would need to shut down the whole hospital system. The whole hospital system would have to be shut down if additional funds for fiscal year 2015 were not provided. As a result, Congress met VA's eleventh hour plea with an additional \$3.43 billion to ensure that veterans were not denied the care that they had earned.

Obviously, VA's proposal to cut medical care funds to complete the Denver replacement hospital when the public record clearly reflects VA's previous testimony over lack of funding in the medical care account is entirely inconsistent and inappropriate. Frankly, it borders on an attempt to mislead this Congress.

Secondly, VA proposes to use \$100 million in offsets derived from reductions in construction and leasing activation costs due to schedule adjustments associated with several projects. When I asked what VA's plan was to address the funding for these adjustments, VA's response was that the Department would ensure that they request sufficient activation funding in future budget years to account for the reductions in the other projects.

In other words, it is not really an offset. They are going to ask for the money back. So by reducing other projects by \$100 million in one year only to ask Congress next year for the funds to be replaced strains credibility once again for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This isn't an offset. It is nothing more than a delayed supplemental request. In other words, VA is expecting the taxpayers to bail them out again. To agree to such a tactic would be akin to taking a child's allowance away for misbehavior, only to increase it later to make up for the reduction.

Offsetting the biggest construction failure in VA's history by cutting money from VA's medical services account and delaying facility activation costs until next year punishes the veterans of this Nation and the taxpayers for VA's incompetence.

Now, I appreciate the challenge VA has in identifying available money and producing a way ahead for this project that is fair to taxpayers and veterans alike in a tight fiscal environment. However, VA continues to be oblivious to the need to prioritize their spending.

For example, as I address this House this afternoon, VA officials from across the country have gathered 40 miles away in Leesburg for a leadership conference that is costing the Department \$1 million. That may seem like a small amount, but this is in addition to the \$33.4 million that VA reported spending on conferences so far through the end of the third quarter of this fiscal year. To repeat, VA has reported spending \$33.4 million so far through the end of the third quarter, with at least one and, likely, several other costly conferences that have yet to be accounted for.

What's more, Monday, the VA inspector general released a report on VA's relocation expenses program, which found that senior Veterans Benefits Administration officials had misused their positions for their own personal and financial benefit. These senior officials engineered the transfers of other

senior officials as a way to increase pay for themselves and to other senior executive service employees and work around the pay freezes and bans on performance awards for senior leaders. One VBA leader alone received almost \$300,000 in relocation expenses when she moved from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia.

In total, VBA spent over \$1.7 million on reassignment expenses, including almost \$1.3 million on relocation expenses for senior executives for fiscal years 2013 through 2015.

And now yesterday, the VA Office of Inspector General substantiated allegations that the St. Louis VA Health Care System mental health clinic inappropriately changed the status of mental health consults to "complete" prior to a provider actually completing the appointment with a patient in 60 percent of sampled consults.

To make matters worse, the IG substantiated that, in a review of fiscal 2013 facility performance pay assessments, eight full-time outpatient psychiatrists received an average of nearly \$14,000 in performance pay. Seven of the eight psychiatrists met or exceeded the productivity goal, and, as a result, each received an average of around \$2,900 for what proved to be faulty productivity achievements.

This is in keeping with the wanton and abusive VA spending practices that the committee has uncovered at VA facilities across our country.

For example, the committee recently found that the VA Palo Alto Health Care System has spent at least \$6.3 million on art and consulting services. These projects include an art installation on the side of a parking garage that displays quotes by Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt in—wait for it—Morse code that cost \$285,000. It actually lights up; also, a large rock sculpture in the courtyard in the middle of the mental health center that cost \$1.3 million—for a rock; a stainless steel and aluminum sculpture in the aquatic center entrance that cost \$365,000; another sculpture that I am at a loss to describe in an exterior lobby that cost \$305,000; a sculpture in the shape of a half arc that is located inside the mental health center that cost \$330,000. As many of these projects are not yet complete, these costs actually could increase.

Let me be clear: spending money on conferences and relocation expenses for VA employees and on art installations for VA facilities is not more important than taking care of the veterans of this Nation, providing them the health care that they have earned. It is simply beyond me why VA would choose to pay to complete the Denver project by cutting medical services and medical facility dollars, but not the exorbitant conference spending, bloated relocation expenses, or art.

I remain committed to finding a way forward in Denver, and I am going to

be supporting the bill today. However, I am equally convinced that we must ensure that the offsets that VA uses in Colorado do not come at the expense of VA's most important mission: providing high-quality health care for veterans. Unfortunately, VA's plan offers no assurance.

I am also frustrated that the Department's plan, which this bill presumes is appropriate, offers no measure of accountability for those responsible for allowing this project to balloon out of control. The VA senior executives in charge of the Denver disaster collected massive bonuses as projected costs increased and delays stretched on for years. They have all retired with full retirement benefits. It is inexcusable.

To allow rewards, bonuses, and full retirement benefits to be retained, even when the facts indicate that an employee has not performed at the level expected, is not only wrong, it is a blatant and woeful misuse of taxpayer dollars.

□ 1245

I have said repeatedly that the great majority of VA employees are hard-working public servants who go to work every day and live up to President Lincoln's words, to provide quality health care and benefits to our Nation's veterans.

What's more, I believe that the majority of VA employees who are dedicated to the mission and purpose of the Department are just as frustrated and demoralized as we are when they see problem employees receiving bonuses or performance awards in spite of poor, unethical, and sometimes illegal job performance.

I just wish that this legislation could assure those quality employees that the veterans that they serve—that this Congress and this Department are committed to breaking VA's vicious cycle of ignoring and even rewarding poor performance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 20 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 4½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 2082, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015.

This bill is an important and necessary bill for us to take up and pass today and send to the President. Let me repeat that. This bill is an important and a necessary bill for us to take up and pass today and send to the President.

S. 2082 makes sure that some of the vital programs we have in place to take care of our veterans continue past the end of the fiscal year and continue to

help our veterans. I want to highlight just some of those importance programs.

S. 2082 ensures that several programs serving the homeless veterans continue, including the Homeless Veterans and Homeless Veterans With Children Reintegration Programs.

S. 2082 ensures that there is adequate authorization levels for much-needed assistance and support service for veterans' caregivers.

S. 2082 continues a successful pilot program that counsels newly separated women veterans in retreat settings. This is an important program.

I have a bill, H.R. 1575, that would make this program permanent and has passed the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I hope it will be brought to the floor soon so that we can vote for it.

S. 2082 also extends the authorization of the National Academy of Sciences to continue its research into the health consequences of Agent Orange exposure, providing the necessary link for the VA to make disability presumptions.

I am disappointed that the provision mandating the Secretary to make these presumptions is not in the bill, and I know that we will all work together to make sure that the VA does the right thing for our veterans.

S. 2082 extends the authorization for the VA to provide transportation grants for highly rural veterans and the ability of the VA to provide transportation to and from VA facilities. This is important to ensure that our veterans have access to care.

S. 2082 extends the authorization of the VA to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits for our wounded warriors.

And, finally, S. 2082 provides for an increase in the authorization level for the Denver Regional VA Medical Center. This center will provide specialty care for all VISN 19, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, and Idaho. We need to finish this project and better provide health care for our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), a distinguished member of the committee.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2082, and I thank Chairman MILLER for his efforts to extend authority for various VA healthcare, benefits, disability, housing, education, job training, and other assistance programs.

Part of this bill also ensures that Colorado veterans will receive a completed, state-of-the-art new hospital in Denver.

In addition to funding the hospital, though, S. 2082 ensures that the type of construction mismanagement and cost overruns will not happen on future large-scale VA construction programs.

The VA has shown us on multiple projects, Denver being, unfortunately, the largest, that they are not properly equipped to handle these large construction projects with their own in-house capabilities.

The bill requires that the Army Corps of Engineers or NAVFAC or a different construction agency, but not the VA, will take on the task of managing these large construction programs.

We must be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and use that money wisely to care for the veterans. This bill is a step in the right direction to get VA construction back on the right path, while fulfilling the promise made with the hospital to our Nation's veterans.

We have a sacred trust to take care of the men and women who have defended our country.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. I thank the ranking member for yielding and for her leadership on the VA Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of this bill, S. 2082, the VA Expiring Authorities Act.

As my colleagues have outlined, this legislation will extend the authorization for some very good programs at the VA that provide valuable support and services for our Nation's heroes.

I have serious concerns, however, about one provision included in the bill. Title V raises the authorization for the Denver medical facility by more than \$600 million. This facility is already \$1 billion over budget and years behind schedule.

The bill, however, does not explain how we are going to pay for this increase. That will come later today when the House considers a continuing resolution to keep the government running for another 10 weeks. Buried in the CR is a provision that allows the VA to play a shell game within their budget to pay for the Denver project.

Now, we all believe that veterans everywhere, including in Denver, should have access to the best health care possible. But the funds for the Denver project should not come at the expense of veterans in Nevada and in other parts of the country.

Nonetheless, the VA has identified the \$600 million to pay for the Denver facility and has said that these specific cuts are designed to "minimize the impact on veterans."

Well, this couldn't be further from the truth, and it ignores reality. It is the epitome of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Let me remind you that, in the summer of 2014, we passed an emergency CHOICE Act of some \$15 billion to help the VA with the healthcare backlog.

Then the VA came back to us this summer and said they would have to

close hospitals if we didn't allow them to move some money out of the CHOICE Act.

Then the VA came back and said they needed \$200 million just to keep the Denver project going for a while. Now the VA is saying: Oh, no problem. We can just move \$600 million out of existing programs so we can help Denver without it hurting veterans.

How can they possibly do this?

The VA, I can tell you, has proposed cutting IT services, despite the fact that many of their IT systems are 30 years old and need to be replaced.

They want to cut funds for a program that helps recruit and retain the best personnel to serve veterans at a time when they are struggling to recruit and retain qualified employees, including specialists and doctors. They want to cut eight construction projects around the country, from operating rooms to a dialysis center.

Now, how can you say these cuts won't hurt veterans?

Now, we know a thing or two about sure things in Las Vegas. Well, I can tell you it is a sure thing that, soon enough, the VA will be coming back to Congress, proclaiming yet another doomsday if we don't refill these accounts that they are now robbing.

So I say to you Congress needs to do its job and actually pay for what we have bought. Wars are expensive. We need to recognize that. We can't keep playing budget games and nickel-and-dime the services that the brave men and women who fought in these wars need and deserve when they come home.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Denver (Mr. COFFMAN), an able co-chair of the committee who has been in the forefront of this entire fight looking at the cost overruns, the mismanagement, and trying to keep this project on schedule.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for the Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015. This legislation will continue numerous programs of critical importance to our Nation's veterans, including a pilot program to increase women veterans' access to health care, nursing home care authorities, and measures to combat veteran homelessness.

I am proud that this legislation will allow for the completion of the VA replacement hospital in Aurora, Colorado, an absolutely critical project which will serve veterans not just in Colorado, but also in Utah, Montana, Wyoming and parts of four other States.

In spite of the incredible mismanagement of this project by the VA and a shocking lack of accountability for those responsible, completing the hospital in Aurora has been my number one legislative priority. We must not punish our Nation's veterans for the sins of incompetent VA bureaucrats.

Finally, this bill would accomplish a goal that I have worked towards for over a year, getting the VA out of the major construction business once and for all.

For decades, the Government Accountability Office has highlighted enormous construction management deficiencies by the VA.

After the GAO highlighted hundreds of millions in cost overruns in April of 2013, the House passed my legislation, which would have handed over the worst VA projects to experts at the Army Corps of Engineers.

Worse, billions of dollars have been wasted by VA on mismanaged construction projects which could have gone instead towards veterans' health care and benefits.

I am proud that this bill will finally leave the construction management of large projects to the experts, organizations like the Army Corps of Engineers, and allow VA to focus back to its core competencies, providing health care and benefits to our veterans.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Denver, Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER), who really can give us a little institutional memory on the Denver regional hospital and who has been at the forefront of this hospital and this regional problem from the beginning.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank Ranking Member BROWN for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for bringing S. 2082 to the floor for debate and hearing today.

I rise today to support S. 2082, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act. The legislation before us passed the Senate unanimously last week and is important for a number of VA programs our veterans rely on day in and day out.

In addition to these important VA extensions, this legislation will authorize completion of the VA Medical Center under construction in Aurora, Colorado. This center is part of a major medical campus that includes the University of Colorado Medical School as well as Children's Hospital of Denver.

The professors at the University of Colorado are also many of the doctors at the VA Medical Center. The center will include a full range of medical, laboratory, research, and counseling services as well as a 30-bed spinal cord injury unit serving hundreds of thousands of veterans throughout the Rocky Mountain West.

As the chairman mentioned, this hospital's genesis began under President Clinton in 1999 with the Secretary of VA at that time. Under George Bush, it went through four Secretaries of the VA and, under President Obama, now two VA Secretaries.

□ 1300

It is moving forward and, with this bill, will continue to move forward.

There is no doubt the VA mismanaged this project from the start; and as disappointing and unacceptable as this situation has been, we are where we are. Under the leadership of Secretary McDonald and Deputy Secretary Gibson, the VA has admitted their mistakes on this project, and they are both personally involved in completion of this facility.

Today, construction continues on the project in earnest. The facility is more than 50 percent complete, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been brought in to oversee completion of the medical center. Bringing in the Army Corps is important so we, as a Congress, can be certain that any additional funds spent on this project are spent appropriately and the facility is completed without further delay.

The contractor, Kiewit-Turner, and subcontractors have shown tremendous commitment to our Nation's veterans by building a world-class facility, and I am confident they will deliver this facility to our veterans throughout the Rocky Mountain West.

This bill requires the VA to use a non-VA Federal entity, like the Army Corps, to complete major construction projects valued at over \$100 million. This is critically important towards ensuring accountability and preventing these large projects from being mismanaged again.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member BROWN, as well as Congressman CHARLIE DENT and Congressman BISHOP, for their work with me and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), who now represents the district.

There has been a great deal of anger at the VA recently and much of it is well-deserved, but through the help of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Appropriations Committee, Rocky Mountain veterans will eventually see this medical center completed and receive the health care that they earned by their service to the United States of America.

I thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Florida, for yielding.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for working so closely with Mr. COFFMAN, a true bipartisan effort, to see this project to completion.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Florida has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Florida has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire from Ms. BROWN if she would yield 5 minutes of her time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since I have 9 minutes remaining, and I have no further speakers, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida yields 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida.

Without objection, the gentleman from Florida will control those 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM), a member of the committee that has worked very hard on this particular issue, especially the Expiring Authorities bill, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of S. 2082; however, I would like to note that I am also deeply disappointed that we are not voting on the House bills which would have limited awards and bonuses to VA employees. It is my belief that we have missed an opportunity to bring much-needed accountability to the VA, and know that I will work tirelessly to bring accountability to the VA for the American people.

S. 2082, also known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015, includes multiple necessary provisions supporting our Nation's heroes, including veterans who are homeless, disabled, or suffering from PTSD.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, I introduced a particular provision in S. 2082 to extend contract exams for veterans applying for disability benefits. Extending contract exams is a commonsense measure to cut through the bureaucratic red tape and ensure our veterans are getting the care they need when they need it.

Many veterans undergo a VA medical examination in support of their application for disability benefits. The problem is that there are not enough examiners to perform these evaluations in a timely manner in the VA system.

Expanding contract exams will make it easier for the VA to arrange for the veterans to get disability examinations by permitting a licensed physician to conduct these examinations anywhere in the United States as long as the doctor is under a VA contract. This is common sense, and I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the former chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, a stalwart supporter of America's veterans.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman from Florida, CORRINE BROWN, for her courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for a

quarter of a century, including stints as vice chairman and full committee chair. I believe that our Nation's veterans are fortunate to have a great champion with the gentleman from Florida, Chairman MILLER, at the helm.

Chairman MILLER has led the committee with aggressive oversight and accountability of the often-troubled Department. He has shepherded numerous bills into law, including the VA Choice Program, which expands timely and local access to health care for veterans, and, working so closely in a bipartisan way with Ranking Member BROWN, ensured that the VA has the resources and the authorities to meet evolving needs. The chairman always puts veterans and their dependents first.

Chairman MILLER has explained the bill. I will just take a brief moment to comment on title III.

Title III reauthorizes a number of provisions from a law that I wrote back in 2001 known as the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act, or Public Law 107-95. That law established the grant programs that included female veterans, homeless veterans with special needs, children, serious mental illnesses, and incarcerated veterans. The act authorized dental care. We learned through our hearing process that not only oral health—but overall health as well—is negatively affected with broken and diseased teeth and gums. And you don't get a job with busted teeth. Oral health was critical, so we put that into the bill. Job training and expanded domiciliary care programs were also expanded. It also authorized the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and launched the national goal, which has now been replicated since 2010, of attempting to end chronic homelessness among veterans. We also did the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and the HUD-VASH program.

In 2001, the estimation from VA was that almost 300,000 veterans were homeless at some time during that year. By fiscal year 2013, that number had decreased to approximately 140,000 veterans. Of course we now have a different, altered way of calculating, but, unfortunately, on any given night last year, just under 50,000 veterans were still on the street.

This legislation will go far and do much so that no veteran is on the street and suffering homelessness. We need to bring them back into society.

Again, I thank Chairman MILLER for his strong leadership.

Thank you, Chairman MILLER, for your leadership on this bill and your staff's work to bring it to the floor in a timely manner to ensure that the VA continues to provide the services necessary for veterans to successfully transition back to civilian life and live independently.

Mr. Speaker, I served on the House Veteran's Affairs Committee for a quarter of a

century, including stints as vice and full committee chair and I believe that our nation's veterans are fortunate to have a great champion with Chairman MILLER at the helm. Chairman MILLER led the committee with aggressive oversight and accountability of the often troubled Department. You have shepherded numerous bills into law including the VA Choice program which expands timely and local access to healthcare for veterans and you've ensured that the VA has the resources and authorities to meet evolving needs. You have always put veterans and their dependents—first.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are voting on today will reauthorize over 30 critical programs that provide healthcare, education, and child care benefits to veterans and continue the VA's homeless veterans and caregiver assistance.

Since Chairman MILLER has explained the bill let me focus for a moment on Title III which extends many provisions first authorized by landmark legislation I authored in 2001 known as the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (Public Law 107-95).

That law established the grant programs we are reauthorizing today that focused on homeless female veterans; homeless veterans with special needs, children, serious mental illnesses, and incarcerated veterans. The Act authorized dental care—for better oral health and overall health—job training and expanded domiciliary care programs. It is hard to get a job if your teeth are cracked and deteriorated. It authorized the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and launched the national goal of attempting to end chronic homelessness among veterans within a decade of the enactment of the Act. And among its many other provisions, it increased funding for two programs that were effective but seriously underfunded.

The first was the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program—which helps homeless veterans reenter and stay in the labor force. Allowing more veterans access to this program was critical, as a steady job is key to successfully maintaining a residence.

The second is the HUD-VASH program, which combines rental assistance with case management and clinical services. After enactment, utilization of these services spiked and more veterans received the assistance that has led to self-sufficiency and independence.

Today, these programs continue to be a highly effective means of reducing homelessness among our veterans population.

In 2001, it was estimated that almost 300,000 veterans experienced homelessness that year. By fiscal year 2013, that number had decreased to approximately 140,000 veterans.

The VA and HUD have since changed how they calculate homeless veterans to a point-in-time estimate. The latest numbers show that we still have much work to do: on any given night last year, just under 50,000 veterans were on the street.

Of course one homeless veteran is one too many. Yet we are continuing to make progress and the numbers demonstrate how these programs, coupled with other recent and successful programs like the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program which we are reauthorizing today, are tangibly assisting

homeless or potentially homeless women and men who served in our nation's armed forces. It is estimated that approximately 135,000 veterans and their families got assistance through SSVF in (FY) 2015 including funds to Soldier On and other initiatives in my state.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2082, sending this important bill to the President so that the vital programs helping our veterans will continue past the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank Ranking Member BROWN for her courtesy in yielding an additional few minutes for some of our Members who wanted to speak.

I, too, think it is very important that we pass this piece of legislation today, but our job here is not finished. We must ensure that the appropriators now do their job and make sure that VA doesn't, as the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) said, rob Peter to pay Paul. It is important that we not take necessary dollars away from veteran health care in order to pay for their massive mismanagement of this particular facility.

I urge a positive vote on this Senate bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend from Florida for his work on the VA extenders bill. I appreciate his partnership as we continue to fight for our veterans.

However, Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply disappointed that this extenders bill does not include an extension of the Agent Orange Act.

As you know, Congress passed the Agent Orange Act in 1991 to ensure care and compensation to Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Before this bill, it was up to our veterans to prove their cancer or Parkinson's was connected to their service in Vietnam and their exposure to Agent Orange.

The Agent Orange Act changed all of that, shifting the burden of proof from the veteran to the VA. Under the Agent Orange Act, the IOM would study Agent Orange and determine which diseases were associated with exposure to Agent Orange. This process removed the burden of proof from our Vietnam veterans when they applied for disability compensation.

Over the years, the IOM has issued reports that have led to the presumption of service connection for diseases such as Parkinson's, B-cell leukemia and early onset peripheral neuropathy. Without these studies, thousands of Vietnam era veterans would have gone without the benefits they greatly deserve.

The Agent Orange Act is set to expire tomorrow, but IOM is still working on their last report.

And, despite the good the Agent Orange Act has done for our Vietnam veterans, Congress is going to let this bill expire tomorrow.

And it's all because it costs too much.

Mr. Speaker, it never costs too much to ensure justice for our veterans.

We should be ashamed that we are letting this bill expire and leaving it up to the VA to add new diseases to the presumption list.

The Agent Orange Act has worked for our veterans for over a decade, and it is irresponsible to let our oversight expire and simply leave it up to the VA's discretion.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot step away from our responsibilities and hand them over to an agency, simply because we do not like the price tag.

Instead, we should do the right thing and find an offset.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to demand Leadership go back and find an offset outside of the VA to ensure our veterans get the benefits they earned.

We have a responsibility to these veterans. They completed their mission in Vietnam, now we must complete ours.

By finding an offset and passing this extension, we will make certain that when the IOM's final report is published, the VA is obligated to review it and follow their recommendations.

We owe these heroes nothing less.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concerns regarding two provisions in S. 2082, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015: Sec. 501 the increased authorization for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility project in Denver, Colorado and Sec. 412 the modification of authorization for the VA medical facility project in Tampa, Florida which is designated as an emergency.

SEC. 501 INCREASED AUTHORIZATION FOR THE VA MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER, COLORADO

Originally budgeted to be an \$800 million dollar project, the VA is now requesting yet another funding transfer from Congress to bring the total price tag of this medical facility to an astounding \$1.675 billion, more than \$800 million dollars over budget. Mismanagement of construction projects, and the unacceptable waste of taxpayer dollars, unfortunately have been an ongoing problem at the VA. It is deplorable and should not be tolerated by Congress or the Administration.

This project is a perfect example of why the VA is in dire need of wholesale reform in addition to continued oversight by Congress to ensure that the VA is transparent, accountable, and ultimately able to best serve our nation's veterans. I fully support the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman JEFF MILLER's efforts to directly address the construction problems at the VA and other efforts by his Committee to enforce accountability agency-wide, including H.R. 1994, the VA Accountability Act of 2015, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on July 29, 2015. I also applaud Chairman MILLER's version of an increased authorization for the Denver project bill, H.R. 3595, because it included offsets to help pay for the increase in costs at the Denver facility. These offsetting policies in H.R. 3595 are a clear indication that the U.S. House of Representatives is no longer willing to tolerate misbehavior and poor performance at the VA and include the following: limitation on awards and bonuses for VA employees, reduction of benefits for members of the Senior Executive Service at the VA convicted of certain crimes, and authority for the VA Secretary to recoup bonuses or awards paid to employ-

ees in the past if deemed appropriate pursuant to regulations. Unfortunately, S. 2082 does not include these offsets and allows the VA to decide which funds to transfer to the Denver project.

As Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget, I do not condone mismanagement by any Federal agency, especially an agency tasked with the heavy responsibility of taking care of the men and women who have served our country in uniform. Our veterans should not be punished by the lack of competence within the VA bureaucracy, which would be the effect of not approving the transfer of additional funds for this medical facility. However, the VA should not take the approval of this newest transfer of funds as an indication of congressional support for their mismanagement of the Denver facility. Further, the VA is hereby placed on notice that the Budget Committee will work closely with the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the months ahead to advance the long overdue efforts to reform the department's dysfunctional operations. Our veterans who have served this nation with honor and distinction deserve nothing less than Congress' commitment to fix the management problems at the VA.

SEC. 412 MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THE VA MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN TAMPA, FLORIDA

S. 2082 calls for modifying the authorization for the Tampa facility from "providing bed tower upgrades," which was originally authorized and appropriated in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-252), to "constructing a new bed tower" and designating this new purpose of the monies as an emergency requirement. The emergency designation, which is under the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee, is defined for needs that are urgent, unforeseen, and would result in imminent loss of life or property if left unmet. I do not believe that the authorization modification in S. 2082 meets these criteria since it is occurring seven years after the original emergency designation for this purpose in P.L. 110-252. I think most members of Congress would agree that this provision does not qualify as an emergency as defined by the Committee's criteria and I am disappointed that this emergency provision is included in S. 2082.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2082.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1409

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 79, DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 719, TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-272) on the resolution (H. Res. 448) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 79, DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 719, TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 448 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 448

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 20 minutes of debate equally

divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule for consideration for both H. Con. Res. 79, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and H.R. 719, the Continuing Appropriations Act 2016.

The rule provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 79 under a closed rule with 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and his designee and the minority leader or her designee. In addition, the rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, first, this resolution allows for consideration of H. Con. Res. 79, which directs the Clerk of the House to include the text of the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015 in the enrollment of H.R. 719. This would allow the House to again state its position in opposition to the funding of Planned Parenthood as it has already done by passage of both H.R. 3495 and

H.R. 3134. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for consideration of the short-term continuing resolution.

As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I am always disappointed when we are forced to consider continuing resolutions, especially given the work this House has done in the appropriations process this year.

□ 1415

For the first time since 2009, the House Appropriations Committee was able to complete all 12 appropriations bills, and complete them before the August recess. Unfortunately, just as in years past, Senate Democrats prevented consideration of any appropriations bills on the floor of that body. This leads us to the unfortunate situation of having to put forward a short-term CR to fund the government through December 11.

This continuing resolution is simple. Most programs will continue being funded at their FY15 levels; however, it does adjust certain spending levels for critical needs, such as providing \$700 million for wildfire suppression activities in the West, and it extends several programs that would otherwise lapse, like the collection of recreation fees for public lands. In addition, it maintains the moratorium on State and local jurisdictions' taxation of the Internet.

I hope that in the weeks and months ahead the House, the Senate, and the President can come to an agreement on a path forward which ensures we are not in this same place in December.

Some of my colleagues have stated publicly that they cannot support this CR because it provides funding for Planned Parenthood. I want to assure my colleagues that no funding for Planned Parenthood is included in this legislation.

First, a majority of Planned Parenthood funding, about 90 percent, comes through Medicaid and is not subject to appropriations. Of the remaining 10 percent, the largest portion, roughly \$28 million, is funded through title X. These grant programs are competed for every year and are awarded in April, long past the length of this continuing resolution.

While I share the same disgust over the evidence seen in the atrocious videos that are so widely known, I want to assure my colleagues that no additional funds are provided for this organization in this bill.

I am encouraged by the hard work of Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and, of course, the Speaker, whose leadership has made all this possible.

One of the preeminent responsibilities we are tasked with as Members of Congress is to ensure that the government continues to function. While a continuing resolution is not the ideal vehicle, the alternative of a government shutdown is not what we have all been sent to Washington to do.

I urge support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, when the House shut down in 2013, I happened to be on the floor at midnight. Why, at this moment, eludes me. But I remember when the clock struck midnight that I made the comment that the great government of the United States of America was closed.

That 16-day exercise took \$24 billion out of this economy at a time when we were struggling, really, to get our economy back on track. That money mostly came from mom-and-pop stores that were in Federal buildings or in the national parks. The inconvenience to Federal employees was enormous. They did get paid, but they were worried to death whether they would be able to meet their mortgage payments or to meet the college tuition payments. And yet so many people were dispossessed, practically. Veterans came to Washington to visit their memorials, only to find them closed.

I certainly concur with Mr. COLE. We do not want to see that again. It was foolish then; it would be doubly foolish now. We are now on the edge of what we are going to do because we couldn't get anything done.

I am obsessed today by what occurred last night on television. I want to explain it to you, because I have said on this floor so many times—mostly during the 54 times we voted to defund health care—that what was going on here was a gigantic hoax.

I said just this morning at the Rules Committee that what we do has only a passing resemblance to what we are supposed to do. And I want to read a quote from what was said last night on Fox News by Representative MCCARTHY, who is the presumptive new Speaker of the House. He said:

What you are going to see is a conservative Speaker, that takes a conservative Congress, that puts a strategy in place to fight and win. And let me give you one example.

Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping. No one would have known any of that happened had we not fought and made that happen.

Sean Hannity responds:

I agree, I'll give you credit for that.

I tell you what that means, Mr. Speaker. It means that this was used as a hoax. We concerned ourselves with that, and now we are going to see another one of these special committees. The Benghazi Committee has already spent \$4.5 million, on top of all the money that was spent in committees, to point out that there was nothing wrong in Benghazi.

And, once again, I was on the floor of the House for the rule talking about setting up special committees for Benghazi, when I got a call from the mother of one of the former Navy SEALs who had died in that awful attack saying that her son had been a Navy SEAL, he knew his risks, and would we please stop bringing this up over and over again.

We heard basically the same thing from the Ambassador's family, who said that he knew the language. He liked to be out with the people. He could not be confined behind a wall.

So what are we doing here today? More hoax? More money wasted? Perhaps.

I told the chairman of the Rules Committee this morning that we would be happy to give them the rule for the CR. We want a clean CR. We were pleased as all get out when the Senate sent us a clean CR. But no, we are not going to do that. We are going to pretend, as part of the CR rule, that we are going to defund Planned Parenthood, which Mr. COLE just pointed out has no money allocated to it directly in the Federal budget.

So what we are going to defund is I don't know what. HHS? Who knows. Maybe we will find out, maybe we won't. But they are doing this hoax again simply to fool some of the people on their side who obviously know about it because it has been in every paper and on everybody's lips that I have talked to that we were going to have to probably do that. But putting that on the rule this morning meant that we cannot support it. Perhaps you have the votes to do it by hoaxing people, but I don't know.

We do know that that most conservative wing has harangued its leadership enough to add that vote on the bill even though, as I point out, we were very willing to give the votes on our side.

Now, the Senate had 78 majority votes to keep the Senate open and Congress moving, but we will not do that because we want to try to restrict a woman's access to health care. We do it all the time. We have already had 14 votes. We did two or three this week.

What in the world is it that makes this majority want to take health care away from people—54 times to kill health care, 14 times to kill choice, which is constitutionally protected, I must add.

So across the country, our constituents must be thoroughly surprised at what really is going on here. A lot of money is getting spent. It takes \$24 million a week to run the House of Representatives. And think of the Benghazi Committees. If you recall, at both Armed Services and Intelligence, their Republican chairs—and bless them for it—said there is nothing there.

But we find out last night that the whole purpose of all of it was never to

do anything except to cause eternal grief to the families of the four people who lost their lives and to destroy a Presidential candidate. Could the Congress really stoop that low? I certainly hope not. The facts belie my hope.

So we will be back here in December, December 11, actually, when I suspect we will go through the same thing: Are we going to shut down the government or are we going to try to do our job? We do the same thing. We will have to put some things in to fool some people all the time so that they will think they are voting for something entirely different. Frankly, I am not going to try to explain why this is happening, because the people that it is meant to appease obviously know we are appeasing them. And it won't last, but it sure is expensive.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to, first, point out a couple of areas where my friend and I do disagree. We certainly disagree about the value of the Benghazi Committee. Frankly, I think it has been conducted professionally and seriously by Mr. GOWDY. I think we have already learned some things we wouldn't have known, including the fact that the former Secretary of State had a private server over which only she had access and control, a very unusual arrangement. So I will just let the committee continue its work and see where we end up at the end of the day.

I want to disagree with my friend, with all due respect, on Planned Parenthood. That is just an area where we have a difference of opinion. I don't think it is appropriate that they receive Federal funds. There are plenty of other ways. We provide \$3.5 billion to thousands of public healthcare centers and community healthcare centers around the United States. Those provide all these same services. That is appropriate, and we should do that.

But I also want to agree with my friend. I agree very much with her sentiments on a government shutdown. She is precisely right, in my view, about what happened in the last government shutdown. It should not have occurred. This is a sincere effort to make sure that doesn't occur now. The Appropriations Committee is certainly doing everything in its power to do that.

Obviously, we need the administration, the Senate, and the House leadership to sit down and give us a framework. We are trying to buy them that time. I think we are doing it in a very responsible way.

So, while my friend and I may have some disagreements in some areas, on the functioning of the government we have absolutely no disagreement whatsoever. I am pleased to be here working with her in those areas, and I am hopeful that the President, the Speaker, the

majority leader, and the respective minority leaders can indeed come to a larger agreement that would allow a normal appropriations process to take place. First, an omnibus bill this year, and, hopefully, next year, an actual complete appropriations process such as we haven't seen around here in many, many, many years.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a precarious time. At midnight tonight, the Government of the United States will close yet once again. Mr. COLE and I certainly have strong agreement on that, and I am happy for that. He is a true gentleman and a scholar here in Congress. But I continue to say that it saddens me greatly, because all of us who were wanting to vote for a clean CR, because of this rule, we will not have an opportunity to do that.

I call for a "no" vote on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank my friend again for also emphasizing the areas where we agree, which is on the maintenance of the government. And while we may have a difference over the rule, I would hope that my friend and many of her colleagues on the CR that has been agreed to would look on that favorably and would be able to support the CR, itself, as opposed to the rule.

Mr. Speaker, passage of the CR is critical to prevent a government shutdown and to demonstrate to the American people that Congress can actually govern. The CR abides within the budget caps and does not provide any additional funding for Planned Parenthood, as some have claimed. In addition, the rule provides for consideration of an enrollment correction bill that would again make the position of the House clear in opposition to any additional funding for Planned Parenthood.

I want to encourage my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation. And, frankly, I want to encourage those who are now engaged in negotiations to arrive at a framework where the appropriations process can actually go forward, where we can sit down and seriously consider in a bipartisan way how best to fund the government in the coming year, and where, hopefully, we can get an agreement large enough that we can have a normal appropriations process next year where we actually bring bills individually to this floor, as we did 6 times, but actually do it for the full 12 that would be in order. That is my hope. That is what I am going to be working toward. I know my friend will be working in the same direction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the resolution will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2082.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 187, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 525]

YEAS—239

Abraham	Gibbs	Meadows
Aderholt	Gibson	Meehan
Allen	Gohmert	Messer
Amash	Goodlatte	Mica
Amodei	Gosar	Miller (FL)
Babin	Gowdy	Miller (MI)
Barletta	Granger	Moolenaar
Barr	Graves (GA)	Mooney (WV)
Barton	Graves (LA)	Mullin
Benishek	Graves (MO)	Mulvaney
Bilirakis	Griffith	Murphy (PA)
Bishop (MI)	Grothman	Neugebauer
Bishop (UT)	Guinta	Newhouse
Black	Guthrie	Noem
Blackburn	Hanna	Nugent
Blum	Hardy	Nunes
Bost	Harper	Olson
Boustany	Harris	Palazzo
Brat	Hartzler	Palmer
Bridenstine	Heck (NV)	Paulsen
Brooks (AL)	Hensarling	Pearce
Brooks (IN)	Herrera Beutler	Perry
Buchanan	Hice, Jody B.	Pittenger
Buck	Hill	Pitts
Bucshon	Holding	Poe (TX)
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Poliquin
Byrne	Hultgren	Pompeo
Calvert	Hunter	Posey
Carter (GA)	Hurd (TX)	Price, Tom
Carter (TX)	Hurt (VA)	Ratcliffe
Chabot	Issa	Reed
Chaffetz	Jenkins (KS)	Renacci
Clawson (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	Ribble
Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Rice (SC)
Cole	Johnson, Sam	Rigell
Collins (GA)	Jolly	Roby
Collins (NY)	Jordan	Roe (TN)
Comstock	Joyce	Rogers (AL)
Conaway	Katko	Rogers (KY)
Cook	Kelly (MS)	Rohrabacher
Costello (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Rokita
Cramer	King (IA)	Rooney (FL)
Crawford	King (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Roskam
Curbelo (FL)	Kline	Ross
Davis, Rodney	Knight	Rothfus
Denham	Labrador	Rouzer
Dent	LaHood	Royce
DeSantis	LaMalfa	Russell
DesJarlais	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)
Diaz-Balart	Lance	Salmon
Dold	Latta	Sanford
Donovan	LoBiondo	Scalise
Duffy	Long	Schweikert
Duncan (SC)	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin
Duncan (TN)	Love	Sensenbrenner
Ellmers (NC)	Lucas	Sessions
Emmer (MN)	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus
Farenthold	Lummis	Shuster
Fincher	MacArthur	Simpson
Fitzpatrick	Marchant	Smith (MO)
Fleischmann	Marino	Smith (NE)
Fleming	McCarthy	Smith (NJ)
Flores	McCaul	Smith (TX)
Forbes	McClintock	Stefanik
Fortenberry	McHenry	Stewart
Foxo	McKinley	Stivers
Franks (AZ)	McMorris	Stutzman
Frelinghuysen	Rodgers	Thompson (PA)
Garrett	McSally	Thornberry

Tiberi	Walorski	Wittman
Tipton	Walters, Mimi	Womack
Trott	Weber (TX)	Woodall
Turner	Webster (FL)	Yoder
Upton	Wenstrup	Yoho
Valadao	Westerman	Young (AK)
Wagner	Westmoreland	Young (IA)
Walberg	Whitfield	Young (IN)
Walden	Williams	Zeldin
Walker	Wilson (SC)	Zinke

NAYS—187

Adams	Fudge	Napolitano
Aguilar	Gabbard	Neal
Ashford	Gallego	Nolan
Bass	Garamendi	Norcross
Beatty	Graham	O'Rourke
Becerra	Grayson	Pallone
Bera	Green, Al	Pascarell
Beyer	Green, Gene	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Hahn	Peters
Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Peterson
F.	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Himes	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Bustos	Honda	Quigley
Butterfield	Hoyer	Rangel
Capps	Huelskamp	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Huffman	Richmond
Cárdenas	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castor (FL)	Jones	Sánchez, Linda
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	T.
Chu, Judy	Keating	Sanchez, Loretta
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schiff
Clay	Kind	Schrader
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Kuster	Scott, David
Cohen	Langevin	Serrano
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cooper	Lawrence	Sinema
Costa	Lee	Sires
Courtney	Levin	Slaughter
Crowley	Lewis	Smith (WA)
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Speier
Cummings	Lipinski	Swalwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Loeb sack	Takai
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Takano
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeLauro	(NM)	Tonko
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Tsongas
Deutch	Lynch	Van Hollen
Dingell	Maloney	Vargas
Doggett	Carolyn	Veasey
Doyle, Michael	Maloney, Sean	Vela
F.	Massie	Velázquez
Duckworth	Matsui	Visclosky
Edwards	McCollum	Walz
Ellison	McDermott	Wasserman
Engel	McGovern	Schultz
Eshoo	McNerney	Waters, Maxine
Esty	Meng	Watson Coleman
Farr	Moore	Welch
Fattah	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	

NOT VOTING—8

□ 1500

Mr. SARBANES changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. GRANGER and Mr. WENSTRUP changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 526]

YEAS—423

Abraham	Clark (MA)	Farenthold
Adams	Clarke (NY)	Farr
Aderholt	Clawson (FL)	Fattah
Aguiar	Clay	Fincher
Allen	Cleaver	Fitzpatrick
Amash	Clyburn	Fleischmann
Amodei	Coffman	Fleming
Ashford	Cohen	Flores
Babin	Cole	Forbes
Barletta	Collins (GA)	Fortenberry
Barr	Collins (NY)	Foster
Barton	Comstock	Fox
Bass	Conaway	Frankel (FL)
Beatty	Connolly	Franks (AZ)
Becerra	Conyers	Frelinghuysen
Benish	Cook	Fudge
Bera	Cooper	Gabbard
Beyer	Costa	Galleo
Bilirakis	Costello (PA)	Garamendi
Bishop (GA)	Courtney	Garrett
Bishop (MI)	Cramer	Gibbs
Black	Crawford	Gibson
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Blum	Crowley	Goodlatte
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Gosar
Bonamici	Cummings	Gowdy
Bost	Curbelo (FL)	Graham
Boustany	Davis (CA)	Granger
Boyle, Brendan	Davis, Danny	Graves (GA)
F.	Davis, Rodney	Graves (LA)
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Graves (MO)
Brat	DeGette	Grayson
Bridenstine	Delaney	Green, Al
Brooks (AL)	DeLauro	Green, Gene
Brooks (IN)	DelBene	Griffith
Brown (FL)	Denham	Grijalva
Brownley (CA)	Dent	Grothman
Buchanan	DeSantis	Guinta
Buck	DeSaulnier	Guthrie
Bucshon	DesJarlais	Gutiérrez
Burgess	Deutch	Hahn
Bustos	Diaz-Balart	Hanna
Butterfield	Dingell	Hardy
Byrne	Doggett	Harper
Calvert	Dold	Harris
Capps	Donovan	Hartzler
Capuano	Doyle, Michael	Hastings
Cárdenas	F.	Heck (NV)
Carney	Duckworth	Heck (WA)
Carson (IN)	Duffy	Hensarling
Carter (GA)	Duncan (SC)	Herrera Beutler
Carter (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Hice, Jody B.
Cartwright	Edwards	Higgins
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Hill
Castro (TX)	Ellmers (NC)	Himes
Chabot	Emmer (MN)	Hinojosa
Chaffetz	Engel	Holding
Chu, Judy	Eshoo	Honda
Ciциline	Esty	Hoyer

Huelskamp	McSally	Sarbanes
Huffman	Meadows	Scalise
Huizenga (MI)	Meehan	Schakowsky
Hultgren	Meng	Schiff
Hunter	Messer	Schrader
Hurd (TX)	Mica	Schweikert
Hurt (VA)	Miller (FL)	Scott (VA)
Israel	Miller (MI)	Scott, Austin
Issa	Moolenaar	Scott, David
Jackson Lee	Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner
Jeffries	Moore	Serrano
Jenkins (KS)	Moulton	Sessions
Jenkins (WV)	Mullin	Sewell (AL)
Johnson (OH)	Mulvaney	Sherman
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Shimkus
Johnson, Sam	Murphy (PA)	Shuster
Jolly	Nadler	Simpson
Jones	Napolitano	Sinema
Jordan	Neal	Sires
Joyce	Neugebauer	Slaughter
Kaptur	Newhouse	Smith (MO)
Katko	Noem	Smith (NE)
Keating	Nolan	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (MS)	Norcross	Smith (TX)
Kelly (PA)	Nugent	Smith (WA)
Kennedy	Nunes	Speier
Kildee	O'Rourke	Stefanik
Kilmer	Olson	Stewart
Kind	Palazzo	Stivers
King (IA)	Pallone	Stutzman
King (NY)	Palmer	Swalwell (CA)
Kinzinger (IL)	Pascarella	Takai
Kirkpatrick	Paulsen	Takano
Kline	Payne	Thompson (CA)
Knight	Pearce	Thompson (MS)
Kuster	Pelosi	Thompson (PA)
Labrador	Perlmutter	Thornberry
LaHood	Perry	Tiberi
LaMalfa	Peters	Tipton
Lamborn	Peterson	Titus
Lance	Pingree	Tonko
Langevin	Pittenger	Torres
Larsen (WA)	Pitts	Trott
Latta	Pocan	Tsongas
Lawrence	Poe (TX)	Turner
Lee	Poliquin	Upton
Levin	Polis	Valadao
Lewis	Pompeo	Van Hollen
Lieu, Ted	Posey	Vargas
Lipinski	Price (NC)	Veasey
LoBiondo	Price, Tom	Vela
Loeb	Quigley	Velázquez
Loftgren	Rangel	Visclosky
Long	Ratcliffe	Wagner
Loudermilk	Reed	Walberg
Love	Renacci	Walden
Lowenthal	Ribble	Walker
Lowe	Rice (NY)	Walorski
Lucas	Rice (SC)	Walters, Mimi
Luetkemeyer	Richmond	Walz
Lujan Grisham	Rigell	Wasserman
(NM)	Roby	Schultz
Lujan, Ben Ray	Roe (TN)	Waters, Maxine
(NM)	Rogers (AL)	Watson Coleman
Lummis	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)
Lynch	Rohrabacher	Webster (FL)
MacArthur	Rokita	Welch
Maloney,	Rooney (FL)	Wenstrup
Carolyn	Ros-Lehtinen	Westerman
Maloney, Sean	Roskam	Whitfield
Marino	Ross	Williams
Marchant	Rothfus	Wilson (FL)
Massie	Rouzer	Wilson (SC)
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Wittman
McCarthy	Royce	Womack
McCaul	Ruiz	Woodall
McClintock	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth
McCollum	Rush	Yoder
McDermott	Russell	Yoho
McGovern	Ryan (WI)	Young (AK)
McHenry	Salmon	Young (IA)
McKinley	Sánchez, Linda	Young (IN)
McMorris	T.	Zeldin
Rodgers	Sanchez, Loretta	Zinke
McNerney	Sanford	

NOT VOTING—11

Bishop (UT)	Johnson (GA)	Reichert
Brady (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Culberson	Larson (CT)	Westmoreland
Hudson	Meeks	

□ 1507

Mr. BLUMENAUER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3457, JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-273) on the resolution (H. Res. 449) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to concur pursuant to House Resolution 448 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend

their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 719, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 448, I call up the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

The text of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2015, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) *The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division A of Public Law 113–235), except section 743 and title VIII.*

(2) *The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division B of Public Law 113–235).*

(3) *The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113–235), except title X.*

(4) *The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division D of Public Law 113–235).*

(5) *The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015 (division E of Public Law 113–235).*

(6) *The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114–4).*

(7) *The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division F of Public Law 113–235).*

(8) *The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division G of Public Law 113–235), except title VI.*

(9) *The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015 (division H of Public Law 113–235).*

(10) *The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division I of Public Law 113–235).*

(11) *The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113–235), except title IX.*

(12) *The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropria-*

tions Act, 2015 (division K of Public Law 113–235).

(13) *Section 11 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235).*

(b) *The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.2108 percent.*

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2015 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2015 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 11, 2015.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2016 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribu-

tion shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2015 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section; or

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division G of Public Law 113–235; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division G of Public Law 113–235.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 113–235 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2016 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$288,317,000, of which \$221,298,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 117. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485): Provided, That the Secretary may waive the prohibition in the second proviso under such heading in division A of Public Law 113–235 with respect to rental assistance contracts entered into or renewed during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 118. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules for the Joint Polar Satellite System.

SEC. 119. (a) The first proviso under the heading “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention” in title II of division B of Public Law 113–235 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

(b) The limitation in section 217(c) of division B of Public Law 113–235 on the amount of excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall not apply under this Act to the use of such funds for “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention”.

SEC. 120. (a) The authority regarding closeout of Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs provided by language under the heading “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Administrative Provisions” in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8) shall continue in effect through fiscal year 2021.

(b) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 121. (a) Notwithstanding section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, funds made available, including funds that have expired but have not been cancelled, and identified by Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 13–0910–0554 shall remain available for expenditure through fiscal year 2020 for the purpose of liquidating valid obligations of active grants.

(b) For the purpose of subsection (a), grants for which the period of performance has expired but are not finally closed out shall be considered active grants.

(c) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 122. The following provisions shall be applied by substituting “2016” for “2015” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense:

(1) Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1237 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

(2) Section 127b(c)(3)(C) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2015 (title IV of division E of Public Law 113–235) at the rate set forth under “District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request Act of 2015 (D.C. Act 21–99), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board—Salaries and Expenses”.

SEC. 126. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 127. Sections 1101(a) and 1104(a)(2)(A) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (title XI of division C of Public Law 105–277; 47 U.S.C. 151 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “October 1, 2015”.

SEC. 128. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 7 of Public Law 113–235 was enacted as part of title VII of division E of Public Law 113–235.

SEC. 129. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 130. Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 131. Section 610(b) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 132. Subclauses 101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 133. Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 134. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking all that follows after “shall terminate” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

SEC. 135. In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”, there is appropriated \$700,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activities: Provided, That such funds shall only become available if funds previously provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in writing of the need for these additional funds: Provided further, That such funds are also available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to repay amounts

previously transferred for wildfire suppression: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress.

SEC. 136. The authorities provided by sections 117 and 123 of division G of Public Law 113–76 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 137. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106–79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) For the period covered by this Act, the authority provided by the provisos under the heading “Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital Construction” in division E of Public Law 112–74 shall not be in effect.

SEC. 138. Section 3096(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 is amended by inserting “for fiscal year 2015” after “\$37,000,000”.

SEC. 139. Funds made available in prior appropriations Acts for construction and renovation of facilities for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may also be used for construction on leased land.

SEC. 140. Subsection (b) of section 163 of Public Law 111–242, as amended, is further amended by striking “2015–2016” and inserting “2016–2017”.

SEC. 141. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 139 of Public Law 113–164 was enacted as part of division G of Public Law 113–235, and section 139 of Public Law 113–164 shall be applied by adding at the end the following: “and of the unobligated balance of amounts deposited or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act and the income derived from investment of those funds pursuant to 2104(n)(2)(C) of that Act, \$1,664,000,000 is rescinded”.

SEC. 142. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 143. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Tori B. Nunnelee, widow of Alan Nunnelee, late a Representative from the State of Mississippi, \$174,000.

SEC. 144. Of the discretionary unobligated balances of the Department of Veterans Affairs from fiscal year 2015 or prior fiscal years, or discretionary amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer up to \$625,000,000 to “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, to be merged with the amounts available in such account: Provided, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a request for, and receives from the Committees written approval of, such transfers: Provided further, That the Secretary shall specify in such request the donor account and amount of each proposed transfer, the fiscal

year of each appropriation to be transferred, the amount of unobligated balances remaining in the account after the transfer, and the project or program impact of the transfer.

SEC. 145. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" at a rate for operations of \$2,697,734,000.

SEC. 146. Notwithstanding section 101, section 226(a) of division I of Public Law 113-235 shall be applied to amounts made available by this Act by substituting "division I of Public Law 113-235" for "division J of Public Law 113-76" and by substituting "2015" for "2014".

SEC. 147. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "September 30, 2015".

SEC. 148. Amounts made available by section 101 for "Broadcasting Board of Governors—International Broadcasting Operations", "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund", "International Security Assistance—Department of State—International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement", "International Security Assistance—Department of State—Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs", and "International Security Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Foreign Military Financing Program" shall be obligated at a rate for operations as necessary to sustain assistance for Ukraine to counter external, regional aggression and influence, including for the costs of authorized loan guarantees.

SEC. 149. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "October 1, 2015".

SEC. 150. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned schedule for the New Core Shared Services Project.

(b) Not later than 3 days before the first use of the apportionment authority in subsection (a), each 30 days thereafter, and 3 days after the authority expires under this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying each use of the authority through the date of the report.

This Act may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016".

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H.R. 719, a short-term continuing resolution to keep the government open and operating after the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

This necessary measure funds government and services at the current rate through December 11 of this year. As in previous years, the CR also includes a small across-the-board reduction to keep within the fiscal year 2016 cap level set by the Budget Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is a responsible measure that prevents a harmful government shutdown, while allowing time for a larger budget agreement to be reached, and time to complete the full year appropriations work for 2016.

It also includes a few responsible provisions to prevent disastrous, irreversible damage to government programs or to address current urgent needs. These changes are limited in scope and noncontroversial. For instance, these provisions extend the authority for critical Department of Defense activities that fight terrorism, increase funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to help address the disability claims backlog, and provide emergency funding to the Forest Service to help respond to the disastrous wildfires that are devastating our Western States.

While I firmly believe this legislation is the best path forward at this time, it is also my strong opinion that Congress should do its job and enact actual, line-by-line, separate appropriations bills ahead of our September 30 deadline. Clearly, this is not an option at this time, so we must resort to a temporary measure like this CR.

A CR doesn't reflect our most current budgetary needs. It creates uncertainty across the whole government and does not adequately address our national security obligations, and it causes needless waste when taxpayer dollars are spent inefficiently and ineffectively.

So it is to my great dismay, Mr. Speaker, that we have arrived at this point once again requiring a temporary Band-aid to buy us time to do our constitutionally mandated duty.

The House this year got off to a great start—beginning our appropriations work at the earliest date since 1974—the current Budget Control Act's anniversary—and passing six of our 12 bills by July of this year. My committee reported out all 12 bills for the first time since 2009. And yet, the Senate refuses to act, giving us no choice but to try a continuing resolution.

□ 1515

But now, with progress stalled, it is clear that all sides must come together

to find some sort of agreement that addresses our current fiscal situation in a comprehensive way. This CR, while not ideal, is the next step toward that end, keeping the government's lights on as we work to find a solution.

With current funding set to expire just hours from now, I urge my colleagues to do the responsible and reasonable thing and support this continuing resolution today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we may temporarily avert this most recent crisis if we can get this bill to the President tonight, just hours before the entire Federal Government shuts down, but it is certainly not a cause for celebration.

This very short-term continuing resolution avoids the most immediate crisis. But what is step two? After we enact this stopgap measure, are there any firm plans to begin negotiating the full-year appropriations bills we should be passing today? I remain deeply concerned about the potential of finding ourselves facing a government shutdown again in December.

The stakes are very high. We have an economy that is genuinely recovering. Unemployment is down. Economic growth is up. But we still have progress to make. The uncertainty and unnecessary tumult of playing games right up to the brink of a government shutdown is not helpful to our fragile economy. The last shutdown cost the economy \$24 billion in GDP, according to Standard & Poor's.

This continuing resolution buys us 10 weeks and takes care of only a handful of the most pressing Federal responsibilities: Provides desperately needed emergency firefighting funds to address the cataclysmic fires raging in the West; provides additional resources for processing disability claims at the Veterans Administration; increases the authorization in the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program to ensure new loans can be administered to help small businesses across the country; and extends several expiring authorizations for programs within the Department of Homeland Security.

Notably, the continuing resolution does not address other key priorities that could bolster our economy, such as the expired authority of the Export-Import Bank, which has created or sustained 1.5 million private sector jobs at no cost to the taxpayer since 2007 and supported billions in American economic activity.

By settling on this short-term extension, we fail to provide proposed increases for medical research at the National Institutes of Health and the Nation's aging transportation system and infrastructure. The President's request for defense funding is shortchanged, which would put our national security at risk in a long-term CR.

Leaving our Federal agencies on autopilot without the line-by-line, year-by-year adjustments that should come from this committee and this Congress is irresponsible and hurts our ability to grow our economy, create jobs, and give hard-working families the services they need.

Yet, with the Republican dysfunction that has driven a change in the majority's leadership on the brink of a government shutdown, the prospects for forging a reasonable, responsible solution by December are not good.

One more indication of the dire outlook is the cynical gimmick—an "enrollment correction"—the majority has put forward today to supposedly defund Planned Parenthood. Fortunately, it will have no practical effect on the CR for two reasons. First, the Senate will ignore it. Second, there is no need for a correction since, as my friend Mr. COLE noted this weekend, "there is no money" in the CR for Planned Parenthood. PolitiFact even confirmed this claim.

I will strongly oppose this attack on women's health today as I support the temporary continuing resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do the same so we can at least avoid a worst-case scenario.

But I again implore outgoing and incoming Republican leadership to please engage with the President and House Democrats immediately on an agreement to replace the sequester-level caps, avert the next crisis just weeks away, stop playing political games with women's health, and invest in American economic growth and security.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), a very valued member of my committee who happens also to be the chairman of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to begin by congratulating both my chairman and my ranking member for the exceptional job they have done this year in getting all 12 appropriations bills through the full committee for the first time since 2009. So we really have on the Appropriations Committee done our work. Six of those bills have come across the floor.

And, frankly, I think we would have had more across the floor if our friends in the Senate, who are blocked by the Democratic minority, had an opportunity to bring their bills to the floor. I think we are here, in part, because the inaction by the minority in the United States Senate has ground the whole process to a halt.

But I am very pleased to see both my chairman and my ranking member here making the argument to keep the government funded. I think we all know that shutting down the government is

always a mistake. It is a political mistake, frankly, for people that want to use it to achieve some political tactic.

But, more importantly, it is simply the wrong thing to do for the American people. They send us here expecting us to get our work done. The fact that some amongst us has kept that from happening is regrettable and I think a disservice to all of our constituents.

I also believe, in this particular case, that we have an opportunity, if we pass this continuing resolution for those that are, as I like to say appropriately, above our pay grade—that is, the President, the Speaker, the majority leader, and the two minority leaders—to have time to negotiate the framework for a larger deal, for a larger understanding, that would allow us to move ahead and actually have an omnibus bill where we actually—not as good as moving it across the floor—but had a large bill where we looked at every line, we made concessions to one another, we made agreements, we moved the ball forward, and it could open up a possibility for a normal appropriations process next year.

In that regard, I was very heartened by Majority Leader MCCONNELL's recent remarks that he is interested in a 2-year deal, somewhat similar to Ryan-Murray in terms of its duration. Again, that would allow this House next year to move appropriations bills across the floor one at a time in a give-and-take bipartisan manner. I think that is extraordinarily important.

If you look at where this committee was at in terms of frozen activity before my good friend, the chairman, became the chairman, he and, again, with my good friend, the gentlewoman from New York, have brought us back a long, long way. If we don't finish that journey in the next 2½ months, we have got several things that are going to happen, the worst of which will be a sequester of \$40 billion, roughly, on the American military.

That is an unacceptable outcome. And, frankly, that is something that the Commander in Chief and the respective leaders on both sides of the aisle in this body need to make sure doesn't happen.

I promise you, if the administration, the Senate, and the House can get to a larger agreement, I have no doubt that my chairman and my ranking member and their counterparts in the United States Senate will then introduce a normal negotiating process and we will get to the right place.

So we have a moment, an opening, a little bit of bipartisanship here. I would expect, when this bill is actually voted on, we will have large majorities on both sides of the aisle that actually support it.

So I urge the other Members—again, both Democrat and Republican—to seize this opportunity, to not just focus on where there are differences, but

focus here where we have come together, bought the time, and then, frankly, where they can use their influence on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers and with the President to make sure that an adequate deal is arrived at and that we spare the country and certainly the men and women in uniform that defend us each and every day from the agony of dealing with a second sequester.

This is not the time for that to happen. It is a dangerous world. We have not Russia relitigating the borders of Eastern Europe. We have got China building islands in the South China Sea. We have got ISIL having established a caliphate of sorts in the Middle East. We have a dangerous Iran.

The worst thing in the world would be to not do this CR and then not carry it through to a fuller agreement and undercut our military. So I think the stakes of what we are doing are very, very high here.

I want to conclude again by commending my chairman and commending our ranking member for working together, as they have this entire year, so we could get our bills across, as they are doing now in this process, to buy our leaders time, and, frankly, as I know they will do in normal negotiation on an omnibus bill at the end of this process and then, hopefully, on a regular appropriations process next year.

Again, I urge my fellow Members on both sides of the aisle to pass this very important piece of legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a distinguished member of the committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in this bill. We are faced with this continuing resolution in order to avert a government shutdown. This is no way to govern. America deserves better than a month-to-month government, forever on the brink of a shutdown and held back by needless budget constraints.

Those who call this a clean continuing resolution are mistaken. In fact, it puts in place yet more indiscriminate cuts. It cuts .2 percent across the board for most discretionary programs. Apparently, we have not learned our lesson about mindless austerity.

Instead of fighting over women's health care, we should use the next month to negotiate a budget agreement that addresses the single biggest economic issue that we face in this country. Today working men and women in the United States are in jobs that don't pay them enough money. Real wages have been stagnant for 30 years.

We need to stop spending hundreds of billions of dollars every year on tax loopholes for the wealthy and for big

corporations. We need to invest once more in education and job training and health and all the other priorities that American families hold dear.

Right now we cannot meet their needs. Poor children are struggling. Their vocabularies are, on average, one-third those of their middle income peers. But since 2010, we have cut over \$1 billion in real terms from education.

Workers need help learning the right skills, finding work in a tough economy, so that they can support their families, but we have cut more than \$1 billion from job training programs.

Millions of Americans depend upon lifesaving medical research to cure disease and to improve the quality of life. I stand here as a survivor of ovarian cancer. I am here because of the grace of God and biomedical research. Yet, we will continue to cut biomedical research. We have cut more than \$3.5 billion from the National Institutes of Health.

The list of failures goes on and on. We are failing our workers. We are failing working families. We are failing students and medical researchers and first responders and veterans and families and millions of others.

Our job in this body is to provide opportunity for people. During this economic struggle that we have, we ought to be focused like a laser on the issues that work to better the economic situation of working families in this country.

□ 1530

What we do here is to continue to hold a cap on what we need to move forward, and, more importantly than that, what we do from the other side of the aisle is to threaten the government shutdown over the issue of women's health.

Who are we? What are we about? Where are the great values of this Nation that helped to provide an opportunity so that families could join the middle class of this country and continue to make it strong?

That is what our job is today to do, not to be involved in these mindless exercises that the other side of the aisle continues to move forward on.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), a hardworking member of the Appropriations Committee, the chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and, coincidentally, the chairman of the House Ethics Committee.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of passing a clean continuing resolution, the one the Senate sent over to us. We should do that immediately.

It would be utterly reckless to let the government shut down for any reason, regardless of one's feelings about Planned Parenthood. Whether you like

them or not isn't the point. We should never shut the government down over that or, frankly, any other issue at this time.

It is imperative that we pass this CR so that it will give us the time and space we need to enter into a broader budget agreement, hopefully, for this fiscal year and the next and so that we can then, also, pass the appropriations bills.

As our very fine Chairman ROGERS mentioned, I am the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. This CR is essential to making sure that veterans' services go uninterrupted. It also makes sure that we can continue moving forward on many of the projects that are ongoing within the VA system through the anomalies. Nevertheless, we need to move forward on this for that reason.

Also, I want to make a point that we need to stop lurching from one budget crisis to the next. The events of the last few weeks have been very dismaying to me, personally. That said, we are not going to have a government shutdown, and that is good news, but we need to get on with the business of this budget agreement.

Also, I wanted to point out—I heard my friend and colleague from Connecticut made a comment about biomedical research—in the bill that we had passed out of the Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee, we actually did increase funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$1.1 billion. I do hope that, in the event that we do come to a budget agreement and move the appropriations bills, we will be able to see an increase in funding for the NIH. We will be able to provide for our veterans and, in my case, also the military construction projects.

Also, our friends who are serving overseas, our men and women serving overseas in the Armed Forces, are very much depending on us to do the right thing, to pass appropriations bills, a long-term continuing resolution, not the one we are voting on today. If we are to do one after December 11, it would have real impacts on our force readiness and the ability for our troops and our men and women overseas to do the jobs that we have asked them to do.

So for all these reasons, I am urging people to vote for this CR today, keep the government functioning, do our duty, and then set up a process where we can complete the appropriations process in December and take care of the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us.

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and, also, Ranking Member LOWEY for their strong leadership on the Appropriations Committee. They are doing all that they are doing to try to help us work together and make sure that Congress maintains its power of the purse

and does exactly what we promised the American people we would do, and that would be to govern.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend and colleague from New York, Ranking Member LOWEY.

Mr. Speaker, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the chairman, the gentleman from Kentucky. I have great personal admiration for him and his leadership, and I thank him for his earnest, hard work; but what we are doing today is a disappointment to the American people, and it is a disappointment to those of us who are on the Appropriations Committee. Success can't be defined as avoid catastrophe, and all we are doing today is avoiding catastrophe. The majority's triumph today is not shutting down the government.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a small-business owner anywhere in America who would say "had a good day because I am not shutting down," "had a good day because I am not throwing my employees out of work," "had a good day because I am not telling my customers they can't come for services." That is not success. That is failure. That is, by itself, a catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker, the managers of those small businesses are judged by their performance and success. The managers of this Congress, the majority, are judged in the same way. They are judged by their ability, as the majority, to produce bills, to pass budgets, to do the work of the American people.

It is time for them to do their jobs, to stop the gimmicks, to pass a long-term budget that invests in the education of our children, that supports job skills for people and careers, that protects our veterans and our national security. It is time to do their jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this Republican majority has driven the expectations of the American people so low that the very act of funding government operations has become a significant achievement. Unfortunately, the cost extraction by the Republican extremists for this 3-month clean CR was the resignation of Speaker BOEHNER, a good man who has served this House honorably.

Passing this CR, however, will keep the government working, which is critical to American families, their economy, and the safety and security of our Nation, and it continues to protect by

providing healthcare coverage for women.

In 2013, when the Republicans shut down the government for 16 days, the U.S. economy lost \$24 billion, and more than 100,000 Americans lost their jobs. The American people cannot afford another Republican shutdown. Passing this 3-month CR is the first step toward responsibly meeting the needs of the American people.

As a ranking Democrat on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I am pleased that this bill includes \$700 million in emergency funds for Forest Service to fight wildland fires in Western States. This is critical funding.

The CR will keep our national parks open to the public, keep Native American healthcare and education programs operating, and prevent the furloughing of tens of thousands of Federal employees in the Department of the Interior and EPA.

I am going to vote to pass this continuing resolution, and I applaud all the Democrats and Republicans who will vote to pass the CR, but we need to work to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government for the coming year. Our job is to serve the American people. The American people expect Congress to do their job. Today, I hope all Members will do their job and vote to pass this CR.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman is prepared.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I was thinking about that, except, I believe, we have some distinguished members of our committee who are running a little late.

So I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am very pleased that we are here today, and I do hope that there will be strong bipartisan support for the continuing resolution.

This has been a difficult year. I know how hard our distinguished chairman has worked, trying to put together a bipartisan appropriations bill. Although I am very pleased that we are passing a continuing resolution today, it is really amazing that we should be celebrating in the United States of America, the most distinguished country, supposedly representative of our great democracy, that we are keeping the government open.

I feel very confident, Mr. Speaker, that if members of the Appropriations Committee, both Democrats and Republicans, would sit down very seriously, we could work out an arrangement whereby we would lift the sequester, just as we did with Ryan-Murray.

I was on that committee with some distinguished members of the party, and we had some good discussions. We

had some differences of opinion; we had some lively debates; but at the end of the day, we came up with a product that we could be proud of.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do hope that after this continuing resolution has passed—and I think you have another speaker who would like to speak while we are waiting for our speaker.

In closing, I would just like to say that I am cautiously optimistic that, after the CR is passed, we can really do our work and come up with a good, strong omnibus bill that reflects our values.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our distinguished leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership, as well as that of our distinguished chairman, Mr. ROGERS, to bring us to the floor today where we can vote in a bipartisan way to keep government open without doing harm to women's health in our country.

To shut government down is a really bad decision for this Congress to make. The last time we did that, we lost \$24 billion. The last time this Congress voted to shut down government, we lost \$24 billion to our economy, 120,000 jobs in our workforce. Our Federal workforce, which contains more than 30 percent of veterans in its composition, was furloughed or worse. The American people deserve better.

So as we go forward from this continuing resolution, which is a good outcome of the conversations that have gone back and forth—a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate, and I hope a strong bipartisan vote in the House—let us take heed of the words of Pope Francis, who just, not even 1 week ago, spoke to us in this Chamber.

Pope Francis asked us to work together for the common good of the people. He urged and said a good leader would have a spirit of openness and pragmatism, again, to get the job done for the American people.

□ 1545

As we go forward, we will have some difficult choices to make. We all share the values of strengthening our national security, investing in our children's future, reducing the deficit as we go forward, but as we do so, there are some important differences that we share.

Let's hope that we recognize a good idea, wherever it springs from. Let us also recognize what our responsibilities are to the American people first and foremost.

I consider this a very positive action we are taking today. I wish that we were finished with all of our appropriations work. As an appropriator, I know that that is always the goal of our chairman and ranking member.

I thank our ranking member, Congresswoman LOWEY, for her leadership,

but also for the optimism she just expressed, that, as we go forward, we will do so in a timely fashion, maybe long before December 11, so we will have removed all doubt in the public's mind that government will work, that it will function, as the Pope had asked us, for the good of the American people.

There are important decisions ahead, though, in terms of what our priorities are in a budget. A budget should be a statement of our national values, and what is important to us should be reflected on how we allocate those resources. We have the omnibus bill to deal with.

We also have investments in the infrastructure of our country and our transportation. That will be an important bill that we will be debating at the same time, but has a relationship in terms of how we offset, how we pay for that.

We have the issue of the Ex-Im Bank, a great job creator for our country and, yet, still unauthorized, long overdue for us to authorize it.

Before Thanksgiving probably we will have the issue of a vote on honoring the full faith and credit of the United States of America. The last time that was put into doubt, it was unfortunate because it lowered our credit rating, even though we didn't follow through with it. Even though the full faith and credit ended up being honored, just the threat, the suspicion, that it could be undermined lowered our credit rating.

We have really important work to do for the good of the people. Again, let us honor our responsibilities in the beautiful spirit of Saint—Pope Francis. I say Saint Francis because that is the patron saint of my city, of San Francisco, and the namesake also of Pope Francis.

But Pope Francis instructed us as to what good leaders do, and good leaders have a sense of humility to respect the views of other people and not be condescending in terms of our views are the only ones that matter.

In that spirit, I look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman, with the Speaker, with others, and certainly under the leadership of our distinguished ranking member, Congresswoman LOWEY.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), a member of our committee.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, my compliments to the chairman and to the ranking member for shepherding us thus far into this year.

I often say the first job of Congress is to govern, and that means keeping the government open. I think what we are doing today is honoring the responsibility we have, our article I responsibilities to keep the government open.

We talk a lot about Congress having the power of the purse, but with the

power also comes responsibility. So as we have hard conversations as a country and as a Congress about whether we fund certain programs, whether we fund certain entities, that is an appropriate conversation to have, and I think we have handled that appropriately thus far.

You sometimes would not know that based on comments on the other side of the aisle because they continue to try to score political points and use political capital to suggest we are on the brink of a shutdown. The simple fact is we are not.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have acknowledged today that they intend to vote for what is a responsible continuing resolution that will ensure that our government remains funded.

The irony of some of the criticisms that often come—and this comes from colleagues on our committee—is that, to finally reach a deal, to finally have responsible governance, it takes a willing partner on the other side of the aisle and it takes intellectual honesty on both sides of the aisle of every member of our committee.

I would respectfully point out to those on the other side of the aisle who serve on the committee that we had a debate over and over and over with each markup about the Budget Control Act and the caps that are in place by statute. There were very good suggestions from both sides of the aisle about where taxpayer dollars should be invested, which programs they should be invested in, from defense to transportation, to education, to healthcare research, and so forth.

The irony is that, for each good idea on the other side of the aisle about where to invest money, there was a willful ignorance of the fact that any additional investment must come with an offset under the Budget Control Act. There were good amendments in the committee, and, frankly, many of them would have passed if they had included responsible offsets. But there were no offsets.

I point that out only for this, not to relitigate all the markups we had in committee, but to suggest that somehow it is the Republicans' issue that somehow we have to resolve this. We have not had a willing partner throughout the markup of all of these bills.

Just as the spirit of cooperation is here on the floor—and rightfully so—and we are going to pass the CR that funds the government and keeps it open—that highway of goodwill has to go both ways. Rather than just talk about what is not funded, let's talk about how we are going to operate under what is a statute, what is the law of the land that was signed by this President and, frankly, recommended by this President.

As we talk about where spending comes between now and December 11,

we have to recognize and be honest with the American people that we operate under a budget agreement that has statutory caps signed by this President. There are great ideas on both sides of the aisle about where to spend money, but if we ignore the fact that they are required to be offset, then we have not advanced this conversation one day.

It is important that we keep the government open. I am glad that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and enough colleagues on this side of the aisle are saying: Yes, we have to keep the government open. We have to keep the Department of Defense funded. Our men and women in uniform who carry the flag for us every day, we have to ensure that they are funded. Our first responders, DHS, coastguardsmen, coastguardswomen, our transportation programs, education, critical healthcare research is all that we will continue to fund through this responsible continuing resolution.

We all wish we had a full-year bill that we were considering today, but we do not have that. The responsible action by this body is to pass this bill with sufficient numbers on both sides of the aisle. I would charge those on my side of the aisle who care deeply about certain extraneous issues involved in the debate this week, we have responsible ways to continue to address how we provide critical nonabortion-related women's healthcare service in underserved communities, while we still act today to keep the government open. It is a responsible path forward.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for bringing this forward.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate again to my colleagues that I look forward to working in a bipartisan way with the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to move the process forward.

I particularly think, because it was just mentioned by the previous speaker, that for us not to increase the appropriations to the National Institutes of Health—this is just one area of the bill that came through the committee in the committee process. This means research for a whole range of illnesses, whether it is autism or diabetes or heart.

We have a responsibility to lift these caps, negotiate a really good bill, and provide adequate funding for the American people. This is important for their health, for their work life. We have to be sure we are investing so we are creating jobs and keep the economy moving. I look forward to that process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I shall be brief.

I appreciate the work of my colleague, Mrs. LOWEY, ranking member

on the committee, and all of the people on her side of the aisle and, of course, on our side of the aisle as well. This is a good bill. It is a responsible bill. It does not do anything controversial.

It does do one important thing, and that is keep the government operating. We can't afford to abandon our soldiers, particularly those overseas in harm's way. We can't abandon the people that depend upon the programs that our Federal Government provides. I urge Members to vote "yes" on this bill. It is a good bill, and it keeps the government operating.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this continuing resolution, which will allow us to avoid another completely unnecessary and potentially devastating government shutdown. My vote in favor of the CR does not mean I support the irresponsible sequestration-level budget resolution that has made it impossible to pass FY 2016 appropriations bills, much less the reckless manner in which the majority continues to manage the budget process.

The Republican budget announced this spring made no room for the critical investments in infrastructure, housing, research, health care, and education that our country needs to thrive. In fact, it made deeply damaging reductions.

Defense appropriators were able to avoid sequestration levels only by using the so-called OCO gimmick, amounting to a \$38 billion sleight of hand.

It was evident from the beginning that we would have to negotiate new budget numbers—if not a comprehensive agreement of the sort that balanced the budget in the 1990s, then at least a more modest deal like the Ryan-Murray agreement of the last two years—in order to pass our appropriations bills. I and other Democratic colleagues took to the floor again and again to decry these unacceptable budget numbers that simply set us up for failure. Our leaders have been offering to negotiate for months, knowing full well that President Obama would be forced to veto any appropriations bills passed under the Republican budget. Will it take a government shutdown, we asked, to make us do our job?

Apparently the answer is "yes". The Senate couldn't pass a single appropriations bill. The House passed a few with Republican votes alone, and then the process collapsed under the weight of the Confederate battle flag debate. That was a particularly disgraceful episode, but the process was already on life support. It was never going to work, and Republican leaders have known that all year.

Despite the failure of the appropriations process, as represented by this short-term CR, all hope is not lost. We can still salvage the hard bipartisan work of my and other appropriations subcommittees, if, when this CR expires, we can stitch together an omnibus appropriations bill for the balance of the year.

The Appropriations Committee still avoids some of the ideological battles that divide this body, and I have been able to work closely with Chairman DIAZ-BALART to negotiate a framework for transportation and housing

funding. I know that many of the other subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members have made similar progress. Given realistic funding levels, these bills can relatively quickly be converted into acceptable appropriations legislation.

So I once again join my colleagues in urging Speaker BOEHNER to resume bipartisan budget negotiations and produce reasonable, responsible funding levels that can allow the appropriations process to move forward. Today, we're buying ourselves a couple of months. Instead of lurching toward another crisis in December, let's actually come to a consensus on the kind of investments in our future that a great country must make.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stop the government from shutting down.

What we are doing today is budgeting or appropriating but a desperate Hail Mary to save thousands of jobs and prevent another waste of \$24 billion in lost economic productivity like we saw the last time House Republicans succeeded in shutting down the government.

Today I will vote for H.R. 719 even though it goes against sound fiscal practice by including the budget gimmickry known as sequestration, a fiscal bludgeon that makes across the board cuts in funding for the valuable services depended upon by American children, seniors, workers, veterans, students, and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 719, "Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016," which extends current Fiscal Year 2015 government funding for nearly all agencies through December 11, 2015, at a rate equal to an annual level of \$1.017 trillion, a level consistent with the combined top-line post-sequester discretionary spending caps for Fiscal Year 2016 set by the Budget Control Act.

H.R. 719 also provides funding for Overseas Contingency Operations, which are exempt from the BCA caps, at a rate of \$74.8 billion, an amount roughly equal to a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2015 level.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that we have again been placed in the position of having to fund the government through the device of a continuing resolution rather than through the normal appropriations process of considering and voting on the twelve separate spending bills reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

Although the House considered and passed several of the annual spending bills, none of them received consideration in the Senate because of the refusal of the House leadership to reach agreement with the Senate on an appropriate framework for all appropriations bills that does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

Without such an agreement, House Republican appropriation bills will result in:

1. hundreds of thousands of low-income children losing access to Head Start programs,

2. tens of thousands of children with disabilities losing federal funding for their special education teachers and aides,

3. thousands of federal agents who will not be able to secure the border, enforce drug laws, combat violent crime or apprehend fugitives; and

4. thousands of scientists without medical grants to conduct research to find new treatments and cures for diseases like breast cancer and Alzheimer's.

As a result of the failure to reach a budget agreement, we now find ourselves facing the Hobson's choice of rejecting the Continuing Resolution now pending which likely will result in a cessation of government operations or approving the Continuing Resolution and continuing adherence to the draconian spending limits imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Faced with this dilemma, I reluctantly will vote for H.R. 719 because in the circumstances it would be irresponsible to do otherwise.

H.R. 719 is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

The government shutdown of 2013, which was manufactured by the Republican majority lasted 16 days and cost taxpayers \$24 billion.

The cost to federal employees and the people they serve cannot be calculated.

Mr. Speaker, as with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I strongly oppose.

For example, I support the provisions in the Continuing Resolution ensuring that funding for appropriated entitlements continue at a rate maintaining program levels under current law.

I also support the provisions allowing the State Department, USAID, BBG, and related agencies to expend funds in the absence of an authorization, and authorizing continuation of certain intelligence activities.

I support the provisions in H.R. 719 that provide \$700 million in emergency funding for government efforts to fight wildfires in Western states and that give the VA budget flexibility to finish construction of a facility in Denver.

Finally, I am very pleased that House Republicans have jettisoned any serious efforts to shut down the government over the obsession with defunding Planned Parenthood and opposition to women's reproductive rights.

On the other hand, I am very disappointed that the Continuing Resolution again misses the opportunity to reauthorize two critical programs: the Export-Import Bank and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Export-Import Bank provides critical financing assistance—at no cost to taxpayers—to small, medium, and large-sized U.S. businesses, helping them to create jobs at home and sell products overseas.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a bipartisan, popular, 50-year program that uses royalties from federal oil and gas leases for land acquisition and parks across the country.

The LWCF program supports more than 6 million U.S. jobs connected with outdoor recreation at no cost to taxpayers.

Without action by Congress, LWCF will expire on September 30, authorization for the Ex-Im Bank expired June 30, 2015, and has been hurting U.S. exporters and workers daily ever since.

I also strongly disapprove of the rescission of \$1.7 billion from the Children's Health Insur-

ance Program (CHIP) and the across the board reduction in funding levels for most programs and activities from their FY 2015 levels by 0.21%.

Nevertheless, the agreement allows Congress to keep the federal government open to serve the American people and gives the Congress and the Administration ten weeks to reach agreement on a fair and balanced budget that provides the funds for the investments in human capital and physical infrastructure needed to maintain American competitiveness in the global economy of the 21st century.

And one of the most important things we can do is end the draconian sequestration that has been in effect since 2011.

Mr. Speaker, to illustrate how strongly I feel about the need to end sequestration, let me chronicle the severity of the suffering and pain inflicted by sequestration on the most vulnerable residents of Texas and the constituents that I serve.

Head Start and Early Head Start services were eliminated or severely impacted with approximately 4,800 children being impacted throughout the state of Texas.

Families in my district who rely on Federal Government programs like Head Start are hurting.

The pain did not start with the 2013 shutdown, but with sequestration which hit Head Start programs for 3 to 4 year olds in the Houston area hard: \$5,341 million cut; 109 Employees cut; 699 Slots for children cut.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were further stressed by the federal government shutdown.

My support of Head Start and Early Head Start is based on what I have seen and heard about programs like the AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start program serving parents and children in the 18th Congressional District.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start is a program serving low income families in my Houston Texas District.

I have visited with AVANCE-Houston administrators many times to get an update on how low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women served by the program were doing.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start's mission is simple: AVANCE-Houston works for healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhances the development of very young children, and promotes healthy family functioning.

AVANCE-Houston serves nearly 1,800 children city wide; each of these families and their children are suffering the effects of the sequestration.

Sequestration has cost AVANCE-Houston over \$842,518 Head Start and Early Head Start in lost funding and put on hold the head start on the future our children deserve.

As I stated, Mr. Speaker, this Continuing Resolution is not perfect and it only funds the government until December 11, 2015, but it is better than the alternative we faced in 2013 when House Republicans shut down the government for 16 days and cost our economy \$24 billion in lost economic productivity.

For that reason, I will vote for H.R. 719 and renew my call that all members of the House and Senate work together and with the President to reach agreement on an appropriate

budget framework that ends sequestration but does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the previous question is ordered on the motion to concur.

The question is on the motion to concur by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 448, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 79

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 719, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) Insert after the enacting clause (before section 1) the following:

"DIVISION A—TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015".

(2) Insert after section 8 (before the statement of appropriations) the following:

"DIVISION B—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015".

(3) Insert after section 150 (before the short title) the following new section:

"SEC. 151. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference in this division to 'this Act' shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division."

(4) Add at the end the following new division:

"DIVISION C—DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACT OF 2015

"SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

"This division may be cited as the 'Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015'.

"SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

"Congress finds the following:

"(1) State and county health departments, community health centers, hospitals, physicians offices, and other entities currently provide, and will continue to provide, health services to women. Such health services include relevant diagnostic laboratory and ra-

diology services, well-child care, prenatal and postpartum care, immunization, family planning services (including contraception), cervical and breast cancer screenings and referrals, and sexually transmitted disease testing.

"(2) Many such entities provide services to all persons, regardless of the person's ability to pay, and provide services in medically underserved areas and to medically underserved populations.

"(3) All funds that are no longer available to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., and its affiliates and clinics pursuant to this division will continue to be made available to other eligible entities to provide women's health care services.

"(4) Funds authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, by section 4 are offset by the funding limitation under section 3(a).

"SEC. 3. MORATORIUM ON FEDERAL FUNDING TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA, INC.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this division, subject to subsection (b), no funds authorized or appropriated by Federal law may be made available for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., or any affiliate or clinic of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., unless such entities certify that Planned Parenthood Federation of America affiliates and clinics will not perform, and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs, an abortion during such period.

"(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to an abortion—

"(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

"(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

"(c) REPAYMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture shall seek repayment of any Federal assistance received by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., or any affiliate or clinic of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., if it violates the terms of the certification required by subsection (a) during the period specified in subsection (a).

"SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, \$235,000,000 for the community health center program under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), in addition to any other funds made available to such program, for the period for which the funding limitation under section 3(a) applies.

"(b) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized or appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may be expended for an abortion other than as described in section 3(b).

"SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

"Nothing in this division shall be construed to reduce overall Federal funding available in support of women's health."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and minority leader or their designees.

The gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) and the gentlewoman from

Connecticut (Ms. DELAUNO) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 79.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 79, a concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719. This resolution directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make several corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, the Continuing Appropriations Act 2016, including by adding at the end of the text of the House-passed version, H.R. 3134, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015.

The House passed H.R. 3134 by a vote of 241–187 on September 18. The bill precludes any Federal funds from being authorized or appropriated for 1 year for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America or any affiliate or clinic of that organization unless entities certify that affiliates and clinics will not perform and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs elective abortions during such period. The bill also redirected funding from Planned Parenthood facilities to federally qualified health centers to provide women's health services.

This resolution and the related enrollment process sends a signal about this House's commitment to bar funding for Planned Parenthood and gives the Senate the opportunity to limit funding in the continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this is actually the exact same language in the Defund Planned Parenthood Act sponsored by my friend, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), which the House passed earlier this month. Mrs. BLACK is a tireless defender of the unborn, and I have been privileged to work with her on several pro-life measures, including a very similar defund correction to the spending bill back in 2011.

So why this correction? My colleagues might be wondering if I just saw what happened in the Senate. Why take up this bill when the votes just aren't there in the Senate? The answer is simple. Because I believe, as long as there is an opportunity before us to defund Planned Parenthood, we should take it because, when it comes to this fight, I want to leave it all on the field.

I understand that, so far, we have lacked the votes in the Senate to include defund language in the continuing resolution, and I realize this is

a last-ditch effort to do this and that the chances of this correction maneuver succeeding in the Senate are low. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have to fight until the very end.

□ 1600

I have always been up front with those I represent about the low likelihood of defunding Planned Parenthood, especially in a stopgap spending bill. Pro-life advocates in my State and around this country understand the math; and while they hope that Senate Democrats will change their hearts, they don't really expect them to. What they do expect is for us to try, to fight to the very end, and to exhaust every possible option in our effort to stop tax dollars from flowing to this organization.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to support this defund correction and to join me to fight until the very end to defund Planned Parenthood.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

This "enrollment correction" is yet another procedural maneuver. It is designed to destroy health care for millions of American women. It is unacceptable, and we will not stand for it.

The disgraceful rightwing assault on reproductive freedom has become an all-out war on the health and the well-being of millions of low-income American women. Each year, Planned Parenthood provides 2.7 million people, men and women, with lifesaving services.

I would hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would open their hearts—open their hearts—to healthcare services for women who don't have the wherewithal to go to the same kinds of private doctors that the men and women of the United States House of Representatives have the opportunity to do. Open your hearts, because for many, Planned Parenthood is their only way of receiving these healthcare services.

The president of the American Congress of OB-GYNs has warned that, without Planned Parenthood, many patients will be left without a doctor; and that is what these attacks are designed to achieve. The rightwing does not want poor women to have health care, period. It is spiteful, it is cruel, and it is wrong.

We know what happens when funding is taken away from Planned Parenthood. In Scott County, Indiana, a full-scale HIV epidemic was triggered that has been declared a public healthcare emergency. Do we want more people to die? Are we really prepared to see that picture repeated across the country?

The American people have made it clear that they will not accept any bill that cuts funding for women's health

care or compromises reproductive freedoms. Let us in this body respect and trust the healthcare decisions that women make.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield myself an additional 10 seconds.

Let's respect and trust the healthcare decisions that women make. We must respect their wishes. I urge my colleagues to vote against this disgraceful bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. ROBY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), someone who has spent her entire career working at issues that help working families with their health care, and particularly women.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is more political theater: all sound and fury, signifying nothing and going nowhere. We are proceeding to debate this resolution even though there is no money—zero money—in the CR for Planned Parenthood and even though we all understand that if the Senate also adopts this resolution, it will effectively shut down the government, slowing economic growth and job creation.

Planned Parenthood provides essential preventive health services, including birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, well-women exams, and advice on family planning to nearly 3 million women each year.

Community health centers are not an alternative to Planned Parenthood. The California Primary Care Association noted: "Eliminating Planned Parenthood from our State's comprehensive network of care would put untenable stress on remaining providers. We do not have the capacity for such an increase in care."

I urge a "no" vote on the resolution.

Mrs. ROBY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a woman who is angry. These attacks on Planned Parenthood aren't about some deceptive videos. It is about a woman's right to make decisions about her own body. Women's reproductive rights are decisions she should make. It should be between a woman, her doctor, and her family, not a male-dominated Congress.

So let's be clear. Attacking Planned Parenthood is part of a ploy to roll back women's rights. What hypocrisy. I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle cared this much about the millions of women and children who go hungry every day or the educational inequities that exist in our most vulnerable communities.

I stand with Planned Parenthood for the services they provide. Last year, they served more than 2.7 million across our Nation, and more than 31,000 in North Carolina just through nine centers. More than 21,000 patients received safe contraception; more than 18,000 STI tests were conducted, and more than 3,500 Pap tests and more than 2,500 breast exams. Real women getting real preventive care.

I will continue to advocate for women's comprehensive health care and their right to control their own body. The war on women must stop.

Ms. DELAURO. I would inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. First, I want to thank Congresswoman DELAURO for yielding and for her tremendous leadership on so many issues important to women and the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 79, which once again attempts to defund Planned Parenthood for 1 year. This callous action would leave millions of women across the country without access to critical healthcare services. This shameful resolution is the 15th anti women's health vote this year.

We know that Planned Parenthood centers are essential to the health and well-being of women and their families. They serve as primary care facilities for women seeking birth control, comprehensive family planning services, and cancer and STI screenings.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, in 21 percent of counties where Planned Parenthood operates health centers, it is the county's only family planning provider. Mr. Speaker, for these communities, there are no other options. Defunding Planned Parenthood would hurt the communities that need help the most: low-income women and women of color.

Politicians have no business interfering with a woman's personal health decisions that are best for her and her family, and she needs family planning centers to exercise all of her options as it relates to her health care.

This resolution is deceitful and it is wrong. It is past time to end this war on women, and it is past time for Republicans to listen to the American people, develop a responsible budget, and stop their attacks on women's health.

Vote "no" on this very backward, egregious resolution. It is going to harm women. It is going to hurt women. It does not protect the health and safety of women.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend for her incredibly excellent work on this bill.

A threat to shut down the government over funding Planned Parenthood's contraceptive and preventative care measures looms again in 3 months, although 73 percent of the public is against forcing a shutdown over Planned Parenthood.

I am grateful for the high-quality coverage Planned Parenthood gives women's health across the board, including abortion services, not funded by the Federal Government. The District of Columbia is the only jurisdiction Congress denies the full reach of *Roe v. Wade* to low-income women, by denying the local government the right to spend its own local funds on abortion services for poor women.

For the Nation, to cut government funds for Medicaid, family planning, and preventative care would cut off our collective noses to spite our faces. Every public dollar spent on family planning services alone saves \$7 in undesired births and other preventative care.

For all the heat generated by Republicans, Planned Parenthood is regarded more favorably now than it was before the current fight began. The reason is, for nearly a century, Planned Parenthood's incredibly effective work for women's health has won it a strong following across our country from both parties.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for her kindness. As well, let me thank the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, because we know the work that they have done.

Mr. Speaker, let me just simply say that I am very disappointed that we are now settling for a CR that continues to have a sequester that cuts across and denies Border Patrol agents, Customs and Border Protection, Secret Service, and leaves the American people vulnerable.

So, the first order of business is that we are not doing what we are supposed to do in providing for the American people. Now we move to another unseemly legislative initiative that is attacking women's health. And what does that mean? We use it under the guise of Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood has any number of clinics in almost 50 States that deal with women's health, contraception, sexually transmitted disease; places where women who are impoverished can go when they cannot go anywhere else.

In a hearing yesterday, someone was debating why they don't do mammograms. Women know that when we go to any doctor, the doctor refers mammograms.

So this is a bad bill. It is against women's health. The sequester is bad. Vote down both bills.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 79.

We are here again wasting valuable time on measures we know are having no real chance of survival beyond these debates.

I strongly oppose this continued effort to drag women's health issues and women's rights through this political circus.

At what point will the Majority step back and get regal about substantive and genuine legislation.

The amount of legislative time we have wasted on these offensive messaging bills is ridiculous and must end.

Our constituents deserve better.

Our legislative and public service roles demand more.

And as we approach yet another deadline for piecemeal fiscal fixes, we should be focused on passing a comprehensive and cost-savings budget.

Yet, we are here today debating another measure that threatens millions of Americans' access to preventative care and could end up costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

However, we know H. Con. Res. 79 is not a serious attempt at passing real legislation.

As such, it is simply being offered here today as a shameless political decoy to attack the legal rights of women.

Politicians are continuing to try to sneak around the Constitution and four decades of Supreme Court precedent with sham laws that do nothing to improve women's health care and only make it more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain safe and legal abortion.

Restricting all access to reproductive and women's health services only exacerbates a woman's risk of an unintended pregnancy and fails to accomplish any meaningful overthrow of *Roe v. Wade*.

In recent years, state policymakers have passed hundreds of restrictions on abortion care under the guise of protecting women's health and safety.

Fights here in Congress have been no different.

In my state of Texas a law that would have cut off access to 75 percent of reproductive healthcare clinics in the state was challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014 and 2015.

On October 2, 2014, the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional a Texas law that required that all reproductive healthcare clinics that provided the full range of services would be required to have a hospital-style surgery center building and staffing requirements.

This requirement meant that only 7 clinics would be allowed to continue to provide a full spectrum of reproductive healthcare to women.

Any woman facing an unintended pregnancy needs to be able to make her own decisions and weigh all her options—and these laws take those options away.

Texas has 268,580 square miles only second in size to the state of Alaska.

The impact of the law in implementation would have ended access to reproductive services for millions of women in my state.

In 2015, the State of Texas once again threatened women's access to reproductive health care when it attempted to shutter all but 10 healthcare providers in the state of Texas.

The Supreme Court once again intervened on the behalf of Texas women to block the move to close clinics in my state.

It seems every month we are faced with a new attack on women's access to reproductive health care, often couched in deceptive terms and concern for women's health and safety.

And in fact we are here today supposedly to talk about the safety of women—but we know that's not really the case.

If my colleagues were so concerned about women's health and safety, they would be promoting any one of the number of evidence-based proactive policies that improve women's health and well-being.

Instead, they are proposing yet another attempt to ban abortion.

That is their number one priority. This is certainly not about protecting women's health, it's about politics.

We must separate the personal views of abortion from the legal issues and fundamental constitutional rights.

Undisputable, every woman has the constitutional right to make personal health care decisions so basic that it must be equally protected for all.

Restricting access to women's reproductive health care providers makes it increasingly difficult—and sometimes impossible—for women who have decided to end a pregnancy to get the safe, legal, high-quality care they need.

The result is not the elimination of abortions, but higher costs, longer delays, and extra steps for women seeking abortion care, and in the process punish women for their decision to exercise their constitutional right to end a pregnancy.

History tells us that unsafe and late-term abortions did not cease to exist without adequate access to clinical service. Rather, the exact opposite—as we know limited and restricted access only leads to unsafe and dangerous practices.

Today, countless women in states like Texas and Mississippi, Wisconsin, Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana—where state laws are already gravely impacting women's access to health care providers—women are being forced to travel upwards of hundreds of miles or cross state lines to access their constitutional right to an abortion.

These restrictions create sharp disparities in access to care that are troublingly reminiscent of the time before *Roe v. Wade*, when access depended on a woman's social status, where she lived or her ability to travel to another state.

In an effort to undermine what they could not otherwise overturn, politicians are attempting to “turn back the clock” to the pre-*Roe* era by shuttering reproductive health care clinics and cutting off women's access to safe and legal abortion care.

Yet, far too many women who cannot afford to travel elsewhere will face an impossible choice between carrying an unintended pregnancy to term or seeking drastic options outside the law.

A right that only exists on paper is no right at all.

Simply, restricting a women's right and access to legal abortion services discriminately endangers the lives of women.

Congress should be doing everything it can to ensure that women have access to preventive care, not eliminating it.

This is a legislative assault on all progressive health care, service, and advocacy organizations who aim to provide vital care and services to women and men across this country.

Hundreds of thousands have already spoken up, including leading groups and communities such as the growing voice of our millennial generation.

For instance, the nearly 60,000 OB-GYN physicians and partners in women's health warn that this bill would scare providers away from providing comprehensive, compassionate care to women, in a time where America desperately needs more ob-gyns participating in Medicaid programs.

Physicians and experts in the field have long argued that these damaging measures serve no medical purpose, interfere in the doctor/patient relationship, and do nothing to promote women's health.

My colleagues should not be closing the door to health care services.

Rather, my colleagues should be doing more to connect our youth and women to services that help them reduce their risk of unintended pregnancies and STD's, and improve their overall health through preventative screenings, education and planning, and not restricting their access to lawfully entitled family planning and private health services.

I urge all Members to vote against the continued attack on women's health and rights.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this measure.

Mr. DeLAURO. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

What we are facing here today and what this is about, this so-called enrollment correction, is a procedural maneuver because the United States Senate sent over a continuing resolution that continues to fund Planned Parenthood. Because the majority is interested in defunding the opportunity for healthcare services for women, they have asked for this procedural maneuver to defund Planned Parenthood.

It is simply about taking funds away from American women. Think about it. Think about shutting the government down because of women's health. The lack of care and concern, first and foremost, about the 2.7 million men and women that Planned Parenthood serves every year is a grave consequence. But in addition, shutting down the Federal Government the last time cost \$24 billion to American taxpayers, held up

disability checks for veterans, and, in fact, held back people's IRS rebates.

Their preoccupation with denying women's health is cruel, it is spiteful, it is wrong, and it does great harm to this great Nation. Vote against this bad piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, not everyone, I recognize, in this country is pro-life, like I am. But those who are should not be forced to have their tax dollars fund an organization that aborts more than 350,000 unborn babies every year.

Federal law has long prohibited public funds from being used to actually perform abortions. However, Planned Parenthood gets millions in grants and reimbursements for other services that they provide, like pregnancy tests, birth control, Pap smears, STD tests, and other various treatments.

Of course, low-income women should have access to these critical services. But why is it necessary—why is it necessary—for those services to be funded at the Nation's largest abortion provider?

It isn't actually, but the abortion industry and its supporters—it is what they want you to think it is. And they talk about women's health because they don't want to talk about abortion.

They don't want to talk about how ugly it is and how painful it is not just to the mother having to make the decision, but to the unborn baby who doesn't have a voice, who doesn't have a say.

When it comes to funding, they like to pretend, Mr. Speaker, that abortion doesn't exist and that Planned Parenthood is the only place where low-income women can get health care.

Taking away Federal funding from Planned Parenthood means attacking women's health, they say. That is not true.

The truth is that there are more than 13,000 federally qualified and rural health centers throughout this country that offer low-cost health care to women. In fact, these centers outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics 20–1.

If those who defend Federal funding of Planned Parenthood truly just wanted to make sure that low-income women have access to health care and not abortion, then why not simply support these noncontroversial community health centers instead?

If this argument is really about making sure women have access to health care, then we would all agree right here, right now, to support these community health centers.

But you see, Mr. Speaker, that is not what this is about. You see, while federally qualified and rural health centers provide a wide range of medical

services, they don't perform abortions. That is what they really want. They want to preserve the pipeline of funding to the Nation's largest abortion provider.

This talk of women's health is nothing but a charade, a false pretense, that I believe more and more Americans are realizing is phony.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 79, which seeks to add language to the underlying Continuing Resolution before it is sent to the President to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates for one year.

H. Con. Res. 79 is nothing more than a political exercise in futility, and yet another attempt to appease extremists in the Republican Conference who are determined to limit women's access to critical health care services.

This concurrent resolution is substantively identical to both the language in H.R. 3134, which the House has already passed and the Senate has refused to consider, and the Continuing Resolution that was rejected by a bipartisan majority of 47 to 52 in the Senate last week. With just hours left to pass legislation to keep our government open, we should not be hindering access to women's health care.

Mr. Speaker, opposition to these political gimmicks is not limited to Democrats in Congress. Earlier this week the fight over defunding Planned Parenthood and similar scuffles facilitated by fringe elements of the Republican party lead to the resignation of the Speaker of the House, and has divided the Republican conference so fervently that we can again expect a very real threat of a government shutdown in December.

The reality is, the Continuing Resolution we are currently considering does not provide one cent of federal funding for Planned Parenthood, as my Republican friend Representative TOM COLE, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, astutely points out. Knowing this, I am both bewildered and outraged that we are using precious time considering another bill designed to restrict the constitutional reproductive rights of women to satisfy the extreme political agenda of a few in Congress.

Planned Parenthood has long served as a critical health safety net for millions of men and women. Over 90 percent of the services it provides are preventative in nature, including cancer screenings, testing for sexually transmitted infections, and family planning services. Indeed, each year Planned Parenthood centers provide an average of 400,000 cervical cancer screenings, 500,000 breast cancer screenings, and nearly 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections. Defunding this important organization and its affiliates would do an immeasurable disservice to millions of Americans.

Like it or not, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade* conferred upon women the right to do with their own bodies what they determine best until the point of viability. This decision acknowledges the notion that the choice

to have an abortion is excruciatingly difficult, and belongs exclusively with a woman, in consultation with her doctor and god. To subject this right to the ideological whims of politicians flies in the face of years of Supreme Court jurisprudence and is an unconscionable affront to women's health.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 185, answered "present" 1, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 527]

YEAS—241

Abraham	DesJarlais	Hurt (VA)
Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Issa
Allen	Donovan	Jenkins (KS)
Amash	Duffy	Jenkins (WV)
Amodei	Duncan (SC)	Johnson (OH)
Babin	Duncan (TN)	Johnson, Sam
Barletta	Ellmers (NC)	Jolly
Barr	Emmer (MN)	Jones
Barton	Farenthold	Jordan
Benishek	Fincher	Joyce
Bilirakis	Fitzpatrick	Katko
Bishop (MI)	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Bishop (UT)	Fleming	Kelly (PA)
Black	Flores	King (NY)
Blackburn	Forbes	Kinzing (IL)
Blum	Fortenberry	Kline
Bost	Fox	Knight
Boustany	Franks (AZ)	Labrador
Brat	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Bridenstine	Garrett	LaMalfa
Brooks (AL)	Gibbs	Lamborn
Brooks (IN)	Gibson	Lance
Buchanan	Gohmert	Latta
Buck	Goodlatte	Lipinski
Bucshon	Gosar	LoBiondo
Burgess	Gowdy	Long
Byrne	Granger	Loudermilk
Calvert	Graves (GA)	Love
Carter (GA)	Graves (LA)	Lucas
Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer
Chabot	Griffith	Lummis
Chaffetz	Grothman	MacArthur
Clawson (FL)	Guinta	Marchant
Coffman	Guthrie	Marino
Cole	Hardy	Massie
Collins (GA)	Harper	McCarthy
Collins (NY)	Harris	McCaul
Comstock	Hartzler	McClintock
Conaway	Heck (NV)	McHenry
Cook	Hensarling	McKinley
Costello (PA)	Herrera Beutler	McMorris
Cramer	Hice, Jody B.	Rodgers
Crawford	Hill	McSally
Crenshaw	Holding	Meadows
Cuellar	Huelskamp	Meehan
Curbelo (FL)	Huizenga (MI)	Messer
Davis, Rodney	Hultgren	Mica
Denham	Hunter	Miller (FL)
DeSantis	Hurd (TX)	Miller (MI)

Moolenaar	Rogers (AL)	Thornberry
Mooney (WV)	Rogers (KY)	Tiberi
Mullin	Rohrabacher	Tipton
Mulvaney	Rokita	Trott
Murphy (PA)	Rooney (FL)	Turner
Neugebauer	Ros-Lehtinen	Upton
Newhouse	Roskam	Valadao
Noem	Ross	Wagner
Nugent	Rothfus	Walberg
Nunes	Rouzer	Walden
Olson	Royce	Walker
Palazzo	Russell	Walorski
Palmer	Ryan (WI)	Walters, Mimi
Paulsen	Salmon	Weber (TX)
Pearce	Sanford	Webster (FL)
Perry	Scalise	Wenstrup
Peterson	Schweikert	Westerman
Pittenger	Scott, Austin	Westmoreland
Pitts	Sensenbrenner	Whitfield
Poe (TX)	Sessions	Williams
Poliquin	Shimkus	Wilson (SC)
Pompeo	Shuster	Wittman
Posey	Simpson	Womack
Price, Tom	Smith (MO)	Woodall
Ratcliffe	Smith (NE)	Yoder
Reed	Smith (NJ)	Yoho
Renacci	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Ribble	Stefanik	Young (IA)
Rice (SC)	Stewart	Young (IN)
Rigell	Stivers	Zeldin
Roby	Stutzman	Zinke
Roe (TN)	Thompson (PA)	

NAYS—185

Adams	Esty	McGovern
Aguilar	Farr	McNerney
Ashford	Fattah	Meng
Bass	Foster	Moore
Beatty	Frankel (FL)	Moulton
Becerra	Fudge	Murphy (FL)
Bera	Gabbard	Nadler
Beyer	Gallego	Napolitano
Bishop (GA)	Garamendi	Neal
Blumenauer	Graham	Nolan
Bonamici	Grayson	Norcross
Boyle, Brendan	Green, Al	O'Rourke
F.	Green, Gene	Pallone
Brady (PA)	Grijalva	Pascarell
Brown (FL)	Gutiérrez	Payne
Brownley (CA)	Hahn	Pelosi
Bustos	Hanna	Perlmutter
Butterfield	Hastings	Peters
Capps	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Capuano	Higgins	Polis
Cárdenas	Himes	Price (NC)
Carney	Hinojosa	Quigley
Carson (IN)	Honda	Rangel
Cartwright	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Castor (FL)	Huffman	Richmond
Castro (TX)	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Chu, Judy	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Cicilline	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Clay	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Cleaver	Keating	T.
Clyburn	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Cohen	Kildee	Sarbanes
Connolly	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Conyers	Kind	Schiff
Cooper	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Costa	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Langevin	Scott, David
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Davis (CA)	Lawrence	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lee	Sinema
DeFazio	Levin	Sires
DeGette	Lewis	Slaughter
Delaney	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
DeLauro	Loebach	Speier
DeBene	Lofgren	Swalwell (CA)
Dent	Lowenthal	Takai
DeSaulnier	Lowe	Takano
Deutch	Lujan Grisham	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	(NM)	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Luján, Ben Ray	Titus
Dold	(NM)	Tonko
Doyle, Michael	Lynch	Torres
F.	Maloney,	Tsongas
Duckworth	Carolyn	Van Hollen
Edwards	Maloney, Sean	Vargas
Ellison	Matsu	Veasey
Engel	McCollum	Vela
Eshoo	McDermott	Velázquez

Visclosky	Waters, Maxine	Yarmuth
Walz	Watson Coleman	
Wasserman	Welch	
Schultz	Wilson (FL)	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

King (IA)

NOT VOTING—7

Brady (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Reichert
Culberson	Meeks	
Hudson	Pingree	

□ 1647

Mr. LOEBSACK changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. DUNCAN of South Carolina and PERRY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to concur on the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to concur.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 277, nays 151, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 528]

YEAS—277

Adams	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Aguilar	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Amodei	Chu, Judy	DeBene
Ashford	Cicilline	Denham
Barletta	Clark (MA)	Dent
Bass	Clarke (NY)	DeSaulnier
Beatty	Clay	Deutch
Becerra	Cleaver	Diaz-Balart
Benishek	Clyburn	Dingell
Bera	Coffman	Doggett
Beyer	Cohen	Dold
Bishop (GA)	Cole	Donovan
Bishop (MI)	Collins (NY)	Doyle, Michael
Blumenauer	Comstock	F.
Bonamici	Connolly	Duckworth
Bost	Conyers	Edwards
Boyle, Brendan	Cook	Ellison
F.	Cooper	Engel
Brady (PA)	Costa	Eshoo
Brooks (IN)	Costello (PA)	Esty
Brown (FL)	Courtney	Farr
Brownley (CA)	Cramer	Fattah
Buchanan	Crenshaw	Fitzpatrick
Bustos	Crowley	Poster
Butterfield	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Calvert	Cummings	Frelinghuysen
Capps	Curbelo (FL)	Fudge
Capuano	Davis (CA)	Gabbard
Cárdenas	Davis, Danny	Gallego
Carney	Davis, Rodney	Garamendi
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Gibson
Cartwright	DeGette	Graham

Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Hurd (TX)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch

MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meehan
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta

NAYS—151

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Babin
Barr
Barton
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Crawford
DeSantis

DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie

Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt (VA)
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Labrador
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant

Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Whitfield
Royce
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin
Zinke

Marino
Massie
McCaul
McClintock
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Pompeo

Brady (TX)
Culberson

Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster

NOT VOTING—6

□ 1657

Mr. ROHRBACHER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

□ 1700

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE ELEANOR H. NORTON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Eleanor H. Norton, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have

received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, in connection with a particular criminal case, that I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determination required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR H. NORTON,
Member of Congress.

INTENT TO TERMINATE SEYCHELLES, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-59)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a “high income” country, as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank (the “World Bank”), the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program, because they have become high income countries as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, their eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

INTENT TO TERMINATE SEYCHELLES AS A BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY UNDER THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-60)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designation of Seychelles as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) program.

Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)) authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for the benefits described in section 506A(b) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(b)), if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), subject to the authority granted to the President under subsections (a), (d), and (e) of section 502 of the 1974 Act.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Seychelles has become a "high income" country and its designation as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is no longer within the authority granted to the President under section 502 of the 1974 Act. Accordingly, pursuant to section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), I have determined that Seychelles is no longer eligible for benefits as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for the purpose of section 506A of the 1974 Act, effective January 1, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

PUNISHMENT FOR MILITARY WHISTLEBLOWER WAS WRONG

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and outraged to learn recently that a decorated Green Beret was dismissed from the military for blowing the whistle on a child rapist who was a member of the Afghan forces.

When our forces are abroad, our military should strive to uphold American values, and that is exactly what Sergeant First Class Charles Martland did when he confronted Afghan officials engaging in perverse actions. However, instead of being commended, Sergeant Martland was punished for his actions and was taken out of the region, despite being a soldier that was critical to the mission.

As someone who has worked to protect children and keep them safe from sexual exploitation, it is disheartening to see the military look the other way when children are being assaulted by our allied forces. This has to change. Steps must be taken to ensure that our

military uphold American values while overseas.

Mr. Speaker, our military should not be looking the other way when our allies are engaging in wrongful acts.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored once again today to serve as a Congressional co-chair of National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month reminds us that we cannot become complacent in our efforts to build and improve emergency preparedness capabilities.

Coming from the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey, which had experienced Hurricane Sandy and the September 11 attacks, I know that disasters can strike at any time.

As the ranking member of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, I have also observed a concerning gap in coordination between communication of emergency response plans for children and schools. Each day more than 65 million children are separated from their parents during work-hours, but roughly 42 percent of the parents do not know where to reunite with their children after a school evacuation.

Parents, teachers, and emergency responders should engage with community partners so that responsibilities and resources are in place when disasters strike.

PRESIDENT MUST IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND ALL ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, if we didn't already have enough proof that the Palestinian Authority is not an honest partner for peace with Israel, Abu Mazen's speech at the U.N. General Assembly today confirmed it and showed that he is a self-serving autocrat who is more interested in delegitimizing Israel, the Jewish state, than in building up a future Palestinian state.

Abu Mazen's message was clear. He intends to scuttle any prospects for peace, pursue Israel at the International Criminal Court, and continue his ploy for achieving unilateral statehood at the U.N.

President Obama must immediately suspend all assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

If the Palestinians do move to join additional international conventions and organizations, the U.S. law is un-

ambiguous. We must suspend all funding to any of these bodies that accept a nonexistent state of Palestine to its membership.

Mr. Speaker, the President has been seeking ways to circumvent and waive these provisions for years, but we must see to it that the President implements the full intent and letter of the law. Suspend all aid now.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a responsible Member of Congress concerned for the American people, today I voted for a continuing resolution that will take us to December 11, but that is not the responsible way to handle the business of this Nation.

It is time now for this Congress to put aside partisanship and to begin to have the Republican leadership and Republicans to sit down with members of the Democratic Caucus and talk about a real funding bill.

Yes, we have kept the doors open and provided for our employees, but we have undermined defense and the preparedness of our men and women. We have cut \$1.7 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program, and we are barely hanging on for other necessary items.

Yes, we have allowed for wildfire funding and disaster funding. Other items dealing with law enforcement and provisions for transportation and the environment are all cut by something called the sequester.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better, and we need to get busy starting next week and put forward an appropriations process that funds this government, responds to those who are in need, prepares our young men and women in the military, and as well restores that children's health insurance money. Shame on us. We need to do it now.

HONORING COACH TONY NAPOLET

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Coach Tony Napolet, who was a great man, a person of God, and a great coach.

We sent him off this morning at his funeral mass at St. Mary's, and I wanted to take a few moments here on the House floor to say thank you on behalf of all of those who coached with him, played for him, and in some way he helped shape so many lives.

To Natalie and Harold and Mario—his children—Aunt Norma, Aunt Marie, Manlio, Christopher, the entire crew, we want to say that we sent a great

man to heaven today who embodied John F. Kennedy High School, Kennedy football.

The one lesson he always taught, Mr. Speaker, was to have a strong faith in God, make God your best friend, and treat others the way you would like to be treated. He left a major, major impression in the Mahoning Valley in Trumbull County in the State of Ohio.

God bless you, Coach Napolet. You will be missed.

□ 1715

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, before I begin this evening, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joined this evening with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to celebrate the upcoming October 2 National Manufacturing Day.

Manufacturing in the U.S. is something that I support fully. U.S. manufacturing is something that, I think, shares bipartisan support across the country, coast to coast, north to south, east to west, because it is about real, family-sustaining jobs where we build things in America, where we can actually manufacture our products here to sell not only to the American economy, but to the world economy.

Mr. Speaker, as I co-chair the U.S. Manufacturing Caucus here in Congress, I wanted to ask my colleague on the U.S. Manufacturing Caucus to rise and open us up on this Special Order this evening to celebrate U.S. manufacturing.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), a good friend and my co-chair on the Manufacturing Caucus.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. This is a great opportunity for us to share, I think, as Democrats and Republicans.

My friend from New York represents upstate New York, and that area of our country and the State of New York have a long history of manufacturing. I represent northeast Ohio, which also has a long history of manufacturing.

I think we recognize the importance of manufacturing jobs and how to create policies that will further allow for

investment in manufacturing and for workforce development within the context of manufacturing.

Also, I think we recognize, as we have seen the transition over the last 20 or 30 years in our country, how much we miss these manufacturing jobs. They pay a higher wage, more of a solid pension for most manufacturers, better benefits, and are where people can learn a craft, learn a skill, get into a good company, and make a good, honest living; and that is what we are celebrating here today.

Through our Manufacturing Caucus, Congressman REED and I try to stimulate some conversations and bring real people from our congressional districts to help educate us on what the best process, what the best issues, what the best approaches would be for the United States Congress to try to incentivize manufacturing here in the United States.

I know I will be doing an event on Friday back in Youngstown, Ohio, and further celebrating in my community. I know you will, as well.

So I just want to say thank you to my friend. I look forward to us continuing—not just the old-line manufacturing that we know a lot about and have lost of lot of those jobs, not just the advanced manufacturing either—to work on the issue of making sure that we create more of these institutes to try to nurture new ways of manufacturing, but also the additive manufacturing piece, which is happening in Youngstown, Ohio, at America Makes, where the 3-D printing movement, the Maker Movement is happening and burgeoning in an old warehouse in downtown Youngstown. I mean, it doesn't get better than that, to have millions of dollars of equipment in the downtown of an iconic city that is really leading our community forward in this new line of manufacturing.

I want to thank you for your leadership. I appreciate your friendship, and I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words here tonight.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio. He truly is a friend, and he is just as committed to U.S. manufacturing as I am. I have seen it firsthand. I have seen him in his district in action supporting U.S. manufacturers.

The 3-D printing hub, the advanced manufacturing center that you reference and that we are so supportive of—working with JOE KENNEDY here in the House and ROY BLUNT and SHERROD BROWN on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, getting that legislation signed, which was a priority of the administration—and having that type of advanced manufacturing center in Ohio, in your home State, obviously has demonstrated his commitment and his belief in U.S. manufacturing.

As the gentlemen indicated, it is not just advanced manufacturing. It is the

traditional manufacturing. It is the manufacturing that we believe in where the American spirit is alive and well, where the American Dream can be reached and obtained.

I mean, as my good friend from Ohio indicated, these are good, solid, family-sustaining, middle class jobs to a large extent that put food on the table for our fellow Americans and put roofs over their heads and allow families to maybe pass on to the next generation a little bit better lifestyle or a little bit better American Dream than they enjoyed by having a little bit of money to invest in a college education for their kids and to try to enjoy and live that American Dream that I know my friend from Ohio believes in.

So I applaud my friend, and I appreciate my friend for all the work you do on U.S. manufacturing. This is what gives me continued optimism here in the United States Congress that we can get things done, because we have come across the aisle and we have joined together to promote U.S. manufacturing.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is hard not to get a little bit nostalgic. I think a lot of times those of us who advocate for manufacturing spend a little too much time in the nostalgia phase and not enough time, I think, working in the space where we are trying to enhance, grow, and create new opportunities in manufacturing.

And I am not going to get political, but to go back to all of the elections, whether Republicans won or Democrats won, if you go back 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, I think the economic insecurity, in my analysis, was at the heart of each of those elections.

As we have seen the decline in manufacturing, we have seen the increase in anxiety for families to be able to make ends meet. So I am thankful that we can try to promote this together and try to find an issue like manufacturing that garners 60 to 70 percent support from regions, demographics all over the United States.

I think there is an inherent understanding of making something. I start it, and then I pass it to your company. You add value to it, and then you pass it to someone else. They add value to it, and it goes through that supply chain, tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3, and everybody benefits.

Back in the day, you know, we had a manufacturing facility for General Motors that had 15,000 or 16,000 people that now has 3,000 or 4,000. We had a supplier to General Motors, Packard Electric and then Delphi, that had 13,000 employees, and now it is down to 2,000 or 3,000. Those were all solid, middle class jobs. I know you could probably give similar examples in Corning and other places.

So I think, if we have an industrial policy, if we continue through the Tax Code and other ways to make sure that

we incentivize investment in these areas, that we can help regrow those new-age manufacturing jobs that everybody, I think, is looking for, as you said, to make a good living, have a solid retirement, have good benefits, and not have to work so hard that you miss the soccer match, you miss the baseball game, or you can't go on a vacation. We can help regrow those middle class jobs where you can still have time with your family, which ultimately is the most important thing anyway.

So I appreciate the opportunity to be here and continue to work with you.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman points out, you know, what manufacturing represents is opportunity, an opportunity to so many Americans, so many people.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague from Ohio will agree with me that U.S. manufacturing is positioned on a precipice of rebirth here in America.

Now, my friend points out some areas that we need to continue to work on to make U.S. manufacturing even more competitive than what we are finding today.

When we see the energy rebirth here in America with the shale revolution for oil and natural gas coming online and the feedstock and the utility costs going down and going lower and lower, it is positioning U.S. manufacturing to be in a competitive position on the world economic stage. To me, that is such a hopeful, optimistic position of time for the United States of America to be in.

I can tell you story after story, Mr. Speaker. When I talk to U.S. manufacturers, they talk about the lessons that they have learned over the years of maybe chasing that cheap labor dollar, maybe chasing that overseas market, the whole issue of outsourcing.

What I hear from U.S. manufacturers today is that they want to come back to America, because in America we have the best workforce and we have the best work ethic across the world.

What we have in America, also, is the rule of law. So many of these manufacturers that have looked overseas and relocated overseas, they are finding that their intellectual property is disregarded. Those innovative ideas, those new ideas, those inventions that are going to spur that next product growth of tomorrow, they just get ripped off.

They have no recourse to enforce what we in America, as the cornerstone of our philosophy, respect, and that is property rights and that is the rule of law and saying that, if you invent it, you own it. That is something that is critical for us as we go forward is to recognize the opportunity—and I know my good friend shares this—that U.S. manufacturing has right now with the competitive nature of the American marketplace.

There are some things we can do. Serving on the Ways and Means Com-

mittee here in the House of Representatives, in charge of tax policy, trade policy, and health care, to a large degree, one of the things I think we have a shared commitment to is fixing our broken Tax Code. I don't know of anyone across America that will stand up and take that 70,000 pages of Tax Code and say this is working and this is putting our manufacturers in a competitive position on the world stage.

I hear it time and time again that we need to fix that Tax Code. Because if we do that, that is another piece to advance U.S. manufacturing to that rebirth, that renaissance that I know—and I know my good friend from Ohio shares—can happen and will happen, because this is America where that opportunity can rise again.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we all know that there are the larger manufacturers who can hire accountants and all the rest to figure it out, but it is the small- and medium-sized tier 3, tier 4 suppliers, you know, that maybe have 50 or 100 people and it is a family business and people aren't making a ton of dough, and to have to deal with the increased complexity of a Tax Code for the small business, I think it is appropriate for us to try to simplify that and make it a little bit easier for them.

I am glad you mentioned natural gas. Especially in our region, in western New York, western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, it is a huge opportunity for us. We should all be beating on the doors of the European companies to try to say, you know, move your manufacturing base into our region because of what the opportunities are going to be into the future.

We have talked about this, and I think we have had a hearing about it through our caucus, is how do we get young people and their parents to recognize and see manufacturing as a real opportunity for them. A lot of people think, parents think: Well, I don't want my kids going into manufacturing. You know, they picture the steel mill in Youngstown where there were 20,000 people coming out dirty, in hard hats with a metal lunch bucket. Now, today, you walk into a manufacturing facility, it is about metrology and it is about precision manufacturing. You could eat off the floor because it is so clean. It is a whole different idea of what manufacturing is.

We have got to figure out how to work with guidance counselors and teachers in the STEM areas about how to get kids engaged in this area earlier, because kids are naturally inclined—I think of my 12-year-old son, Mason. He is always building, creating, trying to use his hands the best he can, or even if he is on the computer, how he is organizing, you know, his troop alignments in some of the war games that he plays. But it is all about constructing something and putting something together, building things, and how do you create that.

These young kids just naturally gravitate toward that. So the more we can get them engaged at a very, very young age about designing and building, the more we are going to unleash the creative potential of that generation to further build out the manufacturing base here in the United States.

□ 1730

Mr. REED. Reclaiming my time, I couldn't have said it better. I know the gentleman has shared stories that I have experienced myself.

When we look at the present state of U.S. manufacturing, these are not the days of smoke-filled rooms where safety wasn't a concern and that it was a dirty, drudgery type of environment that they existed in. This is cutting-edge. This is a safe workplace. This is where safety is paramount and where skills are so necessary.

One of the things that I still see today that we have to fight—and I think the gentleman will share this position with me—is I do a lot of work back in the district going to local high schools, standing in front of juniors and seniors and having conversations with those kids about what they want to be when they get older.

I remember vividly one story. It was the first time when I asked the question, "What do you want to be when you get older?" The kids' hands went up. You have got the lawyers. You have got the doctors. You have got the people that want to be like the Al Rokers. They want to be the weatherman or on the broadcast TV, that type of thing.

I said, "That is all fine and good. That is great." Then one young man, who was a senior, said, "Congressman, I am going to be a welder." I went over the Moon with that young man.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You are going to have a job.

Mr. REED. I said, "Do you understand"—to the rest of his class—"I just left a steel facility in this district where they are going to start welders at \$60,000 a year starting pay?"

I said, "This young man is going to be able to have a career. This is a career. He is going to be able to have a little extra money in his pocket. He is going to be able to maybe get married and raise a family." He got it, as a senior. I was so excited.

As I walked out of that room and I was walking and exiting the building, I had one of the school officials, a guidance counselor, say, "Oh, Congressman, that was great. You made that young man's day. There is no doubt about it. He is going to remember that day for the rest of his life." "But," she said, "we really don't try to promote those types of careers, though."

I went almost through the roof, Mr. Speaker. I said, "That is the problem. We have to change that concept, that stigma, that manufacturing historically carries with it." I know we are

doing it. I know the gentleman from Ohio is working with us, Mr. Speaker, to get that done.

What I see is, when you explain the opportunities to that next generation, when you talk to mothers and fathers and say this is really what is out there, their eyes light up. The burden is lifted from their shoulders to see that their kids are choosing to go into a career that they want to and that they recognize is rewarding, safe, and productive.

I will tell you I am going to continue the efforts to promote U.S. manufacturing because it is not just the manufacturers. As my good friend from Ohio indicated, it is all those supply chains, all those mom-and-pops, those small businesses, that are not only supplying the pieces or the raw material to the manufacturers, but you think about the restaurants, you think about the service folks that are cleaning the facilities, you think about all that it takes to put that together. That is a vibrant, growing economy, Mr. Speaker.

That is what we are promoting here with U.S. manufacturing. That is why I am so glad that October 2 is National Manufacturing Day, so that we, as a nation, could maybe take a moment on Friday and say, "You know what. We are going to believe in American manufacturing again. We are going to make it here to sell it around the world, make it with our hands, create wealth, create something." I know that my friend from Ohio shares that passion.

One of the things that I am so committed to when we talk about this is the STEM, the science, technology, engineering, mathematics need of education policy going forward. That is what our advanced manufacturing bill with JOE KENNEDY was all about.

And working with the Senate in a bicameral and getting it signed into law was to take these public-private partnerships, to take our schools, our universities, our colleges, work with our manufacturers to develop those skills that are necessary to do this manufacturing.

Because, as my good friend who has been in many of the manufacturing facilities, just as I have—when you go and you look at these machines, you look at how these operations and assembly lines occur, you need high education. This is highly skilled stuff. You can just see the pride in the workers when they explain to me how they learned that computer program or they learned how to do that assembly line work. I will tell you, it is inspiring.

I yield to the gentleman if he has got any stories.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Yes. It is not like it is a 4-year degree either. It is something that can be learned in a year or two because you are focused on exactly where you are going to be.

And you talk about a welder maybe starting at \$60,000-plus. You think

about, if you could do that, start making \$60,000 a year at 20—it takes a lot of people, schoolteachers, for example—how long does it take in Corning, New York, or Youngstown, Ohio, to get to \$60,000? It is a little while.

So that is money you can begin to save, invest, put in your retirement, whatever, your kids' college. I mean, you have that money not starting at \$30,000, but starting at \$60,000 or \$70,000. And that can go vertical, too.

The more skills you get and if you are in the right position in the right company, you can start making upwards of \$100,000 as a welder. That is a lot of money that, if you plan your finances properly, you can have a lot of savings.

To that point as well, I was at Stark State Community College, which is just outside of Canton, a few weeks ago, and there were kids there from Barberton High School and Norton High School, about 10 or 15 of them. They just started a program where these kids in high school were earning credits for the welding certificate.

With this program, those kids can earn 13 credit hours for a 30-hour certificate. So by the time you graduate from high school, if you get in as a junior and you do it your junior and senior year, you will have 13 of 30 credits. So you don't need much longer. You are over a third of the way to your certificate, and you just graduated from high school.

Those are the kind of innovative things I think we need to continue to figure out how to incentivize and create. Part of it is the awareness that we were talking about, that it is okay for your kid to be a welder because of what we have already talked about.

But how do we create incentives to streamline the education process, to get kids on a track so, when they are 18, 19, 20 years old, they have a job and they are not sleeping in our basements?

Mr. REED. Reclaiming my time, yeah, think about this. As we see the cost of colleges and your college degree, kids coming out of school—I came out of law school at the end of the day owing over \$110,000. I was raised by a single mother. I am the youngest of 12. I have 8 older sisters and 3 older brothers. To start life after school with a \$110,000 mortgage on my head was a very difficult thing.

You talk to these young men and women who are going into these programs—it is not just welding. It is manufacturing. It is HVAC. It is plumbing. It is all of the things that go into U.S. manufacturing—and they are getting through school with these guaranteed programs or these community college programs.

We have got a couple manufacturers in the district that have a certification process system that they put together where they guarantee 100 percent hir-

ing at the end of the certificate program for these kids after—I think it is 24 weeks, if I remember correctly.

They are getting into that job, making that type of salary, and have no debt to pay for that college degree. That is a win-win-win. And they enjoy it. And they enjoy it. I am sure the gentleman knows these stories and has seen those people firsthand.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. This has been great. Let's keep it rolling and figure out what we can do moving forward in a bipartisan way like you and Congressman KENNEDY did.

I think that is essential with growing the ecosystem around different kinds of manufacturing in auto and additive and all the rest. We stand ready to work with you on the Democratic side to make that happen.

Mr. REED. From this side of the aisle, on behalf of the people that we represent in western New York, you have that commitment, that I will continue to fight with you, stand with you to fight for U.S. manufacturing. I will not fight against you, but fight together so that we can advance U.S. manufacturing.

It has been a pleasure to call you a friend. It has been a pleasure to be part of this caucus. Our caucus is strong, Mr. Speaker. We have bipartisan representation across the country.

As we started this conversation tonight, in celebrating National Manufacturing Day this Friday, this is not a partisan issue. I go across the entire country, and people always tell me they appreciate the work we do in the caucus, in the Congress, when it comes to U.S. manufacturing.

I again commit to you that we will continue to make this a priority so that we can make it here to sell it around the world again, bring those jobs back to American soil and create these middle class jobs to a large extent so that families, men and women, sons and daughters, can enjoy the American Dream. I appreciate the gentleman for joining us this evening.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Thank you, sir.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to summarize some of the numbers that are associated with U.S. manufacturing.

Manufacturing supports an estimated 17.6 million jobs in the United States. That is about 1 in 6 private sector jobs. More than 12 million Americans are employed directly in manufacturing. They earn almost \$15,000 more annually than the average worker.

This is what U.S. manufacturing is all about. It is about creating wealth. It is about creating opportunity for generations to come.

I will tell you, as we continue our career here in Washington, D.C., I will be a voice for U.S. manufacturing every day. We will break down barriers across the world so that we can have an even playing field, so that we can make

those products, build those products here, access those markets where 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside of America's borders so that we have a vibrant economy not only servicing the American demand, but the world demand.

I think, if we get our policies right here, if we get that trade policy done correctly, if we get that tax policy done where we have a Tax Code that is simple, fair, and is competitive for the 21st century—I am very confident, Mr. Speaker, that what we will create is an opportunity not just for U.S. manufacturing, but all American citizens, but, in particular, U.S. manufacturing to prosper and grow for generations to come.

I am excited to be here this evening, Mr. Speaker. I am excited to share with such a good man from the State of Ohio a passion and commitment to a priority issue of U.S. manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, I just ask all of my fellow American citizens to take a moment this Friday, October 2, and celebrate National Manufacturing Day. Let's come together to have a great opportunity for the future generations of America to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of illness.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3614. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 136. An act to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

S. 139. An act to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 565. An act to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Fed-

eral fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

S. 2082. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 29, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2051. To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2966. A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees (RIN: 0572-AC34) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2967. A letter from the Comptroller, Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Navy case number 14-02, as required by 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2968. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OSD(AT&L), Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Electronic Copies of Contractual Documents (DFARS Case 2012-D056) [Docket No.: DARS 2015-0009] (RIN: 0750-AI29) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2969. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OSD(AT&L), Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Debts-Conform to FAR Section Designations (DFARS Case 2015-D029) [Docket No.: DARS 2015-0047] (RIN: 0750-AI70) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2970. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Rear Admiral John N. Christenson,

United States Navy, to wear the insignia of the grade of vice admiral, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2971. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2972. A letter from the Comptroller, Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual Defense Cooperation Account report, period ending March 31, 2015, and semiannual Coalition Contributions: Personal Property report period ending March 31, 2015, as required by 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2973. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Providence County, RI, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2015-0001] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8399] received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2974. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the use of Secs. 506(A)(1) and 552 (C)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide commodities and services for immediate assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2975. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 03-15, informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding Among the Department of National Defence of Canada, the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Department of Defense of the United States of America for Standard Missile In-Service Support, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2976. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions of Sec. 1003 of Pub. L. 100-204 regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2977. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2978. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuban Assets Control Regulations received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2979. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting Statement Of Disbursements For The Period July 1, 2015

through September 30, 2015, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 114-61); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

2980. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final specifications — Pacific Island Fisheries; 2015 Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures [Docket No.: 141009847-5746-02] (RIN: 0648-XD558) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2981. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 53 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2015 [Docket No.: 150623545-5545-01] (RIN: 0648-XE015) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2982. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Dusky Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE169) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2983. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE144) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2984. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury providing an update regarding the Treasury's ability to continue to finance the government and the extraordinary measures taken to avoid default; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2985. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Report to Congress: Evaluations of Hospitals' Ambulance Data on Medicare Cost Reports and Feasibility of Obtaining Cost Data from All Ambulance Providers and Suppliers", in accordance to Sec. 604(d)(3)(A) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1880. A bill to require

the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico (Rept. 114-271). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 448. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-272). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 449. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 114-273). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2168. A bill to make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes (Rept. 114-274). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1541. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs; with an amendment (Rept. 114-275). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 3651. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the extension of certain deadlines related to positive train control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. LEE, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 3652. A bill to expand programs with respect to women's health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 3653. A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help fa-

cilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 3654. A bill to require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 3655. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to Federal Government liability and to require reimbursement to the Judgement Fund for certain claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. TAKAD):

H.R. 3656. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3657. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 3658. A bill to provide grants to better understand and reduce gestational diabetes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 3659. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to remove citizenship and immigration barriers to access the Exchanges under such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NOR-TON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Con. Res. 80. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress on Hunger in our Communities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H. Res. 450. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 597) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the

United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Res. 451. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Sergeant Charles Martland, a decorated member of the Special Forces, should be reinstated in the United States Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ASHFORD:

H. Res. 452. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the Clerk of the House to conduct the election of the Speaker of the House by secret ballot; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H. Res. 453. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Government should provide additional relief and assistance to the island of Dominica; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 3651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 3655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DeGETTE:

H.R. 3656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 3659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 167: Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 213: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 241: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 343: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 546: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 649: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 662: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 699: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 814: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 840: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 868: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 879: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 921: Mr. HURD of Texas and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 969: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 997: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 1062: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1089: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 1124: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1197: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1221: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1232: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1258: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1266: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1272: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1399: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1401: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1441: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1447: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1475: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1550: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 1571: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1600: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1603: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 1610: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1644: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1666: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1671: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BUCK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1683: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1716: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1752: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1786: Ms. TITUS and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1877: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1948: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 2016: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 2025: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2050: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2090: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2156: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2241: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 2254: Mr. KILMER and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2257: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2290: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2408: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2441: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2463: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2494: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2515: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 2521: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2567: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 2597: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 2602: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2622: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2624: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2646: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2669: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2671: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2672: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2673: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2674: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2698: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2726: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2739: Mr. TROTT and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2759: Mr. WALZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2855: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2858: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2866: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. GALLEGGO.

H.R. 2896: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 2903: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2944: Ms. ESTY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3016: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3094: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 3119: Mr. GIBBS and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3129: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 3137: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3150: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 3151: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 3177: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 3180: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 3183: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 3225: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 3268: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. POMPEO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 3309: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 3381: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. LANDEVIN.

H.R. 3412: Mr. POCAN and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 3423: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 3429: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 3457: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 3473: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 3475: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3515: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 3516: Mr. McCAUL and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3518: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3523: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3532: Mr. ROUZER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3542: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3555: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3573: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 3579: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3590: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 3611: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3635: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3641: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Ms. LEE.

H.J. Res. 51: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 65: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms.

TSONGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. DOLD, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 394: Mr. PETERS and Ms. BASS.

H. Res. 416: Mr. RIGELL, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. KIND.

H. Res. 428: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 438: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 443: Mr. HONDA and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 445: Ms. MATSUI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE
AND RESCUE AND EMS PER-
SONNEL

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012 I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district:

Firefighter/EMT Michael Dunn of the Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue was chosen to receive the Preservation of Life Award

Lt. Don Rossow of the Englewood Area Fire Control District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award

District Chief/Paramedic Robin Thayer of the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services was chosen to receive the Career Service Award

Lt. Jason Wilkins, Lt. Jamie Mann, Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Jones, Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Sponable and Firefighter/EMT Clayton Huber were chosen to receive the Unit Citation Award

Deputy Chief Brett Pollok of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue was chosen to receive the Career Service Award

Fire Investigator/Inspector Larry Betts of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL
HLYNSKY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Paul

Hlynsky, an Akron, Ohio community leader who passed away on September 23, 2015 at the age of 61 after a long and hard fought battle with cancer. As a man of great conviction and dedication to those he served, Paul will be remembered as a strident defender of his friends, family, and colleagues.

Through his 18 years of service as President of the Akron Lodge 7 Fraternal Order of Police, Paul led countless fights for the rights of his coworkers as the longest serving President of the Order. After 16 years in the Army where he rose to the rank of Major, Paul became a police officer in 1992, serving his country and community for decades. Paul was a unifier, bringing together Akron union leaders to work collectively on fighting for their workers' rights and interests.

As the child of Ukrainian immigrants who had been in a German labor camp during World War II, Paul faced difficult life challenges from the start, learning the value of staying dedicated to those you know and love.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents and older sister. Paul is survived by his sister, Irene (Dan) Harland; nieces, Stephanie (Scott) Jowers and Jeannette Harland; fiancée, Olya Tymciurak. He is also survived by many of his police brethren for whom he worked tirelessly.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Paul Hlynsky, a man who was such a vital servant of the Akron, Ohio community. I hope you all will join me in offering my thoughts and prayers to him and his family.

IMPROVING RESEARCH AND
TREATMENT FOR DYSTONIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Janice and Len Nachbar of Freehold, New Jersey, who lead the Central New Jersey Dystonia Support and Action Group, eloquently addressed a congressional briefing yesterday on dystonia—a neurological movement disorder characterized by muscle contractions causing abnormal and often painful body movements and postures. Dystonia can cause a range of impairments, in some cases leaving a person legally blind or unable to walk or communicate.

Janice and Len are the loving parents of Joanna, a remarkably brave and smart woman who is afflicted with dystonia. Janice and Len explained their daughter's multi-year battle with this condition, saying in part:

"Eventually, her dystonia became so advanced and painful; she was approved for Deep Brain stimulation surgery, or commonly known as, DBS. She underwent seven hours of brain surgery while wide awake to implant electrodes in her brain with a second surgery to follow."

Ultimately, says Janice, "[Dystonia's] largest tolls are emotional. How hard it is to see a bright child with the world open to her disintegrate daily."

Today, though Joanna faces significant mobility and communication challenges, she serves as an online mentor for dystonia patients around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the Nachbars' compelling testimony from the briefing, along with testimony from Janet Hieshetter, executive director of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation. I urge my colleagues to read their statements and seek to join us in expanding improved research and treatments for this little-understood condition.

TESTIMONY OF JANET HIESHETTER, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE DYSTONIA MEDICAL RE-
SEARCH FOUNDATION

Thank you all for being here today and joining us for Dystonia Awareness Month. If you don't know a great deal about dystonia, you are in the right place. We have a great line up of speakers that can talk extensively about these conditions.

My name is Janet Hieshetter, and I am Executive Director of the non-profit Dystonia Medical Research Foundation. The DMRF works to advance medical research and support individuals and families impacted by dystonia. We also work collaboratively with four other patient-driven dystonia organizations, the Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation, DySTonia, Inc., the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association and the National Spasmodic Torticollis Association to improve patient care through a nationwide grassroots effort known as the Dystonia Advocacy Network.

Briefly, dystonia is a neurological movement disorder that is characterized by persistent or intermittent muscle contractions causing abnormal, often repetitive, movements, postures, or both. The movements are usually patterned and twisting, and may resemble a tremor.

There are multiple forms of dystonia, and dozens of diseases and conditions may include dystonia as a symptom. Dystonia can affect a single body area like the eyelids leaving the person legally blind or be generalized throughout multiple muscle groups in the body—often placing people in wheelchairs.

Dystonia affects men, women, and children of all ages and backgrounds. Estimates suggest that no fewer than 300,000 people are affected in North America. Dystonia causes varying degrees of disability and pain, from mild to severe.

Thanks in large part to our federal investment in medical research, significant advancements have been made in our understanding of these conditions. While there remains no cure, clinical research has led to meaningful treatment options including botulinum toxin injections and deep brain stimulation.

TESTIMONY OF JANICE NACHBAR

Joanna was a very bright, articulate child. She walked at ten months. She had a high and big voice.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Her hands always had tremors, but so did those of my mother and grandmother, so we shrugged it off. She also never vomited. A good thing, right.

She was in the gifted class in first grade. She attended dancing school and gymnastics and was good at both.

Strange symptoms started appearing between the ages of six and ten. Her handwriting became cramped and her reading was not advancing properly. In the third grade, she was moved out of the gifted class.

By the sixth grade, she was on the verge of repeating the grade. Although she moved up to the seventh grade, her work was still below grade level.

We took her to a multitude of specialists, including an eye therapist, reading labs and psychologists, thinking she had a learning disability. Nothing was helping. She became frustrated and felt she was a failure.

While in High School, Joanna had braces on her teeth. Coincidentally, her speech started to become cluttered and hard to understand. We attributed it to the braces.

She was classified as a learning disabled student and was placed in a special academic program in school. She was given individual help with her work. We also hired tutors, but her work was still unsatisfactory.

We knew something was radically wrong when her braces came off and we still could not understand her.

Physically, she was still functional. She drove her car. After graduation, she became licensed as a home and nursing home aide and briefly was able to work.

By age 21, her speech was almost gone and she was having pain and spasms. Her back was pulled to the side and her hips were uneven. Her balance was off and she fell repeatedly.

The first neurologist she saw told us she had Fazio-Land disease. This was a form of muscular dystrophy and we were told she would slowly strangle to death.

We next took her to a well-known neurologist in a large teaching hospital in NYC. He admitted her to their testing center and spent three days having various medical staff poke, prod and test. He came up with nothing, other than to watch her.

As parents, we were panicking as we watched her diminish and were fortunate enough to obtain an appointment with Dr. Mark Hallett, Senior Investigator of the Human Motor Control Section of the NINDS.

Joanna and I traveled to Bethesda and spent an afternoon with Dr. Hallett.

Thanks to him, and after 15 years of searching, we finally had a diagnosis.

He referred us to a movement disorder specialist who, coincidentally, was in the same building and one floor below the neurologist she had been seeing for two years, but who had never mentioned the movement disorder clinic in his own department.

This kind of disconnect by physicians is a huge issue for those seeking a diagnosis and treatment. If a physician does not recognize a movement disorder or avoids a referral to a movement disorder specialist, the patient is helpless.

After seeing the new movement disorder neurologist, Joanna began taking medications for Dystonia. At this point, the mystery of her school failure was revealed. Her hairdresser commented that her head no longer had minute tremors. Tremors? I never saw them. When the tremors stopped, she could read.

She didn't have a learning disability; she just couldn't see the page. Imagine how different her school experience would have been

with an early diagnosis and treatment? Now she was able to go to a local college and obtain an associate's degree, something none of us could have imagined.

Eventually, her dystonia became so advanced and painful; she was approved for Deep Brain stimulation surgery, or commonly known as DBS. She underwent seven hours of brain surgery while wide awake to implant electrodes in her brain with a second surgery to follow.

Some people have miraculous results. Joanna had minimal results, but the DBS did lessen her pain.

Remember she never vomited? It seems she has no gag reflex. She also cannot cough. As a result, Joanna has had numerous pneumonias, with the last one requiring 11 days in CCU, five days of which on a ventilator. It was a devastating experience for all of us. I spent the entire 11 days next to her, only leaving her side to eat or shower in the hospital or to take a short break when another family member sat with her. All patients need advocates, but a non-verbal one is even more vulnerable.

Because her dystonia affects her mouth so intensely, she cannot take in enough nourishment to sustain health.

At 5'3" inches in height, she weighed about 88 pounds. She now has a permanent feeding tube and takes all nutrition and hydration through it.

She can eat very little, since just about everything is a choking risk and she can't cough to move the food out. Her g tube became infected and she spent 7 weeks in a rehab center. Of course, her dad and I spent 7 weeks there, as well.

Despite all of these treatments, Joanna's dystonia worsened. She lost all speech, most of the use of her hands and the ability to walk safely.

My husband and I are aging and were fearful for Joanna's future security. As a family, we made the most difficult decision of a lifetime. In March of 2014, Joanna moved to a long-term care facility in Philadelphia.

It's a wonderful place and she has many friends, but it's still not the life any of us envisioned for our bright and lively child.

Dystonia has affected Joanna and us in many ways. Economically, we made huge changes in our work so as to be able to care for her. Her medical bills, hospitalizations and trips to see doctors added up.

Socially, our family became hermits, avoiding social activities either because Joanna couldn't keep up or we had nobody who could stay with her. We missed birthdays, weddings, family vacations and other important events due to Dystonia.

The largest tolls are emotional. How hard it is to see a bright child with the world open to her disintegrate daily. How hard is it for Joanna?

That's our family story and Joanna's journey. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF LEN NACHBAR

My wife, Janice, spoke to you about how dystonia has affected our daughter, Joanna, and our family. I'm going to tell you about how dystonia changed the lives of members of our New Jersey and Philadelphia support groups and of friends of ours around the country.

Last week, a bright, beautiful and talented friend in her twenties wrote: "Feeling so completely broken. Why was I even born? I live in such pain and agony. There is no end in sight." She's a graduate student who should have a promising career and life, but the constant pain caused by her dystonia hasn't allowed it.

Sometimes the pain, the inability to work and the resulting poverty becomes too much to bear. A few years ago, a member of our New Jersey support group attempted to commit suicide. She is also a bright woman and was a graduate student at Rutgers University when dystonia struck.

Another member of our support group was the Facilities Administrator at a major Philadelphia hospital before he developed dystonia. His neck is involuntarily pulled to the side. He's unable to straighten it. He tried to continue working, but the constant pain made him retire.

A member of our New Jersey support group has been a teacher for many years. She loves the career and wants to continue teaching, but says that her school district is trying to force her to resign. A second grade teacher who's a member of our Philadelphia group is still working, but sometimes needs assistance. So far, her colleagues have been able to help her hide the problems.

A New Jersey Special Ed teacher is an "expert" on the accommodations that people with disabilities need. She's angry because her school makes accommodations for her students, but has refused to do so for her. She asked for a chair and a program that would enable her to dictate because she has difficulty writing.

Dystonia has impacted or ended the careers of many other friends and support group members. The bass member of a singing group can no longer sing. A travel agent can no longer drive and has difficulty speaking to clients. An attorney has similar problems. A guitarist friend, who was a Grammy winner, lost the ability to finger the strings. A French Horn player's lips stopped working properly.

A half year ago, a story about a Midwest woman in her thirties received a lot of Internet and media attention. Her story was featured on national news programs and she was interviewed on the Today show. The woman had been diagnosed with CP, was treated unsuccessfully for that disease for over thirty years and led a very disabled life. After living as a CP patient for over three decades, she finally received the correct diagnosis: dystonia. Her story is even more frustrating. The woman is one of a minute percentage of dystonia patients who have dopa responsive dystonia. The symptoms that those people have can be controlled by medication. After thirty years, the woman is now leading an almost "normal" life.

Misdiagnosis is common. Many patients are told that their symptoms are psychosomatic.

A third of the hundreds of thousands of dystonia patients in this country are children. An eight and a half year old girl from New Jersey and a fifteen year old young woman from Connecticut were both diagnosed with CP. Both had unnecessary and very painful surgeries that cut their leg tendons in an attempt to straighten their feet. Both actually have dystonia. A foot turning in is often a first symptom. It wasn't recognized by their pediatricians or by their orthopedists.

When we started our New Jersey support group, it took our daughter and many of the original members over ten years to be diagnosed correctly. Research conducted by the NIH has shortened that time for many patients. It has also improved the types and number of treatments that are available. However, as our presentations have illustrated, there's much more to learn and it's important to continue funding the research.

Please help us.

Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GERTRUDE HENDRICK

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Staten Island's Gertrude Hendrick.

Ms. Hendrick currently resides on Staten Island at the New Lane Shores assisted living facility. She is a mother of three sons: Michael; John; and Raymond, and a grandmother of eleven, and a great-grandmother of two.

Ms. Hendrick is originally from Brooklyn, NY, where she attended Bay Ridge High School. She retired 35 years ago in 1980 from Bankers Trust, where she worked in the accounting department for 23 years. After her retirement, she moved from Brooklyn to Staten Island. Two years later, on August 24, 1984, she moved into the New Lane Assisted Living Facility where she is now the longest, and oldest, resident in New Lane.

During her time at New Lane Shores, she volunteered and orchestrated trips for residents, which included collecting money for transportation that allows the residents to go shopping, demonstrating her commitment to helping others.

At the age of 100, Ms. Hendrick is very energetic and loved by all. She enjoys playing poker and dancing with her walker. She loves to attend parties and is a source of positive energy in every room.

Mr. Speaker, Gertrude Hendrick's positive personality and commitment to helping others embodies the perfect example of a model American citizen. I commend her outstanding life and I am proud to honor this citizen from New York's 11th District on her 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as National Recovery Month.

Established 26 years ago, National Recovery Month strives to educate Americans about opportunities for addiction treatment and mental health services, and the urgent need to take advantage of them. This year, National Recovery Month is highlighting the value of peer-to-peer support in educating, mentoring, and helping others in their recovery.

Addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic is a uniquely American problem. It is not limited by geography or demographics. Prescription drug abuse has spread across the country like wildfire—with the U.S. accounting for less than five percent of the world's population yet consuming over 80 percent of the

world's opioids and 99 percent of its hydrocodone. Tragically, 46 people die each day from an overdose of prescription drugs, and, each year, a staggering 185,000 people over the age of twelve in Massachusetts are at risk of an overdose. This number rises to a chilling 424,000 when taking into account those suffering from alcohol abuse. These statistics neither fully convey the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse nor the toll of this epidemic—both on families nationwide and on the limited resources available to law enforcement and social service agencies.

The first step toward stemming the rising rates of addiction is investing directly in our communities. This includes promoting and encouraging prevention, treatment and recovery measures in every state, as well as ensuring robust funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). I am proud of the programs in my district that serve as a positive and successful example for others to follow—including, but not limited to, High Point Treatment Center, South Shore Mental Health, Gosnold Treatment Center, and Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR) Addiction Treatment. They have proven the extent to which we can fight substance abuse through the integration of mental health services and treatment, thereby providing opportunity for individuals in recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in highlighting this important issue. There is no single solution to fighting this epidemic, but together we can make a difference.

HONORING BEN RICHMOND OF THE LOUISVILLE URBAN LEAGUE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Benjamin K. Richmond, the President and C.E.O. of the Louisville Urban League, who retires today after serving our proud city and community for nearly three decades.

Since 1987, Ben and his staff have helped countless individuals and families across the city of Louisville achieve economic stability. Under Ben's leadership, the League has broken down barriers to ensure that all Louisvillians have the opportunity to pursue a better education, a better career, and a better life for their families. The organization has been a national model for success, regularly exceeding expectations and finding new ways to tackle the challenges facing our community.

Ben was instrumental in creating REBOUND Inc., the Urban League's charitable arm dedicated to housing development and rehabilitation. This program not only transforms vacant and abandoned properties into new houses for low and moderate income families, it helps transform the lives of those families and the neighborhoods they will call home.

At every level, Ben's passion and dedication has increased the Urban League's presence and stature throughout Louisville, forging new partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and members of the community.

Ben has spent his entire life making sure that all individuals have the opportunity to not only be successful, but to achieve that success while helping others. Quite simply, he is the very embodiment of the mission of the Urban League: to empower communities and change lives.

Louisville would not be what it is today without the contributions and commitment of Ben Richmond. I am proud to have worked closely with him through the years, but I'm even prouder to be able to call him a friend.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and the city of Louisville, thank you, Ben, for your service and for being such a powerful source of inspiration for so many of us. I wish you all the best in your retirement. It certainly is well deserved.

RECOGNIZING THE 104TH NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming Double Ten Day, the Republic of China's, also known as Taiwan, national day, which falls on October 10th and to extend my very best wishes to the people of Taiwan as they gather to celebrate the 104th National Day.

As a vibrant democracy and contributor to the global economy, Taiwan plays an important role in the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region. I am proud of the role our country and the United States' Congress have played, through the Taiwan Relations Act, in making it possible for the hard working and resilient people of Taiwan to build a strong, prosperous and democratic society. Our relationship is as strong as ever, as I believe it will continue to be in the years and decades ahead.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I would also like to commend the actions taken by President Ma Ying-jeou and his government to create an environment where peace and prosperity for all countries of the region can be pursued. President Ma has proposed both an East China Sea Peace Initiative and a South China Sea Peace Initiative, which lay out diplomatic approaches for all sides involved in maritime disputes to set aside their differences and jointly explore the natural resources of the disputed waters, while upholding international law.

In global disputes, such as these, it is this exact vision that is needed to reduce tensions and open up a dialogue between claimants, and as such, it should be given all due consideration by the international community.

In closing, I applaud the nation of Taiwan for its strong commitment to democratic values and more importantly, for the shining example it sets for aspiring countries, both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. As someone who is very appreciative of Taiwan's many contributions to the global community, I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten Day.

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a hidden epidemic facing millions of Americans and their families. It is the epidemic of malnutrition, often unrecognized, yet directly impacting many of our own families and the constituents we serve. It increases the burden of our nation's health care costs and hits our elderly and minority communities especially hard according to a number of studies.

For example, a 2014 study conducted by researchers at the University of North Carolina and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm found that of older adults living at home, one of every six are malnourished when they enter a hospital. Other studies have shown that an additional 1 in 3 become malnourished while in the hospital. Why is this important? Patients with malnutrition have been shown to potentially heal slower, experience longer hospital stays and be at greater risk for re-hospitalizations and complications.

This economic burden of disease-associated malnutrition is profound. One study estimates that the U.S. burden is roughly \$156.7 billion per year—and for those aged 65+ it is estimated to be \$51.3 billion per year. As we struggle to contain health care costs and get the most value for patients and our health care dollars, it seems counterintuitive to ignore malnutrition, particularly among our most vulnerable populations.

So what can we do? A broader engagement by the healthcare community is the first step. The critical role of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of disease should have a greater emphasis in physician training. Malnutrition screening should become part of regular patient assessment. Knowing the nutrition status of patients and undertaking appropriate interventions are low-cost, common-sense solutions that will improve health outcomes and save health care dollars.

This week of September 28 through October 2 is Malnutrition Awareness Week. Let's help foster a greater attention to the problem and make a difference through solutions that better support healthy aging among senior citizens across our country. Sometimes the solution is easier than we think.

IN MEMORY OF REP. JIM SANTINI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and times of one of our former colleagues, Rep. Jim Santini from Nevada. I actually never served with Jim, but I came to know him well and appreciate him for his work on travel and tourism issues, two issues for which we shared a great passion. Sadly, Jim Santini passed away on September 22 from esophageal cancer.

Jim Santini was elected in 1974 and left the House in 1982. He served in the House at a time when Nevada only had one representative. In many respects he was the third Senator. He travelled to every corner of the state and was especially interested in protecting the interests of the rural communities; he didn't want even the smallest of towns in the desert to be forgotten.

During his tenure in the House he honed in on one of the great economic engines of our country: travel and tourism. This industry often toils in disparate ways but Santini recognized its potential power if it ever came together over its common goals: to encourage new adventures around the country through travel and exploration and to serve customers by creating memorable, lasting experiences for them in the process of travel. Currently, travel and tourism accounts for \$2.1 trillion in economic output in the U.S. and employs 15 million persons.

Rather than letting this vast travel economy move along in all its separate parts he helped all the many facets of travel and tourism see their commonalities and unite around a common purpose. In doing so he elevated the industry's interests in Congress from its myriad components into a singularly focused agenda. Part of the way he did this was to organize the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus.

After Santini left Congress the caucus disappeared. But given California's tremendous tourism industry and my involvement in promoting travel and tourism when I was in the California Assembly, one of the first things I did when I got elected to Congress was to re-establish the Caucus. I am proud to say that the Caucus today is quite vigorous with 116 Members. We have significant accomplishments under our belt including the enactment and reauthorization of the BRAND USA legislation which helps promote the United States to international travelers, and the JOLT Act which was introduced this year and proposes to reform and enhance the way visitor visas are processed so as to make travel to the U.S. easier from abroad. We have Jim Santini to thank for these accomplishments. It is his vision that is embodied in much of today's travel and tourism agenda.

Jim Santini leaves behind his devoted wife, Ann Crane Santini, his children David, Lisa, Katherine, Lori, Mark and JD and their families, 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I feel certain the House joins me in offering condolences to the Santini family and in giving our former colleague posthumous thanks for all he did to serve the great state of Nevada and the nation.

RECOGNIZING DYSAUTONOMIA
AWARENESS MONTH**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions that fight each day against dysautonomia. Dysautonomia is a group of debilitating medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous

system. This system is responsible for "automatic" bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature control. Dysautonomia continues to significantly impact the lives of Americans across the United States especially here in Buffalo, New York.

Multiple forms of dysautonomia can be extremely disabling and this disability can result in social isolation, stress on the families of those impacted, and financial hardships. The outstanding character and strong moral fiber of those in the Western New York community have provided the much needed support for the victims suffering from dysautonomia. Looking ahead it will be important for the community to rally around these victims as they continue their hard fought battle against this disease.

Dysautonomia awareness is monumental in the early detection of the disease due to the fact that most patients take years to get diagnosed. Dysautonomia International, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia, encourages communities to celebrate Dysautonomia Awareness Month each October around the world. At this time Dysautonomia International is funding research to develop better treatments and hopefully find a cure for all forms of this condition in the future.

I wanted to recognize the contributions of the professional medical community, patients and family members who are working to educate our citizenry about dysautonomia throughout Western New York.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Dysautonomia Awareness Month. I ask that my colleagues join me in support for those suffering from the devastating medical condition and encourage them to spread awareness across the United States this October. I am pleased to inform you that on the night of October 1st, in my Congressional District in Niagara Falls, New York, Niagara Falls will be lit up turquoise from 10:00 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. in support of Dysautonomia Awareness Month.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Job Corps on the recent 50th Anniversary of the founding of the program.

Established in 1955 as a partnership between public agencies and private businesses, Job Corps has since offered more than 3 million young people housing, educational opportunities and job training to connect them with good jobs and financial independence.

Every year, more than 50,000 people enroll in Job Corps, including veterans, young parents and youth aging out of the foster system, because Job Corps provides these individuals with the critical resources they need to become successful. Job Corps continues to

evolve to meet the changing needs of youth and employers, preparing students to succeed in the current marketplace. And it changes lives—more than 80% of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, join the military or enroll in higher education.

Cascades Job Corps in Sedro-Woolley is one of four centers in Washington state. Cascades Job Corps Center ably serves my constituents, helping nearly 500 students each year learn skills necessary to fully participate in our economy and democracy. Hands-on and self-paced job training in fields like carpentry, medicine and office administration ensures that students are qualified for jobs in the local economy. After graduating from the program students receive support to help them find housing, transportation and jobs in their field.

Cascades Job Corps Center was recently selected by the Burlington Chamber of Commerce as Business of the Year, underscoring its importance in the community. Nationally, Job Corps generates an average of \$1.91 in local economic activity for each dollar invested in it. The Cascades Job Corps Center also makes a difference by partnering with local organizations like Community Action of Skagit County, Habitat for Humanity and the Helping Hands Food Bank to offer students meaningful service work.

I congratulate Job Corps for 50 years of offering young people from all walks of life the opportunity to build successful careers and fulfilling lives.

RECOGNIZING FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA AND ITS WORK FOR HUNGER ACTION MONTH

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Feeding South Florida for their work during the 8th annual Hunger Action Month this September. Hunger Action Month is a Feeding America nationwide campaign to mobilize the public, help raise awareness about the issue of hunger, and take action to help end it. To celebrate Hunger Action Month, Feeding South Florida “painted the town orange” and held a series of events throughout South Florida to raise awareness about food insecurity, making it clear that anyone and everyone can do something to help end hunger.

In South Florida, hunger and food insecurity are all too common. Nearly 14 percent of the population of South Florida is food insecure, with more than 785,000 people not knowing where they will get their next meal. Feeding South Florida is committed to providing assistance to the South Florida residents living with food insecurity. They have distributed 40 million pounds of food in 2014 in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties.

No American should have to wonder where they're getting their next meal. I join my community in raising awareness of this critical issue in the hope that every South Floridian has reliable access to nutritious food. I am

proud to support Feeding South Florida in both their Hunger Action Month campaign and their day-to-day fight against hunger.

H.R. 3495

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 3495, the so-called “Women’s Public Health and Safety Act,” which is just the latest attack on Planned Parenthood, an essential health service provider for 70,000 women annually in Oregon and over 2.7 million women nationally.

In my community, Planned Parenthood has provided compassionate and critical care for over 50 years and is a necessary part of our health care system. Planned Parenthood centers serve a greater share of safety-net contraceptive clients than any other type of safety-net providers. These clinics are more likely to make reproductive care accessible, and in a timely manner, to the women who need it most.

H.R. 3495 would not only deny critical health services for low-income women, but it would undermine the entire Medicaid program. The language is so broad and vague that it could result in whole hospital systems being denied Medicaid participation—further eroding low-income individuals’ access to care.

Under this bill, a state could remove any health professional that ever worked in a health care practice of any kind that at one point was involved in providing abortion. This assault on Medicaid will result in fewer providers to serve the 72 million low-income men, women, and children covered by the program.

These attacks are appalling—they are built on misinformation and rhetoric and need to stop.

HONORING CONSTANCE BOULWARE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Constance Boulware a City Councilwoman for Rio Vista and one of my district’s 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Constance Boulware was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, upon retirement after 30 years of service with the Social Security Administration, Constance (Connie) Boulware relocated from the Bay Area to Rio Vista in 2007. While on her journey of discovery in her newly adopted hometown, she found volunteer organizations and service clubs in need of an extra pair of hands and offered hers. Over time, Connie’s interest in city government grew. She was appointed first to the Airport Committee and then to the Army Base Reuse Committee. In 2010, Connie was elected to the Rio Vista City

Council and re-elected in 2014 where she serves today.

Whereas, as a council member, Connie has a particular interest in the needs of Seniors and Children. Her hallmark has been her responsiveness to constituents and her ability to bring people together to tackle community needs. In the midst of a city budget crisis, Connie has been successful in bringing volunteers together to make much needed Senior Center repairs and provide unmet summer recreational needs for children at little to no cost to the City.

Whereas, Connie also serves as President of the Solano County Library Foundation, Board Member of Rio Vision, Co-President of Women’s Improvement Club, President of the Rio Vista Lions Club, and President of the Rio Vista Soroptimists Club.

Whereas, Constance Boulware inspires with the quiet, modest and caring way she leads by example, drawing others to join her in making life better for her community. She never says, “We can’t do that,” but instead says, “Let’s see what we can do together.”

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California’s Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Constance Boulware.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JESSE M. BALTAZAR ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a great American patriot, Mr. Jesse M. Baltazar, on the occasion of his 95th birthday. His service to America covers three wars, four federal agencies, postings in nine countries and government travel to over 80 nations. He is a true and tested member of the Greatest Generation.

Major Jesse M. Baltazar, USAF (Ret.) was born in Manila, Philippines on October 8th, 1920, and began his military career with the United States Armed Forces, Far East (USAFFE). He is a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam; a Japanese Prisoner of War and Bataan Death March Survivor.

During Maj. Baltazar’s Purple Heart ceremony on January 20, 2015, former Chief-of-Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno summarized Maj. Baltazar’s career to this country as follows:

I am moved by Maj. Baltazar’s humility, his selflessness, and his service to our Nation . . . It’s a story about a young man from the Philippines who fought to defend both his home and our Nation following the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; a story about a man who understands the importance of unparalleled national commitment and the willingness to volunteer and serve; a story of honor and courage; and a story about an American Patriot, Soldier, Airman, and Diplomat.

And Gen. Odierno went on to describe the bravery of Maj. Baltazar during the Battle of Bataan, which earned him the Purple Heart:

On March 15, 1942, Sergeant Baltazar was hit by shrapnel in the leg when the Japanese

bombed an area near his camp. With the American and Filipino forces now having been cut off since January 1942, supplies were dwindling and facilities were limited. So he underwent surgery in an open air jungle hospital with minimal anesthesia and little time to recover. As the battle raged on and our Soldiers valiantly fought to hold the line, 76,000 American and Filipino soldiers eventually were forced to put down their arms and surrender on April 9, 1942.

When the Bataan Death March began, Sergeant Baltazar was forced to use a bamboo stick as a cane to help him walk. He suffered brutality and starvation at the hands of his Japanese captors in conditions that led to the spread of disease. Exhausted and fearing that he was going to die, he seized an opportunity to escape on the third night into the infamous 66 mile march. Hiding in a fisherman's boat for a two-hour ride through the thick swamp, Sergeant Baltazar found his way back home, where he proceeded to join the Filipino resistance movement—what an incredible example of the strength of the human spirit.

After being discharged from the army in 1945, he went on to become the first Filipino-born Officer in the United States Air Force in 1948. He served for 20 years in the Air Force, primarily overseas as a Special Agent in the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), where he authored the monthly Counter-Intelligence report for Korea (1950–52), West Berlin (1956–58) and France (1958–60). During the Korean War, he was one of a handful of American officers posted to Korea that spoke both Russian and Chinese. During the Cold War, he was stationed in Berlin when the Berlin Wall was erected. After retiring from the military he worked for the United States Department of State, USAID and the Department of Labor. From 1966–70 with USAID, he served in Vietnam as Deputy Provincial Advisor. During the Sandinista conflict, he served as Regional Security Officer with the Voice of America for Nicaragua, Belize and Costa Rica. He retired from the State Department in 1988 and then returned as a contract employee. Maj. Baltazar continues to serve at the Department of State, where at 95, he is their eldest worker.

Maj. Baltazar received his BS from Georgetown University in Linguistics and MA from the University of Virginia in Education. He speaks seven languages, including Russian, Chinese, German, French, Spanish, English and Tagalog.

His military awards and decorations include: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, WWII Victory Medal, POW Medal, American Defense Service Medal, WWII Theater Campaign (Pacific), The Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, UN Service Medal, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Maj. Baltazar is a devoted husband and father. He has been happily married to his wife Margrit for 55 years. They have five children, Katherine, Susanne, Thomas, Phillip and Melchior, and are blessed with nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Few choose to lead a life of service like Jesse M. Baltazar. He is a living inspiration to all of us of the character, honor, and commitment required to keep our nation free. It is a great honor today to recognize him on his 95th birthday, for his dedication and sacrifice to our great country.

REMEMBERING A TOLEDO TRADITION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a landmark business in Toledo, Ohio. Red Wells Roast Beef restaurant closed its doors this month after nearly 100 years of serving its traditional hot roast beef sandwich. As he retires, owner Richard Wells does not wish to sell the restaurant and its homemade offerings.

Legendary in West Toledo, Red Wells officially began in 1894 when Allen and Eva Wells served food in their hotels, boarding houses and saloons. After he returned from service in World War 1, their son Clark Wells—nicknamed “Red”—partnered with his father to open up a restaurant serving signature hot roast beef sandwiches. The restaurant grew quickly and in 1930 the family opened up two restaurants in downtown Toledo, one of which was the first restaurant in the city to be electrified. Richard Wells started in the family business in 1946. He persuaded the family to open up its current location on Sylvania Avenue in West Toledo in 1957.

The business continued to do well offering a menu of items first cooked by Eva Wells: in addition to the most luscious hot roast beef sandwiches anywhere in the world, the restaurant also served such comfort food as mashed potatoes and Red Wells’ famous gravy, a hot turkey sandwich, green beans, corn, pies and pudding. Richard Wells also grew the business to other locations, but it was the Sylvania Avenue restaurant that was the business’ mainstay.

A gathering place for friends and family, both the regular and occasional diners of Red Wells will surely miss its homey cafeteria atmosphere, friendly staff and hearty food. Just as the restaurant was generational, so too were the diners. Patrons passed their love of Red Wells down through their children. On its last day there were so many people the restaurant could not serve them all.

As Richard Wells eases into retirement, we wish him much enjoyment spending time doing what he wishes and being with those for whom he cares. May he know that the legend that became Red Wells Roast Beef restaurant will live on in Toledo memory.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AND THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOLIET CHAPTER OF KIWANIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis International and the 95th anniversary of the Joliet Chapter of Kiwanis. What began with only two members on a fateful fall day in 1914

has grown to an international organization with over 600,000 members that devote over 6 million hours of service annually. On January 21, 1915 the state of Michigan returned the corporate charter, this date has been celebrated as the birthday of Kiwanis ever since.

With their motto, “Serving the Children of the World,” Kiwanis International has done just that, improving the lives of children across the world, one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International has reached this milestone because it has always stayed true to the six permanent Objects of Kiwanis International, which remain unchanged since their approval in 1924.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 100th and 95th anniversaries of Kiwanis International and the Joliet Chapter of Kiwanis as they continue their long tradition of fellowship and service.

HONORING DAWN DOWDY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Dawn Dowdy a track coach and mentor and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Dawn Dowdy was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Dawn Dowdy is a dedicated Track Coach for Hamilton High School. Dawn has redefined the term “dedication” and has not let the fact that Hamilton High does not have a track on campus hinder her students from reaching personal goals and competing in regional competitions.

Whereas, Dawn has not allowed substantial budget cuts deter her from attracting a high number of students into her program. She has orchestrated fundraising to ensure students have the means to participate and takes a personal interest in each student to make sure they keep up with their academics. Some of her students have competed in the State Finals and obtained college scholarship funds.

Whereas, Hamilton City is a small, tight-knit community of 2,000. Dawn's ability to mentor, motivate and maximize students' potential on and off the Track is priceless.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Dawn Dowdy.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA WILLIAMS AND THE AUSTIN PEOPLES ACTION CENTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for more than thirty-five years the Austin Peoples Action Center (APAC) has been an

integral part of the Austin community. Organized principally by the Williams family and parishioners of the Third Unitarian Church, APAC has grown to become one of the premier social service agencies in the state of Illinois, and its principal staff person Ms. Cynthia Williams is known as one of the most effective agency directors in the state. As a social service agency, APAC provides quality health and human services to thousands of Chicago's neediest residents, including people with disabilities, seniors at risk, children, youth and adults with mental illness and substance abuse problems. APAC is known for having the largest women, infants and children's program in the state of Illinois and I might add the most effective. For thirty-five years of great leadership and community service I commend Cynthia Williams and the Austin Peoples Action Center for their contributions to improving the quality of life for Chicago residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF JADEN MERRICK'S WORLD RECORD SETTING RACE TIME FOR THE HALF MARATHON IN THE 7-YEAR-OLD AGE GROUP

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young constituent of mine—Jaden Merrick from Cedar Falls, Iowa—on his world record setting race time for the half marathon in the 7-year-old age group.

On September 12, 2015, Jaden raced in the Cedar Valley Park-to-Park Half Marathon in Waterloo, Iowa. Jaden, having already raced to a world record for his age group in last year's Park-to-Park 5K, rewrote the record books again—completing the half marathon in an astounding one hour, 43 minutes, and 34 seconds.

In addition to his remarkable race times, the local running community recognizes Jaden by his signature smile. He simply beams through every step of the race and his enthusiasm is undiminished despite the distances. He is an exceptional young man who enjoys having fun while competing.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Jaden and wish him well as he prepares to compete in the Junior Olympics for cross country and track in the upcoming spring. I would also like to congratulate Jaden's parents Brent and Sabina, on their perpetual support of their son and their encouragement of his talents.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF FORMER INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM A. CRAWFORD

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance

that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected public servant and outstanding citizen, former Indiana State Representative, William A. Crawford.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Representative Crawford is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. He spent his entire life dedicated to public service, pushing a message of equality and justice during his 40 years in the Indiana General Assembly.

On a personal note, Representative Crawford was a dear friend and mentor who I was privileged to know from a very young age. I have fond memories of getting to know 'Bill' as he served alongside my grandmother during her time at the Statehouse. With Bill's passing, our state has lost a champion, our city has lost a leader, and I have lost a friend.

Revered as the most influential African-American state lawmaker in Indiana's history, Representative Crawford made sure that African-American Hoosiers had a voice in government. He was the first African-American lawmaker to serve as chairman of the powerful and influential Indiana House Ways and Means Committee and was critical in starting the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus.

Representative Crawford was destined to lead and when he spoke people listened. He was inspired to serve by the life and death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was present on April 4, 1968, and heard Senator Robert Kennedy's words at 17th and Broadway in Indianapolis announcing the death of Dr. King. Being there that night helped shape his career as an activist and led to his passionate work on behalf of the Kennedy/King Memorial on that historic site. Among his accomplishments was increasing minority enrollment at Ivy Tech Community College and creating the Indiana Black Expo into the institution it is today.

I extend my greatest sympathy to his wife Bernice, children Darren, Sr., Michael, Kim and Monica. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his family and friends.

HONORING DEIDRE ROBINSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Deidre Robinson, a business leader and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Deidre Robinson was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Deidre Robinson has worked tirelessly for over 20 years as a diverse leader of relationship-building and strategic alliances. Deidre's community service and volunteerism starts in Solano County and reaches as far as the San Francisco Bay Area. She recognizes the impact that others have had on her life and career and her passion for volunteerism, leadership, and commitment are based on a vision that is driven by personal experiences.

Whereas, her volunteer contributions to organizations such as CoachArt, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Kid Fest, Relay for Life, and other groups are remarkable. In addition, Deidre is also the Vice Treasurer of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Tau Upsilon Omega Chapter, for which she provides volunteer services to students and young adult women through mentoring and workshops on leadership. Recently, Deidre was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to the California Board of Accountancy.

Whereas, as a single mother of two, nothing has prevented Deidre from achieving monumental milestones both professionally and personally. She has been a role model for both her children and the community.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Deidre Robinson.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR WILLIAM "BILL" CONKLIN NOSKER

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major William "Bill" Conklin Nosker. Bill was a member of the 1939 Ohio State Football Big Ten Championship team and a Major in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Bill was born in 1919 in Columbus, Ohio, and later moved to Upper Arlington. He was an active high school athlete, earning 14 varsity letters in four sports. He became one of the first athletes from Upper Arlington to play football at a major university and earned varsity letters three years at The Ohio State University. In 1940, Bill was named to the honorary All-Big Ten Team.

Bill left one quarter before graduation at Ohio State in 1941, along with six other athletes, to serve his country in the Army Air Corps. Bill did obtain his degree a year later when he submitted a thesis paper to his professor. While in basic training, Bill was selected as the "Typical Air Corps Cadet" for a nationwide publicity recruiting campaign, but he was far from "typical."

As part of the 449th Bombardment Group, Bill was sent overseas at the end of 1943. He was the original commanding officer of the 718th Squadron stationed in Italy and is credited with 35 total missions as a pilot or copilot. His missions spanned all over Europe, including Italy, Austria, France, Yugoslavia and Romania. In August of 1944, Bill died in a plane crash as part of an air support mission for the invasion of Southern France, also known as Operation Anvil. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, three Oak Leaf clusters, and the Bronze Star during his service.

Bill was a true American hero and I am pleased to honor his service to our country during World War II. I wish his family all the best this year as they recognize the 70th anniversary of when he was set to return home from war.

HONORING CAL IN THE CAPITAL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the University of California, Berkeley Public Service Center's "Cal in the Capital" internship program; long known as one of the premier internship programs in Washington D.C.

Since 1965, this student-led organization has prepared 75 UC Berkeley students each year for once in a lifetime internship opportunities. Placement opportunities include: across all levels of government, the nonprofit sector, think tanks, and within our most advanced research institutions.

In its 50th year, Cal in the Capital has afforded a total of 3,745 interns the platform to engage in 1,608,489 hours of service. Their dedication to public service and civic engagement is showcased through real world experiences and professional growth platforms.

Through its offerings, Cal in the Capital has been providing leadership, service learning, and internship opportunities to the students of my alma mater, UC Berkeley. Their program has successfully demonstrated, for half a century, the benefits of combining world-class education with hands-on experience in the effort to prepare their students for a life of public service.

Alumni of the program have gone on to serve in various capacities of public service. Some worked within presidential administrations, some went on to advocate for workers' rights, and some even became sitting Members of Congress. I too was once a Cal in the Capital intern for a great warrior, statesman and my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums. I remember my time as an intern fondly, and can tell you without hesitation that this program changed my life, as it has for so many others.

Because of my experience with the program, I have always enjoyed having the privilege of hosting Cal in the Capital interns in my congressional office. The passion and dedication that these student leaders display toward serving their country, their communities, and those whose voices too often go unheard is an inspiration to all.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate University of California, Berkeley, for its Cal in the Capital program and salute its 50 years of service to our community. I thank the UC Public Service Center for providing its students with decades of public service opportunities while leading the nation in developing the next generation of leaders.

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER GOLAR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Esther Golar was called home by the Lord

on Monday, September 21, 2015 at age 71. Esther was born in Chicago, Illinois and was educated here including attending college at Malcolm X; and she was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ. Esther devoted her adult life to a tireless quest for social and economic justice; and she worked with Alternative Policing Strategy, Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago and Robert Fulton Elementary Local School Council. In 2006, Esther was appointed to represent the people of District 6 of the Illinois State House of Representatives and was first elected in 2006 to the Illinois House and re-elected again in each election since and she was known and loved as one of the kindest and most compassionate elected officials in Illinois, a woman who used her powerful voice and enduring passion to selflessly champion for her constituents.

Esther leaves to mourn her passing her daughter: Tiffany Golar; and grandchildren Briana Golar, Toni Thomas, Ananda Thomas and Jayden Golar, along with a massive host of friends and co-workers.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that we deeply mourn the passing of our dear friend Esther Golar; and be it further resolved, that we express to her family, friends and all who knew her, our appreciation, admiration and respect for her life and works and we commend her soul to the Almighty God for peaceful repose.

HONORING DIONNE MCCULLAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Dionne McCullar, a business leader, community volunteer and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Dionne McCullar was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Dionne McCullar was born and raised in San Francisco. She and her husband, Charles are the proud parents of 3 grown daughters and 3 grandchildren. Dionne established a career with the San Francisco Police Department where she served for 14 years as a Peace Officer.

Whereas, now, a resident of Solano County, Dionne is co-owner of a successful small business, Front2Back Designs in Fairfield.

Whereas, Dionne is Past President of Fairfield Kiwanis Club and Chair of Salvation Army Red Kettle. Dionne is an active supporter of Solano Hearts United/Solano Turkey Trot, Mission Solano, Heather House, Rotary Club, Yippie Yogurt Foundation, Heart2Heart, Little Wing Connections, The Leaven, Ride to Defeat Diabetes, Children's Nurturing Project, The Continentals of Omega Boys & Girls Club of Vallejo, and Children in Need of Hugs.

Whereas, Dionne has also served as Ambassador for several area Chambers of Commerce. Her business motto is "to treat customers how we would want to be treated as consumers and to give back to the community that has helped to sustain our business." True to her word, Dionne is a shining star.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Dionne McCullar.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on September 25, 2015, I was unable to be present for roll call vote 518, on passage of the Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2015 (H.R. 348). Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,025,702,418.99. We've added \$7,524,148,653,505.91 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OMEGA DELTA PHI FRATERNITY, INC., (GAMMA CHAPTER)

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate the Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc., (Gamma Chapter) from the University of Arizona on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary.

After gaining chapter status on September 28th, 1990 at the University of Arizona, Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc., has set out to be an organization that prides itself with hands on community service. Its members have set out to become role models at the collegiate level for many as members are representative of first generation college students. ODPHI has been a prime example of seeking to put an end to the stereotypical images of fraternity men. As Men of Vision, members have undertaken a responsibility to think outside of the box and become committed to the constructive development of themselves and their communities.

As a service and social organization, The Gamma Chapter of Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc., has continuously lent a helping hand to the Tucson community by hosting and working several community events, namely

their Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Annual Haunted House. These two signature events which have been hosted by the chapter every year since the early 1990s, provide a fun and safe environment for local children and families and has been replicated at other chapter locations since. Members invest an average of 40–50 service hours (per member) back into the Tucson community and have done so every semester for the past 25 years.

The chapter at the UA was one of the original organizations in recent years to begin as a Hispanic-Founded organization and paved the way for other Multicultural Greek-Lettered Organizations to begin on campus. The chapter has seen a diverse group of men carry on a tradition of excellence as members have been of Hispanic, Native American, African American, Asian, Indian, and Caucasian descent. As a true multicultural fraternity, ODPi has a priority of graduating members from the University of Arizona and has seen hundreds of alumni go on to see successful diverse careers in government, public services, medical, higher education, and the private sector.

What began as an idea by four founding individuals: David Gil, Carlos Contreras, Jeff Martin, and Kurt Rex Cooper, to create an organization that gives back to our local area, has now flourished into a thriving brotherhood that has taken on a continued responsibility in social and public affairs. With a rich history, ODPi has been both humbled and honored to remain a part of Tucson's community and plans to remain an advocate for higher education and service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and honor the Omega Delta Phi-Gamma Fraternity on the celebration of their 25th anniversary and commend the fraternity and its members for its service and achievements over the years.

HONORING AMANDEEP KAUR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Amandeep Kaur, an advocate for Underrepresented Student Groups and one of my district's 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, on the Twenty-Second Day of September, of the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, Amandeep Kaur was recognized as a 2015 Woman of the year.

Whereas, Dr. Amandeep Kaur is Science Fellow to Chancellor Linda Katehi at UC Davis. She is a UC Davis alumna and received her PhD in Physics from UC Davis in July 2014. She is a passionate leader and advocate for underrepresented student groups at UC Davis. She has consistently worked towards empowering underrepresented graduate student groups at UC Davis since the academic year 2012–13. She says that her true calling is public service and making an impact in the lives of people. One of her biggest accomplishments was to advocate for creating more fellowships for international PhD students. Her advocacy led Provost Ralph Hexter

to create post candidacy NRST fellowships in the academic year 2013–14 and to implement a new budget model of \$2 million in the academic year 2014–15. This outcome has had a significant impact in the competitiveness of UC Davis and has allowed for equity for international PhD students at UC Davis. In May 2013, Amandeep was nominated by her peers and received an outstanding leadership award for her advocacy on behalf of international PhD students.

Whereas, last year, as a Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean and Chancellor (GSADC), Amandeep hosted Diversity Dialogues on Graduate Education, a series of seven discussions on creating strategies to empower women students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), students of color, international students, undocumented students, student veterans, student parents, LGBTQIA identified students, and students with visible/invisible disabilities.

Whereas, currently as a postdoctoral science fellow to Chancellor Linda Katehi, she is furthering her advocacy on bridging the gaps for women in STEM through her Empowering Women in STEM (EWIS) initiative. She also believes that graduate students with the right expertise can help policy makers in shaping public policy which has motivated her to create Emerging Leaders in Policy and Public Service (ELIPPS) initiative at UC Davis. One of her goals through ELIPPS is to inspire more students to join public service. She believes in leading by example and is a role model for many students at UC Davis.

Resolved, That I Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI of California's Third Congressional District, do hereby recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Amandeep Kaur.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; with the possi-

bility of a closed session in SVC-217, following the open session.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's joint employer decision.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues.

SD-366

2:15 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts

To hold hearings to examine how over-regulation harms minorities.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health and benefits legislation.

SR-418

OCTOBER 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine the National Institutes of Health, focusing on investing in a healthier future.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine removing barriers to wireless broadband deployment.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1818, to amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the rule making process of agencies, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1873, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 2021, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal

border crossers, S. 2093, to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, H.R. 322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office", H.R. 323, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office", H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office", H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building", H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building", H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building", H.R. 3059, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building, an original bill entitled, "Directing Dollars to Disaster Relief Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Inspector General Mandates Reporting Act of 2015", and an original bill entitled, "Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015".

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine S. 2102, to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, S.

818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

SD-628

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 2898, to provide drought relief in the State of California, S. 1894, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, S. 1936, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, and S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1814, to withhold certain Federal funding from sanctuary cities.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 414, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 872, to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1295 and H.R. 1324, bills to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, S. 1448, to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon, S. 1592, to

clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 1955, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 1971, to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

SD-366

OCTOBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Energy, and Mary L. Kendall, of Minnesota, to be Inspector General, Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Kristen Joan Sarri, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

OCTOBER 21

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on Indian energy development.

SD-628

OCTOBER 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine Puerto Rico, focusing on the economy, debt, and options for Congress.

SD-366

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, October 1, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this people's House for the leadership of our Nation.

Along with millions of men and women around the world, we join in praying for those in leadership in our world. Those You have entrusted to lead in local and national governments in this Nation and all the nations of the world, guide them, Lord, with wisdom and truth.

May they seek You in the decisions they make and in the way they live. In praying for them, we are also reminded to pray this morning for those on life's margins who are affected by extreme poverty, poor health care, polluted and diseased water, unjust societies, division and terror, and those who do not have the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Lord, the suffering of our world is all around us. Stimulate our hearts and minds so that everything we may do this day would be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GHIDOTTI HIGH NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William and Mary Ghidotti High School in Grass Valley for being one of the 335 schools to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School this year.

First established by President Reagan in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes excellence in K-12 public and private schools who demonstrate a commitment to closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

This award is certainly fitting for Ghidotti. As a small school in Nevada County in northern California, with an emphasis on personalized learning, students are challenged daily to excel in leadership, technology, and critical thinking, helping them prepare to be college and career ready.

To the students, teachers, and administrators: Congratulations on this distinct honor and thank you for your work in setting the standard of excellence in education for our students in northern California.

END THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in a FOX News interview yesterday, the Republican speaker-in-waiting admitted to something that we have all known all along, and that is that the real motive of the Select Committee on Benghazi was simply to politically attack and drive down the poll numbers for Hillary Clinton, spending millions of taxpayer dollars for a political mission.

And, unbelievably, the speaker-in-waiting mentioned this in response to a question as to what were the accomplishments of the Republican Congress, the accomplishments of this Congress. The number one accomplishment that he came up with was to use taxpayer dollars to create a committee for the specific purpose of affecting the Presidential campaign and driving down the polling numbers of a Democratic candidate.

Is that your job when it took until yesterday to get a budget for just 2 months to the floor of this House, but you spend millions of dollars, thou-

sands of hours, specifically for the purposes of driving down the polling numbers of a Presidential candidate in the Democratic Party?

Give me a break. This has gone too far. Something needs to change in this House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL DAVE "CHEESE" BURG

(Mr. BRIDENSTINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Colonel Dave "Cheese" Burgy on his outstanding leadership as commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard's 138th Fighter Wing located at the Tulsa Air National Guard Base. He relinquishes command this Saturday.

Colonel Burgy received his Air Force ROTC commission at Arizona State University. He transitioned to the Oklahoma National Guard as a C-26 inspector pilot before retraining in the F-16. Colonel Burgy has logged over 3,800 military flight hours and deployed five times to fight our Nation's wars.

As the 138th commander since December 2012, Colonel Burgy led the Air National Guard's best fighter wing of over 1,200 airmen. He exemplifies the self-sacrifice and patriotism of the citizen warriors in the National Guard.

Colonel Burgy, thank you for your outstanding service to the 138th, the National Guard, and our country.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, we always knew that KEVIN MCCARTHY and the Republican Caucus had gotten together to set up this Benghazi task force in order to do a political stunt, but I never thought they would admit it. I was shocked.

I mean, could you imagine me or any Member of this House setting up a \$4.5 million task force for the sole purpose of electioneering? Everyone in that task force, every staffer, was essentially a campaign staffer and, yet, paid for with government money to impact a Presidential election.

This is a scandal, people. I cannot believe what I heard. We all knew it was going on, but we couldn't prove it. Now it is documentary proof in front of literally millions of Americans, bragged about and set out as: Yeah. We did it,

and it is an achievement we are proud of.

Now, if one Member were to use their Congressional office to campaign, that would be an ethics complaint. What if a whole caucus does it?

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAMES A. LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CENTER

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center on its 5-year anniversary.

The Lovell Federal Health Center is the Nation's first and only integrated Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense medical center. In just 5 years, the Center has demonstrated the merits of combining two different healthcare systems.

Through hard work and dedication, the Lovell staff has shown that one healthcare facility can annually provide excellent care to over 90,000 military personnel, their families, military retirees, and veterans.

I would like to personally congratulate Director Stephan Holt and Deputy Director Navy Captain Bob Buckley. Their vision and enthusiasm facilitated the integration tremendously.

I look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries of the Lovell Federal Health Care Center, and I would like to again congratulate and thank them for their hard work on behalf of our veterans and military personnel.

HANFORD LAND TRANSFER

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a significant milestone in Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco, Washington.

While the Tri-Cities led the way in ending World War II and the cold war and was very proud to do so, the Federal Government has a legal and moral obligation to clean up the legacy nuclear waste at Hanford. This week we celebrate a cleanup milestone and the transfer of more than 1,600 acres of land back to these communities.

This transfer represents the culmination of years of local efforts as well as bipartisan, bicameral cooperation. I commend the work of Doc Hastings and Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL that laid the groundwork for this achievement.

As Hanford's cleanup mission is completed, this unneeded Federal land should continue to be returned to the local community for the goals of conservation, preservation, public access,

and economic development to be achieved.

This long anticipated land transfer will be used for industrial and energy production and creates jobs and boosts economic development in the mid-Columbia region. This week's transfer is an exciting step for the post-Hanford future. I will continue to work with all parties to have more land returned to the community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Wednesday, September 30, 2015:

H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3457, JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 449 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 449

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration

are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of October 1, 2015, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 0915

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 449 provides a rule for the consideration of H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, and the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

Mr. Speaker, these two bills are directly related to one of the most important functions of Congress, which is to provide for the national security of our country. For 53 straight years, Congress has come together in a bipartisan fashion to pass a National Defense Authorization Act to ensure that our military men and women have the resources and the policies they need to do their job. Even in an era of deep partisanship in Congress, we have still been able to keep the tradition alive and pass an NDAA each year. This rule would allow us to keep that tradition alive.

The NDAA process has been a great example of following regular order and doing congressional business the way it is supposed to be done. In both the House and the Senate, the respective Armed Services Committees held multiple hearings and markups that allowed all Members to have a role in the process.

Here in the House, the NDAA came up for a vote on the floor with a record number of amendments—135, to be exact. It passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 269–151. The Senate followed a very similar process and was able to approve their version of the bill by a vote of 71–125, a veto-proof majority.

Since our bills were different, the last few months have been spent in a conference committee to iron out the differences. The bill doesn't include everything I would like, but it is the true definition of a bipartisan collaborative work product. This NDAA is a textbook example of how Congress should work.

Despite all of that, I am shocked to learn that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not supporting this critical legislation. Even worse, the President has threatened to veto this bill.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a quick look at what is going on in the world today. North Korea is trying to develop an ability to deliver a nuclear warhead to our allies in South Korea and to other places. China is building new islands in the western Pacific and daring America to come into what they now claim is their new sea space and airspace. Russia has pushed into Crimea, is consolidating its gains in the Donbass; Iran has just now been given the ability to get a nuclear weapon; ISIS and other terrorist groups are running wild in the area that used to be Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya. Now we have Russia coming into that same area in Syria and using their jets for military purposes and daring us to get in those skies with them.

In the middle of all of this, we should be having a bipartisan, unified front to tell the world, to tell our adversaries, to tell our allies, and to tell our service men and women that we are united. There is no Republican, there is no Democrat when it comes to the defense policy of this country.

Instead, we are going to have a debate not about the defense policy of our country, but about whether we are going to fund other functions of government, whether we are going to fund the IRS at a high level that the President wants, whether we are going to fund the Environmental Protection Agency that is attacking businesses across this country. We are going to talk about all those domestic issues and not talk about the defense of the country at this critical juncture.

If there ever was a time when we should continue that tradition of standing together, it would be today. And for our President, our Commander in Chief, to threaten to veto this bipartisan bill is simply beyond belief.

Now, I expect my friend from Colorado will argue that they oppose this bill because we should be spending more money on nondefense programs, and that is a debate worth having, but this is not the time for that debate. There is nothing more important for us to do today than to make sure that we are standing tall and standing unified for the defense of our country, and we should never ever use the military as a pawn in some political game to increase controversial nondefense spending.

Today's debate should be about providing for our Nation's military men and women and their families, and I hope my colleagues and the President will reconsider their objections.

This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act.

A lot has been said on this floor recently about the threat and dangers posed to the United States and our allies by the Islamic Republic of Iran. I don't want to rehash that debate, but I do think it is important to remember that Iran is the top state sponsor of terrorism on the globe.

Over the past 15 years, more than 80 judgments have been handed down against Iran under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act exception for state sponsors of terrorism. These judgments add up to over \$43.5 billion in unpaid damages. This straightforward bill would simply require Iran to pay each of these Federal court judgments before the President can lift, waive, or suspend any sanctions currently in place against Iran. Let me briefly highlight a few examples of these judgments.

In 1985, a Navy petty officer named Robert Stethem was killed during the hijacking of TWA flight 847. Hezbollah, an Iran-financed terrorist organization, was found responsible for the hijacking and his family is now owed \$329 million, and that is in a Federal court judgment.

My friend from Colorado might be particularly interested in this one. Thomas Sutherland, a teacher at Colorado State University for 26 years, was the former dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut. He was kidnapped on June 9, 1985, after Iran directed terrorists to kidnap Americans in Lebanon. He was held in prison until November 18, 1991. His judgment is for \$323.5 million.

There is the story of Alan Beer, an American living in Israel who was tragically killed after the Iranian-backed terrorist organization Hamas blew up a bus in Jerusalem. There is a \$300 million judgment against Iran for Alan's death.

These are just a few stories of Americans who have been tragically injured, killed, tortured, and kidnapped by Iranian-sponsored terrorist organizations.

I simply can't understand why some of my colleagues and the President won't support this bill. This shouldn't be a partisan debate. American courts have already ruled that Iran owes money to these individuals and their families, citizens of the United States. So why is it controversial to require that these payments are made before rewarding Iran with billions of dollars in sanctions relief?

This bill is really pretty simple to me. You can either stand with American citizens or you can stand with the Islamic Republic of Iran. You can stand

with the Ayatollah or the families of servicemembers who were killed by Iran-backed terrorists. To me, this is an obvious choice.

Mr. Speaker, both of these bills are more than deserving of broad, bipartisan support, and I hope that they receive just that. So I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding me 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition today to this rule and to both of the underlying bills.

Both of these bills, the conference report to accompany the annual National Defense Authorization Act and the so-called Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, are simply partisan political charades. They are not a serious effort at the lawmaking process. They are not a serious effort at improving our national defense, nor do they even attempt to solve the problems that the American people want this Congress to take up.

I would first like to acknowledge that at least these two bills are somewhat related under this rule. In the past, we have had bills in vastly disparate areas.

A couple of points about these bills:

The National Defense Authorization bill is not a version of the bill that is going anywhere. It contorts the budget process in a way that doesn't make sense to anybody. It doesn't make sense to budget hawks or defense hawks, and it is a way that many Members of the majority party don't even seem to understand.

Neither bill will be signed into law. The President has indicated he will veto them, nor will consideration of them today here on the floor of the House advance national security one iota.

Even after knowing the budget plans on National Defense Authorization for months, here we have a convoluted bill that won't make us any safer or financially secure. What it does is it takes the emergency account, the overseas contingency operations fund, and turns it into a slush fund to temporarily fund all kinds of other programs. So effectively, it is a deficit spending bill by fudging the different pots of money that we have for defense.

Now, I should point out this doesn't even appeal to the Pentagon or to the military. The Pentagon strongly dislikes this plan of using overseas contingency money to fund items in the base budget.

So the question I pose, Mr. Speaker, is, if it is not being done to satisfy defense hawks and the Pentagon and it is not being done to satisfy budget hawks because it is an increased spending proposal, who is the constituency for this and why are people even proposing this?

Now, it is completely fiscally irresponsible to disregard budget caps in a way that anybody who cares about our deficit should find maddening, and it is why so many of our colleagues on the majority, from what we have heard, had to be pushed to even go along with this highly flawed plan.

As I mentioned, it doesn't make sense to the defense hawk contingency in this body either. The Pentagon does not like the plan. Using short-term money for base funding and long-term problems makes planning and procurement nearly impossible on the ground. This budget plan hurts national security, and it damages our fiscal responsibility in our country.

Like many bills, it is simply not going anywhere. The President said he opposes a version of the NDAA with this budget gimmick in it.

Congress, of course, needs to pass a National Defense Authorization bill. Unfortunately, the time that we are spending on this today gets us no closer.

Passing a National Defense Authorization Act is very important, and it seems like an obvious and routine thing to do; but with this Congress, nothing is surprising. Even routine matters are made infinitely more difficult as we jump through these self-created hoops to appeal to whoever is yelling loudest at the time, and that seems to be what we are doing today on the floor of this body is turning our national defense into a political football and missing yet another opportunity to provide the stability that our national defense needs to defend our country.

Now, this could have been an opportunity to address what voters want us to address. We could have talked about an Authorization for Use of Military Force. I have heard from so many of my constituents regarding that.

We could be talking about the fact that just yesterday Russia is supposedly bombing targets in Syria in support of Assad, and we have been conducting military operations in that part of the world for over a year without a specific Authorization for Use of Military Force.

We could have talked about Guantanamo Bay and how we can approach finally leaving that chapter behind and closing down our extra-legal detention facility there.

We could have debated how we can save money by right-sizing our massive nuclear arsenal that would allow us to blow up the world several times over to meet our needs here in the 21st century. Perhaps being able to blow up the world once might be enough for our nuclear arsenal, and that would save a lot of money that we could reduce the deficit with.

Instead, this bill would have us spend billions upon billions of dollars, reassign money to a slush fund, blow through budget caps that we put in

place to reduce the deficit in support of a war we have never debated, never voted on, and in support of a failed policy in continuing to fight wars that we have not approved and the military arsenal that was meant to fight a cold war which ended decades ago.

This is simply a charade that does not advance our national security, and I urge my colleagues to reject it.

The other bill under consideration is another charade. It is another symbol of the failure of this body to take up the issues that matter to the American people. It is a bill, as we talked about in our Rules Committee, that had zero hearings, no markup, no amendments, and was rushed to the floor for unknown reasons. This bill serves as nothing more than another attempt to undermine the agreement that prevents Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Now, Members on my side of the aisle were on varied sides of that Iran agreement. Some felt that the agreement was the best way to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Others felt that there were other ways. But nearly everybody on my side agrees that this bill is simply a terrible idea.

□ 0930

Now we are in the stage of implementing the Iran Nuclear Review Act, consistent with the agreement that was reached to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. If we want to advance national security, let's have a discussion about how to enforce the agreement to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

If there is a problem with the compensation of victims of state terrorism, we should have a broad bipartisan bill that addresses that. Iran is one of the countries, but there are certainly other sponsors of state terrorism; and if there is a problem collecting court judgments, let's add some teeth to that in a bipartisan proposal to do that rather than attach it to sanctions that were put in place for the specific purpose of deterring Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Congress said that was the purpose of those sanctions. They were part of that discussion for Iran to open themselves up to inspections and agree not to develop nuclear weapons. This is a separate and legitimate issue that there are judgments against Iran that are not being enforced.

There are probably judgments against a number of other nation-states that are not being enforced. That is a perfectly fine issue and one that there is no reason in the world for it to be partisan. We should have a thoughtful, deliberative process with hearings and markup in committee with the opportunity to take good ideas from both sides and simply address that problem to make sure that we add some teeth to the ability to

make sure that payments are made to victims of terrorism, a concept that this bill wouldn't even come close to accomplishing.

This bill adds no teeth to making sure that terrorist victims actually get their money. It merely tries to reinstate sanctions that are tied to the development of Iran's nuclear problem. It makes it no more likely that a single victim of terrorism will ever see any kind of restitution.

Now, if we are serious about national defense, what in the world have we been doing the last few days? Because of this body's inaction in maintaining government funding, you know what the Pentagon has been doing the last few days? They have been focused on planning for a shutdown, because we were just hours away from a shutdown when finally this body figured out how to continue funding national defense. We should have done that weeks ago.

Why did we put the Pentagon through the exercise these last few days of figuring out who had to go home and what missions had to be grounded? Do you think ISIS or Moscow or the Assad regime spent yesterday wondering if they would have the money when they showed up for work today? Well, that is what this Congress has done to our military and risks doing again in December when we face another government shutdown. We might as well be telling our generals: "Okay, keep doing what you are doing, but don't make any plans to combat ISIS on December 12."

Well done, Congress. I am sure America and the rest of the world is impressed with your work.

It is completely incongruous to be discussing a budget trick for defense authorization just a day after we risked closing down many parts of our military. Just yesterday, 151 Republicans voted to shut down the Pentagon and the military. They voted to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. They voted to shut down the State Department just because they couldn't get their way on an unrelated healthcare provision for low-income women. Now, suddenly, the Republicans support national security? I don't think so.

I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and both of the underlying bills.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Colorado made some interesting points. He said this is not serious, that the President is going to veto it. If we go back over the vote total in the Senate, this bill was passed in the Senate by a veto-proof majority. It passed in this House by a near veto-proof majority. If a couple more people from the other side will join with us, we can override that veto, and we

would stand united behind our servicemen and -women. So it is, indeed, serious. If the President were serious, he wouldn't be threatening a veto. He would understand the importance at this point in time for the Congress and the President to stand together across party lines.

We also heard about what is happening in Syria. I am a member of the House Armed Services Committee. I served on the conference committee that brought this report to us. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, this bill contains things that are critical to what we are doing in Syria.

He talked about Guantanamo Bay. One of the main items that I was appointed to the conference committee for was for the provision that regards Guantanamo Bay and what we are going to do and not do with the prisoners there. He talked about the military's view of this. I have talked to dozens of generals and admirals about this very issue, and they would like for us to find a different way, but they understand and agree that this way gets us where we need to go. What is important to them is really not which way we get there but the fact that we get there. This gets us there.

He talks about the fact that there is a failed policy here. There is a failed policy here. It is a failed policy of this administration in the Middle East. If we had done what we should have done in the Middle East, we wouldn't have Iran nuclearized. We wouldn't have Russia there flying sorties with their jets and daring the United States. The failure of policy here is the failure of the policy of the President of the United States.

The House Armed Services Committee, the Senate Armed Services Committee, Democrats and Republicans from both sides here have tried to work together to give the President the authorization he needed to do the right thing, to make sure we don't have the instability we have today in the Middle East. Instead, we have seen a President that seems to be inert, doing nothing. Russia comes in, makes this big play. What is the President doing? Nothing.

We were asked this time last year to authorize the training of certain Syrian troops to combat ISIS. Well, they trained 50-some-odd. We have about six left. After all that, a year, all this time, all this money, that is what the failed policy is. The whole idea was not going to work, but we gave him the authorization because we are trying to stand behind our President. We are trying to push him to do the right thing. Still, nothing happens, except he threatens to veto this bill.

If he wants to be the Commander in Chief that we need, he needs to stand with us. He needs to stand with the Congress. We need to stand together as Republicans and Democrats—we sup-

port our men and women in uniform—and do what needs to be done.

Now, my friend from Colorado referenced the Iran bill and called it a charade. Let me assure him, this is not a charade to the people who have these judgments. To the people who are victims or the families of victims, this is far from a charade. This will get them real compensation.

He says that there are no teeth here. Well, guess what. The sanctions don't get lifted unless Iran pays this money. I call that real teeth, because Iran wants that money more than anything else in the world right now because, with that money, they will go out and fund terrorism throughout the Middle East.

What we will do here is not only get money to American people who have been victimized, but we will deny that money to Iran that will use it to fund Hamas and Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen. That is what this is all about. This is dead serious. This is as serious as you can possibly get. I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would come together with us so we can do right by the American military and the men and women that wear our uniform and do right by American citizens who have been victimized by the largest sponsor of state terrorism.

I have said this before, and I am going to say it again, that Iran bill is real clear. You stand with the Ayatollah or you stand with the United States citizens. It is one or the other. If you stand with the Ayatollah, you stand with the Ayatollah. I am going to stand with the citizens of the United States that have these judgments. They deserve to be paid.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would protect jobs in America to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) to discuss our proposal to save American jobs.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in defeating the previous question so that this body can immediately take up reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and, in fact, immediately take up legislation offered by Mr. FINCHER, a Republican who, like many Republicans in this House and every Democrat, supports

the reauthorization of an institution that has been reauthorized by this body for eight decades, routinely, that is essential to supporting small American manufacturers that I represent back home in Michigan.

During the recess, I spent some time with my local manufacturers. I did a couple manufacturing roundtables; one in Flint, my hometown, and one up in the Tri-Cities. These are small manufacturers. They are not big companies. No one would recognize their names. They are small manufacturers that have found that they have products that the world wants, but they didn't feel comfortable entering into that kind of global trade without some help, without some support, without their own government standing behind them where they can. That was what the Export-Import Bank provided for them. They told me, without exception, that the failure of this Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank puts that kind of trade in jeopardy, puts the company itself in jeopardy, and puts the workers who build great American products that we can sell to the world in a position of some jeopardy as well.

We don't agree on a lot of things in this body, and that is the way it is supposed to be; but when we do agree, the American people expect us to do something about it. We agree in this body on the Export-Import Bank, Democrats and Republicans. Why can't we see a bill come to the floor to simply reauthorize something that is essential to supporting American manufacturers, supporting American exports, supporting American workers?

Sadly, almost ironically, there are more Republicans in this Congress that support the Export-Import Bank than supported keeping the government open itself. You would think—you would think—that somehow we would figure out a way.

There is all this talk of bipartisanship. It is just a word unless we do something about it. It doesn't mean anything unless it translates to something that helps the American worker. Here is a chance to do that. We should bring up the Export-Import Bank reauthorization, a Republican bill, which I will vote for, and we should do it today.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I just observed that the gentleman from Michigan talked about something that had nothing to do with the defense of this country or getting these judgments paid for American citizens who were victims at the hands of Iran. What he is talking about may be important at a time down the road, but it is not relevant to what we are talking about today.

The bipartisanship we need today is to stand up for the American people and defend the American people and to provide for our servicemen and -women, to make the victims of Iranian tyranny, make them whole. Let's

get together and be bipartisan about that, and maybe there will be more opportunities to be bipartisan about these other issues. Let's not confuse what is on the floor today with what people want to talk about down the road. Let's have a bipartisan majority, a big bipartisan majority, a veto-proof majority, pass both of these bills.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just to be clear, what we are offering as a previous question, if we win the previous question vote, this bill will then be amended and sent back to include a reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, so the Democrats are choosing to focus on protecting American jobs rather than partisan games.

Unfortunately, I wish either of these two bills under this rule had something to do with national defense. They don't. One of them diverts money from the overseas contingency fund to a slush fund, which the military says will weaken their ability to prepare for conflict around the world. The other one is another attempt to undermine a deal that prevents Iran from developing nuclear weapons and won't lead to American victims seeing money.

If they were serious about making sure American victims were compensated, we would be talking about putting teeth in the ability of American courts to impound assets and make sure that judgments are paid for victims of state terrorism. Why, instead, are we seeing a deal that relates only to one particular sponsor of state terrorism and deals with a set of tariffs that were put in place to prevent them from developing nuclear weapons? The tariffs that are in place with regard to Iranian sponsorship of state terrorism are still in place and weren't even on the table during the discussions around the nuclear agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), who wants to discuss our amendment that will protect and save American jobs.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, one of the previous speakers, the gentleman and my friend from Alabama, said today is not the time, it is not now. I want to remind him that in my effort here to defeat the previous question so that we may take up reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, the charter for the Bank expired 3 months ago yesterday. You are right, the time isn't now; it was 3 months ago. The fact is, in the ensuing 90 days, there has begun a drumbeat of job loss, concrete and measurable. It is real.

□ 0945

But I want to start over. Today is the first day of the new fiscal year for the Federal Government. We can all give at least some thanks that we avoided a

government shutdown. So let's take a fresh start to this thing. Take a step back.

The truth is, when I am home in the district talking with people, an amazing number have a consciousness, an awareness, about the termination of the charter of the Export-Import Bank and its impact. The most frequently asked question I get is, "How can anybody do that?"

How can anybody do away with an institution that, as my friend, the gentleman from Michigan, Congressman KILDEE, so eloquently said, has in 81 years been almost unanimously reauthorized 16 times by 13 different Presidents and has a track record of reducing the deficit and creating jobs? How can anybody do that?

That is a very challenging question for me to answer. Adherence to ideological purity is just not something somebody can compete with when it stands up against the real-life job loss that we have begun to experience.

So, in my effort—which I just digressed from—of taking a fresh start, I want to say that this Chamber will take up later today the National Defense Authorization Act. It is not unrelated to our effort to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Some people actually support what we call the NDAA because it creates jobs. I frankly don't think that that is a good reason to support the NDAA. One should support or oppose it because of how it reinforces us and helps us fulfill our national security objectives and goals and missions. That is why you support or don't support the NDAA. But some people do support it because of the jobs it helps create.

Well, the truth of the matter is, as we have said so often, the Export-Import Bank also creates jobs. In fact, for the last year for which we have data, it supported 164,000 jobs.

We have an existential threat to those jobs. The fact is, as you all have heard, both General Electric and The Boeing Company have announced layoffs directly attributable to the demise of the Export-Import Bank. People are not concluding negotiations for foreign sales as a consequence of us not having that arrow in our quiver.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Because the fact of the matter is the Chinese are developing a wide-body aircraft to compete in the international market, code name C919. They think it will be online in 2 years. I think it is more like 10 years.

They will take business away from us. When they do, they will take jobs away from us. And I remind you that China has not one, but four, export credit authorities.

It is also a relevant issue to the subject we take up later today—the

NDAA—because the truth of the matter is the Export-Import Bank helps protect the homeland very directly.

There is a lot of talk about rebalancing the Pacific and Asia and the pivot. But the fact of the matter is, in order for us to compete with China, we have to retain the heart of our manufacturing base.

And, frankly, the production of aircraft, in the aggregate, constitutes the largest concentration of engineers and manufacturing capacity within that base.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HECK of Washington. This is vital to our national security. Imagine a world 20, 30, 40 years from now in which The Boeing Company no longer exists. I don't want to imagine that future, but think of what it would do to our national security circumstance. It would be devastating to our national security. And we are ceding this territory. We are literally ceding this territory.

The irony of this debate and why, again, I find it so challenging to answer the question of why would anybody do this is, truly, if we had never had an Export-Import Bank, we would all be sitting around asking ourselves, "How do we compete with those other countries, all of whom have export credit authorities?"

We would be devising and standing up an Export-Import Bank and we would say, "What do we want that to look like?" First of all, we want it to support American jobs. Secondly, we would say we want it to protect American taxpayers and not have them on the hook. Well, guess what, my friends. We already have—or had—that institution.

The Export-Import Bank in the last generation has transferred billions of dollars to the Treasury and reduced the deficit. The Export-Import Bank has helped create and support millions of jobs.

If you want to compete in the global economy, you need an export credit authority that creates jobs. Please defeat the previous question and take up the issue of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the words of my good friend from the State of Washington, my co-chair for the Singapore Caucus. I know that he feels those words deeply. I agree with him that manufacturing is very important to this country.

Manufacturing aircraft is very important to my district. We just opened up 3 weeks ago an Airbus facility that will make competing aircraft against Boeing. It is good for America to have

competition. So I certainly agree with him about that.

It has nothing to do with these two bills. We are here today again, amazingly, talking about the most important thing we do in our government, and we get off on a side issue. It is a side issue today. It may be a big issue tomorrow. But today we are here to talk about these two bills.

My friend from Colorado for the second time has referred to the overseas contingency fund as a slush fund. The President of the United States, President Obama, has asked for that fund every year that he has been President, and we, the Congress, have given him that fund every year that he has been President.

I don't think when the President asked for it or when the Congress gave it to him either side thought we were giving a slush fund. It has been used to protect the people of the United States. Everyone has agreed on that. It only became a slush fund when they didn't want it to be used for a particular purpose. It is not a slush fund.

The purposes for which it will be used are spelled out in detail in the National Defense Authorization Act, an act, as I said, we have gone through in both Houses, through committees and floor debate and this very lengthy process of trying to get to this conference report. This is not a slush fund. This is something that is necessary to defending the country.

So I hope, instead of using terms like that, which, quite frankly, does not reflect very well on President Obama, who asked for it, I think we should use other terms.

And let's get back to the heart of this argument: Are we going to stand together for the defense of this country or are we not? Are we going to stand with Ayatollah or are we going to stand with the people who have been harmed by the Ayatollah.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We haven't even passed an Authorization for Use of Military Force to establish the legal way for who we are supposed to be fighting against. We are still operating under the post-9/11 Authorization for Use of Military Force that names al Qaeda. But if you talk to most military experts, al Qaeda is not the preeminent threat today.

There are a lot of threats in the world, including ISIS, including threats in the Syrian civil war, including threats of the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and this body needs to take up an Authorization for Use of Military Force to ensure that funds that we appropriate for defense are used in a way that Congress is aware of and has oversight of.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank my good friend from Colorado for managing this bill.

Let me also thank the majority manager as well for coming to the floor and doing the people's bidding.

Although we disagree in both the purpose of the underlying bill and its effectiveness, there is no doubt that this bill has a good cause. None of us take a backseat to protecting the American people, to seeking compensation, to bringing those who are missing or those who have been captured on false terms back home to American soil. And I stand here to make that commitment.

As well, I recognize that we are going down the trail, Mr. Speaker, that we have done for the Affordable Care Act, one more attempt to undermine a legitimately debated initiative—the Iran nonnuclear proliferation—where Members made a conscious decision, personal decision, on reflecting on the best direction for the American people.

In both the Senate and the procedures set out for this Congress to determine whether this bill, this initiative, will be turned back, it did not work. So it is the law of the land. It is an effort to ensure peace, to reconcile in the area, to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons by Iran. It does not in any way diminish the United States' stance on Iran's terrorist activities. It does none of that.

But this legislation, under the pretense of not allowing the sanctions to be relieved, has a very key component and a number of measures in that initiative. It has a number of measures, another roadblock, before those sanctions will be removed. It is under the pretense of dealing with the individuals who we all want to be brought home.

I don't know how this Congress does not know of the negotiations and the engagement that is going on, but they know that this is legislation that will be vetoed by the President.

I say this in the backdrop of the Madison Papers, No. 51, that says, "Justice is the end of government." It means that we on this floor must do things that really get us in the direction of justice, the end result for the American people.

The reason why I am so disappointed is I listened to my two colleagues speak eloquently about the Export-Import Bank. I can tell them that I was in Africa with the President, and an American stood up and pleaded that he was going to lose 400 jobs if we could not get that Export-Import Bank. I hesitate to think that his contract and his engagement—what we asked him to do—has collapsed.

Mr. Speaker, let me repeat again, "Justice is the end of government." So here we are on a bill that is going to be a copycat of what we are doing with the Affordable Care Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I am so disappointed, Mr. Speaker, because here I am on the floor discussing justice and we have yet another disappointing representation of this Congress when a leader of the Congress can speak and say that the Benghazi Committee is only a farce, it was only used to besmirch a public servant.

That is not what Madison wanted for this Nation. They didn't want us to stop the economic engine for the Export-Import Bank. They didn't want us to over and over attack the Affordable Care Act that has been passed and upheld by the Supreme Court. They didn't want us to pass a bill like the underlying deal blocking the Iran sanctions process of the bill that we passed to stop nuclear proliferation.

They didn't want us to do that, Mr. Speaker. They wanted us to have justice established, and they wanted us to do what is right for the American people.

I ask for a vote against the rule and the underlying bill. Justice should be the end of government, not what we are doing here today.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just note that the gentlewoman from Texas talked about justice. One of the bills that is in this rule is the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act.

It is about justice for the victims and for the families, victims of state-sponsored terrorism by Iran. This doesn't undo the Iranian deal. If Iran pays the judgments, the deal goes forward. That is the law.

So I would disagree with the gentlewoman with regard to the whole concept of justice. This rule contains a bill that is directly about justice.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It is remarkable the gentleman from Alabama hasn't been able to find any other Republicans to support these bills and come down and help him argue. I think that that speaks volumes about how these bills are simply not consistent with promoting our national defense and are fiscally irresponsible. They don't please the defense hawks or the budget hawks. So my poor colleague, Mr. BYRNE, is left alone to fend for himself.

Here we are, trying to use the contingency funding as base funding and use it to somehow form the base from which our military must fund its everyday operations. The commanders and generals all agree this is a bad idea, and the gentleman from Alabama has even acknowledged that.

Here we are, discussing a bill that won't result in any of the victims of state-sponsored terrorism actually seeing their settlement, when there is another path and we certainly could have

a deliberative process around a bill that empowers the impoundment and collection of assets from state sponsors of terrorism States here in our country to ensure that victims see their judgments.

□ 1000

What this bill does is it ties it to an unrelated set of sanctions that were put in place to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons to settlement of these claims when, actually, we should be giving our courts, or if we are concerned about this issue with regard to settlements against sponsors of state terrorism, we should give courts the increased ability to make sure that they can see that restitution and impound assets from sponsors of state terrorism.

Now, Democrats have come down and offered something, if we defeat the previous question, that actually will improve our national defense. It will ensure that we have a strong aerospace industry here in our country.

The gentleman from Alabama has mentioned that Airbus is in his district. Well, Airbus is a company that will do very well if we fail to authorize the Export-Import Bank because it will put American competitors like Boeing and Lockheed at a significant disadvantage.

Now, I hope that we are fighting to ensure that America maintains its aerospace capacity and leadership and we don't cede all of that to European companies like Airbus that are welcome to compete on a level playing field. It is critical for our national security that we have the ability to lead the world as we have in the aerospace industry.

I also want to bring up that we should be discussing an Authorization for Use of Military Force. The National Defense Authorization Act does contain some parameters about how money is used, but it is not a substitute for an Authorization for Use of Military Force, and we should be having that debate.

Who are we even fighting? Who are we even fighting? I don't think that most people believe that it is still al Qaeda from the post-9/11 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Now, I don't know what to call what we are doing in Iraq and Syria. Maybe it is a war. Maybe it is a security operation. Maybe it is occasional support to some Syrian rebels or support to the Iraqi Government or on-and-off commitment to the Kurds. But whatever it is, I don't think it is what Congress voted for in 2001 or 2003, before I was here, before Mr. BYRNE was here, before the vast majority of this body that currently serves was even here.

Those authorizations should be in the history books, not being invoked as legal justification for conducting operations in a world, in 2015, which is vastly different than the world of 2001 and

2003. And who knows how much longer or how many different wars or security operations will continue to be administered if Congress doesn't finally specify and do our job with regard to an Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Now, that is a hard debate. It is a hard issue. It is not a partisan debate. There are Democrats and Republicans on all sides; and many Members, when we have that debate, will make sure that we have the very best information to act on.

But since we authorized military force against al Qaeda and "affiliated" groups in 2001, there have been over 300 new Members of Congress elected, so the vast majority of this body, including myself and Mr. BYRNE, including Mr. HECK, including Mr. KILDEE—I believe, of all of us. I believe Ms. JACKSON LEE was the only one who was actually here when we even had that discussion. The rest of us talking about defense and NDAA didn't even play any role in choosing what the target and what our focus of our national security operations are.

The American people deserve and demand this debate. They don't want yet another fight with Congresspeople playing budget tricks around defense. They want to know what our Nation's plan is for the operations that have been ongoing. They want to see Congress take its constitutional responsibilities for actions in the world.

And whether any one of us ultimately votes in favor or against an Authorization for Use of Military Force, we all, I hope, are for the debate, and we should join in demanding one.

On the conference report, Madam Speaker, this plan will not work, will not become law. The President will veto it. The generals oppose it. The budget hawks oppose it. No one even came down to join Mr. BYRNE in arguing for it. It is a terrible plan. It will hurt our national defense. We need to defeat it.

The Iran bill tries to get at a legitimate issue in completely the wrong way. It is not a partisan issue that we want to see restitution for victims of state terrorism. Let's get into that act and look at the enforcement mechanisms rather than try to use these victims as yet another attempt to go after the deal that prevents Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

I think it is clear from our Rules Committee debate that everyone supports efforts for American victims of terrorism to pursue compensation. The Iran nuclear agreement has nothing to do with that, and it certainly doesn't prevent that from happening.

No matter what country, whether it is Iran or other sponsors of state terrorism, we all remain committed to this process of seeing justice. Undermining the ability to enforce a nuclear agreement is not the proper way or even a relevant way to achieve this goal.

The reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank is ready to go. If we defeat the previous question, we will bring it to the floor. We have the votes in the House. I hope my colleague, Mr. BYRNE from Alabama, will join us in that vote if we can defeat the previous question. We have the votes in the Senate, the President. We can stop this unnecessary loss of jobs every single day in districts across our country solely due to our inability to act.

Hopefully, we can move to take up highway authorization, ESEA, immigration reform, raising the minimum wage. These are some of the issues that I hear from my constituents about every day that we need to act on. So rather than waste time, waste money, hurt our national defense, let's get to work and accomplish something.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and defeat the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate Mr. POLIS being concerned that I am here by myself. I think it has been a good debate, and I know I have the full support of my colleagues behind me, and there will be a number of them here to debate the bill when it comes up after we adopt this rule.

It is extremely important that we understand what we are about in these two bills. It is not about the Export-Import Bank. It is not about immigration. It is not about any of the other issues that he brought up. It is about defending the American people and making victims of Iran terrorism whole. That is what it is about.

Now, I have seen the public opinion polls on national security. National security has rocketed up to be the number one issue for the people of America. I didn't need to see those polls. I have done 18 townhall meetings in the last several weeks in my district, and I have looked my constituents in the eyes and heard their concerns.

They don't bring up the Export-Import Bank to me. They bring up the fact that they are worried about what is happening to our country's standing abroad. They are worried about what is going on with these brutal terrorists in the Middle East. They are worried about the fact that we have just given Iran a nuclear weapon. They are worried about whether we are going to have an adequate defense to continue to protect them, as we have for decades now, in a bipartisan fashion. That is what they are worried about, and that is what they expect us to come here and do something about.

These two bills do something very important. The National Defense Authorization Act, for 53 years, has been passed in a bipartisan fashion, which has said to the world, which has said to our allies, which has said to our enemies, which has said to the men and

women in uniform in the United States of America, we stand as one.

Now this President and some—not all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to break that, after five decades, at this critical time. I find that hard to believe, but I accept the fact that it is nonetheless true.

I would plead with them to reconsider that. I would plead with the President, who is our Commander in Chief, not to veto this bill. This is critically important at a critically important time.

On the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, you know, we don't get very many opportunities where we in this body can do something that will directly bring some measure of compensation to people, citizens of the United States, who have been victimized by the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. We don't get very many opportunities like that, and we have it right now with this bill. We have the opportunity to make them whole, or come close to making them whole.

They have got judgments from courts, valid judgments; and with the passage of this bill, which should truly be a bipartisan thing, and if the President signs it, with passage of this bill, we could give it to them. What a wonderful thing we could give to them after all the suffering they have been through. We would deny them that because we want to stand with the Ayatollah, because we think Iran is more important than they are?

If we think for one second that Iran is going to take this money that is going to be released and use it for good and peaceful purposes, we are excessively naive. They are going to take this money, based upon what they have done in the past and what they are doing today, and they will use it to fund Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, and other terrorist groups around the Middle East and perhaps around the world not just against other people outside the United States, against people in the United States. So by passing that bill, we deny them tens of billions of dollars. They won't be able to use it for that.

I wish that, for once, we could come into this room, on something of this magnitude and stand shoulder to shoulder, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans, which we have done for decades. It saddens me that the President and some of the members of his own party in this House would not do that.

So I beg my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider, and I beg the President of the United States to reconsider. There has never been a more important time for us to stand together for the defense of this country and for the men and women in uniform.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 449 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3611) to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3611.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

The Republican majority may say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy im-

plications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 180, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 529]

YEAS—237

Abraham	Boustany	Collins (GA)
Aderholt	Brat	Collins (NY)
Allen	Bridenstine	Comstock
Amash	Brooks (IN)	Conaway
Amodei	Buchanan	Cook
Babin	Buck	Costello (PA)
Barletta	Bucshon	Cramer
Barr	Burgess	Crawford
Barton	Byrne	Crenshaw
Benishek	Calvert	Curbelo (FL)
Bilirakis	Carter (GA)	Davis, Rodney
Bishop (MI)	Carter (TX)	Denham
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Dent
Black	Chaffetz	DeSantis
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	DesJarlais
Blum	Coffman	Diaz-Balart
Bost	Cole	Dold

Donovan Kinzinger (IL)
 Duffy Kline
 Duncan (SC) Knight
 Duncan (TN) Labrador
 Ellmers (NC) LaHood
 Emmer (MN) LaMalfa
 Farenthold Lamborn
 Fincher Lance
 Fitzpatrick Latta
 Fleischmann LoBiondo
 Fleming Long
 Flores Loudermilk
 Forbes Love
 Fortenberry Lucas
 Fox Luetkemeyer
 Franks (AZ) Lummis
 Frelinghuysen MacArthur
 Garrett Marchant
 Gibbs Marino
 Gibson Massie
 Gohmert McCarthy
 Goodlatte McCaul
 Gosar McClintock
 Gowdy McHenry
 Granger McKinley
 Graves (GA) McMorris
 Graves (LA) Rodgers
 Graves (MO) McSally
 Griffith Meadows
 Grothman Meehan
 Guinta Messer
 Guthrie Mica
 Hanna Miller (FL)
 Hardy Miller (MI)
 Harper Moolenaar
 Harris Mooney (WV)
 Hartzler Mullin
 Heck (NV) Mulvaney
 Hensarling Murphy (PA)
 Herrera Beutler Neugebauer
 Hice, Jody B. Newhouse
 Hill Noem
 Holding Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI) Palazzo
 Hultgren Palmer
 Hunter Paulsen
 Hurd (TX) Pearce
 Hurt (VA) Perry
 Issa Pittenger
 Jenkins (KS) Pitts
 Jenkins (WV) Poe (TX)
 Johnson (OH) Poliquin
 Johnson, Sam Posey
 Jolly Price, Tom
 Jones Ratcliffe
 Jordan Reed
 Joyce Renacci
 Katko Ribble
 Kelly (MS) Rice (SC)
 Kelly (PA) Rigell
 King (IA) Roby
 King (NY) Roe (TN)

NAYS—180

Adams Clyburn
 Aguilar Cohen
 Ashford Connolly
 Bass Cooper
 Beatty Costa
 Becerra Courtney
 Bera Crowley
 Beyer Cuellar
 Blumenauer Cummings
 Bonamici Davis (CA)
 Boyle, Brendan F. Davis, Danny
 Brady (PA) DeFazio
 Brownley (CA) DeGette
 Bustos Delaney
 Butterfield DeLauro
 Capps DelBene
 Capuano DeSaulnier
 Cárdenas Deutch
 Carney Dingell
 Carson (IN) Doggett
 Cartwright Doyle, Michael
 Castor (FL) F.
 Castro (TX) Duckworth
 Chu, Judy Edwards
 Cicilline Ellison
 Clark (MA) Engel
 Clarke (NY) Eshoo
 Clay Esty
 Cleaver Farr
 Fattah

Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Royce
 Russell
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Stefanik
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Trott
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Westmoreland
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Young (IN)
 Zeldin
 Zinke

Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Graham
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Hahn
 Hastings
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Honda
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer

Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lawrence
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren
 Loeenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Moore
 Moulton

Bishop (GA)
 Brady (TX)
 Brooks (AL)
 Brown (FL)
 Conyers
 Culberson

Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Nolan
 Norcross
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pelosi
 Peters
 Peterson
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Schultz
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schrader
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David

NOT VOTING—17

Gutiérrez
 Hudson
 Kelly (IL)
 Neal
 Nunes
 Payne

Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Sherman
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takai
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tonko
 Torres
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters, Maxine
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

Perlmutter
 Pompeo
 Reichert
 Whitfield
 Yoho

□ 1039

Messrs. CONNOLLY and HOYER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. YODER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 529, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to vote on the Motion Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 3457, rollcall vote 529. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “nay.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 181, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 530]

AYES—241

Abraham
 Aderholt
 Allen
 Amash
 Amodei
 Babin

Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (MI)

Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Blum
 Bost
 Boustany

Brat
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clawson (FL)
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Comstock
 Conaway
 Cook
 Costello (PA)
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Curbelo (FL)
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Dold
 Donovan
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers (NC)
 Emmer (MN)
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foy
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Garrett
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green, Gene
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guinta
 Guthrie
 Hanna
 Hardy
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler

Hice, Jody B.
 Hill
 Holding
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurd (TX)
 Hurt (VA)
 Issa
 Jenkins (KS)
 Jenkins (WV)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Katko
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Knight
 Labrador
 LaHood
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latta
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Loudermilk
 Love
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 MacArthur
 Marchant
 Marino
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Foy
 McSally
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Newhouse
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)

NOES—181

Adams
 Aguilar
 Ashford
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Boyle, Brendan F.
 Brady (PA)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps

Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper

Poliquin
 Posey
 Price, Tom
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Royce
 Russell
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Stefanik
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Trott
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Vela
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Westmoreland
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Young (IN)
 Zeldin
 Zinke

Duckworth	Levin	Richmond
Edwards	Lewis	Roybal-Allard
Ellison	Lieu, Ted	Ruiz
Engel	Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Eshoo	Loeb	Rush
Esty	Lofgren	Ryan (OH)
Farr	Lowenthal	Sánchez, Linda
Fattah	Lowey	T.
Foster	Lujan Grisham	Sanchez, Loretta
Frankel (FL)	(NM)	Sarbanes
Fudge	Lujan, Ben Ray	Schakowsky
Gabbard	(NM)	Schiff
Galego	Lynch	Schrader
Garamendi	Maloney,	Scott (VA)
Graham	Carolyn	Scott, David
Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Serrano
Green, Al	Massie	Sewell (AL)
Grijalva	Matsui	Sherman
Hahn	McCollum	Sires
Hastings	McDermott	Slaughter
Heck (WA)	McGovern	Smith (WA)
Higgins	McNerney	Speier
Himes	Meeks	Swalwell (CA)
Hinojosa	Meng	Takai
Honda	Moore	Takano
Hoyer	Moulton	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (MS)
Israel	Nadler	Titus
Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Tonko
Jeffries	Nolan	Torres
Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Tsongas
Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke	Van Hollen
Kaptur	Pallone	Vargas
Keating	Pascrell	Veasey
Kennedy	Payne	Velázquez
Kildee	Pelosi	Visclosky
Kilmer	Peters	Walz
Kind	Peterson	Wasserman
Kirkpatrick	Pingree	Schultz
Kuster	Pocan	Waters, Maxine
Langevin	Polis	Watson Coleman
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Welch
Larson (CT)	Quigley	Wilson (FL)
Lawrence	Rangel	Yarmuth
Lee	Rice (NY)	

NOT VOTING—12

Brady (TX)	Hudson	Pompeo
Brown (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Reichert
Culberson	Neal	Whitfield
Gutiérrez	Perlmutter	Yoho

□ 1049

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2617. An act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2078. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 449, I call up the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Gov-

ernment of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 449, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in House Report 114-273, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3457

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON LIFTING OF SANCTIONS ON IRAN PENDING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN JUDGMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not take any of the actions described in subsection (b) until the President has certified to the Congress that the Government of Iran has paid each judgment against Iran that is described in subsection (c).

(b) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The actions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) To waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions described in paragraph (2) or refrain from applying any such sanctions.

(B) To remove a foreign person listed in Attachment 3 or Attachment 4 to Annex II of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action from the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury.

(2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this paragraph are—

(A) the sanctions described in sections 4 through 7.9 of Annex II of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and

(B) the sanctions described in any other agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, commits the United States to take action, or pursuant to which the United States commits or otherwise agrees to take action, regardless of the form it takes, whether a political commitment or otherwise, and regardless of whether it is legally binding or not.

(c) JUDGMENTS.—A judgment is a judgment described in this subsection if it is a final judgment entered by the courts of the United States or of the States—

(1) that relates to a claim—

(A) that was brought against Iran or its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities (regardless of whether the claim was also brought, or the resulting judgment was also entered, against another defendant); and

(B) for which the court determined that Iran (or its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, as the case may be) was not immune from the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States or of the States under section 1605A, or section 1605(a)(7) (as such section was in effect on January 27, 2008), of title 28, United States Code; and

(2) that was entered during the period beginning on April 24, 1996, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION DESCRIBED.—In this section, the term "Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action" means the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, agreed to at Vienna on July 14, 2015, by Iran and by the People's Republic of China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and all implementing materials and agreements related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this bill. This is the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act.

I appreciate the work of the bill's author, Mr. MEEHAN of Pennsylvania. He has worked very hard on this. There are about 100 cosponsors in this House.

On the Foreign Affairs Committee, we have made Iran the central focus of our work. As a matter of fact, we have had over 30 hearings and briefings so far on Iran and on the dangerous nuclear agreement that was struck with this state sponsor of terrorism.

Madam Speaker, since coming to power in the late 1970s—well, 1979—the Iranian regime has funded terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas and directed their operations.

Now, the way they do that is they have a special force. It is called the Quds Force. It is headed up by General Soleimani. He is in charge of assassinations outside the country, assassinations of U.S. targets, by the way, besides other targets.

Recently you will have heard of General Soleimani because—by the way, European sanctions are going to be lifted on him under this agreement, but you will have read or heard that he traveled—he traveled—to Moscow to meet with Putin. As a result of those meetings, you will notice the discussions about weapons coming from Russia into Syria into the hands of the Quds Forces.

So we look at what he has done and what U.S. courts have done as a result. There have been 80 separate attacks on U.S. installations and U.S. individuals. We remember the 1983 bombing of the U.S. marine barracks in Beirut, the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. Those two attacks killed 260 American servicemen and left their

widows and left children to be raised by one parent.

There are judgments that have been rendered that direct payment from Iran to these families, to the victims' families. Unfortunately, under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, even though this reward has been given, even though U.S. victims of state-sponsored terrorism got their day in court, and even though they have brought the suits in U.S. courts and had the right to collect these damages, Iran has not as of yet paid.

U.S. courts have held Iran liable for the attacks carried out by its terrorist proxies when those attacks were orchestrated and paid for by the Iranian regime. The judgments that remain outstanding are \$43.5 billion in unpaid damages for those 80 cases over the last decade and a half.

In one case, \$9 billion was awarded to the victims of the bombing of the marine barracks in 1983. Again, the Government of Iran was found responsible through lawful proceedings in a U.S. court. That judgment remains unpaid.

Madam Speaker, the Obama administration during its negotiations with Iran did not seek for Iran to compensate the families of those whose lives were taken by Iranian terrorism despite these U.S. court judgments. That is very much in contrast with our past procedure.

In the case of Libya, for example, a decade ago, when we reached that agreement with Libya, the U.S. secured the right or the demand that the Qadhafi regime compensate the victims of the attacks, such as the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. That was \$2.5 billion. That was done. That is our procedure.

Iran will soon obtain \$100 billion, approximately, in unfrozen assets as well as immeasurable economic and financial benefits by escaping the sanctions regime and reintegrating into the global economy. Iran will get sanctions lifted and American victims will still be out in the cold. That is not right.

This legislation would address that injustice. It is straightforward. It would say that, of the \$100 billion and some in sanctions relief, those judgments will be paid out of that. That \$43 billion will be paid to the survivors of those families of those 80 attacks orchestrated, paid for, by Iran.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing with respect to H.R. 3457, the "Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act," which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 3457 involves issues that fall within Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order

to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 3457, the Committee on Ways and Means will not assert its jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3457, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 3457.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, which involves issues within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that it may proceed expeditiously to the Floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3457 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2015.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 3457, the "Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act," which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 3457 involves issues that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 3457, the Committee on the Judiciary will not assert its jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect

to H.R. 3457, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 3457.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, which involves issues within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that it may proceed expeditiously to the Floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3457 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to the bill.

Let me start by acknowledging my friend, Chairman ROYCE. The Committee on Foreign Affairs is the most bipartisan committee in Congress. We are collaborative, we are productive, and we have built a record advancing bipartisan legislation that promotes American interests abroad and keeps the American people safe. I want to state that Chairman ROYCE's leadership is to thank for much of our committee's good work.

So I am disappointed that the House Republican leadership decided to ignore regular order on this bill. They have rushed it to the floor without any consideration by the Foreign Affairs Committee. As has been pointed out, we have had 30 hearings. We know a little bit about Iran on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

So rushing it to the floor without any consideration by the Foreign Affairs Committee is wrong. I think it is a shame. Because I think, left to our own volition, we could have sent forward a bill that could make a difference for the victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism. Iranian-sponsored terrorism is there, it is palpable, and we should do something to try to help the victims.

But this bill, on the other hand, would not do that. Let me explain why. American courts have awarded roughly

\$46 billion to about 1,300 victims and their families. We all want justice for these families. We all want to hold Iran accountable for its act of terrorism against Americans. Iran should pay these claims. But this bill does nothing for the victims of Iranian terror.

Here is the problem. Let's assume for argument that Iran's leaders did change course and decide to pay the claims. This bill would actually make it more difficult for Iran to pay these judgments.

Iran owes American claimants \$46 billion, but Iran has access to \$20 billion of its cash reserves, not \$46 billion. The rest—\$95 billion—is frozen in bank accounts in Europe and Asia.

On top of that, Iran's oil revenues are frozen. When Iran sells oil, the payments are kept frozen under the threat of American sanctions, which I support. Iran can access these funds only for certain purposes. Paying court judgments is not one of them. Current U.S. sanctions don't allow it.

□ 1100

And under this bill, all U.S. sanctions are kept in effect, absolutely no changes allowed, until Iran pays the full \$46 billion.

So where would Iran get the money to pay the American claims?

The bill says: Iran, pay the claims, but you can't have any of the funds to pay them. So it is a catch-22. And who does it hurt? Not Iran. It hurts the victims. Not a single claim would be paid under this bill. So, in my opinion, this bill offers nothing but false hope.

Now, I have heard some Members say, well, we can pay the claims by seizing Iran's frozen assets, but that is really not the case. Virtually all of Iran's funds frozen under our sanctions are overseas, not in the U.S. Though they are frozen by U.S. sanctions, they are beyond the jurisdiction of our courts to seize them.

Another false promise: virtually all of Iran's assets will stay overseas. Under this bill, they would be required to be kept overseas because all U.S. sanctions would be kept in effect by law with no change allowed.

So let's be honest. This bill is not really about helping these victims. It is about exploiting their plight and their tragedy to make a political splash.

Look, everyone here knows I am no fan of the Iran nuclear agreement. I voted against it, but the other side won. Whether you are for or against the deal, it is time to be realistic about what happens next.

In my opinion, there were two potential courses. The first is to do everything we can to strengthen enforcement of the agreement and hold Iran to its commitments. We should double down on our support for friends and allies in the region. We should crack down on Iran's support for terrorist organizations. We should push leaders in

Tehran to release detained Americans and improve its abysmal record on human rights. That is the course I hope we will take. I will soon introduce legislation to pursue those aims, and I will work with members of both parties to get these measures to the President's desk.

The other course would be doing to the Iran agreement what leaders on the other side have tried to do to the Affordable Care Act, and that is what I am afraid of here: vote after vote after vote after vote, whether we like it or not, on an issue that has already been voted on by this Chamber many, many times. I don't want the dispute on Iran to turn into the Affordable Care Act where we try to kill it 60 different ways.

We should not be using this for political purposes. We should be passing legislation, which I know we can get out of the Foreign Affairs Committee in a collaborative way, that would really do something to help these victims, that would really do something to hold Iran accountable for all its reprehensible acts. So I hope that what we are doing today is not the path we are going down not only now, but in the future with other things.

There was a measure in the Senate that was very similar to this, which tried to hold Iran to certain things and say that the funds couldn't be released unless Iran did this or did that. We could do this another 60 times; it would be counterproductive. Let's put our heads together. Let's figure out a way that we can continue to hold Iran accountable, and let's move on that way.

So I hope we can move past this bill and start working on measures to ensure that the Iran agreement is implemented as strongly and stringently as possible. I hope we can get back to our regular practice in the Foreign Affairs Committee of which we have been so proud and focus on making policy that leaves politics at the water's edge.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. The administration is arguing, Mr. Speaker, that although the Iranian regime has access to over \$20 billion and that this judgment is \$43 billion, there isn't enough money there to make payment. In addition to the 20-some billion, Iran is in the process right now of negotiation and paying and supporting in transfers to other regimes.

For example, a report out this week says Iran is purchasing \$21 billion of airplanes and satellites from Russia. That is \$21 billion. Iran somehow has the money to do that, but it doesn't have the money for this claim.

A report out about a month ago says that Iran's annual support for Hezbollah is over \$100 million per year. Somehow they have got the spending cash for that.

It is providing the Syrian regime, one estimate of one of the think tanks here

in town is that they have provided them a little over \$10 billion a year.

So Iran somehow has the discretionary money for these other purposes, but not for the purpose of the judgments won in U.S. court for over 1,000 victims or family members of the victims of their attacks.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MEEHAN for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Iranian ayatollah has preached and practiced "Death to America" since the 1970s.

Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism. Iran has been sued in Federal courts by the families of the murdered victims. Iran is guilty of the murder of 421 Americans in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983. Iran is guilty of the murder of 19 servicemembers and injuring 372 others in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Iran is guilty of murdering a thousand other Americans, including some in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Federal courts have awarded the victim and families over \$40 billion for these crimes, but Iran will not pay. It laughs at the death of the innocent it has murdered. It laughs at American justice.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is about time for the long arm of American justice to hold Iran accountable for its sins—make them pay.

I don't understand why some appeasers are more concerned about the murderous Iranian regime than they are about justice, justice for the victims that were murdered by this regime.

Let the ayatollah know he cannot get a diplomatic pass or sanctions relief until he pays for his crimes. The ayatollah has sown the seeds of murder, and now it is time for Iran to reap the consequences of their crimes.

It seems to me that the voices of the murdered cry out for us to do something for justice, justice for them that has been too long waiting. This bill, in my opinion, will do it.

It is about time we have justice because justice is what we are supposed to do in this country.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no" on this particular bill.

You know, once we were able to secure this negotiation and once the deal was put in place, the focus of our attention should shift to making sure that Iran lives up to its commitments, and we should use this prior negotiation as a template for negotiating other issues, including the captives, including the interests of these victims talked about here today.

What this bill does is it handcuffs the President and says that the President

doesn't have any discretion to do his end of this bargain, to exercise his discretion to forward and help America and the P5+1 live up to our end of the bargain. That is the wrong way to go.

So I can credit the authors of this bill with having good intentions, but I think that the method that they are going about it is just wrong.

Let's use the template that has been developed through the negotiation process to go back and say, "Okay, now we got other things we want to talk to you about," rather than pass legislation on this floor that will do nothing other than hamstringing the President. It is the wrong way to do it. It is a mistake, and it should be voted down.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in 1983, 241 American servicemen in Beirut were killed and another 60 injured by a car bomb.

One of the Marines murdered was my constituent, Paul Innocenzi III, who lived with his young family in my hometown of Hamilton. In my second term as Congressman, I joined mourners at his funeral. I will never forget the agony and the sorrow of his family. Iranian terrorism killed Paul Innocenzi and, over the decades, has killed or maimed thousands of other Americans.

A Federal court, Mr. Speaker, found that the 1983 bombing was "beyond question" perpetrated by "Hezbollah and its agent who received massive material and technical support from the Iranian Government." Later a three-judge Federal appeals court panel approved \$1.75 billion in judgment against Iran for the 1983 bombing and some other Iranian acts of terror.

Today Iran is poised to get billions of dollars through so-called sanctions relief for an egregiously flawed comprehensive plan of action, money that will procure for Iran a significantly larger arsenal of sophisticated weapons and an enhanced capability to terrorize, murder, and destabilize.

The chairman talked about Iran's \$21 billion weapons purchase from Russia. Billions more to Iran will exponentially increase weapons buys. The Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act authored by PAT MEEHAN says not so fast.

The President has said he will veto this bill. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. That is uncaring, it is unacceptable, it is unconscionable. And does a grave disservice to American victims of Iranian terrorism.

Support court-ordered victim payments by the terrorist State of Iran. Fundamental justice demands that this bill become law.

Mr. Speaker, what was previously unacceptable—an Iranian nuclear state—is now inevitable under the terms and conditions of what is officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Tragically, the deal is riddled with serious flaws, gaps, and huge concessions to Iran. Taken as a whole, this egregiously flawed deal poses an existential threat to Israel, our allies in the region—and poses significant risks to the United States.

Today Iran is poised to get billions of dollars through so-called sanctions relief—money that will procure for Iran a significantly larger arsenal of sophisticated weapons and an enhanced capability to terrorize, murder and destabilize.

The Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act (H.R. 3457) authored by Pat Meehan says not so fast.

The bill prohibits the President from waiving sanctions until Iran pays its more than \$44.5 billion in court ordered damages to thousands of victims and survivors of Iranian terror attacks.

To date, the U.S. Department of State has refused to release funds ordered by the courts to victims and surviving families in more than 80 cases despite clear authority to do so under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA).

In 1983, 241 American servicemen in Beirut were killed and another 60 injured by a car bomb. One of the Marines murdered was my constituent WO1 Paul Innocenzi III who lived with his young family in my hometown of Hamilton. In my second term as congressman, I joined mourners at his funeral. I will never forget the agony and sorrow of his family. Iranian terrorism killed Paul Innocenzi and over the decades, has killed or maimed thousands of other Americans.

A federal district court found that the 1983 bombing was "beyond question" perpetrated by "Hezbollah and its agents (who) received massive material and technical support from the Iranian government". Later a three judge federal appeals court panel approved a \$1.75 billion judgement against Iran for the 1983 bombing and other Iranian acts of terror.

The President has said he will veto this bill. That's wrong. That's uncaring, unacceptable, and unconscionable. Support court-ordered victim payments by the terror state of Iran. Fundamental justice demands that this bill becomes law.

Mr. ENGEL. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), our colleague on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for his leadership on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

This bill prohibits any waivers, reductions, or other relief from U.S. sanctions on Iran until Iran pays all court-ordered damage claims to U.S. victims. Those claims total about \$46 billion.

This bill would prevent the U.S. from implementing its commitments under the Iran deal, which is really what my friends on the other side are trying to do. Not being able to win directly, let's get at it indirectly and let's cover it with the patina of respectability. But the real issue is, cynically, how we use the plight of U.S. victims for another partisan shot.

We all want to help American victims of Iran's terrorism and lack of justice, but this is not the way to help them. It would have the opposite effect by reducing the chance that any claims, in fact, would be paid because, by freezing assets, Iran wouldn't have the wherewithal to do what this bill says it should do before sanctions are lifted.

Think about this: Iran owes \$46 billion in U.S. claims, but it doesn't have the money right now, even if it wanted to pay. Iran only has access to about \$20 billion of its own reserves.

Realistically, the only funds that could be used are the frozen funds under U.S. sanctions held in banks around the world. Under this bill, the frozen funds couldn't be used to pay the claims, and all the money remains frozen until Iran pays the claims. It is a catch-22 if there ever was one. It couldn't sell any oil to use to free up cash because those funds, too, would be frozen.

Another clue about what is really behind this bill is that all of the 76 sponsors are my friends on the other side of the aisle, not a single Democrat.

Regardless of one's position on the Iran deal, a deal I probably supported because it keeps Iran from becoming a nuclear state, opposing this cynical bill is, in fact, the right vote if you care about the victims of Iranian injustice and terrorism.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and author of this bill.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, \$21 billion for Russian jets, but not a penny for the victims of their own acts of terror. That is what my colleagues are trying to say? In fact, the President can negotiate it. Let him reach an installment plan, but let's make sure that these dollars are paid.

Look, this is a fundamental question: Should Iran receive relief from the U.S. sanctions before it pays the victims of terrorism the \$43 billion that U.S. courts say these victims are owed?

When we say "terrorism," what are we talking about? We are talking about Iranian-backed assassinations, bombings, and attacks across time zones, from Paris to Jerusalem, to New York, to Beirut, to East Africa, to Buenos Aires.

I say not one cent.

These victims are United States citizens. They are wives, brothers and sisters, children who hail from all across the Nation, and they were killed in hijackings and suicide attacks and bombings of buses and planes and buildings and embassies and shopping malls and pizza parlors.

□ 1115

In fact, I met with one of those victims this morning and yesterday, the

widow of Kenneth Welch and his child. They are here in Washington today. They have been waiting 30 years for the opportunity to see this issue addressed.

My friends, by voting against this legislation, you are saying that Iran and the perpetrators of these atrocities deserve U.S. sanctions relief before the victims deserve the court-ordered compensation. Let me say it again. By voting “no,” you are putting the interests of Iran’s terror machine before the American victims of that terror. I say not 1 cent.

To those who say Iran can’t afford to pay these damages, let me remind you of a few facts. Iran has a yearly gross domestic product in excess of \$1.3 trillion, and they just spent \$21 billion on Russian jets. The facts show that Iran has the money and will have much more if the sanctions are lifted, money that our own administration freely admits will go to finance even more terrorism.

I sat yesterday with Ken Stethem, the brother of Robert Stethem, the United States Navy diver who was executed on Beirut Flight 847. His brother Ken, himself a retired Navy SEAL, said to me yesterday, “If the President doesn’t take this opportunity and Congress doesn’t take the opportunity to hold Iran accountable for their terrorist acts now, I have to ask them when will they. Thirty years for one family, more than 15 for another. When will they?”

He is talking to us. Let’s answer him. Let’s today stand up for the standards of U.S. Navy Petty Officer Robert Stethem. Let’s today vote as one House to say we will put Robert Stethem and the many victims of Iran’s terrorism before—before—the criminals who conspired to kill them.

Until they pay these victims what they are owed, let’s say no to Iran, not 1 cent.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman’s courtesy in permitting me to speak on this issue. I listened to the impassioned pleas from my friends on the other side of the aisle about horrific acts of the thugs who run Iran. Nobody disputes that, and nothing before us would take away the sanctions that we have against their terrorist activity.

We are all committed to justice for those victims, but bear in mind what this legislation seeks to do is to unwind another critical objective of the United States, of our allies, to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

That agreement was a signal achievement of diplomacy not just of the Obama administration, but of Russia, China, Germany, France, Great Britain, working with us to secure the strongest agreement that we have seen to contain these thugs’ nuclear ambi-

tions. The world is united with us to restrain a nuclear Iran.

Now, we have had testimony from our partners that, if the United States walks away from that agreement, we are on our own. They are not going to continue to enforce nuclear sanctions against Iran, and, ultimately, Iran will get its money and a free hand to develop nuclear weapons unencumbered by the allies that we have assembled and the pressure that we have put on them.

Now, my friends, Mr. ENGEL and Mr. CONNOLLY, are correct. The construct here is very difficult, even if this were to be approved, to actually work out on paper. But take it a step further. These elements have been in place for years and have not resulted in any movement for the victims.

We have had what the rest of the world thinks is a significant breakthrough with Iran. We have got an area of cooperation, and the world is united with us to keep the pressure on them. I would suggest, rather than throwing this agreement in the trash can and allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons and make them stronger—and, ultimately, they will get their money because India and China are going to go ahead and start buying oil from Iran again as the sanctions collapse. It will be the United States against the world again.

We couldn’t even sanction itty-bitty Cuba to change their regime. It takes multinational efforts to be able to make changes. This agreement is an important first step, and I would suggest it gives us an opportunity to continue putting pressure on Iran to be able to obtain the justice that we all want for those victims.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. ROYCE for their leadership. I oppose the Iranian deal for many reasons. Among the reasons is the over \$100 billion windfall Iran will receive in unfrozen assets and sanctions relief.

The administration has acknowledged that some of this money will be certainly distributed to the Iranian military, its global terrorist network, and to the Quds Force, an organization with American blood on its hands.

We remember the marines and sailors killed in the bombing of the barracks in Beirut in 1983 and civilians in that embassy in Beirut, the airmen who died in Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1995. And what about the victims of the Iranian-financed attacks, like Alisa Flatow of West Orange, New Jersey, who died in a bus bombing in Gaza in 1995 and Sara Duker of Teaneck, New Jersey, who was murdered on a bus in Jerusalem in 1996? Who speaks for them, for those innocents and their families? This bill does.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD), a member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Justice is a powerful word. For those who have been wronged, justice can bring peace and closure. For those guilty of harming the innocent, justice is absolutely necessary to ensure the authority of our laws. Without justice, truth becomes irrelevant.

If America is going to continue to be the greatest nation in the world, it is imperative that we pursue justice. But the Iran nuclear deal does the exact opposite. It rewards lawlessness and corruption. It tells Iran that they can be unjust to our own citizens and the current administration will allow them to get away with it.

Iran is responsible for sponsoring terrorism that has led to the death of thousands of Americans. When the families of these Americans sought justice in the court, Iran was found guilty and ordered to make reparations. The family of Cyrus Elahi from Dallas, Texas, was awarded more than \$300 million after Cyrus was assassinated for criticizing the Iranian Government.

Judgments like this have added up to billions of dollars that Iran owes the families of American victims. But is this administration forcing Iran to pay? Are they demanding justice for Americans like Cyrus? No. Instead, this administration is handing over an estimated \$100 billion to Iran. That is not justice. That is outrageous.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, this bill would respond to one of many significant problems with President Obama’s disastrous Iran deal, which gives Iran sanctions relief without requiring it to make reparations for the crimes it has committed against Americans.

Anne Dammerell, who was born in Cincinnati near my district, was working at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983. A bomb exploded while she was in the embassy cafeteria, breaking 19 of her bones. She received a judgment against Iran for \$6.8 million because of the physical and mental suffering she endured. Anne is one tragic story among many.

Over the past 15 years, U.S. courts have handed down 80 judgments against Iran, adding up to more than \$43.5 billion in unpaid damages. Iran refuses to pay. Yet, the President’s nuclear agreement provides Iran with \$150 billion in sanctions relief. Those that have destroyed innocent American lives, Iranian terrorists, are being chosen over the American victims themselves.

This bill would prohibit the President from removing any sanctions in place against Iran until the President has certified to Congress that Iran has paid each Federal court judgment.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for introducing this good bill. It is a compassionate bill. It is a bill that tells victims of terrorism that they are not forgotten.

I chair the task force in the House Committee on Financial Services to investigate terrorism finance, and we had a hearing specifically on the joint plan of action, the so-called P5+1. That was back in July.

There was an attorney who testified at the hearing about the \$43 billion in judgments and how this deal, then not approved yet, was likely going to sidestep the ability of victims who did all the right things through the legal process, who hired lawyers, who went to court, who got the judgments, legitimate judgments, how these judgments would not be paid.

On July 29, I wrote a letter to Secretary Lew—Secretary of the Treasury—and Secretary Kerry of the State Department asking whether or not they had addressed the issue as part of the negotiations. That was July 29. I have yet to receive a response from the Treasury Department, from the Department of State, in any way.

Mr. Speaker, the deafening silence of this administration has led me to believe that they completely overlooked the victims of terrorism.

What we are going to do is we are going to give the money to the Islamic Republic of Iran and not to American victims, and that is wrong. This bill is right. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the bipartisan Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, I analyzed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) put forward by this Administration at length.

After numerous hearings and research, I opposed the deal for a number of reasons—not the least of which is because of its potential impact on terrorism financing by Iran. At hearing after hearing, members heard directly from foreign policy experts about this threat and the danger of the influx of cash provided by this agreement finding its way to terrorist organizations threatening Iran's neighboring states as well as those planning strikes in the United States.

At a hearing specifically on this deal and its impact on Tehran's state sponsorship of terror, one witness, a practicing attorney, testified to the fact that American citizens and families who were victims of Iranian sponsored terrorist attacks—including families in my district in Pennsylvania—are owed over \$43 billion in compensation as awarded by United States.

Following the Task Force's fourth hearing I wrote this letter to both Secretaries John Kerry and Jack Lew asking if this nuclear deal would strip victims of Iranian terrorism the right to this compensation.

That was July 29. I have yet to receive any sort of response from either the Treasury or State departments. The deafening silence from the Administration has led me to believe they completely overlooked these families when they rushed to finalize this bad deal with Iran.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable to think that—as a nation—we would allow the world's largest state sponsor of terror access to billions of dollars in sanctions relief and unfreezing of held assets while victims of Iranian terrorism are left with nothing.

These victims are Americans from all around the country—from my home and yours. They've lost loved ones and suffered irreparable damages because of Iran's long, sordid history with terrorism. By failing to take this situation into account throughout the negotiation process, the administration has failed these victims and their families.

The Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act we are considering today rights that wrong. It says simply: Not one cent in sanctions relief for Iran until these families are paid. That's not a partisan demand—that's the common sense.

I strongly support this legislation and ask for my colleagues to join me in standing up for our constituents impacted by Iranian terror and pass this bill in the bipartisan fashion it deserves.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, Iran is shortly set to receive over \$100 billion when President Obama uses his pen to lift our sanctions against the world's largest sponsor of terrorism. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Iran owes U.S. victims of terror it sponsored and supported \$43.5 billion.

One of these victims was Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Wagner of Columbia, North Carolina. He was serving in the American Embassy in Beirut in 1984 when a car bomb filled with explosives paid for by Iran detonated outside his office, killing him and 23 other people. In the case of Petty Officer Wagner and Tehran's other victims, our courts have found Iran guilty and ordered Iran to pay restitution, but Iran has not paid a penny.

Mr. Speaker, we should require Iran to pay every penny it owes to the victims of terrorism before sanctions are lifted, period.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I am and will remain opposed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran. It represents Iran's ability to build a nuclear weapon at a future date while reaping the financial benefits of imme-

diate relief from international sanctions. By removing sanctions, the agreement injects almost \$100 billion into the Iranian regime.

Iran is the single largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, funding—even with sanctions in place—Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Over \$43 billion in judgments have been awarded to Americans who have been the victims of Iranian terrorism. The agreement fails to clear those judgments.

The agreement, at best, delays Iran's ability to build nuclear weapons. At worst, it gives the regime more money to engage in more terrorism while providing no justice to Americans already harmed by the regime.

The Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act is timely. It is appropriate, and it should be supported by every member of this body who believe in the validity of U.S. courts and the Federal Sovereign Immunities Act.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

□ 1130

Mr. HILL. I thank Mr. MEEHAN for his leadership on this, and I thank the ranking member and the chairman for their opposition to the Iranian agreement, which I believe was ill-conceived and not enough time given for those negotiations to bear true fruit. In fact, that is the whole point of our debate today. The maximum amount of negotiating clout that the United States had over these sanctions was during these negotiations, before we released sanctions, before Iran gets access to their monthly oil flow and their \$100 billion.

We have \$44 billion and 85 judgments. The number of intelligence agents that have worked day and night to adjudicate these claims in court, the number of FBI agents involved, the Federal Government's obligation to generate awards for these victims, and yet this administration has never raised it in public in regard to the Iranian agreement.

Under the 1996 and 2008 Federal Sovereign Immunities Act, the President of the United States is obligated to seek resolution for these claims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HILL. He is obligated to adjudicate these claims and seek restitution for these victims under the Federal Sovereign Immunities Act. President Bush did his duty. When he had leverage over Libya, he got the claims paid for the victims of terror in Libya.

For every day we come to work in this House and we ask, "What can we do to help this country? How can we right a wrong?" today is that day.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Mr. MEEHAN's outstanding bill. Let's right the wrong. Let's adjudicate these claims. Let's get this money back for the victims of terrorism.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. A majority of this House thinks this deal is bad, a majority of the Senate thinks this deal is bad, and a majority of the American people think this deal is bad. We have not had any input, and the effort here today is to simply make a bad deal a little less bad.

The idea behind Mr. MEEHAN's bill is to provide restitution to American victims. It is not just any American victims. It is the victims of Iranian terrorism. \$150 billion is going to flow to Iran. It seems to be common sense that the first \$43 billion should instead be paid to the victims of Iranian terror.

Joseph Cicippio was one of those victims. He lived right outside my congressional district. He spent 5 years in brutal captivity before being released in 1991.

A vote for this bill today is a vote for the victims of Iranian terror.

I also want to say Congressman MEEHAN's congressional district is right next to mine. I want to thank him for his thoughtful, creative approach and his leadership in this country and in this House on this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 1982, I was with the United States Marine Corps off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon, waiting on orders to do evacuations of the U.S. Embassy and U.S. citizens and their families. Our assignment was done in August of 1982. We returned to the United States. I finished my 2 years with the battalion.

The battalion went back out. This time, they took positions in the airport in Beirut, Lebanon. On October 23, 1983, a suicide bomber drove a truck laden with explosives into the marine barracks; 241 marines were killed that day.

To my friends who died there—First Lieutenant Bill Zimmerman, Captain Bill Winter, Captain Joe Boccia, Master Sergeant Roy Edwards, Captain Mike Haskell—today is your day. Today is your day for justice. God bless you. God remember all of you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. COFFMAN. Today is the day for justice for these marines—and their families—who were lost on that day by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah bomber.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for bringing this

measure forward. I urge my colleagues not to forget those who have died and to remember this: when the Iranians say "death to Americans," they mean death to Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to support this legislation. I want to thank the gentleman for his sponsorship. I am proud to be a cosponsor.

Thirty-one years ago, one Michigan family's sleepless worry became a heartbreaking reality. Their son, brother, and father, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Kenneth Welch, was one of two U.S. servicemen to lose his life in the bombing in Beirut, Lebanon.

U.S. judgments later found that the act of terrorism was sponsored by the Iranian regime. For its crimes, that regime was ordered to pay damages to the family of Kenneth Welch. Not surprisingly, however, not one dime has been paid to the family. Yet today, in this country, we find ourselves dealing with an administration that wants to lift sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, I am beside myself to think that this is the Nation that we have become. America is built on bravery and freedom, and that is because of the unwavering strength and sacrifice of men and women in the military. I am forever proud of our soldiers, and I know my colleagues here today are, too. That is why we cannot let the Iran terror continue. We need to do whatever we can to address the victims like Ken Welch.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. I thank my good friend from California, the chairman, for yielding me the time. I also want to thank my good friend from Pennsylvania for bringing this piece of legislation.

Supporting victims of Iranian terrorism is a cause that every single Member of this body should be able to support, regardless of where they stand on the Iranian nuclear agreement. Under no circumstances should we be ignoring the victims of Iran's terrorism while simultaneously rewarding the greatest state sponsor of terror the world has seen.

Make no mistake, under this administration's agreement with Iran, Iran will be receiving approximately \$150 billion in sanctions relief—in new funding—almost immediately, while American victims of Iranian terrorism, whether it be bombings, kidnappings, murder, and the like, are basically going without resources.

Where are our priorities? Where are our priorities in this Chamber when the victims of Iranian terror are being ignored while Iran is being rewarded

with new funds that will inevitably be used to fund new terror—Hezbollah, Hamas, and those around the globe?

Iran's terror proxies have killed Americans and continue to do so to this day. This is a fact that cannot be ignored. I certainly hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this piece of legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank my colleague, Mr. MEEHAN from Pennsylvania, for introducing this very important piece of legislation.

The President's nuclear agreement with Iran provides them with billions in frozen assets and sanctions relief. One needs only to look at recent history to know exactly what Iran will do with this financial windfall.

While pursuing a nuclear bomb, Iran has been engaged in a decades-long campaign of terror that resulted in the deaths of many, many Americans. They continue to bankroll proxies like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthi rebels.

Atrocities like the Beirut marine barracks bombing, the murder of Bobby Stethem on TWA flight 847, Khobar Towers, and the kidnapping of CIA Agent William Buckley, are just a small taste of what Iranian state-sponsored terrorism has wrought.

This bill is about everyday Americans getting justice. Americans like the family of Beaver County native Major John Macrogrou, the highest ranking officer killed in the attack on the Beirut marine barracks.

Victims of Iranian terrorism have successfully brought suit in U.S. courts, yet billions in judgments remain unpaid. The Obama administration failed to secure restitution for the victims of Iran in its negotiations with this country, but this legislation can rectify this wrong.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, and they know this, no one has been more of an adversary of the Iranian regime than I have, but a number of us found the deal with Iran wanting. We voted "no," but it didn't prevail, and now we have to figure out the best way forward. The best way forward, I sincerely believe, is not to keep trotting out these bills.

No one is condoning anything that Iran has done, particularly with terrorism. It is a matter of how we combat it. The way I see it is that we have

two paths forward: we can choose to mirror what we did with the Affordable Care Act, voting and revoting on an issue that has been settled to some degree, or we can choose the path that suits our Nation's interests the best. This path includes doing everything we can to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms of this agreement.

The path also includes holding Iran accountable for its nefarious activities that destabilize the region, as well as pushing Tehran to release detained Americans and improve their human rights records in the interim, and, of course, taking care of the victims of terrorism and their families. This path requires the strengthening of bilateral partnerships and supporting our allies in the region, both of which help us in the long term.

This is the course I hope we take. We cannot let this opportunity go to waste. So that is why I won't be supporting H.R. 3457. After that, we need to work together on measures that strengthen implementation of the agreement as much as possible.

I hope we can do that in a bipartisan way, as we have for the past 3 years in the Foreign Affairs Committee. This path promises to bring us back to making foreign policy rather than using political bills that deflect from the important issues at hand.

I do not doubt the sincerity of anyone who spoke today. We all are sincere and we all feel the same way: Iran is a bad actor and must be held accountable. But this bill is not the correct mechanism to do so, so I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, consider the case of Anne Dammarell, a USAID worker who was posted in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983. At 1 p.m. on April 18, a suicide bomber in a delivery van drove 2,000 pounds of explosives into the front door of our U.S. Embassy and the blast demolished the front of the building and caused the upper floors to collapse on top of each other.

When that went off, she was eating lunch in the Embassy cafeteria until suddenly she awoke outside, covered in cement, with 19 bones broken. Sixty-three people were killed in that blast.

Now we have a moral obligation to ensure that these judgments for these victims, which represent Iran's legal debt to the victims of its official policy of terrorism, are paid. There have been 90 such attacks on Americans, and this legislation helps us fulfill that moral obligation we have to our constituents and to all Americans.

What I will share with you is that it is not going to work to release the \$100 billion first, because that \$100 billion goes into the hands of the IRGC. They are the ones who have taken over the companies in Iran as of 1979, and the

Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces and the Quds forces are the ones that carried out these attacks.

So the only leverage we are going to have in this negotiation is if we pass legislation that says, first, you have got \$20 billion in reserves. Start the process of paying the victims of that attack.

□ 1145

If we don't get them paid now, if we don't get the survivors and the family members of those who were killed paid now, it will never happen later.

But more importantly, at least we would do this. If we are going to give \$100 billion out of escrow into the hands of the IRGC, what do you think they are going to do with it?

They have already announced \$20 billion in sales to Russia for fighter planes. They have already announced the money, \$100 million, that they are going to give to Hezbollah.

Why not at least get our own civilians paid the judgments that they earned up front?

That is exactly what we did with the Lockerbie agreement. We were going to lift the sanctions or allow the return of the escrowed money to Libya. Right?

\$2.5 billion had to go to the victims and the family members killed in the Pan Am 103 bombing because of the judgment in U.S. courts.

This needs to be done under that procedure. That is why this legislation is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3457, the "Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act."

If enacted into law, H.R. 3457 would prevent the United States from implementing its sanctions relief commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reached between the P5+1 countries, the European Union (EU), and Iran by tying the Administration's ability to fulfill its commitments to non-nuclear issues that are outside the scope of the JCPOA.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has absolutely no chance of becoming law because President Obama has already announced he will veto it if presented to him for signature.

And that is as it should be since this ill-considered and unwise bill comes to floor without being vetted by any of the committees of jurisdiction.

The bill was not considered by the Judiciary Committee or its Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, of which I serve as Ranking Member and which has jurisdiction over issues federal lawsuits and compensation involving victims of terrorist acts.

Nor was the bill considered by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, even though that committee has held several hearings relating to violent extremism and terrorists acts.

In the month of September alone, the Committee on Foreign Affairs held six hearings that addressed some aspect of terrorism and vio-

lent extremism, not one of which involved H.R. 3457 or the subject matter raised in the legislation.

Given its adverse impact on the JCPOA, one would have thought that this legislation would have been fully vetted before being rushed to the floor, and this lack of careful scrutiny is sufficient in itself to vote against this bill.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: I am, and long have been, a strong supporter and advocate for adequate compensation for victims of terrorism sponsored or supported by foreign states.

For example, I have fought for compensation for the victims of Boko Haram, the Lord's Resistance Army, ISIL and Al-Shabaab from Nigeria, to Syria, to Kenya, to name just a few.

I have requested the Attorney General of the United States to take action to secure relief for thousands of victims of terror from different regions of the world.

But I have never advocated or supported actions to achieve this result that puts the national security at risk.

And that is why I cannot support H.R. 3457.

By obstructing implementation of the JCPOA, H.R. 3457 would greatly undermine our national security interests and likely would result in the collapse of the comprehensive diplomatic arrangement that peacefully and verifiably prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

This would in turn allow for the resumption of a significantly less constrained Iranian nuclear program, lead to the unraveling of the international sanctions regime against Iran, and deal a devastating blow to America's credibility as a leader of international diplomacy.

This would have the collateral effect of jeopardizing both the hard work of sustaining a unified coalition to combat Iran's destabilizing activities in the region and America's ability to lead the world on nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, the Administration supports efforts by U.S. terrorism victims to pursue compensation, consistent with our national security.

It bears pointing out that nothing in the JCPOA prohibits or impedes those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, we have called Iran untrustworthy because it has not always lived up to its commitments.

What would it say about the United States and its reputation of being an honest broker and trustworthy partner if we reneged on a carefully and painstakingly negotiated agreement before the ink barely had time to dry?

The single and overriding purpose of the JCPOA was to address the international community's concern over Iran's nuclear program and the need to verifiably prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

This goal is achieved by the JCPOA this objective is undermined by H.R. 3457.

After all our hearings and thoughtful deliberations on the JCPOA, it defies reason to collapse the historic and landmark diplomatic success that created the framework for a peaceful and verifiable methodology to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 3457 and urge all Members to join me in voting against this unwise measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 449, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 449, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 449, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 29, 2015, at page 15018.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the first and most important thing I can say today is that this conference report is good for the troops and it is good for the country, and nothing that I or anybody else is going to say in this next hour is going to be more important than that one basic proposition.

Now, we may hear a variety of excuses, ifs, ands and buts about this, that or the other thing, and I certainly don't agree with every provision in this conference report.

But in pulling this bill together, I had to put aside personal preferences and party considerations and other things because getting a bill passed and enacted that is good for the troops and good for the country is more important than anything else.

The second point I want to make is that this bill is the product of work from Members from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol. About half of the amendments that were adopted in committee and on the floor were from Democratic Members.

Democratic conferees played a substantial role in shaping this final conference report. And if you look at the substance of what is in the bill, you can see major contributions from both sides.

As a matter of fact, we hear a lot these days about regular order. Well, this bill went through regular order through the committee, with 211 amendments that were adopted on the floor, when 131 amendments were adopted through a regular conference, with a Senate-passed bill for the first time in years, and now it is back here for approval.

So after going through regular order and all that that entails, if there is still partisan opposition, it leads some to ask why. Why bother?

The third point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is just a reminder to Members that this is a dangerous world, and it is getting more dangerous by the minute. Just look at the headlines that are in today's papers.

Russia has conducted airstrikes in Syria not against ISIS, but against the moderate opposition forces, and Russia is telling us, the United States, when and where we can fly our airplanes in Syria.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians have decided they are going to back away from all the agreements that they have with Israel.

Meanwhile, the Taliban is on the move in Afghanistan, and U.S. American troops are sent in to help turn the tide. That doesn't even count the things that are happening in Ukraine, North Korea, Iran, China building islands out in the Pacific.

So the point of that is that this is no time for political games. This is the time to come together and pass a bill that helps provide for the country's security. I think that is exactly what this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the exact amount of money that the President requested for national defense. Now, we did not agree with every single program request.

We made some different judgments, like preserving the A-10, and it is being

used today in the Middle East. We thought we needed not to retire some of the ships that the President wanted to retire. So there were some adjustments. But at the end of the day, the total is exactly the amount the President asked for.

Now, some of those programs are under different labels. But, frankly, whether you call it base funding, OCO funding, or pumpnickel—it doesn't matter—it is money that goes to the troops.

If you are a U.S. soldier today on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan or if you are a soldier, sailor, airman, or marine who are supporting them from the United States or anywhere else, do you really care what the label on the money is? What you care about is that the money to help for provide your operation and maintenance is provided.

Of course, there are many other parts of this bill, Mr. Speaker: acquisition reform, which is a significant first step to make sure the taxpayers get more value for the money they spend; personnel reform, including a new retirement system.

Today 83 percent of the people who serve in the military walk away with no retirement at all. That changes under this bill.

So Members who are going to vote against this bill are going to tell 83 percent of the people who serve in the military: You are going to continue to walk away with nothing.

This bill requires the DOD and VA to have a joint formulary for sleep disorders, pain management, and mental health issues. We have been told those are some of the most important steps we can take.

It takes additional steps to combat sexual assault. It authorizes defensive weapons for Ukraine. It gives the President more tools to battle ISIS in Iraq, to provide weapons directly to the Kurds and Sunni forces.

We take steps to help defend this country against missiles.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

We take steps in this bill to help defend our country against missile attacks, which is particularly important now that Iran is going to have a bunch more money to put into their missiles. But what we also do is support the Israeli missile defense program with more money than was asked for by the President.

So, Mr. Speaker, my point is this bill is good for the troops and it is good for the country, and that ought to override everything else. It should be passed today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

First of all, let me agree on two points with the chairman. There is a

lot that is good in this bill. There is no question about that. And I want to thank the chairman for his leadership in making that happen.

I think the conference committee process was a model for how the conference committee is supposed to go. The minority was included. There was robust debate about a large number of issues. There were points when we thought we couldn't resolve them and we did. And I think there is a lot that is good in this bill.

I also think, without question, without debate, that this is a very, very dangerous time for our country. No doubt about it. The chairman laid out some of the challenges—there are many, many more—with what is going on in the Middle East, certainly with Russia, with how we deal with China. It is a very challenging time for national security, and we need to be as strong as we possibly can.

But the one area where I disagree—and I think the chairman also correctly states the fundamental question: Is this good for our country? Is it good for our troops?

I don't believe that it is. It is not good for our country, and it is not good for our troops. It does, in fact, matter where the money comes from for a couple of reasons.

First of all, by the budget gimmick that the Budget Committee in the House and the Senate put together, by using overseas contingency operations funds for things that are not overseas contingency operations funds—and this was all done as a dodge to get around doing what we need to do, which is to lift the budget caps. Because, you see, the OCO funding, for some reason is not counted as real money. It is money. It is \$38 billion.

But it enables the conservatives in the Republican Party to say that they have maintained the budget caps while still spending \$38 billion more dollars, which is incredibly hypocritical and a terrible way to budget.

But here are two reasons why that is bad for our country and bad for our troops. Number one, it does not lift the budget caps. These budget caps are in place, I believe, for another 9 or 8 years. Unless we lift those budget caps, we are harming our troops and we are harming our country.

This bill dodging that issue is precisely a national security issue because, until we lift those caps, the Department of Defense has no idea how much money they are going to have. All right?

OCO is one-time money. That is why it is not as good as lifting the budget caps and giving the ability to do the 5- and 10-year planning that they do, to do multi-year projects so that they can actually have a plan going forward. That hurts national security.

The inability to raise the budget caps in this bill and appropriations process

is a critical blow to our troops and to our national security.

The second reason this is important is because the OCO funding that is in this bill is not going to happen; all right?

Part of it is because the President is going to veto it. But the larger part of it is the Senate, as they have been unable to do for a number of years, has not passed any appropriations bills because they have rejected their own budget resolution.

So this \$38 billion in OCO funding that we are going to hear about, all this great money, is not going to happen because the appropriators have said it is not going to happen.

So to have a national defense authorizing bill with \$38 billion in imaginary money is not good for our troops and it is not good for our country. We need to lift the budget caps. We need to spend the money that we need to spend on national security.

I will also say that there are other pieces of national security, because the budget caps remain in place for the Department of Homeland Security. They remain in place for the Department of Justice. They remain in place for the Department of the Treasury, three agencies that play a critical role in national security for this country, in tracking the money of terrorists, in protecting the homeland, in making sure that we can try and convict terrorists when we catch them.

So it is not good for the country to maintain those budget caps, and that is what this bill does. It also relies on money that simply isn't going to be there by having this imaginary OCO funding.

The second way I think this bill is not good for the troops and not good for the country is something that the chairman alluded to, and that is there are restrictions on what the Pentagon can do by way of saving money.

The chairman mentioned the A-10, but there are a whole host of other things the Pentagon has proposed as a way to save money and spend it more efficiently, which, over the course of the last 2 or 3 years, we have blocked almost every attempt, not every attempt.

On personnel savings, we have made changes in the retirement system. We have made changes in the healthcare system. We saved no money for 10 years. For 10 years we saved no money in personnel costs while the Pentagon tells us that, to be able to properly train our troops to get them ready to go to battle, they need personnel cost savings.

If we don't give them that savings, last year, next year, this year, in the future, they will not have the money for readiness that they need to train and equip our troops. So that is not good for the country.

There are a number of other provision areas—well, BRAC would be a big

one. We have seen our Army and Marine Corps shrink substantially. We have seen our entire military shrink substantially. We haven't closed any bases. That is not good for the country, to not find savings there so that we can spend it on training our troops.

□ 1200

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

Over the course of the last 2 or 3 years, we have wound up authorizing and appropriating here in Congress substantially less money for readiness than the President, now, not this year, assuming you imagine that this OCO money is actually going to appear.

The bulk of the OCO money makes up for the readiness gap. But, again, that OCO money isn't going to be there. So I don't think this bill is good for our country or good for our troops.

I do agree with the chairman that that is the criteria on which it should be judged. But I urge a "no" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES), the chair of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the chairman for his hard work on this bill and bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as we listen today, one of the things that you really won't hear outside of this room is anybody challenging the substance of this bill. In fact, the opponents of this bill time and time again say what a really good bill it is.

You won't hear anyone challenging the partisanship of this bill because they will praise Chairman THORNBERRY for the bipartisan product he has brought to the floor.

You won't hear them saying it is not the right amount of money in here, that it is too much or too little, because it is almost exactly the dollar amount that the President requested.

And you won't hear them say that they took this money from another priority because they agree this is the amount of money that should be spent on national defense.

The sole reason this bill is being opposed today and the sole reason the President is going to veto it is because he wants to use national defense as a bartering chip to get everything he wants for the IRS, the EPA, and all of the other political agendas that he has.

Can you imagine, as Chairman THORNBERRY mentioned, how strong he looks around the globe when he says America is going to be strong, yet he vetoes the bill that authorizes the national defense of this country and gives him almost everything he wants.

The President and the opponents of this bill also need to realize that, if

they defeat this bill, they will also defeat the construction of three destroyers, two attack subs, three small surface combatants, an amphibious ship, and they will delay the Air Force bomber and tanker programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we stop using national defense as some kind of political poker chip that can be gambled away. It is time we pass this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

First of all, I very specifically challenge the substance of this bill. The OCO funding and the way it is funding is not good for national security and not good for our troops. The substance of the bill is precisely the issue and what it does for defense or does not do for defense. That is why using the OCO funding is the exact wrong way to go.

The other thing I will say is I am quite confident that we will get a bill. Because that is the interesting thing about this argument.

As I have pointed out, the appropriators in the Senate have already rejected the OCO funding. So this \$38 billion that we have in here is gone, done, poof, not going to happen. All right?

We are going to have to have a further debate about that in the Appropriations Committee to actually fund any of the stuff that we are talking about in this bill. I am confident that we will have that debate. I wish I could be more confident that it will come out in a positive way.

We need to lift the budget caps. We actually need to pass appropriations bills and not shut the government down. We will see what happens on December 11.

But when that happens, we can pass this bill. We are not going to not pass the NDAA. We just need to pass it the right way so it actually helps our country and actually funds the programs that we are talking about.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman from Washington really makes the case when he talks about appropriations, OCO will not happen that way.

This is not an appropriations bill. He is exactly right. There is more to do to figure all of that out. But that is not a reason to vote against this bill. This bill can't fix what he is complaining about. But it does do something. My point is why not do what it can.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to support the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 and also thank Chairman MAC THORNBERRY for his leadership and hard work in bringing

this important bill and conference report to the floor with bipartisan support.

I appreciate serving as the chairman of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee to oversee some of the most important aspects of the Department of Defense. The subcommittee's portion of the bill represents a comprehensive and bipartisan product. For this reason, it is sad that some of our Democratic colleagues may vote against this bill and, worse, that the President is threatening a veto.

Mr. Speaker, a veto or a vote against this bipartisan bill is a vote against security for American families and a vote against every member of the armed services and its military families.

It would be a vote against authorizations that would strengthen our cyber defense capabilities. It would be a vote against counterterrorism programs and resources for our special operations forces currently fighting overseas. It would be a vote against reform efforts and programs that would ensure America maintains superiority in all areas of science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to support this bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act and for the President to sign this important piece of legislation that will soon cross his desk.

A vote or veto against this measure is, simply put, a vote endangering American families and a vote against the American-dedicated servicemembers who mean so much to our country.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield myself 1 minute just to make two quick points.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, we will have a motion to recommit that takes the money out of OCO and puts it into the base budget. So this is a problem that our bill could fix.

We didn't have to buy into the OCO dodge and put money in there that we knew wasn't going to exist. Our motion to recommit will make that obvious. We will simply take it out of OCO. We will put it in the base budget so that you can do long-term planning with it and so that we actually get out from under the budget caps.

The second point that I will make is that the previous speaker said that voting against the Defense bill was all of those bad things. Well, people have voted against the Defense bill.

In 2009 and 2010, all but seven or eight Members of the Republican Party voted against the Defense bill. They voted against the defense bill because they didn't like Don't Ask, Don't Tell in one instance and because they didn't like adding LGBT people to hate crimes in the other instance.

So they all were perfectly willing to vote against the troops and do all of the awful things that the previous speaker said for social policy reasons that had nothing to do with defense.

So voting against the defense bill does not mean that you don't support the troops, and that is proof because most of the people who are now saying that it does have voted against the bill in the past.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is my 35th year in the Congress of the United States. I don't know that I voted against, prior to this year, either a Defense Appropriation bill or a Defense Authorization bill.

I will vote against this bill. I regret that I will vote against this bill because I regret that we have not gotten ourselves on a fiscally sound path in a bipartisan way that makes this country more secure not only on the national defense side, but secure on the domestic side as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this conference report, which I believe does a disservice to our men and women in uniform and undermines our national security.

I do not believe this is the chairman's fault. I want to make that very clear. The chairman has been dealt a hand, and he is trying to play the best hand he can. I understand that.

I agree fully, however, with the ranking member, with his concerns and opposition to this bill not because of most of its substance, but because of the adverse impact it has on so much else.

This continues the Republican sequester sneak-around strategy. What do I mean by that? My Republican colleagues historically—since I have been here—talk about spending money. What they don't like to do is pay for things. That is, of course, what we do with taxes.

It is not for free: national security, education, health care, law enforcement. You have to pay for it. And if you want to put a level of doing something, you need to pay for that or you pass it along to the next generation.

This bill continues the sequester sneak-around strategy of blowing through their own defense spending cap by misusing emergency overseas contingency operations funding for non-emergency base defense spending. That is why the Pentagon is opposed to this. That is why the Joint Chiefs believe this is bad policy fiscal policy for the military.

As our military planners and Secretary Carter have made clear, such an approach to funding undermines the Pentagon's long-term planning process, which is based on multi-year budgets and predictable funding streams.

Unfortunately, the fiscal policies of the leadership of this House over the last 6 years have been anything but predictable.

We avoided a shutdown of government yesterday, notwithstanding the

fact that 151 of my Republican colleagues voted not to fund government today. Only Democrats ensured the fact that we kept the government open. Ninety-one Republicans voted with us, but that was far less than half of their caucus.

This proposal undermines the chances for a bipartisan budget agreement to replace the sequester before the CR we passed yesterday expires on December 11. Mr. Speaker, 151 Republicans voted even against keeping government open for a short period of time, approximately 2 months.

This approach included in this bill also harms fundamental national security priorities by characterizing core defense items as part of contingency operations. That is not true. It is not fiscally helpful.

This includes the Iron Dome missile defense program and all other U.S.-Israel joint missile defense programs that help Israel protect civilians from Hamas and Hezbollah rockets.

Additionally, this report continues to prevent the administration from closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, which remains a recruiting tool for terrorists and undermines America's role as a beacon of constitutional rights and freedoms around the world. Meanwhile, we are spending \$2.4 million per detainee every year for those we hold in Guantanamo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HOYER. The ranking member of the Armed Services Committee opposes this bill strongly, as do members of that committee. The President has made it clear he is going to veto this bill not because he is against national security.

Ironically, Republicans have come to the number that the President proposed. There is a difference. The President paid for his number. He didn't pass it along to our children.

We must recognize this conference report for what it is: a vehicle for partisan messaging and an instrument for breaking with the Murray-Ryan principle of parity in defense and non-defense sequester relief. It is not a bill that makes America safer and a stronger force for justice around the world. Therefore, I will oppose it.

I thank my friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) once again for his work in trying to improve this bill in committee, on this floor and in conference, and for his untiring work in support of the men and women of our Nation's armed services.

I thank the chairman of the committee for the same thing. He was dealt a bad hand. I understand the hand he has to play. It is not good for our country.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would just make three brief points.

Number one, as this debate goes on, it is increasingly clear that the real debate is about budget and appropriations, not about this bill.

Secondly, I am one of those who voted to continue to fund the government because I think it is essential that we pay our troops and that there be no lapse in that. Unfortunately, we have today the White House playing politics with national security, and I think that is what makes an ultimate agreement harder.

□ 1215

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the President was short in funding Israeli missile defense. We fully fund Israeli missile defense in this bill, and it should be supported.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), the distinguished chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1735, what would be the 54th consecutive National Defense Authorization Act.

What we have here today is, unfortunately, partisan politics at its worst. You have people who are coming down to the House floor condemning a bill that they voted for, and now they are going to vote against it because the President has decided that he is going to veto it. He is not going to veto it because of what is in this bill. He is going to veto it because there is not enough spending on the bureaucracies of the IRS and the EPA. We know this because not only has the President said it, even Defense Secretary Ash Carter has said it in front of the Armed Services Committee.

Now, if this were such a bad bill, you would think that it would not have come out of our committee with full, almost unanimous, support by both sides of the aisle, bipartisan, unbelievable support for this bill in virtually its same structure that is coming to this floor. Only when President Obama stepped forward and said, I am going to veto it because you are not funding the IRS and the EPA, did it suddenly lose its bipartisan support.

This is not an issue about Republicans and Democrats. This is an issue about this administration. This administration, the author of sequestration, President Obama, set forth a plan that has been dismantling our military and needs to be set aside. Now, what we have in this bill is a bill that fully funds national defense, even as Minority Leader STENY HOYER said, that fully funds it at the level that is requested by the President.

Now, you can say there are gimmicks, you can say there are tricks, but you can also say what is important; and as you go to the experts to determine whether or not this bill

works, Chairman Dempsey of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stood in front of our committee, and when asked the question of does the structure of this bill fully fund national defense, he said, absolutely, that he could spend it and that it would be the number that is necessary. He also said it was the lower jagged edge of what is necessary for national security.

Mr. Speaker, if Chairman Dempsey says in front of our committee—and he certainly is the expert—that this works, it works. I urge everyone to support this bill. Set aside sequestration, set aside partisan politics, and support our men and women in uniform.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the distinguished chair of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for your leadership in getting us here today. I would like to ask the chairman a question if I might.

Does the legislation provide the President the exact amount of money he requested in his budget request?

Mr. THORNBERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. The gentleman is correct. The total is exactly the amount that the President asked for.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Thank you. That is what I thought.

Does the chairman recall who it was that testified that the amount requested for fiscal year 2016 for the national defense is "at the ragged edge of manageable risk?"

Mr. THORNBERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. As the gentleman from Ohio just said, it was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs that said that this is the lower ragged edge of what it takes to defend the country.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. And that individual is the President's senior military adviser, isn't he?

Mr. THORNBERRY. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. That is what I thought.

Thank you, Chairman.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have an easy choice here today: we can vote for a conference report that sends a bill to the President that provides him authorized funding at exactly the level he requested, or we can send the Nation below the "ragged edge of manageable risk" in its security.

It is a bill that provides over a \$320 million increase for our Israeli allies

on top of the \$155 million in the President's request for missile defense cooperation.

I would ask Members, especially those who supported the President's Iran deal, to recall it is exactly this funding that the administration said was vital to Israel's security because of that deal and its termination of multilateral sanctions on ballistic missile proliferation.

This is a bill that provides \$184 million to fund an American rocket to end our reliance on Russian-made rocket engines. This is a bill that provides the President's request of \$358 million for Cooperative Threat Reduction activities.

What does that mean? That is how we fight Ebola.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Members, there are some tough votes that we have to take around here from time to time. This is not one of them. Vladimir Putin is bombing U.S.-backed anti-Assad forces in Syria. If you want to make Putin happy, vote against this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, the reason that we are at the ragged edge of what defense needs is because of the budget caps. That is the issue. That is the substantive issue and why this is important.

Tied into that is a regrettable fact. The chairman says repeatedly, look, this is the authorizing bill. Don't talk to me about the budget. Don't talk to me about appropriations. The defense budget is over half of the discretionary budget. So, unfortunately, the defense bill is about the budget and about the appropriations process.

As long as we have those budget caps locked in place, we will be at the ragged edge of what we can do to protect our national security. We shouldn't be there. We should lift the budget caps. This NDAA locks in those budget caps and uses the OCO dodge, which, as I have pointed out, the Senate isn't agreeing to, so the \$38 billion isn't going to be there.

Even worse, what Secretary Carter has also said is that the OCO funding simply perpetuates the 5 years of budget cuts and uncertainty, of CRs, of government shutdowns, of threatened government shutdowns, and of not being able to plan. Secretary Carter has been very clear. He opposes this bill because the OCO funding is not an adequate way to fund defense because it is 1-year money. It is a budget gimmick. It doesn't give them the ability to plan and do what they need to protect our country and take care of our troops.

So opposing this bill because of the OCO funding is enormously important to our troops and is a substantive part of this. We cannot simply dodge the budget issues.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to respond briefly to the comment about the com-

mittee vote. We in committee said we didn't like the OCO funding and that we needed that to be fixed. But we are coming out of committee. We are going to give it a chance to work its way through the process. No changes were made, so we opposed it on the floor.

We didn't just wake up yesterday and oppose this. Democrats voted against this bill when it came through the House in the first place. The critically important issue that we absolutely made a point of in committee was not fixed, so that is why we are opposing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to vote in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY16. I am proud that this conference report takes significant steps towards rebuilding our military and readiness.

We prioritize training for our troops and maintenance and modernization of our equipment and technology. This NDAA is critical to carry out the military missions of this Nation effectively and successfully in an increasingly dangerous world.

Recently, former Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger proclaimed: "The United States has not faced a more diverse and complex array of crises since the end of the Second World War." This statement holds true today as we combat ISIS in the Middle East, as Russia again tests our commitment to global leadership, and as China continues to increase its defense spending to record levels.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a constitutional duty of providing for the common defense of our Nation. If Congress and the President fail to act on the NDAA, we forgo our constitutional duty, and we weaken the security of our Nation and ability to confront crises that occur around the globe.

It is also important to point out that this is not the time to play political games with our national security or to hold hostage funding and authorization for the military for political gain. Our Nation and our men and women in the military deserve better, and they deserve the proper support that Congress is under obligation to provide.

As we have heard through testimony from our military leaders before the committee, our military is approaching the ragged edge of being able to execute our Nation's defense strategy. By not passing this NDAA, or by allowing sequestration to continue to devastate our Nation's military readiness, we place ourselves in a position where we will be unable to defend against the threats we face today and in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and vote in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY16.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with a lot of what the gentleman just said about how critical national security is, yet the Republican majority insists on maintaining those budget caps that are devastating to our national security. They will not lift the caps that are causing precisely the problems that were just described, and 151 of them voted yesterday to defund the entire military by shutting down the government. So if we really believe in all of those national security priorities, let's start funding them. Lift the budget caps and actually pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the ranking member because I think that we all work very, very hard on this committee, and I appreciate the work that our chairman has done as well. I have to say I am speaking largely as someone who has never not supported an NDAA. I actually did support it in committee, and I support it on the floor. But I think we are in a box, and sometimes when you get in a box, you have got to do something about it. You can't just stay in there and sit. It means making some hard decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened in the committee when Secretary Carter was there. I have to say I think he was a bit badgered in that discussion, but at the same time, he is a big boy and he can handle that. Basically what he said is of course we support all those issues, of course we want a better budget for the men and women who serve our country because it is in the best interests of the United States of America, but we also have to be concerned about the future, not just about tomorrow. We have got to be able to do this for the men and women and for our country as we move forward.

That is what this doesn't do. We have got to give this a chance. There has got to be a better chance. That is why I feel that I have been there. I have compromised; and there are a lot of members on that committee, honestly, who are not willing to compromise. We have tried to find that balance.

Mr. Speaker, I am really proud of the work that we have done on the Military Personnel Subcommittee. I am proud because we made some gains. We have sort of shuffled some issues a little bit to be able to say to our leaders that we understand their concerns, we understand what readiness means in this country, and we have got to deal with that. Maybe we can't deal with all these issues that we have tried to make sure we funded to the very, very highest limit that we could possibly do.

We know there are some changes perhaps that are coming, and so we do it in an incremental way, in a slow way, and something that we think is in the best interests of the men and women and the country all at the same time. We have got to do that. We have multiple global crises going on in this country. So we can't just make a decision for today; it has got to be down the line.

What is it that we need to do?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. What is important? What was Secretary Carter talking about? Predictability. Not just for our folks at the Pentagon to be able to make sure the men and women of this country are provided with everything that they need, but we also need to be sure that those who work with our country—we have a very strong contractual relationship with the public-private sector in this country, and we need to provide prediction for them as well. That is why I stand today. I believe it is in the best interests to go back and work this out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I work in a community of large numbers of military families. And guess what, the military is no different from the rest of our country. It is made safer and stronger by Homeland Security, by law enforcement, by environmental protection, and by strong education programs. They care about all those things, so they want us to stand up for their children and for their future.

Mr. Speaker, we can do this together. Let's take that chance. It is worth it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the lady that we need to make hard choices, but we don't need to do this in this bill. We can't solve the problems that have been reiterated in this bill. This is a budget issue.

I serve on the Budget Committee as well, and I believe we need to undo sequestration for our national defense. We need to come up with a comprehensive plan to address the cost drivers of our country that are causing us to go into debt.

□ 1230

We need to get our priorities back as a country and make sure we provide for

the common defense. We need to do that in the budget in a comprehensive way.

But we don't need to hold our military hostage today by not approving the expenditure of funds for the vital things that they need. That is what my colleagues are doing. I appreciate their intent. I look forward to working with them—many of us do—to solve this overall problem, but today our military need to know that we are standing behind them and that we are going to authorize them with the things that they need.

This bill is full of the things that our country and our men and women in uniform need. As the chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, we are doing an investigation dealing with the transfer of detainees out of GTMO and what happened with Sergeant Bergdahl and the Taliban Five. So I was especially proud of the part in here that makes sure that the detainees are not removed from Guantanamo Bay and brought into our local communities. In addition, we set up an additional protocol so that the Secretary of Defense has to certify that any detainees that go to a foreign country, that that country is able to detain them, keep them safe, and make sure that they don't go back into the fight and continue their terrorist activities.

This bill takes care of our troops. It addresses the threats facing us. We have so many. Whether it is what is going on in Ukraine and with Russia, whether it is dealing with ISIL, or whether it is a cyber threat that we have, every day there are threats coming around us, and we address them in this bill. That is why we need to pass it. It also provides for the platforms that we need.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, to stand with our troops, to provide them with what they need, and to support this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, I appreciate Chairman THORNBERRY's efforts to bring this conference report to the floor. His dedication to our Armed Forces, their families, and our veterans is commendable.

Supporting the men and women who volunteer to pick up a weapon, stand a post, and guard the freedoms and liberties that make our Nation great is a primary function of the Federal Government. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution, "to raise and support Ar-

mies," "to provide and maintain a Navy," today with adoption of this conference report, we achieve that goal.

Included in the report are personnel provisions that will allow us to recruit and retain the best and brightest, maintain an agile military force, and ensure our brave men and women in uniform are given the benefits they have earned and deserve.

The President has threatened to veto this conference report, even though the report authorizes the amount he requested in his own budget, because he is not happy with the manner in which it is provided. He is using our military men and women as political pawns to get increases in nondefense spending. I understand that he has urged some of my colleagues to vote "no" today, and I want to make sure my colleagues know some of the things they would be voting against:

A new retirement plan that provides options and portable retirement benefits for individuals who serve less than 20 years, roughly 83 percent of the force;

A pay raise for our military men and women, along with many special pays and bonuses, that are critical to maintaining the all-volunteer force;

A joint uniform drug formulary between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs so that transitioning servicemembers get to stay on the drugs that are working for them as they leave active service; and

Enhanced protections for sexual assault victims to include expanding access to Special Victims' Counsel, protecting victims from retaliation, and improving the military rules of evidence.

If the President follows through with his veto threat, servicemembers and their families will be deprived of these significant improvements to their compensation and quality of life.

I urge my colleagues to stand with our military men and women and their families and support this report.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

There was a comment earlier about the military being held hostage by these other needs, and I think it is really important to understand that, over the course of the last 5 years, what the military has really been held hostage to is the budget caps, one government shutdown, multiple CRs, and multiple threatened government shutdowns. That is what is holding the military hostage.

If you talk to them about how they have tried to figure out what they can

spend money on and what they can't spend money on throughout that madness—because we can't pass along a long-term budget, because we can't lift the budget caps, because we can't pass appropriations—that is what is holding them hostage.

A 1- or 2-month delay in passing the NDAA—which, by the way, we have passed in December for the last 3 or 4 years—isn't going to hold them hostage at all. What is holding them hostage is that ridiculous budget process that I just mentioned.

And why do we have that ridiculous budget process? Because the Republican majority insists on maintaining those budget caps. It is those budget caps that are holding our military hostage. Unless we lift them, we will not be able to adequately fund defense.

I heard a number of times over here that the only reason we oppose this is because we want more spending on other programs. That is not even close to true, and it is obvious that no one has been listening to the arguments that I have been making.

The reason we propose this is because it perpetuates our military being held hostage to budget caps, budget gimmicks, CRs, and threatened government shutdowns. This bill has OCO funding in it. It does not have base budget funding. It does not provide the same amount of money for the President that the President's budget provides because it is not the same money, and the type of money does matter. If you have actual budget authority, if you have actual appropriations, you can spend them over multiple years because you know that they are going to be there.

It is absurd the way we have budgeted for the last 5 years, and what we are doing in opposing this bill is standing up to that absurdity for many reasons. I will grant you. Number one is to protect our national security and the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces who have had to live with that government shutdown, those CRs, those threatened government shutdowns, and, most importantly, those budget caps that the majority refuses to lift. Unless we lift those, the military is going to be in this situation in perpetuity, and that is unacceptable for our national security.

It is all about national security. It is all about defense for why we are opposing this bill. We can't go on like this and have an adequate national security. We have to lift the budget caps.

I will say one other thing. We have to raise taxes somewhere. In the last 14 years, we have cut taxes by somewhere in the neighborhood of \$7 trillion. Now, granted, there are unquestionably places in the budget we can cut, and we cut.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield myself an additional 2 minutes.

We have cut Medicare. I know we have cut Medicare because the Republican Party ran all kinds of ads bashing us for cutting Medicare back in 2010. We found about \$700 billion in savings that has extended the life of the program and saved money, so we have saved money.

But the flat refusal to raise any revenue is what has got our military with a hand around its throat, because, believe it or not, you have to actually raise the money if you are going to spend it.

So as you stand up here complaining about all the things that we are not funding in national security and then insist on maintaining the budget caps and insist on not raising a penny in taxes, that is the grossest hypocrisy I can imagine. If you are unhappy with how much money is being spent on the military, then have the guts to raise the caps and raise the taxes to actually pay for it, or just stop talking about it and accept it at that level.

We are opposing this bill because the budget process that we have been under is what is throttling our military. Until we break that grip, until we get an actual appropriations process, until we get the budget caps lifted, and until, I believe, we actually raise some revenues to pay for it, we are not going to be doing adequate service to the men and women of our military.

I also want to say that I oppose this bill because it also continues to keep Guantanamo Bay open at the cost of nearly \$3 million per inmate. In addition to being an international problem, it is unbelievably expensive and not necessary. We should shut Guantanamo. This bill locks in place for another year that it will stay open and does not give the President any option or any flexibility in that regard.

So, again, don't tell me or anyone over here that we are voting "no" for reasons that have nothing to do with national security. How can you possibly look at the last 5 years of budgeting and the impact that it has had on the Department of Defense and say that getting rid of the budget caps isn't absolutely critical to national security? I believe that it is, and that is why we oppose this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a couple of points. Number one is I share a lot of the concerns about the effect of sequestration on the military, but as this conversation continues, it is clearer and clearer that the real problem here is budgets, and now we hear taxes.

This bill cannot solve either of those problems. We cannot rewrite the Tax Code or raise taxes. We can't repeal ObamaCare. There are lots of things we can't do. But we can do some things, and we should do that.

Secondly, a dollar of OCO is a dollar spent just as much as a dollar of base

is spent, and that is why I say I don't really think if you are on the ground in Afghanistan you care about what the label put on the money is. And, by the way, the increase in the OCO account is operations and maintenance money, which is only good for 1 year anyway.

Next point. In fiscal year 2013, Israel missile defense was funded in OCO, and yet we had Members on that side of the aisle, including some who are complaining about that, vote for it. That is what we do sometimes.

Finally, this President signed into law the exact provisions on restricting GTMO transfers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, this President signed into law the exact restrictions on Guantanamo transfers that we have in this bill. Now, is it all of a sudden such a big deal that he has decided that he is going to veto the bill over it? I think that is a hard case to make.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the distinguished chair of the House Small Business Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of an annual National Defense Authorization Act to lay out our Nation's defense and national security priorities is one of our most important duties as Members of Congress.

This year is no different, especially given the very serious conflicts happening around the globe—in Eastern Europe, in the Middle East, in the South China Sea—which have serious implications for our own security and for our allies.

This year's NDAA makes a number of positive changes to DOD small business contracting policies to help ensure that small businesses throughout the country can continue to perform the critical support functions that help make America's military still the best in the world.

Mr. Speaker, having a small business industrial base means taxpayers benefit from increased competition, innovation, and job creation. Since 2013, we have lost over 25 percent of the small firms registered to do business with the government—25 percent. That is over 100,000 small businesses. The reforms in this year's NDAA, the bill that we are considering now, takes steps to reverse that trend.

The White House has threatened to veto this bill. That is a shame because this bipartisan, bicameral bill defends small businesses and ensures that the spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and well in our industrial base. This isn't about political gamesmanship—at least it shouldn't be. This is about two of the

most bipartisan issues in the political arena: the men and women in uniform and the small businesses that employ half of our American workforce.

I sincerely hope that the President reconsiders and enacts this bipartisan, bicameral bill.

I want to thank a number of members of my committee who have contributed to this year's bill, including Mr. HARDY of Nevada, Mr. KNIGHT of California, Mr. BOST of Illinois, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mrs. RADEWAGEN of American Samoa, and Mr. HANNA of New York. I would also like to thank a number of other Members and thank Mr. THORNBERRY.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, our military must always be available and able to ready, aim, fire at a moment's notice. The threats we face around the world today demand it; and as soldier and a veteran, I can tell you that "ready" in the military needs to be spoken as a command, not proposed as a question.

There is one crucial element: our military has to be ready to engage the threats. This bill ensures our military readiness, and it ensures that there is a plan for 2016.

From ISIS to Russia to North Korea, the threats we face are too serious to wait any longer. But in the same week that the President was surprised by the Russians bombing U.S.-backed forces in Syria, he is threatening to veto this National Defense bill.

Veto our national security, really?

I encourage the President to use his phone, and to paraphrase his own words, to call the 1980s and ask for their foreign policy back because we need it. That policy demands that our military must be backed by the full confidence of this government now. This can't wait.

Pass this pay raise for our troops. Pass this to give our troops new retirement benefits. Pass this to keep our critical weapons systems at an operational level.

Mr. Speaker, we have been working on this legislation since the beginning of this year. It is a good bill that adheres to the law, and it is the certainty our troops need.

Pass this bill. Our troops need it. They don't let you down. Don't let them down.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), the distinguished vice chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report to H.R. 1735, the fiscal year 2016 NDAA. I thank Chairman THORNBERRY for his leadership, guidance, and tireless efforts on this imperative piece of legislation.

Just this past week, the major headline coming out of Afghanistan was the Taliban's seizure of the prominent town of Kunduz. This serves as yet another reminder to us all that this region of the world remains unstable and brings about challenges to our national security. The fiscal year 2016 NDAA provides our Nation's Armed Forces with the resources they need to defend our national security.

Since September 11, the Army's 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, which I am honored to represent, has been the most actively forward deployed division to Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet sadly, just this past month, Specialist Kyle Gilbert, a soldier from the 10th Mountain Division, died in Afghanistan while serving our Nation.

In New York's North Country, our community and our military families understand what fighting for our Nation's liberties and freedoms truly means.

So when I express my support for the NDAA, the tools it provides and how it enables our Armed Forces to defend our Nation from organizations who create volatility and terrorism around the world, I am speaking for my constituents, those servicemen and -women who are overseas right now in highly kinetic combat zones fighting to protect you and me, our families, and our Nation.

Colleagues, the fiscal year 2016 NDAA allows for our Armed Forces to plan and operate according to what we as a nation have asked of them. We must support the NDAA to maintain our readiness and provide for our military.

As leaders here today, we know we cannot continue to task our troops with doing more with less as defense sequestration cuts remain. The conference report to FY 2016 NDAA provides relief from these harmful defense sequestration cuts, but more must be done.

Let me remind my colleagues across the aisle sequestration was proposed by this administration, signed into law by this President, and passed by a previous Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. STEFANIK. When the NDAA comes before the President's desk, I hope he realizes a veto threat could threaten the safety of our Nation's servicemembers and our country's defense.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting and voting for the NDAA.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will go ahead and start with that last comment because it is a popular trope that is trotted out all the time about how sequestration was the President's idea and, therefore, it is not our fault, which is a fascinating argument because I was actually here when that happened, and I don't think it is clear exactly whose idea sequestration was.

What is clear is that the reason that we did the Budget Control Act and sequestration was because the Republican majority in the House was refusing to raise the debt ceiling, refusing to allow us to borrow money at a time when we had to borrow it. How do we think that would have impacted national security and our troops?

I voted against the Budget Control Act, but I have often said I don't hold anything against those who voted for it because they basically had a gun to their head. The Budget Control Act was an awful piece of legislation, but not raising the debt ceiling, not paying our debts, you know, stopping the ability of the United States of America to borrow money, was clearly worse.

So this partisan argument that, oh, you know, sequestration was the President's idea so therefore it is not our fault is about as absurd an argument as I have ever heard. Number one, because like I said, the only reason that that discussion was on the table was because it was blackmail for raising the debt ceiling, which had to be raised.

Number two, it has been a good 5 years since then. The Republicans now control both the House and the Senate, and they had an opportunity to pass a budget resolution this year. They passed a budget resolution that held those caps and sequestration firmly in place, and that is not good for our troops and it is not good for our national security.

So let's move on to that appropriations process; get those budget caps lifted for the sake of a whole lot of different issues. That brings me back to the National Defense Authorization Act and the fact that, by locking in the OCO, by accepting those budget caps, by using OCO funds, we are once again putting the Pentagon in a situation where they don't know how much money they are going to have and they have no predictability whatsoever.

It is the OCO in this bill that is the reason that I oppose it and the reason that most Democrats oppose it because that OCO is harmful to national security. We need a real budget. We need real budget authority and real appropriations. Voting for a bill that puts in place the OCO instead of that simply perpetuates the nightmare of the last 5 years of uncertainty. Like I said, we are going to have a motion to recommit here in a moment that easily fixes this problem.

I agree with 95 percent of the rest of the bill. I don't agree with all of it. The chairman said, you know, we negotiated some things; they were up, they were down. By and large, it is a good bill. But the 5 percent that is bad is so bad that it does justify a "no" vote because it perpetuates this bad budget situation and is a very easy fix.

Take the OCO out of it and put it in the base budget. It is very simple. That is what we are going to propose in the motion to recommit. You will see Democrats vote for that because we support funding this. What we don't support is maintaining the budget caps through an obvious budget gimmick.

I had a fascinating conversation with a member of the Rules Committee yesterday on the other side of the aisle who said he was very, very proud of the Budget Control Act, said it was the best vote he had taken in Congress. Interesting that it was supposedly all the President's fault. But he really supported the Budget Control Act. He felt those caps were absolutely necessary. And I said: Well, then you must oppose the NDAA because it busts those caps by \$38 billion. He said a lot of things at that point, but he never answered my question.

So this dodge of saying that we are going to create sort of money that really isn't money in order to, for one brief period of time, fund isolated programs within the Pentagon does not help national security. The only thing that is going to help national security is by getting rid of the OCO dodge and budgeting honestly. So that is why we oppose this bill.

Yes, I believe that budget caps should be raised for the other bills as well, in part, because I think a lot of those Departments are important to national security, as I mentioned: the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury.

More than anything, we oppose this bill because of how bad it is for the Pentagon. That is the reason the Secretary of Defense opposed it. That is the reason all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff oppose it. They want an actual budget. They want actual, dependable money, the way things used to be before 2010 when we would actually pass appropriations bills and they could plan more than a month or two at a time. If we pass this bill, we simply perpetuate that process.

We will pass an NDAA. We will resolve one way or the other our appropriations difference, and we will get it done, but passing this bill now simply perpetuates a bad situation that is bad for our troops and bad for national security. For that reason, I oppose it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start with one of the points I made at the beginning,

and that is to thank the staff, especially on both sides of the aisle, who spent a lot of hours, disrupted a lot of plans, put in incredible effort back and forth to come up with this conference report. Members on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol contributed to the product that we are about to vote on.

Mr. Speaker, for 53 straight years Congresses of both parties have passed and Presidents of both parties have signed into law Defense Authorization bills.

There were a handful of times—and it is exactly four—when a President vetoed a Defense Authorization bill, and every single time it was because of something that was in the bill. So it came back to Congress, there were adjustments made, it went back to the White House, and he signed it into law.

Never before has a Defense Authorization bill been held hostage, not because of something that is in it, but trying to force Congress to take action on some other matter. Now, we have talked a lot today about appropriations, about budget, even about taxes. None of those things can happen with the Defense Authorization bill.

The reason it has never happened before is because it would be irresponsible to hold defense hostage to another domestic agenda, a political agenda, even a broader budget agenda. And it unnecessarily threatens the national security of the United States. This is a first, and this first is happening at a particularly dangerous time.

There is nothing in this bill that could solve the problem that we have heard so much about. It is an authorization bill. It is not appropriations. It is not budget. It is not a tax bill. It is a defense policy bill.

We have heard from time to time the military opposes it. No. They say, "I would rather do it differently," and I would, too. But I have specifically asked general after general, Would you rather have the money or not, and they always say they would rather have the money. Even though it is not an ideal way to do budgets, it is better to have the money than not.

By the way, there is a provision in here so that if we can, as I hope we do, reach a budget agreement in a different appropriations matter, the authorizations are adjusted accordingly.

The bottom line is, if Members vote against this bill, they are voting against everything in it. You may say you are for it, but you are voting against it.

So what I think our troops deserve and what the world needs to hear, especially at this point in time, is that Washington can work. We may not solve all the problems today, but we can do something that is good and that we are willing to stand up and take action to help defend ourselves. That is what this bill is about.

I hope Members will support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I will vote against H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 because it is a budget gimmick, shamelessly hiding behind the guise of national security. Make no mistake—America would be less safe were this bill to move forward in its present form.

The President has already said—as he has been saying for months—that he will veto this bill if it misuses Overseas Contingency Operation funds to evade the congressionally mandated budget caps. Sadly, but not surprisingly, Congressional Republicans did exactly that and worse. They had an opportunity to avoid leaving our troops in the lurch by pursuing a balanced and fair budget deal that would unwind the reckless sequester for the national security activities at non-defense agencies like State, Homeland Security, and the VA.

In addition, this Authorization contains a budget-busting time bomb, the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund, which is such a naked attempt to rob sister accounts to pay for pet projects that, for the third year in a row, Congressional appropriators have refused to fund.

The Sea-Based Deterrence Fund was created in the FY15 Defense Authorization because the Navy could not afford to simultaneously build back up to a 300-plus surface fleet and procure 12 Ohio-class replacement nuclear submarines. The Sea-Based Deterrence Fund didn't solve their problem of how SSBN(X) would be paid for. It simply shifted that burden onto the larger Pentagon budget. According to a recent Congressional Research Service report, the new ballistic missile submarine program is expected to cost \$139 billion. Sadly, the account grew worse in conference by expanding its use to also include attack submarines and aircraft carriers. This account is emblematic of a larger problem, which is that this Defense Authorization marches our country towards a complete rebuild of our nuclear arsenal and triad, something that a Congressionally-appointed National Defense Panel estimated will cost up to \$1 trillion.

While I cannot support this bill, I want to acknowledge the leadership taken by the House and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairs and Ranking Members for tackling some tough issues in this Authorization that previous efforts have ignored. This bill includes bipartisan acquisition reform aimed at containing defense spending, difficult but necessary military retirement and benefit changes, and makes strides towards rightsizing the Pentagon workforce.

Critically, it includes provisions that I championed to reform and extend the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SW) program for those brave Afghan men and women who risked their lives to aid our troops, but are now in danger as a result of their courageous service. We cannot allow more of our Afghan allies, and their families, to fall victim to the merciless Taliban. Should this Defense Authorization succumb to a protracted political fight, these provisions dealing with the Afghan SIV program should be broken off and moved through Congress as standalone legislation. I am prepared to introduce and push such a bill, as I've done in the past.

Though some hard decisions were made in this Defense Authorization, that leadership is overshadowed by continued budget gimmickry on Overseas Contingency Funds, the Sea Based Deterrence Fund, and harmful policy riders such as the continued effort to prevent the administration from rightfully closing Guantanamo Bay.

Both the House and Senate Ranking Members of the Armed Services Committees could not support this bill. Nor can I. The president will veto it. That's because our men and women in uniform should not be taken hostage in a budgetary circus. Just yesterday, 151 Republicans voted to shutdown the government, including our military. America cannot be great if it's subject to one manufactured crisis after another. We can get this right. All it would take is a little leadership and some common sense. Sadly, both are in short supply in this process.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I take issue with the irresponsible manner in which this authorization approaches funding of our National Defense. This bill uses the Overseas Contingency Operations fund to avoid congressionally mandated budget caps for fiscal year 2016—an approach that fails to provide the appropriate budget and funding structure that enables the Department of Defense to operate in the most effective and efficient manner over both the short-term and long-term planning horizons. This is Congress' most important role. We need to do this right.

In addition, this Conference Report prevents the responsible transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay and continues the existence of a detention facility which serves as propaganda for extremists and undermines our moral standing in the world. Many of the detainees who remain were cleared for transfer nearly six years ago by the Guantanamo Review Task Force—an interagency effort that included the Departments of Defense, Justice, State, and Homeland Security, as well as the Director of National Intelligence. The transfer restrictions interfere with the administration's executive role in responsibly closing this facility, wasting valuable resources, and making us less safe. This facility needs to be closed.

H.R. 1735 fails to heed the expert advice and request of numerous senior leaders in the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, and Department of the Army, who all repeatedly testified regarding the problem of sustaining excess facilities. I understand that many of my colleagues are concerned about potentially losing a military base in their district; however, we should not force the Defense Department to hold onto excess infrastructure and assets that are of diminishing military value. The best way to address this problem is to authorize a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and ensure our military bases are operating in the smartest, most efficient and effective manner. This bill prevents that from happening.

I recognize that passing the NDAA is described as a tradition, but tradition is an inadequate reason to support legislation that un-

dermines the ability of our Defense leaders to properly manage the largest portion of our federal budget—the portion responsible for National Security—and effectively undermines the health and safety of the women and men who carry out that mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 449, the previous question is ordered.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Smith of Washington moves to recommit the conference report on the bill H.R. 1735 to the committee of conference with instructions to the managers on the part of the House to—

(1) agree to section 1501 of the Senate amendment in lieu of section 1501, as passed by the House;

(2) agree to section 1505 of the Senate amendment in lieu of section 1504, as passed by the House;

(3) disagree to section 4303 in the conference substitute recommended by the committee of conference; and

(4) insist that the conference substitute recommended by the committee of conference be modified—

(A) by transferring the funding table in section 4303 to appear after the last line of section 4301 so as to be included in the funding table in section 4301;

(B) in section 1301(b), by striking “section 1504” and inserting “section 301”;

(C) in section 1301(b), by striking “section 4303” and inserting “section 4301”; and

(D) in section 1522(a), by striking paragraph (4).

Mr. SMITH of Washington (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is not debatable.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to

recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the conference report, if ordered; and passage of H.R. 3457.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 186, nays 241, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 531]

YEAS—186

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Napolitano
Aguilar	Fudge	Nolan
Ashford	Gabbard	Norcross
Bass	Gallego	O'Rourke
Beatty	Garamendi	Pallone
Becerra	Graham	Pascarell
Bera	Grayson	Payne
Beyer	Green, Al	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Peters
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Peterson
Bonamici	Hahn	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Pocan
F.	Heck (WA)	Polis
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Price (NC)
Brown (FL)	Himes	Quigley
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Rangel
Bustos	Honda	Rice (NY)
Butterfield	Hoyer	Richmond
Capps	Huffman	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Israel	Ruiz
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Carney	Jeffries	Rush
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda
Castor (FL)	Jones	T.
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Chu, Judy	Keating	Sarbanes
Cicilline	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schiff
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schrader
Clay	Kind	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Scott, David
Clyburn	Kuster	Serrano
Cohen	Langevin	Sewell (AL)
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sinema
Cooper	Lawrence	Sires
Costa	Lee	Slaughter
Courtney	Levin	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Lewis	Speier
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Cummings	Lipinski	Takai
Davis (CA)	Loeb sack	Takano
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	Lowey	Titus
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Tonko
DeLauro	(NM)	Torres
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Tsongas
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Van Hollen
Deutch	Lynch	Vargas
Dingell	Maloney,	Veasey
Doggett	Carolyn	Vela
Doyle, Michael	Maloney, Sean	Velázquez
F.	Matsui	Visclosky
Duckworth	McCollum	Walz
Duncan (TN)	McDermott	Wasserman
Edwards	McGovern	Schultz
Ellison	McNerney	Waters, Maxine
Engel	Meeks	Watson Coleman
Eshoo	Meng	Welch
Esty	Moore	Wilson (FL)
Farr	Moulton	Yarmuth
Fattah	Murphy (FL)	
Foster	Nadler	

NAYS—241

Abraham	Bost	Chaffetz
Aderholt	Boustany	Clawson (FL)
Allen	Brady (TX)	Coffman
Amash	Brat	Cole
Amodei	Bridenstine	Collins (CA)
Babin	Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)
Barletta	Brooks (IN)	Comstock
Barr	Buchanan	Conaway
Barton	Buck	Cook
Benishek	Bucshon	Costello (PA)
Bilirakis	Burgess	Cramer
Bishop (MI)	Byrne	Crawford
Bishop (UT)	Calvert	Crenshaw
Black	Carter (GA)	Curbelo (FL)
Blackburn	Carter (TX)	Davis, Rodney
Blum	Chabot	Denham

Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)

King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby

Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duff
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 270, nays 156, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 532]

YEAS—270

Abraham
Aderholt
Aguiar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishak
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Brookman
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duff
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley

Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski

Walters, Mimi
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—156

Adams
Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego

NOT VOTING—8

Culberson
Gutiérrez
Hudson

Kelly (IL)
Neal
Perlmutter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1333

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, while I voted “no” on rollcall vote 532, I intended to vote “yes” on H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

NOT VOTING—7

Culberson
Gutiérrez
Hudson

Kelly (IL)
Neal
Perlmutter

□ 1326

Mr. JOLLY changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. ENGEL, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and RUSH changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN
TERRORISM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 251, nays 173, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 533]

YEAS—251

Abraham	Foxx	Marino
Aderholt	Franks (AZ)	Massie
Allen	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy
Amash	Garrett	McCaul
Amodi	Gibbs	McClintock
Ashford	Gibson	McHenry
Babin	Gohmert	McKinley
Barletta	Goodlatte	McMorris
Barr	Gosar	Rodgers
Barton	Gowdy	McSally
Benishek	Graham	Meadows
Bilirakis	Granger	Meehan
Bishop (MI)	Graves (GA)	Messer
Bishop (UT)	Graves (LA)	Mica
Black	Graves (MO)	Miller (FL)
Blackburn	Green, Gene	Miller (MI)
Blum	Griffith	Moolenaar
Bost	Grothman	Mooney (WV)
Boustany	Guinta	Mullin
Boyle, Brendan	Guthrie	Mulvaney
F.	Hanna	Murphy (PA)
Brady (TX)	Hardy	Neugebauer
Brat	Harper	Newhouse
Bridenstine	Harris	Noem
Brooks (AL)	Hartzler	Nugent
Brooks (IN)	Heck (NV)	Nunes
Buchanan	Hensarling	Olson
Buck	Herrera Beutler	Palazzo
Bucshon	Hice, Jody B.	Palmer
Burgess	Hill	Paulsen
Byrne	Holding	Pearce
Calvert	Huelskamp	Perry
Carter (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Peterson
Carter (TX)	Hultgren	Pittenger
Chabot	Hunter	Pitts
Chaffetz	Hurd (TX)	Poe (TX)
Clawson (FL)	Hurt (VA)	Poliquin
Coffman	Issa	Pompeo
Cole	Jenkins (KS)	Posey
Collins (GA)	Jenkins (WV)	Price, Tom
Comstock	Johnson (OH)	Ratcliffe
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Reed
Cook	Jolly	Renacci
Costello (PA)	Jones	Ribble
Cramer	Jordan	Rice (SC)
Crawford	Joyce	Rigell
Crenshaw	Katko	Roby
Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Roe (TN)
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Denham	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Dent	King (NY)	Rohrabacher
DeSantis	Kinzinger (IL)	Rokita
DesJarlais	Kline	Rooney (FL)
Diaz-Balart	Knight	Ros-Lehtinen
Dold	Labrador	Roskam
Donovan	LaHood	Ross
Duffy	LaMalfa	Rothfus
Duncan (SC)	Lamborn	Rouzer
Duncan (TN)	Lance	Royce
Ellmers (NC)	Latta	Ryan (WI)
Emmer (MN)	LoBiondo	Salmon
Farenthold	Long	Sanford
Fattah	Loudermilk	Scalise
Fincher	Love	Schweikert
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Sensenbrenner
Fleming	Lummis	Sessions
Flores	MacArthur	Shimkus
Forbes	Maloney, Sean	Shuster
Fortenberry	Marchant	Simpson

Sinema	Upton	Whitfield
Smith (MO)	Valadao	Williams
Smith (NE)	Vargas	Wilson (SC)
Smith (NJ)	Vela	Wittman
Smith (TX)	Wagner	Womack
Stefanik	Walberg	Woodall
Stewart	Walden	Yoder
Stivers	Walker	Yoho
Stutzman	Walorski	Young (AK)
Thompson (PA)	Walters, Mimi	Young (IA)
Thornberry	Weber (TX)	Young (IN)
Tiberi	Webster (FL)	Zeldin
Tipton	Wenstrup	Zinke
Trott	Westerman	
Turner	Westmoreland	

NAYS—173

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Napolitano
Aguilar	Fudge	Nolan
Bass	Gabbard	Norcross
Beatty	Gallego	O'Rourke
Becerra	Garamendi	Pallone
Bera	Grayson	Pascarell
Beyer	Green, Al	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Hahn	Peters
Bonamici	Hastings	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Higgins	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Himes	Price (NC)
Bustos	Hinojosa	Quigley
Butterfield	Honda	Rangel
Capps	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Huffman	Richmond
Cárdenas	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sanchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Kennedy	T.
Cicilline	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Schakowsky
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Cleaver	Kuster	Schrader
Clyburn	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Serrano
Conyers	Lawrence	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lee	Sherman
Costa	Levin	Sires
Courtney	Lewis	Slaughter
Crowley	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Cuellar	Lipinski	Speier
Cummings	Loeb sack	Swalwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Loftgren	Takai
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Takano
DeFazio	Lowe	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	(NM)	Titus
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Tonko
DelBene	(NM)	Torres
DeSaulnier	Lynch	Tsongas
Deutch	Maloney,	Van Hollen
Dingell	Carolyn	Veasey
Doggett	Matsui	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael	McCollum	Visclosky
F.	McDermott	Walz
Duckworth	McGovern	Wasserman
Edwards	McNerney	Schultz
Ellison	Meeks	Waters, Maxine
Engel	Meng	Watson Coleman
Eshoo	Moore	Welch
Esty	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Farr	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Foster	Nadler	

NOT VOTING—10

Collins (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Reichert
Culberson	Kelly (IL)	Russell
Gutiérrez	Neal	
Hudson	Perlmutter	

□ 1341

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for

votes on Thursday, October 1, 2015 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 532, a vote on agreeing to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 because we cannot continue to put military spending on the credit card and violate our budget rules while critical domestic investments are slashed.

I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 533, a vote on final passage of H.R. 3457, Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act because I support peace and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to prevent a nuclear Iran.

Finally, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 529 and 530, and "yea" on rollcall vote 531.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE
SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2835. An act to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers.

PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS TO
THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL
H.R. 1735

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 81

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1735, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall in section 1301(b)—

(1) strike "section 1504" and insert "section 301"; and

(2) strike "section 4303" and insert "section 4301".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 702

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 702.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1345

AMERICAN SAMOA MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE POSTPONEMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. MINIMUM WAGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) **MINIMUM WAGE.**—Paragraph (2) of section 8103(b) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

“(A) the applicable wage rate in effect for each industry and classification as of September 29, 2015; and

“(B) increased by \$0.40 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning on September 30, 2015, and on September 30 of every third year thereafter, until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.”.

(b) **GAO REPORTS.**—Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “September 1, 2011” and inserting “April 1, 2017”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Government Accountability Office shall submit a subsequent report not later than April 1, 2020.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “the study under subsection (a)” and inserting “any report under subsection (a)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of ‘An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa’, the Government Accountability Office shall transmit to Congress a report on alternative ways of increasing the minimum wage in American Samoa to keep pace with the cost of living in American Samoa and to eventually equal the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect as of September 29, 2015.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the second vote in the series of votes that we just took on rollcall vote No. 532. If I had been present, I would have voted “nay.”

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 702

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill H.R. 702.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

STEM EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1020) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 5, strike lines 3 through 4 and insert the following:

(3) in subsections (e) and (f), by striking “subsection (g)” each place it appears, and inserting “subsection (h)”;

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, no votes are expected in the House.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, sponsored by Representative FRENCH HILL of Arkansas. This bipartisan bill will provide relief to everyone who is doing their best to comply with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's mortgage loan disclosure rule.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, sponsored by Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska, which is necessary to expedite energy production on tribal lands.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 702, sponsored by Representative JOE BARTON of Texas. Oil exports are key to creating American jobs and furthering America's energy renaissance.

Given the increased security threats facing the United States and its allies, the presence of more American oil in the global marketplace will offer more secure supply options. This will provide America with greater foreign policy influence as well as strengthening our economic and national security.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Speaker, the last 2 weeks have been filled with a lot of things going on in this House. But I know the majority leader would be profoundly disappointed if I didn't ask him about one thing that doesn't seem to be going on, but which I think is critically important.

I know the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, joins with me in not wanting to see American jobs lost overseas or American jobs not created here in America for American workers because we are able to make products and sell them overseas.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the distinguished majority leader, knowing full well, as he does, that Jeff Immelt, the CEO of GE, was here; and he spoke to both Democrats and Republicans. I know he talked about 500 U.S. jobs going overseas because we have not yet reauthorized the Export-Import Bank.

The Senate voted 64-29 to reopen the Bank. They voted in July. Almost two-thirds of the United States Senate.

As the majority leader is tired of hearing, I know, but I still believe there is a significant majority of Members in this House that would vote for it.

Now, I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I was extraordinarily pleased to read—I didn't hear, but read—the majority leader's comments when he was talking about the failure of the Senate to proceed on a vote of disapproval or approval on the agreement with Iran on nuclear arms control.

He said he was deeply distressed that "so consequential that they demand revisions to the Senate's procedures." And he went on to say those revisions would be "to let the people"—in this case, the Senate—"have a voice" That was quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* just a few days ago.

I know the gentleman doesn't want us to lose jobs. I know he is quoted as saying that the people's voice ought to be heard. I know that he shares with me that this is the people's House.

And I ask the gentleman: It is not on the schedule next week, but does the gentleman expect the Export-Import Bank to be voted on in this House before the end of this month?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman.

In honor of the late Yogi Berra, "It's like déjà vu all over again." There is no action scheduled in the House on Ex-Im.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, that is the answer I expected. That is the answer I have been getting. And, very frankly, that is the answer this House has been getting.

I know some of my Republican friends are very frustrated by that answer, and I know all of our side is frustrated by that answer.

I will say respectfully to my friend I would certainly hope we could bring that bill to the floor.

Win or lose, whether you win or I win or Export-Import Bank is reauthorized or not, you are correct: the voice of the people should be heard on such a critical issue for jobs in this country.

Also, I know that we had marked up in committees reconciliation bills. Those reconciliation bills repeal provisions of the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood.

The gentleman I think knows full well that the United States Senate voted on the Planned Parenthood issue and only got 47 votes for it. So in the one instance, we have an issue that got three less than one-half of the United States Senate being proposed to come to this floor, and an issue that got 64 votes in the United States Senate, as the gentleman so correctly observed, is not yet scheduled.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not these reconciliation provisions are going to be brought to this floor, knowing full well that they won't pass

the Senate and, even if they did, the President wouldn't sign them and we would sustain that veto?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Knowing the rules of reconciliation, I do believe it will pass the Senate.

The three committees that received reconciliation instructions from the Budget Committee have marked up their portions, as the gentleman has said.

I do expect the Budget Committee to meet in the near future to complete their work, and we will notify Members as soon as that is scheduled for the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we may have a difference of opinion, but perhaps we will see who is right on whether it passes the United States Senate or not. I understand reconciliation only needs a majority, but we will see.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also ask the majority leader: One of the issues that I know the majority leader has been working on—and I know that all of us on this floor feel it to be very, very important to pass before October 30, when the highway bill authorization expires, and I know the gentleman from California is a strong supporter of it. Clearly we need to invest in infrastructure, again, to expand the economy.

Can the gentleman tell me what prospects we have on passing or at least considering the highway bill?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman knows, the hardest thing to do in this town is to find pay-fors. But Chairman RYAN continues to have bipartisan discussions on ways to pay for the long-term highway bill.

I have had follow-up meetings with him today, and they are progressing over in the Senate. I have met with Chairman SHUSTER even today as well, and I expect an announcement very shortly on committee movement.

We will advise Members as soon as action is taken to schedule it for the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader.

I hope that optimism is realized and that we do have the opportunity to consider a highway bill. I would urge the majority leader to urge those who are working on a resolution that the pay-fors, which are difficult, as he observes, are pay-fors which can be supported in a bipartisan fashion.

I think that is important not only to pass the Senate, but to be signed by the President. And we all, I think, share the view that this is a very, very important bill for us to get done.

With that, unless the majority leader may want to reconsider and tell me the Export-Import Bank is coming to the floor, which apparently he doesn't, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW; AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015, TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1400

CONGRATULATING JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, HOCKEYVILLE, USA

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for hosting the first-ever Kraft Hockeyville USA game this week and the Pittsburgh Penguins for their 4-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the game.

The Kraft competition to choose America's Hockeyville was conducted in partnership with the National Hockey League Players' Association and the National Hockey League. Towns across the country submitted stories showing their passion for hockey, and more than 20 million votes were cast. But as the contest results revealed, few places in America love hockey like Johnstown does, and Johnstown rightly deserves the title, "Hockeyville, USA."

Johnstown was the home of the fictional hockey team the Charleston Chiefs in the 1977 movie, "Slap Shot." Scenes from the movie were filmed at Cambria County War Memorial Arena. We also can't forget the Johnstown Jets, who played here from 1950 to 1977 and won five Eastern Hockey League championships from 1951 to 1962.

As Penguins coach Mike Johnston said after the Penguins' victory: "It's a great arena. The excitement in the building, the excitement in town, I just think it's special."

RECOGNIZING THE GROWING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the growing humanitarian crisis in Syria. As a result of the Syrian civil war and continuing military operations against ISIL, over 4 million people

have been forced to seek refuge outside of Syria.

The Syrian crisis has quickly become an international crisis, and it requires the attention and the assistance of every nation. Many may see this crisis as a distant problem, but the reality is this is a global world now and everyone is interconnected.

As each nation continues to resettle refugees, we must ensure that they are provided the best resources, and this requires international cooperation. It is not just about providing financial assistance, but understanding that these refugees are people. They are people who have been forced out of their country, might have left their families, and are struggling to survive on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. is committed to accepting more refugees, I urge our country to have compassion and to commit to providing the necessary resources to address this ongoing crisis.

THE GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from Orange County, California, and her deep concern for what is going on in the Middle East.

Today I rise to speak out about the genocide that is taking place in the Middle East, that is being committed against Christians across the Middle East. They are being victimized and targeted for genocide. Violent radical Islamists have targeted Middle Eastern Christians for extinction, killing them, forcing them from their homes, and burning their churches.

Hundreds of thousands of Christians have been forced to flee. The United States needs to do what we can to save these Christian victims, as we have saved other refugees throughout our history.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who believe in religious freedom and tolerance need to stand up and state clearly that we won't sit quietly as a genocide takes place on our watch. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring a resolution that I have here in my hand, that resolution declaring Middle Eastern Christians as targets of genocide and giving them priority for immigration and refugee status.

We have been silent already for too long. It is time for this body to make sure that our words are heard and our deeds are taken. This is a good place to start, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this resolution which I will now submit to the United States House of Representatives.

BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I and many of my colleagues had to hold our noses as we voted for a short-term continuing resolution. The CR, thankfully, did not cut funding to Planned Parenthood, which provided 2.7 million Americans—women, men, and youth—with medical services last year. But this CR is only good until December 11, and it leaves out funding for a vital program like the Ex-Im Bank. In less than 10 weeks, we will be right back here fighting against another government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, do we really want to fail our military veterans, our seniors, our families, and our voters? I say no. Let's do the right thing. Let's do our job. Let's come up with a long-term budget that serves the American people, American businesses, and the American economy.

RECOGNIZING LOREN THORSON OF GREEN VALLEY, ARIZONA

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, we are called the people's House for a reason. We are sent to Washington to be the direct voices of our constituents back home. Last week, it was my honor to take action on an issue that was originally brought to my attention by one of my constituents from Green Valley, Arizona.

Loren Thorson served in World War II as a Navy commander. When he saw a report 5 years ago describing a little-known tax increase in the Affordable Care Act that is hurting families and is scheduled to hit seniors in 2017, he looked into it and knew something had to be done. He has sent letters, made phone calls, written editorials, and done much more to raise the alarm about this little-known issue.

After hearing about this issue from him, my office has worked with Members from both parties in the House and in the Senate to move the issue forward and fix it. Those efforts resulted in my introduction last week of bipartisan legislation, with my lead, to repeal this tax hike and put Loren's ideas into action.

Mr. Speaker, this is how our government is supposed to work. I am grateful for Loren's tireless efforts to protect seniors and middle class families, and I will continue to work to advance his and my constituents' ideas in Congress.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT- IMPORT BANK

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, for too long, this Congress has governed from one crisis to the next. Yesterday, when we were just hours away from another self-inflicted Washington wound, two news pieces were published that I would like to share: number one, the CEO of Honeywell, a company with a significant presence in my district, published an article about the economic damage of Congress' failure to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank; then Bloomberg published a story with the headline, "Boeing Risks Losing \$1.1 Billion Jet Order on Ex-Im Shutdown."

Washington gridlock is putting the jobs of thousands of Americans at risk. This includes hundreds of the people I serve in Rockford and the Quad Cities.

But today is a new day; it is a new month. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to turn over a new leaf of bipartisanship. Let's work together, reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, and protect these good-paying manufacturing jobs before it is too late.

THE MEDICAL EVALUATION PARITY FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, I cast an affirmative vote for the National Defense Authorization Act for 2016. However, I do have great concern over an important measure which was all but removed from the legislation we voted on today.

Earlier this year, I authored the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers, or MEPS, Act. The MEPS Act would improve military suicide prevention by instituting a mental health assessment for all incoming military recruits, which can be used as a baseline for evaluations throughout their military careers. The conferenced version of the NDAA merely calls for the Department of Defense to continue to study such a screening.

Mr. Speaker, this issue has been studied thoroughly over the past several years. I strongly urge the Pentagon to act quickly to take steps in better assessing the mental health of our servicemen and -women with a commonsense baseline evaluation.

A recent Army study found that nearly one in five Army soldiers enter the service with a psychiatric disorder, and nearly half of all soldiers who tried suicide first attempted it before enlisting.

I call on the Pentagon to stop studying to death the death of our soldiers. Mr. Speaker, we need to act now.

THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for this institution that I have had the privilege of serving. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I am very grateful for the extent of our jurisdiction that embraces the Constitution, and I believe justice is important.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in great consternation, concern, and condemnation of the statement made by the Republican leadership that the Benghazi Committee is not for factfinding, it is not for recognizing the tragic loss of four Americans, but it is really to insult and degrade a public servant who happens to be a Presidential candidate. How tragic that we would engage in such tomfoolery. In spite of the Constitution and the Madison Papers, it talks about doing justice.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I was engaged in impeachment proceedings, the investigation of Waco, investigation of antitrust issues, held a trial for a judge who acted improperly, a Federal judge. That is the factfinding role of this Nation.

While we are fooling around with a committee that is there to do nothing but deal with political aggrandizing and we have not passed a Zadroga Act that helps our 9/11 first responders, I would only ask that we stop and end this committee because it is not doing justice as the United States calls us to do.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution gives us our guideposts. Why don't we follow it?

HONORING ARTHUR WILLIAM
"BILL" BAILEY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur William "Bill" Bailey, Jr., of Waco, Texas, who passed away on August 18, 2015.

Bill Bailey was a Korean war veteran, a renowned Waco businessman, and a distinguished alumnus and former regent at Baylor University. He touched many lives in the Waco and Baylor communities, and he will be greatly missed.

Bill was born in Waco on April 24, 1929. He graduated from Waco High School in 1946 and enrolled in Baylor University. On December 15, 1950, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Roberta Hatch. They were married for almost 64 years prior to Roberta's passing in 2014. Roberta and Bill had 3 sons and were blessed with 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Bill graduated from Baylor University in 1951 with a B.A. degree and a law degree. While at Baylor, he was a member of the debate team and the Baylor Chamber of Commerce.

Bill served our Nation in the United States Air Force as a first lieutenant in the JAG division during the Korean war. He was ultimately promoted to captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

After concluding his service to our Nation, Bill returned to Waco to enter into the insurance business. In 1956, he established his own independent insurance agency, Bill Bailey Insurance Agency, which is now known as Bailey Insurance and Risk Management, Inc. He became a noted State and national leader in the insurance industry.

Mr. Speaker, because of his expertise in risk management, he was called upon to testify before the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives committees as well as the Federal Reserve Board, all on behalf of the insurance industry.

In 1969, Bill teamed up with a group of his fellow Texas insurance agents to establish the Certified Insurance Counselors Program, which focused on teaching advanced insurance topics to ensure high-quality standards of ethics and professionalism in the insurance industry. This program would become the foundation of the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research. Today, these certification programs are conducted in all 50 States with more than 150,000 participants annually.

Bill held many prestigious positions on various boards, including as the chairman of the Board of Governors for the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research; the president of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association of America; the liaison to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association of America; and as director, executive committee member, and past vice chairman of the Texas National Bank of Waco.

Bill's work in the insurance industry was honored by the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association of America when they dedicated their conference room in the Washington, D.C., office as the A. William Bailey, Jr., Conference Room.

He was also a recipient of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association of America Woodworth Memorial Award for Meritorious Service to the Insurance Profession, as well as the Drex Foreman Award of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas. Both of these are the highest distinctions for these respective organizations.

□ 1415

Bill was active in the Waco and Baylor University communities and

served as the following: Trustee, Vice Chairman of the Board, and Regent of Baylor University; Officer, Director, and Executive Committee Member of the Waco Industrial Foundation; Member and Chairman of the Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Board of Development; Founder and Past President of the Waco Business League; and President of the following organizations: the Greater Waco United way; the Baylor-Waco and Baylor Bear Foundations; the Waco and Northwest Waco Rotary Clubs; the Waco YMCA; the Waco Camp Fire Girls; and the Baylor Stadium Corporation.

In 1988, Bill was honored by the Baylor Alumni Association with the W.R. White Meritorious Service Award. In 1997, they honored him as a Distinguished Alumnus. Additionally, in 2008, the Waco Public Schools honored him as a Distinguished Alumnus.

Bill was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Waco, where he served as Trustee, Deacon, and Chairman of the Board of Deacons; Chairman of the Finance Committee; Founding Chairman of the First Baptist Church of Waco Foundation; President of the McCall Sunday School Class; and Co-Superintendent of the College Sunday School Department.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Bailey will not only be remembered for his long list of accomplishments, but, most importantly, he will be forever remembered as a loving husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, and a loyal friend to hundreds of central Texans.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Bailey family. We also lift up the family and friends of Bill Bailey in our prayers.

As I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women who protect us abroad, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING MATTIE LEE PHILLIPS

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mattie Lee Phillips from Bryan, Texas, who passed away on August 25, 2015, her 103rd birthday.

Mrs. Phillips was born in Washington County, Texas, on August 25, 1912. Growing up, Mrs. Phillips attended school in the Waco and McGregor areas and later attended Bryan Public School for Colored. She married Willie Sterling in 1931. They were blessed with five children. Later she married Eddie Phillips. They were blessed with four children.

Mrs. Phillips was a member of the New Liberty Baptist Church in Boonville, Texas, at an early age and remained a member until 1941, when she became a member of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Bryan.

She was an avid church worker, serving on the Pleasant Grove Church Usher Board for 35 years and as a Sunday school teacher and a mission

teacher. She served on various programs and committees at the church and worked tirelessly raising funds to help improve their church facilities.

Mrs. Phillips taught and counseled numerous youth during her life. She was a staunch believer in higher education, and all nine of her children attended college.

Mrs. Phillips was an entrepreneur who took sewing and tailoring classes through the mail and worked for many years as a self-employed seamstress. She also bought, repaired, and resold real estate for additional income. In addition, she successfully owned and operated Phillips Cafe & Barbecue.

Mrs. Phillips led a full life and was well respected in our community. She will be forever remembered for her devotion to her church and her community and as a loving wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and a great-great-grandmother, a youth mentor to hundreds, and a friend to many as well.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Phillips and Sterling families. We also lift up the family and friends of Mattie Lee Phillips in our prayers.

As I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women who protect us abroad, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING TOMMY BOSQUEZ

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Thomas "Tommy" Bosquez, of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on September 12, 2015.

Tommy Bosquez selflessly served the Brazos Valley community in a variety of ways, and he will be missed greatly.

Tommy was born on August 9, 1962, in Bryan, Texas. He graduated from Bryan High School in 1980. When he was 19, he began his public service career as a City of Bryan police officer. He was the city's youngest policeman and served on the force for 8 years.

He held various assignments, including patrol, special advanced traffic investigations, the field training officer program, crime scene analysis, and honor guard detail.

Tommy was also a member of the Texas State Guard. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant, serving as company commander in the 223rd Military Police Battalion, to assist State and local authorities in times of emergencies.

Tommy married his high school sweetheart, Stella Grimaldo. They were married for 29 years and were blessed with two daughters.

Tommy earned his associate's degree from Blinn College and later earned an undergraduate degree in political science in 1989 and a master's degree in public administration in 1995, each from Texas A&M University.

During his time at Texas A&M and the years that followed, he worked for

the university. He started out in the College of Medicine, where he held various positions, including Director of Special Programs, Special Assistant to the Dean of Medicine, admissions committee member, principal investigator, and a lecturer in the Department of Humanities in Medicine.

He would go on to work for the university system in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, where he assumed a leadership role with the Health Science Center, working as Special Assistant to the President.

Prior to his death, Tommy worked as the Chief Contracts Officer and Director for Contract Administrator in the Office of Finance and Administration at the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Tommy was an active volunteer and an engaged parent in the Bryan Independent School District for over 25 years. He began his service as an elected school board trustee in 2012 and served as vice president of that board.

He also served extensively on various local and statewide charitable and educational organization boards such as the Texas Association for Access and Equity, the Texas Association of Advisers for the Health Professions, the Texas Area Health Education Centers—East, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, the Bryan ISD Education Foundation, the Blinn College Advisory Board, the United Way, the Boy's and Girl's Club, the Kiwanis, Gear Up, Habitat for Humanity, and Junior Achievement.

Tommy received many acknowledgments throughout his career, including the 2007 Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education Outstanding Meritorious Public Service Award, and the Kiwanis International Walter Zeller Fellowship Award.

Tommy worked tirelessly to better our community. He will forever be remembered for his devotion to public service and as a loving husband, father, and friend to countless Brazos Valley citizens.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Bosquez family. We also lift up the family and friends of Tommy Bosquez in our prayers.

As I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country and for our military men and women, who protect us abroad, and for our first responders, who protect us here at home.

HONORING DR. JAMES COOPER

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James F. Cooper of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on August 18, 2015.

Dr. James Cooper was a veteran of World War II and the Korean war. He was a physician, an aviation medical examiner, and an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He touched many lives in the Brazos Valley, and he will be greatly missed.

Dr. Cooper was born on August 30, 1927, in Farmersville, Louisiana. He was the son of a Baptist preacher and grew up in many towns throughout the South.

At the age of 17, Dr. Cooper enlisted in the Navy to serve aboard the USS *Dorchester* in the South Pacific. Upon returning to the U.S., he used his GI bill benefits to attend medical school in Tennessee.

He then served again in the Korean war as Deputy Medical Officer for the Destroyer Fleet Atlantic, stationed aboard its flagship, the USS *Yosemite*. Dr. Cooper retired from the Navy with a final rank of Lieutenant Commander, Medical Corps.

In 1955, Dr. Cooper moved to Bryan, Texas, and entered a medical practice with his brother, O.C. Dr. Cooper was a well-loved family doctor and a surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital.

In addition to his medical practice, the good doctor had a strong affinity for aviation and specialized in aviation medicine. He was involved with the space programs at NASA and present at many of the *Apollo* launches. His knowledge and experience with NASA missions earned him the opportunity to do voice commentary for six *Apollo* launches for television broadcasts in Australia.

Dr. Cooper also served as a FAA Senior Aviation Medical Examiner. As a fellow pilot, I was fortunate and grateful to have Dr. Cooper as my medical examiner for many years. We developed a strong friendship and shared many stories about our mutual love for aviation.

Dr. Cooper was an extraordinary doctor not only specializing in aviation, but also serving as Chief Medical Officer for the Texas World Speedway in College Station.

In addition to his medical duties, Dr. Cooper was an active member of VFW Post No. 4692 in Bryan. He was very passionate about the VFW and even served as Commander of the post.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Cooper left a strong legacy for his family and for the Brazos Valley. He will be forever remembered as a great doctor, a dedicated veteran, a loving husband, a great father, a grandfather, and a loyal friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Cooper family. We also lift up the family and friends of Dr. James Cooper in our prayers.

As I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women, who protect us abroad, and for our first responders, who protect us here at home.

HONORING ALAN WALDIE

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Duane Waldie, of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on August 22, 2015.

Alan Waldie was a veteran, an electrical engineer, an Aggie, a pillar of

the Brazos Valley community, and a great friend. He led a full life and will be missed greatly in our community.

Alan was born on April 23, 1928, in Iowa Park, Texas. He graduated from Lamar High School in Houston in 1945 and later attended Texas A&M University.

While at Texas A&M, Alan was a member of the nationally famous "Fightin' Texas Aggie Band" and served as drum major during his senior year. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1951 with a bachelor's of science in electrical engineering.

From 1946 to 1948, Alan served in the U.S. Navy. From 1951 to 1953, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

After his discharge from the Army, Alan began a successful business career, which took him to Houston; Tripoli, Libya; and Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

In 1995, he moved back to College Station to begin his retirement. There he served as a volunteer for the George Bush Presidential Library and was the member of the Bryan Rotary Club and the Central Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Waldie will be forever remembered as a dedicated veteran, a loving husband, a great father, and a loyal friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to his wife, Nancy, and to all of the Waldie family. We also lift up the family and friends of Alan Waldie in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women, who protect us abroad, and for our first responders, who protect us here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 30, 2015, at 8:45 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies of designation of funding for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism as provided in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

DESIGNATION OF FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-62)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 114(c) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, also titled the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015 (the "Act"), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding (including the rescission of funds) and contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

□ 1430

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 30, 2015, at 8:45 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies that he has designated an emergency requirement \$700 million in emergency funding for urgent wildland fire suppression activities as provided in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

DESIGNATION OF FUNDING AS AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-63)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United

States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 135 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, also titled the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015 (the "Act"), I hereby designate as an emergency requirement all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, for the following account: "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management."

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on September 30, 2015:

H.R. 719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 2, 2015, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2986. A letter from the Under Secretary for Management, Department of State, transmitting a letter reporting two violations of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of State, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2987. A letter from the Program Specialist (Paperwork Reduction Act), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Final Revisions Applicable to

Banking Organizations Subject to the Advanced Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0025] (RIN: 1557-AD88) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2988. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's recommendations to Congress concerning energy performance requirements for fiscal years 2016 through 2025, in accordance with the National Energy Conservation Policy Act [45 U.S.C. 8253(a)(3)]; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2015-0388; FRL-9933-30] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Primary Aluminum Reduction Plants [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0797; FRL-9934-16-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ92) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2991. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Approval of Regulations Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0631; A-1-FRL-9932-12-Region 1] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2992. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0008; FRL-9934-11-Region 5] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2993. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0442; FRL-9934-84-Region 4] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2994. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Butte County Air Quality Management District, Feather River Air Quality Management District, and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District; Correcting Amendment [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0246; FRL-9931-19-Region 9] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2995. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Revision of Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Feather River Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0542; FRL-9933-52-Region 9] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2996. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0510; FRL-9934-04-Region 9] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2997. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Mammoth Lakes; Redesignation; PM10 Maintenance Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0279; FRL-9935-05-Region 9] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2998. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Metal Furniture Coatings and Miscellaneous Metal Parts Coatings [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0404; FRL-9934-92-Region 3] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2999. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; 2011 Base Year Inventories for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for New Castle and Sussex Counties [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0455; FRL-9934-81-Region 3] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3000. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0029; FRL-9934-82-Region 3] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3001. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Revisions to South Dakota Administrative Code [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0916; FRL-9934-83-Region 8] received Sep-

tember 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3002. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Limited Maintenance Plan for the St. Louis Nonclassifiable Maintenance Area for the 8-Hour Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0513; FRL-9934-98-Region 7] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3003. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Approval of the Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard and Approval of Transportation Conformity Insignificance Findings for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0470; FRL-9934-91-Region 3] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3004. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Enhancing Support for the Cuban People [Docket No.: 150825774-5774-01] (RIN: 0694-AG67) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3005. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on United States Participation in the United Nations in 2014, pursuant to Sec. 4(a) of Pub. L. 79-264; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3006. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination for the use of funds to provide non-lethal assistance to the Syrian Opposition, pursuant to Sec. 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3007. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277, 5 U.S.C. 3345-3349d; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3008. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Organization and Functions; Implementation of Statutory Gift Acceptance Authority; Freedom of Information Act (RIN: 3209-AA40, RIN: 3209-AA41, RIN: 3209-AA39) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3009. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Managing Senior Executive Performance (RIN: 3206-AM48) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3010. A letter from the Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees [L13100000 PP0000 LLWO310000] (RIN: 1004-AE44) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3011. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE143) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3012. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kentucky Regulatory Program [SATS No.: KY-253-FOR; Docket ID: OSM-2009-0014; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 156S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 15X501520] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3013. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [SATS No.: PA-154-FOR; Docket ID: OSM-2010-0002; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 156S180110 S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 15X501520] received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3014. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule [EPA-HQ-OECA-2009-0274; FRL-9930-70-OECA] (RIN: 2020-AA47) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3015. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Return of Wine to Bonded Premises [Docket No.: TTB-2015-0013; T.D. TTB-130] (RIN: 1513-AB92) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. Supplemental report on H.R. 702. A bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions (Rept. 114-267, Pt. 2).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 538. A bill to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede

tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-276). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1644. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-277). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3192. A bill to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-278). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BERA, Mr. FORBES, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 3660. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 3661. A bill to terminate the independent third-party program for sectors of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery unless the program is fully funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUSSELL (for himself, Mr. BRAT, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HARDY, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 3662. A bill to enhance congressional oversight over the administration of sanctions against certain Iranian terrorism financiers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 3663. A bill to prevent certain discriminatory taxation of natural gas pipeline property; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 3664. A bill to provide for the identification and documentation of best practices

for cyber hygiene by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. SIREN):

H.R. 3665. A bill to authorize appropriations for the university transportation centers program for fiscal years 2016 through 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NOR-TON, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 3666. A bill to coordinate and advance fibrosis research activities at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 3667. A bill to promote transparency, accountability, and reform within the United Nations system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COOK (for himself and Mr. KNIGHT):

H.R. 3668. A bill to codify in law and expand certain off-highway vehicle recreation areas in the State of California, to designate as wilderness certain public lands in the State of California administered by the Bureau of Land Management, to expand the Death Valley National Park Wilderness and the San Geronio Wilderness in San Bernardino National Forest, to ensure the conservation and necessary management of wildlife in these wilderness areas, to establish the Mojave Trails Special Management Area in the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3669. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for operating drones in certain locations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 3670. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the Buy American Act) and certain other laws with respect to certain waivers under those laws, to provide greater transparency regarding exceptions to domestic sourcing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3671. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 3-year recovery period for all race horses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3672. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the holding period used to determine whether horses are

section 1231 assets to 12 months; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3673. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mail paper forms to any individual who filed a paper return for the preceding taxable year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 3674. A bill to establish a commission to examine the processes used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to provide unemployment rates and to make recommendations to Congress for any changes in methodology or improvements to such processes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 3675. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure that student loans are available at interest rates that do not exceed the interest rates at which the Federal Government provides loans to banks through the discount window operated by the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 3676. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, acting through the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, to award grants to States to expand access to clinically appropriate services for opioid abuse, dependence, or addiction; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 3677. A bill to reduce opioid misuse and abuse; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 3678. A bill to clarify the orphan drug exception to the annual fee on branded prescription pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 3679. A bill to provide that the Social Security Administration pay fees associated with obtaining birth certificate or State identification card for purposes of obtaining

a replacement social security card for certain victims of domestic violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 3680. A bill to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1735; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARTON:

H. Con. Res. 82. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the White House Fellows Program; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FATAH, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. HOYER):

H. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Con. Res. 84. Concurrent resolution recognizing former United States Federal Judge Frank Minis Johnson, Jr. for his role in the civil rights movement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUSSELL (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HARDY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H. Res. 454. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives relating to the exercise of presidential waiver authority of certain sanctions imposed against Iran under United States law; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida):

H. Res. 455. A resolution expressing support for designation of the inaugural "Cruise Travel Professional Month" in October; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. DELANEY):

H. Res. 456. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2015 as "National Principals Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H. Res. 457. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that the House be in session at least 40 hours each week other than a week that is designated as a district work period; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. NOEM (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. HAHN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MENG, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ROYAL-ALLARD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. GRAHAM, Ms. LEE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. MCSALLY, Ms. FOX, Mrs. ROBY, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H. Res. 458. A resolution celebrating 25 years of success from the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BARLETTA):

H. Res. 459. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Christians in the Middle East are victims of genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 3660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The attached bill is constitutional under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 3661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. RUSSELL:

H.R. 3662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 3663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 3664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes)

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof)—

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 3665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 3666.

In Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 3667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 3668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 3669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 3670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 3674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 3675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 3676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 3677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution. The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 3679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 Constitution of the United States, which states the Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 3680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 239: Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. POLIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARNEY, and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 244: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 292: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 317: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 381: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 546: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 592: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 602: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 664: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 829: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 836: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 837: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 879: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 969: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 973: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1019: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1062: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 1122: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1124: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1130: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 1141: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1174: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 1192: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 1220: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1258: Mr. DENT, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 1283: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1288: Mr. POSEY, Mr. SIREs, and Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 1427: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1441: Mrs. DINGELL and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1459: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1475: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1532: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 1538: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DEFazio,

and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1566: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1567: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1594: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 1603: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1660: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 1661: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 1671: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1686: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1688: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1706: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1716: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1736: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1737: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RIGELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. SIREs.

H.R. 1769: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1779: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1814: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BASS, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 1942: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1945: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1986: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 2010: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 2043: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 2050: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2076: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 2090: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2189: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2287: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2292: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 2293: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2342: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2461: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2633: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2643: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 2646: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 2657: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2671: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2672: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2673: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2674: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2697: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2698: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 2710: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 2717: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2737: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2775: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2799: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 2805: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2858: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 2869: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 2889: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2904: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 2944: Mr. HANNA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3011: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 3029: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 3033: Mr. TAKANO and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3048: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 3084: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3095: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 3099: Mr. POCAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 3102: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3119: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3130: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 3144: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3151: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 3173: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 3229: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KATKO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 3310: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 3314: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 3326: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3338: Mr. PETERS and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3381: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3412: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3457: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 3458: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3459: Mr. HILL, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 3463: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3516: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 3532: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3542: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3543: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 3573: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 3618: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 3626: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3628: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 3632: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 3640: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 3643: Mr. KIND and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 3646: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 3651: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. KATKO, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. RUSH, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOST, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. YODER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. FLORES, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DOLD, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LONG, Mr. KLINE, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HILL, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.J. Res. 19: Mr. SANFORD.

H.J. Res. 59: Mr. LATTI, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. TIPPON, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H. Con. Res. 77: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 28: Ms. BONAMICI.

H. Res. 54: Ms. BONAMICI.

H. Res. 112: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H. Res. 210: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 214: Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H. Res. 220: Mr. RUSSELL.

H. Res. 293: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Res. 346: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H. Res. 354: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. LEVIN.

H. Res. 428: Mr. POLIS.

H. Res. 453: Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BASS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

29. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Board of Chosen Freeholders, Morris County, New Jersey, relative to Resolution No. 59, strongly urging their Congressional delegation to reject the terms of the Iran Nuclear Agreement, and to vote to override the anticipated veto of President Obama; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

30. Also, a petition of Village Council of Bal Harbour Village, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2015-978, encouraging the Florida Delegation to the 114th Congress of the United States of America not to approve the proposed agreement between the United States and Iran regarding the operation of Iranian nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

31. Also, a petition of Council of the County of Maui, Hawaii, relative to Resolution No. 15-109, urging Congress to pass the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2015; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Energy and Commerce.

SENATE—Thursday, October 1, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as bombs fall in Syria and refugees seek safety, may all who are oppressed look to You. In spite of our world's turbulence, we continue to proclaim Your greatness for Your sovereignty will prevail. Free us from fear. Answer when we call. Shelter us from disappointment.

Bless our Senators. Lord, fill them with the Spirit of Your wisdom, making them equal to challenges of this difficult season of our national and world history. Open their minds to comprehend Your wisdom, their ears to hear Your guidance, and their hearts to obey Your biddings.

Lift the light of Your countenance upon all who seek You and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

FOREIGN POLICY AND SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, with each passing day, the American people are reminded of the peril attached to the Obama administration's inflexible determination to conduct foreign policy based on campaign promises made in 2008. These goals—unilaterally withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan based on fixed deadlines, ending the war on terror and some of the critical tools used to pursue Al Qaeda, closing the secure detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, withdrawing from our deployed forward presence, slashing investment in our conventional armed services, and pursuing nuclear agreements with Russia

and Iran at any cost—have remained constant, although the world has changed right in front of our Commander in Chief.

Yesterday we saw the Obama administration threaten to veto the national Defense authorization bill, which recently passed the Senate by a large bipartisan majority of 71 to 25. It passed the House by a big bipartisan margin as well.

This is the legislation that sets out military policy and authorizes funds for our military each year. It is always one of the most important bills we consider every year, but it is especially important right now.

The number of threats currently facing us is truly staggering. The last month and week have brought glaring reminders. We are now seeing Russian forces deploy to Syria to preserve the Assad regime. Although Moscow may try to call this some kind of counterterrorism campaign, let's be perfectly clear: Russia's offensive is designed to protect Assad's Alawite stronghold and Russian military installations, while driving out the moderate opposition and compelling coordination of Syrian airspace with the coalition. Russia aims to forcefully insert itself into the middle of coalition operations to gain insights into the plans of the United States and, of course, to secure a seat at the table. Meanwhile, our moderate Syrian allies stand appalled that the United States has ceded its leadership position in the broader Middle East.

Of all the promises made by this administration, withdrawing from Afghanistan by a date certain seems to ignore the attack upon Kunduz by the Taliban and the efforts of President Ghani to secure the gains of the coalition and his country's future. How can the administration be pondering a withdrawal of the force when the Taliban's offensive persists and the campaign against Al Qaeda has not yet achieved its defeat?

So many threats face us—from Russia, Iran, Syria, ISIL, and even China—as do so many different means of attack: conventional, cyber, or terror. And now the Obama administration is talking about vetoing America's national defense bill. They are talking about vetoing the national defense bill in the wake of all of this.

I will have more to say about the national defense bill in the coming days. But this is about more than one bill; it is the latest in an increasingly worrying pattern. Just last week, Democrats voted again to block funding for our military. Democrats had voted for that military funding bill in com-

mittee. They issued press releases praising the bill they had supported in the Appropriations Committee, but then they blocked the Senate from even debating it. Now they appear ready to give the same treatment to our veterans. Democrats voted for the veterans funding bill in committee. They issued press releases praising the bill. But now they seem prepared to block the Senate from even debating this bill too. It is all part of some half-baked Democratic scheme to get more money for the IRS and for Washington bureaucracies. It makes no sense, it is extreme, and it needs to stop.

The veterans funding bill before us would do right by the men and women who have given everything to protect us and who have suffered so much under the failings of this administration. This is the bill that supports veterans by funding the health care and the benefits they rely on. This is the bill. This is the bill that supports military families by funding the housing, schools, and health facilities that serve them.

The veterans legislation before us provides support for women's health, for medical research, and for veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury. It provides funding for design work at a new VA medical center in Louisville, for educational facilities at Fort Knox, and for a special operations headquarters at Fort Campbell, all in my State.

The bill contains important reforms aimed at supporting veterans in the wake of a true national disgrace—the VA scandal. The reforms funded in this bill will allow for greater national and regional progress in reducing VA claim backlogs, and they will deploy important protections for whistleblowers too.

Look, we need to remember that we have an all-volunteer force in this country. The young men and women who sign up to defend our Nation don't ask for a lot, but our Nation certainly asks a lot of them. These heroes shouldn't have to worry that their benefits or health care or the housing and support their families need might not be there.

There is a long tradition in the Senate of bipartisan support for our troops, our veterans, and their families. We saw that bipartisan tradition on full display just a few months ago when Republicans and Democrats came together in the Appropriations Committee to pass bipartisan legislation to fund our troops and support our veterans.

We ask a lot of the men and women who serve. They don't need a bigger

IRS or political games like the Democrats' self-described filibuster summer; they need our care and our support. It is our turn to give back to them. Why don't we get back to the bipartisan tradition of supporting these bills so we can do what we need to do for our veterans.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

FOREIGN POLICY, BENGHAZI SELECT COMMITTEE, AND THE NEED FOR BIPARTISAN NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is hard for me, when I come here every day, to be patient and listen to my friend the Republican leader talk because he is talking about something that is not real. He is not talking about reality. He wants to get back to the bipartisan way we used to do things. I certainly agree with him, but having looked at some 600 filibusters during the last few years conducted by my Republican friends, I think that speaks volumes.

To have the Republican leader come to the floor and criticize Obama about what is going on in the Middle East—that takes a lot of gall. We all know what happened in the Middle East a number of years ago that created all these problems. It was the worst foreign policy mistake in the history of our country—invading Iraq. For what? Look what we have now in Iraq. Look what we have in the entire Middle East. So it takes a lot of rearranging facts for the Republican leader to come to the floor every day—most days I just sit here, listen, and go on about my business, but I can't do that. It is just unfair. Everyone knows we need to look no further than President Bush's invasion of Iraq to find out what the real problem is in the Middle East.

He talks about the Defense authorization bill. If it is such a great piece of legislative action, why does all of our military think it is a bad deal? This would be as if you decided one day you are going to make your house payment and your car payment with money that doesn't exist. That is what they have done. That is what the Republicans have done. They have \$39 billion in the Defense authorization bill that doesn't exist. It is just on paper. It is a gimmick for short-term funding. And to have the audacity to come here and talk about—look at all the threats we are having with cyber security, cyber threats. We have a cyber bill we have tried to get on this floor. The Republicans blocked it when they were in the minority. Now when they are in the majority, they won't do a bill, period.

We have an order that is before this body now that allows us to go forward

on cyber security. We already have a list of amendments to agree on. But the Republican leader won't bring it to the floor. To have him come to this floor and complain of Obama not doing anything about cyber—I would suggest my friend, every morning when he gets up, walk into the bathroom, put a little water on his face, wake up, and look in the mirror.

I will talk about this a little more in a minute, but I want to start what I have to say right now by reading a direct quote from the current House majority leader, and we are told he is going to be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives. Listen to this one, speaking about the Benghazi select committee. This is what Congressman MCCARTHY told FOX News:

Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi select committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping.

I might add, the person doing the interviewing—good job.

But there you have it. According to the odds-on favorite future Speaker of the House, the Benghazi select committee was put together to hurt Hillary Clinton politically, to make her poll numbers drop. We have been saying this all along, but we have now had a gaffe. But it wasn't a slipup; he just told the truth. This is evidence of what we have been saying. The Benghazi committee is a political stunt meant to influence Presidential elections that will be coming up in about a year. It is no surprise that Congressman MCCARTHY's own colleagues are now backpedaling on his comments as fast as they possibly can. Their elections will be in 1 week. They better take a look at whom they are going to put in as Speaker. The Republicans have taken a national tragedy—four Americans were killed—and turned it into the cheapest political farce imaginable. This is a shame. The very notion that an official House committee was used as a political tool is appalling. Even more disgraceful is the fact that they spent almost \$5 million on this select committee—dollars spent on this rightwing political hatchet job.

That is not all. In addition to this select committee, they have had six other committees investigating this. There are untold millions of dollars spent on this. Whose money are they spending? They are spending taxpayer dollars.

We hear my friend make references to how bad it is that we are concerned about nondefense stuff. Yes, we are. We are concerned about nondefense stuff. We think the nondefense part of this budget should also get some recognition. We are concerned about the FBI and the Federal court system. We are concerned about the Drug Enforcement Administration and all the immigration officials who need help. We are

concerned about our forests that are burning down. We are concerned about the situation we have where we don't have enough money to build our highways or to repair our highways. Yes, we are concerned about that and rightfully so. To have a secure nation is more than having a lot of bombs and bullets and airplanes and tanks and ships. It is also having a population that is educated.

We sent a letter to Speaker BOEHNER asking that the Benghazi Select Committee be disbanded. Get rid of it. It is a disgrace. Do the right thing; get rid of this.

Senate Republicans are stuck in a deep rut. They have dug this hole. They are in it, and they don't know how to get out of it. The Republican leader continues bringing bills to the Senate floor that have no chance of passing. We have things out there we could be doing.

Four months ago we said to the Republican leader: Why don't we sit down and try to work something out on this budget for the long term. We have been ignored. They have ignored the need for a consensus budget framework and instead are trying to move a flawed appropriations bill based on the Republicans' partisan budget. The Senate spoke and, of course, the bill didn't advance.

The Republican leader tried to move the same measure again last week, even though the Senate already rejected it. And to no one's surprise, it failed.

How about this one? This year—this year—we have already had eight votes on the health of American women—eight votes. Everyone knows how those votes are going to turn out, but you can't satisfy this voracious appetite the Republicans have to bash women. Yet the Republican leader continues to schedule votes on legislation that can't pass the Senate.

I think C-SPAN will have to have a disclaimer each time that flips up there that says: This is not a rerun. This is the Republican Senate doing it again. We have already done it seven times. Once more won't matter that much.

Today the Republican leader wants to rerun the same show again, this time with another bill—military construction. This appropriations bill is still based on the Republican's faulty budget. The senior Senator from Montana, the ranking member of that subcommittee, said yesterday this bill "is shackled to an unwise and unrealistic budget that locks in destructive sequestration cuts and vastly underfunds programs vital to this nation's security and prosperity."

That is what Senator TESTER said yesterday.

It has no chance of getting 60 votes—none. I know that, and my friend the Republican leader knows that. So why

are we wasting time on another vote that is destined to fail? Because they do not want to bring real legislation to the floor. Why aren't we spending our time coming to a real bipartisan solution that helps our veterans and helps the nondefense part of our country, which is so important?

The time to sit down and to begin real budget negotiations was a long time ago, but we will take it now. I am happy to learn the Republican leader said he wants negotiations—he said this a couple days ago—he wants negotiations to begin very soon. Well, isn't that nice. Democrats have been waiting for 4 months. So let's get to it.

Just imagine what we could have accomplished if the Republican leader had taken us up on our offer 4 months ago. The U.S. Government wouldn't have come within hours of a shutdown, hundreds of government agencies would not have had to spend time and effort preparing for a shutdown, diverting them from their main jobs.

If you want to see how close we were to a government shutdown take a look at what took place in the House of Representatives yesterday. We passed over here in the Senate a short-term continuing resolution to fund the government until December 11. It went to the House, and they voted on it yesterday. Three-fifths of House Republicans—151—voted for a shutdown. They voted against the continuing resolution. That says it all.

I have reminded people before, and I will do it again. The government was shut down here a couple of years ago for 17 days. We finally got it open. We passed something over here, and it went to the House. Two-thirds of the House of Representatives—Republicans in the House—voted to keep the government closed.

There are so many programs that are just not being taken care of. I will talk about a couple of them right now. There is something I have worked on since I came here—the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Presiding Officer is from Nevada. He has represented the northern part of the State for many years in different elective jobs. He understands and knows Lake Tahoe very well. It is a beautiful lake that we share with California. Well, the Land and Water Conservation Fund helps us greatly because we were able to take some money out of that program and purchase land that was going to be used for subdivision that would have allowed more filth to go into Lake Tahoe. We were able to stop that with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The money hasn't been coming in as we have wanted in the past, so we beefed it up and were able to do a lot of things.

Now, for the first time in 50 years, this program has been allowed to expire. It is gone. This program has been supported by Democrats and Repub-

licans and by rural and urban communities. But on the Republicans' watch, one of the most important programs and one of the best programs for our Nation's parks—and one of the most broadly supported programs in the country—has been allowed to lapse. It is gone.

The program is funded by a portion of fees collected by offshore oil and gas drilling. Every day that it is not authorized, we lose out on collecting \$2.4 million of offshore oil and gas so it can be used for our beautiful natural resources that are in a state of disrepair. This Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported projects in every State, from protecting the rim of the Grand Canyon to securing access to the Appalachian Trail, and from Lake Tahoe to building neighborhood playgrounds in urban areas across the country.

In a last-ditch effort to sway their own leadership, several Republicans came to the floor yesterday and tried to pass a stand-alone extension of the program that would be dead on arrival in the House. The Republican leaders refused to extend the program in the continuing resolution, despite many Democrats and Republicans asking for it to be included.

One other program. The good Senator from Illinois—the senior Senator from Illinois, the assistant Democratic leader, served in the House of Representatives, as I did, with a man named Claude Perkins. He was a wonderful House Member. When we came to the House in 1982, he was a very senior person. He was responsible for something called the Federal Perkins Loan Program. It wasn't reauthorized in the continuing resolution. What does that mean? As a result of that, the Nation's oldest student aid program has expired, leaving up to 150,000 students who are coming into college in the lurch.

The Perkins Loan Program offers low-interest, federally subsidized student loans for students with exceptional financial needs and also offers a variety of forgiveness options for those who choose to pursue public service professions. Last year, more than \$1.2 billion in new Perkins loans were made to about 540,000 new and returning college students around the country, including 500 low-income students from Nevada.

It is hard to believe the tea party-dominated House—and obviously the Republican Caucus here is heavily influenced by the tea party—has turned a blind eye to this. It is hard to believe the tea party-dominated House of Representatives passed an extension of Perkins unanimously, but Senate Republicans would not agree to do the same. Yesterday, Senate Republicans even blocked a bid to extend the program.

These are just two of the programs that expired at midnight last night.

There are many more. It is a shame because they wouldn't have expired at all if we had sat down and negotiated a few months ago. So I say to my friend the Republican leader: Let's not waste another minute on politically motivated votes that are doomed to fail. Instead, let's focus the Senate's energy and attention on bipartisan negotiations to get our country on the right track.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein, with the time equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the first half.

The Senator from Louisiana.

MILCON-VA APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill that is now being considered. I will start by saying that this is 3601 Gerstner Memorial Parkway, Lake Charles, LA. This is the location for the new Lake Charles VA clinic—a clinic that has taken 13 years to get approved, a clinic that has seen delay after delay, costing veterans access to quality health care, a clinic still waiting to be built.

This is a picture of the current facility in Lake Charles, where veterans have to go for their health care while they have waited for over 13 years to have the new facility built. This RV and this small building are why Congress must advance this MILCON-VA appropriations bill and why the President should sign it into law.

This mobile clinic in Lake Charles—you almost laugh—is the clinic for our veterans. It is one of many such clinics in our country and is unacceptable. This is something one might see in a documentary about developing nations, not the United States of America. This RV, where our veterans are treated for serious medical conditions, is connected to a waiting room that is triple the size of the square footage of the mobile home. That is because the demand for care so greatly exceeds this subpar facility's ability to deliver health care to our veterans.

In the waiting room there is a television set, but it is not plugged in and it doesn't have a remote. That is because VA rules say you must have a TV

in the waiting room, but the rules don't stipulate that it must function. It sounds like a joke. We have to have a television, but we don't say it has to be plugged in.

This is the current state of the VA, and this is what Congress is allowing when we fail to pass this needed legislation.

I would like to say this is an isolated problem but there are veterans all over the country receiving health care under similar circumstances. For more than 10 years, our young men and women have returned from war in the Middle East. These young veterans are joining men and women who have served this Nation in uniform, defending our freedom in every corner of the globe. They deserve better than a mobile home. They deserve action, and they deserve it now. If we don't pass this bill, there will be consequences for people—America's heroes—who need help now.

This is the VA portion, but it is also the military VA construction budget. If we fail to act, it will not just be our veterans who are hurt; it will also affect our Active-Duty military and our national security.

We know there is a portion of the budget which goes for actually protecting our military construction, but what sometimes people forget is there is a human face to our military. Gen. Robert Rand recently took control of Global Strike, a position that is charged with maintaining our nuclear triad and first strike capabilities, but there are those in the Air Force who serve under General Rand. He needs the resources to maintain our nuclear ability, but without this legislation we cannot maintain his combat readiness, which includes basic needs such as housing for our soldiers and educating their children.

I urge my fellow Senators to consider what is included in this legislation: family housing, schools, medical facilities for Active-Duty personnel and their families, and funding for the care of 6.9 million veterans.

Let me add something to this. As a doctor, I am glad we also specifically provide for groundbreaking hepatitis C treatments and for modernizing the VA electronic medical records system.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill by a bipartisan vote of 12 to 9, with all Republicans and 5 Democrats voting in favor.

This is common sense. Congress has the duty to pass this legislation now, and the President has an obligation to sign it. We must honor our commitment to our military and to our veterans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both

sides of the aisle to support the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill.

Yesterday, Congress sent the President a continuing resolution, a bill to prevent a government shutdown. This was necessary to ensure that vital resources and services the American people depend on do not lapse and in order to avoid harm to jobs and our economy. But as my colleagues fully realize, simply putting government on autopilot through a continuing resolution is not the responsible way to fund government. It locks in last year's priorities, delays the start of vital new programs, and allows unneeded programs to continue to be funded. We must pass the 12 annual appropriations bills.

In July of this year, the Senate Appropriations Committee, on which I am privileged to serve, reported the last of the 12 bills. This was the first time that all 12 of the appropriations bills have been approved by the committee, in plenty of time for the Senate to act, since 2009. It is past time for the Senate to take up and pass these funding bills so that we can go to conference with our House colleagues and send to the President annual funding bills that reflect our current priorities that benefit the American people.

In May of this year—in May—the Senate Appropriations Committee reported the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill by a strong, bipartisan vote of 21 to 9. As a member of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over this bill, I know this represented bipartisan consensus and hard work. It reflected the leadership of Chairman KIRK and Ranking Member TESTER.

This bill provides vital resources for our veterans and our servicemembers. We are operating under very challenging budget constraints, and I support the negotiations that are going on now. But it is long past time for the Senate to take up, debate, amend, and pass each of these appropriations bills. We have the opportunity to do that just now, and I do not understand those who argue that we should not proceed with the normal appropriations process.

Those who disagree with provisions in this bill will have the opportunity to offer amendments to change the bill. But to not even allow this vital funding bill for our military and for our veterans to come to the Senate floor is an argument that I do not accept nor understand.

We owe it to our Nation's veterans, 127,000 of whom reside in the great State of Maine. There are more than 21 million nationwide. We owe it to them to move forward with this important bill. These veterans answered the call to duty. They shouldered the hardships and sacrifices of military service. They have done their jobs. It is time for the

Senate to do its job. We must fulfill our obligations and affirm a larger commitment made long ago to take care of those who have so proudly served our Nation—the patriots who have worn our Nation's uniform.

To highlight a few examples of why this bill is so important, let me mention that it ensures our veterans have access to critical mental health care services. It aims to reduce veteran homelessness—a very important issue to me that I have worked on with Senator JACK REED as a member of the HUD and transportation appropriations subcommittee—another bill that we need to bring to the Senate floor. This bill provides funding to pay veterans benefits and includes \$270 million for the Office of Rural Health, important to the Presiding Officer as well as to my State. This office has established the program called the ARCH Program, or Access Received Closer to Home. ARCH ensures that rural veterans in the pilot States, who often have a difficult time accessing the regular VA health system, can receive care closer to where they live. This has been a tremendous success in northern Maine, which has one of the pilot programs in Caribou, ME, in conjunction with Cary Memorial Hospital. This has made such a difference to our veterans.

I remember one of our veterans telling me about breaking his hip last winter in the height of a terrible winter storm. Instead of enduring a painful and bumpy ride for more than 4 hours to get to the VA hospital in Augusta, he was able, through the ARCH Program, to receive care at his local hospital, Cary Memorial in Caribou, ME. He also had the benefit of being able to receive care closer to where his family and friends were.

The programs that I just mentioned, like so many that are contained within the Military Construction-VA appropriations bill, are essential to ensuring that veterans who have placed their lives on the line for our continued safety receive the benefits they have earned. This bill is essential to providing updated military housing and other construction upon which those who are serving today depend.

It is simply irresponsible for us not to proceed with consideration of this and every other appropriations bill. They are ready. They have been reported by committee. Let's do our job. We must do our best to honor those who serve, and who have served, and who have sacrificed so much for our country. Surely—surely—the Senate should do its part. We should do our part by promptly passing this important bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to commend the distinguished Senator from Maine. She has articulately explained why we need to move forward,

and I want to underscore something that she said.

For 6 years now, the Senate has abdicated its responsibility to appropriate. We have left the prioritization of spending to faceless bureaucrats and faceless buildings in Washington, DC. The needs of our veterans and soldiers and our country have gone unheeded, while we in here have argued about things that are superfluous and actually unimportant.

I came into this Chamber today and listened to the distinguished Senator from Nevada, the minority leader, make the following statement: He can't understand why the leader would bring forward a "can't-pass" piece of legislation and not go to something more important.

I want the Senator from Nevada to go out to Walter Reed Hospital or to go to the hospital in Maine or the hospital in Arkansas and tell those soldiers, who sacrificed and risked their lives for us, that their needs for health care are not more important, or to tell Jim Webb, who was a Member of this Senate and passed the GI bill expansion a few years ago, that the educational benefits for dependents, children, wives, and others are not that important. Tell the people of the United States of America that those who protect us, those who have sacrificed, those at risk are not more important.

There is nothing more important than our veterans and our military. There is nothing more important in our constitutional responsibility as Senators than to appropriate the money of the American people. We are abdicating our responsibility. It is professional and political malpractice, and it is time it stopped. I get sick and tired of the political bantering back and forth when there are things come before us that must be done.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, last Thursday night in this Senate we passed unanimously—and it has now passed the House—a total reform of VA construction, and we fixed the Denver hospital problem that has been going on for 6 years in the VA. The Denver hospital has had a 428.3 percent cost overrun. That is unconscionable and that is wrong. But we finally are fixing it.

With this bill—if the distinguished minority leader will let us take up this important bill, rather than something that is not as important—we are going to fix VA construction forever because what this does is to say that the VA no longer is in charge of construction of hospitals and clinics. The Corps of Engineers is. It is about time we had construction management by people who know what they are doing. Doctors are good at fixing people, but they are not very good at bricks and mortar. We need the bricks and mortar people doing it.

Secondly, this bill funds mandatory veterans' benefits through 2017. We had

a threat of a government shutdown yesterday. Fortunately, we avoided it, but we have had it in the past, and we could have it again. Veterans health care should never be shut down, and we need to continue to forward-fund medical benefits so our veterans know—whether or not we are foolish and shut down the government—that their health care is going to be met.

As the Presiding Officer knows, in the great State of South Dakota—and Senator COLLINS knows from Maine—the biggest complaint we get is about the lack of timely responsibility in determining disability claims in the VA; right? We have veterans waiting 478 days to get a disability claim on an injury they suffered fighting a war for us—478 days, almost 2 years. That is terribly wrong. This bill fixes that. It provides the money for the personnel necessary to expedite disability claims so veterans get a timely judgment.

Now you tell me this, Senator from Nevada: What is more important, taking care of these guys taking care of us or just debating on the Senate floor a bunch of hot air that means no difference to the American people?

It is time we fished or cut bait. It is time we did what we were elected to. It is time we set the priorities. It is time we honored our commitment to those who honored their commitment to us, the veterans of the United States of America.

So as chairman of the most bipartisan committee in the Senate, the Veterans' Affairs Committee—of which the Presiding Officer is a member—we don't have Democratic spats and Republican spats. We talk about our veterans. Almost everything we pass out is unanimous. We do so because we all agree that—Republican or Democrat, black or white, rich or poor, whatever the case might be—we would not be where we are today nor would we be what we are today if it weren't for those who sacrificed, risked their lives, and, in some cases, died for the people of the United States of America while serving in the military.

So I don't know what the Senator from Nevada thinks is more important. But for me, these guys right here are the most important thing in the world. And to vote against proceeding to debate this important appropriations bill is professional malpractice and wrong. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will make a commitment to those who served us and vote to proceed to the VA-MILCON appropriations bill.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

MR. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, yesterday Congress passed yet another short-term continuing resolution. While this avoids a shutdown, it is far from ideal. Certainly a shutdown is not

good governing. I think all of us can agree on that much. I wish to remind my colleagues, though—particularly those on the other side of the aisle—that continuing resolutions are hardly better. While the American people demand that we get our financial house in order, Washington continues to pass stopgap after stopgap funding bills. Instead of tackling this challenge head-on, these short-term extensions continue current funding levels and prevent us from stopping waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. Just like a shutdown, this, too, is no way to govern. There is another option. We don't have to choose between a continuing resolution and a shutdown. The third choice is the right choice, and that choice is for this Chamber to follow regular order and pass all 12 appropriations bills.

We have done our work at the Appropriations Committee. For the first time in 6 years, every spending bill has cleared committee—all 12—and most of them passed with strong bipartisan support. I commend the Appropriations Chairman COCHRAN and Leader MCCONNELL for their leadership to make that happen.

The full Senate has the responsibility to consider each of these bills as well. Leader MCCONNELL is committed to this approach. Our caucus is behind it 100 percent. The minority, on the other hand, is actively working against it. Committee passage of these 12 bills was no easy task. Both sides made compromises. These bills were the product of a great deal of give-and-take.

We worked very hard for months to ensure that these bills reflect the spending and policy priorities that are right for our Nation. These bills should not simply be left for dead. The President is encouraging the Senate Democrats to obstruct the appropriations process because he wants more domestic spending for agencies like the EPA and IRS. This is not the direction our country needs to go. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will reconsider this failed strategy.

The funding bills show the American people that we share their priorities. For instance, the bill before us takes care of our Active Military and our veterans when they return home. Clearly this is an area of bipartisan agreement. Yet talk of a filibuster remains.

Here is what the minority is considering filibustering: increases in funding for veterans services, military housing and family support, hospital and health facilities construction, just to name a few vital things in this bill. The bill increases funding in areas where our veterans need it most—health care, benefit claims processing, and medical research. It also includes funding for projects to ensure military readiness and improve the quality of life for military families. In light of the numerous

scandals that have plagued the VA, it includes some strong policy reforms such as protection for whistleblowers.

These are funding and policy priorities for both sides of the aisle. That is why this bill passed out of the Appropriations Committee with strong bipartisan support. That is why it should move forward without resistance on the Senate floor. Yet the minority is threatening a filibuster for reasons that have nothing to do with this bill. This is all about protecting the President's agenda.

President Obama wants spending increases across the board. He has issued a blanket veto threat for any appropriations bill that does not meet his demands. Basically, the President's view is that if such agencies don't get more money, then neither should our veterans or military families. It is my hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle recognize this is out of line with our Nation's priorities.

The right thing to do is reject the President's call to obstruct so we can continue to work together for the good of the country. Determining how we allocate taxpayer dollars is our responsibility, not the President's. Continuing resolutions have been all too common, while they should be a rare exception. We need to reestablish our priority of regular order and pass the individual funding bills that are needed to keep the government open. We can start that today and by moving the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, we heard from many Members talking about the situation with the appropriations bill, and I would like to add my voice to the chorus. For too long uncertainty has hampered our Nation's ability to grow our economy and make necessary investments in our workforce, our infrastructure, and our technology. It was imperative that we avoided an unnecessary and reckless government shutdown this week, but that was a short-term patch. Now more than ever we need to take longer term actions to move our economy and our Nation forward.

As the Senator from Arkansas mentioned, earlier this year the Appropriations Committee, on which I sit, accomplished something that has not been done since 2009. We passed all 12 appropriations bills through the full committee. We did so in a fiscally responsible way. We did so within the budget caps agreed to by the Congress. Many of us voted for those budget caps. We did so with broad-based bipartisan support; 9 of the 12 bills had broad-based bipartisan support. These bills touch every aspect of government and every facet of our economy. From transportation, medical research, en-

ergy investments to justice programs, these funding bills were robustly debated.

Knowing all this, why are the Democrats blocking the Senate from considering one of these single appropriations bills? Earlier this week it was the Defense appropriations. Today it is the MILCON-VA. Why? Why are they blocking these same bills that many of them have previously voted for in committee and touted to their constituents?

Last week I had the privilege of traveling across West Virginia with VA Secretary McDonald. We heard directly from veterans about their challenges and needs. One of the things we discussed was the Greenbrier County community-based outpatient clinic that had been closed. Secretary McDonald made a commitment, with over 200 veterans that we had in the room from that area, that that clinic would reopen quickly, but without the certainty of the funding that we have in these bills. Secretary McDonald cannot make those assertions across the country. We went to the Huntington VA Hospital, where we met with employees and veterans—committed individuals who want to see our veterans treated the way we want them to be treated, but the advances in medical technologies can't move forward without a certainty of what the funding levels are.

These men and women, our brave veterans, deserve our unified support and should not be subjected to the gridlock that has been so common in these past few years. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill funds construction and care for facilities and services that assist our military veterans. It improves facilities for men and women who are willing to sacrifice for our freedoms. I will say, many of our VA facilities are challenged with approximately 20 percent of women veterans who are coming out. They don't have facilities to adequately treat our women veterans. This bill also includes funding for construction of State extended-care facilities, which helps construct, expand, and remodel nursing home facilities to care for our elderly veterans. We know many of our veterans are aging in larger and larger numbers.

Determining our Nation's spending priorities, especially when it comes to our veterans, is one of Congress's most important responsibilities. Our process can work and our government can function. We demonstrated that at the committee level. We need to demonstrate that as well today on the floor of the Senate, but make no mistake about this, this is not just about process; it is also about progress. Funding bills are not just numbers on paper; they are people. They are our veterans. They are our friends and neighbors, our fathers and mothers, our sons and

daughters. They represent the priorities of our Nation.

There are other things in the appropriations bills that are equally important. We passed out historic investments in NIH and community health centers. We passed out critical infrastructure improvements from expanding broadband access to trying to help with the drug epidemic. You cannot measure the impact of programs like the National Guard Counterdrug Program, which is helping to combat the spread of illegal drugs in our State, or the work of the Appalachian Regional Commission which helps to improve the lives of so many. Endless continuing resolutions are not the most effective ways to meet these needs and can be proved wasteful in both time and dollars. Our bills provide critical funding, but they also provide direction on significant policy matters that are facing this Nation.

When we operate from one short-term funding patch to the other, we as Members of Congress are forfeiting our responsibility to hold the executive branch accountable. Advancing appropriations bills through regular order is a vital check on wasteful spending and overreach in our government agencies.

We need to work together. We can start that today, and I hope we will later this afternoon. These are broad goals, and the goals are shown in those bills. As the Senate begins consideration of funding for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, we should remember this: Governing is about setting priorities and bringing fiscal responsibility to the Federal Government, while ensuring that we provide for the necessary investments and services. Supporting our veterans is not only necessary, it is about the men and women who put their lives on the line for us so we can enjoy the freedoms we have here today. West Virginia is a very patriotic State, with one of the highest percentages of military veterans. I want to see that they are cared for properly. I am going to make that vote today. I hope my colleagues—the ones who are on the Appropriations Committee who have already voted in favor of this bill—will convince their colleagues on the other side that gridlock and obstructionism is not the way to go in the Senate. It is time to work across the aisle to pass this bill and support our veterans. Doing so will strengthen our Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENTENCING REFORM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, there are many stories written in the last months about the dysfunction of Congress, why can't they get along, why can't they produce something, why can't they address the issues and challenges of our time. It is easy to get into that mindset and believe that something has happened on Capitol Hill that cannot be repaired. For those who are about to give up hope, I hope they are reflecting on what I left just a few moments ago. It was a press conference held up in the radio and TV Senate gallery.

Attending this press conference were Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, who is the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Senator JOHN CORNYN, the Republican whip; Senator MIKE LEE of Utah; and Senator TIM SCOTT. On the Democratic side: Senator PATRICK LEAHY, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee; Senator COREY BOOKER of New Jersey, a relatively new Member of the Senate; Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE; and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER.

We were there to announce what we think is a historic achievement, a historic agreement. We have been working now for years, literally for years, on both sides of the aisle to make significant and meaningful criminal sentencing reform and reform to the corrections system of the United States of America. On that stage, from MIKE LEE to PAT LEAHY and DICK DURBIN, was the entire political spectrum of the Senate. Within that spectrum, there are a lot of differences of opinion. There were times a year ago that I did not think that meeting and that announcement would take place.

But today we came together, on a bipartisan basis, to announce that we had reached an agreement, a historic agreement, on the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. We knew we had a problem in America, a problem of incarceration. A nation with 5 percent of the world's population has 25 percent of the world's prison population. What is going on in America? Why are so many people in prison, and has it made us any safer? We asked those hard questions and came up with what we think is a good response.

We took a category of crime, drug use, that does not involve violence or a gun or gang activity and said: We are going to give to the judge in that case, that category of cases, more flexibility when it comes to sentencing. The minimum mandatory requirements can be changed by the judge based on the defendant before him, the crime they committed, and what that judge believes to be the best for our society.

It is such a change. For the longest time, years and decades, our goal was to incarcerate as many as possible, and we did, some of them for extraordinarily unfair and unjust periods of

time. The worst vote—the worst vote I ever cast as a Member of Congress was in the House. It goes back more than 20 years ago. A basketball player at the University of Maryland named Len Bias died from a drug overdose. We were called on to stiffen the penalties for crack cocaine in America and we did, dramatically: 100 to 1 for crack cocaine versus sentencing for powdered cocaine—100 to 1. The net result of that in several decades of sentencing was to send away primarily African Americans for incredibly long sentences. Eugenia Jennings of Alton, IL, a teenage mother and a crack addict was selling crack cocaine, a handful of it, to buy clothes and food for her children. It was her third offense.

When she was convicted, the mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines gave Judge PATRICK MURPHY no choice but to hand down a sentence of 23 years in prison. Judge Murphy said at the time: This country, this government, has done nothing for you, Ms. Jennings, through your tortured life, and now at this moment in life we are going to kick you hard.

The judge knew it was the wrong sentence. Fortunately, Eugenia Jennings' sentence was commuted after a dozen years. She was released from prison to be with her children, only for a short time. She passed away from cancer. But that is just one statistic, one story, and it can be repeated thousands of times.

This bill tries to avoid that type of injustice. We were not going to be a safer State, a safer nation if she served 23 years instead of 12. It made no sense. So we address it with this bill. With this bill, we go after a new approach in sentencing on this narrow category of crimes, which we believe can result in many serving shorter sentences.

Secondly, for those who are still in prison subject to that 100-to-1 ratio on sentencing, we give 6,500 inmates in the Federal prison system a chance to petition for reconsideration of their sentence on an individual basis, so they can be judged by judges, prosecutors, and people in the community as to whether their sentence should be changed.

So this, in a way, is a sweeping bill when it comes to the population of our prisons. I believe—many agree—it would be far better to take the \$25,000, \$30,000, \$35,000 a year it costs to house an inmate and put it instead into community policing, making our neighborhoods safer, giving our prosecutors the resources they need to not only come down with the right sentences but variations in sentencing like drug courts, veterans courts, and things that are working around America which will make us safer at a lower cost. We will have more money available to the Department of Justice and across the board to go after the seriously threatening criminals we still have in America whom we can never ever ignore.

Senator CORNYN and Senator WHITEHOUSE took a look at those in prison to determine ways they could earn an earlier release or better terms of release. They did extraordinary work. Senator COREY BOOKER of New Jersey stepped in on an issue that all of us who serve with him know he feels so passionately about, the African-American incarceration rate and particularly the impact it has on young people in that part of our population. He made some valuable contributions to this bill.

It is our hope we can bring this bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee soon. Senator GRASSLEY gave his word that would happen, and then bring it to the floor and send it to the House.

For those who say, "What is going to happen over there, with all of the changes taking place?" I would make one observation: Our spectrum of political support for the bill we had at the press conference represents the spectrum in the House as well. All of us came together. All of them can come together too. They may not agree with every word in this bill. Having served in the House, I am sure they won't. But if they will make the same good-faith effort at finding reasonable compromise, then we can reach a historic achievement, a historic outcome in this process.

I wish to commend one member of my staff in particular who has devoted more hours than I could ever count to make this a reality. His name is Joe Zogby. He is my lead counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Time and time again, Joe Zogby has performed so professionally and with such determination, from my point of view and I am sure from other Senators' points of view. We wouldn't be here today if we didn't have staffers like Joe who have given so much of their time and their heartfelt dedication to finding a solution to an American problem.

So before we walk away from the Congress and say there is no hope, take a look at this bill and this effort. This is how the Senate is supposed to work. This is how the House is supposed to work. It is how Congress is supposed to work. It is how America expects us to work.

The President is anxious for us to come up with this work product. Let's not disappoint him and the millions of Americans who count on us to solve the problems facing America.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

9/11 HEALTH PROGRAM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today to mark a sad occasion. Yesterday, parts of the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act expired. Specifically, the authorization of the 9/11 health program—one of the two critical programs in the Zadroga act—came to an end last night and will have to start winding down. Thankfully, Dr. Howard and his team, who run the program, have responsibly managed their funding, so they can continue to support health services and benefits for several months on into the future, perhaps another year.

To be clear, our brave heroes are still able to get health care from this program today. That fact, however, should diminish in no way our responsibility in Congress to reauthorize the program as quickly as possible and permanently—forever. In truth, it is a black mark on a Congress that the program was ever allowed to expire, regardless of its ability to continue operations in the short term.

The firefighters, police men and women, construction workers, and first responders from 9/11—many of them injured, many of them sick—traveled to Washington a few weeks ago to lobby Congress, to petition their representatives and their government to continue supporting basic health services they need to treat cancers, respiratory ailments, and other illnesses directly linked to 9/11.

I wish to thank my colleague from New York, Senator GILLIBRAND, for her valued work on this issue. It has been a passion for her. She took the torch Hillary Clinton first lit when she was here as Senator and has run with it hard and well. I am proud to be her partner in trying to make sure that Zadroga, in both its parts, is extended permanently.

People would think it would be easy to get this done considering all the legislators who say they will never forget, who make promises each anniversary to honor the heroes of 9/11. We should not need them to walk the Halls of Congress to win support for basic services for those who walked undaunted through dust, fire, rubble, and ash, who risked their lives to save their fellow citizens. The first responders who ran to the smoldering towers on 9/11 are just like our veterans—they volunteered and risked their lives for our safety. These folks didn't have to do this. They volunteered. They knew the dangers, but they care about our safety. We should not forget them.

But their voices and the impassioned advocacy of folks like John Feal and Jon Stewart have had a real impact. On September 16, when these first responders visited Congress, the majority leader graciously said he would meet with them personally and said: "We do plan to extend the program and the committees . . . in the House and the

Senate are actually working on the details now." It was a real breakthrough.

The first responders who pled their case, the advocates who supported them each step of the way, and champions in Congress such as Senator GILLIBRAND here and Representatives NADLER and MALONEY in the House, who passionately led the fight for this bill for years now, deserve much of the credit. They are the reason we have so many cosponsors—56 here in the Senate, including 12 Republicans. I wish to thank the Presiding Officer for being one of those recent cosponsors.

That is why I was so troubled to hear earlier this week, when again asked if the Senate would consider the extension of the Zadroga act before the deadline, the majority leader said he would "have to check and get back on that."

When the towers were hit, the firefighters and the EMS workers and cops who rushed into those burning buildings did not stop and say "I have to check on that and get back to you." When the towers came down and there was a hellhole of twisted steel and smoldering plasterboard, with our brothers and sisters trapped within, the smell of burning flesh still in the air—I was there; I vividly remember it—and thousands with anguished faces holding signs that said "Did you see my mother, Mary? Have you seen my brother, Bob?" because people didn't know where people were—maybe they were still alive but trapped in the smoldering towers—the first responders so bravely rushed in to see if they could save any lives. They did not say "I have to check on that and get back to you." No, they rushed right to the towers. They rushed in even before they were asked. They did their duty. They did more than their duty. Many died. Many more are suffering. We don't need to check on things and get back to them. We need to write the check to fund their health care for the injuries they sustained in selfless service to their Nation when we were under attack by a foreign enemy. Period. End of story.

So what changed so much over the course of 2 weeks? When the first responders were here in DC, the majority leader committed to passing the legislation they need and so richly deserve for their heroism. A few weeks later, when the eyes of the world aren't watching quite so closely, he said: I will have to check and get back.

I would plead with the majority leader to help move this legislation forward and move it forward quickly. Let's not have to have these first responders, many of whom have all kinds of cancers they acquired on those fatal days after 9/11, come back here again and again. Let the doctors who are bravely working for the program not have to worry whether they will have a job. And let the program itself, which has been done without an iota of fraud—all

the claims of "Let's do it for 5 years because we are not sure it will work"—those are the things we negotiated, Senator GILLIBRAND and I with Senator Coburn—those worries are gone. It is working exquisitely well, and there has not been an iota of fraud or misspent money.

So we shouldn't have to check on it; we should just move forward. I plead, plead, plead with our majority leader, who was genuinely moved by the first responders when he met them, to make sure the bill moves forward. And let me say the same to the new leaders—whoever they may become—in the new House, in the new elections that are coming.

We cannot leave these heroes in limbo. We cannot leave them wondering if their health program, now expired, will be there for them if and when they get sick. As John Stewart said so well, cancer doesn't expire.

I only ask one thing this morning—one thing: that the majority leader and the Speaker honor their commitments to put this bill on the floor of both Houses. I implore them to move quickly to pass the Zadroga 9/11 health reauthorization act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2029, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 98, H.R. 2029, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am here this morning to speak about the issue that is before this body, the motion to proceed to H.R. 2029, or what we refer to as the MILCON-VA appropriations bill.

I certainly intend to support closing off debate on this and moving to take up this important appropriations measure. This is important for a host of different reasons, not the least of which is that we need to get to the substance of this issue. We need to get back to a regular order process in order to advance the appropriations bills that we on the Appropriations Committee have spent a considerable amount of time and effort drafting.

Over these past many months, we have worked to make sure that the bills were ready for floor consideration. We didn't want to find ourselves in a situation where, at the end of this year, we scramble to piece together an omnibus measure that has not had the considered debate and opportunity for amendment that I believe we all seek as lawmakers. It is important that we consider the Military Construction-VA bill in regular order and do it now—not stick it on the back end of another measure, not incorporate it into an omnibus bill or into some fashion of a CR omnibus right before Christmas.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee. I had input into this bill at the subcommittee level and again at the full committee markup, which is a lot more than can be said of many of my colleagues in this body who don't have that opportunity since they are not on the Appropriations Committee. But even after having the input that I have had, it is extraordinarily important that I have another opportunity to influence the bill, and I will illustrate why.

I am going to speak about one very specific issue today that has garnered the attention, concern, and passion of Alaskans and veterans around the State, and that is the issue surrounding the Veterans Choice Card.

In the view of many Alaskans, the Veterans Choice Card is an unmitigated disaster in our State, and there are many reasons that is the case. We don't host a stand-alone VA hospital in Alaska. So the VA has issued a Choice Card to every veteran in the State who is enrolled for health care. In order to use the Choice Card, you have to identify a provider that is willing to accept the card, qualifies under the very onerous Choice Card standards, and is also willing to put up with the bureaucratic strings that are attached to determining which care is approved by the VA over what period of time and for what price.

In Alaska, we have a demand for health care providers that far outstrips the supply, and I have been on the floor many times speaking on that subject. We have many Alaskans that have private health insurance which pays the providers better, and it is certainly more efficient than the government-sponsored programs.

Structurally, the way the Veterans Choice Card Program is currently de-

signed, it does not provide Alaska's veterans with the choices that it promises. It is just as simple as that, and those are just the structural problems we are talking about. Many of our colleagues know that TriWest has encountered difficulties with implementing the program, and the VA has had trouble coordinating TriWest's work with the work of the local VA facilities. Unfortunately, these problems have led to some dangerous near-misses.

We had one situation with a veteran who was scheduled for a fee-basis neurosurgery. He was going to receive this care from a community provider in the State. Then he was told by the VA that the VA had changed its mind. They were not going to sign off on paying for the care. The vet was told to call TriWest. The TriWest call center operator gave the veteran a list of behavioral health providers who had signed up to accept the Choice Card. The call center operator didn't know that neurosurgery is not the same as behavioral health. By the time the VA had reversed itself, the neurosurgery that the veteran had initially scheduled was no longer available. The vet had to wait for one to become available.

What happened in the interim? They gave the veteran pain medicine.

In another case, we had a veteran sent to Seattle for a course of radiation therapy, and in the middle of this course of radiation therapy the vet was told to return home because his authorization had expired. He was told: The authorization has expired. Go home.

It is not as if he could just get in a car and drive 20 minutes back to his house. He had been sent to Seattle from a rural community in Southeast Alaska for the care—for the radiation therapy. They said: Go home. Your authorization has expired.

So there was a whole series of exchanges with TriWest and then with the VA itself. The vet began, basically, calling family members to tell them he was coming home to die and to start making funeral preparations. This is not how we treat our veterans.

Now the Veterans Choice legislation provided that the Choice Card program does not displace any of the existing VA purchased care programs. It explicitly supplemented those programs, which for us in Alaska would be a good thing. In Alaska, the VA—and this was under Secretary Shinseki's leadership—established two purchased care programs to address gaps in VA capacity in Alaska. One of the programs provided for partnerships with our tribal health system to care for our vets in more remote areas of the State where the VA simply doesn't have a presence. It was innovative. It was innovative at the time, and these partnerships worked. They really did help to facilitate the care. The other program called "Care Closer to Home" enabled the VA

to purchase care from community providers in the State who performed medical services that the VA didn't offer—services such as neurosurgery and specialized forms of radiation therapy.

Before this program was implemented, the VA forced veterans to fly to Seattle or other parts of the country for services that we would consider pretty routine. You have a 1,000-mile-plus flight to Seattle for an orthopedic appointment or for a neurosurgery appointment. This is what we are putting our veterans through. Imagine you are 70 years old, 80 years old, and you are told to go take a flight for 3½ hours to Seattle—get yourself to the hospital just for an orthopedic appointment. By the time the veteran is at this place and needs that appointment, you are not feeling well in the first place.

I have talked and written before about a veteran on the Kenai Peninsula who died while fighting with the VA over urology care. He couldn't travel to Anchorage, which is about a 3-hour drive, much less to Seattle where the VA wanted to send him because he was in very frail condition, but the VA refused to purchase his care on the Kenai Peninsula where there are facilities that could have helped him. I think we would all agree that when our elderly veterans are in perhaps their final months of life, they have got a lot better things to do than fight with the VA and the bureaucracy.

When the VA came to the hearings before the appropriations subcommittee, I asked them pointblank whether the implementation of the Veterans Choice Card would adversely affect the existing purchased care programs in Alaska, whether it is through IHS or further specialized care, and the answer was clear. There was no nuance; there was no doubt. The answer was no, it is not going to impact negatively the purchased care program. When the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the MILCON-VA bill on May 21, the VA hadn't changed its answer. It is not going to negatively impact, they said.

Then a week later, on May 28, I happened to be visiting the VA facility in Anchorage, and I learned there that the VA had spent all of its fiscal year 2015 purchased care money and was planning to suspend its relationships with community providers and the Alaska tribal health system.

I had gone to the VA center to get an update, to check in with the new docs who were there and to see how things were going. It was basically a checkup with the folks at VA, and they laid this bombshell. They weren't trying to be coy with me or hide the ball. They had just learned themselves. I don't know who was in greater shock, me or the folks there at the VA and their military partners.

We were also in a situation where there were a lot of rumors that the VA was going to pull out of the Joint Venture Hospital that it shares with the

Air Force on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Again, this was a bombshell of news. Now we know that the VA was not just out of purchased care money, it was out of money to operate its health care system, and without the emergency infusion of money we provided from the Choice Act fund before August recess, the VA would have run out of money before we had come back from the August recess.

It was a situation that was a mess. We fixed the mess for 2015 but did nothing for 2016.

What does the VA's failure to properly project the cost of purchased care in 2015 mean for its fiscal year 2016 appropriations? After asking the VA on several occasions, I am left with the impression that the VA once again will run out of money for purchased care and then will remedy this situation by shoving veterans who are seeking care under the Choice Card whether the care is meaningfully available or not. So we have been pushing the VA on this, and to Secretary McDonald's credit, he came to Alaska this summer. The Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Shulkin, visited Alaska. They weren't sheltered from the anger that our vets were feeling.

My colleague Senator SULLIVAN conducted an incredible field hearing to create a record of how the VA, TriWest, and the Choice Card Program were individually and collectively failing Alaska's veterans. But here's the problem. We don't have a fiscal year 2016 solution locked down, and we may not have an acceptable solution locked down by Veterans Day, either.

Without an opportunity to debate the fiscal year 2016 appropriations bill on the floor, I have limited opportunity to press this point, to demand that the GAO investigate what actually is going on and try to amend the bill to ensure that the VA has adequate purchased care money available so that it doesn't drop these veterans through the cracks when it can't serve their critical care issues, and neither can the Choice Card program. Without the opportunity to debate in regular order, I can't do what the people of Alaska have asked me to do in representing them the way I know that we need to in order to deal with this.

I hear what the Democratic leader is saying, that the Budget Control Act needs to be addressed, but I don't agree with the tradeoff that we cannot consider appropriations bills in regular order while conversations are ongoing to address the bigger, broader question. Failing to consider these bills in regular order corrodes the influence of this body; it corrodes the ability of Members to fulfill the responsibilities that we have to the people that we work for. These are issues.

Again, I chose to focus my comments this morning on one area within the MILCON-VA, on that implementation

of the Choice Card in Alaska, and how it has so basically failed our veterans. But there is so much more. Again, if we don't have that opportunity to bring it up, to offer our amendments, to do our best to serve the needs of our veterans, we fail them. We fail the system.

I do hope we will have the opportunity this afternoon to advance to these important measures. Remember, this is just the first of 12. It is very important work that we have in front of us.

Madam President, I know my colleague from Connecticut has arrived on the floor, but before I yield the floor to him, I want to briefly mention a meeting that I had this morning in my office.

WELCOMING MEMBERS OF THE ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD

Madam President, I was able to welcome members of the Anchorage Fire Department Honor Guard to my office. They are making their way to Emmitsburg, MD, to be part of a ceremony at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, where they will pay tribute to and honor the firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty during the year 2014.

REMEMBERING JEFF BAYLESS

The firefighter whom Alaska is recognizing and honoring is a gentleman by the name of Jeff Bayless. He died at the age of 51 on March 7, 2014, during a strenuous training exercise in Anchorage.

How Jeff Bayless lived his life as a fourth-generation Alaskan, and as one who had not only a love for the outdoors but a love and care for people, is something that we want to pay tribute to, and we want to honor and recognize him.

This weekend, on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, the name of fallen Anchorage firefighter Jeffery Edward Bayless will be inscribed on the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. A total of 87 firefighters will be honored, and 84 of those firefighters, including Jeff, gave their lives in the line of duty during 2014. Three died in previous years. This week, I welcome members of the Anchorage Fire Department Honor Guard to my office, as they make their way to Emmitsburg to celebrate Jeff's life and his contributions to the fire service.

I wanted to reflect for a moment on the life of fire hero Jeff Bayless. Jeff died at age 51 on March 7, 2014, during a strenuous training exercise in Anchorage. Heroes are remembered for the way they lived their lives and this is how we should remember Jeff Bayless.

Jeff was a fourth generation Alaskan. He grew up in Copper Center, attended Alaska Bible College in Glennallen, and then became a paramedic through the Oregon Health Sciences University training program. Jeff was also trained

as a Registered Nurse. After serving as a paramedic in Oregon, he returned to Alaska to work as a first responder in Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Ultimately he found his home at the Anchorage Fire Department, first as a paramedic and then as a firefighter. He excelled in both roles. Working his way up the ranks, Jeff was a Senior Captain at the time of his passing.

As would be expected of a fourth generation Alaskan, Jeff had a love for the outdoors. From an early age, Jeff put his mastery of the outdoors to work in the service of lifesaving. As an older teenager, Jeff and his buddy happened upon a flash flood in the Yukon that swept vehicles off the road. Using their wilderness savvy, they roped up and rescued every person.

Later in life, as a member of the Anchorage Fire Department's whitewater rescue team, he plucked several victims from dangerous waters. One of these rescues was particularly memorable. On September 16, 2012, Jeff's Station 11 was called out to rescue a kayaker on the Eagle River who was lodged against a tree after his kayak overturned. The kayaker was in the water for about 90 minutes when a bystander called for emergency assistance. First the tree had to be cut, then the kayaker plucked from the water by his lifejacket. The kayaker was hypothermic by this point. While a number of units from the Anchorage Fire Department responded, Jeff was senior on the three-man jet boat team that plucked the victim out of the water. Jeff's team won the American Red Cross of Alaska Wilderness Rescue Heroes award. Jeff characterized the rescue as one of the most challenging successful rescues his team had ever been involved with. The team was well trained to perform the rescue and in spite of the dangers "everyone went home," including the victim.

I cannot characterize Jeff's life in words more touching than on his National Fallen Firefighters Foundation official biography. He spent his life simply doing what he loved, completely engaged, lost in the moment. Without any consciousness of the impact his own life was having, he left behind a great legacy of life, encouragement, accomplishments, and friendship.

That, my colleagues, is the definition of a fire hero.

He would say he was one of the guys who was just doing his job, but as one of those men who was just doing his job, he needs to know that we view him as one of our heroes.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with his family and all of his brother and sister firefighters as they gather this weekend in Emmitsburg.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

ZADROGA 9/11 BILL

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Alaska for yielding and giving me this opportunity to discuss two measures that ought to be beyond debate or discussion on this floor as well as in America—two issues where Americans ought to unite and be together without controversy or contention.

The first relates to the emergency responders who rushed to the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York in the wake of that horrific attack on America on September 11. I want to join and thank my colleague from New York, Senator SCHUMER, who just spoke on the floor, and associate myself completely with his very eloquent and powerful explanation for why this Nation must meet its obligation to provide critical health care for those emergency responders, firemen, police, and medical personnel who went to that site, even as it continued to smolder with poisonous chemicals and fumes, risking their lives in the face of peril that they little understood and could not know. They never asked whether that place was dangerous, but, in fact, as we now know, it has caused countless cancers, blood diseases, and lung problems, which have manifested themselves in the years after.

Yet at midnight last night, the beginning of this day, the programs designed to provide critical medical care and compensation to the victims were permitted to expire. That is unconscionable and unacceptable.

I join my colleagues from New York and New Jersey as a leading cosponsor in urging this Congress to act—and to act immediately and urgently—to make sure that we do what is right for those emergency responders who served and sacrificed in the wake of 9/11. Failure to do so is absolutely outrageous. The fund still has some money, and it will continue to function. But this Congress should act to pass the Zadroga 9/11 bill immediately.

Madam President, the second area where I think we ought to be all agreeing relates to doing what is right for our veterans, and that means restoring the \$857 million that has been deleted from the President's request for veterans in the Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016. This bill essentially shortchanges our veterans and straitjackets the Veterans' Administration.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the American Legion.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: Last May then-National Commander Michael D. Helm called on Congress to pass a budget for the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill that won't shortchange the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). On April 30 the House of Representatives had passed a funding bill which unfortunately underfunds VA's medical care, major construction and Information Technology accounts by more than \$1.5 billion below the Administration's request.

We were pleased when the Senate Appropriations Committee remedied that shortfall somewhat, but because they were tasked with making an unworkable allocation workable, the Senate version of the bill still underfunds veterans by approximately \$857 million. This comes at a time when the VA is faced with an unprecedented demand for services, in terms of both numbers and complexity.

We need your help to ensure that VA is fully funded so it can provide the care and services veterans have earned and need. An inadequate VA budget will have a negative effect on the timeliness and quality of care that veterans will receive. Fully funding VA must be a very high priority for Congress.

The American Legion is the largest veteran service organization in the nation and we take our responsibility to analyze and evaluate veterans' healthcare options very seriously. As VA, Congress and The American Legion move forward together we must ensure that America's veterans are provided with the healthcare and services they have earned and were guaranteed.

Respectfully,

DALE BARNETT,
National Commander.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. This letter emphasizes the challenges that the VA faces in meeting the unprecedented and increasing demand for services that our veterans need and deserve. This obligation for our country is not a matter of discretion or convenience, it is a promise that we have made and we must fulfill to provide medical care, skills training, job opportunity, and, most especially, the mental health care that our veterans need so that we can stop the 22 suicides every day in this country—the greatest, strongest, country in history of our world, where 22 of our Nation's heroes commit suicide every day.

They suffer from the invisible wounds of war, post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Many of our veterans suffer the more visible wounds, and they need care as well. Many of our veterans in increasing numbers will be coming out of the service needing jobs and skills training, not only through the VA but the Department of Labor. Just yesterday, the nominee for the Veterans Employment and Training Services position in the Department of Labor testified before the Veterans' Affairs Committee as to the importance of services provided by the Department of Labor, and yet they

too will be shortchanged by this budget.

So I urge my colleagues to provide sufficient funding to restore that \$857 million and to make sure that we meet those needs of our veterans. Failing to do so is as unacceptable as failing to meet the needs of the emergency responders who went to the 9/11 site. This bill underfunds the VA's medical facilities by \$100 million, reducing the VA's ability to keep pace with the need for critical facility maintenance. This is upkeep that is vital for basic repair and maintenance. Facilities will decay and downgrade without that funding. It is an investment in basic infrastructure.

We ought to be investing in the personnel of the VA—the doctors and nurses and other professionals—so that we recruit and retain the men and women who will really do the work on the ground in the trenches to make sure that the VA provides the best care possible—world-class care to our veterans. They deserve no less. Fully funding the VA honors the service and sacrifice of men and women who have risked their lives to keep our great Nation free. Freedom is never free, and this Nation ought to be keeping its promise to those veterans, which, unfortunately, sadly, reprehensibly, this measure fails to do.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with the Senator from Wisconsin.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2015

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, we are here to discuss the process for the Border Jobs for Veterans Act that is going to pass shortly.

I yield to the Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, first, I thank my colleague from Arizona for leading and also for his leadership for working, on a bipartisan basis, with Members from the other side of the aisle to really accomplish something to produce a result. What I have been trying to do as chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is that I have reached out to every Senator and asked them: If you have identified a problem, if you have a piece of legislation that solves that problem, bring it before our committee, and I will do everything in my power to mark it up, report it out of our committee, and then first work with you to first pass it through the Senate, then through the House, to get that piece of legislation on the President's desk, and to have it

signed into law to actually solve that problem.

The Senator from Arizona has done a great job in this particular case because this is a piece of legislation that truly is a win-win. It is a win for our veterans, and it is a win for the border.

I am not going to steal the Senator's thunder in terms of describing all of the benefits of the bill, but I just want to mention a couple. We obviously have a huge problem at our border, and neither one of us would claim that this is going to solve all of our problems. But it identifies one—a staffing problem with our ports of entry. Also there is another problem in terms of our veterans who have served this Nation and are unable to find work. So that is the win-win. This is a perfect example of a piece of legislation now that solves that problem.

Coming from the manufacturing sector, I never did quite understand why our returning veterans—with their esprit de corps, with all their skills, all their dedication, their great attitude—are having a hard time finding work, because certainly in my manufacturing operation in Oshkosh, WI, boy, if I found a veteran, I hired that individual because they are great workers. Now, in my Senate office, we actually have seven veterans with a combined total of 115 years of service.

So I think what we are going to find now at Customs and Border Protection is that this bill will make it easier for veterans to connect with those particular jobs to help staff our ports of entry. Customs and Border Protection is going to find that value of being able to employ the finest among us because we have made that easier. Our veterans are going to have the ability to leave service and have a very good job further serving the country and keeping our Nation safe.

I again thank the Senator from Arizona for his leadership on this and for working with me to get this passed through our committee, passed through the Senate, and put on the President's desk for his signature to have this bill signed into law so we can be helping our veterans and protect this Nation.

I thank the Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Thank you. I again thank the Senator from Wisconsin and others I will name later for working so hard on this bill.

The Senator made sure that it moved through his committee expeditiously, that we got it to the floor in the Senate and also through the House as well. It is an example of how the Senate and the House can work in a bipartisan way. I appreciate both the appeal that you have made to encourage us to come forward with problems that we have and to vote for ways that your committee can help solve them.

Thank you again.

Mr. JOHNSON. If I could just make one final point, this is a classic exam-

ple of when we concentrate on the areas of agreement and find the areas of agreement that unite us, as opposed to exploiting the divisions.

Again, this is a perfect example of getting bipartisan support on a piece of legislation. It serves as a great example for everybody serving in Washington to see us concentrate on the areas of agreement that unify us rather than exploit those divisions.

Again, I thank the Senator very much for his leadership.

Mr. FLAKE. Thank you.

Madam President, I wish to talk about the problem that led to this bill. We have made significant investments along the border in terms of port facilities. More needs to be done, obviously, but we made significant investments to accommodate cross-border traffic.

There is a lot of good that goes on at the border. We often just focus on the bad—the illegal crossings, the drug trade, and whatnot—but there is a tremendous amount of good that happens on the border, particularly the border of Arizona and Mexico.

There is a lot of commerce that goes in. Arizona's ports of entry processed \$30.5 billion worth of goods in 2014. This is an increase up from \$18.5 billion in 2009. So there is a lot of good that goes on. We have needed more adequate staffing at these ports.

The Border Patrol officers with whom we often associate the border are in green uniforms. What we need more of are blue uniforms—people to actually facilitate this cross-border traffic and the flow of goods that benefits us, benefits Mexico and other countries to the south as well.

Secretary Johnson, when we asked why we were having difficulty filling these slots for staffing of these ports, said that—well, let me just say we authorized—the Senate and the House authorized—2,000 new CPB officers. We authorized these positions, but as of earlier this year, only 800 of the 2,000 had been filled. So Secretary Johnson was explaining that the delays are associated with applicant background investigations, low polygraph clearance rates, and a shortage of Federal polygraph examiners combined with attrition.

So we thought: What group of people do we have who have gone through these security clearances already and who could clear this hurdle and expedite this? And it is, of course, our returning men and women from the military and those who are now out of service. They have, in many cases, already gone through the security clearances. They have passed the polygraph test and could more expeditiously move into these jobs. Obviously, we have concerns, and we have several other programs that deal with returning veterans to make sure that there are jobs awaiting them.

Let me say that this doesn't affect any of the preferences or other posi-

tions that are available for our veterans. This simply requires CPB and the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate or collaborate with our military to see what jobs are out there and see what positions can be filled.

It shouldn't take an act of Congress to get two agencies to work together like this, but sometimes it does. So that is what this legislation is doing, and it will require reporting to happen as well to make sure that this is being accomplished and the coordination is occurring.

Let me just talk about some of the endorsements for this legislation, some of those groups that have helped us in exploiting the need and coming to a solution.

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry said:

The Border Jobs for Veterans Act . . . helps advance two major national priorities: the facilitation of cross-border commerce and the future employment of the tens of thousands of men and women who separate from military service each year. Ensuring our ports of entry are properly staffed is critical to our nation's ability to compete on a global scale.

The president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas said:

The Border Jobs for Vets Legislation is crucial for continuing to grow the nation's economy. It is helping businesses across the country continue to prosper by facilitating trade while also using the skills and knowledge of an amazing asset we already have, our veterans, to do this important work.

The Greater Nogales-Santa Cruz Port Authority said:

Border communities like Nogales, Arizona, depend greatly on the ability of people and goods to cross the border effectively and efficiently. We have been pushing for many years for additional staff. . . . The Border Jobs for Veterans Act is one of the most significant steps taken on this issue in many years.

The president of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce said:

We appreciate our Arizona Senators' innovative approach to a problem that is impacting our communities and our economy. Any impediments that increase wait times at our ports of entry such as a lack of adequate staffing impact our retail sales and ultimately the financial success of our business community in Arizona.

I would like to take a moment to thank my Senate colleagues—Senator RON JOHNSON, who already spoke here; Senator MCCAIN, who played a critical role in this; Senator SCHUMER, Senator BURR, Senator BALDWIN, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator LANKFORD, Senator SULLIVAN, Senator TILLIS, Senator TOOMEY, and Senator DAVID VITTER—for cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation.

After being approved by the Senate, Arizona Congresswoman MARTHA MCSALLY has led the effort to get it passed in the House unanimously. She played a great role there, and I want to thank her for leading this effort in the House.

Thanks to everyone's support and the hard work of committee staff, including Brooke Ericson and Holly Idelson on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and Paul Anstine of the House Homeland Security Committee, we now have this bill ready to head to the President's desk.

In conclusion, let me just say that those leaving the military need jobs and CBP needs officers. This is a great bill that will require coordination between the two, and it will lead to greater staffing at less cost and certainly in less time. So I look forward to having the administration look at this and look forward to having the President sign this legislation.

With that, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2835, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2835) to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2835) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2101

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I come to the floor today to ask for an extension of a very important program to my State—the Land and Water Conservation Fund—and because of that I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2101; I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and

passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I am very disappointed that last night the Land and Water Conservation Fund expired, and so it has lapsed. I just offered a unanimous consent request to extend this fund for 60 days to make sure there was not a lapse in this important program.

This is a fund that, in my home State of New Hampshire, has been used to ensure the public can enjoy our beautiful environment and our natural spaces, from my home city of Nashua, NH, and Mine Falls Park, which I love to run through every morning when I am in New Hampshire, to our beautiful White Mountain National Forest.

I had the opportunity to come to the floor yesterday with Senators from both sides of the aisle, including my colleague from Montana, Senator DAINES. The Senator from Montana had a wonderful picture of him and his wife in their public lands that have been preserved using the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The picture was of him and his wife hiking. We all understand that a big part of the beauty of this country is our natural beauty, and because of that, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was established in 1965. It was actually established to aid in the preservation of spaces for outdoor recreation across this Nation.

In New Hampshire we have a very strong tradition of the outdoors being such a part of who we are. In fact, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has led to more than 650 individual acquisition and development projects in our State. We very much support the public use of our lands in our State, enjoying their natural beauty, whether it is hiking, fishing, hunting or any number of other wonderful uses we can have of our public lands. So this fund has been very important, and I believe we should not let it lapse.

The law that created the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1965 established that a portion of the revenues coming from oil and gas leasing would be designated for this purpose. So to not extend this fund really is another example, if you look at the fund itself, where portions of these dollars have actually been taken to spend for other purposes in the Treasury, not in accordance with the law. We see that happen too much in Washington. But to let this lapse is very unfortunate.

I am very disappointed my colleague has rendered an objection because this is such a bipartisan issue and something that has done so much for our

country—this program—and for my home State of New Hampshire. So I hope in the coming days we will be able to work together to have the Land and Water Conservation Fund program extended and that we can get beyond the partisan objections and get it done so we can work together to preserve the beautiful spaces in this country. This program has done so much for my home State of New Hampshire and for many States across this country, and that is why it has such strong bipartisan support.

Madam President, I am very disappointed that my very reasonable request in asking for unanimous consent to extend this program for 60 days until we can get to the long-term permanent authorization—which I support and I have cosponsored, and I think that is what we need to do in the long term—has been objected to. To let this lapse is completely unacceptable when it has been such a strong program in allowing everyone in this country to enjoy our public lands, to enjoy the great outdoors in the greatest country on Earth.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk for a few minutes about the discussion we are having about whether to have a discussion. The debate we are having about whether to have a debate is always amazing to me. How far we have moved in such a short period of time from the way the Congress always did its work. The way you set your priorities, both at home and in the government, is how you spend your money. You might think that is not the way you set your priorities, but if you think something is very important to you and your family and you find out you are not investing any money or time in it, it is probably not all that important. It is probably something you have decided is a good thing to say is very important.

This is the process we go through in the government to talk about what our priorities are. What could be more significant in our priorities than the bill that I would like to see us take up today, the VA-Military Construction bill, the bill that determines lots of things about not only people who serve in the military but what is available for their families, and what kind of support structure there is, and then with the Veterans' Administration, what is there after they serve, how are we meeting that commitment we made to our veterans that if they serve for

the government—and we are grateful, so we should then make sure we are always there to do what the American people have told veterans we would do if they served.

We have already had votes not to go to the Defense appropriations bill—a bill that is about the same amount of money the President asked for and what the President said was needed to defend the country, but apparently there is some balance somewhere in the world—that I am not aware of—that no matter how much it costs to defend the country, you have to spend that much money on other things that don't defend the country; that there is a balance between what is happening in Syria today and how many employees the EPA needs or how many employees the IRS needs. Obviously, that is something that doesn't make sense to people. It doesn't make sense to me, but we couldn't get the four additional votes we needed to go to the Defense appropriations bill. I guess in a world where the President said he is also going to veto the Defense authorization bill—not because of what it authorizes but because of the money that eventually the appropriators would have to spend—people have to wonder what is going on. The No. 1 priority of the Federal Government is to defend the country, and following that priority, our obligation is to those who serve in the military and their families. That is what the Military Construction bill would do. It actually spends a little more money than we spent this year. That appears to be everybody's complaint; that somehow the government is not spending enough money, but the Appropriations Committee took the amount of money that the law allows, and the Budget Control Act did a good thing in terms of keeping spending under control. That is one of the few things that has happened in Washington, DC, in a long time that actually did put a lid on spending because it actually put a lid on spending. It actually says in the law how much money we can spend this year on discretionary spending. The Appropriations Committee, with Republicans in charge for the first time in a long time, did the work for the first time in a long time. In fact, this is the first year in 6 years that the Appropriations Committee voted all the bills out of committee, marked up all of the bills, cut places where the committee thought should be cut, increased places where the committee thought should be increased, and this at a level that the law allows, but apparently the law is not good enough for our friends who always want to spend more money. It is not even good enough to debate the bills that come out at the level of the law, to let those be amended, and to let that work be publicly done.

This worked pretty well for a long time. I think initially there was prob-

ably one spending bill, but I think in the tradition of Congress, that was the one bill that in both the House and the Senate we were able to debate as long as we wanted to, until everybody was worn out, offering their ideas as to how to spend the money better or not spend it at all. The House has continued to do this, except for a couple of years under Speaker PELOSI, on the half dozen big bills of the 12 spending bills we have now, and they traditionally have 200 or 300 amendments on each of those bills on how to spend the money. Some of those suggestions were not to spend it at all. What could be healthier than that? The Senate is not allowed to do that. At the end of the day, we are saying: Let's debate these bills. Let's, of course, debate the bill that defends the country. Let's debate the bill that takes care of those who do defend the country.

This bill includes \$5.5 billion more than was spent last year. I don't recall hearing a hark and cry—when this bill finally gets passed as part of one big not very appealing package—from anyone saying that we were not spending nearly enough on military construction or veterans programs last year, but even though we are spending \$5.5 billion more than we spent last year, some are saying it isn't nearly enough to spend this year. The committee thought it was enough.

In fact, this bill was voted out of committee—and remember this committee has Democrats and Republicans on it—with a vote of 27 to 3. Eleven Democrats and all the Republicans said: This is the best way to spend this amount of money—\$5.5 billion more for these purposes than we spent last year. Let's vote this bill out so it can be debated on the Senate floor. Here we are months later, still trying to get 60 Senators to agree to have that debate. Actually, I think we are trying to get five Senators to agree to have that debate because all of the Republicans, and one Democrat, appear to be willing to move forward on these defense funding bills, but there is not enough on the other side. If we could get half of the Democrats who voted for the bill in the committee, we would have the votes we need to have this debate and talk about spending money.

Eventually the government has to be funded, and we should all understand that if we don't do it this way, the alternative is that it will be funded in absolutely the worst possible way as one big bill with no debate and having to settle on some desperate decision at the end of the year in order to keep the government funded because we do have to defend the country.

I am not arguing with the decision that ultimately has to be made to defend the country. I am not arguing with the decision that ultimately has to be made to have the military installations that allow that to happen with

military construction. I am not arguing with the decision that has to be made for the veterans affairs part of our government, including veterans' health—mental and physical—behavioral health, and other health, to be funded properly, but why aren't we debating on that today?

What would be wrong with debating this bill? If you were not one of the 27 Senators on that committee—so 27 percent of the Senate has already voted on this bill. Let's send it to the Senate floor and vote on it. If you are not one of the 27 Senators who voted for it or one of the 3 who voted against it, bring your ideas to the floor. That is how this process is supposed to work. Your ideas may be better than what is in the bill, but we will never find out if we are not allowed to debate it. This is regrettable for veterans and their families. We see a Veterans' Administration that is not doing what it ought to do.

A year ago, the President said the Veterans' Administration was the best funded part of "his government," but now there is not enough money. Suddenly there is not enough money. The President thought there was enough money a year ago, but apparently there is not enough money now. The real issue is that there is not enough commitment to veterans and the Veterans' Administration. We could have that debate here too.

Over the last year, we have moved a long way toward giving veterans more choices, more options, and more places to go to get their health care. That system is in its fledgling stages, and it ought to be debated as we talk about how to spend money that would be spent on the Veterans' Administration, but we can't debate and vote on it if people aren't willing to have the vote it takes to have that debate. We ought to be getting back to the way this process works transparently and the way it works constitutionally. We need to have this vote today. We need to get to the Defense appropriations bill.

Earlier this week, we had a vote—which I didn't support—to move forward for a few more weeks with last year's spending. Last year's priorities only work for so long. Just a couple of years ago, we had the situation where the Budget Control Act had to go into effect—and it went into effect because Congress didn't do its job and ended up appropriating more money than the law would allow—and that required line-by-line cutting, the sequester, which is not a necessary part of that law at all. It is only a part of the law if the Congress violates the law, and the Congress violated the law. The President signed the bill, and then we had to do the line-by-line cutting.

We brought the leaders of our military in to talk about this, and none of them were for line-by-line cutting. Who would be? That is the worst possible way to reduce spending because

you are not making any choices, you are just admitting that you can't make any choices, and so everything gets cut everywhere. Every one of them said this is a big problem, but an even bigger problem in almost every case is the sequester. In fact, Admiral McRaven of Special Ops said that an even bigger problem than the sequester is the continuing resolution because we were cutting lines of a budget that might have met the military needs 5 years before, but it hasn't been updated for 5 years.

Let's have this debate. Let's move beyond saying that we can't decide how to spend the money to debating how to spend the money. Let's have a defense structure that works for 2015 and 2016, not a defense structure that might have worked for 2010. One of the great frustrations the people we work for have with us today is they believe this is not all that complicated, and they are right. How complicated can it be? We were elected to the Senate so we could take positions and vote, so let's take positions and vote. The debate we should be having is about moving forward on these critical issues.

I hope our colleagues will join us today. I hope there are 60 Senators who will say: I am ready to have this debate. I am ready to defend the country. I am ready to take care of those who defend our country and their families and veterans and their survivors. And that is what this budget is all about.

How anyone can walk onto the floor and say they don't want to deal with this now and put it off a little while longer is disappointing to me and to lots of people.

Let's get our work done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KIRK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KIRK. Madam President, I come to the floor to urge my colleagues to pass the 2016 Military Construction appropriations bill. This bill has a \$4.2 billion increase over last year's level.

We passed the MILCON-VA bill out of the full Appropriations Committee by a vote of 21 to 9, with Democratic Senators LEAHY, FEINSTEIN, UDALL, SCHATZ, and BALDWIN all supporting that bill and with 16 Republicans backing it.

We now have record levels of funding to fix the backlog of disability claims at the VA. We took construction out of the hands of the VA and gave it to the Army Corps of Engineers so that we never have cost overruns like at the Denver hospital again. The bill also bans funding for Glenn Haggstrom, the

bureaucrat responsible for spending \$930 million over budget in Denver. The bill provides new protections for whistleblowers, especially for doctors and nurses not protected by the Whistleblower Protection Act.

By voting no on this bill, Members will be voting against a \$4.2 billion increase for our veterans.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I rise today to speak about a subject matter I touched on about a month ago regarding current trade negotiations.

I don't blame elected officials for pushing legislation, policy proposals, or ideas that further their home State's interests. In fact, I think that is one of the first things we should do here, that is, to make sure the folks who elected us know we are standing up for them.

But I also think there comes a time when we need to recognize that the long-term interests of our collective constituents are at risk, even when we are doing short term things that put us at risk.

This is why I have decided that I wish to speak a little bit about the current status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP negotiations.

I learned overnight and this morning that the American team of the TPP negotiators has tabled language which would carve certain American-grown commodities out of the protections of the trade deal's investor-state dispute settlement—or ISDS—mechanism.

By carving out tobacco from the TPP, the President and his administration are discriminating against an entire agriculture commodity, setting a dangerous precedent for future trade agreements.

I rise today to defend the farmers, the manufacturers, and the exporters from the discriminatory treatment in this proposed trade agreement. What they have decided to do right now relates to tobacco. Today it happens to be about tobacco, but I will do this for any crop now and for any agriculture commodity for any State going forward in the future. This is not just about tobacco. This is about American values and fairness.

In July I stood on this same floor and I discussed this same issue. I went out of my way to emphasize that I believe free trade is good. That is why I voted for trade promotion authority. A balanced trade agreement will benefit all of us.

I also recognize that the United States over the years has tried to do more with these agreements than merely haggle for market access or tariff reductions. Over the past 30 years, the United States has consistently imported certain components of our American system into these agree-

ments, including due process protections, dispute settlement procedures, and the protection of private property rights.

These are now standard terms that those who engage with the United States at the bargaining table know are not negotiable.

They never have been—that is, until yesterday.

Our negotiators have now concluded that while some investors are entitled to equal treatment under the law, others aren't. What our negotiators have proposed sets the stage for the remainder of this negotiation and for those deals which will be negotiated in the future, such as the agreement with Europe and future agreements with African nations.

Our trade agreements are now apparently nothing more than laboratories for setting partisan policies and picking winners and losers. If we condone this kind of behavior, how can we be assured it will ever end?

As I stated in July, once we allow an entire sector to be treated unfairly, the question is, who is next? Is it the beef industry in Nebraska? Is it the pork industry in States such as Iowa and North Carolina? Is it the poultry industry in Delaware, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Georgia?

We need not look far to find protracted, heated policy debates about any number of issues that affect trade—the consumption of coal, energy exploration practices, the use of pesticides, the use of biotechnology. The right place for those debates is in bodies like this one, not in trade agreements. The wrong place is what is going on right now with our trade negotiators and the members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

I hold a sincere belief that unfair treatment for one agricultural commodity significantly heightens the risk that more unfair treatment for another commodity lurks around the corner.

I have no choice but to use this forum to make two very important points and make it very clear to the negotiators as we reach the final stages of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.

First, I would like to speak to process concerns. A failure to abide by the process and the terms governing the process as established by the TPA is unacceptable. When I state that I have no choice but to use the Senate floor to make these points, I mean it.

A full 8 weeks ago, I wrote to our Trade Ambassador cautioning him about this course of action and requesting that he consult with me as he was statutorily obligated in the TPA to do.

To explain to those in the Gallery, we passed a bill that said we wanted to provide the President with trade promotion authority. We wanted to empower representatives of the United

States to negotiate with trading partners who are in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We wanted to support that, over the objections of many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We also set certain ground rules for being able to do that. They had to review with Congress some of the proposed items of the agreement that may be the most contentious about intellectual property, about the carve-out. But to date I have had absolutely no additional communication from the Ambassador or his designees. In other words, it has been lights out.

In fact, I would ask any Member of the Senate whether they honestly know what currently is in the TPP agreement that is being, in my mind, pushed forward and pushed to a point where we will just have a simple up-or-down vote. I think this abuse of the process is in violation of the letter and the spirit of the TPA.

The last time anybody spoke to me regarding this particular provision that has to do with the carve-out, I was told it is something our partners were insisting on. The actions of the last 24 hours—namely, that the United States actually tabled the language in question—really raises serious doubts about that assertion.

Second, I want to speak to the growing view that the TPP is not being negotiated in accordance with the substance of the TPA. The failure to abide by the substance of the provisions of TPA puts the privileged status of the proposed treaty at risk, and it is something I am going to spend a lot of time focusing on.

I would remind this body that we have already, in a bipartisan fashion, disavowed language that treats some products differently. In the TPA, Congress said that opportunities for U.S. agriculture exports must be “substantially equivalent to opportunities afforded foreign exports in U.S. markets.” Congress has stated that dispute settlement mechanisms must be available across the board, not selectively.

I voted to give the President trade promotion authority to allow trade agreements such as the TPP to move through Congress in a quick, orderly, and responsible fashion. Congress granted the President trade promotion authority with the mutual understanding that his administration would negotiate deals in good faith. I did not vote to give the President and the administration the freedom to indiscriminately choose when fairness should be applied and when it should be ignored.

If the President chooses to arbitrarily ignore TPA provisions he doesn't like, then Congress is not obliged to honor the fast-track status. If any carve-out is ultimately included in the TPP, I will work hard to defeat it.

I might add that our own majority leader has expressed concerns over this

and has expressed the same sentiment to the trade negotiation team.

In closing, I wish to offer this to anyone who believes my sticking up for tobacco or this particular provision or for equal treatment and American values is shortsighted: I want you to know that I would do it for beef in Nebraska, for pork in Iowa, for poultry in Delaware, for any farmer who is being unfairly carved out as a result of the administration's desire to put provisions in a trade agreement that simply shouldn't be there, and which have not been there historically.

So to the Members of the Senate and to the American people and the farmers out there, I want you to know I am going to continue this fight. I am going to continue this fight not because it satisfies a home constituency, but because I intend to protect the free trade ideals that have made the United States the most desirable trading partner in the world.

Thank you, Madam President. I also want you to know that I think there is a growing sense of concern—whether it is Senator HATCH, Senator MCCONNELL, or a number of other Senators—that regardless of how they feel about this particular issue with tobacco, the provision in such a trade agreement is unacceptable. I hope our trade negotiators recognize that we are focusing a lot of attention on this, and they risk putting together a good trade agreement that we would all like to get behind as a result.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2101

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, for 50 years the Land and Water Conservation Fund has done amazing work protecting our land, waterways, forests, State parks, and critical wildlife habitats. This is particularly true in New Hampshire, where since 1965 LWCF has funded more than 650 individual projects. Just this month, New Hampshire received eight new LWCF grants, which will allow New Hampshire communities to develop outdoor recreation facilities in Dover, which is close to where I live, to renovate Osgood Pond in Milford, and to do so many other projects.

In the last couple of months, I actually had a chance to go around New Hampshire and visit so many of these projects that were done because of LWCF grants. One of the things that really struck me about them is that they are not for big projects, although some have been used toward doing that. The Silvio Conte National Wildlife Preserve that crosses Vermont and New Hampshire is one of those that have been preserved, with the help of Judd Gregg, a former Republican Senator from New Hampshire. LWCF helped to preserve that.

So many of these grants have been used for small projects and communities, such as Meredith in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire on Lake Winnepesaukee, where I visited. They have been able to expand the park along the lake so that people not only from Meredith but from across the State and other parts of the country when they are visiting can come and sit and enjoy the water. With those projects, they have been able to put in new docks so that people can get out on the lake on boats and enjoy the water. Without LWCF, those projects would not have been possible. It gets people out into the outdoors who otherwise wouldn't be able to do that.

Federal and State LWCF funds are also vital to the outdoor recreation industry in New Hampshire. That is one of our biggest industries. It accounts for \$4.2 billion in consumer spending, \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries, and nearly 50,000 jobs. The importance of these projects and the conservation efforts that are the result of LWCF to the tourism sector of our economy and to our outdoor industry cannot be overstated.

There has been bipartisan support for LWCF since its inception back in the 1960s. There is a bill which Senator BURR has introduced and which I am a cosponsor of that would extend LWCF for 60 days. Unfortunately, last night LWCF expired. Its authorization ended as of September 30.

The effort to reauthorize the program, to invoke Senator BURR's bipartisan legislation, was defeated. When they objected to a simple short-term extension of LWCF, our Republican friends indicated it was because they believed most LWCF funding goes to Federal land acquisition. Well, I would like the RECORD to reflect that is just not the case. I have seen it firsthand in New Hampshire in the projects I talked about. I would bet the Presiding Officer has seen in North Carolina the support LWCF has provided. In fact, during the last 10 years, LWCF funds have been split about 50–50 between Federal agencies and States. In New Hampshire, what these Federal grants do is to leverage State support and private support and local support.

Moreover, most Federal lands that are acquired with LWCF funds are within the existing boundaries of Federal parks, refuges, forests, and other recreation areas. Consolidating these lands helps to reduce Federal maintenance and management costs, saves taxpayer dollars, and enhances the experience visitors have to these areas. For example, in 2014, 39 of 40 LWCF national forest acquisitions expanded access to property already managed by the Federal Government that had been previously closed to the public. This is not about keeping the public off these lands, this is about helping to ensure that members of the public can get on

these lands and benefit from them and enjoy them.

This Senator is very disappointed that we have seen a few people blocking the extension of this program in a way that affects every single State in this country. Our failure to act has significant consequences for each and every State.

The expiration of this program jeopardizes access to public land for hunting and fishing, which is one of the great benefits we have in New Hampshire that we use these lands for. It prohibits access to other outdoor activities that are important and unique to our American heritage. This is going to adversely impact our Nation's outdoor, recreation, conservation, and preservation economy. In New Hampshire, our whole outdoor industry is affected. That outdoor industry contributes over \$1 trillion to our Nation each year, and it supports millions of American jobs.

I think it is critical that we pass a short-term extension to keep this program operating, but ultimately what we need to do is to pass a bill that permanently reauthorizes and fully funds LWCF—something a bipartisan majority of this body supports doing. I am going to continue working to pass a permanent authorization. I know that Senator BURR; my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator AYOTTE; and other people who are on this bill feel the same way.

In the meantime, we should not allow LWCF to lapse any longer. So this Senator is going to renew a unanimous consent request that was made last night by my colleague from New Mexico, Senator HEINRICH, to pass a 60-day extension.

I recognize that this request is going to be objected to by Senator LANKFORD, whom I see on the floor, but I just want to remind us all that less than 2 weeks ago, 53 Senators wrote the Senate majority leader urging action to reauthorize LWCF. To the 12 Republican Senators who signed that letter, I say this: I hope you will work with us to correct the misconceptions and the mischaracterizations that exist about this program. Let's work together so we can allow this short-term extension to pass. Let's work together to get a long-term reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund because LWCF has expanded outdoor opportunities in every single State in the country.

We should come together to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to protect one of America's most essential tools for conservation and economic growth.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2101; and I ask unanimous consent that

the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I do object to this bill moving forward by unanimous consent today. The issue is that this bill needs reform. I enjoy our national parks. My children enjoy our national parks.

Twenty-nine percent of the United States is already under Federal ownership. Twenty-nine percent of all of the United States is under Federal ownership. A significant portion of this—in fact, last year \$306 million was spent from the LWCF, and \$178 million of that was for new land acquisition.

So the bulk of what this program is used for is for new land acquisition. But the real issue to address here is not only what happens if we allow it to lapse but what happens with it day to day. The day-to-day operation of the LWCF is for new land acquisition or for putting money into a State grant to be able to have them buy new facilities, not to maintain them.

We are not setting aside the money to be able to maintain this. We have an \$11.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog at our national parks right now. The new additional dollars that are used for land acquisition are used to be able to pick up new properties and not to be able to maintain what we currently have. So the challenge that I have is this: Why don't we look at this fund in a new way? Why can't we take care of what we already have and not just focus on acquiring new properties?

To leave the LWCF as it currently is would be something akin to saying: I want to buy a new car, but I don't want to set aside money to actually put gas in it. I just want to have the new car.

Well, if we are going to have that property, we better take care of it. Currently, the Federal Government is a terrible steward of the land we have. Now, as far as this program and reauthorizing it right now, we checked with the Congressional Research Service. If this program is not reauthorized currently, the program continues. The program currently has \$20 billion in reserves right now—\$20 billion.

Last year, \$306 million was spent. The year before, \$306 million was spent in LWCF, meaning in current status, right now, if we do not put a single dime into LWCF for the next few years, we will only have 65 years of reserve left in this program. It is not a crisis that we need to fix immediately. This authorization does not keep the program going. This authorization means we are not adding new money to the \$20 billion already in reserve.

I think we have at least 64 years to be able to work this out and a 65-year reserve. I can't imagine it would take

that long, but with the Senate, everything seems to take too long. What we are looking for is pretty straightforward and simple. Let's spend some of these dollars to be able to focus on not just buying new properties but on actually taking care of properties that the U.S. Government has the responsibility to actually be able to maintain. It is to reform this program in the days ahead and to make sure that we are managing land well, not just adding new land all the time.

So with that, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I would be all for taking the backlog of funding and putting it into LWCF. I think my colleague raises some real reforms that could be made to LWCF. In fact, there is legislation in the comprehensive energy bill that Senators MURKOWSKI and CANTWELL have passed that would make some of those reforms. But if we can't get to that, if we can't extend this program in the short term, we are never going to get to that point.

The fact is that the backlog of maintenance needs should be addressed. But it does not make sense for us to suspend the program while we address those needs. LWCF was not established for maintenance purposes. It was established to protect natural areas and to provide recreation opportunities to the American public.

When I went to the city of Nashua, the second largest city in New Hampshire, and walked with the Republican mayor along the Riverwalk that they are trying to establish there, what I heard from her was what a critical difference LWCF made to the city and being able to leverage funds that the city put in and that the State could put in to help make sure that the people of Nashua, many of whom cannot get to national parks or to the White Mountains in New Hampshire but they could get to the Riverwalk through downtown Nashua.

Those are the kinds of projects that LWCF goes to help fund. Some 99 percent of what Federal agencies spend goes to acquire inholds, those pieces of land that are already within the boundaries of a national park, a national forest or a national wildlife refuge that if sold to a private developer would block public access. It would damage park resources. It would harm the visitor experience, and it would make it harder to maintain those very projects that my colleague was talking about wanting to maintain.

So I think, while it sounds simple to say there is a backlog and we should not reauthorize this program, that is only half the story. It is very disappointing that with the strong bipartisan support this legislation has, with the need to reauthorize it to continue

to protect special places in the country, we are seeing opposition from a very few people in this body who are able to block our moving forward.

NOMINATION OF GAYLE SMITH

Mr. President, I would like to, if I could, move on to address a different issue, and hope we will see some cooperative agreement at some point in the future. I also want to urge the consideration of the nomination of Gayle Smith to serve as the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, also known as USAID. I am here with my colleague Senator COONS from the Foreign Relations Committee to talk about this nominee because this is a non-controversial nominee, a seasoned public servant for a position that should be above partisanship.

So it is really disappointing that, again, there is only one person in this body who is holding this up. This comes at a particularly difficult time because we are witnessing a humanitarian crisis in Syria and across the Middle East. It is a crisis that grows worse every day. Our European allies are struggling to cope with a massive refugee and migration crisis without precedent since World War II.

The United States, with our unparalleled capacity to mobilize humanitarian support for humanitarian relief, has played a leading role, but there is more that we can do to assist both the Syrian refugees and the neighboring countries that are hosting them to help with that humanitarian crisis. But our ability to respond effectively to these challenges is hampered by the inability of the Senate to vote on Gayle Smith's nomination to lead USAID.

So, again, nearly 4 months have passed since she appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The committee approved her nomination by a voice vote in July. But since then, there has been no attempt to bring her nomination to the Senate floor, even as these humanitarian crises have deepened and deteriorated. It is not only our operations in the Middle East that are being hampered, USAID currently operates in more than 60 countries and regional missions around the world.

Following the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April, USAID disaster response teams were among the first crisis personnel to deploy there to organize the humanitarian response. USAID personnel continue to support our development efforts in Afghanistan. Those efforts are critical to the long-term success in the country. Given the extraordinary humanitarian crises confronting the United States, confronting our allies in the world, we really need a leader in place at USAID. It is unconscionable that here we are 4 months later and she is still being stalled.

Gayle Smith is a superbly qualified nominee who will almost certainly be

confirmed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. The Senate deserves the chance to vote on this critical nomination. So, again, I urge the majority leader to bring her nomination to the floor. We discussed it again today in the Foreign Relations Committee. I know my colleague from Delaware can speak also to what we heard in the Foreign Relations Committee.

So I would yield to my colleague from Delaware to discuss what we have heard in the Foreign Relations Committee about Gayle Smith and the need to put her in place as leader of USAID.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, confirmation and expiration are issues before us today. As we have heard from the Member from New Hampshire, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on which we both serve, months ago considered the nomination of Gayle Smith to be the next Administrator of USAID. Today, 60 million people around the world are displaced, either within their countries or as refugees spreading throughout the world.

It is the single greatest refugee crisis since the end of the Second World War. Gayle Smith came before our committee and received commendations and plaudits from Republicans and Democrats for her long experience as a journalist, as a leader in humanitarian agencies, as a member of the National Security Council, as a cofounder of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, and as a seasoned and senior leader who can help bring strong leadership to USAID at this difficult and important time.

Four months later, she has yet to be confirmed by this body. We have broad bipartisan support for this nominee yet fail to move her forward due to a hold by one Member. I think this points to a longer challenge that this body faces because you also heard from the Senator from New Hampshire of an attempt to move forward the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which yesterday expired.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

Mr. President, I cannot yield without commenting on how hard I worked in the previous Congress to get reauthorized two critical programs, a bulletproof vest partnership program that for years provided tens of millions of dollars to State and local law enforcement for lifesaving bulletproof vests, and a reauthorization effort I led for years—both of these with bipartisan support—to restore authorization to child advocacy centers—centers that critically support families who have been harmed by child abuse and allow local law enforcement to pursue effective prosecutions.

It is unconscionable that this body yesterday, September 30, allowed the Land and Water Conservation Fund to

expire, allowed a whole range of child nutrition and school lunch authorizing programs to expire, and allowed the James Zadroga 9/11 first responders act to expire. One of the very first bills I cosponsored and was proud to support as a new Senator 5 years ago was the James Zadroga 9/11 first responders act, which provides support for those who raced to the site of the 9/11 catastrophe, risked their lives, and today suffer lasting health effects from it.

The idea that this body allowed that funding to expire yesterday and that many of the folks who are the beneficiaries of that fund now face the extinction of their medical support is unacceptable to me. So before I yield the floor, I simply wanted to commend my colleague for raising the issue of Gayle Smith's nomination at this unique time of global humanitarian challenges.

USAID cannot effectively do its job without a confirmed leader. I remind everybody in this body that when we fail to work together, when bills expire, it has real consequences, not just for humanitarian issues overseas but for our own first responders who we are pledged to support. I say it is a shame on this body that we allowed the 9/11 James Zadroga first responders act to expire, that we allowed the authorizing statutes for the summer lunch and school lunch programs to expire, and that we have allowed the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire.

It is my hope that we will begin to work together in this place and to stop allowing nominations to rest for months and to stop allowing the expiration of valuable statutes that underlie our security at home and abroad.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes, after which point I will be followed by the Senator from Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 3 years ago when President Obama's opponent said that Russia was our chief geopolitical rival, President Obama chuckled and said: "The 1980s called and they want their foreign policy back."

Well, now the 1930s are calling President Obama, and they want their foreign policy back. Yesterday was the anniversary of Munich. How fitting that Russia conducted its first major military operations outside of its near abroad since the end of the Cold War on that anniversary in Syria yesterday, because the President's foreign policy has invited exactly this kind of provocation all around the world. President Obama and Secretary Kerry keep saying that they don't know what Russian intentions are, that they don't know Russia's goals are in the region.

It is very simple. So let me lay it out clearly. Russia is an enemy. Vladimir Putin is a KGB spy who views the world as a zero-sum game. In the short term, he intends to prop up his tyrannical ally Bashar al-Assad, and he wants to preserve access to his expeditionary military bases outside of his country.

In the medium term, he wants to either preserve Assad or he wants to replace him with a like-minded ally. He wants to diminish the power and prestige of the United States in the region. He wants to establish Russia as the main Middle East power broker, and he wants to divert attention from his continued occupation of Ukraine.

In the long term, he sees an opportunity to divide EU and divide NATO at lower risk than it would take to conduct military operations such as Estonia or Latvia. If Europeans are going to be divided because of a refugee crisis of a few hundred thousand, imagine what could happen when Vladimir Putin turns up the heat in Syria and drives hundreds of thousands or more of those refugees into Europe.

How has this come to pass? Why would he think he could get away with all of this? Because of the unending series of concessions and appeasement of Barack Obama toward Vladimir Putin. Before he was even elected to office in 2008, when Vladimir Putin invaded Georgia, Barack Obama—then a candidate—called for Georgia to exercise restraint while they were under an invasion.

Just a couple of months later, he called for a reset in relations while there were still Russian troops on Georgian soil. A few months after that, he withdrew missile defense systems from the Czech Republic and Poland—on the 70th anniversary of Russia's invasion of Poland—without so much as a heads-up and without getting anything in return.

He entered into the New START treaty, which allows Russia to continue to grow their nuclear forces or requires the United States to reduce ours. In a "hot mic" moment, he was caught with Dmitry Medvedev, promising more flexibility toward Russia after the election of 2012. He fought tooth and nail against the Magnitsky human rights act, only accepting it once he realized it had overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress. He continues to look the other way as Russia violates the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. He jumped at the opportunity that Vladimir Putin provided him in 2013 to avoid carrying out his airstrikes in Syria and to enforce his own red line.

Just as in Georgia, when Vladimir Putin invaded Crimea, he demanded restraint from the government of Ukraine. When Vladimir Putin began to conduct operations in eastern Ukraine, he looked the other way, he

imposed weak sanctions. To this day, he refuses to arm them in the ways they are desperately calling for.

So what should we do now? Again, I think it is very simple. Let me lay it out. We should make it clear that Vladimir Putin and Russia will not be a power in the Middle East. We should pressure our partners to do the same thing. We should establish no-fly zones in Syria and make it clear that any aircraft that enters those zones will be shot down. We should make it clear that we will fly where we want and when we want, that any aircraft in Syria—or, for that matter, in the vicinity of a NATO country—that turns on the transponder will be shot down as a menace to civil aviation and to our allies. We should ramp up our airstrikes in Syria against our enemies such as the Islamic State. We should threaten Iran with termination of the nuclear deal because they are continuing to provide support for Bashar al-Assad. We should make it clear that Israel retains the right to interdict missile shipments from Iran through Syria to the terrorist group Hezbollah.

Let's not forget about Ukraine and Europe. We should arm Ukrainian forces. We should give them the intelligence they need on Russian forces and rebels who are amassing on their border. We should enhance sanctions by expanding them across all sectors. We should move troops to base them—at least temporarily, if not permanently—on our eastern NATO flank in places such as Estonia and Latvia.

Some say these responses will be provocative, but where will Putin's provocations end? What is really provocative is American weakness.

Putin is humiliating the United States. If we don't draw a line now and enforce it, it will not be a choice between humiliation or war; it will be a choice between humiliation and war.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I do wish to go back to the comments of the good Senator from New Hampshire on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I want to associate myself with those remarks.

I also wish to add for the record that there is a fair amount of this money that is spent for land acquisition from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That is not a bad thing. Get some of the in-holdings out of being in-holdings. It helps with management, and it helps with management costs.

I will tell you, if you are a fisherman or a hunter in this country, access and habitat is a huge issue, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is all about access for hunters, fishermen, bike riders, birdwatchers, and all those folks, and habitat for big game and fisheries.

For this fund to expire for the first time ever is a travesty. You are right. We spent \$306 million on it the last 2 years; we were supposed to have spent \$900 million in this fund, and that is why there is the reserve there is. Quite frankly, if you take a look at the United States, you take a look at the in-holdings, and you take a look at the recreational opportunities out there—\$306 million isn't enough. Yet this fund has expired and is not authorized.

In Montana alone, just for the record, recreational opportunities add \$6 billion, with a "b," to our economy. We are a State of 1 million people—\$6 billion to our economy. It employs over 64,000 people, and that doesn't count the businesses that moved to Montana for the recreational opportunities nor the people who come to work for those businesses for the recreational opportunities. I just wanted to get that into the RECORD.

Mr. President, I wish to talk about the bill under consideration, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, and I express my opposition to that bill.

Why? We just heard a presentation on the floor a minute ago from the Senator who talked about shooting down planes and potentially going to war. The amount that it costs to take care of our veterans is a cost of war, and we are underfunding the VA today by over \$800 million. I express my deep disappointment in the majority's inability to recognize the true cost of sending this Nation, young men and women, into harm's way.

Veterans Day is 6 weeks from now. Many of the folks in this Chamber will go back to their home States where they will be attending ceremonies and taking photos of men and women who are in uniform. We will give speeches and talk about our profound gratitude to the veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for their country.

In the meantime, you will see a flurry of press statements from Senators, oftentimes patting themselves on their backs for extending benefits to veterans or enhancing the quality and timeliness of their care, or you will hear Senators and Congressmen lamenting on the lack of leadership within the VA and taking the VA to task for not performing up to their expectations. But there is one thing many of those Members of Congress will not do, and that is give the VA the resources it needs to serve the men and women who have served this country and the military.

Right now, the VA is under greater demand for services and subject to a higher degree of accountability than any other time in this Department's history. After a decade of war in the Middle East, that demand should be

expected to be high. After recent allegations of mismanagement and wrongdoing, that accountability is absolutely warranted, but the standard we are holding the VA to should be the standard we hold ourselves to.

Is Congress doing the very best that it can do to ensure our Nation's veterans can access the health care and the benefits they have earned? Given the appropriations bill before us, the answer to that question is: No, we are not.

Our job is to make sure the VA is working for all veterans and to make sure it can work for all veterans. That means holding the VA accountable and ensuring it operates in full transparency, but that also means the VA has to have the capacity to meet the current needs of the demand for its services and to meet those demands into the future.

It requires rigorous oversight. Today's President understands that. There is no doubt about that, but it also requires giving the VA the tools and the resources it needs to get the job done.

Let's be clear. I believe this bill sets the VA up for failure. There are folks on the other side who are demanding that the VA fix itself, but in order to fix itself, we have to give it the tools it needs to do that. We are refusing to do that in this bill. We are setting up the VA for failure, and that failure will result in failing our veterans.

If this bill is enacted, it could mean that 68,500 fewer veterans are receiving the VA medical care they need, including veterans such as a constituent of mine from Reed Point, MT. This man had an eye exam in early February and received a prescription for a new pair of glasses. He was told he would receive them in 4 to 6 weeks, but due to a large backlog, he did not receive them until July. It took 5 months to get this man glasses.

How are we going to improve the quality of care for veterans if the VA budget isn't where it needs to be?

Take the story of Perry, who is 67 years old. He has a 100-percent service disability due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. He relies on the VA for lifesaving cancer treatment. Without chemotherapy and specialty care, Perry's prognosis is not good. To make matters worse, the VA can approve only six appointments at a time, which is a real challenge for Perry because he is receiving treatment 5 days a week. So every week he has to fill out another round of paperwork to qualify for medical care.

These are real folks who served their country. They are veterans who have real issues with the VA today at current funding levels.

Do we think these problems are going to be easier to solve if we give them an underfunded budget? They won't be.

Over the last 14 years, we fought 2 wars in the Middle East. Almost 10,000

Americans are still involved in a fight in Afghanistan at this very moment. For them, this war is far from over, and for many people in this Chamber—some who led us into the war in Iraq—they refuse to admit these are also the true costs of war, taking care of our veterans.

When we send young men and women over there and we put these wars on America's credit card as we did—financed by China, Japan, and others—we do not bother to factor in what it would cost to meet their health care and educational requirements when they come back home. Honoring our commitment to veterans is a cost of war and one that we should never forget about. Those who came home are now suffering from physical wounds but also wounds we cannot see. As I said yesterday, at least 22 veterans are taking their own lives every single day, and \$1 billion less won't help the VA get these men and women back on their feet and give them the mental health care that they need.

The VA also faces unprecedented demand for new treatments of diseases such as hepatitis C, which are shorter in duration, with fewer side effects, and that have cure rates—and this is very good news—approaching 100 percent, but they cost money. As Vietnam veterans reach retirement age, that means that nearly half of this Nation's veteran population will be 65 years of age or older. They are entitled to their VA care. After all, they have earned it, and they are going to need more and more of that care in the years ahead.

My home State of Montana has the second highest per capita veterans population in this country. It is a rural State where distance poses a major obstacle to care. The Choice Act that we passed and enacted last year was designed to address many of those obstacles that rural veterans face.

The VA is also working to establish residency programs in rural States to encourage rural medical providers to locate in those rural States. We need to build off of these efforts and work to ensure they are carried out as we intended and as the veterans deserve.

Will cutting pay for VA providers help bring more medical professionals to Montana or Alaska or Oklahoma or North Carolina? The answer is no.

I go home nearly every weekend, and when I travel around the State, I talk to veterans. They tell me that getting in the door of that VA can be very frustrating. Shortchanging the VA's medical facilities doesn't solve that problem. Not allowing the VA to hire more doctors and nurses doesn't solve that problem.

So today we need to fix this bill because the folks who sacrificed so much for this country deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 98, H.R. 2029, an act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Deb Fischer, Thad Cochran, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, Richard C. Shelby, Cory Gardner, Richard Burr, Jerry Moran, Jeff Flake, Steve Daines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2029, an act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Cochran	Ernst
Ayotte	Collins	Fischer
Barrasso	Corker	Flake
Blunt	Cornyn	Gardner
Boozman	Cotton	Grassley
Burr	Crapo	Hatch
Capito	Daines	Heller
Cassidy	Donnelly	Hoeven
Coats	Enzi	Inhofe

Isakson
Johnson
Kirk
Lankford
Lee
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski

Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Sasse
Scott

Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker

NAYS—44

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken
Gillibrand
Heinrich

Heitkamp
Hirono
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
McCaskey
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson

Peters
Reed
Reid
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Boxer
Cruz

Graham
McCain
Rubio
Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and related agencies appropriations bill. I am very encouraged that has finally come before the U.S. Senate. I also wish to remind my colleagues that the Senate Appropriations Committee has put forward 12 appropriations bills that reflect the priorities of the American people and the budget we passed in April.

Let me remind my colleagues that budget took \$7 trillion out of the President's proposed budget over the next 10 years. Yet here we are today, in October, facing the reality that since April we have not been able to debate on this floor those 12 appropriations bills. You have heard all year that we need to get back to regular order, and that means the Senate needs to bring up and debate each of these 12 bills individually. However, due to Democratic obstructionism, the Federal Government is operating under a short-term funding measure, and the Senate has not been able to debate any of these 12 funding bills.

It is time for the political posturing to stop. People back home don't understand. I don't either. Senate Democrats are again acting as a roadblock in preventing progress. The American people sent us to govern responsibly, and it is time for Senate Democrats to start living up to this expectation, particularly when it comes to funding our government.

In this vote today, Senate Democrats are blocking us from moving forward with a bill to fund military construction projects that help our troops and support key veterans programs, many of which need reform after being plagued by backlogs and scandals for years.

We must make good on our Nation's promise to our veterans and provide our troops with the facilities they need to work, train, and fulfill the mission of the U.S. Armed Forces. Senate Democrats just voted against improvements to the VA electronic health records system so that veterans' records are safely and seamlessly accessed among agencies and the private sector. They just voted against increased transparency for the VA disability claims system to reduce the backlog for those veterans who need help the most. They just voted against much needed oversight of VA construction projects, like the VA hospital in Denver, CO, that is over \$1 billion over budget. Additionally, they just voted against construction of the second missile defense site in Poland, a project that is an important deterrent against Russian aggression in Eastern Europe and had been previously scrapped by President Obama.

Our Nation is currently dealing with a global security crisis. We must take recent Russian aggressions and the rise of great power traditional rivals very seriously. Yesterday Russia launched airstrikes in Syria to prop up President Bashar Al Assad in a strategy Defense Secretary Ash Carter described as counterproductive and equated to "pouring gasoline on the fire." Clearly, we must make sure our troops have the resources they need to protect our country. Because of that, I am shocked that my colleagues across the aisle today just voted to delay construction for our military facilities—facilities our troops depend on to train for current conflicts and to prepare for whatever the future holds.

Most appalling of all, Senate Democrats voted today to block this bill even after we learned that tens of thousands of our veterans have died while waiting for care they need and deserve. This is unconscionable, and the brinkmanship we are seeing from Senate Democrats across the aisle is totally unacceptable.

Our veterans sacrificed so much for our freedom, and our service men and women are currently putting their lives in jeopardy every day for us and our families. We cannot fail them. This bipartisan Federal funding bill does a lot of important things for our Nation, but most importantly it supports our American heroes. Like most of my colleagues, I have traveled this year and met with our fighting women and men on frontlines. The very best of Americans are in uniform today, and they deserve our full support.

Today I call on my colleagues across the aisle to stop blocking these important bills. Let's get them on the floor and negotiate—compromise if we have to but get to a conclusion where we can fund the men and women defending our freedom. We now have 72 days to return to regular order and debate these im-

portant appropriations bills so the priorities of our veterans, our military, and the American people can once and for all be restored. I sincerely hope that all the colleagues in this body will not disappoint the American people yet again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 29, 2015.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

John McCain, Bob Corker, John Hoeven, Ron Johnson, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Tim Scott, Orrin G. Hatch,

Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner, Kelly Ayotte, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SHOOTING AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, before I proceed to the consideration of a colloquy with my colleague from Wisconsin, I just wanted to take a moment. My colleague from Wisconsin brought to my attention that there are news reports that have just come out of a tragic mass shooting at a community college in Oregon. I believe it is called Umpqua Community College.

I just wanted to ask all who might be watching or are with us in the Chamber to keep in your thoughts and prayers the families of the victims, which number somewhere around 10, and of the wounded, somewhere around 20, and to also keep the first responders and students and faculty and our colleagues who represent the State of Oregon and all who have been affected by this tragedy in Oregon in your thoughts and prayers. It is just now being reported.

I appreciate the forbearance of my colleague and the Chair and the other Members present for my taking a moment just to bring that to everyone's attention.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might enter into a colloquy with my colleague from Wisconsin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in marking National Manufacturing Day, which will be celebrated across the country tomorrow.

The simple fact is that manufacturing has been and continues to be a vital part of our economy. But coming from the State of Delaware, I know firsthand the challenges manufacturing has faced in the 20th century and the challenges it continues to face today.

Almost every day I ride the Amtrak train from Wilmington, DE, to Washington, DC, and as I look out the window as we pass through the city of Newark, DE, I see the site of the old Chrysler assembly plant. Each time I see it, I think about what it was like going to the plant gates and visiting with friends and family and the thousands of men and women who worked shifts for decades at this tremendous automobile manufacturing plant that made the Durango and, for decades before that, other models.

Every time I see that site, which has now been leveled and is now being rebuilt, I am reminded that for decades there were men and women there who had one thing in common—good-paying, steady, high-quality manufacturing jobs. Chrysler, General Motors, and other manufacturers, which used to be at the center of my State's economy, each employing thousands of Delawareans, are today gone, and many families and many of our communities still feel the impact of those losses. But for the thousands of Delawareans who grew up with friends and family working every day at GM, Chrysler, the steel mill, the Avon plant or other now-gone manufacturing sites across our State, it is easy to be skeptical about the prospects for a revival of American manufacturing.

I am here today with my colleague from the State of Wisconsin to tell our fellow Americans that despite those harsh realities, there are real reasons for hope. Manufacturing still supports 25,000 jobs in my State. Since 2010, our economy, the growing American manufacturing sector, has created 870,000 new jobs. As production costs have gone up in our competitors—countries such as China—and as the key input cost of energy has steadily come down, businesses have seen over the last decade that more reliable financial, legal, and engineering structures and resources, and cheaper energy here in the United States have made American manufacturing more competitive than it has been in decades.

Just as important as the number of jobs created in the manufacturing sector is the quality and compensation for those jobs. American manufacturing is also responsible today for three-quarters of all private sector research and development, just illustrating once again how innovative this sector has always been. To stay ahead and to thrive in the modern-world economy, manufacturing has to be on the cutting edge.

While American manufacturing is resurgent today, there is much more we can do together to build on this momentum. That is why Senator BALDWIN and I are leading a campaign called Manufacturing Jobs for America, to focus on four key areas where we together can strengthen American manufacturing—first by investing in America's workforce; second, by expanding access to capital; third, by opening up markets abroad; and fourth, by creating the conditions necessary for growth.

In the last Congress, the Manufacturing Jobs for America Initiative brought together 27 Senators to introduce 36 different manufacturing bills, half of which were bipartisan. Provisions from eight of those bills are now law, including our bill to create a national manufacturing strategy that will, for the first time, lay out a

proactive, comprehensive long-term policy for investing and strengthening American manufacturing, something that all of our major competitors have long had.

The administration has also come forward with strong ideas and initiatives from their investment in nine new manufacturing hubs, innovation institutes around the country, to new Department of Labor jobs skills programs that would strengthen apprenticeships and job training. It is our hope that Manufacturing Jobs for America can continue to play an important role in investing and scaling up these ideas so they have national impact.

We are optimistic that we can continue together to build on the progress we made and pass more of these bills in this Congress. Already, for example, the Career Ready Act has passed the Senate and is waiting to be taken up by the House. This bill would help prepare students for advanced manufacturing jobs by strengthening school counseling programs and educator professional development. Another important bill is the Innovators Job Creation Act, which recently passed the Senate Finance Committee, and if passed into law, would help small manufacturers to invest in and scale up their R&D.

Still, as we know all too well, passing legislation is never easy, and it could take months or even years to get these commonsense bipartisan bills passed into law. But there is something Congress can do right now to help support our manufacturing sector.

Just last week I stood on this floor and urged my colleagues to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank that was allowed to expire earlier this year. The Ex-Im Bank has helped American companies, many of them manufacturers, to sell their goods around the world for more than 80 years, supporting 150,000 American jobs in just this past year. Each day we fail to reauthorize this critical tool for American manufacturers who are exporters, we put more and more American jobs at risk.

Manufacturers, such as Boeing and GE, are already moving good American jobs overseas. GE's announcement that it is moving 350 jobs from Wisconsin to Canada is a stark example of this new reality, and the reason is simple. GE, and similar companies, can't risk staying in a country that doesn't have a reliable export credit agency, a tool all of our competitors provide, often with much more robust resources than Ex-Im used to enjoy. Without the backing of such an agency, other countries won't even consider accepting project bids from GE, Boeing or others. I think that is unacceptable, and it should be unacceptable to all of our colleagues. It is time for Congress to recognize what is at stake for our economy, our manufacturing sector, and American workers if we continue to fail to step up and reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

Finally, I wish to briefly address a broader issue we face with American manufacturing, and that is its reputation and its public relations image.

While the changing face of manufacturing is a great thing, it is also a challenge because too often perceptions about manufacturing are stuck in the past. I have personally heard from parents and guidance counselors who tell me that they are reluctant to encourage their kids and their best students to pursue a career in manufacturing. Why? Because to them, folks from an older generation, manufacturing brings to mind dirty factory floors, dangerous work environments, and lower wages. Understandably, they don't see these as the viable, promising career paths that today's advanced manufacturing truly offers.

Their worries don't match up with today's reality, where manufacturing jobs require higher skills than ever before, from hard math and engineering skills to the ability to think critically and work as part of a team. Most modern manufacturing jobs require a 2-year college degree, and many require more.

In my 5 years as a Senator, I have had the opportunity to visit dozens of manufacturers up and down my State of Delaware that are creating new high-quality, high-paying jobs, and I am certain my colleague from Wisconsin has had the same insight.

In Delaware, one of those manufacturers is M. Davis, a woman-run, family owned manufacturer that has been around for over 140 years. They produce sophisticated equipment for industrial companies, such as Philips 66, Air Liquide, and DuPont. Jobs at that manufacturing plant require high-skilled workers.

Another advanced manufacturer in my State is Accudyne, which is far more than a typical company. They produce products, not for average consumers, but they solve highly complex engineering and design problems for some of the world's most prominent firms, from Boeing to Airbus to Rolls Royce.

Both of these companies understand that the only way to remain successful is to develop a highly skilled workforce by encouraging and supporting professional development and recruiting graduates from schools such as Delaware Technical Community College and the University of Delaware.

Unfortunately, it is not just public perception that hasn't kept up with manufacturing's transformation. Job training programs have also lagged behind in preparing people with the skills they need to succeed in the advanced manufacturing jobs of today.

While I have more I would like to say on that topic, at this moment I would like to invite my colleague from the State of Wisconsin to add her views and comments to this important con-

versation about manufacturing in America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I thank my good friend from Delaware. As did he, I wish to start my remarks by taking a moment to say that my thoughts and prayers are with the community of Roseburg, OR, as we heard word of yet another senseless act of gun violence. I hope all who are listening join us in our thoughts and prayers.

I rise today to join my good friend from Delaware and to lend my voice in calling attention to an important day in America. Tomorrow, across the country, the hard-working Americans who get up every day to move our economy forward will create a collective chorus in celebration of National Manufacturing Day.

At thousands of events in villages, towns, and cities throughout our Nation, manufacturers will open their doors Friday and show, in a coordinated effort, what manufacturing is today and what it isn't. I am so proud to join this effort because by working together during and after National Manufacturing Day, we can shine a spotlight on the need for America to address workforce readiness issues, connect with future generations, and recognize the important role manufacturing plays in creating an economy that works for everyone.

In Wisconsin, we have a long and proud tradition of making things—paper, engines, tools, ships, and, yes, cheese, brauts, and beer. We possess one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the Nation, supporting a very significant share of our workforce and exporting products and goods all over America and, in fact, the world. Manufacturing has long been the backbone of our “made in Wisconsin” economy—so much so that we actually celebrate October as Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin. In my State and across our country, manufacturing is increasingly an engine of economic growth and innovation and a source of good-paying jobs with high wages and solid benefits. That is why I strongly believe middle-class families and small businesses and manufacturers who are working so hard to move our economy forward deserve to have both parties in Washington working together to grow our manufacturing economy and create jobs.

I am so proud to join my colleague Senator COONS on the floor today to highlight National Manufacturing Day. I thank him for his leadership and his partnership on our Manufacturing Jobs for America Initiative. Our effort aims to build bipartisan support for legislation that will modernize America's manufacturing sector and help American manufacturers grow and create jobs and assist American workers in getting the skills they need to succeed

in the next generation of manufacturing jobs.

Working together, we are trying to do our part to get Washington to focus on manufacturing jobs. This shouldn't be a difficult task, but unfortunately Congress has shown itself better at manufacturing one crisis after another instead of working across party lines to strengthen American manufacturing. The fact is, governing by crisis has distracted us from the important work of moving our manufacturing economy forward.

Before we all pat ourselves on the back for simply doing our job and keeping the government open for business, let's address one crisis that has not been addressed.

Two months ago the Senate did its job and passed a long-term transportation bill with bipartisan support. That legislation sought to end this constant cycle of short-term measures. It put people to work rebuilding our roads and bridges and ports and creates jobs and will boost our economy. It is also important to manufacturers because it makes an investment in a 21st-century American infrastructure that provides businesses with the quality transportation system they need to move their goods to market.

This legislation also includes another measure that is vital to manufacturers and businesses in Wisconsin and across America. We reauthorized the Export-Import Bank, which is an important tool that helps us create that level playing field, bringing fairness to global trade and giving American manufacturers the resources they need to fight and win against their global competition. However, after we included that in our long-term transportation and infrastructure package in the Senate, the House adjourned for the August recess without passing that legislation to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank and has failed to take action on it for 2 full months. Just this week, Republicans on the House Financial Services Committee voted in lockstep to block an amendment to reauthorize the Bank. These actions and inactions have real impacts on workers, and they are being felt by Wisconsin workers and families right now.

GE Power & Water announced this week that it plans to stop manufacturing gas engines in Waukesha, WI, and blamed the closure on the House of Representatives for not reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. It is a stark reminder that when Congress fails to do its job, hard-working people can lose their jobs as a result. It is my hope that this reminder will be heard by Congress. It is also my hope that National Manufacturing Day will provide an opportunity for my colleagues to rally around on the need for us to come together and address the challenges we face to grow our manufacturing economy.

The Wisconsin families for whom I work depend on our manufacturing jobs, and I believe that if we work to give our workers a fair shot, we can compete against anyone. But one of the challenges we must meet is making sure our workers have the skills they need for the manufacturing jobs of the future. We are fortunate to have a very strong technical college system that is working to provide Wisconsin businesses a skilled workforce so they can compete and grow.

American manufacturing took a huge hit as a result of the 2008 financial collapse and ensuing recession, but through sheer grit and determination, we are coming back. U.S. manufacturing added 876,000 jobs over the past 66 months. Over the past 12 months, manufacturing has added 124,000 jobs. But despite this positive trend, we need to do more. The sector needs to add 1.7 million jobs overall just to return to pre-recession levels.

In Wisconsin, our economy isn't growing as strong as we need to create true shared prosperity. In fact, it is lagging behind national growth. The manufacturing sector that sustained our economy in Wisconsin for generations must move forward at a stronger pace if middle-class families are going to get ahead.

One of the most important things we can do is to put a stronger focus on investing in STEM programs and career and technical education. I am proud to have cofounded the Career and Technical Education Caucus—otherwise known as the CTE Caucus—and worked with coauthors Senators KAINE and PORTMAN to advocate for career and technical education. I believe CTE is one of the most effective vehicles for responding to labor market changes and the workforce readiness needs of businesses, particularly our manufacturers.

We need to do more to ensure that students are better trained and better equipped for the highly skilled jobs of the future, especially in advanced manufacturing. Our business communities have been clear on the need for a highly trained workforce for in-demand fields, and CTE provides the knowledge and skills that can help drive stronger economic growth for our “made in America” manufacturing economy.

In closing, I would like to urge my colleagues to join us tomorrow by visiting a local manufacturer in their State.

National Manufacturing Day provides our Nation with an important opportunity for us to show our commitment to the idea that manufacturing does not represent the jobs of yesterday. Senator COONS was talking about the branding issues. Well, today's manufacturing economy isn't your father's manufacturing economy, and today's factory isn't your grandfather's factory. It is a growing industry that has

changed from the assembly lines of the past to high-tech innovation that will drive our future. Today, American manufacturing represents the jobs of tomorrow, providing a range of job opportunities in the area of skilled production, information technology, design, engineering, and science. Our next generation of manufacturers need more skilled workers, and it is our job to work together to make sure our economy has them.

Let's join together and celebrate National Manufacturing Day and show that our commitment is a celebration of American manufacturing, and let's inspire the next generation of manufacturers.

Again, I thank my colleague from Delaware and my colleague from Minnesota for their dedication to this vital issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Wisconsin, Senator BALDWIN, for her hard work on manufacturing and for her deep and broad experience in what it takes for manufacturing to continue to grow in the State of Wisconsin, in the State of Delaware, and across our country.

Let me pick up on a theme through both of our previous comments, which is that skills are a key challenge for us. If we are going to take advantage of the enormous opportunities, the hundreds of thousands of unfilled jobs in this sector, one of the key issues is a mismatch in skills.

One other theme across both of our comments was how we can't work together across the aisle. Bad things happen, such as the Export-Import Bank going unauthorized, but when we can team up and work together, we can make remarkable progress.

Let me briefly reference two of the bills we have worked on in the past which enjoy strong bipartisan support and which I hope can move forward in this Congress.

One is the Manufacturing Skills Act, and the lead sponsor is Senator AYOTTE of New Hampshire. It would help cities and States to modernize their job-training programs and equip workers with the skills they need.

Another bill, the Manufacturing Universities Act of 2015, of which Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM is the lead cosponsor, would designate 25 manufacturing universities across the country and invest up to \$5 million per year, per school to redesign their engineering programs so they are focused on the needs of modern manufacturing.

Many of the other ideas that have been brought to the floor by colleagues also focus on skills, and let me briefly reference two.

Senator MERKLEY has drafted and introduced the BUILD Career and Technical Education Act to focus on some of the issues the Senator from Wis-

consin was just speaking to—finding innovative ways to improve CTE education in our K-12 system to draw more talented students into the pipeline for these unfilled but lucrative manufacturing careers.

Last but certainly not least, Senator FRANKEN of Minnesota has tirelessly worked to promote greater cooperation between community colleges and their local manufacturing partners. I know in a moment he will share with us his vision for how we can improve skills training in manufacturing.

Let me close by simply saying that tomorrow, as we celebrate National Manufacturing Day, I will be honored to welcome U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker to Delaware to look at and visit several of the manufacturers I mentioned—Accudyne and M. Davis—and to talk about how, working together at the State and the Federal level, private sector and public sector, we can create and maintain strong 21st-century manufacturing jobs.

We see the revitalization that is going on in American manufacturing, and we see the opportunity we have in front of us and we want to seize it. By enacting bipartisan bills that tackle the challenges I have discussed, we hope to have the opportunity to make the very difference our Nation requires.

With that, I yield the floor to the Senator from Minnesota for his remarks on National Manufacturing Day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I thank the good Senator from Delaware and the Senator from Wisconsin for organizing today's celebration of manufacturing.

As my colleague from Delaware mentioned and as I think the Presiding Officer knows, I have talked a lot about the role of community and technical colleges and training for students for highly skilled jobs in manufacturing, and I will talk about that role in these remarks.

SHOOTING AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

But first, I heard a few minutes ago about a shooting at a college in Oregon. I just want to say something about that.

First, all of our hearts in the Senate go out to the victims of that shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon and to their families, their friends, and loved ones.

Students at community colleges are often young people who are getting education to prepare them for the future. Very often they are people midcareer who are going back for training to get the kind of skills Senator COONS talked about in a new career. The resurgence of manufacturing in the United States and my State of Minnesota should inspire us to invest more in training more Americans for these good manufacturing jobs.

I don't know what the focus of Umpqua is, but again I believe I speak for

everyone in this body that our hearts go out to all the victims and their loved ones. I don't know whether they are like some community and technical colleges in Minnesota preparing individuals for jobs in manufacturing.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

Manufacturing jobs—we have heard my other colleagues talk about how these are not the old manufacturing jobs. I have heard a manufacturer refer to it as dark, dirty, and dangerous, and it is what a lot of people think of.

I go to junior highs and high schools with manufacturers to talk about the high skills and the high-paying jobs that go with today's manufacturing. The most recent data available as of 2010, the average annual wage for a manufacturing job in the United States was over \$56,000—about 22 percent higher than the average wage for all industries. In Minnesota, manufacturing supports jobs for more than 300,000 Minnesotans. That is about 13 percent of the jobs in our State, and manufacturing is responsible for 14 percent of the GDP. Manufacturing is a huge driver in our economy. We manufacture great things. We did the HVAC system for the new World Trade Center Freedom Tower.

This is why I want to talk about one of the greatest problems our manufacturing States have today; that is, the skills gap. Manufacturers cannot find enough skilled workers to help them compete in a global economy. According to Enterprise Minnesota, an organization that supports manufacturers in my State, there are over 6,500 open manufacturing jobs in Minnesota waiting to be filled. My experience talking with manufacturers confirms that they are desperate to hire good people with the right skills for jobs that can support a middle-class life for workers and their families.

In the words of just one manufacturer, Kimberly Arrigoni of Haberman Machine in Oakdale, MN:

We are still suffering from a skills gap. . . . For my company specifically, it no longer is a capacity issue because of equipment, but one with people. We are limited in what we can produce and ship out the door because we don't have enough master level machinists. . . . Imagine what this very ripple effect is causing my State and our country as a whole.

So how can we help our manufacturing industry meet this challenge? Well, we took a good first step last year when we passed the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA. It was the first reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act in over a decade—almost two. It modernized our workforce development system and improved coordination between workforce boards, education, training programs, and local businesses. I think we need to do more to go further, and that is why I will be re-introducing legislation very soon to in-

crease Federal investment in workforce training partnerships between employers and community and technical colleges.

I call it the Community College to Career Fund Act. It would create grants that help businesses and community colleges train workers for high-skill, good-paying jobs. Businesses and community and tech colleges across my State support the Community College to Career Fund Act because they know firsthand—and I have seen firsthand the differences that these programs can make. Under this program, community colleges and businesses together would apply for grants based on how many jobs their partnership would create, what the value of those jobs would be to the community and, very importantly, how much skin in the game the State, the community or the businesses have.

I hope my colleagues will take this up and pass it this year. This is a great way to address a number of things such as the cost of college. I have talked to so many manufacturers who have hired someone who has just a credential from a community technological college, hires them and then pays them to go back to school while they are working, and pays for their tuition to finish their associate's degree. They bring them back and say: Go get your bachelor's degree. Go get your 4-year college degree while you are working, and I will pay for it. These are—time and time again, I have seen people, workers who have had their education paid for, no debt, a couple degrees, and a good job—a very good job.

I would like to close with the words of John Johnston from States Manufacturing in Golden Valley, CO. He writes:

When my son was young he used to say, "My daddy works with big machines that go boom, boom, boom." My son is now 17 years old and planning a career in manufacturing. He grew up around those machines that go boom.

Unfortunately, most students these days think manufacturing is not for them. If they could only get in to see how remarkable it is to see how things are really made, they would change their perspective.

He goes on:

Each night at dinner we talk about his "high of the school day" and he is so excited to tell me about the new equipment or his next project in manufacturing class. Now it is time to light that fire inside of other students and show them today's manufacturing companies are a great place to have a career.

A great place to have a career. This story illustrates perfectly why promoting manufacturing careers with young people is so important. We have a lot of advantages in this country because of natural gas. We have cheap energy relative to the rest of the world. Because of the nature of manufacturing, the main cost now is the technology, and low-skilled wages are a

much smaller piece. What this country needs are high-skilled wages. We need more people, more young people especially, to take advantage of the opportunities available in manufacturing so we will continue to compete globally and expand as we compete globally.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The majority whip.

OBSTRUCTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I continue to read in the newspaper and the press—particularly that which covers our activities in Congress—talk about the shutdown that was averted because we were able to pass a continuing resolution before the midnight end of the fiscal year on Wednesday night. I would like to reflect just a few minutes on what the cause of this drama is and where the responsibility actually lies for all of this shutdown drama, which would be completely unnecessary if the Senate and the Congress were permitted to basically do our job.

For example, just this afternoon our Democratic friends decided to filibuster legislation that would help our veterans and our men and women in uniform because it would fund the full range of services to veterans and the construction of military facilities. If you think about that for a moment, it becomes even more outrageous because the idea that in order to force this side of the aisle to the table, in order to spend more money and raise taxes, that you would hold our veterans and our military hostage is really remarkable, certainly nothing to be proud of, and something that needs to be called out and identified for what it is.

The only reason we have had to go through this process on a continuing resolution—and, by the way, for those who are not familiar with the continuing resolution, what that means is we are continuing for a period of time now—until December 11—the current spending policies of the Federal Government. That means we are side-stepping the Appropriations Committee, where outdated or obsolete programs are discarded or if there are multiple government programs that could be consolidated that could be made more effective or efficient, or if, heaven forbid, we could actually save some money and apply it to priorities or maybe help reduce our deficit—that is where that should be happening, but the obstruction of our friends across the aisle who are dead set on forcing us to the negotiating table so they can force the Federal Government to spend more money is outrageous.

We have had two previous votes on the Defense appropriations bill, which is even more immediately directed to help support our families and the men and women in uniform, many of whom are serving in harm's way. It is amazing to me how many people will come to the Senate floor or in the other

body, the House of Representatives, and talk about their devotion and dedication to our military and our veterans—and they should. Our military and our veterans deserve our devotion and appreciation and every honor we can bestow on them. But the idea that you would on one hand talk like that and then come to the floor and block legislation that funds their paycheck or pays for their benefits if they are a veteran and keeps the commitment we have made to them—it really is outrageous and is just another reason why the American people—everybody outside of the beltway—hold Congress and Washington in such low regard. We are, after all, a self-governing people, and when people hold their government in low regard and lose confidence in their government, basically they lose confidence in themselves and in our country and in our ability to control our destiny or at least try to point us in a better direction.

Earlier on, I believe it was the senior Senator from New York who gave an interview to the New York Times. He talked about the fact that the Democrats were going to have a “filibuster summer,” and now that has sort of slopped over into a filibuster fall, apparently. Why? For what reason? What is the good reason? Well, it is not for a good reason, but it is for this reason: so they can force Republicans, the majority, to the negotiating table to spend more money.

Then there is the White House. There is no leadership out of the White House on fiscal matters whatsoever. This morning the White House threatened to veto this very bill, assuming it would pass the Congress. Again, why? Well, because it complies with the current law and budgetary restrictions under the Budget Control Act. You might ask, well, why are they offended by that? Why is that a problem? Well, that is a good question, actually, because the President himself signed the Budget Control Act into law, and the very caps on spending that have kept discretionary spending at 2007 levels are caps he signed into law.

The idea that you would hold our troops and veterans hostage is incredible. Why? Because the President and the minority, the Democrats, refuse to adhere to budget spending caps the President signed into law.

You know, we hear a lot of discussion about these caps and sequestration. These are the automatic spending caps on discretionary spending. They were actually proposed by the President and his team at the White House in the first place. So it would require a certain degree of cognitive dissonance or maybe willing suspension of disbelief to read over the White House's veto threat on this particular bill and to take it seriously.

We are going to continue to press our Democratic colleagues to return this

body to what we like to call regular order around here—in other words, doing our job, what we were elected to do.

This whole idea of holding our troops and veterans hostage in order to force more government spending is beyond outrageous. With everything happening in the world, I don't doubt it is hard for this message to penetrate, but the reason we continue to operate on continuing resolutions and temporary patches, such as the one that was just passed that goes to December 11, is because of the obstruction on the other side of the aisle, these filibusters.

We have a lot of work cut out for us by that December 11 deadline. Before that deadline, we have to deal with an expiring highway bill. We passed a multiyear highway bill here in the Senate and sent it to the House. My hope is that they will use this time up until October 29 to pass a highway bill and that we can get to a conference and work out the differences and settle that one important piece of business. I come from a big State. We need those resources in order to maintain and build our highway system, for public safety, for the environment, and for the economy. So I hope we can get that done.

We are going to have another big drama here as a result of the Democrats filibustering these appropriations bills called an Omnibus appropriations bill. In other words, what is set up to happen as a result of the obstruction on the other side of the aisle by blocking all of these appropriations bills is we are going to have to consider all of the funding for the Federal Government for perhaps the next year. We are going to have to vote on that one big bill—probably \$1 trillion or more—in December. That is a horrible way to do business. First of all, it is not transparent. Our constituents cannot hope to read that legislation and understand all of the ramifications of it and what it might mean. It also, frankly, is susceptible to being larded with things that really aren't necessary, that would not pass under other circumstances but are put on a must-pass piece of legislation.

So you are going to hear more drumbeats—I will close with this—about shutdowns and cliffs and the irresponsibility of Congress in not meeting our basic obligations. There is one reason for that under the present circumstances; it is because our Democratic friends have chosen to filibuster and to stop the Senate from doing its business the way we should be doing our business in an orderly, transparent, responsible, and accountable sort of way. The way we do that is by taking up individual appropriations bills and passing them. If we did it that way, there would be no government shutdown drama if one or two appropriations bills did not get passed for some

reason, if there was some delay. So this is really the source of all of this shutdown drama—the obstruction of our Democratic colleagues, preventing us from doing our basic business of governing and making sure we are doing what we promised to do when each of us stood for election in front of our voters.

I see the junior Senator from Montana is here. I know one of the things that motivated many of our new Senators is the desire to come here and put our fiscal house in order. We are not even talking about doing some of the things we should do, some of the things we need to do to reduce the deficit—the difference between what we spend and what comes in—much less the debt, which is in the \$18 trillion range, which is unbelievable.

So these young men and women who are serving as pages—we are leaving behind for them a financial burden which is simply immoral. It is just not right. The promises that were made back when Social Security and Medicare were passed—that they would be there for you in your later years—I have not met a young person today who thinks Social Security or Medicare is going to be there for them because, frankly, they are going to run out of money on the current path they are on.

So we have a lot to do. Believe me, the country is upset. People are angry. They are scared. They are worried about their families and about their future. They are worried about their security. When they look at the TV set or read the newspaper and see how a willful minority can simply shut down our ability to do our job and conduct the Nation's business, their anger and their frustration and their fear are justified.

We can do better. I hope and pray we will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

REMEMBERING JEAN TURNAGE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Jean Turnage, the former Montana Supreme Court chief justice and a State senate president who passed away earlier this week.

Chief Justice Turnage was a true public servant who always put Montana and this Nation first. He is remembered as a fair and tolerant judge and a true gentleman legislator. As both a legislator and judge, he had a genius for solving conflicts and bridging differences—a quality that is far too rare in public service.

Chief Justice Turnage was part of a dying breed of the “greatest generation” and was a true statesman. As a World War II veteran, a State legislator, and chief justice of the Montana Supreme Court, Justice Turnage truly exemplified our State's strong legacy

of service. His passing is a great loss for Montana.

On behalf of all Montanans, I wish to recognize Jean for his decades of service to Montana and to this Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Turnage family during this time of loss.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2123 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last week I came to the floor to speak on the subject of religious liberty in America. I explained why religious liberty matters, why it is important, and why it deserves special protection from government interference.

I also used my remarks to welcome Pope Francis to Washington and to recognize the historic nature of his visit. I was struck by the Pope's emphasis on religious liberty while he was here and by his concern for the state of religious liberty, not just around the world, but in the United States as well.

In his address at the White House, Pope Francis said that many American Catholics are "concerned that efforts to build a just and wisely ordered society respect . . . the right to religious liberty," and he called on all Americans to "be vigilant . . . to preserve and defend [religious] freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."

Before Congress, Pope Francis, spoke of the delicate balance required to combat violence and extremism while at the same time safeguarding religious liberty. And in Philadelphia, he declared that the right of religious exercise extends well beyond the church door. He said:

Religious freedom certainly means the right to worship God, individually and in community, as consciences dictate. But religious liberty, by its nature, transcends places of worship and the private sphere of individuals and families.

Like Pope Francis, I too am concerned about threats to religious freedom in the United States. Last week, I announced my intention to give a series of speeches on the subject of religious liberty, and I continue with that purpose today by speaking about the history of religious liberty in America.

As my remarks will show, concern for religious liberty has been a critical feature of our Nation from the beginning. The desire to enjoy the freedom to live one's faith was a motivating factor for many of our earliest settlers. Once here, they set about creating societies in which religion could have full room to flourish. At times they fell prey to the same sectarian narrow-mindedness that bedeviled the nations of Europe, but on the whole our forebears enjoyed and permitted a broader range of religious freedom than could be found most anywhere in the world or the planet at that time.

As the heirs of their efforts, we have the obligation to continue their commitment to religious liberty. Freedom of religion is part of the very fabric of our Nation. It is not only enshrined in the text of our First Amendment, it also permeates our history, our very identity as a nation. Protecting and promoting freedom of religion is at the heart of the American project.

Let's begin at the beginning. The first permanent European settlers here in America were Pilgrims seeking to escape religious oppression. Leaders such as John Winthrop guided Puritans and other groups of Pilgrims from Europe to the New World in search of a place where they could practice their religious beliefs according to their own conscience.

The Pilgrims' journey to Massachusetts Bay is considered such an important part of the American story that a mural depicting the embarkation of the Pilgrims hangs in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. This great painting stands as a symbol and constant reminder of America's place as a safe harbor for those seeking religious liberty.

Following the success of the Puritans, other religious minorities, including the Quakers, Congregationalists, Baptists, Jews, Methodists, Presbyterians, and a host of German and Dutch sects, came to the American Colonies to practice their faith in peace. Unfortunately, many of these minorities did not find the religious tolerance they had hoped for. The Massachusetts Bay Colony, for example, punished heretics and adopted the Old World view that nonadherence to the state religion was a crime against the state. True to the American ideal, however, these religious minorities did not give in. Instead, they pressed on in search of new locales where the promise of religious freedom could be found full bloom.

Roger Williams, the founder of the first Baptist church in America, was among the most notable dissenters from religious orthodoxy. Williams believed that the church in Massachusetts was not sufficiently separated from the church of England and openly questioned the legitimacy of the Colony's charter.

Forced to flee his home in Boston for fear of being arrested, Williams found refuge among the Natives. He went on to purchase land from the Massasoit tribe and established a new settlement that he gave the rather auspicious name "Providence." A few years later, Providence and several other communities joined together to form the Rhode Island Colony—the first Colony in the New World—to offer religious liberty to all sects. Citizens in Rhode Island could attend the church of their choice without fear of government reprisal.

Mr. President, we see in the founding of Rhode Island the seed of the idea that all people should be free to practice their faith. If Massachusetts represented the flight of persecution, then Rhode Island constituted the next step in the path toward religious freedom—the extension of free exercise.

Rhode Island was not the only safe harbor in the New World for religious minorities. There was also Pennsylvania, which was named for William Penn, a Quaker. English authorities imprisoned Penn in the Tower of London for writing pamphlets critical of the Church of England. After he was released, Penn established the Pennsylvania Colony as a refuge for practitioners of his own Quaker faith.

Another example is the Dutch Colony of New Netherland, later known as New Amsterdam and today known as New York. When New Amsterdam was founded in 1625, its Articles of Transfer assured New Netherlanders that they could "keep and enjoy the liberty of their consciences in religion." No city better symbolizes the religious diversity of America than New York City, which should be unsurprising given that New York was one of America's earliest havens of religious liberty and tolerance.

It bears mention that although many of the early American Colonies aspired to provide religious liberty to all citizens, colonial America often fell short of this ideal. In 1689, for example, England's Parliament enacted the Act of Toleration, which granted freedom to non-Anglicans to hold their own religious services provided they properly registered their ministers and places of worship. However, the act did not extend the right to hold public office to nonconformists and explicitly excluded Catholics and Unitarians from all benefits provided by the act. Moreover, ministers of minority sects could be imprisoned for failing to apply for licenses or for preaching outside of authorized locations. In 1774, Virginia authorities imprisoned some 50 Baptist ministers for failing to heed the Toleration Act's requirements.

That the trajectory of religious liberty in America has not always been a straight line, however, does not diminish the centrality of religious freedom to the American ideal or to the history

and growth of our Nation. Looking back centuries later, we rightly criticize colonial leaders for failing to give full freedom to religious practitioners. But the initial failure of some colonial leaders to live up to the ideal was ultimately overwhelmed by the success of later colonists and by the significance of religious liberty through the entire American project.

As I said last week, our Nation exists because of religious liberty. The freedom to practice one's faith was central to the founding and growth of the American Colonies. Furthermore, the guarantees of religious liberty found in the colonial charters, coupled with the breadth of religious diversity in pre-revolution America, are nothing short of remarkable. As Stanford professor Michael McConnell—one of the great constitutional experts in our country—has noted, in the years leading up to the Revolution, America had “already experienced 150 years of a higher degree of religious diversity than had existed anywhere else in the world.”

I come now to the American Revolution and subsequent ratification of the Constitution. It was through these crucial events that the ideal of religious liberty had so long motivated the colonists to become part of our fundamental charter of government.

George Washington, while leader of the Continental Army, issued a command concerning religious liberty to the revolutionary troops: “[A]s far as lies in your power, you are to protect and support the free exercise of the religion of the Country, and the undisturbed enjoyment of the rights of conscience in religious matters, with your utmost influence and authority.”

That was George Washington.

Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, likewise emphasized the centrality of religious freedom for our new Nation. In 1786, the Virginia Legislature adopted a statute on religious freedom written by none other than Thomas Jefferson. This law said that “all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matter of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities.”

Jefferson's words in the Statute for Religious Freedom had a profound influence on James Madison, whom we revere today as the father of the Constitution. Madison reflected Jefferson's vision in his own writings, declaring that “[t]he religion of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.”

The original Constitution, ratified in 1788, did not contain a bill of rights because the Framers believed the structure they had created would effectively guard against tyranny. They also worried that enumerating rights could lead to mischief, as officials might argue

that any right not enumerated did not exist. But the Framers eventually reversed course, and a few years later Madison drafted and the States ratified the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

The first of these amendments formalized the guarantee of religious liberty already found in many State constitutions and deeply embedded in the fabric of American society. The words are familiar to all Americans: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The principle that had motivated the initial settlement of America and that had grown and matured in concert with the growth and maturation of the Colonies themselves had found expression in our fundamental charter.

Of course, ratification of the First Amendment is not the end of the story. From the founding generation down to the present day, the importance of religious liberty to the American ideal has continued to manifest itself in a variety of ways.

Consider the experience of the Ursuline nuns of New Orleans. These French sisters were the first congregation of Roman Catholic nuns in the United States. They came to America in the early 1700s and settled in New France, which later became Louisiana.

Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the sisters of the Ursuline Convent grew concerned that they would lose their rights to their property and mission now that their charter was under the jurisdiction of the United States.

The mother superior of the Ursulines petitioned President Thomas Jefferson to ask that the sisters be allowed to keep their property in New Orleans. President Jefferson responded powerfully, telling the Sisters: “The principles of the Constitution and government of the United States are a sure guarantee to you that [your property] will be preserved to you sacred and inviolate and that your institution will be permitted to govern itself according to its own rules, without interference from the civil authority.”

President Jefferson spoke the truth. Indeed, the Old Ursuline Convent and Mission survives to this day. It is located in New Orleans' famous French Quarter and is the oldest building in the Mississippi River Valley. The Old Ursuline Convent is an emblem of the vitality and centrality of religious liberty in American life. A persecuted religious minority, unpopular in its day and even reviled in some backward segments of society, received a personal guarantee from the President of the United States that their rights and property would remain secure under the protection of the U.S. Government. Here we see religious liberty not only as ideal but as reality.

To return to my earlier formulation, Massachusetts represented the flight

from religious persecution, Rhode Island and other Colonies the extension of free exercise. Now in the Constitution we have the guarantee of religious liberty to all people in all places within the jurisdiction of our great land.

The Constitution and its guarantee of free exercise is the culmination of the process that began when the Pilgrims first set foot on the Mayflower way back in 1620. But the Constitution is only as effective as we, through our fidelity, make it. Regrettably, the guarantee of free exercise has at times been undermined or even abridged by narrowminded sectarianism or fear of new creeds. Such divergence from the promise of religious liberty is not cause to question the continuing value of religion or to claim that the promise of religious freedom is a false promise. Rather, it is reason to dedicate ourselves to the ideal enshrined in our Constitution that all men and women have an inalienable right to choose for themselves what they believe and how they will practice their beliefs.

As many of my colleagues know, I am a descendent of the early Mormon pioneers who, much like the Pilgrims of the Mayflower, fled persecution and discrimination by abandoning their homes for a new place of refuge. In the case of the Mormon pioneers, they migrated, many by foot and in harsh conditions, in a mass exodus across the Great Plains over the Rocky Mountains, and, finally, into Salt Lake Valley and other settlements throughout the Intermountain West. Brigham Young was a great colonizer and sent people all over the West to settle the West. One of the attributes of the Mormon pioneers that I admire most is that after having endured mob violence, the martyr of their prophet, the burning of their homes and places of worship, and their forced flight into the American wilderness, they never lost their deep love of the United States and our Constitution. I am very pleased the people of Utah remain a deeply patriotic people, with a profound respect and admiration for our Constitution.

In more recent years, our leaders have continued to reaffirm the importance of religious liberty in American life. In 1948, the United States was one of the original signers of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that every person has the right to freedom of religion, including the right to “manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship or observance.”

Four decades later, in 1990, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA, a crucially important piece of legislation that prohibits government from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion unless doing so is necessary to further a “compelling government interest.” I was honored to be one of the principal

authors of RFRA and count its passage of one of the greatest moments of our time in this body. The bill passed the Senate 97 to 3 and passed the House without recorded opposition. An enormous coalition of groups from across the ideological spectrum—including the ALCU, the American Muslim Council, the Anti-Defamation League, the Christian Legal Society, and the National Council of Churches—came together in support of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The breadth and depth of support for RFRA was a sign of the enduring importance of religious liberty in American life. Indeed, RFRA demonstrated that religious liberty is the rare issue that unites Americans of all stripes.

One other recent marker of the continuing significance of religious freedom in America is found, interestingly enough, in a bill aimed at protecting religious freedom in other countries. In 1998, Congress unanimously passed the International Religious Freedom Act, which created an ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom within the State Department and a bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. The very first words of the act proclaim that “[t]he right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States.”

This statement, approved by all 535 Members of Congress and signed into law by the President, encapsulates the overarching theme of my remarks today. Freedom of religion is central to the American ideal and to the history and development of our Nation. From the earliest settlers to the revolutionary generation, to the 19th century, to the modern day, religious freedom has been a driving force in American life. Without the quest for religious liberty, there would be no United States, and without the continued guarantee of religious freedom, there can be no American ideal. This is the fundamental rule in our society, a fundamental maxim, a fundamental part of the Constitution, a fundamental belief for virtually everyone in America who has any religious inclinations at all.

I am proud to be a citizen of this great Nation. I don't want to see religious liberty infringed upon, abused, not tolerated or denigrated. We have to stand up for it. We have to make sure everybody knows we are not going to change one of the basic precepts of the American experience—one of the basic precepts, from the beginning of this country until today.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JAMES H. GILLIAM, SR.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that today I rise to honor a friend and a true force for good in my home State of Delaware who recently passed away but whose impact will be felt for many years to come. He was, first and foremost, a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was married to his wife Louise for 68 years and had always been the rock of his family. He was incredibly proud of the many accomplishments of his son Jim, Jr., and his daughter Dr. Patrice Gilliam-Johnson, after instilling in them his own passion of service to others. This man stood as a great leader in the First State. He was a veteran, a trailblazer, a mentor, and to so many of us a trusted adviser and friend.

It was Mr. James H. Gilliam, Sr.—or Mr. G., as he was known to so many of us—who left our world early Wednesday morning on September 10, but before he left us, he made a profound impact on thousands of Delawareans from every walk of life, as a teacher, as a mentor, and a leader. His 95 years on this Earth marked a life well lived. Whether he was helping communities to heal and to grow together or helping to establish local and national organizations committed to social justice and equity, advising Governors, Members of Congress or even the Vice President, he never wasted an opportunity to make the case for our community.

Jim Gilliam, though, actually didn't grow up in Delaware. He was originally raised in Baltimore and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Morgan State and a master's degree in social work from Howard University. From 1944 to 1948, he served his country with honor as a member of the Army's 92nd Infantry Division, the famed Buffalo Soldiers, where he became a decorated soldier during the Second World War and beyond. He was actually recalled to duty again as a captain during the Korean war, and for all his service, he received many awards, including two Bronze Star Medals and the Combat Infantryman Badge. I will never forget the opportunity I had last year when I was able to help him retrieve a number of his missing or, in several cases, never awarded medals, and to reissue them to him in a public ceremony. Hundreds of Delawareans from across our community came together at that event—hundreds whose lives he touched, and I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

Jim Gilliam didn't come to Wilmington for good until 1965, when he was hired as director of neighborhood and housing services for the Greater Wilmington Development Council. Shortly after, in 1968, he was one of the few trusted to walk the Wilmington streets promoting reconciliation during the riots in our city and the Na-

tional Guard occupation that lasted too long after the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. G. went on to hold positions of leadership with private and public sector entities, including vice president of the development company Leon N. Weiner & Associates, working to build affordable, low-income housing; or as the director of New Castle County's Department of Community Development and Housing, where he served for many years; or in 1970 when Governor Peterson asked him to overhaul a then-failing Delaware family court. He touched many lives through many institutions.

His constant involvement in the community led to many honors and accolades, but through it all he never rested on his laurels or slowed down in his efforts to serve others. In 1999, at an age when most others would have been beginning retirement, he spent 9 months raising \$1 million and securing hundreds of political, business, and community supporters to launch the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League quickly rose to prominence and 4 years later received the National Urban League's highest honor. Since that time, as MWUL chairman, Jim led countless efforts in educational opportunity, economic development, supplier diversity, fighting racial profiling, and promoting equity in the arts. I was honored to be able to call him a mentor and an adviser.

Whether working with him 15 years ago when I was a newly elected county-wide official or in recent years as a U.S. Senator, I called on Mr. G. time and again when making tough decisions. His counsel was not always easy to receive. He pulled no punches, but he always gave advice keeping the best interests of our community in mind. I consider myself hugely blessed for the many opportunities when he shared his knowledge and perspective of what we needed to do. But I am far from the only person who long relied upon his advice.

Mr. G. mentored countless young men and women from throughout the State and throughout his life and truly fostered an entire generation of civic and community leaders. One of them is Paul Calistro, the executive director of the West End Neighborhood House, whose organization has supported thousands youth in our city. A sentiment he recently related to me was that “Mr. G. was a man who could command the entire room, but could also speak to you as if you were the only one in the room.”

Another person whose career he helped launch was Jea Street. He is now a county councilman, and for decades he was executive director of Hilltop Lutheran—another important youth-serving organization in a tough neighborhood in our city. He was hired at the tender age of 22, some 40 years

ago, by Mr. G. to help in preparation for school desegregation. Jea recently commented: He did not tell me it was a job for life, but he helped me to do it and to stay on the battlefield for justice these many years.

Any elected official or civic community leader who sat down with Mr. G. also knew that he meant business. He wasn't shy about telling you what you needed to do, what you needed to do better, what you needed to do to make an impact. Whether it was fighting crime or investing in education or a growing opportunity, he was better than anyone I have ever known at delivering hard and pointed messages with a smile but with an intensity that made you listen and made you want to be a better man. The News Journal, our home paper in Wilmington, recently said: "Mr. Gilliam's fight for racial justice, his efforts to correct the wrongs of our society and his willingness to mentor countless others, sent forth thousands of ripples of hope that have benefited us in the past and will serve us well in the future."

I think that is exactly right. No problem was too small or insignificant for him to embrace and to attend to and to set right. He was Wilmington's pied piper, leading all kinds of people into a better place. He was a natural leader, and everyone who knew him is better off for it.

My good friend Dr. Tony Allen counted Mr. G. as his best friend. Tony put it this way:

He was the conscience of our community. He often said to me that the great challenges of life are in the moments when it is our turn. When there is an opportunity for us to speak up or to be quiet, to rise up or to lie down, to take arms or to take cover, most of us take the path of least resistance and miss the moment to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others. He taught everyone to never, ever miss their moment to act, to do the right thing, and to make the world a better place.

For 95 years, Mr. G. never missed the moments that required him to act and to lead. He acted, he led, and his legacy lives on not only in his family but among so many other people and institutions throughout our State that he touched.

As for me, I will always remember Jim Gilliam as a man who challenged me to be better. He viewed himself as a servant to our community, but he knew that his service alone wasn't enough. That is why his lasting legacy will be in those whom he has inspired and whom he challenged to continue his work, to follow his example, to take our turn and our moment to fight for justice.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan wishes to be recognized, I presume.

Mr. PETERS. I do, indeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

PIPELINE IMPROVEMENT AND PREVENTING SPILLS ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an issue that is of particular importance in my State of Michigan—preventing an oilspill in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are a part of our way of life in Michigan, supporting our multibillion dollar agricultural, shipping, and tourism industries. An oilspill on this precious resource would be catastrophic for Michigan and for all surrounding Great Lakes States. The Great Lakes are a critical drinking water source for 40 million people, and they contain 84 percent of North America's surface freshwater. Vessels moving through the Great Lakes carry goods and passengers across the region, and tourists in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York take in their beautiful coastlines each year. Unfortunately, Michiganders know all too well the devastating consequences of a pipeline break and what it can do to an economy and to its natural resources.

Five years ago we experienced one of the largest inland oilspills in U.S. history with a 6-foot break in the Line 6-B pipeline in Marshall, MI. Oil flowed for nearly 17 hours before it was eventually shut off, spilling more than 800,000 gallons of heavy crude, contaminating 35 miles of the Kalamazoo River, and ultimately racking up a cleanup cost of \$1.2 billion. An independent investigation after the spill concluded that the pipeline operator's inadequate procedures, as well as "weak Federal regulations," all played a major role in this disastrous spill.

The Kalamazoo disaster, along with several other devastating pipeline explosions and spills, prompted a sweeping pipeline safety bill to be signed into law in early 2012. Unfortunately, many of those rules and regulations have yet to be finalized by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA.

I am very concerned about the potential for future spills in Michigan, especially from a pair of 60-year old pipelines carrying oil and natural gas liquids through the Straits of Mackinac, the place where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet. The Straits of Mackinac have been called the "worst possible place" for an oilspill in the entire Great Lakes Basin. The strong currents in the straits tend to reverse direction every few days, and they move water at a rate at over 10 times greater than the flow over Niagara Falls. A professor at the University of Michigan used computer modeling to estimate

that a worst case scenario oil slick moving east through the Straits could reach the shores of Mackinac City and Mackinac Island—our number one tourist attraction—in just 3 hours.

Even more troubling is the fact that Coast Guard officials have acknowledged that current oilspill response techniques are not adequate for open freshwater, let alone freshwater with heavy, thick ice—the ice we find every season in the Straits of Mackinac.

To make matters worse, response plan requirements for pipelines overseen by PHMSA at the Federal level are seriously lacking. The information related to safety procedures, inspection reports, and worst case scenarios are unavailable to the public. Even local emergency responders have been left in the dark. That is why I, along with my Michigan colleague and good friend DEBBIE STABENOW, introduced the Pipeline Improvement and Preventing Spills Act, which includes several commonsense provisions to prevent pipeline accidents and protect the Great Lakes from catastrophic crude oil spills. Our bill requires the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies to independently assess oilspill response and cleanup activities and techniques for the Great Lakes, specifically taking into account the cleanup response of an oilspill under solid, thick ice or ice-choke waters.

My legislation requires the Department of Transportation and the National Academies to examine risks associated with pipelines in the Great Lakes and other waterways in the region, including an analysis of alternatives to the Straits oil pipeline. This bill would also increase transparency by ensuring residents are notified about pipelines near their property and compels operators and regulators to make information publicly available.

My legislation will also expand safety features to pipelines in high-consequence areas—creating jobs for pipefitters and other professions—while protecting dense population centers, drinking water, and environmentally sensitive areas. Finally, this bill will eliminate the future risk of a disastrous crude oil spill from tanker vessels on the Great Lakes.

Currently crude oil is not shipped by tankers on the Great Lakes. However, it is increasingly being looked at as an option. Given the difficulty of cleaning up heavy oil in open freshwater, my bill will take that option off the table to ensure that we will not jeopardize our \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry. The Pipeline Improvement and Preventing Spills Act is endorsed and supported by a number of groups, including the Michigan League of Conservation Voters; the Pipefitters, Plumbers and HVAC Techs Local 111; Traverse City Tourism; the Great Lakes Fishing Commission; Michigan

Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association; National Wildlife Federation; and the Alliance for the Great Lakes—to name a few.

The Senate committee on commerce, which has jurisdiction over pipeline safety, will be considering pipeline legislation in the next few weeks. I look forward to building support for provisions in my bill. Our country continues to record record highs in domestic energy production, but we must remain vigilant when it comes to energy transportation. Through strong oversight, leadership from the industry, and technological innovation, I firmly believe that we can and we must continue to meet our energy needs in the safest way possible while preserving treasures such as the Great Lakes for future generations.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECTING AFFORDABLE COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1624, which is at the desk, and that the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1624) to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The bill was ordered to a third reading, and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the measure, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1624) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about the Protecting Affordable Coverage For Employees—or PACE—Act.

The PACE Act is smart legislation from my colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT, and my Kentucky colleague over in the House, Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE, that will help protect small- and me-

dium-sized businesses that provide health care to their employees. It would give States more flexibility to define what constitutes a small business for health insurance purposes so as to protect health benefits for workers, lower health premiums, and reduce costs for taxpayers.

So let me repeat that. The PACE Act is a smart health care bill aimed at protecting workers' benefits, lowering premiums, and reducing costs to taxpayers.

I hope colleagues will join me in applauding the bill's lead sponsors, our colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT, and his counterpart over in the House, Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE, for their hard work in developing this very important proposal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to join the majority leader in complimenting Senator SCOTT, a new Member of the Senate, on a significant accomplishment. It is not that easy to pass a bill in the House and in the Senate. It takes a lot of work, and there is good reason for that. We want to make sure that whatever passes in the Senate has a thorough amount of consideration.

Senator SCOTT has come to the Senate as a member of the HELP Committee. He is one of its most diligent members. I am chairman of that committee. He took this initiative on his own, working with Members of the House, where he formerly served, and he has brought the bill to the Senate, and within a few days he has gotten its unanimous approval. To me, that suggests the kind of U.S. Senator that we need more of—someone who is quiet, effective, scholarly, and gets results.

So TIM SCOTT today, on behalf of the people of South Carolina and this country, has helped workers, has improved benefits, and has lowered premiums. He deserves our thanks. He has certainly earned my respect and the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle by this significant accomplishment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I wish to thank my cosponsor, Senator SHAHEEN, for working with me on the PACE Act, without any question. I also would like to thank Senator ALEXANDER for his kind remarks and specifically thank our leader, Senator MCCONNELL, for making sure this bill had an expeditious path to the floor of the Senate.

So often we hear in America that we can't get things done in the Senate, and because of your leadership, Senator MCCONNELL, and because of the good work of Congressman GUTHRIE on the House side, as well as Senator SHAHEEN, we see we are going to have an opportunity to make sure that small business owners all across America are not more negatively impacted by ObamaCare.

The decision we have made today to move this legislation forward actually will save, on average, about 18 percent—18 percent—of higher premiums that will not have to be paid by small businesses owners.

Senator MCCONNELL, thank you for your leadership. Senator ALEXANDER, thank you for working with us on this very interesting process to get it to the floor as expeditiously as we have been able to do.

With that, I thank both Senators for their hard work and dedication to this issue.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend and colleague Senator SCOTT for his leadership in protecting many Americans and small businesses from more needless suffering under ObamaCare. While I am glad for this outcome, a piecemeal approach to this terrible law is less valuable than a strategic approach. We must help the millions of other victims who are already suffering or will soon suffer from the law's flawed policies but lack an effective lobbying voice. In the future, we should set the stage for a serious repeal and replace debate by delaying ObamaCare's onerous burdens, rather than merely working to make a terrible law 12 percent less bad.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

REMEMBERING OFFICER GREG ALIA

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I rise to speak about one of South Carolina's most amazing heroes, Greg Alia. I am here today to recognize that this young man—32 years young—lost his life yesterday. Yesterday morning, Officer Greg Alia was killed in Columbia, SC.

I will tell my colleagues that Greg served his community with distinction. Yesterday afternoon, I had an opportunity to talk with Greg's wife, Kassy. Kassy's strength, as she spoke with someone she has never met about the love of her life—about her husband, the father of her little boy, Sal—was quite remarkable. Her thoughtfulness in this tragic time truly struck a chord with me and brought tears to my eyes as I listened to a wife describe the man she loves, a community leader, and someone who runs into danger when others are running away from danger.

Greg was born and raised in Columbia, SC. He was a Columbia native. He went to high school at Richland Northeast High School. He graduated from the University of South Carolina. If Greg were here, I would say “Go, Cocks” because we understand and appreciate the importance of the University of South Carolina, especially in the Columbia footprint.

More importantly, after high school, Greg wanted to find out what life was about. He had an opportunity to be a

production assistant working on movies such as the latest version of "Indiana Jones," as well as one of my favorite movies, frankly, "Iron Man." Yes, "Iron Man."

Greg was offered a job with Marvel, the comic book folks. He had an opportunity to stay out of the State and do amazing things and have a lot of fun, but his heart was beating to come back home to South Carolina, to come back home to Columbia, so that he could serve the people of South Carolina. He wanted to be a police officer. He wanted to help people. Kassy told me that Greg would have had no regrets.

To think about those words from his wife on the day her husband was murdered, Greg would have no regrets because he was doing what he was made to do: Protect people, serve people, sacrifice on behalf of people.

Greg was the embodiment of bravery and heroism. Greg was doing what he was wired to do. His wife was so clear and so passionate about his desire to be the first on the scene, his desire to do everything possible to try to be helpful. Greg, like so many police officers across this Nation and, without question, across the great State of South Carolina, loved serving people. And he did so. He did so with great integrity, with amazing character. He knew his place in the world was making sure that his town, his city, our State, and our Nation are safer because he put on the uniform every single day.

Today, we all stand in salute to Greg and make a promise to his wife Kassy that we will be there with her as she raises her son Sal. Our prayers and our thoughts are with the family.

In closing, I would like to share a story that Kassy told me yesterday afternoon as I had the chance to speak with her. The story brought a tear to my eye, and I hope as my colleagues hear the story, it may even bring a smile to their faces. Greg worked the night shift, and when he would come home in the morning—Sal was around 6 months old and he was learning to sit up, and in the morning when Sal heard the police cruiser of his dad pull into the driveway, he would sit up and he would start smiling. He was feeding, and the milk, because of his big smile, would run down his face.

Think for just a moment of that young man, Sal. He should have the opportunity to walk when he hears the cruiser coming into the driveway. He should have the opportunity to yell "Daddy" when he hears that cruiser coming into the driveway. So for that little boy and his mama, Kassy, and for the Forest Acres community, I stand here today saying thank you for every single thing Greg has done to make our State and our Nation a better place to call home. I say thank you to Greg for making the ultimate sacrifice that will never be forgotten. And I say thank you to Kassy for being such a powerful

and strong woman in this amazing time of her need.

We should pray for Kassy and Sal.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am glad I got to be here to hear Senator SCOTT talk about that family and that hero and those who protect and defend us. In Missouri we have had over the last year a number of challenges on this front. I was recently meeting with a group of African-American pastors, one of whom was a pastor in Ferguson, MO, and talking about the hard work of being in law enforcement. He said: People who protect us, just like me, want to go home at the end of the day. And more than most of us, people who protect us leave every day with them and their families having the No. 1 focus of getting home at the end of the day. Thank God they are willing to step forward and protect us, especially understanding that this is a challenging job at a challenging time.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

I wish to speak for a little while about veterans health care, another challenge we face right now. We just, unfortunately, failed to move to debate on a bill that would fund these programs, a bill that would increase funding for our veterans in areas such as health care and benefit claims and processing claims, medical research, and technology upgrades. For whatever reason, we decided as a Senate—and I don't think for a good reason—that no, we are not going to debate that bill because all of these bills somehow collectively don't spend enough money. But we have talked about that, and I talked about it earlier in the day.

Right now I wish to speak for a few minutes about what we do need to be figuring out for our veterans.

We learned a year ago that Veterans' Administration wait times were unacceptable. We learned it was likely that a number of lives had been lost and deaths had been caused because our veterans didn't get to see the doctor they should have gotten to see; they didn't get the health care they earned as veterans and deserved. This summer, after a year of working to make this better, we found out that the wait list of people waiting more than 30 days at the VA system to see a doctor was now 50 percent longer than it was last year. I thought about that a little bit and I thought, well, maybe it was just 50 percent longer than it was last year, because one thing they found out was the wait-list wasn't really reflective of the real wait-list. The kind of progress we hoped to have made we don't appear to be making yet.

Last year the Congress passed a law to give veterans more choice. It was passed on a broad bipartisan basis. The Senate came together, the Congress came together to allow veterans to re-

ceive their health care in non-VA facilities if they couldn't get that first appointment within 30 days or if they were more than 40 miles away from a facility. We tried this legislation this summer to put even more definition to that. Clearly, what the Congress means is 40 miles from a facility that can do what the patient needs to have done. If one needs to have a heart stint put in, just being 40 miles from a facility where they would take your blood pressure isn't good enough. We will continue to work to change veterans health care in a way that gives veterans more choices, I hope.

What we found out is that Alaskan care is just not acceptable. We have to continue to keep focused on this. The bill we provided will create more choices.

Last week I had one of the best conversations I have ever had with anybody at the Veterans Administration when I talked to the Under Secretary of Health—a new person in that job—Dr. Dave Shulkin, who spent his whole life in health care in the private sector managing hospitals outside of the Federal Government. Dr. Shulkin should know what he is doing, and it certainly sounded to me as if he knew what he was doing. He understood the kinds of things the Congress hopes to see for our veterans and the VA system that need to happen.

We talked about the fact that Congress intends for veterans' choice to mean exactly that—not ways for the Veterans Administration to find obstacles to choice but veterans' choice. If you are a Federal Government health care provider, if you take Medicare patients, you ought to be able to take veterans as patients. There shouldn't be some long second process you have to go through to become qualified so that the veteran can see a doctor the veteran wants to see, the veteran can go to a hospital the veteran wants to go to, particularly if the VA can't meet that need.

In fact, the conversation I had with Dr. Shulkin was so good that for a little while, I thought maybe I had gotten the wrong number, that possibly I actually had not called the Veterans Administration, because I have never had a conversation like that where somebody at the Veterans Administration not only knew what needed to be done but wasn't afraid to compete to get the health care needs of veterans met.

I talked to all our veterans groups in Missouri, or many of them—certainly the two big veterans groups—at their meeting this summer. I said: Many of you have had great experience with the VA.

There are a lot of people at the VA who want to do everything they can to serve veterans in the best possible way.

I said: But that is not good enough. All of you need to have had the best

possible experience at the VA—not necessarily the best outcome but the best possible outcome.

You know, all of our health care outcomes aren't what we would want them to be, but they ought to be everything they possibly should be.

Veterans shouldn't have to drive past non-VA facilities that are equally capable of providing their health care or more capable of providing their health care, and we are going to continue to work to see that that happens. Competition is a good thing. The best possible place to go for your health care is a good thing.

I want to come back to that briefly in a moment, but before I get there, I received a report on Tuesday from the Veterans Administration's inspector general that frankly just said that the allegations about what was happening at the St. Louis facility, the John Cochran facility, were absolutely true, that a number of files had been changed to indicate that the consultation had been completed before it was ever had. I assume it does a lot for your performance numbers if you check the "completed" box before you see the patient, and that appears to be what was happening. We learned that there is not enough oversight there. We learned that at least one psychiatrist had received performance pay based on productivity data. The only thing wrong with the productivity data was that it wasn't correct. I guess it is easy to look good if you are not backing that up with real facts. It is not acceptable. It is inexcusable.

Then we have a problem with leadership at these facilities. At the John Cochran hospital in St. Louis—the biggest hospital we have in our State—we have had seven temporary directors in 2 years. No matter how good some of those may have been, having seven temporary directors is a lot like not having any director at all. If you know somebody is going to be there for 14 weeks, or however long they are going to be there, and you know somebody else is coming, that obviously is not going to produce a good result, but that is happening. There are 30 veterans centers that don't have permanent directors today. That is about 20 percent of all the facilities in the country. One in five of our VA medical centers doesn't have a permanent director, and we need to do better.

Supposedly the new Administrator of the Veterans Administration came in because he was a great manager. So far, I don't see the results. If he needs more help from the Congress to be a great manager, we ought to figure out a way to give him more help.

I believe competition is a good thing. The VA should be good and really better than anybody else at a few things. Nobody should be better than the VA in terms of dealing with post-traumatic stress. Nobody should be better

than the Veterans Administration when it comes to dealing with the results of these IED attacks, the improvised explosive device attacks. Because of that, eye injuries should be something the VA deals with very well. And nobody should be better than the VA at dealing with prosthetics or spinal cord injuries.

Frankly, the Presiding Officer, as a doctor, would appreciate this. I don't really know why we wouldn't assume the VA would be the best place to specialize in almost anything else. And if it is not the best place to go, it shouldn't be the only place to go.

The VA is probably not likely to be any better or as good as anyplace you would drive by to get your heart stent put in, to take care of your cancer problem, to work with your kidneys that are failing, to get even the basic health care of getting your blood pressure checked. Our veterans deserve more choices.

There are lots of reasons the Congress should be and is concerned about the way the Veterans Administration is working. It is clearly time for the Veterans Administration to get focused not on what is good for the Veterans Administration but on what is good for veterans. We owe it to our veterans.

The report I got this Tuesday unfortunately verifies almost every concern that people have had, and we need to insist that that be better.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

PROVIDING FOR OUR VETERANS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague and friend from Missouri. I just want to mention—although I didn't come to the floor to talk about what we are doing for veterans, let me take a minute or two to talk about what we are doing that we are actually proud of and then maybe touch on a couple of areas where we can do a better job.

I myself am a veteran, a Navy midshipman out of Ohio State who studied economics for 4 years and went on to become a naval flight officer. I served for 5 years in Southeast Asia as a naval flight officer and then as a P-3 aircraft mission commander for another 18 years until the end of the Cold War. I loved the Navy. I loved serving.

I got an education—undergraduate and graduate school—and feel very privileged. I had the opportunity at the end of my Active-Duty tour to use the VA hospital very close to Wilmington, DE, in northern Delaware. I remember the first time I went there. I was offered some dental benefits, and my dentist—a young dentist who was right out of dental school—told me the morale was pretty bad, and he said they didn't do very good work. It was place where they had 16-bed wards. They didn't do much in the way of outpatient surgery. The pharmacy was a mess.

I said: Wouldn't it be great to be in a position to do something about that

and transform this place so it can be a health care delivery facility we can be proud of today?

Do they do everything perfectly? No, they don't.

We have two satellite operations in Delaware. We have one in the Dover area, in the middle of our State, and we have another one in the southern part of the State, in Sussex County, which is Georgetown. I am very proud of those health care facilities. We call them outpatient clinics, CBOCS.

The reason I mention that is because I was also eligible—coming out of the Vietnam war, along with other Vietnam veterans—to get an education, to go to college, and in my case graduate school on the GI bill. In my generation, we received about \$250 a month. At the time, I was happy to have every bit of it. I continued to fly with my Reserve squadron for another 18 years, and it was great to have that benefit.

A couple weeks ago, our congressional delegation—Senator COONS, Congressmen CARNEY, and Governor Jack Markell—sent 300 Delaware National Guard men and women off to Afghanistan. We had a big sendoff ceremony for them. Their families were there. We had about 1,000 people. It was a big sendoff.

As they left, I told them: When you come back, you are going to be eligible for a GI benefit that dwarfs what my generation received.

They won't get 250 bucks a month. If they serve a total of 3 years on Active Duty and serve in Afghanistan or Iraq for a period of time, here is what they will be eligible for: They can come back and go for free to the University of Delaware, Delaware City University, Wilmington University—pretty much any public college or university in America; tuition, books, and fees paid for; and if they need tutoring, that is paid for as well. On top of all that, they get a housing allowance of \$1,500 a month. We received a GI benefit of \$250.

Not surprisingly, at the end of World War II, when my dad and my uncle served—in the Korean war, when my uncle served, and at the end of the Vietnam war, scam artists emerged to take advantage of the GI and tried to separate the GI coming back from combat—tried to separate the GI cash value benefits from the GI and sometimes not to provide them with a very good education but to take advantage of the GI and the taxpayers.

In about 1952, something called the 85-15 rule was passed whereby at least 15 percent of the students enrolled in a for-profit college or university had to be there—their tuition paid for by some source other than the Federal Government. As it turns out, the 85-15 rule became the 90-10 rule, so that 90 percent of those who were enrolled were paid for by the Federal Government, but another 10 percent had to be paid for by someone else other than the

Federal Government. Over time, that changed so that 90 percent of the revenues of a for-profit college or university could come from the Federal Government but not the other 10 percent—except for the money that came from the GI bill to a college or university or from tuition assistance for people on Active Duty. That didn't count against the 90 percent. At the end of the day, a for-profit college or university could get 100 percent of its revenues from the Federal Government. I don't think that is a good thing.

The system that was designed early on with the 85-15 rule and later the 90-10 rule was designed to try to make sure there were market forces that ensured taxpayers and the GIs, the veterans would get a fair deal, get a good education, make sure they were treated the way we would want them to be treated.

There is a huge loophole in the 90-10 rule, and it is a loophole we need to fix. We need to fix it.

My colleagues who talked here earlier today—including my colleague from Missouri—about the quality of VA health care—I want to say that we are providing the best health care by far in the history of our country. For too long, a number of our for-profit colleges and universities and postsecondary-training programs have been taking advantage of GIs, taking advantage of the taxpayers, and it should stop. It should stop.

Having said that, there are a number of for-profit colleges and universities and training programs that do a great job. They are not all bad actors. Some of them wear white hats. For them, good for you, and for those who are not, you need to change your ways.

I didn't come here to talk about that, but in the spirit of making sure we look out for our veterans, I thought I would mention that.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Let's take a look at some of the posters here this afternoon.

The first one looks like my State. It probably also looks like the Presiding Officer's State. It could look like any of the States our pages are from. But this is a traffic jam. It is a traffic jam that occurs almost every day, almost every business day, and frankly a lot of weekends on highways across America from coast to coast. We spend a lot of time sitting in traffic. It is actually quite a substantial cost that inures to our Nation's economy. The cost this year is believed to be about \$160 billion, a hit on our national economy. I will talk in just a second about what that includes.

Part of the waste that is reflected in our Nation's economy is—you see right here it says "82 hours wasted in big city traffic." That is per person, per driver, on average, across the country, big cities, people sitting—pretty much sitting in traffic. They could be in a

minivan, they could be in a small car, a large car, they could be in a truck, but we are talking about 82 hours a year just pretty much sitting in traffic.

The average across the country, when you take in the more rural parts of the country and suburban areas, is about 42 hours. That is a whole lot of time. Time is money. So just think about that.

Here is one with a sense of humor. This is not Delaware. I am not sure where this is, but for those who can't read this, it says—the traffic sign that is up here says: "You'll never get to work on time. Haha." It is some kind of construction program. You see the orange cones out there. Someone had a good sense of humor there. My guess is, the folks who maybe were working on the project had a good sense of humor. My guess is that for a moment it made the drivers smile but not for long, especially if they sat in traffic long enough. Eighty-two hours a year, that is long enough.

Not only is it expensive, a waste of time and money for us as individuals to sit in traffic for a long time, another part of the cost is caused by potholes and other problems with our roads. I think this is probably a bridge. It looks like it might be a bridge, but it is a construction project someplace. Here is a pothole. That is a bad pothole. In other parts—not too much in Delaware—I have seen in other States at least that bad and worse.

What is going to happen, vehicles will come along, they will hit that pothole, and may damage their tires, they may have to replace a tire or two, they may have to get their front end realigned. That costs money. How much? Actually, believe it or not, just like Texas A&M has actually figured out on average we waste 82 hours a year as drivers, somebody else actually spent the time to figure out how much we spend on our cars, trucks, and vans in order to fix them during the course of the year because of potholes like this and other problems, whether it is the surface of the roads we travel on or the surface of the bridges we travel on. It is over \$350. I have seen the range of anywhere from \$350 per year to \$500 per year. Let's say it is just \$350 a year. That is a lot of money. That is part of the cost of the damage to our economy.

The other thing I would say, our economy today, as we all know, is a "just in time" economy. I will give you a good example. We have a port in Wilmington that sits right on the Delaware River. As you come up the Delaware Bay, it becomes the Delaware River. The port that is closest to the Atlantic is the Port of Wilmington. Ships are coming in and out of there throughout the day, nights, and weekends. The ships don't come in and spend a week. Ships don't come into the Port of Wilmington and spend a day. They may come in for 4 hours,

they may come in for 6 hours, but they are there and then they are gone, because when a ship is sitting in the Port of Wilmington or any other port, the shipper, whoever owns that boat, that ship cannot make any money. So they want to be in and they want to be out. That is the way they do their business.

It is important for whoever is coming in using a truck to bring goods to put on that ship to send around the world, there may be a very short window of time to get there. If you are stuck in traffic, the kind of traffic we saw early on, you may miss that window when the ship is in the port, whether it is Wilmington or some other port. That is another reason why, in a "just in time" economy, these kinds of delays mean time is money. Again, someone else with a sense of humor—if you cannot read this, it looks like a husband and wife driving along in their car. His wife says: "Finally someone fixed that pothole." Here is the pothole. There is a car down there. The guy driving looks like he is having a bad day, not just a bad hair day, a very bad day.

A little humor there but not if you happen to be this guy, frankly—probably not if you happen to be this guy, because if you are running over somebody else's car in a pothole like this, the guy is going to spend a lot more than 350 bucks to repair his car and get it going again.

We are not making this stuff up. There is a national association, I think it is civil engineers, people who spend their life's work on transportation projects. Every year for years, they have given us a grade on what kind of shape our roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems are in. They could give an A, A-plus, A-minus, they could give a B, B-plus, B-minus, they could give a C, C-plus, C-minus or they could give a D-plus, D, D-minus. The last couple of years we have been right around D to D-plus. I think we are probably going down rather than going up. So what everybody knows—just about anybody who drives in our country these days knows we are not investing in our roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems the way we need to.

Look around the rest of the world, travel around the rest of the world. You can see in a lot of countries we compete with that they do. One of the components of certain investments we need to make in our country in order to strengthen our economy, to better ensure the jobs are going to be created or preserved—there a lot of things we can do to make sure businesses have access to capital, make sure the cost of energy is affordable, make sure the cost of health care is affordable, make sure we have public safety, make sure the people who are coming out of our schools can read, write, and have the skills that are needed in the workforce.

I know the big one is to make sure we have the ability to move people and

goods where they need to go, when they need to go. Here is our current plan. It is pretty well summed up in this sign. It is meant to be funny. I suppose it is. But I like this part of the plan: "Good luck." That is not a plan. That is not a plan that is going to get us where we need to go as a nation.

For those who may be unable to read this, there is a big traffic jam. A lot of people are saying—you see those little bubbles there—"I'd pay to be anywhere but here."

I was Treasurer of Delaware. I studied economics, got an MBA, and was Treasurer of Delaware when I was 29. I had a chance to serve in the house for a while and then as Governor. I was very much involved in the National Governors Association in trying to make sure we invested in our transportation infrastructure across the country. In the Senate, I am on the Environment and Public Works Committee. The last time I was privileged to serve as chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

So I thought a fair amount about these issues. If you think about the way we pay for roads, highways, bridges, and transit, what we have used for years is a user pay system. The people, the businesses that use our roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems, we pay for them. In some places, we have sort of gotten away from that. There is an unwillingness to ask people to pay for what they want to use. Everybody wants to have better transportation systems. There seems to be a lot of reluctance to pay for that.

When I was Governor of Delaware, three times I asked for modest—very modest—increases, just a couple of cents in the fee for gas and diesel tax. I think out of three efforts, we succeeded one time. Not a whole lot was raised, but we cobbled together some other money from other user fees and we were able to continue to fund transportation funding.

For a number of years in the Nation, we have had a transportation trust fund. Most of the money for that transportation trust fund comes from user fees, and two primary user fees are a gas tax. It has been about 18.3, 18.4 cents since, I think, 1993. It has been a little bit over 18 cents since 1993. It has not changed. The cost of concrete has gone up. The cost of asphalt has gone up. The cost of steel has gone up. The cost of labor has gone up. What has not gone up is the user fee we are asking people to pay to have better roads, highways, bridges, and transit to get people off our roads, highways, and bridges. If we can do that, we can save a lot of money.

We have a tax on diesel—a Federal tax. It has been about 24 cents per gallon. It has been at that level since 1993—since 1993. Again, concrete, asphalt, steel, and labor have all gone up, but in 22 years we have not changed the user fee, if you will, on diesel.

The money we collect from the gas and diesel tax does not go to pay for health care, it does not go to pay for wars, it does not go to pay for agriculture and other things. The money we collect from these user fees goes to pay for roads, highways, bridges, and to some extent for transit systems, to get people off our roads, highways, and bridges so the rest of us will have some extra room to maneuver.

I will go back in time. Thomas Jefferson said a lot of things that are worth remembering. My favorite Jefferson quote is this: "If the people know the truth, they won't make a mistake."

If the people know the truth, they won't make a mistake. The truth is, we are not investing in our transportation infrastructure in this country the way our competitors are and the way we ought to be.

To do so does not mean we have to raise—in some places they have gas taxes or diesel taxes that are \$4 or \$5 a gallon. We don't have that. It is 18 cents, and 24 cents for gas and diesel combined. If we had increased them by the rate of inflation in the past, the gas tax would be not 18 cents; it may be even closer to twice that. The diesel tax would not be 24 cents; it might be closer to twice that. But we have not changed them.

Here is the way we pay for transportation improvements: We don't pay for them. We don't raise anything, in some cases. We just simply go out and borrow money for the transportation fund from the Federal general fund. When the general fund runs out of money, we borrow money from countries around the world like China and other places and replenish the general fund, and use that to replenish the transportation fund.

I think that is pretty foolish, especially to be beholden to the folks in China for our transportation system. It does not make a whole lot of sense to me, maybe it does not to you either. There are other things we do—we have these—I call them cats and dogs, sort of sleight of hand. One of the more recent examples, we do something called pension smoothing, where—I will not get into how that works, but it is just an awful idea to mess with, muck with people's pensions in order to be able to provide funds for road improvements. That does not make much sense.

Another thing we do is we maybe raise the TSA fees when people want to fly. Instead of using that to make our friendly skies safer, we put a little of that money in roads, highways, and bridges or maybe we sell some of the oil we have in our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We paid a lot of money several years ago to buy gas, to buy oil when it was expensive. People think it would be a smart thing to sell that oil out of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, when prices are low, to help pay for roads,

highways, and bridges. Remember the old saying "buy low, sell high." Well, this is really buy high and then put that oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and then sell low. That is insanity.

We can do a lot better than this. For a number of years, some have encouraged us to do what we have been doing for years, to actually be honest and pay for improvements to our roads, highways, and bridges. And that is to raise the user fees—not all at once, not by \$1 or \$2 or anything like that, but by 4 cents a year starting next year for 4 years. Then after that index—then index the fees and the taxes on gas and diesel according to the rate of inflation.

If we did that, I think we would have a combined State and Federal user fee, if you will, for gas. I think it would be at that time 53 cents. It would be about 53 cents. Compared to what? Compared to pretty much any other developed nation in the world, we would have the lowest combined Federal, State, and local user fees on gas and diesel. It is the lowest as far as I can tell. We can actually double that. We are not going to do that. We could actually double it again—we are not going to do that—from 53 cents to \$1.06 per gallon. Again, I don't suggest we would do that, but if we did, we would still be among the lowest compared to the rest of the world.

Sometimes we say: Well, 16 cents—what could I buy with that? If I didn't have to pay 4 years from now an extra 16 cents when I buy a gallon of gas, what would that add up to in a week for the average driver?

I will tell you this—maybe brings it home—basically the price of a cup of coffee a week is the cost that would be incurred by the average driver even after the full increase, the 4 cents times 4 years. That is what it is worth. That would be the out-of-pocket expense for the average driver, the price of a cup of coffee a week.

We saw earlier from some of these charts that, on average across the country, people are sitting in traffic for 42 hours per year. We saw some of the graphics with the pothole and were reminded that the cost of damage to our cars, trucks, and vans is anywhere from \$350 to some estimates as high as \$500. We are learning that for the price of a basic cup of coffee, if we invest that money instead—people can still drink coffee, but if we put that in our roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems, we can have a transportation system we can be proud of. Those four pennies add up over time, and they add up over the next 10 years to \$220 billion to have for investments. So instead of having roads or potholes that look like the one I saw and the kinds of traffic jams we see here from coast to coast, we can have a transportation system again in this country we can be proud

of. We just have to have the will to do it.

Again, Thomas Jefferson reminded us that things that are worth having are worth paying for, and if people know the truth, they won't make a mistake. Roads, highways, bridges, transit—that is what we are paying for. The truth is, it doesn't have to break us. It doesn't have to break our banks or our budgets. We can have those roads, highways, and bridges again that we can be proud of. I hope we will do that.

Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois and I have introduced legislation to essentially do that, to raise the user fees by 4 cents a year for 4 years, at a time when the price of oil is as low as it has been for some time and is expected to stay low for the foreseeable future.

If the Iranians work with us and the other five nations that negotiated the Iranian agreement in order to gradually lift sanctions from their economy, they will be able to start producing oil and selling it across the world as long as they agree not to create that nuclear weapon. We are going to make sure they don't.

But it turns out that Iran is the No. 4 nation in the world in oil reserves. Think about that. We live in a world that is awash in oil. Very soon, the Iranian oil will be added to the oil that is available to consumers to use on this planet of ours. All that oil will not push up the price of oil or gasoline or diesel; it will push it down—supply and demand. Let's keep that in mind.

With that, I have spoken for long enough. I see one of my colleagues has been waiting patiently, and I will bid you all adieu. Have a good weekend. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

MILCON-VA APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about the bill that we voted on this afternoon and put it into a broader context. This was the bill to begin the vote and debate on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which passed out of the Appropriations Committee in a strong bipartisan vote.

There has been a lot of talk and a lot of stories in the media over the last several weeks about the government running out of money, a government shutdown. In a lot of those stories, the narrative talked about the Republican Party being the one focused on a government shutdown. The media actually loves this narrative, but, like a lot of narratives in the media, they are not always so accurate. So I wanted to give what I think is the much more accurate story, what is really going on here in the Senate.

Many of us are new Senators—the Presiding Officer and myself included—13 of us, actually. A lot of us came to Washington and a lot of us actually ran

for the Senate because we were fed up. We thought the American people were fed up; we knew they were fed up with the dysfunction of the Federal Government. There are a lot of examples of that. You know many of them.

In the last several years we have run the debt of our Nation from \$10 trillion to \$18 trillion. Think about that. Looking at these interns here on the floor, that is going to be their responsibility if we don't get ahold of that—\$18 trillion. An economy that can't grow is what we call the new normal here in Washington, 1.5 percent, 2 percent GDP growth. No budget. The previous Senate was not even passing a budget—the most basic function of government. Households do it, businesses do it, and States do it. The Federal Government was not even taking the time to pass a budget. There were no appropriations bills, no spending bills out of the Appropriations Committee. These were all signs of a Federal Government that was not working, that was dysfunctional.

So we came with the new majority, new leadership committed to change this. We meant to change this. We were very focused on changing this, and we have begun in a serious way to do that. What are we doing? First, we passed a budget. It hadn't happened in years, but we did that. It was a lot of hard work. My hat is off to the Budget Committee. We took what was the President's budget, 10-year budget, and slashed that by \$5 trillion to \$7 trillion in terms of spending. We didn't raise taxes.

Then the next step—what the government is supposed to do—we started to work on appropriations bills in the Appropriations Committee. Again, this was very hard work, very bipartisan work, and for the first time in years, the Appropriations Committee passed out 12 appropriations bills to fund our government.

Most of these were very bipartisan. Let me give you a few examples. The Agriculture appropriations bill passed out of the Appropriations Committee 28 to 2. It doesn't get much more bipartisan than that. The Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill passed 27 to 3; Energy and Water, 26 to 4. This is strong bipartisan work in the Appropriations Committee with our government getting back to work.

The dysfunction that had previously existed here for many years—none of this was happening—was going away, and we were working. Very importantly, in terms of appropriations bills, the Defense appropriations bill passed out of the committee 27 to 3, and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, 21 to 9.

So we passed a budget, passed appropriations bills—so far so good. The Senate is working again. We are back to regular order. We are moving forward in a bipartisan way—very bipartisan.

We are doing the work of government. It is what the American people wanted, asked for, and we are starting to deliver on that as part of our promises last fall.

So what is the next step? The next step is to take these appropriations bills and bring them to the Senate floor for a vote. It shouldn't be a problem, particularly because the bills I am talking about are so bipartisan. They came out of committee with bipartisan numbers and support, so that is what we are doing. That is what is we have done. That is what we are supposed to do. That is what the American people want us to do.

We started to prioritize. Where should we begin? Turn on the news. I think most people know where we should begin—funding our military, the men and women protecting us, the men and women risking their lives on a daily basis for our freedom.

So we brought the Defense appropriations bill to the Senate floor. Again, we certainly need that. One gets the sense that the world is careening into chaos. We need a strong military. We need to fund our military. It shouldn't be an issue. It passed out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote. Everybody likes to make sure we have a strong military.

So what happened? We brought it to the floor of the Senate and it was filibustered, not one but two times. That is irresponsible—filibustering the defense of our Nation, defunding the support for our troops.

So that brings us to what we did today. We turn to another appropriations bill—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations—again, a very bipartisan bill. It is very focused, building military infrastructure throughout our country, throughout the world. One of the most sacred responsibilities of this body, of our government is taking care of our veterans.

This is a huge issue for my State. Alaska boasts the highest number of veterans per capita of any State in the Nation, and we need to take care of our best. So what happened today? It seems pretty noncontroversial. The appropriations bill—a very nonpartisan bill—came to the floor, and it was filibustered again.

In the past few weeks, we have had critical votes to fund our military, to fund our troops, to fund our veterans, and we cannot move forward. What is going on here? I really don't know. It is hard to say. I sit on the Armed Services Committee. I sit on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. These are two of the most bipartisan committees in the Senate. I know all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle truly respect, truly support our troops and our veterans, and truly want what is best for them. I recognize that.

Then why is the other side filibustering the funding of these incredibly

important bills, in essence defunding our troops and defunding our veterans? I think the American people deserve answers. I think our veterans deserve answers. I think our troops in harm's way deserve answers.

One thing for sure is the next time the media wants to write a story with a narrative about a government shutdown, they ought to ask those who voted against these bills—to even start debating them—why they are defunding these critical groups and veterans. They need to ask those who are voting against these bills, filibustering these bills, why they are leaving our troops and our veterans in the lurch.

Mr. President, we are doing our job—what the American people asked us to do, demanded from us last November. They wanted us to pass a budget like they do, even though we hadn't done that in years. We did. They wanted us to pass appropriations bills and to work in a bipartisan manner to get these bills through the committee—all 12 to fund the government. We did. And they wanted us to prioritize our spending, our activities, and our focus in terms of government funding on the things that matter most—our military and our veterans. And we did.

I have no idea why our colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to move with us in terms of the next step. The American people want the next step. They want the Senate to vote on these bipartisan bills that fund our military and fund our veterans. Today, once again, we are seeing that is not happening. I think the American people need answers, I think our troops need answers, and I think our veterans need answers on why it is not happening.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last night, this body approved a resolution authored by Senator WYDEN and myself designating September 2015 as National Kinship Care Month.

While many may not be aware, there are approximately 2,700,000 children living in kinship care around this country. That means millions of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives are looking after children in every urban, rural, and suburban county of the United States.

These caregivers have stepped forward, often at great personal expense, out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which biological parents are unable to do so. They provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable homes and environments for extremely vulnerable children during very challenging circumstances.

They serve in a time of upheaval and great change for these children, assisting them to recognize their self-worth and potential.

Kinship care also enables the children to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage as they continue residence in the native community of the child.

This resolution sends a clear message that the Senate is proud of and wishes to honor these everyday heroes, kinship caregivers, who throughout the history of the United States, have provided loving homes for parentless children.

It is my hope that National Kinship Care Month can provide each of us with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the sacrifice and devotion of kinship caregivers. And while there is still a great deal of work we can do to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs, kinship care providers exhibit a template of care and sacrifice that should be provided for every child in this great country.

I am very proud of this resolution and this acknowledgement, and I thank my colleagues for giving it their unanimous support.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WOLK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the achievements and contributions of a remarkable educator, a personal friend, and a celebrated leader in my home State of Vermont.

For decades, David Wolk has successfully distinguished himself as an educator and public servant to the people of Vermont. Now in his 11th year as president of Castleton University, formally known as Castleton State College, David likes to call Castleton "the small college with a big heart." As the longest serving president in its history, he has increased the college's involvement in the community and has expanded the university's commitment to civic engagement and service among students and faculty alike. His personal commitment to his hometown of Rutland, VT, is evidenced through his

service as a former State senator and current role as a local justice of the peace.

As David has emboldened Castleton's primary mission to serve Vermonters, the institution has forged new partnerships and expanded its opportunities to reach far beyond its footprint in Rutland County. David's leadership is currently enabling the Castleton Polling Institute, which conducts surveys for Vermont politicians and media outlets, to expand to a national audience. Meanwhile, the Castleton Center for Schools continues to serve hundreds of Vermont educators by offering advanced continuing education opportunities each summer. Under his leadership, Castleton athletics has expanded from 12 sports at his inauguration to 27 varsity offerings, enabling Vermont students to play Division III sports. Most recently, David has provided the vision and guidance for Castleton to undergo its own transformation as the college seeks to grow its prestige and opportunities as newly named Castleton University.

David held a distinguished career in education even before stepping foot at Castleton. He served as chief of policy for former Vermont Governor Howard Dean and as the Vermont commissioner of education. Dedication to his native community of Rutland may also be witnessed by his impressive resume as a school principal, superintendent of the Rutland City Public Schools, a guidance counselor and teacher, and a college instructor. He has also served as a member of numerous boards, including the Vermont Business Roundtable, the Vermont Public Education Partnership, and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. In recognition of these achievements, he received the 2009 Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement from the New England Board of Higher Education.

If his career is not inspiration enough, David's commitment to family surely is. The proud father of four children, David led his family through the celebration of the life and legacy of his wife, Diane, when she passed away this summer, nearly a decade after being diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. A lifelong educator herself, Diane and David, together, gave more to their community than most. And David's compassion and commitment to Diane leaves a lasting impression on those of us who call him a friend. Marcelle and I admire him.

In recognition of David Wolk's service and resiliency, I ask unanimous consent that Terri Hallenbeck's article from the August 26, 2015, edition of *Seven Days* be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, Aug. 26, 2015]

RESILIENT DAVID WOLK CHAMPIONS
CASTLETON UNIVERSITY

Between the playing fields that serve the Castleton Spartans, a marble monument tells the story of the Greek king Leonidas and how he bravely resisted an army of invaders.

David Wolk chose the 22,000-pound stone from a Rochester quarry and had it polished and engraved in Barre. As Castleton's longest-serving president and its cheerleader-in-chief, he hoped the monument's message, titled "Spartan Pride," would inspire students. He installed it six years ago, just after the college football team's inaugural season in a brand-new stadium.

Players quickly made the monument the focus of a new Castleton tradition, stopping to touch it on their way to practices and games. It offers no guarantees of victory on the field but is an apt symbol for the little college's fighting spirit to survive—and make a name for itself—in the increasingly competitive world of higher education.

For the past 14 years, Wolk has labored to transform Castleton from a tiny, isolated college into a growing university with adequate funding, marketable programs and satisfied students. Last month, it got a new name: Castleton State College became Castleton University.

"Not a lot of colleges are planning on increasing their enrollment these days," said Vermont State Colleges chancellor Jeb Spaulding, who oversees Castleton and four other state colleges. "Dave's different. His plan is, 'I'm building something that's attractive.'"

"He's the pied piper of Castleton and Rutland County."

Just as impressive is the fact that 62-year-old Wolk managed to remake Castleton while he waged another, personal battle. Beneath the engraved tale of the Spartan king, there's a hint at that story, too. In small type at the bottom of the rock, it reads, "In honor of Dr. Diane Wolk."

Wolk's life is so intertwined with his work at Castleton that he brought in this monument, at his own expense, not just to create a Castleton tradition, but as a tribute to his wife. Diane Wolk was a longtime teacher, school principal, chair of the State Board of Education and one-time director of student teaching at Castleton. She was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2007, on her 57th birthday, four years after she first started noticing symptoms.

David Wolk watched in awe as his wife accepted her fate and even strove to demystify the cruel disease. In 2008, she rallied 400 friends to take part in a "Walk With Wolk" Alzheimer's fundraiser, and, while the disease had already started to affect her mind, she addressed the crowd. Quoting Lou Gehrig, she said she felt like the luckiest person in the world.

"She just stood up and was very brave," Wolk recalled. "The monument is a testament to a woman who had a lot of courage." Diane Wolk died last month.

"THE CASTLETON WAY"

Tony Volpone was the football coach for opposing Endicott College when his team visited Castleton State College in 2013. Endicott defeated Castleton 43-7 that day, but the "losing" side left an indelible impression on Volpone.

He saw a stately new stadium filled with an enthusiastic crowd, a marching band, fans holding tailgate parties in the parking lot, a bouncy house for kids. And at the end of the

game, the team locked arms and led the crowd in the singing of the alma mater.

"I was so impressed with what I saw," Volpone said. "It made me go, 'Wow, I could really see myself here.'" A year later, he became Castleton's head coach. Volpone credits Wolk for the scene that sold him.

For most of those home-game Saturdays, Wolk is in the crowd, beaming, with his soon-to-be-96-year-old father, Arthur. "It's a beautiful thing," he said. It's what Wolk envisioned when he became Castleton president in 2001 and set in place a 10-year plan to boost the college's profile.

Wolk was uniquely positioned when he took the job running the public college in his native Rutland County. The son of a local pediatrician, he graduated from Rutland High School and Middlebury College and went on to a career as a teacher, principal and school superintendent. Wolk also represented Rutland County for four years in the state Senate, made an unsuccessful bid for lieutenant governor in 1992 and served as chief of policy for governor Howard Dean before becoming state education commissioner.

By the time he took over at Castleton, he had experience navigating educational and political waters. Wolk also brought boundless optimism and salesmanship to the job.

Zachary Devoid of St. Albans, a senior computer information systems major and lacrosse player at Castleton, remembered meeting Wolk at the start of his freshman year. The president hosts a barbecue for new students every year at his on-campus house. Later, when Devoid's lacrosse team was holding an all-night fundraiser in memory of a student, Wolk came by with pizza.

"He eats in the dining halls. He goes to sporting events," Devoid said. "He's very personable."

"At orientation last year, he shook everybody's hand and introduced himself. It was really cool," said Cassie Papandrea, a senior English major from Orwell who was on campus last month getting ready for this year's orientation.

Spaulding said he visited Wolk at Castleton recently and went off on his own to the gym. When he returned to Wolk's house, he said, "I asked him, 'How come all these students look me in the eye and open the door for me?' He said, 'It's the Castleton way. They have to open doors for people, and they have to pick up trash.'"

In fact, there's no rule about acting responsibly, but Devoid said the campus is so close-knit that people just do.

Wolk has created a campus atmosphere that makes students want to stay, said Scott Giles, president of Vermont Student Assistance Corp., whose organization administers college loans and interacts with a wide variety of colleges. Although its student-retention rate hasn't budged much in the last decade—it's average, at 73 percent—Castleton's six-year graduation rate has climbed by nearly 10 percent. Enrollment has grown from 1,598 in 2000 to 2,183 last year. The goal is to reach 2,500 by 2023.

Students, faculty and outsiders have noticed a difference.

"Castleton has been one of the real success stories," Giles said, likening its emergence to Champlain College's transformation from a two-year to a four-year school a decade and a half ago.

"Dave has been really, really successful in taking an institution that had a reputation as something of a suitcase college—where you can get a solid degree but you leave to do other things on the weekend," Giles said. "What he's really done is transform the cam-

pus. It's a community that meets a student's full range of needs."

DOUBLE DUTY

Not every faculty member was convinced Castleton needed football, according to Louis "Tersh" Palmer, a union rep and English professor. Some "would like to see more emphasis on academics," he said, and "throw all the rest of that stuff out."

The football program has had some problems. In 2011, its first coach was forced to resign after allegedly violating National Collegiate Athletic Association rules by arranging loans for an athlete. In 2013, six players were suspended from the team following a scheme to steal sporting goods from a store.

In both cases, Wolk publicly acknowledged the fumbles and recovered the ball. "We will stay positive and upbeat as we move forward together as a family," he said in response to the 2013 case.

He took the same approach to his wife's illness. Diane Wolk, who'd been named the state's teacher of the year in 1984, was the popular principal of Rutland's Northeast Primary School when Alzheimer's began to manifest itself. In his Woodruff Hall office, Wolk keeps a photo of her 2006 retirement; it shows his wife surrounded by smiling children—a happy spin on a somber moment.

Wolk likes to focus on the positive. He hands out cards printed in Castleton green that say, "Keep smiling." And, amazingly, it works.

He tried to follow his own advice during the nine-year ordeal that Wolk calls the "long goodbye." But he also acknowledged it's been a roller-coaster ride. Asked how he managed the double duties of handling his wife's illness and raising the college's profile—two long but very different journeys—Wolk said candidly, "I didn't."

He relied on his team at Castleton, he said, and there were times he considered quitting to become his wife's full-time nurse. But as the disease progressed, Wolk realized she needed professional care. Diane had chosen to move to Florida, where she could participate in Alzheimer's research and access different levels of specialized care. Wolk said his wife actually preferred being far away because it spared her friends and colleagues the pain of watching her decline. "She didn't want to make them sad," he said with admiration. But for Wolk, who visited many weekends, it was a long haul.

"I think it's been very difficult," said Spaulding, who served in the state Senate with Wolk in the 1980s. "But I think Castleton University is part of his family. It's part of what's enabled him to continue."

Wolk confirmed that Castleton was his salvation during that decade of decline. "I was able to dive into the college," he said. "It gave new meaning to my life."

Castleton had 12 athletic teams when Wolk arrived on campus. It now has 27, which is more than any other Vermont state college or the University of Vermont. The school is providing Vermont students with an opportunity to play college sports in their home state. And they're tuition-paying students. Because it is Division III, Castleton doesn't offer athletic scholarships.

The school has added a lot more than sports teams. It has invested more than \$75 million in new construction and renovations to every building on campus. The college has gone from offering one master's degree to 10, with plans to add doctorates in education and nursing practice.

While some Vermont state colleges have endured layoffs, Castleton has avoided them, according to Wolk. The college does plan to

cut one program next year, though: its associate's degree in nursing, a program that Vermont Technical College offers.

Wolk has also launched a variety of brand-new initiatives that are generating revenue: The Castleton Polling Institute, which conducts paid surveys for Vermont politicians and media outlets, is expanding and going national; the Castleton Center for Schools brought 800 Vermont teachers to campus this summer for continuing education; the Castleton Downtown Gallery showcases art—and the Castleton name—in downtown Rutland. The university also owns the Spartan Arena at Rutland's Diamond Run Mall, a public operation that gives students real-world business experience. The college bought the building to accommodate its men's and women's hockey teams, which Wolk started in 2003. When they aren't practicing or playing there, it's a rental rink and fitness center.

The income-generating programs have been developed in response to a shrinking pool of college-age students and declining state funding. Vermont routinely ranks near the bottom in state support for its public colleges. This year, Vermont State Colleges will receive \$24.4 million from the state, which is split equally among the five colleges. Castleton's allotment pays just 10 percent of its budget.

"We're getting less money from the state this year than we got in 2008 or '09," Wolk said, and he knows enough about Vermont politics to realize that is unlikely to change anytime soon.

The name change is also intended to counteract the lack of state funding. Wolk said he hopes Castleton University will attract more out-of-state students, who pay higher tuition. Currently, 74 percent of its students are in-staters. By 2023, Castleton's goal is to have a 60-40 in-state versus out-of-state split. Wolk said Castleton's main mission remains to serve Vermonters but will reflect the reality that there are fewer college-age students in the state. Castleton's other programs within the community, including the polling institute and the Spartan Arena, are examples of other ways it's contributing to the public good.

Particularly for international students who equate the word "college" with high school, the "university" designation should send a clearer message. Castleton had 25 students from other countries last year and expects 50 this year, Wolk said. The college upped its overseas admissions efforts by hiring a Chinese-American recruitment coordinator and making two trips to China last year, he said. As part of a residency, 13 Chinese scholars are due on campus this fall.

During the 15 years he's taught at Castleton, English prof Palmer has seen enrollment and programs expand and the quality of students grow. "There really has been an improvement in morale, in offerings," he said. Football, he acknowledged, helped.

WHAT'S IN A NAME CHANGE?

As Vermont's colleges struggle with dwindling resources and occasional layoffs, can the state afford to keep all five alive—plus the University of Vermont? In a recent commentary, Hinesburg author Bill Schubart took on the issue, arguing, "Vermonters can't adequately fund six colleges in a time of declining enrollments." He contended that renaming Castleton was not the answer.

"I really doubt that their new name will do much to solve the enrollment and cost challenges facing all our small state colleges, to say nothing of our students," he said.

Spaulding, who took over as chancellor last year, said he's heard all of those argu-

ments before, but he sees no reason to consolidate. "We actually need the colleges we have," he said.

Spaulding argued that Castleton's name change will be good for all of them, adding that none of the other college administrators objected.

Each of the state colleges has—and should have—its own identity, Spaulding said. Lyndon has the largest percentage of out-of-staters, a strong meteorology program and an innovative electronic journalism program. Johnson is known for external degrees for nontraditional students, social service programs and the performing arts. The bread and butter of Vermont Technical College is its two-year engineering degree. Community College of Vermont offers an affordable start for students of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Castleton's specialty is being less specialized. "It's a small university that has a robust graduate program combined with broad academic programs," Spaulding said. "It's the only public higher ed institution in Vermont with a football team, and it's got a very lively campus."

Wolk acknowledged that the name change is really about perception.

When Richard Stockton College of New Jersey became Stockton University this year, the goal was to "raise the school's profile, helping it attract faculty, students—especially graduate and international students—and raise funds," the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Massachusetts state colleges changed their names in 2010, though they retained the word "state," so that Bridgewater State College became Bridgewater State University.

Castleton students are buying into the idea that Castleton University carries just a little bit more prestige. "It means we're expanding, we're growing," said Papandrea.

"It's going to help the college bring in more students," Devoid said. It might look a little jazzier on his résumé, too, he said.

For Wolk, the name change marks a major milestone for Castleton, which has actually had seven other appellations since 1787: It's been Rutland County Grammar School, Vermont Classical High School, Castleton Seminary, State Normal School at Castleton, Castleton Normal School and Castleton State Teachers College. The Castleton State College designation dates to 1962.

"Modernizing our name reflects who we've become and who we aspire to be," he said. "It's a wonderful turning point for a wonderful institution."

The idea for the name change emerged two or three years ago as Castleton administrators crafted Wolk's second 10-year plan. Although he was a driving force behind it, the visionary president had to miss some of the meetings that made it happen, during which his staff pitched the idea to the Vermont State College committees. In the last few months, as his wife's health worsened, he spent more time in Florida than Vermont. He was with Diane when she died there on July 4.

"Our goal was that her death be peaceful and painless," he said. "It was that." In the weeks after, Wolk received hundreds of messages from his wife's former students, colleagues and friends telling him how much Diane had meant to them.

"Kids just loved her," said David Blow, a Castleton journalism professor who had Diane as a first-grade teacher. His mother, Lucille, who taught alongside her at Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden, told her son

that Wolk's was the most difficult condolence card she has ever had to write.

When the full Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees gathered July 23 to make a final decision on the name change, David Wolk traveled to Montpelier for the meeting. "I just wanted to be there, because it was historic," he said. The vote was unanimous. Word went viral as Castleton spokesman Jeff Weld announced the move on Twitter and Facebook, and the university's website got more than 10,000 hits.

Afterward, Wolk continued on to Burlington to board a plane for Florida, where two days later family gathered for a celebration of Diane's life. In his eulogy, Wolk spoke about his wife's courage.

"Her life was full of teachable moments, and this was the final one," he said.

Diane Wolk's family members divided her ashes for each to scatter as he or she wished. The next week, Wolk returned to Castleton. That Friday afternoon, he and two of their four children went to the Spartan monument and spread her remains at the base of the rock that honors and encourages brave souls.

REMEMBERING DOUG KENDALL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this past weekend, I learned of the untimely passing of Doug Kendall, founder of the Constitutional Accountability Center. Doug was a true visionary who helped transform how the American public views our Constitution. Despite a recent movement to interpret our founding charter in a cramped manner that too often leaves our most vulnerable populations unprotected, Doug was able to serve as a forceful counterweight and guardian of an inclusive, progressive, and faithful understanding of our National Charter, based on both the text and history of the document.

Under his leadership, the Constitutional Accountability Center revitalized the debate over the original understanding of the Constitution. Doug refused to cede the intellectual ground of originalism and textualism to conservative advocates. Significantly, the organization he founded was defined as much by its scholarship as its effective advocacy.

Doug made myriad contributions to the world of law and policy, but I will point out just two. First, I asked him to testify in March 2010 before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* because I knew that no one could better articulate the harm that the decision would cause to our democracy. As he eloquently testified before the Committee, "Since the Founding, the idea that corporations have the same fundamental rights as 'We the People' has been anathema to our Constitution. . . . Corporations do not vote, they cannot run for office, and they are not endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights. 'We the People' create corporations and we provide them with special privileges that carry with them restrictions that do not apply to living persons. These truths are self-evident, and it's past

time for the Court to finally get this right, once and for all." While the Court was unable to get it right in Doug's lifetime, I believe his views will come to be vindicated in time.

Second, this past year, I introduced a joint resolution with Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, celebrating the sesquicentennial or the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment, which, along with the 14th and 15th Amendments, make up our Nation's "second founding." The second founding, which has served as the bedrock and inspiration to procuring equality for racial minorities and women, has too often been overlooked by the general public and constitutional scholars. Doug and his organization were the intellectual driving force behind advancing this important resolution. His contributions to the world of law and policy will be sorely missed.

As accomplished as he was as an advocate and scholar, Doug was an even better person. My staff met with him countless times and always came away inspired by his intellect and humanity. An article in the Washington Post from January 2008 about the historic endorsement that then-candidate and Senator Barack Obama received from Senator Ted Kennedy noted that Doug was there with his then 8-year old daughter, Miracle. Doug had pulled Miracle out of her elementary school that day so that she could experience the historic nature of the President's candidacy and the bridge between former President Kennedy and future President Obama. He stated in the article that he wanted his daughter, Miracle, to be inspired. What she will come to know—if she does not already—is that her father's life and his accomplishments have helped to inspire a new generation. Doug Kendall has reminded us about the ever-more inclusive story that is reflected in our Constitution. His life was cut short, but his vision—like the Constitution itself—will continue to endure and inspire. The Nation has lost a true patriot with his passing.

RECOGNIZING KING ARTHUR FLOUR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, each year, it is with great pride that I participate in a reception here on Capitol Hill to showcase some of the best products conceived, developed, and produced in Vermont. One such company featured at the annual Taste of Vermont event is King Arthur Flour, where, for 225 years, generation after generation has produced quality cooking and baking ingredients.

A firm that was born in Boston more than two centuries ago, in 1841 then-owners Frank and Brinna Sands moved King Arthur Flour to Norwich, Vermont, and the company has become a staple in Vermont's business commu-

nity. In the 1990s, the Sands made the decision to sell their company to their employees. The returns have been considerable, and the company has seen growth ever since.

In ways that are typical of Vermont businesses, King Arthur Flour has evolved into a quality company offering quality products to its customers. The company's business model reflects one that is committed to its customers, its employees, the environment, and its community, even offering employees 40 hours of paid volunteer time to give back. Those commitments are backed up in its status as a certified B Corporation, a designation that independently recognizes the company's social sustainability and environmental performance standards.

From breads to cakes, cookies to pies, King Arthur Flour's products have become staples in bakers' kitchens across the country, including in the Leahy kitchen, where Marcelle regularly shares her recipes with our grandchildren. In fact, many of our visits to the Upper Valley include a detour to King Arthur's terrific cafe where all of their superb products are available. It is yet another example of a tried and true Vermont-based company, revolutionizing and enticing the market with its quality products.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an August 28, 2015, article from the Burlington Free Press recognizing King Arthur Flour's "225 years of baking history."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press,
Aug. 28, 2015]

KING ARTHUR FLOUR: 225 YEARS OF BAKING HISTORY (By Susan Reid)

Some 225 years ago George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address in January. In February, the U.S. Supreme Court met for the first time. Vermont itself wasn't yet a state. According to King George, it belonged to New York, despite also being known as the New Hampshire Grants.

In this world, miles away in Boston, a man named Henry Wood started a company that imported flour from England. The brand new United States of America numbered fewer than four million souls. Wood correctly assumed this growing country was going to need flour for baking, and his commitment to pure, high-quality flour fueled a successful business.

ENTER JOHN LOW SANDS

One of the early employees was John Low Sands, who joined the firm in 1820. It was the beginning of generations of Sands family association with, and eventual ownership of, the company. Also a clue to how the company came to be based in Vermont, as you'll soon see. By 1853, the company was doing well enough to buy a large building on the Long Wharf in Boston. There, in the middle of one of the world's busiest ports, the business continued to grow, taking on partners as it expanded. In less than 10 years the city of Boston had filled in the harbor around the

wharf, and the company became landlocked without ever having moved. It stayed in the same spot, with the revised address of 172 State St. until 1904, when the company moved up the street to the Custom House.

By 1895, the company was named Sands, Taylor, & Wood. The third generation of the Sands family to be part of the company, Orrin Sands, was its president. During this decade, roller milling was developed in Hungary. As a result, it was now possible to grind large quantities of wheat into flour very quickly. This led to a boom in flour production, as well as wild fluctuations in the quality of flour being produced.

At the same time, George Wood and his business partners attended a musical play based on the story of King Arthur and his knights. They left the theater inspired by the realization that the values portrayed in the play exemplified what their company stood for: quality, integrity, purity, loyalty, strength, and dedication to a higher purpose. They resolved to rename their new flagship product, their all-purpose flour, after King Arthur. It was introduced at the Boston Food Fair in September 1896, and became an immediate success. The distinctive image of the medieval knight on his horse adorned the tops of 196 pound barrels of flour for the next four decades, until he started being printed on newfangled paper bags.

In the 1920s King Arthur on his steed appeared on the back of a flatbed calliope truck that roamed the streets of Boston and New York. In later decades the company gave scholarships to promising young professional bakers, inserted collectible picture cards of American military ships, airplanes, and weapons in its flour bags during World War II, and after the war sponsored radio shows where "New England's Food Expert" Marjorie Mills endorsed King Arthur Flour on the air.

THE MOVE TO VERMONT

The Sands family became the sole owners of the company in 1932, and in 1984, Frank (a Dartmouth alum) and his wife Brinna Sands moved the company to Vermont. Tired of lugging bags of flour to the post office to mail to retirees in Florida who couldn't buy King Arthur outside of New England, Brinna started The Baker's Catalogue in 1990.

She also published the "200th Anniversary Cookbook," which has sold well over 100,000 copies to date.

In a pivotal move, Frank and Brinna decided to sell the company to their employees, launching King Arthurs Employee Stock Ownership plan. The company has seen steady growth since then.

By 1999, the company officially changed its name to King Arthur Flour, and the Baker's Catalogue was mailing six million catalogues per year. Distribution of the flour to grocery stores up and down the East Coast was well established, and expanding steadily westward. In 2000, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean was on hand to break an oversized baguette in two to celebrate the opening of the bakery and school in Norwich. In 2004 the company became 100 percent employee-owned.

With all of these changes, the principles that the company began with survived and thrived. In 2007, King Arthur Flour was a founding and certified B Corp. Its bylaws reflect a commitment to all stakeholders, including the community and the environment, as well as shareholders and business partners.

Now a national brand known for its quality, customer service, and expertise in all things baking, King Arthur has grown both

the brand and its service programs. Bake for Good: Kids teaches 8- to 12-year olds how to bake bread in a curriculum-based program that provides a community service component of giving a loaf back to someone in need. King Arthur has long had a policy of giving 40 paid hours of volunteer time to all employees, full- and part-time.

King Arthur's mission and personality is to be a resource for all bakers. It maintains a robust social media presence on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and on its blog, Flourish. The website has thousands of tested recipes, and there's a crew of baking experts on the Baker's Hotline ready to answer any baking question, either by phone or via online chat.

King Arthur is poised to further the quest for honest, homemade, local food, by providing everything one needs to bake. Lucky for the company, and Vermont, that appetite is timeless, and a good apple pie is never going to go out of style.

WHAT'S BAKING IN NORWICH

Baking classes: You can always come and take a class at the Baking Education Center in Norwich (no dishwashing required!). The calendar of classes for home bakers, kids, and professionals can be found at kingarthurfLOUR.com/school.

Cafe and bakery: The cafe and bakery are open daily 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. In September, the store's demonstration kitchen will be showing all comers how to make their best pie crust and baking with apples and cinnamon, chocolate and pumpkin.

Baker's Conference. From Sept. 9 to Sept. 12, King Arthur will sponsor its Third Annual Baker's Conference, Tasting Supper, and Harvest Festival at the King Arthur Baker's Store and School in Norwich.

The two-day conference features demonstrations, hands-on classes, and breakout sessions with a roster of well-known bakers, authors, recipe developers, photographers and editors.

The conference wraps up Friday evening, Sept. 11, with a Tasting Supper to benefit Hunger Free Vermont, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Local food and beverage establishments will offer samples, featuring fresh local foods and drink.

The festival happens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, with hands-on activities for kids, live baking competitions, entertainment, and great food.

For more festival information, go to kingarthurfLOUR.com/bakers-harvest.

ABOUT KING ARTHUR FLOUR

Celebrating its 225th Anniversary, King Arthur Flour is America's oldest flour company and premier baking resource, offering ingredients, mixes, tools, recipes, educational opportunities and inspiration to bakers everywhere since 1790. The company's flour is available in supermarkets nationwide. Additionally, more than 1,000 tested and trusted baking tools and ingredients are available through King Arthur Flour's Baker's Catalogue, online at kingarthurfLOUR.com and at The Baker's Store in Norwich.

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to address an important event that occurred this week at the United Nations, which is marking the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNGA.

Over the weekend, over 150 world leaders gathered at UNGA to adopt the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is built on the progress achieved by Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, which were launched in 2000. The Millennium Development Goals brought together nations, businesses, international organizations, and foundations in a focused and coordinated effort to reduce poverty and disease by 2015.

By any and every metric, the initial set of MDGs has resulted in tangible, concrete progress. One goal was to cut extreme poverty by half as measured by the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day. That goal was met 5 years ahead of schedule. Meanwhile, maternal mortality was cut nearly in half. We've also made progress in global education, with a 20 percent increase in primary school enrollment in sub-Saharan Africa and a nearly 50 percent decrease in the number of out-of-school children of primary school age. When it comes to combating HIV/AIDS, we've made truly incredible strides over the past 15 years. New HIV infections have dropped by 40 percent between 2000 and 2013, and the number of people living with HIV that were receiving antiretroviral therapy increased seventeenfold from 2003 to 2014.

In some areas, like gender equality, we still have a long way to go. But we can cheer the fact that, in 90 percent of countries today, women have greater parliamentary representation than they did just 20 years ago.

So there is no doubt that we've seen real growth around the world. Millions of lives have been saved and enriched. But we still have more progress to make.

The old Millennium Development Goals have laid the groundwork for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the U.N. over the weekend. The new agenda sets out an ambitious global development framework that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

These new goals were negotiated with strong engagement by the U.S. government, business leaders, and civil society members over the last 3 years. American and international corporations worked closely with the U.N. because many businesses leaders correctly believe that, to end extreme poverty and open new markets, we must increase government transparency, root out corruption, and accelerate inclusive economic growth.

Many of these new goals focus on the areas where we hope to see additional progress, such as maternal and child health, environmental sustainability, and gender equality. But they also focus on good governance and corruption.

I am particularly pleased at the addition of goal No. 16, which is to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies

for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Including that goal wasn't easy—it was met by resistance from many other countries—but no one can ignore the fact any longer that good governance and anticorruption efforts are critical to development.

Truly sustainable and inclusive development depends on governments and institutions that are accountable and transparent and that respect human rights and deliver justice for everybody, not just some. The U.N. has noted that "lessons learned from MDG implementation showed the importance of incorporating human rights, the rule of law and personal security to ensure progress towards development goals. Effective and inclusive governance and robust institutional capacity are instrumental in achieving this."

The necessity of incorporating good governance and strong anticorruption measures in sustainable development efforts is most evident when we look at resource rich countries in Africa and the extraordinary development challenges there. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, DRC, for example, is a country rich in minerals, water resources, and agricultural potential. And it has experienced high annual economic growth in recent years. Yet most of its people continue to live in extreme poverty. DRC's progress on sustainable development is hindered by minimal central government control over large parts of the national territory, poor transportation and electricity infrastructure, the government's inability to manage and monitor extraction of its natural resources, and broad governance problems including endemic corruption and barely functional state institutions.

Without progress on justice and effective and accountable institutions, corruption will continue to infect governments around the world, like the DRC, creating greater economic and political instability, which often leads to violent conflict.

The DRC is just one example of why we need goal 16. The desperate refugees streaming into Europe provide another sad example. Most of these people are coming from places where ordinary people have experienced long-term repression and other human rights abuses at the hands of deeply corrupt governments. Consequently, many of these countries are now consumed by violent conflict. Most of the people crossing the Mediterranean in rafts are fleeing wars in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia.

The Syrians are the largest group. They are fleeing a deadly combination of their own government's indiscriminate barrel bomb attacks on crowded markets, schools, and clinics; suffocating sieges; and atrocities committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria,

ISIS and other extremist groups. We know that only a minority of migrants arriving in Europe are motivated solely by economic betterment.

As the world focuses on the wave of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe, we must not lose our focus on the roots of this crisis. We must pay attention to why these desperate men, women, and children are on the move. The misery of many of these refugees is the direct result of the conflicts and human rights abuses of governments that are ineffective or illegitimate, or both, and mostly likely corrupt.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is remarkable for the historic inclusion of goal 16. It acknowledges the centrality of good governance and accountable and transparent institutions as prerequisites for sustainable development. If nations across the globe truly embrace goal 16, I am convinced we will also witness far fewer men, women, and children being forced to endure extraordinary misery, violence, displacement, and exploitation as refugees. Surely, that must be our collective goal.

RENAMING OF THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR ADMIRAL CHARLES R. LARSON

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, this Friday, October 2, 2015, the U.S. Naval Academy will honor ADM Charles R. Larson, class of 1958, by naming the administration building in his honor. Coming just a week before the Naval Academy celebrates its 170th anniversary, this is fitting tribute to man who has made such immeasurable contributions to this fine institution.

Chuck Larson grew up thousands of miles from the nearest ocean. However, the calling of the sea brought him to Annapolis and the start of a career dedicated to the service of this great Nation. It was at the Academy where I had the distinct pleasure of getting to know this great man. Chuck's Academy experience was somewhat different than mine, where he would go on to become the brigade commander, president of the class of 1958, and graduate near the top of the class. I finished some distance behind that mark. Even though our paths were different, I cherished our friendship forged in those shared Academy experiences, a friendship that would last a lifetime.

After graduation in the summer of 1958, Chuck would continue his exemplary career, eventually attaining the rank of admiral. He has led at every level from command at sea to theater command, as commander of the 2nd Fleet, a Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, commander of the Pacific Fleet, and finally as the commander of United States Pacific Command. Impressive as this resume was, the two jobs Chuck cherished most were his

two tours as the Superintendent of the Naval Academy.

As the only two-time Superintendent of the Academy in its 170-year history, Chuck left an indelible mark on the institution he so loved. Returning from retirement in 1994 to lead the Academy after serious problems left the institution with an uncertain future, Chuck focused on character development and fundamental leadership training to return to the founding principles of the Academy. In 4 years, he returned the institution to greatness and, in the process, trained the officers that would become the leaders in the fight against terrorism that would define a generation.

As a result of Chuck's tireless efforts and the lasting initiatives he put in place, today the Naval Academy consistently ranks among the top schools in the Nation. His legacy of service to the Academy and the Nation will be felt in the decades to come as graduates from the institution become leaders in the military, government, and corporate venues. I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of Chuck's service than with the rededication of the administration building as Larson Hall. It will stand as an ever present reminder to the dedication and the ideals of great naval officer, leader, and dear friend.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I join with my colleagues, led by Senators COONS and BALDWIN, to recognize the significant role manufacturing plays in the United States and in my home State of Rhode Island. According to facts compiled by the National Association of Manufacturers, over 41,000 Rhode Islanders, nearly 9 percent of the workforce, work in manufacturing. Those workers were responsible for \$4.1 billion in economic output, just under 8 percent of the State's total output, in 2013. On average these workers brought in over \$67,000 in annual compensation.

Manufacturing is a highly technical and innovative industry that creates good-paying jobs for skilled workers. It is also an industry that is expanding; in Rhode Island manufacturing jobs have increased by 1,100 compared to a year ago. And just last week I joined a Rhode Island advanced manufacturer, Yushin America, Inc., to celebrate a ribbon cutting for its \$2 million expansion.

This sort of expansion is representative of the type of highly technical growth we see in manufacturing. Moreover, these good-paying, highly-skilled, middle-class jobs are what will help further support widespread economic growth. That is why I look forward to celebrating National Manufacturing Day with the mayor of Providence and my delegation colleagues on Monday and continuing to work to advance

measures that support manufacturers and job creation back home.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY F. PANIATI

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding civil servant and constituent, Jeffrey F. Paniati, executive director of the Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, who is retiring after 32 years of Federal service.

Jeff Paniati received his master of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Maryland. He joined FHWA in 1983 as a highway engineer trainee and rose through the ranks to join the Senior Executive Service in 2000 and eventually became executive director in April 2008. The executive director, the number three official in FHWA, is the only civil service position in the agency that requires the approval of the President. As executive director, Jeff assists the Federal Highway Administrator and Deputy Administrator in establishing policies, programs, and priorities for the \$40 billion annual Federal aid highway program. As FHWA's chief operating officer, he oversees a workforce of approximately 2,900 transportation professionals and an annual operating budget of \$400 million.

One of the biggest challenges Jeff faced came just months after he became executive director. The economic collapse in the fall of 2008 brought the country into the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA, into law. ARRA, also known as the stimulus act, authorized \$26.6 billion for road and bridge projects that would create construction jobs to help the economy recover while providing transportation facilities to make our communities safer, greener, more livable, less congested, and economically stronger. This funding was in addition to the regular \$40 billion a year Federal aid highway program.

At the time, Jeff was the highest ranking FHWA official because the President had not yet nominated a new Federal Highway Administrator or Deputy Administrator. It fell to Jeff, serving as acting Deputy Administrator, to ensure the agency was able to absorb the additional funds, deploy them to State and local officials for shovel-ready projects, ensure proper oversight of record numbers of projects, and help deliver the jobs the country so desperately needed. The result was more than 13,000 highway and bridge projects across the country that put tens of thousands of people to work, in addition to the thousands of projects and jobs resulting from regular program funds. All of this was accomplished within ARRA's deadlines, without any increase in staff by FHWA

but with the full cooperation of State and local transportation officials under the familiar Federal-State partnership of the Federal aid highway program.

President Obama remarked that there has never been a program of this scale, moving at this speed, enacted as effectively, and meeting such high standards of transparency and accountability. The stimulus provided by implementation of the Recovery Act paved the foundation for the economic growth that has continued to this day. Many people deserve credit for this outstanding accomplishment, including FHWA employees around the country, especially Jeff Paniati.

Throughout Jeff's earlier career in FHWA, he accumulated a diverse range of experience in helping to make America's transportation systems work safely and efficiently. He served as chief of the safety design division, a research office helping to advance the state of the art in highway safety. As program manager for Intelligent Transportation Systems, ITS, he led the more than \$100 million annual Federal ITS program. He directed day-to-day operations of the ITS Joint Program Office, which focuses on bringing advanced communication and information system technologies to the management and operation of our Nation's surface transportation system. At the time of his appointment as executive director, he was FHWA's associate administrator for operations; in this capacity, he provided national leadership in system management and operations, ITS deployment, and freight management. Throughout Jeff's career, he has worked closely with the Transportation Research Board, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and ITS America—to name just a few of FHWA's many partners and stakeholders.

Jeff's extensive experience throughout the agency gave him the background to move FHWA forward. He oversaw the successful implementation of the many program changes required under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, MAP-21, in 2012. Perhaps the most significant change was that MAP-21 shifted FHWA to risk-based stewardship and oversight that redefined FHWA's role in working with its State and local partners. It also gave FHWA the leadership role in transitioning with its partners to a transportation performance management focus that emphasizes a strategic approach by using data to make investment and policy decisions to achieve national performance goals. These dramatic changes in operation of the Federal aid highway program required extensive outreach, which Jeff coordinated, to explain the shifts to FHWA's partners and gain their support for them.

Jeff played a leadership role in advancing U.S. interests and bolstering

international cooperation under the auspices of the World Road Association, where he served as U.S. first delegate and chair of the strategic planning commission. He led an international team in overseeing the work of the association's 15 technical committees and the development of its next strategic plan. He also facilitated efforts to advance special reports on the importance of road maintenance and helped produce a climate change adaptation framework. Jeff's involvement in the association enabled the U.S. to further enhance our international leadership and expertise in the design, delivery, and operation of highway and road networks.

Closer to home, Jeff never forgot the importance of giving all FHWA employees the opportunity to advance in their careers. He listened to employee feedback, administered a strategic workforce assessment, established a formal mentoring program, developed the leadership for innovation decision-making program and expanded the Leadership Development Academy, and instilled in leadership ranks throughout the FHWA the value of expanding opportunity. Initiatives of this type are valuable to employees and their families, but are also critical to ensuring the FHWA can meet the challenges of the future by helping the agency to recruit and retain the best public servants our Nation has to offer. Through these and other initiatives, Jeff helped make FHWA successful not only in accomplishing its vitally important mission, but in making the agency a better place to work. Among agencies of its size, FHWA has ranked in the top 10 best places to work in the Federal Government among agency subcomponents for the past 3 years. Under Jeff's leadership, FHWA moved from No. 33 in 2009 to No. 5 in 2013, an impressive achievement in a short period of time.

Jeff will be retiring this month after 32 years of Federal service to become president and chief executive officer of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. After his long career and especially his 7½ years as executive director, Jeff leaves FHWA a better place, which is good for America. I am proud to represent Jeff and so many other Federal workers. I believe our Federal workforce is the best in the world. We are fortunate to have dedicated, talented, creative, hard-working, and patriotic public servants like Jeff. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jeff for serving the American public with such distinction and devotion and wishing him much success as he leaves Federal service. We also need to thank his wife, Kim, and his children Chris and Lauren for supporting him in his public career.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA OLIVER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, there are many people who work behind the

scenes to help the Senate function. We tend to take them for granted, but we shouldn't. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge one such Senate staffer, Sylvia Oliver, who is leaving at the end of this week. I won't say that Sylvia is retiring because there is a chance we can coax her into returning at some point. But she is leaving her job as coordinator of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the Office of the Official Reporters of Debates because she wants to spend more time at home with her daughter, Lily, who is a senior in high school. That is a completely understandable and laudable desire.

Few people appreciate that even though the Office of the Official Reporters of Debates has embraced the latest information technology, producing the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD remains a painstaking, labor-intensive process. Even fewer people appreciate that the officials and employees like Sylvia who are responsible for its production typically have to work for several hours each night after the Senate has adjourned making sure the RECORD is accurate and complete before sending it to the Government Publishing Office. We take for granted that a printed copy of the RECORD, one of the most important documents in our Nation, will be delivered to our offices the next morning. There are many people who work late into the night without fanfare or accolades to make this possible. They are an invaluable part of what I call the Senate family.

Sylvia is a Vermont native and graduated from the University of Vermont. She still visits her mother, Betty Reid, in Barre as often as possible and is close to her siblings, John Reid, Betsy Reid, David Reid, and Sarah Schroeder. She started her congressional service on the House side in 1988 working for then-Representative Jim Jeffords of Vermont. She came with him to the Senate in 1989. She returned to the House for a few years, working as an executive assistant to the House Sergeant at Arms. Then, she came back to the Senate in 1993, where she worked as a scheduler and executive assistant for Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs before assuming her current job with the Office of the Official Reporters of Debates. She is unfailingly professional and polite. We will all miss her, but I know her colleagues in the Office of the Official Reporters of Debates will miss her the most because she is such a kind and gentle and pleasant person.

I am proud to have Sylvia as a constituent. She lives near Annapolis; and, true to the rural roots of her Vermont upbringing, she has made her home atop a converted barn. Even though she works long hours in the Senate, she has usually done more each morning before she arrives here than most people accomplish in a week. She maintains a

small farm and looks after three horses whose names are Conge, Chance, and Love It. She starts most mornings by mowing acres of pasture, hauling dozens of bales of hay, and feeding the chickens. She also has a small pumpkin patch. But that is not enough for Sylvia—she has a number of bee hives to look after, too.

Lily Oliver, who has graciously shared her mother with us, has said, “My mom is the most beautiful person I know. She makes the world a better place by always treating those around her with compassion and patience. I am so fortunate to have such a strong, genuine, resourceful, mother to emulate throughout life.” Well, we have been so fortunate to have Sylvia in the Senate family for the past 20-plus years. The American people are so fortunate to have talented and dedicated public servants like Sylvia. I truly believe our Federal workforce is the best in the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sylvia Oliver for her exemplary service and wishing her well as she begins the next chapter in her life with the most important family of all, her own.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ROBIN TRIPOD PATTEN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Robin Tripod Patten as a 2015 Angel in Adoption award recipient for her outstanding advocacy of adoption issues. Robin serves as Director of Social Services at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, AMMC, in Paragould, AR. One of her many responsibilities in this position includes coordinating adoptions.

Being a bereaved parent herself, Robin offers a unique perspective to the adoption process because she understands the pain of giving birth and leaving the hospital without a baby. She provides emotional support to both the birth mother and the adoptive parents and assists new and prospective parents in navigating complicated legal matters when contemplating adoption.

Robin is a Licensed Master Social Worker, LMSW, and dedicates her life to children. She is a mandated child abuse reporter who directs care of infants whose birth mothers had illegal substances in her system during pregnancy. For 11 years, she has served on the Greene County multidisciplinary child abuse task force working to ensure no child is overlooked or forgotten.

I am proud of Robin for her dedication to adoption services and for investing in the lives of families in northeast Arkansas and am glad to recognize Robin as an Angel in Adoption for her efforts to connect children to

permanent families. I commend her for her service and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her and the many other advocates who continue to selflessly work to ensure that all children grow up in safe, healthy, and loving homes.●

OBSERVING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUDIATION OF THE BRITISH STAMP ACT

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the actions of “12 immortal justices” of the Frederick County Court in Maryland who refused to discharge the British Stamp Act on November 23, 1765. This first official act of defiance against the British Government’s “taxation without representation” in the Thirteen Original Colonies—8 years before the Boston Tea Party—helped set the stage for the American Revolution that would lead to a free and independent United States of America.

The Stamp Act the British Parliament passed in early 1765 exacted revenue from the Colonies by imposing a stamp duty on newspapers and legal and commercial documents. Colonists in Maryland quickly realized that the Stamp Act and other new taxes would severely impede trade in the Colonies and hinder their economic growth. Jonas Green, the publisher of the Maryland Gazette at the time, used his platform as the only news outlet in the colony to stir opposition to the actions of the British Parliament among Marylanders. As protests turned to revolts, plans to distribute stamped paper were delayed, which made stamped paper in Frederick County and Western Maryland unavailable. When the county’s clerk of the court refused to carry out the business of the court without stamped paper, Frederick County’s 12 justices responded by holding him in contempt and unanimously passing the resolution that would come to be known as the Repudiation Act, allowing business to continue without the use of stamped paper and effectively nullifying the act of Parliament. The text of the Repudiation Act stated: “that all proceedings shall be valid without the use of stamps . . . and ordering all sheriffs, clerks, counsellors, and officers of the Court to proceed with their several avocations as usual, without delay occasioned from the want of stamped paper, parchment or vellum.” The justices took this action at great peril to their livelihood and even their lives.

Since 1894, Repudiation Day has been marked by the Maryland General Assembly as an official bank half-holiday in Frederick County and by the Frederick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution with celebratory events. This year, which marks the 250th anniversary of this courageous act of defiance by 12 Maryland justices, will be particularly special with a pa-

rade, dedication of an interpretive plaque, educational presentations, and public display of the original court act. In addition, Frederick’s Brewer’s Alley has collaborated with the Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on the release of the 250th Anniversary Commemorative “Twelve Immortals Ale” inspired by the beers of the 18th Century.

I commend the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, Brewer’s Alley, the Tourism Council of Frederick County, the city of Frederick, and everyone else involved in the effort to honor the brave actions of these 12 Marylanders and encourage every American to commemorate the 250th anniversary of an event that sparked the first flames of liberty in the American Colonies.●

TRIBUTE TO SALLY ASCHIM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Sally Aschim, who is retiring after 38 years of dedicated teaching.

Not only has Sally aided in the achievements and successes of Montana’s youth, but she also has spearheaded multiple community outreach projects aimed at helping those in her community. She took her passion for helping Montana’s youth outside of the classroom as well and helped design and build a playground in Sunburst, Montana.

In Montana, we know how important it is to give back to our communities and help one another, and Sally is a perfect example of this. Sally started the Christmas Stroll in Sunburst over a decade ago, which has enhanced the holiday for hundreds of community members.

Sally has a selfless heart and does everything with a giving spirit. The State of Montana is sad to see her teaching career come to an end, but her incredible legacy will continue to live on.●

CARNEGIE HALL

• Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, with great pleasure and pride, I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of Carnegie Hall in New York City. At the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone of Carnegie Hall in 1890, Andrew Carnegie declared: “It is built to stand for ages, and during these ages it is probable that this Hall will intertwine itself with the history of our country.”

The Hall has intertwined itself with the history of the United States but also with the history of the world. Today Carnegie Hall is the world’s most recognized performing arts center and is a global symbol of artistic excellence. For 125 years the Hall has defined and shaped the future of music,

and it continues in that leadership role today.

The Hall has hosted world leaders, American presidents, authors, activists and intellectuals. The Hall's greatest influence, however, is through sound. Carnegie Hall's three performance centers project all forms of music to listeners around the world. Musicians from all corners of the globe strive to perform at Carnegie Hall. The Hall is a beacon inspiring and attracting the world's finest musicians in all genres.

Less known but equally important, Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute produces an extraordinary range of music education and community programs that extend far outside the physical walls of its concert halls. Its music education in New York City schools serves as a laboratory of best practices for performing arts centers in major urban areas. Carnegie Hall provides and supports a partnership curriculum for 81 orchestras throughout the United States and abroad to work with local school students in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Its highly acclaimed National Youth Orchestra of the United States—recently returned from a tour of China—helps build the next generation of musicians into lifelong community leaders and contributors. In the 2015–2016 season these programs will reach millions of people in New York City, across the United States, and around the globe.

In the spirit of Andrew Carnegie and of bold endeavors to tackle contemporary challenges, Carnegie Hall has recently initiated work to eliminate the music education “access gap” in schools throughout our nation. Carnegie Hall's leadership, from volunteers, trustees, to staff at all levels, are committed to quality and to equity of opportunity regardless of circumstance.

Carnegie Hall's 125th opening night will occur on October 7th. I rise to commend the Hall's leadership, volunteers, contributors, performing artists, and staff. Carnegie Hall is a global icon symbolizing artistic excellence, achievement, and the power of music to feed our souls and bring people together. Congratulations, Carnegie Hall.●

CONGRATULATING ALICIA REBAN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Alicia Reban on receiving the Ambassador of the Year award from the Land Trust Alliance. It gives me great pleasure to see her receive this national award recognizing her years of hard work within the Nevada community.

Throughout her 17 years working at the Nevada Land Trust Alliance, Ms. Reban has been a shining example of someone who dedicated her career to the betterment of her community and Nevada's open spaces. In 2000, she led a

successful campaign on a ballot initiative focused on improving Washoe County's parks, libraries, and trails. Additionally, in 2002, she served on the campaign executive committee for Nevada's State Question 1 for clean water, parks, and wildlife, the largest conservation bond measure in Nevada history.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Reban has demonstrated professionalism, an unwavering commitment to conservation, and dedication to the highest standards of the Nevada Land Trust Alliance. I have been fortunate during my time in Congress to work with Ms. Reban on federal legislation, the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, S. 330, which makes the Federal enhanced conservation easement income tax deduction permanent. This important policy would provide Westerners with important tools to preserve our proud tradition of ranching, fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities. She has been a tireless advocate and an invaluable ally on this effort.

Alicia's advocacy on behalf of Nevada's vast natural resources and wildlife is unmatched, and I am thankful for all of the work that she has done for our great State. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nevada Land Trust Co-Executive Director Alicia Reban on receiving this award. I look forward to continuing to work with her on conservation issues important to our State.●

CONGRATULATING STEVE TETREAULT

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Steve Tetreault on his incredible career, bringing Nevada in-depth political news coverage from our Nation's Capital. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Steve for his unwavering dedication to the people of Nevada and for showcasing journalistic integrity and excellence throughout his tenure. Though he will be greatly missed by Nevada journalism and the Las Vegas Review-Journal, his future with the United States Department of Energy will be of great service to our country.

Throughout my time serving Nevada in the United States Congress, Steve has been there to convey accurate and truthful news stories to the people of Nevada. From covering my very first experiences in the United States House of Representatives to writing about the most recent events in the United States Senate, Steve was there to capture both sides of the argument, bringing fair coverage from the entire Nevada delegation. Our relationship operated with a great amount of respect and understanding, and I am grateful for his professionalism. However, his jealousy of my impeccable beard-growing skills prompted him to also grow one of his own.

Steve's insatiable appetite to cover important news stories and bring Nevadans pertinent political information made him an incredible journalist. He was always one step ahead, ready to share breaking political news, and had a genuine interest in painting the most accurate story for his readers. He will always be remembered for his top tier work at the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The insight and knowledge he gained throughout his career could never be replicated. He truly left his footprint in Nevada journalism, specifically at the Las Vegas Review-Journal, where he served as the Washington bureau chief. His writing has given the Silver State a detailed archive of Nevada's delegation throughout his years in Washington, a truly unique piece of our State's history.

Steve has demonstrated absolute dedication to excellent reporting, bringing pertinent political news stories outside of the walls of the United States Capitol to audiences across Nevada. I am both humbled and honored by his hard work and am proud to call him a friend. Today, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steve Tetreault on his long and meaningful career at the Las Vegas Review-Journal. I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done and offer him my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come with the United States Department of Energy.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN LAWSON ALMAND

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I wish to honor CAPT Lawson Almand, JAGC, USN, Retired, a son of North Carolina who is retiring after 39 years of Active Duty and civilian service to our Nation with the U.S. Navy.

CAPT Almand is a native of Cary, NC. He received his B.A. in linguistics from the University of California, San Diego, a J.D. from the University of Puget Sound, and an LL.M. in international and comparative law from the National Law Center, The George Washington University.

In 1976, CAPT Almand began his dedicated service to our Nation as a commissioned officer in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. During the next 32 years, Captain Almand served on Active Duty in a wide variety of roles, traveling throughout the United States and overseas. His assignments included Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam; Naval Support Office, La Maddalena, Sardinia, Italy; Naval Legal Service Office, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; commander, Submarine Group 10, Kings Bay, GA; commander, Patrol Wings, U.S. Pacific Fleet; executive officer and commanding officer, Naval Legal Service Office Southwest, San Diego, CA; commanding officer, Naval Legal Service Office Northeast, Groton, CT; director,

Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, Newport, RI; professor and associate dean, College of International and Security Studies, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, Germany; force judge advocate, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, San Diego; and Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General, General Litigation Division.

Following his retirement from Active Duty in July 2007, CAPT Almand continued his superlative service to the Navy as a civilian, serving for another 7 years as Deputy Director of the Administrative Law Division in the Office of the Judge Advocate General in the Pentagon.

For his outstanding service to our Nation, CAPT Almand earned numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and the Superior Civilian Service Award.

I commend CAPT Almand for his commitment to our country and the sacrifices he made on its behalf. On the occasion of his retirement from the Federal service, I thank him and his family for his honorable service to our Nation and wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished career.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION OF FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2015—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 114(c) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, also titled the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015 (the "Act"), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding (including the rescission of funds) and contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended,

as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATION OF AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT IN EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR URGENT WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2015—PM 27

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 135 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, also titled the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015 (the "Act"), I hereby designate as an emergency requirement all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, for the following account: "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management."

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa, and that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1735.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military

activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At 2:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1020) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1020. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

H.R. 2617. An act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to postpone a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Assistant Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 30, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 136. An act to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

S. 139. An act to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 565. An act to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

S. 2082. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benzovindiflupyr; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9933-03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acibenzolar-S-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9933-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3020. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Kiwi From Chile Into the United States" ((RIN0579-AD98) (Docket No. APHIS-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3021. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3022. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2010 and 2011 Operation and Maintenance, Navy, funds, and was assigned Army case number 14-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3023. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3024. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, "Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3025. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Debts-Conform to FAR Section Designations" ((RIN0750-AI70) (DFARS Case 2015-D029)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3026. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Electronic Copies of Contractual Documents" ((RIN0750-AI29) (DFARS Case 2012-D056)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3027. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhancing Support for the Cuban People" (RIN0694-AG67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3028. A communication from the Certifying Officer, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3029. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3030. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3031. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3032. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Final Revisions Applicable to Banking Organizations Subject to the Advanced Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule" (RIN1557-AD88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3033. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3034. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No. 9934-75-OSWER) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3035. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 9934-78-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3036. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Control of Mercury Emissions from Electric Generating Units" (FRL No. 9934-68-Region 7) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3037. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi; Miscellaneous Changes" (FRL No. 9934-73-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3038. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Combs Oil Company Variance" (FRL No. 9934-72-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3039. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; CO; Revised Format for Material Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9931-73-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3040. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Control of Mercury Emissions from Electric Generating Units" (FRL No. 9934-68-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3041. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Staff Guidance on Acceptable Acute Uranium Exposure Standards for Workers" (FCSE-ISG-014, Revision 0) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3042. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidated Guidance About Material Licenses: Applications for Sealed Source and Device Evaluation and Registration" (NUREG-1556, Volume 3, Revision 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3043. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Kentucky Regulatory Program" ((SATS No. KY-253-FOR) (Docket No. OSM-2009-0014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3044. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pennsylvania Regulatory Program" ((SATS No. PA-154-

FOR) (Docket No. OSM-2010-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3045. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (RIN1991-AB94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3046. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Single Package Vertical Air Conditioners and Single Package Vertical Heat Pumps" (RIN1991-AC85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3047. A communication from the Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees" (RIN1004-AE44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3048. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical, Physical Readiness, Training, and Access Authorization Standards for Protective Force Personnel" (RIN1992-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3049. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to recommendations concerning energy performance requirements for fiscal years 2016 through 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3050. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dividend Equivalents from Sources Within the United States" ((RIN1545-BJ56) (TD 9734)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3051. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reorganizations Under Section 368(a)(1)(F)" ((RIN1545-BF51) (TD 9739)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3052. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update to Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2015-61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3053. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investments Made for Charitable Purposes" (Notice 2015-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3054. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special per diem Rates 2015-2016" (Notice 2015-63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3055. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Per Capita Distributions of Funds Held in Trust by the Secretary of the Interior" (Notice 2015-67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3056. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Rul. 2015-20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3057. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—October 2015" (Rev. Rul. 2015-21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3058. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additional First Year Depreciation" (Rev. Proc. 2015-48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3059. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the biennial report relative to the impact of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3060. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluations of Hospitals' Ambulance Data on Medicare Cost Reports and Feasibility of Obtaining Cost Data from All Ambulance Providers and Suppliers"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3061. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Information for Certain Intellectual Property Rights Enforced at the Border" (RIN1515-AD87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3062. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, De-

partment of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Information for Certain Intellectual Property Rights Enforced at the Border" (RIN1515-AD87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3063. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-051); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3064. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-062); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-032); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 750. A bill to achieve border security on certain Federal lands along the Southern border (Rept. No. 114-150).

S. 991. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-151).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 481. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 799. A bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1893. A bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Benin.

Nominee: Lucy Tamlyn.

Post: Benin.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: 0.

2. Spouse: 0.

3. Children and Spouses: Filipa Tamlyn Serpa (single): 0. Benjamin Tamlyn Serpa (single): 0.

4. Parents: Ann D. Tamlyn (widow), 0; Thomas T. Tamlyn (deceased), 0.

5. Grandparents (none living).

6. Brothers and Spouses: Thomas T. Tamlyn, 0; Spouse: Maria Sramek, 0; Benjamin W. Tamlyn (single), \$300, 2013, DSCC; \$300, 2013, DCCC; \$300, 2014, DCCC; \$200, 2014, DSCC. Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

7. Sisters: none.

*Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic.

Nominee: Jeffrey Jones Hawkins, Jr.

Post: Bangui.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Annie Chansavang-Hawkins: None.

3. Children: Maxime Hawkins: None. Alexandre Hawkins: None.

4. Parents: Jeffrey Hawkins, Sr.: None. Susan Wester: None.

5. Grandparents: Issac Hawkins—Deceased; Annie-Claire Hawkins—Deceased; Jack Hensley—Deceased; Jean Hensley—Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

*David R. Gilmour, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Togolese Republic.

Nominee: David R. Gilmour.

Post: Togo.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: 0.

2. Spouse: 0.

3. Children and Spouses: Miles D. Gilmour, none; Tristan J. Gilmour, none; Schyler B. Gilmour, none.

4. Parents: John T. Gilmour, none; Shirley A. Gilmour—deceased.

5. Grandparents: John T. Gilmour—deceased; Molly Gilmour—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: John and Deanna Gilmour, none; Gregory and Kathy Gilmour, none; Aaron Gilmour, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Kathryn Gilmour, none; Lydia Gilmour, none; Jayne Gilmour, none.

*Edwin Richard Nolan, Jr., of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Suriname.

Nominee: Edwin Richard Nolan, Jr.

Post: Suriname.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Ryan P. Nolan: none; Katherine A. Nolan: none.

4. Parents: Edwin R. Nolan: deceased; Agnes H. Nolan: deceased.

5. Grandparents: John. J. Nolan: deceased; Mary C. Nolan: deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Maryann K. Steele: none; William Steele: none.

*John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Nominee: John Learie Estrada.

Post: Trinidad & Tobago.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$250.00, 05/12/2012, John Estrada; \$250.00, 10/16/2012, John Estrada; \$400.00 01/29/2013, John Estrada. Self and Spouse Joint: \$250.00, 04/03/2014, John Estrada, Elizabeth Cote; \$100.00, 10/10/2014, John Estrada, Elizabeth Cote; \$50.00, 09/18/2014, John Estrada, Elizabeth Cote; \$100, 09/08/2014, John Estrada, Elizabeth Cote; \$200.00, 07/28/2014, John Estrada, Elizabeth Cote.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: None.

4. Parents: None.

5. Grandparents: None.

6. Brothers and Spouses: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

*Carolyn Patricia Alsip, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

Nominee: Carolyn Patricia Alsip.

POST: The Gambia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$50.00, 3/31/15, DSCC; \$50.00, 2/25/15, DNC; \$50.00, 4/2/14, DNC; \$64.00, 1/29/14, DNC; \$75.00, 10/28/12, Obama for America; \$100.00, 10/1/12, Obama for America; \$22.00, 12/30/11, Obama for America.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: Fred W. Alsip, M.D. (father) (deceased 2002), none; Maude Laurence Alsip (mother) (deceased 1980), none.

5. Grandparents: Mitchinson Laurence (deceased), none; Maude Laurence (deceased), none; Eules Alsip, Sr. (deceased), none; Nora Tubbs Alsip (deceased), none.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Fred W. Alsip, Jr. (not married), none; Alan R. Alsip (deceased 2001), none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Peggy Ann Alsip (not married), none.

*Daniel H. Rubinstein, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia.

Nominee: Daniel Howard Rubinstein.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: Julie D. Adams: none.

3. Children: Jonah G. Rubinstein: none; Simon L. Rubinstein: none.

4. Parents: Morris L. Rubinstein (deceased): none; Mildred Rubinstein: none.

5. Grandparents: David Rubinstein—(deceased); Fay Rubinstein—(deceased); Philip Hochberg—(deceased); Ruth Hochberg—(deceased).

6. Brothers: Aaron B. Rubinstein (spouse Sharon Rubinstein), none; David E. Rubinstein (unmarried), none.

7. Sisters: Naomi B. Weiss (spouse Stephen Weiss), none; Judith D. Massarano (spouse Glenn Massarano), none.

Ann Calvaresi Barr, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, United States Agency for International Development.

*David Malcolm Robinson, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization.

*David Malcolm Robinson, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

*Scott Allen, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

*Susan Coppedge Amato, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

*Barbara Lee, of California, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*Christopher H. Smith, of New Jersey, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive

Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jennifer Ann Amos and ending with Holly Rothe Wielkoszewski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2015.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Kreshnik Alikaj and ending with Brett David Ziskie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2015.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jason Douglas Kalbfleisch and ending with Stuart MacKenzie Hatcher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 21, 2015. (minus 1 nominee: Derell Kennedo)

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2114. A bill to correct inconsistencies in the definitions relating to Native Americans in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 2115. A bill to continue job creation and the promotion of investment through improvements to targeted employment areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2116. A bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2117. A bill to prevent certain discriminatory taxation of natural gas pipeline property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2118. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2119. A bill to provide for greater congressional oversight of Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.

FRANKEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2120. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to support veterans in contact with the criminal justice system by discouraging unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and other nonviolent crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2121. A bill to facilitate and enhance the declassification of information, including in the Legislative Branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2122. A bill to increase the worldwide level of employment-based immigrants and to reauthorize the EB-5 regional center program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2123. A bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 2124. A bill to establish a Federal tax credit approximation matching program for State new jobs training tax credits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2125. A bill to make the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Small Business Administration permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2126. A bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2127. A bill to provide appropriate protections to probationary Federal employees, to provide the Special Counsel with adequate access to information, to provide greater awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL:

S. Res. 273. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for reconciliation in Indonesia and disclosure by the United States Government of events surrounding the mass killings during 1965 and 1966; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 274. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 275. A resolution calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed and designating October 2015 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ENZI, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 276. A resolution designating the week beginning October 18, 2015, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1014

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 1099

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1099, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide States with flexibility in determining the size of employers in the small group market.

S. 1178

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1178, a bill to prohibit implementation of a proposed rule relating to the definition of the term "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act, or any substantially similar rule, until a Supplemental Scientific Review Panel and Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams Advisory Committee produce certain reports, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.

HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1455

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1455, a bill to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1817

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1817, a bill to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1989

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1989, a bill to improve access to primary care services.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2045, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2066, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2089

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2089, a bill to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure, to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes.

S. 2108

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2108, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of certain long-term care hospital payment rules and the moratorium on the establishment of certain hospitals and facilities.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2117. A bill to prevent certain discriminatory taxation of natural gas pipeline property; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2117

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON DISCRIMINATORY TAXATION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROPERTY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ASSESSMENT.—The term “assessment” means valuation for a property tax that is levied by a taxing authority.

(2) ASSESSMENT JURISDICTION.—The term “assessment jurisdiction” means a geographical area used in determining the assessed value of property for ad valorem taxation.

(3) COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY.—The term “commercial and industrial property” means property (excluding natural gas pipeline property, public utility property, and land used primarily for agricultural purposes or timber growth) devoted to commercial or industrial use and subject to a property tax levy.

(4) NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROPERTY.—The term “natural gas pipeline property” means all property (whether real, personal, and intangible) used by a natural gas pipeline providing transportation or storage of natural

gas subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Regulatory Commission.

(5) PUBLIC UTILITY PROPERTY.—The term “public utility property” means property (excluding natural gas pipeline property) that is devoted to public service and is owned or used by any entity that performs a public service and is regulated by any governmental agency.

(b) DISCRIMINATORY ACTS.—A State, subdivision of a State, authority acting for a State or subdivision of a State, or any other taxing authority (including a taxing jurisdiction and a taxing district) may not do any of the following:

(1) ASSESSMENTS.—Assess natural gas pipeline property at value that has a higher ratio to the true market value of the natural gas pipeline property than the ratio that the assessed value of commercial and industrial property in the same assessment jurisdiction has to the true market value of such commercial and industrial property.

(2) ASSESSMENT TAXES.—Levy or collect a tax on an assessment that may not be made under paragraph (1).

(3) AD VALOREM TAXES.—Levy or collect an ad valorem property tax on natural gas pipeline property at a tax rate that exceeds the tax rate applicable to commercial and industrial property in the same assessment jurisdiction.

(4) OTHER TAXES.—Impose any other tax that discriminates against a natural gas pipeline providing transportation or storage of natural gas subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SEC. 2. JURISDICTION OF COURTS; RELIEF.

(a) GRANT OF JURISDICTION.—Notwithstanding section 1341 of title 28, United States Code, and without regard to the amount in controversy or citizenship of the parties, the district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction, concurrent with other jurisdiction of the courts of the United States, of States, and of all other taxing authorities and taxing jurisdictions, to prevent a violation of section 1.

(b) RELIEF IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, relief may be granted under this Act only if the ratio of assessed value to true market value of natural gas pipeline property exceeds by at least 5 percent the ratio of assessed value to true market value of commercial and industrial property in the same assessment jurisdiction. If the ratio of the assessed value of commercial and industrial property in the assessment jurisdiction to the true market value of commercial and industrial property cannot be determined to the satisfaction of the court through the random-sampling method known as a sales assessment ratio study (to be carried out under statistical principles applicable to such a study), each of the following shall be a violation of section 1 for which relief under this Act may be granted:

(1) An assessment of the natural gas pipeline property at a value that has a higher ratio of assessed value to the true market value of the natural gas pipeline property than the ratio of the assessed value of all other property (excluding public utility property) subject to a property tax levy in the assessment jurisdiction has to the true market value of all other property (excluding public utility property).

(2) The collection of an ad valorem property tax on the natural gas pipeline property at a tax rate that exceeds the tax rate applicable to all other taxable property (excluding public utility property) in the taxing jurisdiction.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2123. A bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce, along with a broad bipartisan group of colleagues, a truly landmark piece of legislation.

It is the result of months of hard work and thoughtful deliberations. It is the largest criminal justice reform bill in a generation.

This bill represents a consensus among my colleagues and me.

There are elements of the criminal justice system that we agree can and should be improved. We all agree that statutory mandatory minimum sentences can serve an important role in protecting public safety and bringing justice to crime victims, and this bill will preserve the primary mandatory minimums to keep some certainty and uniformity in Federal sentences and to encourage criminals to cooperate with law enforcement. We even add two new mandatory minimums for crimes involving interstate domestic violence and supplying weapons or other defense materials to prohibited countries or terrorists, but our current system has produced some specific instances of severe and excessive sentences.

So we all agree that we need to lower some of the harshest enhanced mandatory minimums, and we all agree that we can do a better job of targeting those enhanced mandatory sentences to the most serious violent and repeat offenders.

This bill does just that. It even expands some of those enhanced mandatory minimums to criminals with prior violent felonies and State crimes involving the unlawful use of firearms. That will be a big help in cities across the country who face rising homicide rates from violent offenders who have been released from prison.

We also all agree that our current system could benefit from giving judges a bit more discretion in sentencing. That is why we are expanding the current safety valve.

We also create a second safety valve so that nonviolent offenders who have minor criminal histories or play low-level roles in drug organizations are not improperly swept up by mandatory minimums.

Finally, we all agree that we must improve our prisons and stop the revolving door. Those of us introducing the bill have agreed to give lower-risk inmates a chance to return to society earlier and with better prospects to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

There are other parts of this bill that are also important, but I will not go

into them at this time. As I said, this is the biggest criminal justice reform in a generation.

Instead, I wish to end with the idea that this bill is about the Senate. Senators from both sides of the aisle and Senators with very different perspectives have come together to solve an important problem facing the United States. This is how the U.S. Senate can work, should work, and I am pleased to be a part of it and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues who joined me in this effort: Senators DURBIN, CORNYN, WHITEHOUSE, LEE, GRAHAM, SCHUMER, BOOKER, and SCOTT, and my friend Ranking Member LEAHY.

I close by again thanking the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, for the great help that he has been, not only as my friend, but also for his work on this piece of legislation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2125. A bill to make the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Small Business Administration permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Small Business Lending and Inequality Reduction Act of 2015.

It is a simple bill with a straightforward goal: to increase economic activity in underserved communities to help create jobs and reduce economic inequality. We must help low and moderate income communities grow by partnering with organizations that can channel expertise and resources to these communities. The bill I am introducing today would assist community development institutions provide more funding to small businesses.

This bill would increase their ability to lend in underserved communities and promote development and economic growth. The more lending they can offer to underserved communities, the more those communities can prosper.

One example of this process can be found from CDC Small Business Finance, an organization that has created more than 165,000 jobs and funded more than 10,000 small businesses. In Anaheim, CA, for example, they provided \$178,000 in financing to help Gretchen Shoemaker and her family successfully launch a restaurant based on Gretchen's grandmother's Southern-style cooking in an historic area of Anaheim.

Another example is Leatherby Family Creamery, an ice-cream parlor in Sacramento that opened in 1982 with the goal of creating a family-friendly community gathering place. They received a loan backed by the Small Business Administration that allowed

them to modernize and expand their business. Leatherby's now has three locations and has sustained itself for over 30 years despite bumps in the economy. It is truly dedicated to its communities as well, donating to over 180 associations, schools, and organizations in 2015 alone.

Overall, it should be clear: these loans provided real dividends back to the communities.

With more access to financial services—which my bill would provide—there will be more improvements to businesses, nonprofits, and our communities.

The bill I am introducing today would do two main things: First, it allows community development institutions to increase their lending by providing them access to loans backed by the Small Business Administration.

It would do this by authorizing and making permanent an existing pilot program run by the Small Business Administration and raising the maximum loan amount so that small businesses have access to additional funding. There are currently over 95 approved lenders in the pilot program, which has approved over \$214 million in over 1,650 loans.

Small businesses eligible for loans under the program include small businesses located in areas of high poverty and unemployment; small businesses that have more than 50 percent of employees living in low- or moderate-income communities; and Small businesses owned by veterans.

Second, this bill would expand the ability of Community Development Financial Institutions to access funding from the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which in turn allows them to provide more loans to low-income communities.

These are two simple actions that can have a significant impact on small businesses and communities in California and across the country.

I am proud to say that the Opportunity Finance Network, which is an association of community development financial institutions, supports this bill.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation and am hopeful that this Congress will move it forward.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 273—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE NEED FOR RECONCILIATION IN INDONESIA AND DISCLOSURE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MASS KILLINGS DURING 1965 AND 1966

Mr. UDALL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 273

Whereas, on October 1, 1965, 6 Indonesian Army generals were killed by military personnel, including members of Indonesia's Presidential Guard, and these killings were blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party and labeled an "attempted Communist coup d'état";

Whereas this alleged coup was used to justify the mass killing of alleged supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party, with estimates of the number of dead ranging from 500,000 to 1,000,000 killed;

Whereas the targeted individuals were predominantly unarmed civilians, and often included members of trade unions, intellectuals, teachers, ethnic Chinese, and those involved in the women's movement;

Whereas these killings and the imprisonment of up to 1,000,000 targeted individuals were done without due process of law;

Whereas the targeted individuals were subject to extrajudicial execution, torture, rape, forced disappearance, forced labor, and forced eviction;

Whereas the United States Central Intelligence Agency, in a 1968 research study, described the period as one of the worst mass murders of the twentieth century;

Whereas the United States Government provided the Indonesian Army with financial, military, and intelligence support during the period of the mass killings, and did so aware that such killings were taking place as recorded in partially declassified documents in the Department of State history, "Foreign Relations of the United States", pertaining to this period;

Whereas, within months of military leader Suharto's assumption of the Presidency following the mass killing, the United States Government began sending economic and military support to Suharto's military regime, and played an indispensable role in its consolidation of power;

Whereas aid to the Suharto government continued for more than 3 decades, despite on-going crimes against humanity committed by the Suharto government, including mass killing and other gross violations of human rights during the invasion and subsequent 24-year occupation of East Timor;

Whereas perpetrators of the 1965 and 1966 mass killings have largely lived with impunity, and the survivors and descendants of the victims suffer continuing economic discrimination and had limited civil and political rights for decades, as noted in the 2012 report by the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights;

Whereas the United States Government has not yet fully declassified all relevant documents concerning this time period, and full disclosure could help bring historical clarity to atrocities committed in Indonesia during 1965 and 1966;

Whereas the United States Government has recently supported the declassification and release of documents in support of truth and reconciliation efforts following periods of violence in countries such as Chile and Brazil;

Whereas open dialogue about alleged past crimes against humanity and past human rights violations is important for continued efforts to reconcile populations of Indonesia and to ensure a stable, sustainable peace that will benefit the region and beyond;

Whereas, Indonesia has undergone a remarkable democratic transition over the last 2 decades, and is the world's third largest democracy with the largest Muslim population in the world;

Whereas through free and fair elections, the people of Indonesia have elected new leaders who now have the opportunity to establish a culture of accountability in partnership with the country's vibrant civil society, press, academia, and human rights activists;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Indonesia is strong and involves many shared interests, as reflected in the 2010 United States-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, including democracy and civil society, education, security, climate and environment, energy, and trade and investment;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and Indonesia is strong, with bilateral goods trade exceeding \$27,000,000,000 and with major United States companies making significant long-term investments in Indonesia; and

Whereas strong relations between the United States and Indonesia are mutually beneficial to both countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the mass murder in Indonesia during 1965 and 1966;

(2) expresses great concern about the lack of accountability enjoyed by those who carried out crimes during this period;

(3) urges political leaders in Indonesia—

(A) to consider a truth, justice, and reconciliation commission to address alleged crimes against humanity and other human rights violations; and

(B) to work to mend differences and animosity that remain after the mass killings during 1965 and 1966; and

(4) calls on the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and others involved in developing and implementing policy towards Indonesia during this time period to establish an interagency working group—

(A) to locate, identify, inventory, recommend for declassification, and make available to the public all classified records and documents concerning the mass killings of 1965 and 1966, including records and documents pertaining to covert operations in Indonesia from January 1, 1964, through March 30, 1966;

(B) to coordinate with Federal agencies and take such actions as necessary to expedite the release of such records to the public; and

(C) to submit a report to Congress that describes all such records, the disposition of such records, and the activities of the Interagency Group.

SENATE RESOLUTION 274—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 274

Whereas more than 22,000,000 people of the United States served in the Cold War by supporting the efforts to bring military, economic, and diplomatic pressure to bear in the defense of Germany and the West, and ultimately helping more than 400,000,000 people gain freedom from the bondage of communism in the Soviet Bloc;

Whereas the United States supported the promulgation of the Basic Law for the Fed-

eral Republic of Germany, under which Germany was eventually reunited;

Whereas the United States created the Reconstruction Loan Corporation, which, under West German leadership, became the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau that invested in the reconstruction of West Germany and lay the economic groundwork for the reunification of Germany;

Whereas on November 4, 1989, more than 1,000,000 people gathered in Alexanderplatz in East Berlin and 40 other cities and towns in East Germany to demand free elections and basic civil rights, such as freedom of opinion, movement, press, and assembly;

Whereas on November 9, 1989, East German politbureau member Guenter Schabowski announced that the Government of East Germany would allow "every citizen of the German Democratic Republic to leave the GDR through any of the border crossings" and East German leader Egon Krenz promised "free, general, democratic, and secret elections";

Whereas thousands of people in East Berlin immediately flooded the border checkpoints at the Berlin Wall and demanded entry into West Berlin, causing the overwhelmed border guards of East Germany to open the checkpoints to allow people to cross into West Berlin;

Whereas in the days following the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, hundreds of thousands of people from East Germany freely crossed the border into West Berlin and West Germany for the first time in more than 28 years;

Whereas German Chancellor Helmut Kohl demonstrated leadership and vision when he announced a 10-point program calling for the 2 Germanys to expand mutual cooperation with the view toward eventual reunification on November 28, 1989;

Whereas in March 1990, East Germany held free elections for the first time and those elections led to the defeat of the Party of Democratic Socialism and demonstrated the desire of the East German people to reunify Germany and rejoin the world community, which led to the May 1990 treaty on monetary, economic, and social issues and the signing of the Unification Treaty on August 31, 1990;

Whereas on October 2, 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush told the German people: "The United States is proud to have built with you the foundations of freedom, proud to have been a steady partner in the quest for 1 Germany, whole and free. America is proud to count itself among the friends and allies of free Germany, now and in the future.";

Whereas on October 3, 2015, the people of Germany will celebrate in Frankfurt and across Germany, the 25th anniversary of the reunification of Germany; and

Whereas the reunification of Germany demonstrated the end of the division of Europe and the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) with the people of the former communist countries and Western Europe, celebrates 25 years of a united Germany, free from the oppression of communism;

(2) honors the courage and sacrifice of the people of Germany, the United States, and other countries who served in the Cold War to bring freedom to Central and Eastern Europe;

(3) recognizes the importance of the alliance between the United States and Germany in—

(A) common defense;

(B) an enduring shared commitment to the free and unified Europe; and

(C) an expanding and deepening economic prosperity under the rule of law throughout Europe;

(4) expresses to the people of Germany an appreciation for the commitment of the people of Germany to the promotion of freedom through leadership in providing international assistance, support for peace-keeping and international security efforts, and acceptance of refugees, including efforts by the people of Germany in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Lebanon, Sudan, and Ukraine; and

(5) reaffirms the deep and historical friendship between the Government and people of the United States and the Government and people of Germany.

SENATE RESOLUTION 275—CALLING ON CONGRESS, SCHOOLS, AND STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DYSLLEXIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2015 AS “NATIONAL DYSLLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 275

Whereas dyslexia is—

(1) defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and

(2) due to a difficulty in getting to the individual sounds of spoken language, which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and often, learn a language;

Whereas dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 percent to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;

Whereas an individual with dyslexia may have weakness in decoding or reading fluency and strength in higher level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, or problem solving;

Whereas great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiology and cognitive and neurobiological bases of dyslexia; and

Whereas early diagnosis of dyslexia is critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment and the provision of necessary accommodations so as to ensure school and life success: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; and

(2) designates October 2015 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 276—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 18, 2015, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ENZI, Mr. DONNELLY,

Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 276

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 18, 2015, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “American Crude Oil Export Equality Act.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Improper Payments in Federal Programs.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Reviewing the Civil Nuclear Agreement with South Korea.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Achieving the Promise of Health Information Technology."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Significant Cost and Related Burdens for Small Businesses Resulting from the Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill near Silverton, CO."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND THE
NATIONAL INTEREST

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 1, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Administration's FY 2016 Refugee Resettlement Program: Fiscal and Security Implications."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS,
AND MINING

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 1, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted this Congress for David Palmer and Zach Terwilliger, detailees from the Department of Justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Monday, October 5, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 138; that there be 30 minutes for debate on the nomination equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS
WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 276, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 276) designating the week beginning October 18, 2015, as "National Character Counts Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 276) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 5,
2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m., Monday, October 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
OCTOBER 5, 2015, AT 4 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:54 p.m., adjourned until Monday, October 5, 2015, at 4 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to Malnutrition Awareness Week. I salute those who fight against this underestimated but very important disease. While we often talk about hunger, obesity, food insecurity and other topics that deal with what and how we eat, we do not talk nearly enough about the common thread that links these issues together: malnutrition.

Though not commonly viewed as a medical concern in the U.S., malnutrition is a serious disease that largely affects certain demographic groups, such as older adults, hospitalized patients and minorities. For example, older African Americans have a significantly higher risk of malnutrition compared to their white counterparts.

A recent study estimated the economic burden of community-based diseases associated with malnutrition to be \$157 billion per year. Studies have further shown that chronic disease is often linked with malnutrition, and 1 in 3 patients arrive at our hospitals malnourished. This translates into higher health care costs, increased readmission rates, and longer hospital stays. We need real, cost-effective solutions, particularly for those who need care the most.

We also need more vigilance and action in the area of good nutrition. Malnutrition screening, assessment, and appropriate nutritional interventions for older adults could be vital to them leading healthier lives and saving on healthcare costs. We cannot afford to ignore such low-cost solutions.

September 28 through October 2 has been designated as Malnutrition Awareness Week. Hopefully increased awareness about this problem will lead to healthier aging of citizens across all our communities.

BOB BRIGGS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob Briggs for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

As a third-generation Coloradan, Bob earned a degree from Colorado State Univer-

sity in horticulture. In 1961, Bob founded Briggs Flower Shop and Garden Center. From there, Bob became engaged in various community and political activities in Jefferson County, such as serving as Adams County Commissioner.

As Commissioner, he helped prevent the expansion of Stapleton Airport on to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal which ultimately led to the construction of Denver International Airport (DIA). Bob also served as President of Adams County Economic Development for three years. During his tenure, he helped in efforts to secure the South West Mall and build the Front Range Airport. Bob went on to be elected as a Council Member for Westminster in 2007.

Bob's extracurricular work also had tremendous impacts including his work on the board of the Butterfly Pavilion where he helped spearhead the City Wide Trail system, a system that is responsible for 15 percent of Westminster's open space today. Bob also served as a board member of the Regional Transportation District where he approved the project ideas that became FasTracks, TREX, and Union Station Light Rail station.

Congratulations to Bob Briggs for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for his contributions to Jefferson County.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Cumberland County Association of Township Officials. Over the past century, the organization has consistently endeavored to advance the interests of Cumberland County's 18 townships and has diligently served my constituents.

First established in 1915, the organization continues to provide an arena for the discussion of issues of local and regional importance. Furthermore, the association serves over 400 township officials in Cumberland County by hosting informational conferences, offering training opportunities, and advocating for its members at the county, state, and federal levels. Most importantly, the organization helps a range of supervisors, managers, secretaries, treasurers, tax collectors, and auditors develop a better understanding of the rights and duties of township officials—an invaluable educational service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Cumberland County Association of Town-

ship Officials as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. I am incredibly grateful for this community organization that strives every day to ensure the future stability and prosperity of Cumberland County.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE CALLAHAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Diane Callahan, who is retiring after 15 dedicated years of public service in Highland Village. The city has benefited immeasurably from her unfaltering precision, unfailing commitment, and unwavering devotion to the residents she serves.

Ms. Callahan began serving the City of Highland Village in 2000 as an administrative secretary. She performed zealously in this role by compiling meticulous reports and utilizing her comprehensive knowledge of city policy to the benefit of constituents and businesses alike. In 2008, after several years of ardent work and study she earned her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certification. In 2011, Ms. Callahan was appointed City Secretary of Highland Village. In large part due to her efforts, the City of Highland Village has operated efficiently and reliably, thereby solidifying the quality of life residents of the city have come to enjoy.

Ms. Callahan had an extensive breadth of duties as Highland Village's City Secretary. She was responsible for keeping all seven council members informed on city events and developments as well as maintaining city ordinances, coordinating municipal and special elections, and responding in a timely manner to public information requests. Ms. Callahan performed these duties with sterling customer service.

In 2014, Ms. Callahan attained the title of Certified Municipal Clerk, an award distributed by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, in recognition of her vast experience and attendance at an exhaustive number of educational programs. Additionally, Ms. Callahan was honored by the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association as the 2015 Municipal Clerk of the Year. This most recent achievement is a testimony to the professional reputation she has built with her commitment to excellence.

As Ms. Callahan retires, she is highly esteemed by her colleagues and the community she has served for 15 years, and she will be greatly missed. It is my privilege to honor such an outstanding citizen and serve the City of Highland Village in the U.S. House of Representatives.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

JAMES E. DALE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James E. Dale for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and individuals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

Jim has served on the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee and the Golden Planning Commission. He was a founding member of the Sustainability Taskforce, and he currently serves on the Citizens Sustainability Advisory Board and the Golden Visitors Center Board. Additionally, he supports the Golden History Museum, Landmarks Association, Foothills Art Center, Miners Alley Playhouse and Colorado Cowboy Gathering.

I congratulate James E. Dale for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank him for his continued commitment to the City of Golden.

HONORING TAIWAN'S 104TH
NATIONAL DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's 104th National Day on October 10th, also known as Double Ten Day.

Both the United States and Taiwan share the belief that remembering our countries' heritage is critical to forging a path to a better tomorrow. Only a few decades ago, Taiwan was an authoritarian state. Yet today, presidents and legislators are elected through a peaceful, democratic process. I applaud Taiwan for cherishing these liberties rather than taking them for granted.

The United States has been a close ally of Taiwan for many years, and our friendship is solidified by our core set of shared values. Justice, rule of law, human rights, and freedom of the press are treasured by people in both the United States and Taiwan. Furthermore, Taiwan is an important security and economic partner of the United States.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am pleased to see Taiwan's admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group and World Trade Organization, as well as Taiwan's observer status at the World Health Organization. However, Taiwan and its 23 million people are still not fully represented in the United Nations. It is vital for the United States to continue to stand with Taiwan by supporting its meaningful participation in international bodies. This is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 76, which supports Taiwan's full membership in the United Nations. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in supporting Taiwan's full and equal membership in

the United Nations and other international organizations.

I would again like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 104th National Day. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past and to look ahead to a promising future.

IN VENERATION OF RETIRED
MAJOR JOHN SPARKS

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the retired Major John Sparks. Major Sparks is a trailblazer for the African American community, with a career that spans fifty-seven years and three very different industries.

Major Sparks joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954. After finishing first in his Drill Instructor School in San Diego, Major Sparks went on to serve his country in the Vietnam War. He was one of two African Americans to receive Battlefield Commission. Furthermore, Major Sparks continued to make strides as a service man when he was the first African American officer to be chosen to command Marines aboard a ship. Despite facing pervasive racism and segregation, John Sparks climbed the ranks of the US Marine Corps until he retired as a Major in 1978.

With the asset of military training and service, Major Sparks joined the business world. After serving in the Marine Corps for over twenty years, he worked as Director of Educational Training at IBM for twenty years. Not done giving back to his community, Major Sparks subsequently taught at Booker T. Washington high school for thirteen years before retiring.

Major Sparks has spent his professional career educating, leading and serving the American people in a number of different industries. There is much that can be said about Major Sparks' diverse career. He undoubtedly opened doors for those that served after him in the armed services. He has helped educate and inspire both young minds and young professionals. He has been not only a leader in the military but also within his own community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only honor the impressive achievements of this man, but also to commend his compassionate contributions to my Congressional district and to the great State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished individual.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH
SCIAME, RECIPIENT OF THE
SONS OF ITALY'S 2015
GUGLIELMO MARCONI AWARD

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Joseph Sciame, a

resident of New Hyde Park, New York and life-long public servant who recently received the Sons of Italy's 2015 Guglielmo Marconi Award, which is presented biennially to an Italian American who has made significant contributions to the United States.

Mr. Sciame is truly deserving of this honor, as he has worked tirelessly throughout his life to serve others and strengthen the communities in which he lives and works. Mr. Sciame currently serves as Vice President of Community Relations at St. John's University, the largest Catholic university in the United States. As a St. John's alumnus and university administrator for three decades, Mr. Sciame has truly dedicated his life to serving the school and its surrounding community. He also serves as a board member of the Jamaica and Staten Island Chambers of Commerce, the Kupperberg Holocaust Center, and the Boy Scouts of America, and chairs the Board of Ethics of the Town of North Hempstead. Mr. Sciame is the former Chairman of the National Association of Student Aid Administrators, and has long been active in the field of financial aid and higher education, both in New York and nationwide.

As a proud and active Italian American, Mr. Sciame's commitment to public service extends beyond St. John's University. He currently serves as Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations and was the former National and State President and Foundation Trustee of the Sons of Italy, the largest and oldest Italian American fraternal organization.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Sciame on receiving the 2015 Guglielmo Marconi Award, the Sons of Italy's highest honor, and thank him for his service to our district and country. Mr. Sciame is a testament to the valuable contributions that Italian Americans have made to the United States throughout our history, and it is a tremendous honor to count him among my constituents.

JOHN TRACY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Tracy for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

John Tracy has shown a lifelong dedication to the Jefferson County community. John's extensive involvement in three local Chambers of Commerce—Golden, West and Wheat Ridge—has helped to bring in new members, create new community events, and support economic development in the region.

For the past ten years, John has served on the Jefferson County Business Lobby and the Lakewood Legacy Foundation. He has also held positions with the Golden Chamber Downtown Merchants and Golden Good Government League for more than 20 years. In

addition, John helped found both the Applewood Business Association and the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

Currently, John owns his own publishing company, John Tracy Publishing. In 2011, the City of Golden awarded John with the 'Golden Living Landmark Award' for his exceptional and diverse involvement in the community. Additionally, he has been recognized with Golden Rotary's 'Service Above Self' award and the Golden Chamber's 'Charlie O'Brien Award.'

Congratulations to John Tracy for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for his contributions to Jefferson County.

HONORING MALAKOFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Malakoff Elementary School of the Malakoff Independent School District from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas for excellence in education. Malakoff Elementary School was named to the United States Department of Education's 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools Program, which: "recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of academic achievement."

Malakoff Elementary School's performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the school board, administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. The school district, parents, students, and community should be applauded for this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to commend Malakoff Elementary School for their continued educational achievements.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, October 10th is the national day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). This day commemorates the launch of the Wuchang Uprising of 1911, which in turn led to the establishment of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on January 1, 1912. As the United States and Taiwan share a close relationship, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan a very Happy Double Ten Day.

The relationship between the United States and Taiwan is both deep and longstanding, and encompass areas including security, culture, and trade. Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner for the U.S., while the U.S. is

Taiwan's largest foreign investor. In 2014, 24% of Taiwan's total agricultural imports came from the U.S. Since 1993, Taiwan has been the 7th largest overseas market for U.S. agricultural exports. In 2014, Taiwan imported nearly \$3.5 billion of U.S. agricultural products, up 10 percent from the previous year, making Taiwan one of the world's largest consumers for U.S. agricultural products on a per capita basis. I am pleased that the 2015 Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission just completed a successful visit to the United States including my home state of Illinois.

Taiwan also has proven its leadership in the global arena through its commitment to democracy, by contributing to international development and humanitarian missions, and through bold diplomatic initiatives such as President Ma's East China Sea Peace Initiative and his South China Sea Peace Initiative, which seek to reduce tensions in those disputed waters. As a result of these efforts, a challenging world is in many ways a better place. I offer my thanks to Taiwan for their commitment democracy and stability in Asia and my best wishes to their people they observe and celebrate Double Ten Day.

EMMY DIMITROFF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emmy Dimitroff for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and individuals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

Raised and schooled in Golden, Emmy has become a community leader through her six years of service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, her work at the Clear Creek History Park and her leadership in Mitchell Elementary School's Environmental Learning for the Future. Additionally, she is a substitute teacher in the Jefferson County School System.

I congratulate Emmy Dimitroff for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank Emmy for her continued commitment to the people and families of Golden.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, as America joins in the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan), it is reflective of the strong relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Located in a challenging regional environment, Taiwan has manifested its representa-

tive democracy as they strive to ensure a stable, strong government. Their thriving economy demonstrates their disciplined pursuit in fostering freedom and moral principles within their borders. The people of Taiwan are devoted to principles of liberty and self-governance, and they display a remarkable work ethic within their communities.

Since the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), signed in December of 1978, the United States stands with Taiwan, seeking to help maintain their peace and security. Marked by the TRA, America will continue to provide sufficient self-defense capabilities for Taiwan, in order to safeguard their homeland.

Taiwan has proven to be a generous contributor to global efforts in fighting against disease and illness, and has been heavily involved in humanitarian assistance. They aided West Africa when faced with the Ebola outbreak, they provided Latin America and the Caribbean region training in preparedness and response for emergency situations, and they have responded to crises by delivering prefabricated shelters and disaster relief to numerous countries. They even charitably donated \$1 million towards a memorial for President Eisenhower on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Their involvement in worldwide affairs shows their genuine care and concern for America and our neighbors across the globe.

The United States is committed to supporting Taiwan and remaining their ally, and will help them in their efforts to pursue freedom and democracy.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF WILLIAM "BILL" MYERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I pay tribute to Deputy Sheriff William Myers, of the Okaloosa County, Florida Sheriff's Office, who gave his life in the line of duty on September 22, 2015. Deputy Myers served our Nation and the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office with honor and distinction, and I am humbled to recognize his service and selfless sacrifice.

Deputy Sheriff William "Bill" Myers dedicated his life to serving his country. He faithfully served in the United States Air Force for 20 years, during which he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. After he left the military, Deputy Myers worked as a part-time Officer with the Valparaiso Police Department. In December 1989, he joined the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff serving the local Northwest Florida community. During his tenure, he served in the Patrol Division, Court Security, and the Traffic Unit. Deputy Myers retired from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department on November 30, 2013 with 25 years of service, but continued his work with the agency as a volunteer. In January of this year, Deputy Myers returned to the Sheriff's Office as a part-time Deputy in Judicial Process. Upon serving a Domestic Violence Injunction on Tuesday, September 22,

2015, the suspect who was expected to turn over his firearms, instead opened fire, fatally injuring Deputy Myers.

Through his military service and his law enforcement career, Deputy Myers made a choice to stand up and serve his country and community. There is no greater honor than to serve and protect the lives of your fellow man at the risk of your own. Deputy Myers exemplified the dedication to service and courage that is needed to make that decision and put on the uniform. As a law enforcement officer, Deputy Myers put himself in danger each and every day to protect and serve our community. We all entrust our lives to law enforcement officers because we know that when faced with serious criminal threats, they are trained to act quickly and effectively to neutralize the threat and protect civilian lives. We all pray that our officers do not have to confront a serious armed threat, but we sleep well at night knowing that if necessary they stand ready to protect and defend our community, even if that means making the ultimate sacrifice.

In addition to his successful career and unwavering leadership in his community, Deputy Myers will be remembered as a dedicated officer and a man full of integrity and kindness. To his family and friends, he will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community and Nation, I am humbled to honor the service and sacrifice of this local hero. My wife Vicki and I offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Jan; sons, Sean, Eric, and Adam; and the entire Myers family. May God bless them and all members of our Nation's law enforcement community.

GRETCHEN CERVENY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gretchen Cerveney for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Gretchen started her career as a physical therapist and served as the president of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Colorado chapter. Her work in this area received several awards, including the Bob Doctor Service Award from the Colorado Chapter of the APTA, Outstanding Physical Therapist of the Year from the APTA (1980), and a recognition from Lutheran Medical Center for her twenty-five years of service, some of which as the Physical Therapist Department Head (1976–1994).

In 1997, Gretchen was elected Mayor of Wheat Ridge where she participated in groups such as the Colorado Municipal League, Strategic Visioning Committee, Juvenile Justice Committee, Transportation Committee, and

Tax Policy Committee, among others. She worked extensively with the Senior Resource Center (SRC) and helped to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. Her efforts as Mayor have been recognized by the Denver Regional Council of Governments and the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Gretchen spent five years on the Colorado Commission on Aging and remains involved with the SRC. Gretchen also serves on the Jefferson County Aging Well Committee and is an active member of the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

Congratulations to Gretchen Cerveney for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for her contributions to Jefferson County.

HONORING HAITI RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LINEMEN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 7 volunteer electric linemen from White River Valley in Branson, Missouri, who traveled to Haiti this June and August to help provide sustainable seven-day-a-week electric service to Haitians.

Cory Brandon Sanders, Raymond Roy, William Gyger, William Marr, Matthew Maggard, Mark Visnosky, and Jacob Kennedy donated their time and talents as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Haiti Rural Electric Cooperative (HREC) program.

This project is the first formal privately owned and operated distribution utility in the country, which intends to demonstrate the feasibility of solar-diesel hybrid power generation for isolated rural mini-grids. The goal that these men worked toward making 1,600 connections within a grid to unite the underserved Haitian communes of Roche-a-Bateau, Coteaux, and Port-a-Piment.

Mr. Speaker, these 7 selfless linemen from Southwest Missouri deserve our thanks and recognition for their dedication to the HREC's noble goal of bringing affordable and reliable power to the southern coast of Haiti. Stories like theirs make me ever-prouder to serve Missouri's Seventh Congressional District.

REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak out in favor of reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As you know, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was established fifty years ago and has since become our nation's most successful conservation program—all without spending a single dime of taxpayer dollars. I wish to show my strong support for reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a crucial component of our nation's conservation initiatives. As an avid hunter and outdoorsman, I believe that preserving our nation's natural treasures for future generations is a responsibility that we must take seriously. Not only is stewardship of our lands the right thing to do, but it's also a sound investment. We know that every dollar spent acquiring LWCF land creates a return of four dollars to local communities. Outdoor recreation activities contribute significantly to our national and state economies. In my home state of Wisconsin, outdoor recreational activities contribute over \$9.7 billion to our state economy each year.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to create outdoor recreation opportunities for each and every state. Wisconsin has received \$211 million to fund such projects as the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Lower St. Croix National Scenic River, and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, where the Land and Water Conservation Fund participated in a highly successful public-private partnership to preserve additional sections of the trail. LWCF's grant programs have also allowed state and local governments to decide which conservation programs work best for them. The Land and Water Conservation Fund's highly successful grant program matches federal dollars with state and local contributions to ensure a cooperative approach to conserving our nation's environment. In Wisconsin, the LWCF has contributed \$3,675,681 to match state and local conservation projects and to help us preserve Wisconsin's beautiful outdoors.

For the past fifty years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has played an integral role in achieving our nation's conservation goals. I urge my colleagues to support reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund so that we can continue to protect our wildlife, create opportunities and access to public lands for sportsmen and women, and provide economic benefits to our state and local communities.

PREMIUM PANELS, INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Premium Panels Inc. in Arvada, Colorado for being honored by Colorado Companies to Watch (CCTW).

CCTW is a unique awards program that recognizes and celebrates the contribution and innovation of diverse second-stage companies that exemplify strong management and community service involvement. While there are many outstanding companies in Colorado, Premium Panels Inc. was chosen based on their positive impact on economic growth in the region.

Premium Panels began in 2000 as a singular operation in Arvada, Colorado with Jeff Patch at the helm. Today, the company has approximately 34 employees and has grown to be a leader in metal roofing panels for commercial and residential roofing.

The spirit of the Premium Panels organization is fueled by strong company values of integrity, respect, customer satisfaction, and education. They are strong advocates for the roofing industry. Through volunteerism with the Colorado Roofers Association, Premium Panels helps educate roofers on safety measures and new and improved installation methods.

I congratulate Premium Panels Inc. and all of their employees for being recognized as a Colorado Company to Watch. I am proud of the service they provide our community and am certain their service will continue to benefit the roofing industry and our communities for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD SORGE

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the untiring dedication of Staten Island's Edward Sorge in his service to the community.

Born on October 6, 1934, Edward has remained a lifelong Staten Islander. After graduating from New Dorp High School in 1952, Ed's patriotism led him to enlist in the U.S. Air Force, where he served his country honorably. In addition to his love of country was his love of golf. It goes without saying that as a two-time Staten Island Amateur Golf Champion, he certainly knows his way around the greens.

After his service in the Air Force, Ed became a PGA Professional at Silver Lake Golf Course, where he served for over 20 years. Among his former students there include PGA Tour Member Bill Britton and Staten Island Amateur and Classic champions Pete Meurer, Rod Stilwell, and Ed Sorge, Jr. After leaving Silver Lake Golf Course in 1988, Ed continued his work as a PGA Professional for an additional 20 years, conducting numerous junior golf clinics.

Since 2009, Ed has volunteered with several charitable organizations in his community. He has devoted his time at myriad golf events to raise money for charity by directing clinics before the shotgun starts and participating in "Beat the Pro" competitions on a par three hole during the rounds. Alongside his devotion to volunteering, Ed's goal as a PGA professional is to make the game of golf enjoyable for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Sorge's dedication to charity and improving his community is the essence of the model Staten Islander. I thank him for all of his great work and I am proud to honor this great American from New York's 11th District.

CONGRATULATING THE HOYT LIBRARY OF SAGINAW ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Hoyt Library on the occasion of their 125th year of continuous service. It stands today as a shining example of a beautiful, historic, and functional modern library.

In 1890, The Saginaw Evening News declared the Hoyt Library "a noble institution" and "the pride of all Saginawians." The library was a gift to the people of Saginaw from New York businessman Jesse Hoyt (1815 through 1882), who had real estate and lumber interests in the Saginaw Valley. Hoyt's will set aside \$100,000 for a public library in East Saginaw. After a national competition among leading architects, the Hoyt Trust chose the Boston architectural firm of Van Brunt and Howe. When the Richardsonian Romanesque style building was completed it exemplified modern library construction. The present building includes a 1921 addition by Edward Tilton of New York and a 1960 addition by Frederick E. Wigen Architects of Saginaw.

Harriet Ames, the first librarian at Hoyt, was a Boston scholar and a pioneer in librarianship who brought her passion for good books and reading to a commercial Midwestern boomtown. She served Saginaw for over 30 years and brought cultural and educational advancement not just to Saginaw, but to the entire state of Michigan through her dedication to scholarly pursuits.

Sparked by Ms. Ames, the Hoyt Library remains a fixture in the cultural and educational realm in Michigan. It is home to one of the premier Local History and Genealogy collections in Michigan and the greater Midwest. Hoyt Library has served as a government documents depository for all 125 years of operation. Beyond its historically significant archives and up-to-date print collections, the Library provides meeting spaces and quiet reading nooks along with internet access computers and Wi-Fi for today's technologically savvy library users. The library staff remains dedicated to providing professional library programs and services to all who enter.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by the Hoyt Library in Saginaw and thank them for the service they have provided to the city of Saginaw.

CHRISTIAN ACTION GUILD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Christian Action Guild (CAG) for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and indi-

viduals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

For 49 years, the Christian Action Guild has provided food, clothing and financial assistance to Golden residents in need. Each month, CAG serves over 400 at-risk Golden families, individuals and members of the homeless community, providing personal products, canned goods, and fresh food items.

I congratulate the Christian Action Guild for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan and I thank all the members of the CAG for their continued commitment to the people and families they serve.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the National Day of the Republic of China and to highlight the close relationship between Taiwan and the United States of America. October 10th marks the anniversary of the creation of the Republic of China in 1912. National Day celebrates Taiwanese democracy, its culture and its accomplished people and this occasion provides the United States an opportunity to celebrate our great ally.

As a leader in the Asia Pacific region, Taiwan has experienced incredible economic growth and stability throughout its history. With a population of over 23 million people and a trillion dollar GDP, Taiwan has proved to be one of Asia's economic engines. The Taiwanese economy has maintained an impressive economic growth rate and has risen to be the 10th-largest trade partner of the United States. Taiwan continues to be an example to other economies around the world.

The friendship between our two Nations has been mutually prosperous since we joined in unity in the Pacific Theatre in World War II. With this year marking 70 years since the end of the War, our Nation should reflect on how this unique alliance has had such a positive impact on both countries.

The trust and respect built between our two Nations since that time have resulted in tremendous technology innovation and global resources integration. The cooperation between Taiwan and the United States has enabled the two countries to enhance each other's strengths and nurture industries that create jobs and opportunities for both nations.

The cooperation between Taiwan and the United States should be a global model for civility, respect, prosperity and peace.

Mr. Speaker, on National Day we are all reminded how strategically important our mutually respectful relationship has been for the Republic of China and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last week I attended my son's wedding in Japan causing me to miss the Pope's historic address to Congress as well as votes on September 24 and 25, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the following bills and amendments.

1. H.R. 322
2. Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 348
3. Grijalva Amendment to H.R. 348
4. Gallego Amendment to H.R. 348
5. Jackson Lee Amendment #1 to H.R. 348
6. Dingell Amendment to H.R. 348
7. Jackson Lee Amendment #2 to H.R. 348
8. Peters/Polis/Lowenthal/Lieu Amendment to H.R. 348
9. Johnson (GA) Amendment to H.R. 348
10. Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 348

Had I been present I would have voted in opposition to the following bills and amendments.

1. Gosar Amendment to H.R. 348
2. Final Passage of H.R. 348

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 528, had I been present, I would have voted no.

SAL AND GAIL GLESSER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sal and Gail Glesser, the founders and owners of Spyderco Knives for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence recognizes organizations, businesses and individuals that significantly contribute to the wellbeing and improvement of the City of Golden.

The Glessers founded Spyderco in 1978 and have expanded their company into a multimillion-dollar business, employing more than 80 people in their new facility. Sal and Gail contribute to the Golden community through their support of local events and organizations such as the USA Pro Challenge, the Jeffco Innovator's Workshop, Foothills Art Center, the local Alzheimer's Chapter, the Parkinson's Foundation, and the Pink Fire Trucks program. Additionally, Spyderco has raised tons of food and product donations through employee food drives.

I congratulate Sal and Gail Glesser for being the recipients of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank them for their continued commitment to the people and families of Golden.

RECOGNIZING THELMA FAGIN HYMAN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Thelma Fagin Hyman, who devoted her professional life to teaching in the segregated school system of the District of Columbia and who continued teaching for years after the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* ended segregation in the District and elsewhere.

The Dunbar Senior High School class of 1955, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, particularly thanks Ms. Hyman for her dedication as a teacher and recognizes her as a mentor of the class of 1955.

Thelma Fagin Hyman was born January 29, 1917, at Freeman's Hospital (now Howard University Hospital) and educated in District of Columbia public schools. She received her Bachelor of Science from Howard University and her Master of Arts from Columbia University. Before returning to Dunbar High School in 1946, Ms. Hyman taught physical education at Cardozo High School and Turner Jr. High School in D.C. She remained at Dunbar until she retired in 1964. She was married to Vincent Fagin for 38 years until his death. Later, she married Harold Hyman.

Ms. Hyman taught physical education to many students in the Dunbar class of 1955. She personified the excellence and dedication Dunbar teachers brought to their work. The class of 1955 believes it most appropriate to recognize one of its outstanding teachers as the class celebrates its 60th anniversary. At 98, Thelma Fagin Hyman is as lively today as she was as a teacher at Dunbar.

Along with the class of 1955, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending Thelma Fagin Hyman for her dedication as a teacher in the District of Columbia public schools, particularly at Dunbar High School, and as a mentor of the Dunbar class of 1955.

THE CENTENNIAL OF CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM RODFE ZEDEK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the entire Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek on their 100th year of providing a place for spiritual growth and gathering to the Jewish community in Chester and

the surrounding area. This Congregation has grown from two small groups of farmers who more than a century ago sought a place to gather and worship, to a thriving community and religious center that is a cornerstone of my Congressional district.

In the 1800s, Jews in Connecticut primarily worshiped in small minyans in their homes. But as the Jewish community in our region grew, leaders sought larger, public places to worship. In the mid-1990s, Temple Beth Shalom and Congregation Rodfe Zedek merged to become the community that exists today. The building in which they hold services is also a testament to their creativity and collaboration. The new, permanent home for the congregation is the result of work by artist Sol LeWitt and local architect Stephen Lloyd. The synagogue pays homage to tradition, made with wooden beams in the style of old eastern European synagogues—many of which were destroyed in the Holocaust. It is this commitment to history—and an eye towards the future—that will continue to sustain this congregation for years to come.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek on 100 years of community and congregation, and wish them all the best for the next century of Jewish life in eastern Connecticut.

HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, hunger and malnutrition affect millions of Americans every day. I have witnessed this in my home state of New Mexico, which has some of the highest hunger rates in the country. These rates are especially high among vulnerable populations, such as children and seniors. Many working families have to rely on food banks and church-sponsored meal programs to put food on the table. Often times, these families live in food deserts and cannot access affordable and healthy foods, which puts them at risk of becoming malnourished.

Nearly 16 million American children face hunger, and most of the food they receive is not considered healthy; rather, their parents are more inclined to buy the most affordable food available. The lack of access to healthy food hurts a child's development, including physical and mental health, academic achievement and future economic prosperity.

Seniors are among the most physically vulnerable to hunger. They face unique nutritional requirements, medical conditions and mobility restrictions. In addition to the lack of access to nutritious foods, many seniors are not able to absorb certain foods, compromising their health and putting them at risk for increased long-term care and hospitalization.

Although hunger and malnutrition affect so many in our communities, Congress is not doing enough to address these issues. Instead, we've seen Congress try time after time to cut funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides

food for more than 45 million Americans. We've also seen Congress attempt to roll back school meal standards, which are aimed to improve nutrition among children.

Cutting funding for nutritional programs will not save the federal government money. We know that hunger and malnutrition increase risk of illness and result in longer hospital stays, slower healing, greater risk for re-hospitalizations and complications.

As a government so concerned about health care costs, how are we not laser-focused on the nutritional status of patients? We seek solutions for health care costs every day, particularly from those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. However, it is clear that nutritional status deserves more attention.

September 28 through October 2 has been designated as Malnutrition Awareness Week. Let us use this as a call to action to increase awareness and find solutions that support better nutrition for our communities. Healthy citizens mean a healthy society and healthy economy.

THOMAS MURRAY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Thomas Murray for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Tom has certainly cemented his place in Jefferson County history by laying down the building bricks of the community. Tom, CEO of Lakewood Brick and Tile, inherited the business from his father and learned the values of hard work and leadership from a young age.

One of Tom's biggest passions is education. In the 1980s, he served as co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Education-Business Partnership for the Lakewood Chamber. Tom went on to become General Chairman of Education 2000 for Jefferson County Schools, a position he maintained for four years. He has also served on the boards of the Jefferson Foundation, Warren Vocational Technical High School, and Jefferson County Advisory Council for Vocational Education.

Today, Tom continues this dedication to education by serving on the Jefferson County Schools' Capital Improvement Plan Oversight Committee and coaching football at Lakewood High School. Tom's exceptional work has been recognized with several awards, including West Chamber Businessman of the Year, The Sentinel Newspaper Man of the Year, and The Rocky Mountain News Milestone Award.

Congratulations to Thomas Murray for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for his contributions to Jefferson County.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF DALLAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 65 years of successful expansion of education and Christianity through Dallas Christian College founded right outside of downtown Dallas in 1950.

Dallas Christian College (DCC) was established by church leaders and an enthusiastic and determined man named Vernon Newland. Vernon had a tough childhood that would push him to strive for a better life for himself and others. Being sent to live with his grandmother at the age of nine Vernon wanted to share God with people all over the world. As Vernon and several family members were traveling to conduct mission work they were sent to a Japanese internment camp shortly after arriving in the Philippines. They remained there for almost three years as they were taken right after Pearl Harbor had occurred. It was when Vernon and his family members returned to the United States that he was motivated to increase involvement in the church amongst the population.

The Dallas Christian College was one of several schools Vernon had established, along with approximately two dozen churches and new ones coming along every two months or so. DCC was quickly expanding. With such growth, by the 1960s DCC needed more space and relocated to its current home in Farmers Branch, which resides in the 24th district of Texas. As DCC grew so did its mission, its reach expanded to troubled neighborhoods and was known for students and alumni to serve in urban centers all over the country. The school would also begin offering new programs teaching psychology, business, and education, attempting to broaden the horizons of its students and prepare them for different paths in life.

Today DCC aims to educate and mentor the student body under God's influence and prepare them for all that life may bring. Training for service to the church and Christian ministry has been significant to the school's mission. The college wants to ensure that the student body is well educated and mentored in many aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the 65th anniversary of Dallas Christian College. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in the college's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 527, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORKING AMERICANS AND MANUFACTURING DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hard working men and women of Northside and Eastside Houston and Harris County, Texas and the valuable contributions manufacturers give to our local economy.

The 29th District of Texas is one of the largest manufacturing districts in the country. Home to the Port of Houston, the Houston Ship Channel, and the largest petrochemical complex in the country, over 31,000 people work in the refineries, chemical plants, pipe and metal manufacturers and machine shops throughout our district.

Many of these jobs demand technical skills, training, and years of experience and have provided good, middle class wages that have paid off many house notes and college tuition bills in my district.

For the third year in a row, Houston leads the nation in merchandise exports—sending \$119 billion in manufactured goods overseas. The majority of these exports are related to the oil, gas, and chemical industries.

I proudly stand with manufacturing workers in Houston and around the country, who go to work each day without complaint, and continue to make the label "Made in America" the gold standard in quality worldwide.

Now is the time for Congress to stand with working families and our nation's manufacturers and reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Ex-Im supports thousands of jobs throughout our great country at no cost to the American people.

FAYE GRIFFIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Faye Griffin for receiving the Jefferson County 2015 Hall of Fame Award from the West Chamber.

The Hall of Fame Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have had significant, long-lasting impacts through their leadership and contributions to Jefferson County's economy, community and legacy.

Faye Griffin started her forty year career in Jefferson County working in the County Clerk & Recorder office for 24 years. Eventually serving as Chief Deputy of the department, Faye helped modernize technology and coordinated successful general and primary elections. In 2006, Faye was elected Treasurer and served in this capacity until 2008 when she was nominated to the Board of County Commissioners.

In her six years on the Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County reached a

balanced budget every year and earned extraordinary financial ratings from several national rating organizations. As a Commissioner, she helped bring attention to Human Services programs to aid children and families in need and amended the Zoning Resolution to simplify the zoning application process.

Currently, Faye serves as Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder. She is also involved in the Child and Youth Leadership Commission, the Jefferson County Head Start Policy Council, the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Board. In 2012, Faye was honored as an Outstanding Woman of Jefferson County.

Congratulations to Faye Griffin for this well-deserved honor by the West Chamber. I am grateful for her contributions to Jefferson County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 28, 2015, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 519, yea. On rollcall No. 520, yea.

IN MEMORY OF FOREST ACRES POLICE OFFICER GREG ALIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 30, 2015, Officer Greg Alia was killed in the line of duty. A graduate of Richland Northeast High School and the University of South Carolina, Police Chief Gene Shealy described Officer Alia as "an outstanding man and an outstanding police officer." As a seven year veteran of Forest Acres Police Department, Greg was a role model for new officers who showed courage and dedication in protecting the people of Forest Acres, South Carolina. He lived up to the highest standards of being an Eagle Scout of Troop 100 of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Columbia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Kassy, and their five month old son, Sal, his parents, Dr. Richard and Alexis Alia of Forest Acres, and his fellow officers at Forest Acres Police Department. I am grateful for the outpouring of love and support for Forest Acres, for our community, and for our citizens during this tragic time.

God bless the memory and service of Greg Alia.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA'S OWN FEDERAL DUCK STAMP WINNER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Hautman of Delano, Minnesota on his impressive second place finish in the 2015 Federal Duck Stamp Contest. Robert's stamp features several mallard ducks flying over a lake.

The Federal Duck Stamp contest began in 1949 as a result of growing concern among Americans over the destruction of wetlands, which are the home to migratory waterfowl. Of every dollar spent on duck stamps, ninety-eight cents is given to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which helps to conserve natural habitats.

Minnesota is home to some of the most amazing natural scenery and wildlife, and because of this, I am incredibly passionate about the great outdoors. I have always been of the strong belief that it is every global citizen's duty to help protect and maintain our environment for future generations to come. I think the Federal Duck Stamp contest is wonderful because it does exactly that.

I would like to applaud Robert Hautman for contributing to a contest with such a worthy cause. I would like to give him an extra shout out for being from my hometown as well.

As a result of Robert's effort, more funds will be raised to preserve the environment, and for that we—and our future generations—thank you.

TEANECK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave men and women of the Teaneck Fire Department who will celebrate 100 years of serving and protecting the residents of Teaneck this Sunday October 4, 2015.

The first organized fire company in Teaneck was Defender Hook and Ladder Co., which was formed on August 12, 1895. It was not until 1915 that four of Teaneck's five companies were combined into the official municipal Teaneck Fire Department.

As they were growing in the 1920s, a very tough basement fire occurred on Maitland Avenue. Future Deputy Chief Harry Davis, then working for the Department of Public Works, made numerous entries without a breathing apparatus, manning a 2½" line. He passed out repeatedly, was revived, and continued to go back in until the house was saved. He is a great reflection as to how relentlessly the Teaneck Fire Department has attacked fires and how they continued to do so even today.

The Teaneck Fire Department stays committed to self-assessment and innovation. Since the 1970s, brush fires have been reduced by 90% and building fires declined by

about a third, with arson now much less of a problem. New apparatuses, the four stations being staffed 24 hours a day with an adequate level of staffing, strict proactive code enforcement, the advanced municipal fire system, and the aggressive fire investigation programs have proven effective in reducing fires.

Beyond their roles in fire emergencies, the Teaneck Fire Department remains committed to serving the residents through their innovative Good Morning Check-Up Program. This program is designed for shut-ins and senior citizens who live alone and have no one to look in on them on a regular basis. The program provides subscribers with a telephone call seven days a week, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. If a resident is not-responsive to multiple phone calls then a firefighter is dispatched to the house to make sure all is well. This service has helped countless lives already.

When terrorists flew planes into the North and South Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, the brave members of the Teaneck Fire Department volunteered to help their colleagues across the Hudson River. Their sacrifices during and after the tragedy continue to inspire the Teaneck Fire Department today as well as those they serve.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I have had the honor of visiting and inspecting many fire stations throughout our great nation. Therefore it gives me pride to recognize the excellence of the Teaneck Fire Department and thank them for serving the residents of Teaneck.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues and me in recognizing the 100 year anniversary of the Teaneck Fire Department.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend the most sincere congratulations to Broward County, Florida on celebrating its 100th anniversary. From the back-breaking work and ingenuity of the industrial age to the modernity of this tech-savvy generation, Broward County's progress is a stark example of the progressive spirit of America. It is truly my honor to represent such a diverse and unique county in the United States Congress.

The theme of the centennial celebration is, "Duende". Duende is defined as the power to attract through personal magnetism and charm. That is exactly what Broward County has to offer. Whether you are one of the over 1.8 million people that call Broward County home, the tens of thousands that are winter residents, or the countless millions that visit for vacation, our county's charm is magnetic. The soul of this community comes from not only the beautiful 1,200 square miles that make up Broward County, but from the diverse and thriving culture found there. From the rich soil of the Everglades National Park to the white sandy beaches of the Atlantic

Ocean, it is as charmingly diverse as the communities that reside within its borders.

Mr. Speaker, Broward County is undoubtedly a wonderful embodiment of the "Sunshine State" and all it has to offer. I once again want to congratulate the County on this momentous occasion of its centennial anniversary.

IN HONOR OF SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH'S 145TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 145th anniversary of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA. Since the end of the Civil War, this church has stood as a beacon of worship and its congregation is a testament to how faith brings a community together.

In 1870, Reverend Frank Q. Graham, Reverend A.D. Delmarta and Reverend G.B. Austin, searching for a place to worship, organized Shiloh Baptist Church under a Brush Arbor. Meetings were held in the Arbor until the group was able to build a church across the street, near the church's present location. After the first building was burned down by a fire, the worshippers met in an old school until the church was rebuilt. In 1962, the church was struck by lightning and completely destroyed. Held together by their faith, the congregation met in an elementary school cafeteria until Shiloh Baptist was rebuilt.

Shiloh Baptist Church has also played its part in American history. When the NAACP chartered their membership in Clayton County, Georgia, Shiloh Baptist church was one of the first to purchase membership. When Atlanta, Georgia hosted the 1996 summer Olympics, the church was a reception for the Olympic torch.

The Shiloh Baptist Church of Jonesboro is an example to all of how worship and faith can bring a group of people together. Despite numerous damages and subsequent reconstruction and renovations to the physical structure, the Shiloh Baptist community is celebrating 145 years of worship. The strength or their congregation's faith has been demonstrated time and time again. The church has won awards for their wide attendance and continues to attract churchgoers from the Jonesboro area. The congregation has not let their spirit falter and for this I congratulate them on 145 years of worship.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shiloh Baptist congregation for 145 years of worship. I would like to commend them for being a cornerstone in the Jonesboro community as well as within the great State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the anniversary of Jonesboro's Shiloh Baptist Church. Thank you and God bless.

CELEBRATING ST. BEN'S NA-
TIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
AWARD

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the College of Saint Benedict in Collegeville, Minnesota. This college has a stellar reputation throughout the state of Minnesota, and for good reason.

It was recently announced that the College of Saint Benedict is a recipient of a National Science Foundation award for their collaboration in a project entitled "Collaborative Research: Developing and Assessing Effective Cyberlearning within the STEM Wiki Hyperlibrary." As a result of receiving this prestigious award, the college will receive \$25,484 dollars.

While many things remain uncertain in this world, one does not. Science, mathematics and technology are keys to the future. It is so critical that colleges and universities throughout the United States place a strong emphasis on these fields so that our country can continue to evolve, succeed and remain competitive in this constantly developing world.

That is why I want to commend the College of Saint Benedict here, today. The emphasis put on science, mathematics and technology is evident by receipt of this award.

I thank the College of Saint Benedict for motivating students to look towards the future and do what is best for Minnesota, and the United States as a whole.

HONORING HABCO MANUFACTURING AND THE HABILITATION
CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of HABCO Manufacturing, the Habilitation Center for the Handicapped, and the upcoming celebration of National Manufacturing Day.

HABCO Manufacturing's unique business partners a non-profit organization with the business community. HABCO Manufacturing has been named South Florida's "Manufacturer of the Year" and has received numerous accreditations in aviation and aerospace. It is also an integral part of the Habilitation Center for the Handicapped, Inc. Founded in 1978, the Center provides vocational training to adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs. The Center's mission is to equip these men and women with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to lead useful and productive lives with dignity, respect, and independence.

For this National Manufacturing Day 2015, I recognize the achievements of the Habilitation Center and HABCO Manufacturing and its men and women with special needs. Their expertise in manufacturing, quality, education,

and training is truly extraordinary. I am proud to honor them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and express appreciation for the community engagement.

JESSE H. JONES PARK—A
CHAMPION OF LOCAL HISTORY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in this digital age it is becoming more challenging to ensure our children have a strong connection to history, community and the great outdoors. Well, the Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center right in the heart of Harris County provides the kids and families of my district exactly that.

For the past three decades the park has been a place where the local community can gather and form important bonds of citizenship. But the space also serves an educational purpose. Home to the Akokisa Indian Village and Redbud Hill Homestead, the park preserves elements of life in Native American and pioneer communities, including demonstrations of traditional customs and crafts.

It also provides an important green space, with a wide range of local flora and fauna including ancient bogs, white sand beaches and wildflower meadows, in addition to play equipment, hiking trails, and sports and recreation amenities, giving local residents an opportunity to escape the trappings of modernity, engage with their local heritage, and developing greater physical well-being.

In the month of October alone, the park will host boat tours on Spring Creek, a workshop for local science teachers, an astronomy class, a tree-planting session, Halloween events, and a settlers' soap-making demonstration.

The Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center brings out the best in one of America's best communities. The park has a dedicated team of staff and volunteers that exemplify the charitable and community-minded spirit Texas is famous for.

Harris County Commissioner Jack Cagle and his staff should be commended for their leadership in the community. The nature center will be long valued and maintained as a resource of cultural and environmental heritage.

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Anti-Defamation League and the tireless work of the ADL's Connecticut Regional Office. Now more than ever, the world needs the bravery of League members and allies to confront anti-Semitism and defend the civil rights and humanity of all people.

Tonight I will have the privilege of joining friends and neighbors from across Connecticut

at the Greater Hartford Torch of Liberty Award Reception. Created to recognize those who epitomize the Anti-Defamation League's values and commitment to community and public service, this year's Torch of Liberty Award honorees include our esteemed Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Nancy Wyman, Mr. John J. Patrick, Jr., and Ms. JoAnn H. Price.

The timing could not be more appropriate. Their examples of selfless service are welcome reminders of the need for this House to eschew the dysfunction of rigid ideologies and selfish partisanship. The occasion is also a timely reminder of the broader importance of the values which this year's award winners embody.

Founded in 1913, the Anti-Defamation League's stated mission was "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." From that admirable spirit its members have fashioned a legacy of confronting all forms of bigotry, educating our youth in order to guard against ignorance, and defending the ideals and civil rights that are necessary for people to live in a peaceful, just, and democratic society.

Recent and troubling world events now pose a unique and humbling challenge to this cause. We've witnessed a rise in anti-Semitic passions abroad, as in areas throughout Europe, but also sadly at home. Even this House has demonstrated in recent debates that honest and heart-felt differences of opinion can escalate into divisive arguments marked by coded language and insinuations that teach us to fear and dehumanize one another. We are better than that. If we engage one another respectfully, no disagreement need devolve into questioning our shared devotion to our allies. We can come to different decisions while still uniting in our support for Israel and against efforts to impugn the loyalty of fellow citizens with whom we may occasionally disagree.

I therefore urge this House to accept responsibility for leading by example. Let us reject the temptation to reinforce our divisions. Instead, let us bind ourselves together with appreciation for our differences and a commitment to defend the dignity and worth of every human being. I urge this House to undertake the work of protecting and expanding the civil, religious, and human rights that are the best evidence that America remains the home of the brave and land of the free.

TRIBUTE TO ED LITTLER, JR.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ed Littler, Jr. of Adair, Iowa. Ed has been awarded the very first Ed Littler Achievement Award from Adair-Casey Schools. The school has established the award to be presented to anyone who has contributed to the A-C Bomber family with large amounts of their personal time and hard work.

Ed has covered the local sports scene for the Adair News since 1948 and rarely missed a home or away football game until his retire-

ment this year. He was cited for his contributions to all Adair-Casey sports and to the community. Ed played football as a quarterback for the Adair High School Rockets and graduated from Adair High School in 1947.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Ed for receiving this award and for dedicating his time and efforts in supporting the Adair-Casey Schools. I am proud to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Ed on this outstanding achievement.

CPB'S AMERICAN GRADUATE INITIATIVE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our public media stations are a force for positive change in communities all across this country.

The best example of this is the American Graduate initiative.

This initiative, made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting which leverages public media to address America's high school dropout crisis;

And set an ambitious goal of seeing a 90 percent high school graduation rate by 2020.

This Saturday, October 3rd marks the fourth annual American Graduate Day, a live public media event broadcast on public media stations across the country.

And make no mistake—it is a crisis.

Each year, over one million students drop out of our high schools.

In turning the tide, the American Graduate initiative has been, and continues to be, a proven force for change.

Local stations extend the reach of this national broadcast content and have produced almost 1,000 hours of locally-focused programming.

Find a moment to tune in and see for yourself the incredible work happening in your community thanks to public media.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on September 30, 2015, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote for Roll Call votes 525 through 528. I would have voted in the following way:

Roll Call Number 525 on providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 79, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719; and providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015, nay;

On Roll Call Number 526 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2082 to amend

title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, yea;

On Roll Call Number 527 on agreeing to the resolution, H. Con. Res. 79, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, nay;

And on Roll Call Number 528 on concurring in the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment for H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015, yea.

HONORING MR. TERRANCE KELLY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Terrance Kelly for his extraordinary contributions to the music industry and to the faith community. Mr. Kelly is currently the Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, where he leads over 100 rehearsals and 50 performances annually.

Mr. Kelly graduated from the Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. He went on to study at Holy Names University with a focus on Vocal Performance. Mr. Kelly began his career working with Jazz Camp West as Choir Director and Voice Teacher.

During his time with Jazz Camp West, Mr. Kelly led the popular All Camp Gospel Choir, helping select the songs, instruct the band, and lead performances. His dedication to music also led Mr. Kelly to begin working with Imani Community Church, where he is currently Minister of Magnification. Mr. Kelly coordinates all musical presentations for the church, as well as leading many different choirs. He also facilitates the Imani Ya Watume liturgical dancers.

Additionally, Mr. Kelly serves as Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. He has composed and arranged music for the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, the Oakland Interfaith Youth Choir, and the Oakland Interfaith Community Choir. The incredible works of music he has worked on have inspired and moved audiences throughout the Bay Area, California, and the world.

In his long career in music and faith, Mr. Kelly received many honors. Most recently, Mr. Kelly taught workshops about gospel music at the International Gospel Music Academy of Denmark. His musical talent has been recognized by many influential people, such as Tramaine Hawkins, MC Hammer, John Lee Hooker, and Former President Jimmy Carter. He has received an Emmy Award for his choral arrangement of PSA for KGO-TV, as well as 2 Gospel Academy Awards for Outstanding Director of the Year and Excellence in Choral Music. The San Francisco Opera had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kelly in their rendition of Moby Dick in 2012.

Mr. Kelly has also mentored students of music, many of whom have gone on to attend schools such as the Berklee School of Music, Howard University, and Walt Disney's California Institute of the Arts. Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Kelly has impacted the lives of

musicians and fans alike, throughout the Bay Area and the world.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Terrance Kelly, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you success as you continue to serve the residents of the East Bay.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER
JACKSON "JACK" ANDERSON
STONE, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and civic leader of Georgia, Commissioner Jackson "Jack" Anderson Stone, Sr., longtime County Commissioner of District 6 in Dougherty County, Georgia. Sadly, Commissioner Stone passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2015. A funeral service was held on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 11:00 am at Sunnyside Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Jackson Stone was born in Meigs, Georgia in 1941 to the late Grady and Neda West Stone. He proudly served our nation in the United States Army, serving one tour in Okinawa, Japan. When Jack returned to the United States, he built a career in the auto sales business and became Co-Owner and General Manager at Albany Lincoln Mercury. He subsequently founded his own businesses: Quick Auto Sales, Creekside Auto Sales and Creekside RV and Mobile Home Park.

For Jack Stone, family and community took the utmost priority in his life. With this in mind, he sought to improve his community and serve his fellow citizens as District 6 County Commissioner in Dougherty County, Georgia. His leadership and work ethic were widely respected, resulting in his serving as County Commissioner for twenty-eight years. His long tenure makes it clear that Commissioner Stone was admired and loved by his constituents and countless others in Southwest Georgia.

In addition to his civic duties, Commissioner Stone also served as a member of the Albany Chamber of Commerce and several other public service organizations in Albany and Dougherty County.

In his spare time, Commissioner Stone and his family enjoyed RV camping. He also took great pleasure in managing his farm, tending his cows and riding around with his dog, B.J.

Commissioner Stone has achieved much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 52 years, Charlotte; his children, Jack, Blair, and Karen; his grandchildren, Ande, Lexie, Reverend Matthew, Taylor, Mark, Hannah, McKenzie, Shannon, and Josh; four great-grandchildren, Savanna, Lucas, Carson, and Brock; and a host of other family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the

Second Congressional District of Georgia, salute Commissioner Stone for his exceptional public service and everlasting commitment to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Commissioner Stone's family and friends during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE
AMVETS NATIONAL SERVICE
FOUNDATION'S ATTORNEYS IN
FACT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following code of ethics for AMVET's Attorneys-in-Fact. AMVET is one of America's leading veterans' service organizations with over 250,000 members with a proud history of assisting veterans.

An attorney in fact is a person who is authorized to perform business-related transactions on behalf of someone else (the client), but not necessarily authorized to practice law. In order to become someone's attorney in fact, a person must have the client sign a power of attorney document (VA Form 21-22).

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Rule 1: All AMVETS attorneys in fact will be honest when dealing with veterans and surviving family members. They will do the same when dealing with Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) employees and other officials.

Rule 2: AMVETS attorneys in fact will submit quality claim packages for issues that may be granted; not sheer quantity to swell report numbers.

Rule 3: The attorney-in-fact claimant relationship is confidential by law and VA regulation. It will be protected at all times. The mandate to protect privileged information continues forever and applies equally to any clerical staff assigned to the office.

Rule 4: The attorney-in-fact will pursue a course of continuing education. They must stay current with new laws, regulations, VA's policies and procedures as well as all AMVETS policies and procedures promulgated by the AMVETS national service director.

Rule 5: The attorney-in-fact will determine all issues that occurred in-service. This is done through discussions with the client and a review of their supporting documents and records.

Rule 6: The attorney-in-fact will not sign off on any rating decisions that do not fully address, or defer for additional development, all issues contained in the claim.

Rule 7: Hardship claims will be expedited and closely monitored by the AMVETS attorney-in-fact to ensure a rapid decision and release of compensation and other benefits needed by the client.

Rule 8: AMVETS' attorney-in-fact will participate in all VA staff/veteran service organization (VSO) meetings called by the VA if available. Additionally, they will request staff meet-

ings if problems arise due to VA's internal policy and procedures that need to be addressed.

Rule 9: AMVETS' attorney-in-fact will ensure VA examinations are complete, accurate and meet the current guidelines necessary for accurate rating decisions. Anything less than a complete examination may result in the client being denied benefits that are deserved under the current law.

Rule 10: It is not ethical for an attorney-in-fact to ask veterans to change their power of attorney (POA) from one VSO to another. Veterans represented by another organization should be referred to the organization that currently holds the power of attorney. However, if a veteran has a valid claim and insists on AMVETS' representation, then the POA may be accepted.

Rule 11: It is highly unprofessional to make any derogatory comments about another VSO.

Rule 12: AMVETS attorney-in-fact will establish rapport to educate and advise the client in the basics of VA law, policies procedures so they understand what documentation is required for their claim.

Rule 13: AMVETS will file an appeal only if the reason to appeal is based in fact (evidence contained in the client's record) or law (VA's failure to grant the benefit requested violates provisions contained in 38 Code of Federal Regulations). If a client wishes to file an appeal that the VA may never grant under the current law, then the AMVETS attorney-in-fact will not represent the claim since it has no merit.

Rule 14: Appeals should only be used as the last resort since they are a three to five year process. Other avenues such as a request for reconsideration based on overlooked evidence of record or new and material evidence should be used first.

Rule 15: An AMVETS attorney-in-fact will not tell a client that they may not file an appeal. However, they will explain to a client, based on current law, what they must do in order to win an appeal. If the client is unable to provide the necessary records then AMVETS will not represent that claim as an appeal.

Rule 16: Under no circumstances will an AMVETS attorney-in-fact solicit or accept any monetary gifts, goods or products in appreciation or compensation for their professional services.

Rule 17: AMVETS' attorney-in-fact will never present a membership application to a veteran during the initial claim process. Doing so is akin to extortion. However, if a client requests a membership application, then they will be provided with one after they explain that membership is not required for their services.

60-YEAR CLASS REUNION OF THE
1955 CLASS OF PAUL LAURENCE
DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the class of 1955 of Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School in the District of Columbia as it celebrates its 60-year

class reunion Saturday, October 3, 2015, its reunion committee and particularly Donald R. Wines for his phenomenal leadership with the Dunbar Alumni Federation, and Dunbar High School itself in history and today. I am fortunate to be an alumna of Dunbar High School and a member of this distinguished class.

Dunbar High School, which started in a church basement, was the first public high school for African Americans in the United States and remained segregated until 1954, when the District of Columbia was one of the six *Brown v. Board of Education* jurisdictions that successfully challenged segregated schools in the United States. Dunbar was instrumental in making the District of Columbia a bulwark of education for almost a century, attracting students from across the District, who were drawn by the school's excellent reputation. That same reputation was reinforced by Dunbar's remarkable record of graduating more distinguished African Americans than any high school in the country. Among them were Edward Brooke, the first Black popularly elected United States Senator; Robert C. Weaver, the first Black Cabinet member; Benjamin O. Davis Sr., the first Black general in the U.S. Army; Wesley Brown, the first Black graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy; Charles R. Drew, the discoverer of blood plasma; and Mary Jane Patterson, the first African American to achieve a college degree. Dunbar also drew teachers with advanced degrees who would have been college professors but for segregation in higher education that persisted at the time.

The 60-year Dunbar High School class reunion is another occasion for pride in Dunbar High School today and in the class of 1955. Dunbar has been recently rebuilt into a state-of-the-art facility and became a neighborhood school following the *Brown* decision. Its storied history continues to inspire generations of students.

The class of 1955 graduated the year following the historic *Brown* decision and has come together at important intervals to celebrate its class, the education received at Dunbar, and the school today. Keeping the class together did not take place spontaneously. This work has been a commendable team effort, but that team recognizes that the leadership of Donald R. Wines has been indispensable to its success. Donald has discouraged all acknowledgment of his extraordinary leadership on behalf of Dunbar and the class of 1955. However, the House of Representatives is free to commend and thank Donald for focusing his many talents, his organizational expertise, and the skills he honed as a Dunbar student to the class of 1955 Dunbar High School and the historic Dunbar tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60-year class reunion of the 1955 class of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and the Dunbar High School Reunion Committee and Dunbar High School itself. I ask the House to particularly commend the leadership of Donald R. Wines, whose indefatigable energy and wise guidance have been the essential ingredients to the consistency of efforts that have enabled the Dunbar class of 1955 to celebrate 60 years of continuing friendship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA AND JOHN W. MOSLEY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Edna and John W. Mosley, on the occasion of the grand opening of the school named in their honor in Aurora, Colorado.

Both Edna and John Mosley were trailblazers and public servants.

Lieutenant Colonel John Mosley graduated from Colorado State A&M College, where he participated in the Civilian Pilot Training Program during his senior year. In 1943, he completed the program, but was still denied the right to serve his country as a pilot due to his race. But John was not discouraged.

John and his family wrote letters to Congress and even the White House to petition for placement in the Tuskegee Airmen Pilot program, and due to his persistence and determination, he was finally accepted as a Tuskegee Airman. His accomplished military career spanned World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

After retiring from the Air Force, John served our country at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in Washington, D.C., where one of his most important responsibilities was overseeing the newly formed Head Start Program in 1970.

John received numerous awards, among them, the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2007 for his service as a Tuskegee Airman.

Edna Mosley was a lifetime member of the NAACP, and worked to establish the organization's chapter in Denver. She served 12 years on the Aurora city council, becoming the first African American elected to the council in 1991. On the council, she championed important and pressing issues—civil rights, gender equality, veteran's interests, affordable housing, and educational opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, Edna and John Mosley embody what truly makes our country and communities great—a selfless commitment to our neighbors, and fighting for the common good. I extend my best wishes for the academic success of the future graduates of the school, and their commitment to carrying forward the amazing legacy of Edna and John Mosley.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. McHUGH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Congressman RUPPERSBERGER, and the House Army Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable John M. McHugh, former Member of the House, colleague, and friend, on the eve of his departure as one of

the longest serving Secretaries of the Army in U.S. history.

After over 42 years of public service, Secretary McHugh leaves our Army and our Nation safer and more secure. His tireless advocacy and bold leadership for our Soldiers, Civilians, and their Family Members is legendary. From improvements in family and mental health programs to unprecedented strides to combat sexual assault and suicide, John has truly earned the reputation as "The Soldier's Secretary."

Having served as the House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member, Congressman McHugh's thoughtful, determined, and visionary leadership ensured the security of our Nation. As a Representative from New York's 24th and later the 23rd Districts, John ensured that cutting-edge facilities, upgrades, and programs directly supported our Warfighters. Fort Drum is but one example; it is truly the "House that McHugh Built." He ensured the 10th Mountain Division had all the tools required to be at the tip of the spear for our Nation's defense.

John made unprecedented strides as the Co-Chair of the Army Caucus for over 15 years and served as a critical member of the West Point Board of Visitors. He was a dynamic leader in this House, a trusted Representative of his constituents, and an amazing advocate for our Soldiers and our country's national security.

During his tenure as the second-longest serving Secretary in history, John was at the forefront of national and international strategy, military policy, and Soldier programs. His expert leadership, bold initiatives, and pragmatic management ensured that our Army remained the finest fighting force the world has ever known.

John presided over some of the toughest missions the Army has ever faced. He oversaw the largest retrograde in military history as our troops departed Iraq, held the Army together as it was hit by sequestration, and worked tirelessly to reorganize, revamp, and restructure our force. Secretary McHugh led these efforts with distinction as our Soldiers conducted simultaneous combat operations around the world.

Secretary McHugh's determination, devotion, and love of our Service Members also ensured that our most sacred and hallowed ground, Arlington National Cemetery, overcame years of neglect to become the epitome of a well-run and well-led resting place for our Nation's heroes. In fact, it is now the gold standard for cemetery administration because of his personal and unwavering commitment and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is safe and secure because of the drive, determination, and leadership of Secretary John M. McHugh. Today, we join with all Americans in our profound admiration and deep respect for this true Patriot. We thank Secretary McHugh for his dedication and sacrifice and wish him the fullest measure of peace and happiness as he enters the next phase of his life.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, October 2, 2015

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 2, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Cara Spaccarelli, Christ Church, Washington, D.C. offered the following prayer:

O God, Creator of all, lover of life, inspirer of hope even amidst tremendous pain and powerful obstacles, we know that You are as tired of hearing our cries in the face of another gun tragedy as we are tired of witnessing it.

As You comfort the community of Roseburg, Oregon, may we open ourselves to change, may we confess that what we are doing is not working, and that we can do better.

Inspire us out of complacency, out of inertia, out of fear that we might work toward becoming a nation that so honors life that it will do everything in its power to protect it.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 1, 2015 at 5:11 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1624.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore UPTON on Thursday, October 1, 2015:

H.R. 1020, to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation;

H.R. 2617, to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

OCTOBER 1, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146), I am pleased to recommend the following individual to the Commission on Care.

Ms. Charlene Taylor, Elk Grove, California.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015, TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, when the House adjourns today, it shall adjourn to meet on Monday next, and the order of the House of

January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate shall not apply on that day.

There was no objection.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, on Thursday, October 1, 2015:

H.R. 1020. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

H.R. 2617. An act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

On Friday, October 2, 2015:

H.R. 1624. An act to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 30, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 719. To require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3614. To amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on October 1, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1020. To define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

H.R. 2617. To amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2015.

There was no objection.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, October 5, 2015, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3016. A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Section 306D Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska (RIN: 0572-AC28) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3017. A letter from the Comptroller, Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semi-annual Defense Cooperation Account report, period ending March 31, 2015, and semiannual Coalition Contributions: Personal Property report period ending March 31, 2015, as required by 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3018. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report to Congress entitled "Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program" for fiscal years 2011-2013, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 300d-52; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3019. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Determination Under Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria to Support their Efforts Against Boko Haram; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3020. A letter from the Director, External Affairs, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Default Investment Fund Errors received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself and Mr. SARBANES):

H.R. 3681. A bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 3682. A bill to increase the competitiveness of American manufacturing by reducing regulatory and other burdens, encouraging greater innovation and investment, and developing a stronger workforce for the twenty-first century, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, House Administration, Rules, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, Science, Space, and Technology, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H. Res. 460. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Day of Non-Violence; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

140. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 12, stating that the Legislature supports the nomination of Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi for the Presidential Medal of Freedom; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitu-

tion to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 3681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 3682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 583: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1233: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1288: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1309: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1610: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1726: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1767: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 1786: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1986: Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 2126: Mr. FLEMING.

H.R. 2646: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 2663: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2849: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 3225: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3339: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 3520: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3535: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 3632: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3666: Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 12: Ms. BONAMICI.

H. Res. 354: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Res. 429: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 451: Mr. LANCE, Mr. YODER, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H. Res. 458: Ms. SINEMA, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SUBWAY FOUNDER
FRED DELUCA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to one of Connecticut's and this nation's most successful entrepreneurs and my dear friend, Fred DeLuca, who recently lost his battle with leukemia.

Born in Brooklyn in 1947 to Salvatore and Carmela Ombres DeLuca, Fred watched his father, a factory worker, work tirelessly to provide for his family. The family later moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut where Fred graduated from Central High School in 1965. Hoping to pursue a career in medicine, Fred enrolled at the University of Bridgeport. Though working at a local hardware store, his wages would not cover all of his college expenses. Fred knew he had to do something more and that's when he decided to open a sandwich shop and use his earnings to pay his college expenses.

So, with a loan from a family friend, he rented a small store for \$165 a month in downtown Bridgeport, built a takeout counter and opened his first sandwich shop on August 28, 1965. He called it Pete's Submarines in honor of his backer, but on their radio advertisements listeners misheard the name as Pizza Marines, so he changed it to Pete's Subway before settling on the simpler Subway in 1968. Though the first two shops were not a great success, the third, which opened in a better location, changed their fortunes forever.

As the growing operation gained traction, Fred received a degree in psychology but gave up plans for a medical career. The business was incorporated and in 1974, halfway to the goal of owning 32 stores in the company's first decade, the partners adopted franchises as the key to growth—and it worked. In 1978 Subway opened its 100th outlet and in 1987 its 1,000th. Since then, it has averaged 1,500 new restaurants a year, and in recent years it surpassed all competitors, establishing restaurants not only across America but throughout Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

Fred was a reflection of what we all define as the American Dream. What began as a small business to pay his way through college became one of our nation's most beloved fast food chains. Fred never forgot from where it was he started. Whether through scholarships to help young students realize their dreams, grants to local non-profit organizations, or sharing his experiences and inspiring a new generation of young entrepreneurs, Fred gave back to his community and fellow man in so many ways.

Fred DeLuca was many things—a brilliant entrepreneur, a savvy businessman, a generous philanthropist. I am grateful to have had

the opportunity to know and work with him and I consider myself fortunate to call him my friend. I extend my deepest sympathies to Fred's wife, Elisabeth and his son, Jonathan, as well as his many family and friends. He will be deeply missed and leaves a legacy that is certain to inspire many.

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF
NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Nigeria, I rise in joyful celebration of 55 years of Nigeria's Independence.

I continue to have a deep appreciation of the patriotism, resilience, and commitment of the Nigerian people under the leadership of their newly elected President Muhammadu Buhari.

As an emerging democracy, Nigeria is a country that has faced its set of challenges, conflicts, and contradictions analogous to the human condition itself.

From the civil war from 1967 to 1970 that almost ripped the country apart to the current state of violent extremists' terror wreaked on the Nigerian people.

Setbacks and challenges seek to keep this bulwark of a country down.

But Nigeria has always proven itself a capable leader in the region, notwithstanding its challenges.

For example: Nigeria was instrumental in facilitating the peace process in Liberia.

Nigeria played a seminal role in reenergizing and repositioning the African Union.

Nigeria facilitated the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), designed to promote democracy and good governance in Africa.

Nigeria was instrumental in empowering the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Co-prosperity Alliance Zone incorporating Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

Nigeria helped mediate conflict in the continent from Angola to Burundi to Namibia to Mozambique to South Africa and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, to name a few.

In 2014, in the wake of the Ebola virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Nigeria was instrumental in containing the spread of the virus—preventing a serious public health epidemic which could have had catastrophic implications in the over 180 million person country.

Indeed, in Nigeria and in the Diaspora, we have seen Nigerians contribute enormously to

the economy of the United States and across the globe.

The Nigerian economy is \$573 billion—the largest in Africa and ranked 21 in world according to 2014 GDP reports.

Nigeria is the ninth most populated country on the planet with arable land, water, forests, oil and gas, coastline, and solid minerals, just to name a few resources.

As the most populous nation in Africa, according to archeologists, human habitation in Nigeria dates back to 9000 BC.

Nigerians have innovated in various disciplines, from the arts to the sciences and everything in between.

Nigerians are very hardworking people who through their hard work have been instrumental in helping to champion innovations, like Sulaiman Bolarinde Famro who found Farming Mobile Multi-crop Processor to reduce both the time it takes to process tuber food such as cassava, sweet potatoes, soy, shea nuts, grains and cereals, and the amount of waste produced in processing—helping to promote food security while addressing environmental waste.

Then there is Okwui Enwezor, the first black and Nigerian curator of the 56th International Art Exhibition entitled All the World's Futures, at the Giardini della Biennale and at the Arsenale in Italy.

Resiliency flows through the veins and into the hearts of the Nigerian people.

That is why Nigeria has emerged from so many trials and tribulations stronger, more united, more focused, and committed to reestablishing the stability, peace, security, growth, and development of the country.

Indeed, October 1 is a day for joy and celebration for Nigerians.

In my view, Nigeria as the regional giant in Africa has the attributes of a great nation and with unity of purpose Nigeria's fullest potential will be achieved.

This is proven by the recent year's democratic development of free and fair elections—which is reflective of the Nigerian people's commitment to cohesion and unity of purpose.

Market women, college students, business men, teachers, doctors, and lawyers flocked to the polls to exercise their right to vote.

Notwithstanding the security issues that persisted, the citizens of Nigeria showed up to the polls because they understood what was at stake: the economic, social and political empowerment of the children, women and men of Nigeria.

With this, the country elected President Buhari who assumed power without incident—owing to his predecessor's graceful transfer of power.

Having inherited a country facing insecurity, I commend President Buhari's effort to double down on efforts to restore peace and security in Nigeria.

He hit the ground running visiting us here in the United States—an important ally of Nigeria.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

He met with President Obama and Members of Congress who have been doing important work in Nigeria—myself included.

He also visited neighbors of Nigeria with the eye towards marshalling a coalition of armed forces of the five nations in the Lake Chad Basin to confront, degrade and defeat Boko Haram.

President Buhari also reached out to and met with the G-7 leaders and other friendly presidents with the eye towards building an international coalition against Boko Haram.

President Buhari has moved swiftly to combat Boko Haram, commenced efforts to recover the Chibok girls and address the issue of the growing number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

To succeed at these objectives, Nigeria must have continued U.S. support in technical training, logistical and infrastructural capabilities and professionalizing its military force to battle Boko Haram.

And we can see substantial gains thus far, with the regional military task force and the Nigerian military closing in and killing members of Boko Haram and rescuing innocent Nigerians and other Africans who have been kidnapped and terrorized by Boko Haram.

I commend President Buhari's commitment to Nigerian security and his directive to local authorities to tighten vigilance in vulnerable places.

With oil being one of the greatest resources and cause of harm and corruption in the country, I commend President Buhari's directive to sanitize the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in order to obliterate inefficiency and corruption in that industry and in Nigeria.

I also commend President Buhari's directive of a complete audit of the country's revenue generating agencies such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Customs, and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

With all of President Buhari's initiatives to help get Nigeria's house in order, I implore the people of Nigeria to bear with the President even as he works to appoint his cabinet, implement the rule of law, facilitate security in the country, move the country's economy forward and empower the youth of Nigeria.

In the words of President Buhari, I encourage the people of Nigeria to "value order over speed" and precision over mediocrity, unity over division, inclusion over alienation and above all, I ask the Nigerian people to be their brother's and sister's keepers.

I urge the Nigerian people to support President Buhari in his careful strategic and deliberate decision making approach, which hopefully will have positive results on the future of Nigeria and the Nigerian people.

Mr. Speaker, looking ahead of the future of Nigeria, I encourage the Nigerian people to remain committed to visionary change, progress and empowerment of Nigeria at the backdrop of successful democratic elections, under the leadership of a President committed to transparency, peace, coalition building, addressing grievances, negotiations, clear communication, infrastructure building and political intellectual capital building.

Happy Independence Day Celebration to Nigeria and my congratulations to the people of Nigeria.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the upcoming Double Ten Day, the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) national day, and to extend my very best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

With population of over 23 million, Taiwan has demonstrated its commitment to democracy and is one of Asia's economic engines. Last year, Taiwan went from being our 12th-largest trading partner to our 10th, a position it continues to hold in 2015. Taiwan transformed itself into a vibrant and lively democracy, contributing not only to the global economy, but also to global culture, the exchange of ideas, and the meeting of global challenges, from fighting Ebola to helping to combat ISIS.

I believe a strong Taiwan is an important factor in the peace and security of the region, and I am proud of the role our country has played, through the Taiwan Relations Act, in making it possible for the people of Taiwan to build their strong, prosperous, and democratic society. Our relationship is as strong as ever, as I believe it will continue to be in the years and decades ahead.

Taiwan will remain one of our most important partners in the Asia-Pacific. As a friend of Taiwan, I wish its people a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Franklin County Head Start Program on the 50th Anniversary of the National Head Start Association.

Since it began as a summer program in 1965, the Head Start Program has grown and developed into an innovative early childhood experience offered to children in over 1,500 communities, including those in Franklin County. Thanks to the Franklin County Head Start, countless children and their families in our area have been empowered to reach their full potential.

As of 2013, more than 31 million preschool aged children have participated in Head Start. The continued success of the Head Start Program has been made possible by the dedicated staff and community members like those in Franklin County, who have put an inspiring amount of work into growing and improving its positive impact.

I am privileged to congratulate the National Head Start Association for achieving 50 years

of service and to highlight the Franklin County Head Start Program for its commitment to improving the greater Chambersburg area.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLYMOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra's contributions as a major cultural influence in Southeastern Massachusetts for over one hundred years.

Established in 1913 and pausing only for World War II, the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra is now playing its 100th season. This fully professional orchestra owes its humble beginnings to G. Herbert Clarke, a violin teacher from Kingston. Mr. Clarke served as both conductor and manager of the orchestra until his death in 1932. It was not until 1973 under the conductor and former Boston Symphony Orchestra violinist Victor Yampolsky that the orchestra was chartered as a non-profit corporation and began its transition from an amateur to a fully professional orchestra.

Affectionately known as the Phil, the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra has inspired America's Hometown and the greater Massachusetts community with its commitment to artistic excellence and music education. It is dedicated to serving the wider community and expanding its repertoire to range from classical to popular music and family-oriented concerts.

To celebrate this historic event, Christopher Theofanidis, a world-class American symphonic composer, wrote a piece specifically for this occasion. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra on its 100th anniversary. May this historic Massachusetts orchestra continue to flourish for another hundred years.

CONCERN FOR CRITICAL NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAMS UNDER A CONTINUING RESOLUTION

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that funding for critical national security space programs will be disrupted under a continuing resolution.

Disrupting funding for essential warfighting capabilities for space protection, assured access to space, satellite communications and missile warning will weaken our national security and risk significant delays in development of these important missions.

General John Hyten, commander of U.S. Air Force Space Command, recently stated that a continuing resolution would delay several new classified and unclassified programs aimed at U.S. space protection.

He also expressed concern that failure to pass a budget would delay the development of a new rocket propulsion system prototype intended to end our dependence on the Russian-made RD-180 rocket engine.

Additionally, due to the uncertainty created by the absence of a full-year appropriations bill for the Department of Defense, the Air Force is purportedly prepared to issue stop work orders on two essential satellite communications and missile warning programs under the Space Modernization Initiative (SMI).

The overall SMI strategy is to invest in creating trade space for future decisions through investments to sustain or improve existing capabilities by exploring technology alternatives and architectures. These efforts ensure affordability, capability and resiliency of our space systems.

For example, the Wide Field of View (WFOV) testbed initiative supports affordability and risk reduction efforts for the nation's critical overhead missile warning capability.

Cuts or delays to funding would risk the ability for the WFOV initiative to support current data exploitation efforts and could delay a commercial launch opportunity. A stop work order under a CR places the WFOV effort and other SMI efforts at significant risk despite full support from the Senate Appropriations Committee for the program.

Unfortunately, our inability to pass a budget has created uncertainty that endangers our national security space programs.

I urge the Department of Defense and the Air Force to leverage the funding levels authorized by law under a continuing resolution to sustain development of these critical national security space systems.

HONORING THE GESELL INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the New Haven community in extending my heartfelt congratulations to the Gesell Institute of Child Development as they celebrate their 65th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this wonderful organization!

Dr. Arnold Gesell, a professor at Yale University at the turn of the 20th Century, was a pioneer in the study of early childhood development. Founder of what today is the nationally renowned Yale Child Study Center, he dedicated his life to studying the verbal, motor, social, emotional and cognitive growth of children. Perhaps best known for his use of the cinematographic technologies that were revolutionary for his time to document the developmental stages of 10,000 children, Dr. Gesell's legacy is the extensive archive he created throughout his life-long research that would later enable parents and teachers to better understand children's ages and stages of development.

Dr. Gesell was both a researcher and an educator, training physicians, nurses, and re-

search scholars alike. In 1950 two of his former students and colleagues, Drs. Frances Ilg and Louise Bates Ames, along with Janet Learned, purchased two properties on Prospect Street in New Haven and opened a research institute and nursery school aimed at exploring child development through adolescence. Named in honor of their mentor and respected colleague, the Gesell Institute for Child Development was officially incorporated in March of 1950. In fact, Dr. Gesell served as a research consultant at the Institute until his death in 1961.

Over the course of its sixty-five year history, the Gesell Institute has made several invaluable contributions to the field of child development. The Nursery School served as both a training ground for early childhood educators and pediatricians, as well as a basis for some of the earliest research and investigation into school readiness. Perhaps the most enduring of its contributions to the field is the development of Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO)—a comprehensive multidimensional assessment system that assists educators, and other professionals in understanding characteristics of child behavior in relation to typical growth patterns. One of Dr. Ilg's most important legacies was the formation of the National Lecture Staff, a nation-wide network of educators that, today, work together to provide a comprehensive program for staff professional development, in-service trainings, and workshops across the country on how to administer the newly updated Gesell Developmental Observation-Revised.

Sixty-five years later, the Gesell Institute continues to be one of the most respected institutions for child development in the nation. Serving as a resource for educators, parents and others as well as an advocate for our young people, it is an extraordinary organization whose work has touched countless lives and helped to shape how we look at childhood development. I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to everyone at the Gesell Institute as they mark this very special occasion.

CONGRATULATING LAURETTE KITTLER ON HER INDUCTION INTO ST. BENEDICT PREPARATORY SCHOOL ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Laurette Kittler, retired Drama Teacher, St. Benedict Preparatory School, on her induction into their Alumni Hall of Fame.

From the 1950s to the mid 1990s, Mrs. Laurette Kittler not only taught several generations of St. Benedict High School students, but inspired them to be better people. In teaching drama, Mrs. Kittler was able to marry her love of theater with her love of teaching, and because of this she was able to bring a strong dedication to the classroom. Mrs. Kittler was always willing to put in the extra effort, staying

after hours to help her students flourish. Mrs. Kittler played a big part in her students' lives, instilling them with a dynamism and confidence that would help them succeed in their future undertakings.

Respected by her peers and students alike her classrooms were always full of passion and admiration. The hallmark of a great teacher is the lasting influence they leave on their students, and Mrs. Kittler's legacy is one of distinction. Mrs. Kittler was described by her former students as, a "Guiding light", "a strong positive force", and "the best [teacher] I ever had".

The importance of great teachers cannot be over stated, and so for her decades of service Mrs. Kittler will be inducted in to the St. Benedict's Alumni Hall of Fame on October 24th. She will also have a scholarship set up in her honor that will be given out to a St. Benedict high school drama student.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Laurette Kittler for her invaluable and exemplary leadership to the many students she has taught. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Kittler on an accomplished career and a well-deserved honor.

IN TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE SHIRLEY ABRAHAMSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justice Shirley Abrahamson, former Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. After nearly four decades of service on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Abrahamson will be receiving the National Association of Women Judges' Joan Dempsey Klein Award next week. This prestigious award honors members of the association who have "assisted women judges to become more proficient in their profession, helped to solve the legal, social and ethical problems associated with the judiciary, and worked to increase the number of women serving as judges."

A trailblazer for Wisconsin women, Justice Abrahamson was first appointed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by Governor Patrick Lucey in 1976. She served as the only woman on the Court until 1993, and in 1996 she became the first female Chief Justice in Wisconsin history. In her time on the Court, Justice Abrahamson has been a true powerhouse, serving longer than any other justice in Wisconsin history and authoring over 450 majority opinions. Those who know her best describe her not only as tough as nails, but also as a deeply kind and compassionate person.

In her long and distinguished career, Justice Abrahamson has received countless honors. She serves as an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was elected by her peers as both President of the Conference of Chief Justices and Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center of State Courts, a testament to her judicial acumen. Justice Abrahamson is a past president of the National Conference of Chief Justices and past chair of the board of directors of the

National Center for State Courts. She also has served as chair of the National Institute of Justice's National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence. She is a member of the Council of the American Law Institute and the New York University School of Law Institute of Judicial Administration.

The daughter of immigrants, Justice Abrahamson was born Shirley Schlanger in New York City. She grew up across the street from her family's grocery store, dreaming from the age of five of becoming a lawyer. After receiving her bachelor's degree from New York University, she achieved this dream when she earned her J.D. with high distinction from Indiana University Law School in 1956, one of just two women in her class. She then moved to Madison, Wisconsin where she practiced law for 14 years and taught law at both the University of Wisconsin Madison and my alma mater, Marquette University. Over the course of her career, she has received 15 honorary Doctor of Law degrees as well as the Distinguished Alumni Award from UW-Madison. Justice Abrahamson has been married to her husband Seymour for over fifty years, and they have one son, Daniel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Justice Shirley Abrahamson and congratulate her for being this year's recipient of the Joan Dempsey Klein Award. The citizens of the state of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her intellect and commitment to public service working on their behalf for so many years. Justice Abrahamson, I thank you for all that you have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for a vote on September 10, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted: On Roll Call No. 491, I would have voted AYE.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD H. DUNWOODY

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Brigadier General Harold H. Dunwoody, who passed away last month at the age of 96.

General Dunwoody was a longtime resident of Randolph, New York. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1943 and served in the U.S. Army for 31 years. During his distinguished career, he fought in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In recognition of his exemplary service to our country, General Dunwoody was awarded numerous medals and commendations, including the Purple Heart, Silver Star, and Distinguished Service Cross.

General Dunwoody hails from a family that has proudly served our country for generations. From the Revolutionary War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Dunwoody family has fought to preserve our freedom in virtually every armed conflict in our nation's history. This commitment to service was carried on by Mr. Dunwoody's children: his daughter Ann Dunwoody became the first woman to achieve the rank of four-star general in the United States military; his daughter Susan Schoeck became a helicopter pilot in the Army; his son Harold Dunwoody, Jr. graduated from West Point and achieved the rank of first lieutenant in the Army.

General Dunwoody dedicated his life to serving our country. He leaves behind a proud legacy of military service, which will have a positive impact for generations to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering the life of this great American.

HONORING ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the New Haven community in extending my heartfelt congratulations to President Julia McNamara and the entire Albertus Magnus family as they mark the 90th Anniversary of Albertus Magnus College. What a remarkable milestone for this outstanding institution of learning!

In 1924, the Dominican Sisters of Saint Mary of the Springs, who are now known as the Dominican Sisters of Peace, purchased an estate in New Haven, Connecticut, in an effort to found a women's college. A charter was signed on July 13, 1925 and the first classes were held on September 24th of that year. Named for St. Albert the Great—Albertus Magnus—the 13th century bishop, theologian and scholar described by a contemporary as a man "so superior in every science that he can fittingly be called the wonder and miracle of our time," it was the first Catholic, liberal arts, residential college for women in New England and remained such for its first 60 years.

Julia McNamara, the current President of Albertus, having served in that role since 1982, has guided the College through a myriad of transitions which have expanded the institution in countless ways. Albertus became coeducational in 1985 and today boasts an enrollment of 1,550 students. Albertus offers its students a wide-range of programs and services. They currently have 550 students enrolled in the traditional undergraduate program; 720 in accelerated undergraduate programs for working adults; and 280 in graduate degree programs, including the only Master of Arts in Art Therapy degree in the state of Connecticut. At this past spring's commencement ceremony Albertus Magnus College conferred 537 degrees.

Ahead of its time, in the 1970's Albertus Magnus recognized the need for continuing

education for working adults. They created a program called "Begin Again" for women who had started college but never completed a degree. In 1985 "Begin Again" became the inspiration for a broader, accelerated evening program serving working adults; evening programs expanded again in 1994 with the addition of business-focused offerings. In 1992 Albertus offered its first graduate degree program: the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies; today there are 10 graduate programs, ranging from accounting to human services and criminal justice, from leadership to writing and education. The College has awarded 2,848 master's degrees. Albertus is also dedicated to assisting our community's veterans in their pursuit of higher education. A participant in the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Yellow Ribbon Program, Albertus works closely with veterans to help them succeed in accelerated programs. There are Veterans Centers on the New Haven and East Hartford campuses and the Albertus Student Veterans Association is an approved chapter of Student Veterans of America.

Among its 14,255 alumni, Albertus Magnus can claim the first woman named to the Federal bench in Connecticut; the first woman appointed to the trial court in Connecticut; an eight-term member of the United States House of Representatives, a Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and a United States Ambassador to Ireland; the first woman vice president at Merrill Lynch; and a pioneering pediatric cardiologist whose research has saved countless young lives. On a personal note, I have fond memories of the year I spent teaching International Politics at Albertus—it was a learning experience for me as well as the students!

Over the course of the last 90 years, Albertus Magnus College has helped thousands of students realize their dreams through higher education. By providing both traditional and non-traditional programs and services, Albertus has opened the doors of opportunity to their students and enabled them to pursue their career goals. I am honored to have this opportunity to stand to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Albertus Magnus College, President Julia McNamara, students, alumnae, faculty and staff as they mark this very special occasion. Happy 90th Anniversary and best wishes for many more years of success!

IN HONOR OF LONE STAR COLLEGE MONTGOMERY'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand to recognize Lone Star College-Montgomery for 20 years of turning today's students into tomorrow's leaders. From opening day in 1995, this Montgomery County college has been changing lives and enriching our community on its beautiful 210 acre campus amid the tall Texas pines.

LSC-Montgomery has come a long way from 1991 when Conroe Independent School District voters approved joining the Lone Star

College System. Enrollment for the inaugural fall 1995 semester was approximately 3,200 students. Today, the college is educating four times that number and growing.

The rich history of this college starts before it even opened the doors of opportunity to students throughout Montgomery County. It began with the vision of community leaders like George Mitchell, Dan Hauser, Jon Weisner, Mary Matteson and a host of others who stood as champions, working to gain community support and ultimately the passage of the bond referendum to build the college.

As the Chamber of the Commerce President I had the privilege of working with local leaders to establish the Community College in Montgomery County and as a State Legislator secured \$6 million to fund the startup of the campus.

The commitment of higher education leaders such as former North Harris Community College Chancellor John Pickelman and Montgomery College founding President Dr. Bill Law saw the college through its construction at its current location—a crossroads of east and west, of north and south.

Montgomery College presidents would continue to build upon the early legacy of the school. Dr. Tom Butler oversaw the addition of a new 72,000 square foot library and classroom building. New programs were added along with expansion of the school's nursing program including a registered nurse program.

In 2008, Montgomery College became Lone Star College-Montgomery. The name had changed but the dedication to students continues.

Dr. Austin Lane's leadership saw the campus through continued rapid growth and its most significant expansion including three new campus buildings and construction of the Conroe Center.

Today, under Dr. Rebecca Riley's leadership, the college offers over 13,000 students the opportunity to pursue 40 different career programs as well as academic transfer classes in a variety of disciplines. On the Lone Star College-Montgomery campus, students can pursue bachelors, masters and specialized degrees that give them a start on a bright future.

The past has been exciting, but the future is even more so.

The construction of a new Student Services building and a state-of-the-art lab building, expansion of the workforce programs space at LSC-Conroe Center, and a new satellite center in the rapid-growth area of Magnolia point toward a bright future for LSC-Montgomery.

And I look forward to LSC-Montgomery adding to its multiple honors including being named a "Showcase College" by the Consortium for Community College Development, a "Best Practice" college by the MetLife Foundation, a "Hometown Hero" by The Woodlands Development Company and the prestigious "Drum Major Award" sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration. And finally, being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

These achievements and more will be celebrated Saturday, October 3, 2015 as a new campus space is dedicated in Maverick Square.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, October 5, 2015

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 5, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

While Members come to the end of a long weekend of constituent visits, bless them and those with whom they consult among those they represent with wisdom, patience, and generosity as they seek law and policy that benefits not only local interests, but where possible, the greater common good of our country.

We again ask You to impel those who possess power here in the Capitol to be mindful of those whom they represent who possess little or no power.

Finally, bless those men and women who work faithfully here at the Capitol, from staffers to maintenance to security, all who serve to enable the engines of legislation to proceed without distraction of day-to-day concerns.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Pub. L. 111-68, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina.

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

July 6, 2015:

H.R. 533. An Act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 615. An Act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 893. An Act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

July 20, 2015:

H.R. 91. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

H.R. 728. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7050 Highway BB in Cedar Hill, Missouri, as the "Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 891. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, Texas, as the "Floresville Veterans Post Office Building".

H.R. 1326. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office".

H.R. 1350. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 East 167th Street in Bronx, New York, as the "Herman Badillo Post Office Building".

H.R. 2620. An Act to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act.

July 28, 2015:

H.R. 2499. An Act to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for vet-

eran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

July 31, 2015:

H.R. 3236. An Act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, and for other purposes.

August 6, 2015:

H.R. 876. An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals.

H.R. 1626. An Act to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

August 7, 2015:

H.R. 212. An Act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of algal toxins in drinking water, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1138. An Act to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1531. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2131. An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 83 Meeting Street in Charleston, South Carolina, as the "J. Waties Waring Judicial Center".

H.R. 2559. An Act to designate the "PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway" in the State of Texas.

September 24, 2015:

H.R. 720. An Act to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

September 30, 2015:

H.R. 23. An Act to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 719. An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2051. An Act to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3614. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

July 20, 2015:

S. 179. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building”.

July 30, 2015:

S. 971. An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

S. 984. An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

August 6, 2015:

S. 1482. An Act to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

September 24, 2015:

S. 1359. An Act to allow manufacturers to meet warranty and labeling requirements for consumer products by displaying the terms of warranties on Internet websites, and for other purposes.

September 30, 2015:

S. 230. An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

S. 501. An Act to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 2082. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3021. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule and Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement 15-1 — Promulgation of NCUA Rules and Regulations (RIN: 3133-AE45) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3022. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the use of Secs. 506(A)(1) and 552 (C)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide commodities and services for immediate assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3023. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit [Docket No.: 120109034-2171-01] (RIN: 0648-XE120) received October 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3024. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE140) received October 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3025. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit [Docket No.: 120109034-2171-01] (RIN: 0648-XE094) received October 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3026. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3133-AE56) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3027. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought [Notice 2015-69] received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3028. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Reliance Standards for Making Good Faith Determinations [TD 9740] (RIN: 1545-BL23) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BOEHNER (for himself, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 10. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAUNO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. TURNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 3683. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

141. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17, urging the President and Congress of the United States to enact Senate Bill 664 of the 114th United States Congress, known as the Foster Care Tax Credit Act, which would provide tax relief to short term foster parents by helping to cover the actual costs of caring for a foster child; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H.R. 10.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and Clause 17 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 3683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 213: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 267: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 592: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. HURD of Texas.
H.R. 721: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 885: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 985: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1550: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 1603: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 1717: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2121: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 2173: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2434: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 2494: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2519: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2646: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2660: Mr. BEYER and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2663: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 2769: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2847: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 2849: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2994: Mr. DEFazio and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3119: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3221: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 3573: Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 3587: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 3611: Mr. PITTS and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3628: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3641: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3658: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H. Res. 354: Mr. ZELDIN.

H. Res. 428: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. GRAYSON.

SENATE—Monday, October 5, 2015

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Ruler of all creation, each day seems to bring more bad news than good. We hear about floods, bombs, murders, disunity, pestilence, and anguish. In spite of bad news, we continue to look to You, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

Lord, today we pray for the many around our Nation and world who are suffering from the effects of poverty, experiencing incessant hunger. We pray also for those who don't have access to quality education and for the tens of thousands fleeing deplorable and dangerous conditions in their countries.

Sovereign God, intervene and help the hurting in our Nation and world by providing our lawmakers with the wisdom and courage to be instruments of Your glory.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we live in an incredibly dangerous world. The number of threats facing our Nation is simply staggering. That is one reason both parties actually came together to pass the national defense authorization bill through both Chambers by very large bipartisan margins. In the Senate, it was 71 to 25; in the House, 269 to 151. A bipartisan committee then worked to merge both Chambers' bills into one.

Republicans on the committee supported that unified Defense bill. Democrats on the committee also supported that unified Defense bill. The House already passed the unified legislation, and we will vote on it here tomorrow.

Americans have every reason to expect that Democrats will vote again to support—not block—America's national defense authorization bill. And yet, at a time when the United States faces numerous conventional, cyber, and terror threats, the Obama administration is goading Democrats into opposing the very legislation that sets out defense policy and authorizes funds for our military.

Democrats just voted to pass America's national defense bill this summer. Now they might filibuster it? This is part of a pattern that should be worrying to all of us. Just consider what we have seen already. The Senate passed a bipartisan veterans funding bill out of the Committee on Appropriations. Democrats voted for and praised the bill at that time; then they filibustered it. The Senate passed a bipartisan defense funding bill out of the Committee on Appropriations. Democrats voted for and praised the bill at that time; then they filibustered it twice.

This really hasn't stopped, Madam President. These are serious times. It is time for Democrats to prove they can be serious as well.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JANICE SHELTON

Mr. REID. Madam President, at about a quarter to eleven this morning, one of my friends passed away. Her name was Janice Shelton. She was a fixture in the Senate. She worked in the Senate for more than three decades, but the reason I feel so bad this afternoon is that Janice worked for me. Janice Shelton worked for me for 25 years. She was such a good person. She ran my office, and that is an understatement.

Janice was born in Virginia, in Warrenton. She graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in Alexandria and attended Northern Virginia Community College. She was married to Robert Shelton for 61 years. They have two daughters, Robin LeCroy and Laurie Nelson. They have eight grandchildren in total, two of whom I know well. Shelton Nelson worked for me. Well, I shouldn't say he worked for me. I got to know him very well. I read the papers every Sunday to find out how his football team had done. He was a huge offensive lineman. He weighed more than 300 pounds, all solid muscle. His

brother Chris, who is 6 foot 4, was a stunningly good baseball pitcher, also at the college level. Rebecca and Holly worked in the Senate as Senate pages. And they have four great-grandchildren.

Janice started her career working with the Department of the Army. She worked in the Carter White House in the Office of Domestic Policy. She worked in the Reagan White House. She then moved to the Senate in 1981, working as an executive assistant. She worked for Paula Hawkins of Florida for 6 years and worked for Senator MIKULSKI for 1 year and then worked for me for 25 years. She left maybe less than 3 years ago and moved to North Carolina to be near her two daughters, one of whom now lives in Atlanta.

Janice spent her professional career creating order where chaos could easily have been. In my office everyone knew Janice Shelton. She ran that place so well and was so polite, yet so firm, in what she would allow to happen and not happen. There was no bad language. She had a little cup, and if people used bad language, they had to put money in it. She was so gracious and so kind, and she had unbelievable energy. It didn't matter what the job was, big or small, Janice could handle that job. She was a stenographer, but she was a person who could handle the most difficult administrative situation, and she was a woman of tremendous faith.

Janice had a love affair with her husband Bobby for a long time. I remember Bobby, with that southern accent of his. When Bobby was still in business around here, he would bother his morning breakfast crowd by wearing T-shirts of mine. He ran with a kind of conservative crowd, and my T-shirt didn't fit in very well all the time. But she and Bobby were so loyal to me.

Janice was good to my family. She knew every one of my children and knew my grandchildren. She suffered with the bad times that we had. I remember I was heavily involved in the final stages of the Obama health care bill when she walked into my office and said: I have to talk to you. She told me my wife had been in a very bad automobile accident. She, of course, was available anytime she was needed to help Landra or me with things—those personal things you can't have just anyone help you with; it had to be somebody like Janice.

Janice's desk was right outside my office door. She was a fixture there. She was there all the time that I was. Whatever my hours were in the Senate, those were her hours. And I mean that without anything other than the truth.

If I was there until 10 o'clock, she was there until 10 o'clock. Often, after I would go home at night, I would call back and say: Janice, why are you still there? And she would say: Well, I still have a few things to do.

I have missed Janice now for almost 3 years. I talked to her as often as I could. I am going to truly miss her now. She will leave a tremendous void in my heart. I am going to call my kids later today—I haven't done it yet because I haven't had time for anything—and tell them about Janice's passing.

I wish words could convey to everyone within the sound of my voice what a wonderful human being Janice Shelton was. I will miss her. The impact she has made in my life and my wife's life will be there forever.

Two of my staff came into my office separately and broke down in tears about Janice no longer being with us. She created such loyalty, such admiration for her hard work and professionalism. I love Janice Shelton and all ways will.

MASS SHOOTING AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Mr. REID. Madam President, just a few days ago—last Thursday—our great Nation witnessed another tragedy. While preparing these remarks, we were trying to come up with what we should say, and “tragedy” doesn't quite convey how horrible that mass killing was in Oregon.

Once again, a young man was able to obtain an arsenal of guns and end the lives of innocent people. Nine men and women woke up Thursday morning, all to attend a community college, but they were assaulted and killed in a demented, sadistic killing ritual. Lucero Alcaraz, age 19; Treven Taylor Anspach, age 20; Rebecca Ann Carnes, age 18; Quinn Glen Cooper, age 18; Kim Saltmarsh Dietz, 59 years old; Lucas Eibel, 18 years old; Jason Dale Johnson, 34; Lawrence Levine, 67; Sarena Dawn Moore, 44—all victims of a deranged gunman's murderous attack.

Madam President, our hearts are broken for the families and loved ones of the victims and for this whole community of Roseburg, but a broken heart isn't enough, is it. This senseless act of gun violence is not an isolated tragedy. Communities all around our Nation are shattered daily by these cruel and undeserved acts of gun violence.

The reality of gun violence in the United States is not only shocking; it is pathetic. Every day, gun violence claims the lives of 30 Americans. Tomorrow at this time, 4:15–24 hours from now—about 30 more Americans will be killed by guns. And 11,000 Americans are murdered with guns each year. This year alone, we have had 200 mass shootings—200. Anywhere else in the world these alarming facts would

prompt action. Sadly, here in the United States we have become so desensitized to the lives taken every day by guns that our response is to do nothing—to do nothing.

Each time gun violence claims a life in America, the Nation follows the same routine. Here is what it is. The same thing happens. We have shock and sorrow. Then we start asking questions. Who did that? Who was the killer? We usually have to wait a few hours to find out who it was. Why did they do this? Why did they carry out this horrible act? Then we wonder aloud, when the time allows it: What could we as a nation have done to prevent this terrible thing from happening? But we don't do anything. We don't act.

It is within our power to reduce gun violence in this Nation and prevent mass shootings—not all of them but some of them, a few of them. We know these tragic events almost always occur in instances where somebody is unstable or they are terribly violent, and they are able to get a gun easily and use it to carry out these terrible attacks. We know this, yet we fail to pass improved Federal laws placing distance between mentally ill, violent people and guns. Instead of taking action, lawmakers all around this country pander to the extreme rightwing gun lobby and leave Americans vulnerable to these attacks. This year alone there have been more than 200 mass shootings—this year. The United States is the global leader in mass shootings—this great Nation. Can't we raise standards in this country for gun purchases? The answer of course is yes. We can do it while not infringing on the rights to restrict access to firearms but to keep Americans safe. Let's not mince words about who would stop us from passing background checks: Republicans who wage a rightwing ideological crusade fashioned by the National Rifle Association and Gun Owners of America. These two organizations are in a scramble of who can raise the most money. That is what it is all about. If one of them does something, the other will do better than that. Each request comes with “Can you send some money?” This rightwing ideological crusade, fashioned by the NRA and Gun Owners of America, is to prevent background checks to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, criminals, and the mentally ill.

The National Rifle Association is a far cry from the sportsmen's organization it once was. The NRA once called mandatory background checks “reasonable.” That is what they said. Now it uses its energies and its members' dues to fight against even the most sensible reforms. In opposition to this deadly agenda, Democrats have long sought to strengthen background checks. But instead of joining Democrats in finding ways to protect American lives, Republicans have pledged

their loyalty to what was once a moderate sportsmen's organization.

Times have changed. Now the NRA and its leadership are committed to a radical agenda that allows criminals and mentally ill Americans to access guns and commit these terrible acts. Is this what the American people elected us to do? I think not. Is this the protection they want or deserve? I think not. Americans are smarter than that. They deserve better than that.

The majority of people who belong to the NRA believe there should be background checks to stop people who are mentally unstable and are criminals from buying guns, and 90 percent of gun owners believe there should be background checks, including 86 percent of Republicans. But even in the face of overwhelming public support, Republicans still refuse to join Democrats in taking steps to implement background checks that could save the lives of countless Americans.

We have witnessed the consequence of inaction too often. Why do I say that? This is over a period of many, many years—now decades: Fort Hood, 13 Americans killed; Tucson, 6 Americans killed; Carson City, 4 Americans killed; Newtown, 27 Americans killed, including 22 babies, little tiny children; Aurora, 12 Americans killed; the Navy Yard, here in DC, 12 Americans killed; Charleston, 9 Americans killed while worshipping; Moneta, VA, 2 journalists shot to death on live television; and now there is the massacre at Umpqua Community College, 9 dead.

These tragic events have shattered the lives of too many families. The shooter was armed with 6 firearms and loads of ammunition, and when they came to his home they found at least 14 guns—and another gun. I thought it was only 14, but, no, they found another one. So add them up—15 plus 6, or 21 guns—21 guns.

We do not yet know why this young man murdered these innocent people in cold blood. But what does it say about our country that it is willing to stand by, idle, while these tragedies happen, happen, happen?

Smarter gun laws in this country are long overdue. The lives of these men, women, babies, and children are at stake. How many more innocent lives must be taken before we are willing to act? How many more communities and families' lives will be shattered? How many more sacred places of worship will be violently attacked? How many more colleges or schools will be terrorized and forever traumatized by gun violence? How many more Americans will we mourn? How many more solemn statements, speeches of condemnation, and frank discussions must take place? What will it take before we stand up as a nation and say: Enough, not another innocent American will fall victim to this ideological crusade of having more guns and more guns and more guns.

If we don't take action, we are equally responsible for innocent deaths as are the sick individuals who plot and carry out these horrific massacres. I have started reaching out to Senators and talking about what can be done to advance the cause of background checks while Republicans are in charge for the next year or so. But one thing is clear. To pass background checks, we need Republicans to stop acting as puppets for the NRA.

Madam President, would the Presiding Officer announce what the schedule is for the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, our Founders designed a constitutional government powerful enough to defend against all threats, foreign and domestic, yet safe enough itself not to threaten our liberty. The separation of powers is a primary feature of our Constitution. Our Founders knew that encroachment by the executive onto the legislature, or vice versa, isn't only a political dispute but ultimately a threat to the freedom of all Americans. Thus they provided both branches with checks and balances to prevent such encroachment.

Late last week, we learned shocking news. Armed agents of the executive violated the law to intimidate a Congressman from doing his job. This is exactly the kind of encroachment against which our Founders warned. The executive hasn't yet acted with anything like the gravity this matter deserves. Until it does, I intend to use the powers of my office to demand action and to protect our constitutional order.

Let me say more about the shocking news. In an inspector general report issued last week, we learned that dozens of Secret Service employees ille-

gally accessed the personnel file of Representative JASON CHAFFETZ. More than a decade ago, Congressman CHAFFETZ applied to the Secret Service; he was not hired. Now he is the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

In late March of this year, the committee held an important oversight hearing into a serious misconduct by Secret Service agents. Mere minutes into the hearing, an agent at the Secret Service's Washington office illegally searched the Service's database, which contains all manner of criminal, security, investigative, personnel, and other data. The agent discovered Congressman CHAFFETZ's old job application. This search was a blatant violation of the Privacy Act, about which the computer-based system explicitly warns on a prompt screen. The agent admitted conducting the search simply out of curiosity, presumably because Congressman CHAFFETZ was conducting an oversight hearing.

Far from an isolated incident, word quickly spread throughout the Secret Service, and 45 employees accessed Congressman CHAFFETZ's records over the next week on 60 different occasions. These employees were located around the world, from London to Sacramento, in multiple headquarter offices, even on Bill Clinton's protective detail. The inspector general could identify only four instances of potentially legitimate access. Moreover, the inspector general concludes that the information was shared with hundreds of people—each a violation of the Privacy Act.

Some employees realized their mistake and self-reported to their supervisor, according to the inspector general. While these employees indeed made a serious mistake, at least they owned up to it. Others remained defiant, saying they didn't read the warning banner or even claiming a right to satisfy personal curiosity because the personnel files are "our database."

Let me state for the record my admiration for the vast majority of Secret Service agents, officers, and other professionals. We saw their professionalism on display again last month during Pope Francis's visit and at the U.N. General Assembly. They are dedicated professionals who risk their lives to defend our Constitution and laws. Indeed, Secret Service whistleblowers aware of this situation helped to initiate the inspector general investigation. Like the soldiers with whom I served in the Army, the upstanding men and women of the Secret Service want to get rid of their bad apples more than anyone.

Unfortunately, the senior leaders at the Secret Service once again failed their people. The inspector general identified 18 supervisors who knew or should have known of the illegal searches and disclosures. With but one exception, the inspector general found

no evidence that these senior managers reported the matter up the chain of command or took steps to stop or remedy it.

These leadership failures went all the way to the top. One example is Deputy Director Craig Magaw. When briefed by a subordinate, Mr. Magaw reportedly "made a shooing hand motion and stated 'Yeah, yeah we know.'" Despite the gravity of the allegations, Mr. Magaw apparently took no steps to learn more or stop the illegal activity, and he claims not to recall this exchange.

Another example is Chief of Staff Michael Biermann, whom the inspector general characterizes as the de facto gatekeeper for Director Joe Clancy and Deputy Director Magaw. Mr. Biermann admits to hearing rampant rumors about the Chaffetz matter within 24 hours of the hearing. Yet he also apparently didn't inquire any further to learn the truth or take action to stop illegal activity.

The most egregious example of leadership failure in the inspector general report is Assistant Director Ed Lowery, the head of training for the Secret Service. Mr. Lowery wrote in this email about Congressman CHAFFETZ, "Some information that he might find embarrassing needs to get out. Just to be fair."

Lo and behold, 2 days later, a news Web site ran an article—unsourced—about Congressman CHAFFETZ's decade-old job application to the Secret Service. I wonder who the source could have been. For that matter, I wonder if this kind of attitude from the head of training explains some of the Secret Service's recent struggles.

There is even more egregious behavior not in the inspector general report. Thanks to a Friday afternoon news dump, we now know that Director Joe Clancy himself both knew of the Chaffetz matter at the time and misrepresented the facts to the inspector general. In the report, Director Clancy states he didn't learn about the matter until a week after the congressional hearing, on the eve of a Washington Post story about the matter. As we have seen, this would have made him a notable exception among the Secret Service's top leaders. But Director Clancy, confronted with this report, is now singing a different tune. He now admits that he heard of a "speculative rumor" the day after the hearing and a week before the Washington Post story. Yet Director Clancy says he considered the rumor "not credible" and "not indicative" of wrongful conduct. That admission alone is a damning and ironic confession of a gross leadership failure.

Let's put this in context. Director Clancy was specifically hired just months earlier to clean up the Secret Service's leadership culture after a string of embarrassing incidents. At the very congressional hearing that

started all of this, Director Clancy testified that he was “infuriated” that he hadn’t been made aware of the latest security lapse. He further testified that he was “working furiously to try to break down these barriers where people feel they can’t talk up the chain.”

Despite all that, despite all the problems he was specifically hired to fix, despite hearing rumors that obviously should have triggered immediate investigation, he did nothing for a full week to look into the matter and put a stop to it, which he only did once the story hit the Washington Post.

How could this happen? How could someone hired to change the culture of his agency be so indifferent to potential illegal activity and to such a constitutional affront to the legislature that he did nothing—absolutely nothing—until the press broke the story? To make matters worse, Director Clancy misrepresented all of it to the inspector general until the report was released last Wednesday. If anything remotely like this happened in the Army, commanders would have been relieved of command months ago. The Army holds its leaders responsible for everything their unit does and fails to do, and we should expect no less from the Secret Service leadership.

JASON CHAFFETZ and I served together in the House. He is a tough, smart guy, more than capable of standing up for himself, although I should say this is not a partisan matter. I would feel the same way and give the same speech if Secret Service employees violated the law to intimidate Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, chairman CHAFFETZ’s Democratic counterpart. Of course, for that matter, how do we know they didn’t? But since I am neither in the House any longer nor on the committees that oversee the Secret Service or Homeland Security, why am I so outraged by the Secret Service or Homeland Security? Why am I so outraged by the Secret Service’s misconduct in this matter?

First, if Secret Service personnel will violate the law to intimidate and retaliate against the chairman of their oversight committee, what might they do to a normal Arkansan, to the little guy who doesn’t have Chairman CHAFFETZ’s megaphone and position of influence? What might renegade bureaucrats in other agencies do?

Second, these abuses are far more than yet another example of government misconduct; they strike at the heart of our constitutional order. Although troubled by Secret Service lapses like the Colombian prostitute scandal, I haven’t spoken out on these matters, believing my peers on the oversight committee could handle them, as they did. This case, though, goes far beyond simple misbehavior, even beyond violations of law. To reiterate, armed agents of a paramilitary law enforcement agency violated the

law to intimidate the Congressman charged with oversight of that agency.

The gravity of this scandal hasn’t thus far been met with appropriate action from the highest levels of the executive branch. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson stated last week that he is “confident U.S. Secret Service Director Joe Clancy will take appropriate action to hold accountable those who violated any laws or policies of this Department.” This response is woefully inadequate on multiple counts.

First, when an abuse of power strikes at the heart of our constitutional order, it warrants at a minimum the attention of a Senate-confirmed department Secretary.

Second, Secretary Johnson implies there may be some doubt about whether laws were broken. In fact, the inspector general identified no fewer than 56 instances of blatant illegal activity.

Third, Director Clancy cannot be trusted to handle this matter given what we know now, although, to give Secretary Johnson the benefit of the doubt on this count, he issued this statement before Director Clancy’s Friday afternoon admission of misrepresenting the facts to the inspector general.

Responsibility for a constitutional confrontation such as this calls for a Presidential response. Yet President Obama has been silent. His spokesman last week acted as if an apology was enough and implied that it was really just a matter of procedures not being followed—as if there are appropriate procedures for the executive to violate the law to intimidate a Member of the legislature. He even suggested that the response thus far “is a strong indication that there is effective leadership in place at the Secret Service.” Effective at what, one must ask?

This indifferent response is far short of what this situation demands. First, Secretary Johnson must take appropriate disciplinary action against all Secret Service personnel involved, including Director Joe Clancy, Deputy Director Craig Magaw, Chief of Staff Michael Biermann, and Assistant Director Ed Lowery. I invite Secretary Johnson to brief not only me but the entire Congress. Once he makes his decision about appropriate action—for instance, firings, revocation of security clearances, removal from supervisory positions or suspension—he can explain his own reasoning. Congress can then decide whether this discipline is adequate. Most immediately, if it turns out that Director Clancy knowingly misled the inspector general, he should resign or be fired. He was hired to clean up wrongdoing at the Secret Service, not perpetrate it and cover it up.

Second, and independent of workplace discipline, the Attorney General must start a criminal investigation of

the Secret Service personnel who unlawfully accessed Congressman CHAFFETZ’s personnel file and who disseminated its contents. Criminal violations of the Privacy Act and other statutes must be punished.

The inspector general lacks criminal authority, and it is unclear from his report if he was able to take certain key steps, such as obtaining personal emails and phone records. Further, Secret Service officials sat in many of the interviews the inspector general conducted, raising genuine questions about improper influence in the process. What is needed is a vigorous and disinterested criminal investigation by a single Federal prosecutor at the Justice Department.

Senators often make requests for action from the executive branch, which are almost as often ignored. Let me say for the record that these aren’t requests; these are demands. They are quite modest demands, given these most serious constitutional stakes. Take and explain appropriate disciplinary action and start a criminal investigation.

Until then, I will be compelled to act by exercising our constitutional authority over executive branch nominations. Every officer of the United States, from the President to the newest clerk, must understand that Congress will fend off this kind of executive encroachment and there will be severe consequences for attempting to intimidate the people’s elected representatives or obstructing us from doing our jobs.

I am not yet at the point of calling for a total blockade on all executive branch nominations, although I may reach that point. Right before this speech, though, I did register an objection to three prominent political nominations and there will be more to follow if the executive branch doesn’t act swiftly. None of these are nominees to the Department of Homeland Security, partly because the Department has no pending nominees but mostly because this is a constitutional question, not a parochial matter about a single department.

I take this step reluctantly and with no particular quarrel with these three nominations or future ones to which I might be compelled to object. I do not wish to prolong this dispute, only to defend our constitutional order. When President Obama and Secretary Johnson take appropriate action, I will likewise take action and release these and future objections. I hope our two branches can resolve this confrontation quickly and in keeping with our constitutional traditions. The American people deserve no less.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

STRENGTHENING MISSING PERSONS DATABASES

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I am here on the floor this afternoon to talk about a young man named Billy Smolinski and a law that Senator HOEVEN and I are introducing on behalf of him, his family, and, quite literally, the millions of other families throughout the United States who have had to deal with the trauma, angst, and grief of a loved one gone missing.

I will begin by telling everyone a little bit about Billy Smolinski. Billy's parents don't think that he is alive any longer, but they aren't sure because on August 24, 2004, at the age of 31 Billy went missing.

Billy was a vibrant young man who lived in Waterbury, CT, along with his treasured dog. When he didn't respond to calls and communications from his family over the course of a number of days, his parents—and I will speak about his mother in particular, Jan Smolinski, who has been the driving force behind Billy's Law—contacted the Waterbury Police Department. The Waterbury Police Department is a great police department, and I have a lot of friends there, but even they will admit they really screwed up this case from the beginning. They told his parents that he probably didn't go missing, that he was just running away from his personal problems. One officer stated that Billy was probably “drinking a beer somewhere in Europe.”

The Smolinskis pressed their case over and over, day after day, and after 2 weeks of asking for help from the police department, the Smolinskis were finally able to get an investigation started, but it went slowly. DNA samples were submitted and lost. It took 4 years before the police department ever actually searched his car to see if there was any information about what happened to Billy.

Billy's case made a lot of news in Connecticut and Waterbury, and over the course of the last few years, it has taken twists and turns, but he has never been found. His parents suspect he has been killed, but law enforcement hasn't made progress on that potential case either.

Over the course of the last 11 years, Billy's parents encountered obstacle after obstacle when they tried to be helpful and participate in the investigation and search for Billy Smolinski. They came to me at that time, as their Member of Congress representing Waterbury, CT, to discuss ways in which we here in Washington could take down some of the barriers they faced. What they reluctantly found, as they became a part of this big national network of families who have had loved ones go missing, was that their story was not unique.

Their story of finding obstacles at the local police department and nationally was not unique and unfortu-

nately all too common, as they tried to figure out what happened to Billy. What they were connected into was a national network of tens of thousands of individuals who were searching for a missing loved one—a missing father, mother, brother or sister.

Nationwide there are as many as 90,000 active missing persons cases at any given time, and there are some really simple things we can do to help families who are trying to find their missing loved one. Much of the attention, rightly, goes to missing children.

Missing children have an entire set of laws built up around them, and for good reason, our priority lies in finding them. Law enforcement, within a matter of hours, has to post information about missing children onto national databases. There are specific campaigns waged on billboards and media outlets to immediately find missing children. But our focus on finding missing children shouldn't absolve us from the responsibility to help families such as the Smolinskis to find missing adults as well.

Senator HOEVEN and I have gotten together on a fairly simple piece of legislation, and I wish to talk about it today. A companion piece of legislation is being introduced in the House by my colleague in Connecticut, Representative ELIZABETH ESTY, and Congressman TED POE of Texas.

I will explain what this piece of legislation does. At its foundation, it strengthens the database system that families access to try to find their missing loved one. Currently, there are two databases. One is a law enforcement database, which is called NCIC, and the other one is a public-facing database called NamUs. These two databases very often aren't talking to each other, and therein lies the primary problem this bill tries to solve.

Law enforcement uploads all sorts of information onto NCIC, but the net data often doesn't get transferred over to the database that the families can access, which is called the NamUs database.

Why is that important?

It is important because families are the supersleuths in cases of missing persons. Families are the ones who know all of the detailed and intricate information about the circumstances of a disappearance and the identification of their loved one.

I don't mean to get too gruesome, but think about this statistic. There are 40,000 sets of unidentified remains in the country today. Think about that. There are 40,000 sets of unidentified remains in the country, but because not all of that information—the detailed descriptions of those remains—is uploaded onto a database that the public can see, Billy's body may be out there somewhere, but his parents can't find him because they don't have access to the information.

Unfortunately, that is the reality and the problem that we are trying to solve. If you get more information that law enforcement has onto a public database, the supersleuths—the parents, brothers, and sisters—will have more access to it. What about information that law enforcement has about an individual who has gone missing—a report of someone who has gone missing in California and whose information is not uploaded onto a database that a family who is looking for that information in New York may want?

This legislation authorizes NamUs permanently in law and then requires that the two databases be connected. Law enforcement, rightly, has a concern that any information that is sensitive to an open case should remain private, and this legislation allows for the FBI to determine what information has to remain private as part of NCIC and what information goes onto the public database. But connecting those databases will give more information to families such as the Smolinskis to try and crack these 90,000 cases that are out there today.

The legislation also opens up a relatively modest but important training program for police, coroners, and medical examiners to make sure they are using these databases and putting this information online. The databases don't work if the information is not getting uploaded. If the data from the coroner's office isn't up on the database, there is no way a family from across the country can access it to try to find the final resting place of their loved ones. So this legislation authorizes a small new program that would provide training to those medical examiners, coroners, and police departments to try to make sure that information is getting up on the law enforcement database, the NCIC. Remember, they put up all the information about missing kids right away, but as we heard in the case of Billy Smolinski, they often don't put that information up about missing adults.

Some of these police departments are tiny. They don't have the resources to train their personnel on how to do that, and this program would allow them to get that. In the end, we can crack a lot of these cases—thousands of these cases—if we are able to simply give tools to these families so they could participate in the search and tools to law enforcement so they can talk with each other.

The Smolinskis have not given up. Jan has come down to Congress to testify on behalf of Billy's Law. She has changed the practices of the Waterbury Police Department and has even gotten laws passed in Hartford to make sure that other police departments don't make the same mistakes.

She wants to make sure those mistakes aren't repeated across the country. She thinks about what would have

happened if that information about Billy had been uploaded onto NCIC immediately, the day she reported it. Maybe Billy was taken to some other State. Maybe the lack of that information being transmitted that day meant that a break in the case didn't happen in those early days. She always thinks about what would have happened if she had access to more information—if the database that she looks at virtually every day, the NamUs database, had more information about missing persons and unidentified remains. She thinks about her ability to solve this case and how it could have helped the police solve this case if those databases were better or more up to date.

We hope we are eventually going to solve the case of Billy Smolinski's disappearance in Connecticut, but we also hope that we can pass legislation here in both Houses—bipartisan, noncontroversial, measured, commonsense—that will assure that there are less Jan Smolinskis in the world going forward.

We passed this in the House, when I was there, with a broad, big bipartisan vote. This is the first time we introduced it on a bipartisan basis here in the Senate, and I am hopeful—speaking on behalf of not just the Smolinski family, but the 90,000 other families who are grieving for a missing person—we can get this done and get it done shortly so we can get families and law enforcement the tools they need to crack more of these cases.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DALE A. DROZD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale A. Drozd, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30

minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as the distinguished chair pointed out, we are going to vote on the nomination of Judge Dale Drozd to be a Federal District Judge for the Eastern District of California. That is the good news.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that so far this year, we have only confirmed six judges since the Republicans took back the majority in January. That is not even a judge per month. Some would claim this is reasonable, but I don't believe it is.

President Bush, in the last 2 years of his term, had a Republican majority for up to that point, but during the last years of his term he had a Democratic majority. I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee at that time. I did not want to do what the Republicans had done to President Clinton in blocking 75 of his judges. I said we have to go with the regular order, because if we didn't go with the regular order, we were going to be politicizing the judiciary.

So we had a Democratic majority, a Republican President, and by this time we had confirmed 33 judges hoping it would set a precedent and stop what was happening when the Republicans blocked 75 of President Clinton's judges. I wanted to set a different pattern. I wanted to take at least judicial confirmations out of politics.

Well, it went back to the same old, same old, doing just exactly what they did to President Clinton. They have allowed only six judges to be confirmed so far this year under the Obama administration, as opposed to 33 whom we had confirmed during the Bush administration. In fact, at this rate, by the end of the year, the Senate will have confirmed the fewest number of judges at any time any one of us have been in this body—the fewest number of judges in more than half a century—even though we have a much larger population, we have a lot more vacancies, and we have a number of judicial emergencies.

This has had a devastating effect on Americans across the country. I hear all the time from individuals and from small businesses about how they go into our Federal courts seeking justice; they want the Federal courts to hear these claims and these courts are saying: We can't. We have so many vacancies in the judiciary, it will be years before we can hear your case.

Last week, I spoke about the Associated Press report on Latino migrant farmworkers who have waited more than three years just to learn whether they can proceed with their claim for stolen wages. The lengthy wait time is due to the fact that there are too many cases and not enough judges in that California Federal court. An empty judgeship in that court has remained unfilled for almost three years. The

long overdue vote today to confirm Judge Drozd will finally fill that vacancy.

The Wall Street Journal highlighted a case in the same California Federal court brought by a former Navy technician who alleged that he had been discriminated against by his employer. That lawsuit has been pending for eight years. The technician has not been able to find steady work since filing his suit and does not know how he will manage financially as he waits for a day in court that seems never to come.

One of the Federal judges in that court, Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill, gave the Wall Street Journal this devastating assessment: "Over the years I've received several letters from people indicating, 'Even if I win this case now, my business has failed because of the delay. How is this justice?' And the simple answer, which I cannot give them, is this: It is not justice. We know it."

Today, Nancy Kaufman, the CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women, authored an op-ed which said: "what matters to the average person or business with a case in the federal courts is whether the lower courts are, in fact, able to dispense justice in a timely manner with so many empty seats on the bench. And that is where the majority in the Senate has strangled the process by running up the number of judicial vacancies."

I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Kaufman's op-ed be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Huffington Post, Oct. 5, 2015]

THE DISGRACEFUL STATE OF JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

(By Nancy K. Kaufman, CEO, National Council of Jewish Women)

The first Monday in October marks the beginning of a new term for the U.S. Supreme Court and a good time to reflect on the state of the nation's judicial branch of government. This year the capacity of the federal court system to keep up with its caseload is seriously in question. Judicial vacancies are rising and the Senate is likely to confirm the smallest number of nominees since 1953. The confirmation of federal judges by the Senate has all but come to a halt. Furthermore, the pattern of behavior by senators to slow the process appears quite deliberate. Critics have charged that the delays in the process are intended to deny President Obama the ability to appoint judges in the last two years of his term, unlike the pace of confirmations experienced by other presidents at this point in their tenure.

How has this happened? Judicial nominations proceed through the Senate in a sort of formal dance, in which individual senators have an unusual role. By tradition the president consults senators in whose states the judicial vacancies occur prior to nominating anyone. Then the nominees go before the Senate Judiciary Committee for hearings and a vote. But individual senators can delay a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing indefinitely without stating why. Some have

done so even when they agreed to the nomination in the first place. A nomination can be held hostage due to another matter altogether or another piece of legislation. After the hearing and the committee vote, the Senate majority leader is then supposed to schedule a floor vote, and that too can be delayed almost indefinitely.

In fact, during the current two-year session of Congress which began in January, only five judges were confirmed by the Senate in the first eight months—the slowest pace since 1953. A sixth judge was confirmed in September, the first nominee in 2015 from a state with a Democratic senator—Missouri's Claire McCaskill. These weren't controversial nominees. All six were voted out of committee with bipartisan support and ultimately confirmed unanimously on the Senate floor, and yet were forced to wait an average of 80 days for a floor vote.

Such a slow confirmation rate is without precedent. Most recently, when Republican president George W. Bush had two years left, the Democratic Senate confirmed 68 judges. During the last two years of Democratic president Bill Clinton's term in office, the Republican Senate confirmed 73 judges. In both cases, the nominees confirmed in the last two years accounted for about one-fifth of the total for each president. At the current snail's pace, less than one in 20 of Obama's confirmations will come during his final two years.

What's at stake? A situation where "justice delayed is justice denied." While the Supreme Court is rightly regarded as the pinnacle of the US legal system, it is nonetheless a very small part of it. Its nine justices often set landmark precedents with their decisions, or at least clarify existing law, but typically the court now handles only 80 cases or less per term. In contrast, a total of 376,536 civil and criminal cases were filed in US district courts in 2014. Of those, the majority—nearly 300,000—were civil cases. That year, about 55,000 cases were appealed from the district courts to the 11 US Courts of Appeals. During the last Supreme Court term, 7,376 cases were appealed to the Supreme Court. (It is important to remember that cases generally don't reach the appeals stage in the same year they were originally filed.) In other words, on average about one-tenth of one percent of appeals cases make it all the way to the top of the judicial branch—making the lower federal courts critical decision-makers.

So what matters to the average person or business with a case in the federal courts is whether the lower courts are, in fact, able to dispense justice in a timely manner with so many empty seats on the bench. And that is where the majority in the Senate has strangled the process by running up the number of judicial vacancies. Since January 1, that number has increased by 56 percent, from 43 to 67.

When the courts lack enough judges, a judicial emergency is declared by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national policy-making body for the federal courts created by federal law. A judicial emergency is a situation defined by strict criteria—it is not just an off-the-cuff opinion. Since January 1, the number of such declared emergencies has increased by 158 percent, from 12 to 31, affecting districts with millions of people. Two judicial nominees pending for over six months have not yet had a confirmation hearing—although if confirmed, both would end a judicial emergency.

As a country that presents itself as a leader among nations when it comes to rule of

law, the corruption of the process of selecting judges in a partisan manner ought to be an international embarrassment. And the only way that embarrassment will motivate change is if American voters organize to call on their senators to end the charade of pretense that surrounds confirming judges today—the pretense that in effect says, "Nothing to worry about, just move along." What needs to move along is the Senate confirmation process with a much greater degree of transparency, or the damage to our system of justice and, more importantly, to those individuals depending on it, will only intensify.

Mr. LEAHY. This is not just occurring in one or two courts across the country. Judicial vacancies have dramatically risen in courts throughout the country because of Senate Republicans' virtual shut down of the confirmation process. Mr. President, in fact, because of the unprecedented nature of Republican obstruction, vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent, from 43 to 68. Additionally, the number of Federal court vacancies deemed to be "judicial emergencies" by the non-partisan Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has increased by 158 percent since the beginning of the year. There are now 31 judicial emergency vacancies that are affecting communities across the country.

The women and men who have been nominated are all highly qualified, outstanding public servants. Many of them have the support of both Republican and Democratic Senators in their States. In fact, those pending on the floor were all voted out of the Judiciary Committee in voice votes. Every single Republican and every single Democrat was supported. Those home State Republican Senators who have issued press releases and have publicly supported their judicial nominees should take the next step and ask their leader to schedule up-or-down votes.

Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo was nominated last year to fill an emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Pennsylvania. If confirmed, Judge Restrepo will be the first Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania to ever serve on the appellate court and only the second Hispanic judge to serve on the Third Circuit. In fact, the Senate unanimously confirmed him 2 years ago to serve as a district court judge, but Judge Restrepo, who is highly qualified, is being blocked by the Republican majority from being confirmed.

He has bipartisan support from both Pennsylvania Senators. He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote. He has the strong endorsement of the nonpartisan Hispanic Bar Association. In fact, at his confirmation hearing Senator TOOMEY stated: "There is no question [Judge Restrepo] is a very well qualified candidate to serve on the Third Circuit." Senator TOOMEY described Judge Restrepo's life story as "an American Dream" and recounted how Judge Restrepo came to

the United States from Columbia and rose to the top of his profession by "virtue of his hard work, his intellect, his integrity."

So given these remarkable credentials, his wealth of experience and strong bipartisan support, the Senate should have confirmed him months ago. Instead, for 10 months, since Judge Restrepo's nomination back in November, 2014, he has been denied a vote of confirmation. Every single Senate Democrat has said they will vote for him, but he is being denied a confirmation vote by Senate Republican leadership. No one doubts he will be confirmed once the majority leader decides to schedule this vote. If he would take the time to schedule the vote, he could be voice-voted 5 minutes later.

I have heard Senator TOOMEY indicate his strong support and that he would like to see Judge Restrepo receive a vote, but I have yet to see him ask for a firm commitment on a vote. I have a feeling that people in Pennsylvania are wondering when this longstanding and emergency vacancy of the appeals court will be filled, when this body will stop turning its back on Pennsylvania, when the Republican leadership will allow Pennsylvania to have their voice on the circuit court.

Besides Judges Drozd and Restrepo, there are 14 other highly qualified judicial nominees with bipartisan support pending on the Executive Calendar. We should be voting on all of them today. Instead, we will only vote on Judge Drozd.

Judge Dale Drozd is nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Since 1997, he has served as a Magistrate Judge in that same court, and has been serving as the Chief Magistrate since 2011. Over his 18-year career as a Magistrate Judge, he has presided over 1,100 cases. Prior to that, Judge Drozd was in private practice at two different law firms for approximately 14 years. While in private practice, Judge Drozd earned an "AV Preeminent" rating from Martindale-Hubbell from 1990 to 1997, and was also listed in The Best Lawyers in America publication from 1995 to 1997.

He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote and has the support of his two home State Senators, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Judge Drozd "well qualified" to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, its highest rating. I will vote to confirm Judge Drozd.

After we confirm Judge Drozd today, I would urge the Senate Republican leadership to schedule votes for the remaining 15 consensus judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar without further delay. But the Republican leadership continues with this obstruction. If

home State Senators cannot persuade the leader to schedule a vote for their nominee soon, it is unlikely that even the highly qualified nominees who have Republican support are going to be confirmed by the end of the year.

This would certainly be the case with Judge Restrepo of Pennsylvania, who was first nominated back in November 2014, nearly a year ago. This would also be the case with two Tennessee district court nominees, one of whom was also first nominated in November 2014, and another who was first nominated in February 2015. These are nominees from states with Republican home state Senators, and who would fill vacancies where they are very much needed.

Let's stop this obstruction. Let's follow what I did with President Bush, stop the needless delays, schedule Judge Restrepo's confirmation vote this week and the other 14 pending nominees without further delay. If you did that, you would be up to two-thirds of what we did for President Bush at this time in 2007.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we are having a lot of trouble moving judges, but today we are moving a judge, Judge Dale Drozd for the Eastern District Court of California.

It has taken a year since his nomination. It will be a year in November to get to this point. The Eastern District Court of California is in a state of judicial emergency, so I am so glad we are going to add this good man to the court. Cases are piling up because we don't have enough judges to review them, so Judge Drozd's leadership is desperately needed.

This position on the Eastern bench, again, has been vacant since October of 2012, and Judge Drozd is an excellent candidate to fill it. He received his bachelor's degree in 1977 from California State University at San Diego and his law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

He began his legal career as a law clerk for a district judge in the same judicial district where he now serves. Following his clerkship, he worked in private practice in Sacramento and San Francisco for 15 years.

In 1997, he was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge in the Eastern District of California. Four years later he became the chief magistrate judge.

Judge Drozd's 18 years on the bench serving the people of the Eastern Dis-

trict and his previous years in private practice make him an excellent candidate to fill this vacancy. He also received a unanimous "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association.

He is a noncontroversial nominee who has bipartisan support, including praise from two judges in the Eastern District who were both appointed by President George W. Bush. Judge Lawrence O'Neill wrote to me and said:

At this point of desperation in the Eastern District of California, every day of delay makes an enormous difference. . . . Needing help is a severe understatement.

This is what a judge who was appointed by George W. Bush said.

Any person in a position of authority relating to the confirmation of this nominee should focus on his bipartisan support.

I think that is important. This nominee has broad support from both political parties. Chief Judge Morrison C. England said Judge Drozd "has all the attributes needed to be an outstanding addition to the district court bench in Fresno." He continues: "I know he has bipartisan support and I certainly support and encourage his confirmation at the earliest possible time."

I am glad we are voting to confirm Judge Drozd today. The people of the Eastern District of California need his leadership, and the overworked judges of the Eastern District need his help. I hope maybe we can start to move these nominees forward.

MASS SHOOTING IN OREGON AND GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. President, if I might speak on another topic at this time.

I just wanted to send my condolences to those who were impacted by the tragic mass shooting in Oregon. As many have said, as we pray for those who are fighting to survive and for the families who are grieving, we have to do more than pray. We have to stop this.

I know we can't stop every single tragedy from happening, but I have to say, if you look at my home State, we have passed some very commonsense laws. We don't have a gun show loophole. That is important. If it is important to get a background check from a federally licensed dealer, it is important to get a background check at a gun show. It is important to get a Federal background check online.

We have to make it harder for people who want to get guns for nefarious reasons—not to protect their families but sometimes to harm their families, harm their communities.

I want to say that after Senator FEINSTEIN and I went through one of these horrible experiences with some of our communities, we introduced a bill which would give parents and families of mentally disturbed young people a chance to go to court and intervene so that individual would not have this weaponry, because we knew in the last

incident in California where a gunman came down and shot up people sitting in a cafe, that the mother was desperate to try and warn law enforcement that this was going to happen and to intervene, but there was no pathway for her to go.

This bill that we call the Gun Violence Intervention Act is very simple. It says if a family member knows and believes someone in their family is mentally unstable, is buying a gun, and may well use it, give that family member a pathway forward to intervene in the situation.

I don't know who could be against this because a judge will be objective. If somebody is doing it or if a mom is doing it just out of whole cloth and there is no reason, the judge will not allow it.

I am proud to say that California has passed a nearly identical bill and it will go into effect in 2016. Then, in California, if you see someone in your family who you know is acting strange, who you know is making threats, who you know is buying weapons, you have the ability to intervene and take your story to a judge and prevent these kinds of tragedies. That is just one example of some of the commonsense measures we should be taking up.

My heart goes out to the families, but I have to say I agree with the critics who say don't just come to the Senate floor and say your heart goes out to the families. That is not enough. So I am calling on this Senate to do something.

Wednesday we are going to have a press conference that Senator BLUMENTHAL has organized to talk about a very important but small loophole-closing he is recommending.

At this time I yield the floor, and the remaining time I would give to Senator NELSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I am certainly going to help Senator BOXER. On the question about guns, I am an old country boy. I grew up on a ranch and grew up with guns, but guns should be for hunting, not for killing. One of the most commonsense measures is a measure that you ought to have background checks, such as in gun shows, where guns are sold to get around the background check law.

TRANSPACIFIC TRADE AGREEMENT AND TOBACCO WARNING LABELS

Mr. President, this Senator came to the floor on a happier note, to congratulate our Ambassador, the U.S. Trade Representative, for successfully completing the negotiations with 11 other nations in the Pacific Rim on this transpacific agreement.

One of the items in there I had dug my heels in because we heard in Australia they had a law that required tobacco companies selling cigarettes to put a warning label on the cigarette

package, just like we have to do in America—a warning about the hazardous effects of smoking.

Lo and behold, it is now in a tribunal called the Investor-State Dispute Settlement, which had basically governed trade agreements between countries, and they were throwing out Australia's law that said you had to have a warning on a cigarette package.

So having been involved from the beginning in Florida with the return of money from the tobacco companies to the government of Florida for all of the medical expenses Florida had borne under Medicaid, having removed tobacco stocks, as one of the three trustees of what governed the Florida pension plan, and removed tobacco stocks from the Florida pension fund, I am here to say hallelujah.

The fact is that our Pacific trade agreement is going to honor the laws of countries that want to cut down on tobacco use. As they referred to it in the trade agreement, it will exempt from the investor-state dispute settlement mechanism anything in a country with regard to tobacco control. This is a win for the health care advocates who are trying to keep our people informed about the hazards, what smoking tobacco will do to their health.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Dale Drozd to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

Judge Drozd earned his bachelor's degree magna cum laude from San Diego State University in 1977 and his law degree from UCLA in 1980, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

He began his legal career as a law clerk for a district judge in the same judicial district where he now serves.

Following his clerkship, Judge Drozd worked as a criminal and civil litigator in Federal and State courts at the trial and appellate levels for 14 years.

Then, in 1997, Judge Drozd was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge in the Eastern District of California.

In 2011, he became the chief magistrate judge in that court.

Over his 18-year career as a magistrate judge, he has presided over thousands of cases.

He is well regarded in the legal community and among those who appear before him on a daily basis. The ABA has rated Judge Drozd "well qualified," its highest rating.

Five different U.S. attorneys who served under both Republican and Democratic administrations over more than 20 years have endorsed his nomination.

Those former U.S. attorneys include David F. Levi, who later served on the district court and is now dean of Duke law school, as well as George O'Connell, Charles Stevens, Paul Seave, and McGregor Scott.

Their letter states: "[w]e have all known Judge Drozd for many years and are also aware of his judicial reputation in the community. He is an effective, productive, fair, and balanced jurist who is widely respected in this district."

Their letter further recognized Judge Drozd as "an outstanding magistrate judge," and went on to state that "he will be equally effective as a district judge."

The president of the Sacramento chapter of the Federal Bar Association wrote to the Judiciary Committee in support of this nomination.

That letter notes that, although it is not typical for the Federal Bar Association "to endorse a particular candidate or nomination," Judge Drozd's nomination is "uniquely easy to support."

The letter further stated that Judge Drozd "is widely respected in our district and commands a high level of respect from attorneys who appear before him."

I would also add a point from the U.S. attorneys' letter about the crushing caseload in this district.

Their letter states: "[o]ur district has an extremely heavy case load and has been operating with a vacant judgeship for two and a half years. It is vitally important to the fair administration of justice that the long-vacant judicial vacancy in our Fresno district be promptly filled."

This is a point that bears repeating: the caseload in the Eastern District of California is extraordinarily large, and has been for many years.

This district covers Sacramento and California's Central Valley, including Fresno and Bakersfield—it covers 55 percent of California's land area.

The district has only six judgeships for a population of nearly 8 million people, and it has almost two times as many people per judgeship as the average U.S. district court.

Over the last 6 years, the court has had nearly three times as many pending cases per judgeship—more than 1,400—than the national average, 569.

These numbers translate into lengthy times for cases to be resolved. Over the last several years, it has taken between 38 and 51 months for civil cases to get to trial—well above the national average of 26 months.

Criminal cases now take over 20 months to be resolved currently, almost three times the national average of 7.4 months.

The point is this: the Eastern District of California is in serious need of additional judges. I have worked for many years to create those positions, and I believe very strongly that they are needed.

I am pleased that the Senate is taking the small step of voting on this nomination.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Drozd to the Eastern District of California.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Dale A. Drozd, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California?

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Bennet	Grassley	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Paul
Booker	Heinrich	Perdue
Boxer	Heitkamp	Peters
Brown	Heller	Portman
Cantwell	Hirono	Reed
Capito	Isakson	Reid
Cardin	Johnson	Sanders
Casey	Kaine	Schatz
Coats	King	Schumer
Collins	Kirk	Shaheen
Coons	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Daines	Manchin	Tillis
Donnelly	Markey	Udall
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Ernst	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—21

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blunt	Gardner	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	McCconnell	Sullivan
Crapo	Moran	Wicker

NOT VOTING—10

Burr	McCain	Toomey
Carper	Rounds	Vitter
Cruz	Rubio	
Enzi	Scott	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from South Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I just returned from South Carolina. I am sure many Members of the body have been watching this drama unfold on television. I have never seen anything like it. I was in the Charleston area over the weekend. There was 18 inches in about 24 hours, and Columbia, SC, is really under siege. It is a thousand-year historic rain. I am not a meteorologist, but it seems as if everything bad that could happen did happen to send the water and the rain to South Carolina. All 46 counties have received Federal emergency declaration. There has been a verbal request for a major disaster declaration for 11 counties; 1,300 National Guard deployed and 7,000 more on standby; the entire State trooper force is on the road; 1,250 South Carolina DOT maintenance employees working; 550 road closures; 150 bridge closures; 26,000 and climbing without power; 40,000 and climbing without water; there have been 9 deaths.

The economic damage—we don't know yet. There will be an insurance component, and there will be a disaster relief component. As we get through this and look at the damages—that comes later—we are not going to ask the Federal Government to do anything beyond the responsibility of the government. We will not turn this into a pile-on party.

The bottom line is I really appreciate my colleagues coming up and offering their assistance and their prayers to the people of South Carolina. Our Governor and the entire infrastructure of the emergency management system in South Carolina have done a very good job.

More is coming. The rain is about to depart the area, but we will have runoff from upstate of South Carolina that will flow down to the coast and run right through the communities that

have been hit the hardest. So there is a second wave of water coming.

My sister lives in the Columbia area, and I can say there are very few families in South Carolina not affected by this. Manning, SC, is virtually underwater. "We are thinking about the people of South Carolina" is what I have heard from all of my colleagues. Senator SCHUMER called. The Vice President called. I appreciate all of your concern and prayers. We will hopefully get this behind us soon in terms of the rainfall and start building up some levees and dams that are just about to break. I worry about the bridges and the damage to our bridges. I don't think we really appreciate how extensive it is.

This is sort of the worst of nature coming our way, but I think we met it with the best of human nature. From what I can tell, people have been working together trying to slug through this. And I will just echo what the Governor said: Stay in your homes. Get off the roads. It is so dangerous down there. Anybody who has to be rescued because they are out looking around and taking photos is draining resources from the people who are under siege.

So on behalf of TIM SCOTT and myself, we are going to do whatever we can, with our House delegation, to make sure our State is taken care of in an appropriate fashion. Hopefully by the end of this week we will begin to survey the damage, but unfortunately there is more coming as the runoff from upstate makes its way to the coast. This was literally a perfect storm of things coming together to take water from the hurricane and create a river of rain. I have never seen anything like it, and I have lived in the State all my life.

To the people without power, whose houses are underwater, whose cars have been devastated, those who have lost loved ones, we are definitely thinking about you. We are pulling together in our State.

Mr. President, 2015 has been a miserable year for the State of South Carolina. Some of the worst things have happened, and we are still hanging in there. Everybody is clinging to each other in a very heartwarming way. And I am sure there will be exceptions to that rule—curfews are in place—but the vast majority of South Carolinians are rising to the occasion.

I was talking to the Governor last night. We can't wait to get this year behind us. And I cannot tell you, from the Charleston shooting to this, how tough it has been for our State. But when it is all said and done, we are going to be together and come out stronger.

To the families who are thinking the world has come to an end, God willing, it will get better. The water will pass, we will start surveying the damage, and we will help those who need help.

We are not going to ask for a penny more than we need. This is not about fixing problems unrelated to this event; this is about appropriately dealing with this event and nothing more.

I thank the President and the Members of this body who have offered their prayers and wishes for the people of South Carolina.

To the people of my State, to the first responders, to all who have been involved trying to take care of your fellow citizens, God bless you. To our Governor and her team, I know you are working so hard.

I would end this with a request for prayers. Any money that people can send will be much appreciated because there are people who have lost everything they have worked for all their lives. It is days like this that make you appreciate one another.

There is a role for the government to play here, but at the end of the day, it is going to be people helping people, with the government providing some resources, but we will have to help each other. There is no substitute for neighbor taking care of neighbor here.

I appreciate the floor time. I will keep the body informed as this disaster unfolds.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator hold his suggestion?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND DRUG PRICING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have seen this movie before. It was 4 years ago that a drug company in St. Louis raised the price dramatically on a drug that was administered to pregnant women, a shot they took once a week for 20 weeks that significantly reduced the incidents of low birth weight babies. Now we see a headline on the front page of the New York Times today which reads "A Drug Company's Price Tactics Pinch Insurers and Consumers." Two weeks ago another New York Times headline read "Drug Goes From \$13.50 a Tablet to \$750, Overnight." In April the Wall Street Journal ran an article titled "Pharmaceutical Companies Buy Rivals' Drugs, Then Jack Up the Prices." The reporters who did the investigating in these articles all found the same thing: Pharmaceutical companies buy up the rights of older existing drugs where all the costs from research have been recouped and raise prices dramatically overnight.

In its most recent article, the Times investigated Valeant Pharmaceuticals, a company that recently raised the cost of the lifesaving drug Cuprimine more than fivefold. The Times interviewed Mr. Bruce Mannes, a 68-year-old retired carpenter in Michigan who has

relied on Cuprimine for 55 years to treat his Wilson's disease. In May Mr. Mannes was paying \$366 a month for Cuprimine. Today he is forced to pay \$1,800 a month just to stay alive. It is the same drug and the same dosage. It was \$366 a month not too long ago. Today it is \$1,800 a month just to stay alive.

It is not just Mr. Mannes who is left on the hook to pay for his medicine, which has more than quadrupled in cost. The taxpayer-funded Medicare Program will now be spending \$35,000 a month to cover its portion of his pills because current law prohibits Medicare—because of the power of the drug companies in this institution—from negotiating more favorable drug prices.

Cuprimine is not a cure for Wilson's disease. Mr. Mannes must take this drug for the rest of his life. It doesn't cure him, but it keeps him alive.

Valeant did nothing to improve this drug. They don't claim that. It has been around for decades. They have done nothing to invest in a cure. Instead, the company bought the rights to an existing medicine and raised its price.

Remember, I said that in May Mr. Mannes was paying \$366 a month. Today he is paying \$1,800 a month.

This story, unfortunately, is outrageous, and it is not an isolated story. The Times reports that this year alone Valeant has raised the price of its drugs by an average of 66 percent. When Valeant acquired Salix Pharmaceuticals earlier this year, it raised the price of its diabetic drug Glumetza by 800 percent. These are drugs that have been out there. They don't need to recoup their costs of research and development. These are drugs that have been used for many years at a significantly lower price. They buy these companies—these drugs and jack up the price. After Valeant acquired the drug Isuprel, which treats slow or irregular heart rate, it raised the price by more than \$30,000.

Valeant's investors and its billionaire CEO are, of course, getting rich but always on the backs of America's seniors and American taxpayers, who pay the price. Seniors on Medicare face skyrocketing bills for lifesaving drugs they cannot afford. Insurance companies sometimes stop covering drugs altogether.

Janis, from Lower Salem in Washington County, OH, wrote to me about the drug Glumetza. She wrote:

My husband has gotten the drug Glumetza for \$10 each refill of 180 pills. When he re-ordered this prescription this morning the pharmacy called him to say that Glumetza now costs \$3,000 for a 15-day supply. His insurance has a limit of \$3,000.

The pharmaceutical companies are beginning to look like the drug cartels of Mexico.

The insurance companies are being forced to cut benefits or increase their cost to consumers who have worked hard all their lives and earned their health care benefits. He and

I cannot continue to afford to pay these out of pocket expenses on a fixed income.

We know that Janis in Washington County, OH, isn't alone. We also know that all Americans face higher health care premiums when insurance companies and hospitals are forced to absorb the cost of this price-gouging.

Jeffrey Rosner of the Cleveland Clinic told the Times that the nine drugs with the worst price increases cost that hospital alone an additional \$11 million a year and that Valeant's products made up 80 percent of that. Yet their billionaire CEO is doing very well.

Valeant is not the only company that profits from its business of buying up old drugs and jacking up the price. We remember the coverage last month about Turing Pharmaceuticals, which raised the price of a drug called Daraprim, which is used to treat a life-threatening parasitic infection, from \$13.50 to \$750 a tablet overnight. The company Rodelis Therapeutics recently raised the price of a drug to treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis from \$500 to over \$10,000 for the same number of pills.

These are not scenarios of pharmaceutical companies charging higher prices to finance the development cost of new drugs. Take Valeant for example. Valeant spends 3 percent of its sales on research and development. Traditional drug companies tell us they spend 15 to 20 percent. Traditional drug companies will tell you they spend 15 to 20 percent of their revenues on research and development. That is why they need to charge high prices at the beginning, at least during their patent protection period—to recoup, they will say, the \$500 million, \$600 million, whatever it costs, in research and development. Valeant is buying drugs where that research and development have already been recouped. They spend only 3 percent of their sales on research and development.

So where does Valeant's money go? One might hope it would support American pharmaceutical manufacturing jobs or pay back into our tax system to support lifesaving biopharmaceutical research at the National Institutes of health. But, no, what actually is happening is infuriating. Valeant, which shifted its profits overseas in 2010 to avoid its U.S. tax obligation, buys up the rights to existing pharmaceutical companies, lays off workers, hikes prices by eight-, nine-, tenfold, and then expects patients, hospitals, and taxpayers to pick up the tab. It is not right.

As I said at the outset, we have seen this before. Valeant, Turing, and Rodelis are not the first companies to try this shady—and “shady” is too kind a word—business model. They won't be the last. In 2011, KV Pharmaceutical created an overnight monopoly on the lifesaving drug 17P, a

preterm labor-prevention drug—a progesterone—for pregnant women. KV Pharmaceutical didn't invent the drug. It spent no money on R&D. It spent no money on clinical trials, which are also expensive but not for them. The drug had been around for decades. It was normally compounded at pharmacies and at hospitals to treat pregnant women. What did it do? It applied to the FDA for 7 years of exclusive coverage under the Orphan Drug Act and changed the name from 17P to Makena. That is it. They proposed raising the price by almost 15 percent overnight. It was a \$10 drug initially—\$10, taken 20 times, so it cost about \$200 for the regimen, and they raised the price to \$30,000. Imagine that.

We have thousands of pregnant women who have had a history of preterm births, and their doctors say to these women: You should take this compound, this progesterone, P17. The cost is only \$200. You will get a shot every week for 20 weeks in a row.

Then all of a sudden the price of \$200 is raised to \$30,000. What happens? Some places, Medicaid won't pay. Other places, private insurance won't pay. In many cases, women simply wouldn't take this progesterone, and the problems of low birth weight babies increases.

The potentially devastating impact on our country is already too high for the preterm birth rate. Fewer women are able to afford the drug. When that happened 4 years ago, I wrote to the company's CEO asking them to consider the price increase. The senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and I sent a letter to the FTC urging an investigation. Together, we kept the pressure on the company. Frankly, we embarrassed them, as they deserved. So far the drug has stayed more affordable. We need to do the same thing today. Valeant and companies like it must not be allowed to get away with fleecing consumers and taxpayers.

I am calling on my colleagues on the HELP Committee to hold hearings on this price-gouging. We must work together—Congress, the media, the public—to expose this kind of behavior, maybe a little shame. I don't normally like to do that, but when a CEO makes this kind of money by fleecing so many people—especially when it comes to low birth weight babies but also where people need these moderately priced drugs to stay alive—I think it is time to out them and put pressure on these companies.

One thing we can also do, if my colleagues would wean themselves off of drug company contributions, is give Medicare the authority to negotiate drug prices. Many of these drugs with massive price increases are taken by large numbers of seniors who are on Medicare. We know the Veterans Administration uses the buying power of

millions of American veterans to negotiate directly with drug companies to bring down significantly the cost of these drugs. For too long the pharmaceutical companies have profited off of their ability to charge more vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries higher prices for their drugs. Current law expressly bans Medicare from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies—again showing the power of drug companies lobbying my colleagues in this body—even though the government can negotiate bigger discounts with private insurance companies.

This summer I helped introduce the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act, which would allow seniors to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan administered directly by Medicare instead of a private insurance company. This legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate directly with drug companies to get the best prices for our seniors. Seniors should be able to get drug coverage directly through Medicare and not be forced to buy from a middleman.

The purpose of lifesaving drugs is that—to save lives, not to line the pockets of Big Pharma executives and investors. We owe it to the people we serve—the people who elect us—to put a stop to the price-gouging that is bankrupting patients and overcharging Medicare, straining hospitals, and fleecing taxpayers.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP ACT OF 2015

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I have introduced, along with Senator VITTER and Senator SHAHEEN, a bill that we believe will help break the glass ceiling women entrepreneurs face in this country.

This month is National Women's Small Business Month. Throughout the month, the important contributions women entrepreneurs make to keep the economy growing will be highlighted. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA, women-owned businesses are growing three times faster than their counterparts. Today, there are more than 10 million women-owned businesses across our country. They provide more than 23 million jobs and are expected to provide another five million additional jobs by 2018. In addition, one-third of all women-owned businesses are now owned by minorities.

It is clear that we need to be investing more in our women-owned small

businesses. That is why the legislation I am introducing today would help ensure that the next generation of women small business owners can get the training and counseling they need to turn their ideas into realities.

This legislation would reauthorize the SBA's Women's Business Centers, WBCs, program for the first time since 1999. I am very pleased we were able to raise the authorized funding level for this critical counseling program to \$21.7 million annually. Although the number of women entrepreneurs has continued to grow, funding for WBCs has remained flat for many years.

Last year, when I was chair of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, we took a hard look at actions necessary to propel women's entrepreneurship forward and introduced legislation that addressed three components necessary to unlock their success—increasing access to federal contracts, increasing access to capital, and improving the training and counseling programs that support them. It became very clear that women all over the country agree that the Congress must take these additional steps.

As Chair, I also issued a report, "21st Century Barriers to Women's Entrepreneurship," which demonstrated the need for the policy changes we seek in this legislation.

I am pleased to say that on October 14, one of those goals will be achieved. The Small Business Administration has finalized sole-source authority for the women's procurement program—bringing the program and the women it serves in line with other Federal contracting programs. This will result in increased access to Federal contracts for women.

The bill I introduced addresses another finding in the report which called for expanding training and counseling for women entrepreneurs. It does this by reauthorizing the SBA's Women's Business Center, WBC, program, which provides critical counseling, training, and other assistance to women, particularly in socially and economically disadvantaged communities. I cannot think of a better investment than one that helps women who want to create jobs and contribute to the economy. Women's Business Centers also provide important business counseling and training to underserved minority entrepreneurs.

The need is greater than we knew last year. Since the Survey of Business Owners, published by the Census Bureau, was released this summer, a greater number of women have started businesses. The latest preliminary data showed that there are nearly 10 million women-owned firms in the United States. This is a 27 percent increase from the survey's last iteration in 2007 and a 50 percent increase in only a decade. Women-owned businesses generate more than \$1.6 trillion in revenue.

The report we issued last year showed that women entrepreneurs benefit from the customized business training and counseling Women's Business Centers provide to help level the playing field in starting and growing a small business. The majority of women-owned businesses are still under \$24,999 in revenues. Women entrepreneurs receive only 4 percent of all commercial loan dollars, 17 percent of SBA loans, and 4.2 percent of venture capital—so there is plenty of work to be done.

It is astonishing to me that more than 100 Women's Business Centers around the country are expected to serve this growing group of entrepreneurs. Women-owned small businesses generate needed income. According to a study released by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, AEO, "microbusinesses can be vital for income and wealth creation in underserved communities. In 2010, for instance, female-headed family households in which at least one person owned a microbusiness generated \$8,000 to \$13,000 more in annual household income than similar households without a business owner." For low-income households, this additional income is a path toward prosperity. The report goes on to say, "the median net worth of business owners is almost two and a half times greater than that of non-business owners."

Liz Jamieson, Director of the Washington Center for Women in Business, a WBC in Lacey, WA, explains why we need to increase support for Women's Business Centers. "Since our inception in 2013, the Washington Center for Women in Business has coached and supported over 400 women entrepreneurs, to help them start, grow or scale up their companies. We've also provided training and business skills development to over 1000 entrepreneurs in the same time frame. Our center would not exist without the partnership of the SBA. Even so, our center serves 34 of the 39 counties in Washington State, and two staff people can only do so much, although they do an extraordinary job and we get rave reviews. This legislation will empower us to empower far more entrepreneurs from all over our state, and to help them grow their businesses and create more jobs."

The legislation enjoys broad support by a number of key national organizations that support women business owners. The Association of Women's Business Centers, AWBC, Women Impacting Public Policy, WIPP, and the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, AEO, believe the changes we are proposing in this legislation are necessary to make this program open to more women.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation. I also want to commend

Chairman VITTER and Ranking Member SHAHEEN of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee for their hard work and dedication to assisting women entrepreneurs succeed. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SRI LANKA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to address the situation in Sri Lanka, a country that has endured a brutal civil war and is working to address the difficult issues of accountability and reconciliation.

Following the historic elections in January and August, Sri Lanka has a remarkable opportunity to economically integrate with the West and build security ties. This relationship has great potential that we all hope can be realized. But before we move forward on greater economic and security cooperation, Sri Lanka must finally resolve longstanding issues of accountability that have plagued the country since the end of the war and engage in a credible and legitimate effort to reconcile amongst all communities in the country: Sinhalese and Tamil, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist.

Efforts by the last government to deal with war crimes allegations were a sham, according to the U.N., according to the U.S. Government, according to the victims and according to the current government in Colombo. Justice has been mostly nonexistent for scores across the country. Many Tamils do not trust the central government to administer a genuine and credible domestic mechanism to provide real accountability for crimes committed during the war. Many Sinhala mothers want to know what happened to their sons who served in the military. Many combatants and civilians remain unaccounted for, necessitating a comprehensive effort to identify all missing persons.

On October 1, the U.N. Human Rights Council passed Resolution 25/1, which is focused on accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. This resolution is not perfect, but if fully implemented, it provides the most promising path forward since the end of the war. The resolution leaves open the possibility for international judges and prosecutors in Sri Lanka's judicial mechanism to promote accountability. The current government has made clear that the international role will be limited to providing technical assistance and advice. As the U.S. works with Sri Lanka to implement the resolution, I urge our diplomats to push for the most robust international role in the accountability process. I also urge the Sri Lankan Government to continue to act in good faith to ensure that any accountability mechanism is seen as fair and just by all its citizens.

The U.S. led an effort to pass a 2014 U.N. Human Rights Council resolution

which mandated a report on war crimes allegations in Sri Lanka. Earlier this month, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released its report which documented "a horrific level of violations and abuses" committed between 2002 and 2011. Among the violations committed by Sri Lankan government forces, the separatist Tamil Tigers, LTTE, and pro-government paramilitaries included in the 261-page report include enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, denial of humanitarian assistance, sexual violence, indiscriminate shelling, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

The report also recommended a series of measures that Sri Lanka should take to address these issues. For example the report recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka integrate international judges and prosecutors with an independent Sri Lankan investigative and prosecuting body to try those accused of war crimes, implement security sector reform, return land occupied by the military, strengthen witness protection programs, and establish a national reparations policy in consultation with victims and families.

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera spoke a few weeks ago at the 30th session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva. His own very welcome recognition of the depth of the institutional challenges and of past failures is more than enough reason to insist on outside involvement, particularly in investigations and witness protection.

Foreign Minister Samaraweera appears genuinely committed to reconciliation. He recently announced the government's support for a commission for truth, justice, reconciliation and nonrecurrence to help victims understand what happened and help them attain justice. He emphasized the government's commitment to an office on missing persons based on the principle of the families' right to know what happened to their loved ones. He announced the establishment of an office for reparations for victims. Most notably he acknowledged that any judicial mechanism for accountability will need to be designed through a wide process of consultations involving all stakeholders to include support from the international community.

Sri Lanka and its supporters in the international community expect action, not more promises, on each of these fronts.

The political will expressed by the government for a democratic future based on human rights and rule of law is something that should be acknowledged and welcomed by the U.S., international community, and all Sri Lankans. We have an obligation to support and foster this vision. As a friend, we also have an obligation to identify

shortcomings as they arise throughout the process.

Moving forward, the U.S. can take several concrete measures to support Sri Lanka's accountability process through the challenging days ahead.

First, the U.S. should work to ensure that the commitments in the current UNHRC resolution are fully implemented. Following the passage of the resolution, the U.S. should push for the most robust international role in the accountability process, to include international judges and prosecutors.

Second, the United States can support efforts to ensure witness protection inside of Sri Lanka. This could include the establishment of special security force for witness protection, developed in close coordination with leaders in the Tamil community.

Third, the U.S. military should urge its counterparts in the Sri Lankan Armed Forces to play a constructive role in the accountability process. I understand that there are many in the Sri Lankan military who seek to clear the military's name so that the institution can move forward. They should deliver on that commitment.

Fourth, the U.S. should continue and expand programs that strengthen civil society voices in Sri Lanka. The country now has a parliament which is more disposed towards incorporating civil society into the policymaking process. These advocates will be critical moving forward on this as well as broader reconciliation efforts.

Finally, the U.S. should make clear that any accountability process must include addressing violations committed by all sides in the conflict: LTTE, the Sri Lankan military, and pro-government paramilitary groups.

The goal of accountability is not revenge. The goal is to conduct a process where all sides are provided a measure of justice that leads to durable reconciliation and a marked departure from armed conflict. The previous government's policies were a dangerous cocktail that were slowly sliding Sri Lanka back into ethnic and religious strife. Today, Sri Lanka's leaders have an important opportunity to move beyond this divisive past. They say they want it and they have a plan on paper. Now is the time to act. And I am prepared to support the efforts of President Sirisena, Prime Minister Wickramasinghe, Opposition Leader Sampanthan, and all Sri Lankans towards that end.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the credibility of the U.N. Human Rights Council is on the line in Sri Lanka. I agree and would say that the same goes for the United States. Our country has an important responsibility to finish the work of diplomats in recent years and promote the strongest accountability mechanism in Sri Lanka. Our credibility on human

rights issues around the world is at stake and will be watched closely by human rights defenders and violators alike.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base and the surrounding communities for their steadfast support, spirit of service, and faithful dedication to the defense of our Nation.

In 1951, community leaders in Jacksonville, AR, and the surrounding region began petitioning Congress for the creation of a local air base. The needed support was unattainable in the post-World War II environment, so supporters took it upon themselves to raise the money and purchase the land required for the base. In only 32 days, these air base advocates raised more than \$800,000, and with the combination of purchased and donated land, 6,359 acres were gifted to the U.S. Government for the establishment of Little Rock Air Force Base.

On October 9, 1955, the base officially opened. Since that day, it has served as a strategic operating location for numerous mission sets. From reconnaissance and bomber alert missions to the ever-present readiness of Titan II missile crews, Little Rock Air Force Base stood ready. With their cargo aircraft and selfless airmen, the base has responded to numerous natural disasters and humanitarian missions. Most recently, with the C-130 Hercules, Little Rock airmen have had a continuous global presence. From training members of three U.S. services and 20 foreign nations to supporting operations on five of the seven continents, they embody their motto as "The Home of Combat Airlift."

Over the past 60 years, the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base have employed weapons systems covering every key tenant of air power. Currently, the base seamlessly blends Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve command personnel into a singular fighting machine, taking airmen from initial qualification through graduate-level training.

From its inception, Little Rock Air Force Base has been uniquely suited to fulfill any mission it is presented. The support of the community provides an unmatched strength that cannot be countered by any weapon system. The people of central Arkansas have opened their hearts and homes for six decades to welcome the men and women of the United States military.

I am proud to represent the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base

and the communities who support them. I am grateful for their service and dedication and look forward to a future of continued success and co-operation.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MARTIN L. SIMS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to COL Martin L. Sims on the occasion of his retirement from a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Sims began his military career through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Vanderbilt University where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1987, was branched as an armor officer, and was granted an educational delay to attend law school at the University of Tennessee where he served as the managing editor of the Tennessee Law Review and graduated with honors in 1990.

After being assessed into the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, he entered into active duty as a first lieutenant, less than 2 months after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. For the next 25 years, Colonel Sims served faithfully as a judge advocate during which time he was stationed overseas four times and deployed on numerous occasions to Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Kuwait, and Iraq in support of various contingency operations.

A dedicated and talented soldier-lawyer, Colonel Sims held numerous positions of significant responsibility, culminating in his selection as the special assistant for strategy, plans, and capabilities within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Some of the many other key positions Colonel Sims held prior to his final assignment include service as the staff judge advocate for the 25th Infantry Division in Iraq; the staff judge advocate for Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 in Afghanistan; legal advisor to the inspector general of the Army, and deputy chief of the international and operational law branch at the office of the Judge Advocate General of the Army. A recognized master military justice practitioner, COL Sims also served the Army and the Department of Defense as a distinguished jurist, sitting as a senior judge on the United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals and as an associate judge on the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Sims' many friends in saluting this distinguished officer's many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of our great Nation. It is fitting that the Senate today publicly recognizes his service and wishes him; his wife, Stacy; and their daughters, Heather and Rachel, health,

happiness, and success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING EDGEWOOD CORPORATE PLAZA BUILDING

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an historic milestone in the city of Grand Forks, ND, the 100th anniversary of the Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building.

The Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building, located on the corner of Fourth Street and DeMers Avenue in downtown Grand Forks, is a fixture in this city. Formerly known as the First National Bank Building, it is an impressive classical revival style structure of brick and stone on a sturdy polished granite base that covers two of its five stories.

When the building opened in 1915, it was home to the Scandinavian American Bank. It changed the face of downtown Grand Forks and helped spur westward growth toward the University of North Dakota. The bank, later known as First National Bank, and its building remained an anchor of the downtown area. It was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and is unofficially loved as the only building in the city with an escalator.

Unfortunately, the devastating Red River flood in 1997 caused significant damage in Grand Forks. The bank building stood in 4 feet of floodwater while sustaining significant fire damage to its upper stories. Extensive rehabilitation has restored its beauty and function. Edgewood Real Estate Investment Trust and Edgewood Management Group purchased the building in 2012, and it is now the corporate office for Edgewood, which owns and operates more than 50 senior living communities and multifamily housing units across seven States.

Downtown Grand Forks has redefined itself from its banking and retail heyday; its historic structures are now home to office and residential spaces, entertainment venues, and boutique retail. The Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building stands as a tribute to the city's history and a cornerstone for the bright future ahead.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM H. SAMPSEL

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor William H. Sampsel, a veteran of World War II.

On behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you to William for his service to our Nation. It is my honor to share the story of William's life and service—a story that most certainly won't be forgotten and a story he perhaps wouldn't have told himself.

William, an extremely humble man, never asked to be placed on a pedestal;

in fact it was his quiet service that is the landmark of his story.

William was born in the midst of the Great Depression in January of 1925. His parents William H. and Marguerite Brennan Sampsel lived in Shenandoah, PA, at the time. His father, William H., was a meter reader with the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and would later become a district manager. His mother, Marguerite, cared for five children.

From a young age, William developed a strong work ethic that would serve him well throughout his life. He started his first job at the age of 14, clearing forest land by hand, earning a modest wage of \$1 a day. By the time he was off to college, he quadrupled his wage to \$4 a day.

William's high school football coach, Al "Ali Baba" Barbartsky, a teammate of Vince Lombardi, helped make it possible for William to attend the University of Illinois on a football scholarship. Although William was a 180-pound guard for U of I's football team, his true love was baseball.

In 1943, William enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Fort Benning, GA, for basic training. The following year, he was sent to an infantry division at Camp McCain, MS. Shortly following, he was transferred to the 319th Combat Engineer Battalion, where he deployed to France in August of 1944 as an Army engineer.

While in France on orders to contain a pocket of German soldiers in Lorient and St. Nazaire, he was wounded in battle. Toward the end of the war, he was promoted to second lieutenant and received a Purple Heart medal.

Now, William never told his family about receiving a Purple Heart for his service. They found out after noticing his name on the Montana Purple Heart Memorial wall in Billings. But when asked about his prestigious award, he humbly described the incident as "just a little shrapnel".

But this only speaks true to the man he was.

After his service in the Army was up, William attended Penn State University and graduated in 1949 with a degree in geology. He then was hired at Amerada Petroleum Co.—now known as Hess—in Tyler, TX.

There he met his wife Christine Wallis, and they were married in May of 1952. William and Christine moved to Regina, SK, Calgary, AB; and ultimately settled in Billings, MT, in 1961. William and Christine had two children—daughter, Priscilla, who now lives in Laurel, and son, Michael William Sampsel, who lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Outside of his accomplishments as a geologist, William loved to fish and is remembered for his love of the outdoors.

William died on July 19, 2012.

William always gave all he had to give, whether it was his knowledge,

military service, or help to others in need. His life story is reflective of the dedicated, hard-working, and generous man folks knew.

It is my honor to recognize William H. Sampsel's bravery and service to the United States by presenting his family with his Purple Heart, in addition to a Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four bronze service stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, Honorable Service Lapel Button WW II, and a sharpshooter badge and rifle bar.

Our Nation is grateful for William's service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, a treaty, and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 2, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1624. An act to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3457. An act to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, October 5, 2015, he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the

Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) of the House:

H.R. 1624. An act to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3457. An act to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2129. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2130. A bill making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2131. A bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2132. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3066. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3067. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Government Contractors, Prohibitions Against Pay Secrecy Policies and Actions; Final Rule" (RIN1250-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3068. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program, Fiscal Years 2011-2013"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3069. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals" ((RIN0910-AG10) (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0922)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3070. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0920) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3071. A communication from the Acting Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Overtime Pay for Border Patrol Agents" (RIN3206-AN19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3072. A communication from the Acting Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Managing Senior Executive Performance" (RIN3206-AM48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3073. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Planning and Policy Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Self Plus One Enrollment Type" (RIN3206-AN08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3074. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organization and Functions; Implementation of Statutory Gift Acceptance Authority; Freedom of Information Act" (RIN3209-AA40; RIN3209-AA41; RIN3209-AA39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3075. A communication from the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2015 Annual Report to the Congress on the Information Sharing Environment (ISE)"; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-3076. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program" (RIN3245-AG72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-3077. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit" (RIN0648-XE094) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3078. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit" (RIN0648-XE120) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3079. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Dusky Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XE169) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3080. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE144) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3081. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XE143) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3082. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Island Fisheries; 2015 Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures" (RIN0648-XD558) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3083. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Framework Adjustment 53 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sec-

tor Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2015" (RIN0648-XE015) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3084. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE140) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SASSE (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 2128. A bill to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to submit to Congress a report on Inspector General mandates; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2129. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2130. A bill making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2131. A bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2132. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. TILIS, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. BALDWIN)):

S. 2133. A bill to improve Federal agency financial and administrative controls and procedures to assess and mitigate fraud risks,

and to improve Federal agencies' development and use of data analytics for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2134. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2135. A bill to address the liability of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the Animas and San Juan Rivers spill; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 277. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2015 as "National Principals Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Con. Res. 21. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 228

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

S. 429

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Washington

(Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1252, a bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1319

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1319, a bill to validate final patent number 27-2005-0081, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve the treatment of substance use disorders.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to provide sensible relief to community financial institutions, to protect consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1493

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1493, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1579

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1579, a bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to devices.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide access to higher education for the students of the United States.

S. 1775

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1775, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to direct the Chief of Engineers to transfer an archaeological collection, commonly referred to as the Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rule-making, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2090, a bill to ensure that Social Security contributions made by workers are available to pay all benefits which they have earned.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2116

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2116, a bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN) sub-

mitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 277

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2015 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2015 as “National Principals Month”; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 21

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on July 8, 2015, for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which abolished slavery in the United States.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2707. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2707. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a report by the Federal Communications Commission entitled “Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan”, dated March 2010, the Commission recommends that—

(A) “To fully implement next-generation technology within its operations, the SBA should also appoint a broadband and emerging IT coordinator. This individual would ensure that SBA programs maintain the requisite broadband expertise, tools and training courses to serve small businesses.”;

(B) “Congress should consider ways to leverage existing assistance provided through” entrepreneurial development programs, “to focus training on advanced IT and broadband applications”;

(C) “Congress could also consider ways to support technology training among women entrepreneurs through” women’s business centers;

(D) “The training programs should include an entry-level ‘Broadband 101’ course to give small businesses an introduction to how to capitalize on broadband connectivity, as well as more advanced applications for IT staff.”; and

(E) small and medium enterprise “IT training should include resources for non-IT staff, such as how to use e-commerce tools for sales, streamline finance with online records or leverage knowledge management across an organization.”.

(2) According to a report by the Broadband Opportunity Council, dated August 20, 2015, the availability of and access to broadband technology enables—

(A) greater civic participation, by providing tools for open government and streamlining government process;

(B) changes in how people access educational resources, collaborate in the educational process, conduct research, and continue to learn anytime, anyplace, and at any pace;

(C) improved healthcare access, treatments, and information;

(D) new business models that create business efficiencies, drive job creation, and connect manufacturers and store-fronts to clients and partners worldwide; and

(E) bringing communities together and improvements to public safety, creating a

greener planet, and make transportation systems more resilient and efficient.

(3) According to a report entitled “The State of the App Economy”, dated October 2014—

(A) “More than three-quarters of the highest grossing apps are produced by startups and small companies.”; and

(B) “Seventy-eight percent of the leading app companies are located outside Silicon Valley.”.

(4) According to a report entitled, “Developer Economics Q1 2015: State of the Developer Nation”, dated February 2015, “The emergence of the app industry over the past eight years has grown to a \$120 billion economy.”.

SEC. 3. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following:

“SEC. 47. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means the Associate Administrator for the Office of Investment and Innovation; and

“(2) the term ‘broadband and emerging information technology coordinator’ means the employee designated to carry out the broadband and emerging information technology coordination responsibilities of the Administration under subsection (b)(1).

“(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

“(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Associate Administrator shall designate a senior employee of the Office of Investment and Innovation to serve as the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator, who—

“(A) shall report to the Associate Administrator;

“(B) shall work in coordination with—

“(i) the chief information officer, the chief technology officer, and the head of the Office of Technology of the Administration; and

“(ii) any other Associate Administrator of the Administration determined appropriate by the Associate Administrator;

“(C) has experience developing and implementing telecommunications policy in the private sector or government; and

“(D) has demonstrated significant experience in the area of broadband or emerging information technology.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—The broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall—

“(A) coordinate programs of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies;

“(B) serve as the primary liaison of the Administration to other Federal agencies involved in broadband and emerging information technology policy, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Communications Commission;

“(C) identify best practices relating to broadband and emerging information technology that may benefit small business concerns; and

“(D) identify and catalog tools and training available through the resource partners of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and emerging technologies.

“(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of the hours of service by the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator during any fiscal year shall consist of travel outside the United States to perform official duties.

“(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.—

“(1) TRAINING.—The Associate Administrator shall provide to employees of the Administration training that—

“(A) familiarizes employees of the Administration with broadband and other emerging information technologies;

“(B) includes—

“(i) instruction on counseling small business concerns regarding adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies; and

“(ii) information on programs of the Federal Government that provide assistance to small business concerns relating to broadband and emerging information technologies; and

“(C) to maximum extent practicable, uses the tools and training cataloged and identified under subsection (b)(2)(D).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Associate Administrator makes the first designation of an employee under subsection (b), and every 2 years thereafter, the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding the programs and activities of the Administration relating to broadband and other emerging information technologies.

“(2) IMPACT OF BROADBAND SPEED AND PRICE ON SMALL BUSINESSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall conduct a study evaluating the impact of broadband speed and price on small business concerns.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2015, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under subparagraph (A), including—

“(i) a survey of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

“(ii) a survey of the cost of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

“(iii) a survey of the type of broadband technology used by small business concerns; and

“(iv) any policy recommendations that may improve the access of small business concerns to comparable broadband services at comparable rates in all regions of the United States.”.

SEC. 4. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “accessing broadband and other

emerging information technology," after "technology transfer,";

(2) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the end;

(3) in clause (iii), by adding "and" at the end; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) increasing the competitiveness and productivity of small business concerns by assisting entrepreneurs in accessing broadband and other emerging information technology;"

NOTICES OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator TOM COTTON, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Cassandra Q. Butts, to be ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, dated October 5, 2015.

I, Senator TOM COTTON, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Samuel D. Heins, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, dated October 5, 2015.

I, Senator TOM COTTON, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Azita Raji, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, dated October 5, 2015.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 277, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 277) recognizing the month of October 2015 as "National Principals Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 277) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114-3

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on October 5, 2015, by the President of the United States: Treaty with Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters,

Treaty Document No. 114-3. I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Algiers on April 7, 2010. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties negotiated by the United States to more effectively counter criminal activities. The Treaty should enhance our ability to investigate and prosecute a wide variety of crimes.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Under the Treaty, the Parties agree to assist each other by, among other things: producing evidence (such as testimony, documents, or items) obtained voluntarily or, where necessary, by compulsion; arranging for persons, including persons in custody, to travel to provide evidence; serving documents; executing searches and seizures; locating and identifying persons or items; and freezing and forfeiting assets or property that may be the proceeds or instrumentalities of crime.

I recommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 5, 2015.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103-296, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Mr. Jagadeesh Gokhale of Pennsylvania.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2129, S. 2130, S. 2131, AND S. 2132

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are four bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2129) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2130) making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2131) making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2132) making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon on Tuesday, October 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, with the time until 1 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STEVEN MICHAEL HARO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE MARGARET LOUISE CUMMISKY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JOHN FRANCIS KOTEK, OF IDAHO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY), VICE PETER BRUCE LYONS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TODD C. CHAPMAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR.

MATTHEW JOHN MATTHEWS, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) FORUM.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

CAROLYN N. LERNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MICHAEL JOSEPH MISSAL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE GEORGE J. OPFER, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL A. BLAINE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 5, 2015:

THE JUDICIARY

DALE A. DROZD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 5, 2015 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

BEVERLY ANGELA SCOTT, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2019, VICE MARK R. ROSEKIND, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 30, 2015.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan. October 10 marks 104 years since the beginning of the Wuchang uprising and the eventual establishment of the Republic of China on January 1st, 1912.

The United States is fortunate to have Taiwan as a trusted ally, and our countries' mutual interests and shared democratic values continue to strengthen our relationship. The success of Taiwan's democratic society is a testament to the benefits of free enterprise in a strong civil society.

It is important that Taiwan have opportunities to contribute to the global community by gaining observer status in organizations, such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization. Allowing Taiwan access to these groups' resources will improve international cooperation and help combat international criminal enterprises.

My best wishes to the Taiwanese people as they mark National Day and celebrate their vibrant democracy.

MR. GEORGE AIGEN**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. George Aigen today for his ninetieth birthday. As a veteran of World War II, he has been a leader in his community, and revered for his service and sacrifice to our great nation.

Seventy-one years ago, Mr. Aigen was drafted into the Army as a corporal in the 1269th Engineer Combat Battalion. At the age of nineteen, he had experienced much fighting and witnessed horrible atrocities while serving in Europe. In 1945, as the war drew to a close, Mr. Aigen was among the first soldiers to liberate the prisoners of Dachau, one of the oldest Nazi concentration camps.

In his community, Mr. Aigen has spoken to schools, universities, and countless organizations about the horrors committed by the Nazis and the importance of military service. His dedication to our country has been commemorated across Georgia from the Valdosta community to the state capitol. Mr. Aigen's story has been archived at the Library of Congress and televised by Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Through his actions, service, and community involvement, Mr. Aigen has demonstrated that he is a leader, a mentor, and a hero. I am humbled to honor him and his legacy as our nation's servicemen and servicewomen secure our freedoms for future generations.

COMMEMORATING DOUBLE TEN
DAY, TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise the House that this Saturday, October 10, is Double Ten Day, Taiwan's national day.

I urge all Members to join me in congratulating the people of Taiwan on this momentous occasion.

Our great friend in Asia, Taiwan, will be celebrating its 104th anniversary on October 10. Also known as Double Ten Day since it falls on the 10th day of the 10th month, this is Taiwan's National Day and is revered and celebrated in the same fashion as we do the Fourth of July here in America.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan today is a multi-party democracy with a strong economy that is working to ease tensions with Mainland China, while preserving both its political existence and its vibrant national life.

This Double Ten Day marks the 102nd anniversary of China's Wuchang Uprising, a significant development in the Xinhai Revolution.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan and my home city of Houston have shared a special bond since 1961 with the establishment of the sister-city relationship between Houston and Taipei.

For more than 50 years, economic, cultural, and educational exchanges between these sister cities, and between the United States and Taiwan have flourished, aided significantly by the ease of travel resulting from commencement in June 2015 of direct flights between Houston and Taipei on EVA Airway, a Taiwanese airline company.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has been a great friend and partner of the United States, and I have no doubt that this important relationship will continue to be a source of strength to our peoples as this new century continues to unfold.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan as they commemorate Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES F.
SANCHEZ**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles F. Sanchez, a devoted husband, father and distinguished World War II Veteran.

Charles was born on November 11, 1918 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a graduate of Albuquerque High School and briefly attended the University of New Mexico. He married the love of his life, Mary F. Lucero, becoming proud parents of six children: Bernie S. Sanchez, Charles E. Sanchez, Sylvia L. Sanchez Wortzman, Paul A. Sanchez, Elaine M. Sanchez Fordice, and David G. Sanchez.

Corporal Charles F. Sanchez served in the United States Army's 200th Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Regiment. In August 1941, he left Albuquerque to serve his country at Clark Air Base, located in the Philippines. Shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Clark Air Base was attacked.

Charles' Regiment, led by General Edward P. King, fought bravely against the Japanese assaults in the Bataan Peninsula. However, after several months of fighting and with low supplies, General King surrendered and Charles became one of the tens of thousands of prisoners who endured the infamous Bataan Death March to Camp O'Donnell.

Prisoners endured physical abuse, received little food or water, and many were executed along the way. Thousands of Filipino and American prisoners died before they reached Camp O'Donnell in what would become known as one of the most heinous Japanese war crimes. Charles and his first cousin, Herman Tafoya—whom Charles assisted along the way, survived against all odds and completed the 60 mile ordeal.

As a prisoner of war, the Japanese forced Charles and his work group to transport ammunition inland into churches where the Japanese thought that it would be safe from U.S. attacks. After that, he was sent to Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where he was required to move and bury bodies. In September 1945, Charles and a friend, Manuel Archuleta from Blanco, New Mexico, were placed on a freight ship to Japan. Conditions were so poor that there was no room to sit or lie down and Charles and Manuel tied themselves together with their belts to keep from falling.

After the Japanese surrendered on August 15, 1945—approximately 4 years since he was first deployed to the Philippines—Charles was freed and taken back to the United States. Later that year, Charles finally returned to his home state of New Mexico where he was reunited with his loving family.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Charles F. Sanchez will always be known by his friends and family for the sacrifices he bravely made for his country. It is my sincere honor to preserve his story in the Congressional Record, so everyone may remember and take pride in the life of one of New Mexico's greatest sons.

JACKIE COLLINS: TRAILBLAZER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Jackie Collins said she had lived life like Frank Sinatra. "Looking back, I'm not sorry about anything I did. I did it my way, as Frank Sinatra would say," said the bestselling author, in a magazine interview shortly before she passed away, September 19, 2015, two weeks before her 78th birthday. She had been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer more than six years before her death but kept her illness almost entirely to herself. She reportedly only informed her sister, Joan, two weeks before she died. Jackie wrote five books since the initial diagnosis. She continued to travel all over the world and never turned down a book tour. She flew from Los Angeles to London to appear on a TV chat show only nine days before her death. She refused to let her cancer define her.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a time to recognize breast cancer as the most common cancer among women and to honor those fighters, survivors and families it impacts. Best-selling author Jackie Collins was among those fighters.

While Collins' name might be one we recognize, her story of struggle and perseverance is universal. Women from across our nation and around the globe battle breast cancer every day. In fact, The American Cancer Society's estimates nearly 300,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year; resulting in over 40,000 deaths. That equates to one woman out of every eight women receiving this dreadful diagnosis. And for them the battle will not end when October ends.

As the son and brother of breast cancer survivors, I understand the importance of breast cancer awareness beyond the pink ribbons. We must support doctors and nurses as they provide the care and comfort for those it affects. In Congress, our leaders must prioritize funding for ground breaking research and enact common-sense measures to increase availability of and access to life-saving screenings. Jackie Collins was listed as the UK's fifth richest author and in 2013 she was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

The fight against breast cancer extends to all of us. No one is immune. Jackie was considered an inspiration and a trail blazer for women in fiction. A mother of three daughters and grandmother of six, Collins said her family had always been her greatest love. "I love being with my family . . . and watching my grandkids play." This Breast Cancer Awareness Month we remember those fighters—like

Jackie Collins—mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters. We celebrate survivors and we recommit to combatting—and ultimately defeating—this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one year anniversary of the dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, a permanent reminder of the enduring sacrifices of our nation's veterans. The memorial was dedicated on October 5, 2014 to honor the more than 3.6 million men and women currently living with service-related disabilities.

As a result of their service, many veterans are left permanently injured, ill or disabled. These men and women must face the challenges of living with visible and invisible burdens every day. Nearly 20 years ago, my friend and constituent Ms. Lois Pope, asked Art Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, if there is a place in Washington, D.C. where we honor disabled veterans. When Art responded that there was no such thing, Ms. Pope replied, "We need to change that." Years later, thanks to the tireless work of Ms. Pope and the rest of the advocates at the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, this monument now ensures that we will never forget the sacrifices made by members of the United States Armed Forces.

I would also like to recognize broad support across Congress for honoring disabled veterans on October 5th of each year. The anniversary of the memorial's dedication provides an opportunity to express appreciation for the men and women who suffer from service-connected disabilities and to recognize their enduring struggles. Today, October 5, 2015, a screening of the documentary film "Debt of Honor" in Washington, D.C. will depict the realities of living with wartime sacrifices. This film will debut on national television on November 10th on PBS.

As the mother of a veteran myself, I want to thank all of the veterans living with disabilities for their sacrifices and assure them that they will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call #533, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Iranian influence in Iraq and the case of Camp Liberty.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine the National Institutes of Health, focusing on investing in a healthier future.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine removing barriers to wireless broadband deployment.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1818, to amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the rule making process of agencies, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1873, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 2021, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of

Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, S. 2093, to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, H.R. 322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office", H.R. 323, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office", H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office", H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building", H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building", H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building", H.R. 3059, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building, an original bill entitled, "Directing Dollars to Disaster Relief Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Inspector General Mandates Reporting Act of 2015", and an original bill entitled, "Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015".

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine S. 2102, to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 1811, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy, S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, S. 2126, to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, an original bill entitled, "Small Contractors Improve Com-

petition Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Small Business Subcontracting Transparency Act of 2015", and an original bill entitled, "Improving Small Business Innovative Research and Technologies Act of 2015".

SR-428A

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States, and H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine the North Korea threat and United States policy.

SD-419

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine if the Federal Government is doing enough to protect seniors from identity theft.

SD-562

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Russian strategy and military operations.

SH-216

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 2898, to provide drought relief in the State of California, S. 1894, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, S. 1936, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, and S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security

To hold hearings to examine consumer product safety and the recall process.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1933, to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, S. 1789, to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the nominations of Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1814, to withhold certain Federal funding from sanctuary cities, and S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution

To hold hearings to examine eminent domain ten years after Kelo v. City of New London.

SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 414, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 872, to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1295 and H.R. 1324, bills to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, S. 1448, to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance

involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 1955, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 1971, to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine ensuring an efficient and effective diplomatic security training facility for the twenty-first century.

SD-419

OCTOBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Energy, and Mary L. Kendall, of Minnesota, to be Inspector General, Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Kristen Joan Sarri, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

OCTOBER 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine agriculture biotechnology, focusing on Federal regulation and stakeholder perspectives.

SD-106

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on Indian energy development.

SD-628

OCTOBER 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine Puerto Rico, focusing on the economy, debt, and options for Congress.

SD-366

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

SENATE—Tuesday, October 6, 2015

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hope, You fight our battles for us, for You continue to work for the good of those who love You. Be a shield for our lawmakers, delivering them from cynicism, pessimism, and despair. Give them such respect for themselves that they will never do anything of which they would be ashamed. Remind them to never do in the present that which in the future they would have cause to regret. Lord, give them such respect for others that they will find joy in serving and not in selfishness, in giving and not in getting, in sharing and not in hoarding.

And, Lord, we pray for the many Americans who are dealing with the ravages of flooding.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, Richard Burr, Daniel Coats, Ben Sasse, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, Susan M. Collins, Thad Cochran, James Lankford, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Henry Kissinger recently said our country faces the most “diverse and complex array of crises” since World War II. It is really hard to disagree with that.

Consider the daily situation reports received by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs: Taliban forces overrunning Kunduz in Afghanistan, retaking their first provincial capital in 14 years; Beijing exerting greater will in its aggressive military expansion, even deploying ships to patrol off the coast of Alaska; Russia deepening its aggression in Ukraine and in Syria deploying the largest number of troops outside the former Soviet Union since the U.S.S.R.’s collapse; Tehran showing its determination to expand the Iranian sphere of influence as it deploys additional forces to the Syrian battlefield; and in the tribal areas of Pakistan, Al Qaeda terrorists reminding us of their continued resolve to attack the homeland.

There is all this, Mr. President, to say nothing of the resilient, versatile threat posed by ISIL, to say nothing of ISIL’s consolidation of gains inside Iraq and Syria.

We stand here 1 year after the President described a strategy for degrading and destroying ISIL. So far, this strategy has resulted in a seeming stalemate. We know from nearly daily news stories the administration is reconsidering that plan and crafting a new strategy to combat ISIL. We also know the war against the terrorist group will be protracted. That is one reason the President sought \$585 billion in defense funding in his budget request.

So today the Senate has the capability to provide the level of funding

authority the President actually asked for. Today the Senate has the power to help America navigate a treacherous world. Today the Senate has the opportunity to help the Defense Department begin the hard work of rebuilding America’s combat capability as we seek to protect America’s interests across the globe.

That is why I am calling on every colleague to join me in voting to advance the bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act. The last time the Senate considered this legislation 84 Senators—84 Senators—including a large majority of Democrats, voted to advance this bill. That was just this summer—a couple of months ago.

I would urge Democrats to vote the same way now, because we have heard some worrying rhetoric from across the aisle. We have even heard a suggestion that this bipartisan reform bill is just “a waste of time.” I strongly disagree.

Is it a waste of time to transform bureaucratic waste into crucial investments for our troops and their families, such as the raises they have earned and the quality of life programs they deserve? Is it a waste of time to provide hope for wounded warriors and extend a hand of compassion to heroes who struggle with mental health challenges?

The bipartisan bill before us is hardly—hardly—a waste of time. That is why it passed the Senate once already with overwhelming bipartisan support. Our troops should be able to count on that overwhelming bipartisan support again today. This is not the time to flip-flop on the men and women who protect us. This is not the time to flip-flop on America’s defense, certainly not in this age of daunting global threats.

Secretary Kerry called the situation in the Middle East “a catastrophe, a human catastrophe really unparalleled in modern times.” He is right. It is tragic. It is dangerous. And it only underlines the duty each of us has now to meet our responsibilities—meet our responsibilities—not filibuster the bipartisan legislation that ensures our troops have the tools and equipment they need in this time of global crisis.

This bipartisan bill will support our troops, help our military to rebuild and face the challenges of both the present and the future, and provide President Obama the level of funding authorization he actually asked for in his budget request. We passed this bipartisan defense bill once already. We need to pass it again now.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2129, S. 2130, S. 2131, AND S. 2132

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are four bills at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2129) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2130) making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2131) making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2132) making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar en bloc.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE KOCH BROTHERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Charles and David Koch are trying to buy America. They have the money to try and do just that. Because of the Supreme Court's wrong and disastrous Citizens United ruling, the Koch brothers' dark political money has infected our democracy.

One need only look at our national politics to see how the Kochs are influencing our government. Even now, these two billionaires are committed to spending \$900 million to advance a radical agenda during this election cycle. It is no surprise, then, that virtually every Republican Presidential candidate kowtows to these two oil, tar sands, and coal barons from Kansas. Republican Presidential hopefuls all kiss the rings of the Kochs, hoping that some of their filthy money finds its way into their campaign coffers. It is disgusting, and it is wrong.

But the Koch brothers aren't just trying to buy the highest office in the land. They are not just trying to help themselves at the Federal level. They

are also trying to buy our democracy from the bottom up. In statehouses and city halls all across our great country, the Koch brothers and their vast spending network are turning local governments into agencies of the Koch empire. They are trying to turn America into a Koch-financed oligarchy.

It seems there is no issue too local nor policy matter too small to escape the Koch brothers' wrath. They want to impose their radical agenda on the American people on every issue, no matter the cost to families and communities.

Just look at what they are doing in Colorado Springs, CO. "The Potholes of Colorado Springs draw the attention of Koch brothers' group." This is a headline from last weekend's Washington Post. The Koch brothers are fighting the city's efforts to fix its crumbling roads. Reading from the article:

This much everyone can agree on: The streets of this large city on the Rocky Mountain Front Range are a wreck. Sixty percent are in disrepair, cracked and rutted; driving on them is often a game of vehicular Minesweeper. One local TV news channel runs a segment called "Pothole Patrol."

I continue to quote:

But when this city's newly elected conservative mayor urged voters to approve an increase in the sales tax to pay to improve the roads, he drew fire from an unexpected source: a branch of Americans for Prosperity, a powerful conservative advocacy group backed by the billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch.

The Koch brothers aren't interested in advancing solutions. They are interested in sending a message. They are willing to attack everyone, even conservative Republicans who cross their extreme agenda.

This is the basic work of government the Koch brothers want to destroy. All Colorado Springs and its Republican mayor want to do is to determine their own fate, fund their own roads, and make their own laws. But in March, Americans for Prosperity, beholden to Charles and David Koch's pocketbook, simply shut down the entire process of local, community-based government. It is unbelievable they would do this.

The Koch brothers don't want the people of Colorado Springs to find their own solutions to fix potholes in Colorado Springs, and they are willing to pay to make sure that doesn't happen.

That is only one city, and I don't have time to mention all. The Kochs are doing this all over America. Here is another headline from the Nashville Tennessean. "Koch brothers group works to stop Nashville Amp." Here is the quote:

The movement to stop a Nashville mass transit plan has gotten an extra boost of horsepower from an unexpected source: the Koch brothers, out-of-state billionaires.

But there are many more examples. "Americans for Prosperity spent \$62,795 to defeat zoo levy." Think about that. They are so focused on doing every-

thing they can to run this great Nation not from the top down but the bottom up. This was the headline from the Columbus Dispatch last year.

The Koch brothers' main political arm in Ohio fought against the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium tax levy. Why? Because the Kochs have a Georgia-Pacific plant nearby and they did not want to pay their fair share of taxes. Think about that. These are multi-billionaires. It is estimated to be worth \$150 to \$200 billion. They are afraid their company, Georgia-Pacific, may have to pay a few extra dollars in taxes in Ohio.

The Los Angeles Times: "Koch brothers, big utilities attack solar, green energy policies."

This is a headline from the L.A. Times, as we can see, and it reads:

The Koch brothers, anti-tax activist Grover Norquist and some of the nation's largest power companies have backed efforts in recent months to roll back state policies that favor green energy. The conservative luminaries have pushed campaigns in Kansas, North Carolina and Arizona, with the battle rapidly spreading to other states. . . . Both sides say the fight is growing more intense as new states, including Ohio, South Carolina and Washington, enter the fray.

Potholes in Colorado—they want to stop anything to do with renewable energy in Tennessee. They are going to stop a zoo and aquarium in Columbus, OH, or nearby. They want to stop any type of renewable energy because it slows down their tar sands business, their oil business, and their coal business.

In Nevada, the Koch brothers and their foot soldiers are meddling in many issues—really, too many to count. They have been trying to upend Nevada's open primary process. They have encouraged young Nevadans to stay out of the State's health exchanges. They fought attempts to raise Nevada's cigarette tax. They have used the State legislature to undermine labor unions. These are only a few examples of the Kochs' "Buy America" plan.

What the Koch brothers are doing in Nevada and all of the States that we talked about this morning is shameful. They are using their deep pockets and their shadowy organizations to try and buy a government that serves them, not the American people. They aren't even trying to hide it anymore. As one radical activist happily noted to the Washington Post, "the Koch brothers, they may write a check" to promote their ultraconservative ideology. They are writing more than a check or two. Charles and David and their allies are writing \$900 million worth of checks—\$900 million spent against rebuilding our Nation's roads and bridges, against a fair shot for all Americans, against raising the minimum wage, and against the hundreds of thousands of American jobs supported by the Export-Import Bank.

The Kochs have a lot of money to spend. They are using a tiny bit of it, which is huge amounts of money—about \$1 billion this election cycle—to do other kinds of things. They want to promote criminal justice reform. That is nice. I am glad they are on the right side of something—finally. That could be one reason they are interested in this—because they have been in the past prosecuted for doing things that have been illegal and criminal in the nature of prosecutors. They have fought back against these things.

We have been talking about the criminal justice system long before the Kochs got involved. That is well and nice that they are embracing reform now, but it does not negate the many bad things they are doing to hurt American families.

The Koch brothers' priorities are wrong for the middle class and they are wrong for all America. It is time that we let the Koch brothers know that our country isn't for sale. It is time that we let every power-hungry billionaire know they can't buy our government. Whether it is the city hall of Colorado Springs or the halls of Congress, you should not be able to buy America's democracy. The question is this: Are the Kochs going to buy America, because they are certainly trying to? It is up to every American to say no.

Mr. President, I note that there is no one else on the floor. So would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 1 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, our ranking member on the Armed Services Committee is here on the floor. He has done an exemplary job working with Senator JOHN MCCAIN to move legislation

forward. I have followed his lead, and I am not going to vote for this conference report, as he is not going to vote for this conference report. I would say that the House had a vote similar to this one a few days ago, where they had more than enough votes to sustain a veto if the President does veto this, which he says he is going to do. I want everyone to know that as to Democrats who voted for this in the past, not all of them will vote the same way they did last time. But our Democrats have stated, without any question, if it comes time to sustain a Presidential veto, that will be done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the conference report of the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, which we will be voting on in the next hour. This conference report is the product of months of negotiation and compromise between the House and the Senate. I want to commend Chairman MCCAIN, Chairman THORNBERRY, and Ranking Member SMITH for a thoughtful, inclusive and cordial process.

There are many provisions in this bill that provide the support we owe to our servicemembers and their families—the funding, authorities, and equipment necessary for our troops to succeed in combat; and significant and critical reforms to the military retirement, compensation, and acquisition systems—many of which I will talk about in further debate on this bill in the days and hours ahead.

However, I regret that I am unable to support this conference report because it shifts \$38 billion requested by the President for enduring or base military requirements—the base budget, if you will—to the overseas contingency operations, or OCO, account, essentially, skirting the law known as the Budget Control Act, or BCA.

Again, this is a maneuver to get around a statute that was signed by the President, voted for by Congress, and which has imposed budget caps on every department. Central to that agreement was the significant consensus that domestic and defense discretionary spending would be capped. What this conference report does is violate that consensus by using OCO in a way that it was not originally intended to be so used.

This budget gimmick allows the majority to fully fund the Defense Department without breaking caps imposed by the BCA on both defense and non-defense spending. However, the OCO account provides no relief for nondefense departments and agencies, and that includes many agencies that are critical to our national security. Because of this device, I and nearly all of the Democratic conferees on the bill did not sign the conference report.

Abusing OCO, as this bill would do, is counter to the intent of the Budget

Control Act. The BCA imposed proportionally equal cuts to defense and non-defense discretionary spending to force a bipartisan compromise to our ongoing budget difficulties. OCO and emergency funding are outside budget caps for a reason. They finance the cost of ongoing military operations or they respond to other unforeseen events such as national disasters. In my view, to suddenly ignore the true purpose of OCO and treat it as a budgetary gambit in order to skirt the BCA caps is an unacceptable use of this important tool for our warfighters in the field.

Adding funds to OCO does not solve—and actually complicates—DOD's budgetary problems. Defense budgeting needs to be based on our long-term military strategy, which requires the Department of Defense to focus at least 5 years into the future. A 1-year plus-up to OCO does not provide DOD with the certainty and stability it needs when building its 5-year budget.

Just to highlight how this OCO gimmick skews defense spending, consider the amount of OCO in relation to the number of troops deployed. Again, I think it is a useful metric because OCO evolved when we were deploying troops overseas—first in response to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and then with respect to Iraq. And there is a correlation, at least in the minds of most people, between our efforts overseas with troops engaged and the size of OCO.

In 2008, at the height of our Nation's troop commitment in Iraq and Afghanistan and with approximately 187,000 total troops deployed, we spent approximately \$1 billion in OCO for every servicemember deployed to those countries. Under this bill, we will spend approximately \$9 million in OCO for every servicemember deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan—roughly about 9,930 people, in DOD projections. So this increase has gone some place. It hasn't gone overseas, directly to the men and women who are fighting, but it has gone to other accounts within the Department of Defense.

In addition to this phenomenon, within the next few years the services will begin procuring new weapons systems while modernizing and maintaining legacy weapons systems. For example, in the Future Years Defense Program, or FYDP, the Department will spend \$48 billion to procure the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter; \$10.6 billion for the Ohio-class replacement program; \$13.9 billion for the Long Range Strike Bomber; and \$29.7 billion for the Virginia-class submarine program.

Each of these programs is critically important to our national defense, and we must ensure they are robustly funded. But if the BCA caps remain in place, it is likely tough budget choices will need to be made. As a result, if we decide to stay within the stringent budget caps, we may be forced to fund

these programs at the expense of other, equally meritorious programs. We will have a choice of not investing fully in these necessary strategic improvements or using legacy systems, which are still important, to pay for them—tough choices.

Alternatively, and what I think is more likely to happen, these programs will be funded in the base budget. However, in order to ensure the budget caps are not breached, funding will be shifted from the operations and maintenance accounts to the OCO account in order to accommodate increased procurement for new weapons systems. In many respects, that is what is happening with this \$38.3 billion that shifted from the traditional base budget into the OCO budget account for O&M requirements.

What you have here is a sense of budgetary sleight of hand. We know we have these increased demands coming to us because we do have to recapitalize on strategic systems, in particular. If we have the BCA caps in place, we have to find money some place, and that is likely to be the OCO account. We will see a fund, OCO, which was designed to support ongoing operations overseas suddenly be used to pay for long-term base budget items, i.e., recapitalization of our strategic deterrent forces.

If we use this scheme this year—maybe with good intentions and the only honest intention of 1 year to get us ahead—it will be easier to do it next year and the year after that, ensuring that this imbalance between security and domestic spending continues. As we all recognize, effective national security requires that non-DOD departments and agencies also receive relief from the BCA caps. The Pentagon simply cannot meet the complex set of national security challenges without the help of other government departments and agencies—including State, Justice, and Homeland Security.

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth made this point when she was before the Armed Services Committee a few weeks ago to testify on our strategy to counter ISIL, which many Americans believe to be the top national security threat facing our country. The Department of Defense is only one part of a whole-of-government approach to defeating ISIL. Secretary Wormuth said:

“It will take more than just the military campaign to be successful [against ISIL]. We also will need to dry up ISIL’s finances, stop the flows of foreign fighters into Iraq and Syria in particular, protect the United States from potential ISIL attacks, provide humanitarian assistance to rebuild areas cleared of ISIL forces, and find ways to more effectively counter ISIL’s very successful messaging campaign.”

Unfortunately, we will effectively diminish our national capabilities to do all these things by underfunding non-DOD departments and agencies that

are critical to our national security. Use of the OCO gimmick—it has been referred to that by many people—in this bill facilitates underfunding those departments, and it should not be supported. We need an all-out governmental effort to provide for our national security. Underfunding State, Treasury, and other departments is not going to get us that all-out effort. And when it no longer becomes easy to underfund nondefense agencies, my suspicion is that nondefense programs will begin appearing in OCO. There is some precedent to this. For example, in fiscal year 1992, Congress added funds to the defense bill for breast cancer research. At the time, discretionary spending was subject to statutory caps under the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990—the follow-on legislation to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act of 1985. That was a situation where they were capping discretionary domestic spending, but defense spending was uncapped, and this is a situation that I think we are recreating in this conference report. That initial funding led to the establishment of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, and I think every Senator is familiar with this important program. It has strong bipartisan support, and each fiscal year Congress authorizes and appropriates hundreds of millions of dollars to the program for cutting-edge and critically essential medical research.

In fact, since 1992, this program has received over \$13 billion in funding. While this program is funded through the annual Defense bill and the program is managed by the Army, the Department of Defense does not execute any of the money itself. It is a competitive grant process, and proposals are subject to stringent peer and programmatic review criteria. Essentially, the money goes out to medical research facilities throughout the United States. For all intents and purposes, it is a medical research program much like we fund through NIH.

I am a strong supporter of medical research and a strong supporter of this program, and indeed this program has, through its research and through its efforts, saved countless lives, but my concern is that under the aegis of OCO, approaches and budgetary maneuvers like this will become common. It will be a way to skirt the budget caps. If we do it this year, we have set a precedent for next year and the following year, and 10 years from now the Defense bill could authorize billions of dollars of funding for programs that may be meritorious but will have little or nothing to do with national defense and should be properly budgeted within our base budget from other departments. Indeed, some programs should be properly funded within the Department of Defense’s base budget.

Simply put, this approach, which circumvents the Budget Control Act, is

not fiscally responsible or honest accounting. It is time we come together as a Congress—before the short-term continuing resolution expires—to fulfill our responsibilities to the American people, especially our troops and their families, to fully fund our government by revising or eliminating the budget caps proposed by the BCA on both defense and nondefense spending.

In fact and indeed, if it were not for the OCO issue, I would have likely signed the conference report and voted for this bill. However, I believe this OCO issue is too important. The Secretary of Defense believes it is too important, the President believes it is too important, and he said he will veto this bill and any other bill that relies on this OCO gimmick. As Secretary of Defense Carter said last week:

“Without a negotiated budget solution in which everyone comes together at last, we will again return to sequestration-level funding, reducing discretionary funding to its lowest real level in a decade despite the fact that members of both parties agree this result will harm national security. . . . Making these kinds of indiscriminate cuts is managerially inefficient, and therefore wasteful, to taxpayers and industry. It’s dangerous to our strategy, and frankly, it’s embarrassing in front of the world.”

These are the words of the Secretary of Defense, echoing the comments that we have heard from uniformed military leaders about the inherent dangers of sequestration if it is allowed to continue forward.

The BCA was created by Congress to address the immediate threat of what would have been a catastrophic national default and to compel Congress to come together and reach a balanced compromise on the budget. It is time for Congress to make the hard choices, modify or eliminate the caps in the BCA, and end the threat of sequestration. It is not just an appropriations issue. It is affecting everything we do. Unfortunately, it affects the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act and therefore I will not be prepared to support this legislation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

PASSING APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Democrats have spent a lot of time lately talking about the importance of keeping the government open. Well, the Senate Republicans couldn’t agree more. We know Congress has a responsibility to ensure that our Nation’s priorities are funded, and we spent a lot of time this year working on that.

In May, we passed the first joint House-Senate balanced budget resolution in more than a decade, and by the end of July the Senate Appropriations Committee had approved all 12 appropriations bills for the first time since 2009. It was the first time in 6 years that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved all 12 of the appropriations bills, but there is one problem.

For all their talk about providing for the government, apparently Democrats are reluctant to take any action when it comes to actually passing these bills through the Senate. Republicans tried to bring up the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill last week, but Democrats refused to allow the Senate to even consider it. We couldn't get on the bill. They blocked the motion to proceed to even get to debate that bill.

That is right. Senate Democrats, who spent weeks talking about funding the government, refused to allow the Senate to even debate a bill that would fund military construction, protect our homeland, and keep the promises we made to our veterans.

I might be able to understand Democrats' position if they had been shut out of the process on this legislation, but they weren't. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill was debated in the Appropriations Committee, where Members of both parties were given an opportunity to offer amendments and to help shape the bill's contents. The bill passed out of the committee with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. If Democrats had allowed the bill to reach the floor, they would have had yet another opportunity to debate and amend the legislation, but the Senate Democrats wouldn't even let the bill come to the floor to be debated. They blocked the motion to proceed to the bill that would even allow us and allow them an opportunity to be heard and an opportunity to offer amendments.

Some Democrats have threatened to block the bill that we are currently considering this week, which is the National Defense Authorization Act, which again is a bicameral agreement that authorizes funding for our Nation's military and our national defense. This is the bill that ensures our soldiers receive the bonuses and the pay they have earned, that their equipment and training will be funded, and that our commanders will have the resources they need to confront the threats that are facing our Nation. Like the bill Democrats blocked last week, this legislation is the product of a bipartisan committee process, and it received bipartisan support when it came out of the committee. More than that, it received strong bipartisan support on the Senate floor when it first came up for consideration in June.

This bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, which funds our military's priorities, was reported out of the Senate Armed Services Committee—a big vote—it came to the floor of the Senate, received a big bipartisan vote in the Senate, but now some of the very same Democrats who supported this bill a little more than 3 months ago are planning to vote against it. On top of that, President Obama has threatened to veto this bill when it gets to his desk.

The question is, Why are Democrats opposing a bill that would authorize the funding our troops need to operate?

Historically the National Defense Authorization Act has received strong bipartisan support, and there is a good reason for that. Historically both Democrats and Republicans have known that we have a great responsibility to the men and women who keep us safe, and we have made a habit of working together to try and meet that responsibility.

Why are things different this year?

Well, basically Democrats have decided that since they can't get everything they want, they are going to take their ball and go home. Republicans knew Democrats were considering this, of course, but we had hoped that after months of successful collaboration, they would rethink that strategy because, as I said, all 12 appropriations bills were reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with bipartisan majorities, collaboration, input from both sides, amendments offered and amendments voted on, but unfortunately it has been clear over the past week that Senate Democrats and the President are committed to following through on their plans to obstruct these bills.

Their argument is that they want more money for this or for that, and they are not going to fund the military until they get more money for whatever their domestic priority is—whether it is more funding for the EPA or the IRS or some other agency of government. That is what this is about. It is somewhat staggering to think that some Senate Democrats would think of blocking the National Defense Authorization Act after supporting this bill in June. It is pretty hard to explain why one would think a bill is good one day and not the next. Let's just remind ourselves what they are voting to block and what the President is threatening to veto. The National Defense Authorization Act authorizes funding for our Nation's military and our national defense—from equipment and training for our soldiers to critical national security priorities, such as supporting our allies against Russian aggression overseas.

In my State of South Dakota, we are proud to host the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, one of the Nation's two B-1 bomber bases. The B-1s are a critical part of the U.S. bomber fleet, and bombers from the 28th Bomb Wing have played a key role in armed conflicts that the United States has engaged in over the past 20 years.

During Operation Odyssey Dawn, B-1s from Ellsworth launched from South Dakota, flew halfway around the world to Libya, dropped their bombs and returned home all in a single mission. This marked the first time in history that B-1s launched combat missions from the United States to strike targets overseas.

Without the National Defense Authorization Act, however, the funding levels needed in 2016 to maintain these bombers and the readiness of our airmen at Ellsworth will not be authorized. It is that simple. That is what is at stake with this bill.

If the President chooses to veto this legislation, he is vetoing the bill that authorizes benefits for our troops and the funding our military needs to operate. He is also vetoing authorization for the weapons, vehicles, and planes our military needs to defend our country against future threats, such as the Long Range Strike Bomber, which is one of the Air Force's top acquisition priorities, and it also represents the future of our bomber fleet.

By vetoing this bill, the President would also be vetoing a number of critical reforms that will expand the resources available to our military men and women and strengthen our national security.

For instance, this year's National Defense Authorization Act tackles waste and inefficiency at the Department of Defense. It targets \$10 billion in unnecessary spending and redirects those funds to military priorities like funding for aircraft, weapons systems, and modernization of Navy vessels.

The bill also implements sweeping reforms to the military's outdated acquisitions process by removing bureaucracy and expediting decision-making which will significantly improve the military's ability to access the technology and equipment it needs.

The act also implements a number of reforms to the Pentagon's administrative functions. Over the past decade, Army headquarters staff has increased by 60 percent. Yet in recent years the Army has been cutting brigade combat teams. From 2001 to 2012, the Department of Defense's civilian workforce grew at five times the rate of our Active-Duty military personnel.

The Defense authorization bill we are considering changes the emphasis of the Department of Defense from administration to operations, which will help ensure that our military personnel receive the training they need and are ready to meet any threats that arise.

This bill also overhauls our military retirement system. The current military retirement system limits retirement benefits to soldiers who served for 20 years or more, which does not apply to 83 percent of those who have served, including many veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The National Defense Authorization Act replaces that system with a modern retirement system that would extend retirement benefits to 75 percent of our servicemembers.

No time is a good time to veto funding for our Nation's troops. But with tensions in the world where they are, the decision by Senate Democrats and

the President to block this funding authorization is particularly unconscionable.

As we speak, ISIS is carving a trail of slaughter across the Middle East, Russia is becoming increasingly aggressive, and Iran is continuing to fund terrorism. Thanks to Iran's nuclear deal, Iran will soon have access to increased funds and the ability to purchase more conventional weapons. That is right. While President Obama is threatening to veto a bill that funds our Armed Forces, he has agreed to a deal with Iran that gives Iran access to over \$100 billion to fund terrorism and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. That same flawed Iran deal waives the sanctions on Iranian leaders, including General Soleimani, who is responsible for the deaths of American soldiers in Iraq, yet the President is threatening to veto pay bonuses and improved military retirement benefits for our soldiers here at home.

The President's Iran deal also gives Hezbollah and Hamas more funding to spread terrorism, yet the President is threatening to veto additional resources for our allies to defeat ISIS as well as missile defense systems for our allies, including Israel. Right now, President Obama is threatening to veto funding for our advanced weapons systems for U.S. military forces, yet his nuclear agreement gives Iran access to conventional weapons, ballistic missiles, and advanced nuclear centrifuges.

Now, above all, in the wake of this flawed Iran deal and growing chaos in the Middle East, holding up funding for our troops by blocking this authorization bill is unacceptable.

While Senate Democrats and the President may have decided to pursue a strategy of obstruction, it is not too late for them to change their minds. They can still cast a vote in favor of funding for our military and our national security priorities. I hope that before this vote happens today, they will rethink their opposition and join Republicans in supporting this critical bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when the Senate took up the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, I opposed it. I did not believe that the Senate had fully debated some of the most consequential provisions of the bill. But a majority of the Senate allowed that bill to move forward, and now we have a compromise before us that is a step even further backward.

The biggest but by no means only problem with this bill is, of course, the overseas contingency operations account, which has been turned into an escape hatch for defense spending over Budget Control Act caps. Those caps imposed by the Budget Control Act—across defense and nondefense spending—were intended to force Congress to

the table to realistically address fiscal concerns. Today, those caps are hurting defense spending, though not nearly as much as they are devastating domestic spending.

Other problematic sections are related to Bush-era detainees kept at Guantanamo Bay. The new Guantanamo restrictions contained in this conference report are a needless barrier to efforts to finally shutter that detention facility. The bill would continue the unnecessary ban on constructing facilities within the United States to house Guantanamo detainees and the counterproductive prohibition on transferring detainees to the United States for detention or trial. Even more troubling, this year's NDAA would undo the important step taken by Congress in 2013 to streamline procedures for transferring detainees to foreign countries. Section 1034 of this year's bill would reimpose onerous, unnecessary, and unrealistic certification requirements that must be satisfied before transferring detainees to third countries—a step in exactly the wrong direction. Transfers should be accelerating, not slowing down.

As long as Guantanamo remains open, it will continue to serve as a recruitment tool for terrorists and tarnish America's historic role as a champion of human rights. Maintaining the detention facility at Guantanamo is also a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars. We spend an astonishing amount at Guantanamo—a single detainee costs approximately \$3.4 million per year to maintain—at a time when budgets are tight and that money is needed elsewhere; yet this conference report does not even include the cost-saving measure from the Senate bill that would allow detainees to be brought to the U.S. on a temporary basis for medical treatment. Closing Guantanamo is the morally and fiscally responsible thing to do, and I strongly oppose the unnecessary statutory restrictions in this conference report.

The concerns with this conference report do not end with Guantanamo Bay. Massive changes to our procurement system that will recreate stovepipes we eliminated with the Goldwater-Nichols reforms and adjustments to benefits given to men and women who serve and have served in order to pay our bills are just two examples. But what's not included is significant, too. There are several provisions related to the National Guard that enjoyed strong Senate support and yet were stripped in this so-called compromise, most inexplicably a provision I authored to better account for the requirements placed on the Guard. A similar provision was included in the House-passed bill. Rather than compromising between the two as the rules call for, both were simply dropped from the bill.

It is too bad that, in exchange for these controversial provisions, good

policy will be left behind. This NDAA would have promoted the bipartisan National Guard State Partnership Program Enhancement Act to strengthen the State Partnership Program, which leverages unique National Guard capabilities and relationships to bolster our national security agenda around the world, at pennies on the dollar. This would have been a considerable improvement.

I want to recognize Senator MCCAIN's efforts to ensure that the conference report includes the McCain-Feinstein antitorture amendment. That provision would codify in statute the interrogation standards in the Army Field Manual—not just for military personnel, but for intelligence agents as well. Last year, Senator FEINSTEIN and the Senate Intelligence Committee exposed the CIA's horrific practices under the Bush administration. The McCain-Feinstein amendment is the next step toward ensuring that America never tortures again. If this bill does not become law, the Senate should take action to make the McCain-Feinstein amendment law this year.

Every year, the National Defense Authorization Act provides an opportunity for Congress to support our men and women in uniform and align our national security priorities with our fiscal obligations. This bill falls far short, and I cannot give it my support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on the Democratic side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair.

The issue before us is a conference committee report on the House Defense authorization bill. It is not the spending bill; it is the authorizing of spending. It is a bill that largely is bipartisan. There is no argument on either side of the aisle to support our troops, no argument against providing the technology and weaponry they need to keep themselves and Americans safe. The issue before us is a larger budget issue that goes even beyond the Department of Defense but certainly includes it, and that is, how are we going to fund our government?

The Republican approach is to put in \$37 billion to \$38 billion of made-up money. In other words, they take \$37 billion or \$38 billion of what is known as OCO funds, or war funds, and just assume it is there and put it in the budget for the Department of Defense only, but they don't put money in for non-defense agencies. So they adequately fund the Department of Defense—in fact, some say generously fund it—and then cut back in the rest of government. What is the difference? What difference does it make?

The cutbacks include, on the non-defense side, medical research at the

National Institutes of Health. The cuts include adequate resources for the Veterans' Administration to keep our promise to the men and women who have served us in the military. The cuts include keeping America safe when it comes to homeland security and the FBI. So they make cuts in all of these agencies but provide the funding for the Department of Defense.

We argue: Let's have some balance. We want to give our troops the very best treatment, but we certainly don't want to shortchange the other side of government—the nondefense side—and that is what the budget negotiations are all about.

So Republican after Republican comes to the floor and says the Democrats don't care about the military. That is not true; both sides care about the military. But there are other parts of our government that are important as well for the safety of the United States and the future of the United States. Whether it is education or medical research or caring for our veterans, let's have a balance in our budget that acknowledges that reality, and let's look at a couple other things that are realistic too.

How many people in America think we are suffering from not enough handguns on the streets of America? There are some who do. There is a provision in this bill which is no surprise to people who follow legislation on Capitol Hill. The gun lobby is always looking for a way to expand their universe of more guns in America. So they proposed, in the House of Representatives—the Congressman from Alabama proposed—that the military sell 100,000 .45-caliber semiautomatic handguns without any background checks on the purchasers. That was the proposal in the House—100,000 semiautomatic handguns without any background checks on the purchasers. Did they really do that? They did. It was in the bill. JACK REED, the Senator from Rhode Island who is the ranking Democrat, changed that provision and limited it from 100,000 to 10,000—10,000 handguns—and said they have to go through dealers so there will be a background check.

I raise that point because guns are in the news again. Guns are in the news every day. Each day 297 Americans are shot with firearms, and 89 lose their lives. We saw the terrible tragedy last week. I was stunned to hear on NPR over the weekend that what happened at Roseburg, OR, was the 45th school shooting in America this year—the 45th this year.

We have to do something about it. It is not going to be solved with this bill alone, but it will be solved if Democrats and Republicans start looking for reasonable ways to limit the access of guns from those who have a history of committing criminal felonies or a history of mental instability. I am glad

the Senate conferees cleaned up the House provision that would have dumped 100,000 handguns into the hands of purchasers without any kind of background check. I still believe this bill goes too far when it comes to that gun issue.

I will close by saying this: We are all committed to the military and the defense of the United States. Many of us believe the agreement with Iran that precludes their development of a nuclear weapon will lead to a safer world. We are going to carefully monitor it, as we promised we would, for the sake not only of Israel but for all of the nations in the region, as well as the United States. We want to make this a safer world. We want to turn to diplomacy before we turn to a military response. I supported it, and I will continue to support it.

I hope, in the closing minutes of debate, that Members will reflect on the fact that we can have a better deal not only to help our military but to help those others who are funded by the nondefense side of the budget, to have some balance too, to make sure it isn't lopsided with the money all going to the Department of Defense without acknowledging precious needs of America in many other nondefense subjects.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I say with respect to the Senator from Illinois, he just authenticated an old saying: "Talk is cheap." This is really one of the more remarkable performances by the other side.

We are talking about legislation that is vital to the welfare of the men and women who are serving in uniform, yet the Senator from Illinois says we shouldn't take care of them because he has another problem. That is a logic which defies anything I have observed in a long time.

This is an authorization bill. It has nothing to do with the appropriations process and the money that needs to be spent or not spent on any kind of mechanism.

The Senator from Illinois and the Senator from Nevada, the Democratic leader, keep talking about the fact that the budget passed by the Budget Committee by a majority vote here in the U.S. Senate calls for additional funding for defense. So now, in direct contravention to that, my friends on the other side of the aisle object to that provision in the Budget Act and will now oppose legislation that authorizes a pay raise for our troops, authorizes special pay and bonuses to support recruitment and retention, makes health care more affordable, increases access to urgent care for families, and knocks down bureaucratic obstacles to ensure servicemembers maintain access to the medicines they need as they transition from Active Duty.

There are literally tens if not hundreds of provisions that take care of the men and women who are serving in our military. So what do my friends on the other side say? Turn this down because they don't like the way it is funded. The fight is on the appropriations, my friends, not on the authorization that defends this Nation.

To do this kind of disservice to the men and women who are serving in uniform is a disgrace. Please don't say that you support the men and women in the military, come to this floor and say that, and then vote no on this legislation. Don't do it. Any objective observer will tell us that the provisions in this bill are for the benefit of the men and women who are serving in an all-volunteer force.

The Senator from Illinois wants a "better deal." I want a better deal. I am tired of our providing funds for the military on a year-to-year ad hoc basis. I don't like it. I hate sequestration. I think sequestration risks doing permanent damage to our ability to face this Nation at a time when there are more crises in the world than at any time since World War II—when there is a flood of refugees, when the Chinese are moving into the Spratly Islands, endangering the world's most important avenue of commerce, while Vladimir Putin dismembers Russia. And my colleagues from the other side of the aisle are now complaining that they didn't like the way it was funded.

I will tell my colleagues, this is a remarkable time. So apparently the President of the United States—and we will talk about it later—who has just shown his remarkable leadership with the insertion of Russia into Syria, which he did not find out about from his meeting with Vladimir Putin of 90 minutes, and which his Secretary of State has said is an opportunity, and which his Secretary of Defense said was "unprofessional"—they are now slaughtering—slaughtering—young men whom we trained outside of Syria and sent into Syria to fight against ISIS and Bashar Assad, and the Russians are dropping bombs on them. It is an incredible situation.

There has never been a greater need to authorize and fund our military—which is facing more challenges since the end of World War II—than today, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will urge a "no" vote. They will urge a "no" vote for the first time in 53 years on an overall—not a specific issue but on a broad issue of the budget. My friends want to turn down our authorization and our responsibilities to the men and women who are serving in the military.

I urge my colleagues to rethink their misguided logic. Attack the appropriations bill. Let's all sit down and try to negotiate an agreement that takes care of all of these other aspects of our government, but let's not do this to the

men and women who are serving. Let's not prevent us from improving their quality of life. Let's not prevent them from having a pay raise. Let's not prevent them from having the medical care they need. Let's not do these things in the name of a budgetary fight.

Mr. President, I urge an "aye" vote on the motion to invoke cloture and on adoption of the conference report when the time comes. I will be speaking a lot more about it between now, if we approve the cloture motion, and when we vote on the conference report.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

John McCain, Bob Corker, John Hoeven, Ron Johnson, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Tim Scott, Orrin G. Hatch, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner, Kelly Ayotte, Mitch McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Alexander	Fischer	Murphy
Ayotte	Flake	Murray
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cantwell	Heller	Sasse
Capito	Hoeven	Scott
Casey	Inhofe	Sessions
Cassidy	Isakson	Shaheen
Coats	Johnson	Shelby
Cochran	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Sullivan
Corker	Kirk	Tester
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Feinstein	Murkowski	

NAYS—26

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Leahy	Sanders
Brown	Manchin	Schatz
Cardin	Markey	Schumer
Carper	Merkley	Warren
Cooms	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Nelson	Wyden
Franken	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 26.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Texas.

CALLING FOR APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL

COUNSEL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to spend a few minutes speaking about a topic we should all be able to agree on, even in this polarized environment in which we live and work, and that is the idea that transparency and accountability are key to good governance. Transparency and accountability are key to good governance.

Open government is a prerequisite for a free society, one in which the legitimacy of government itself depends upon consent of the governed. In fact, we can't consent on something we don't know anything about. My colleagues get my point.

As our Founding Fathers recognized, a truly democratic system depends on an informed citizenry so they can hold their leaders accountable at elections and between elections. But the American people cannot do that without transparency. Justice Brandeis famously said that sunlight is the best disinfectant, and he is right. That is why Congress has enacted numerous pieces of legislation that have promoted accountability and transparency

in government so that good governance can hopefully flourish.

This is a bipartisan issue. When I came to the Senate, I found a willing partner in Senator PATRICK LEAHY from Vermont. Senator LEAHY and I are polar opposites when it comes to our politics, but on matters of open government and freedom of information, we have worked closely together on a number of pieces of legislation. As we both have said, when a Democratic President is in charge or a Republican President is in charge, the first instinct is to try to hide or minimize bad news and to maximize the good news. That is human nature. We all get that. But the American people are entitled to know what their government is doing on their behalf, whether it is good, bad, or ugly.

So I have made transparency a priority of mine, and I have pressed for more openness in the Federal Government through commonsense legislation. One of those bills was the Freedom of Information Improvement Act, which would strengthen existing measures found in the Freedom of Information Act that was first signed by a Texas President, Lyndon Baines Johnson. The Judiciary Committee passed that bill in February by a voice vote, and I look forward to it passing in the Senate soon.

But even the very best laws with the very best intentions can be undermined by those who are willing to ignore or even abuse them. More than 6 years ago, President Obama promised the American people that transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstone of this Presidency. He said, "Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency." Needless to say, his record has been a disappointment because it certainly doesn't meet the description of transparency and adherence to and fidelity to the rule of law.

For example, when an estimated 1,400 weapons were somehow lost by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in Mexico, with one of them—actually two of them—eventually linked to the murder of a U.S. Border Patrol agent, the Obama administration stonewalled congressional investigations. This was the Fast and Furious debacle. As a matter of fact, the Attorney General—then Eric Holder—refused to comply with a valid subpoena issued by Congress so we could find out about it, so we could figure out where things went wrong and how we could fix them so they didn't happen again. Former Attorney General Eric Holder, rather than comply with Congress's legitimate oversight request, refused and was thus the first Attorney General, to my knowledge, to be held in contempt of Congress—in contempt of Congress. Then, of course, there are the IRS and ObamaCare—instances in which this administration has either refused to

testify to Congress or failed to answer our most basic questions.

This administration has been equally dismissive of the press, who are also protected—freedom of the press under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—leading dozens of journalists to send a letter to the President asking him to end this administration's “politically driven suppression of news and information about Federal agencies.” That is really remarkable.

So we can see the American people have been stiff-armed by this administration, and they have become increasingly distrustful of their own government. That is because secrecy provides an environment in which corruption can and does fester. In fact, according to a recent poll, 75 percent of Americans who responded believe there is widespread corruption in the U.S. Government. Seventy-five percent believe that. That is a shocking statistic and one that ought to shock us back to reality to try to understand what their concerns are and what we can do to address them because that is simply inconsistent with this idea of self-government, where 75 percent of the respondents to a poll think the fix is in, and the government is neither accountable nor adhering to the rule of law.

It was back in March that the public first learned that a former member of this administration, Secretary Clinton, used a private, unsecured server during her tenure as Secretary of State. It was just last Wednesday that the State Department announced the release of even more documents from Secretary Clinton's private email server. This ongoing scandal has been but the latest example of this administration's pattern of avoiding accountability and skirting the law. I will explain in just a few minutes why this is so significant and why this isn't something that ought to be just brushed under the rug and ignored.

Secretary Clinton's unprecedented scheme was intentional. It wasn't an accident. It wasn't negligence. She did it on purpose. It was by design. Her design was to shield her official communications—communications that under Federal law belong to the government and to the people, not her. I can't see any other way to explain it. It was deliberate. It was intentional. It was designed to avoid the kind of accountability I have been talking about today. There is just no other way to look at it.

Because her emails were held on this private server, the State Department was in violation of the legal mandates of the Freedom of Information Act for 6 years, and it is only now, through Freedom of Information Act litigation and more than 30 different lawsuits, that the public is finally learning what it was always entitled to know, or at least part of it. By the way, that is the power of the Freedom of Information

Act and why it is so important. You can go to court and seek a court order to force people to do what they should have done in the first instance so the public can be informed about what their government is doing.

Secretary Clinton's use of a private, unsecured server as a member of the Obama Cabinet is also a major national security concern. We have learned that classified information was kept on and transmitted through this server. According to the latest reports, the newest batch of documents released just last week have doubled the amount of emails that contain classified information. News outlets are reporting that there are more than 400 classified emails on the server, and that is just the report so far.

It is no coincidence that along with this news, the media has also reported that Russian-linked hackers attempted at least five times to break into Secretary Clinton's email account. That should make obvious to her and to everyone else the vulnerabilities that exist for a private, unsecured email server, one used by a Cabinet member in communicating with other high-level government officials, including people in the intelligence community. This is absolutely reckless.

This Chamber is aware—we are painfully aware from the news—that cyber threats are all too prevalent today. It seems every week we read a new story about different cyber attacks, cyber theft, cyber espionage against our own country. This last summer we discussed at length the data breaches that occurred at the Office of Personnel Management. People who had actually sought and obtained security clearances so they could handle and learn classified material—that information was hacked and made available to some of our adversaries. Then, of course, there is the information we all learned about the IRS being hacked as well. The personal information contained in those two hacks alone covered millions of Americans.

At a time when our adversaries are trying to steal sensitive national security information, especially classified information, I find it incredibly irresponsible for Secretary Clinton or anyone else to invite this kind of risk and to conduct routine, daily business on behalf of our Nation over a private, unsecured email server. I find it even more egregious that she or her senior aides would send classified information over this same server.

I am not the only one who believes Secretary Clinton compromised our national security by doing this. Just last month, before the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, the current Director of the National Security Agency, ADM Mike Rogers, who also serves as commander of U.S. Cyber Command, said conducting official business on a private server would “represent an op-

portunity” for foreign intelligence operatives. In other words, foreign intelligence services would relish the opportunity to penetrate the private server of a high-profile leader such as Secretary Clinton or any other Secretary of State who, once again, is a member of the President's Cabinet, his closest advisers.

Some hackers clearly noticed this opportunity and tried to take advantage of it, and we don't know—perhaps we never will know—the extent to which that national security information, that classified information was compromised.

We need to come to terms with the fact that due to Secretary Clinton's bad judgment, it is probable that every email she sent or received while Secretary of State, including highly classified information, has been read by intelligence agents of nations such as China and Russia who we know are regularly trying to hack into our secure data and to learn our secrets or to steal our designs and to replicate those by violating our commercial laws. So this email scandal is more than just bad judgment; it represents a real danger to our Nation.

I am sorry to say, but it is true, that Secretary Clinton's actions may well have violated a number of criminal laws. Under the circumstances, the appointment of a special counsel by the Justice Department is necessary to supervise the investigation and ensure the American people that investigation gets down to the bottom line and we follow the facts wherever they may lead.

As I made clear in a recent letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, the Department of Justice regulations themselves provide for the appointment of a special counsel if there is potential for criminal wrongdoing and if there is a conflict of interest at the Department of Justice or if extraordinary circumstances warrant the appointment.

Let me start by explaining which criminal statutes Secretary Clinton may have violated.

Federal law makes it a crime to retain classified information without authorization.

Whoever, being an officer . . . of the United States . . . knowingly removes [classified] documents or materials without authority and with the intent to retain such documents or materials at an unauthorized location shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

That is 18 USC, section 1924.

We know from media reports that Secretary Clinton retained classified documents on her server. According to those reports, more than 5 percent of the latest emails released by the State Department contained classified information. So we need a thorough, unbiased, impartial investigation to determine how those documents made it to

Secretary Clinton's unsecured server and whether she knew that was happening. A special counsel would be the best person and in the best position to do just that.

While Secretary Clinton may argue—which I heard her argue on news reports—that none of this information was marked “classified” when it was emailed to her, under the Espionage Act, that is irrelevant even if true, and I certainly doubt that is the case. According to the act, it is a crime to deliver national defense information to unauthorized individuals. At 18 USC, subsection 793(d), it states that “whoever, lawfully having possession of . . . any document . . . or note relating to the national defense . . . willfully communicates, delivers, transmits . . . the same to any person not entitled to receive it . . . [s]hall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.”

So you can see this is serious. This is serious stuff and deserves to be treated with that same requisite seriousness, and that is again why it is so important to have an impartial investigation.

We know, for example, that information on North Korea's nuclear program was in Secretary Clinton's emails. I was recently with some of my colleagues at Pacific Command, and Admiral Harris, a four-star admiral, the head of Pacific Command, said that on his list of security threats confronting his region of the world, North Korea is at the top. It has nuclear weapons, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and it has a leader who is capable of doing just about anything he could imagine. It is a very dangerous situation and a very serious national security issue. Yet Secretary Clinton was communicating information or had communicated to her on her private email server information about North Korea's threat. We don't know whether that information was among the 200 classified emails released by the State Department last week. We know her lawyers and perhaps others reviewed every email on her server before turning them over to the State Department. We don't know who reviewed them, whether they had a proper clearance, whether they were actually entitled to see classified information, and that is why a special counsel would be important to answer that question too.

Under the Espionage Act, we see that it is a crime to remove national defense documents or permit them to be stolen. Here is a summary of the statute: “Whoever, being entrusted with . . . any document . . . relating to the national defense . . . through gross negligence permits the same to be removed from its proper place of custody . . . or to be lost, stolen, abstracted, or destroyed . . . shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.”

Now we know that the server was not held in a proper place of custody, and we know from the testimony of experts in the intelligence community that the likelihood that something was removed from Secretary Clinton's server by foreign hackers is high. Last week, as I said moments ago, news outlets reported that they were certainly trying. So a special counsel could answer this question and determine whether this statute was violated and how it should be enforced if it was violated.

What greater example of gross negligence is there than for a high government official, such as the Secretary of State of the United States of America, a member of the President's Cabinet, to communicate all business on a private, unsecured server when it is likely—and maybe more than just likely—it is almost certain that sensitive national defense information would pass through it?

We simply don't know what other laws may have been broken or whether there are other explanations that Secretary Clinton might have that might shed some light on this. But this is certainly why a special counsel should be appointed. And I would say that if Secretary Clinton and the Obama administration are confident that no laws have been broken, then why wouldn't they embrace the appointment of a special counsel?

I would point out that in another case, the President's own Department of Justice has aggressively pursued the mishandling of classified information in the past. So my simple request in calling for a special counsel is that the same rules apply to Secretary Clinton.

The Department's clear conflicts of interest in this case and the extraordinary circumstances surrounding it could not be more obvious. As a high-level official in the administration for 4 years, Secretary Clinton is clearly allied with the administration. As a former First Lady and a U.S. Senator, Secretary Clinton has a deep professional and personal relationship with the administration, including the President's choice for Attorney General, Loretta Lynch. I would think Ms. Lynch, the Attorney General, would want the sort of integrity and proper appearance that would occur by appointment of special counsel rather than have it look as if she has simply sat on this information and not conducted a thorough investigation herself.

I am simply calling for that kind of investigation. As somebody who spent 17 years of my life as a State court judge and attorney general, I believe that sort of investigation is entirely warranted. Of course, some of my Democratic colleagues—including the Senators from Vermont and California—have already claimed that this call for a special counsel is some sort of political stunt. The senior Senator

from California was quick to say that calls for a special counsel are purely political and completely unnecessary and would amount to wasting taxpayer dollars. Well, I would like to point out to both Senators from Vermont and California that each of them on more than one occasion has called for a special counsel in the past. Surely I don't think they would characterize their own call for a special counsel in the same terms that the current call for a special counsel is described.

While serving as Senators, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, and former Secretary Hillary Clinton, while both of them were Senators, called for the appointment of a special counsel.

All of that is to say that requesting an appointment of a special counsel is not uncommon, and it is clearly warranted in this case.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the response from the Justice Department to my letter requesting a special counsel be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CORNYN: This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated September 15, 2015, requesting that a Special Counsel be appointed to investigate the use of a private e-mail server by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The Special Counsel regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 6001, which were issued as a replacement for the former Independent Counsel Act, provide that in the discretion of the Attorney General, a Special Counsel may be appointed when an investigation or prosecution by the Department of Justice (the Department) would create a potential conflict of interest, or in other extraordinary circumstances in which the public interest would be served by such an appointment. This authority has rarely been exercised.

As you know, the Department has received a security referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. Any investigation related to this referral will be conducted by law enforcement professionals and career attorneys in accordance with established Department policies and procedures, which are designed to ensure the integrity of all ongoing investigations.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

PETER J. KADZIK,
Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would just say that for those who are interested in reading the response—interestingly, I didn't get a response from the Attorney General, to whom I addressed the letter; I got a response from the Assistant Attorney General. I read it over and over and over again, and it doesn't agree to the appointment of a

special counsel and it doesn't refuse to appoint a special counsel. In other words, it is a non-answer to the question. I don't know what reason the Attorney General or the Department of Justice might have for leaving this open-ended and not actually declining at this time to appoint a special counsel, if that is their conclusion, but they simply didn't answer the question.

I would just say in conclusion that my constituents in Texas sent me here to serve as a check on the executive branch, and I am going to continue to press the Attorney General and the rest of the administration for answers because the American people deserve the sort of accountability and, indeed, in the end, justice that need to be delivered in this case—not a sweep under the rug, not a playing out the clock until the end of the administration, but answers that can only come from an independent investigation conducted by a special counsel.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy until about 3:40 p.m. with Democrats and Republicans who are going to show up here—I think Senator VITTER, Senator INHOFE, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator MANCHIN, and we may have others who will be here.

I see my good friend Senator INHOFE is here.

Senator INHOFE, we are now beginning. And Senator WHITEHOUSE is here. So if the Senator would like to jump in with his statement, that would be great at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the unanimous consent request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Thank you very much.

TSCA REFORM

Mr. President, let me first mention that you don't see many things around this Chamber that are truly bipartisan, and you are about to see one now.

I have to give credit to the Senator from New Mexico for the great job he has done in making it a possibility to even be talking about this now. I am honored to be chairman of the public works committee. We do a lot of significant work in that committee. We just passed out arguably the second most significant bill of the year, which was the highway reauthorization bill, and others. It is a very busy committee. However, the issue we are concerned about today—and I want to talk about it a little bit—is the bill we have been working on for a long period of time.

We had a great Member—Frank Lautenberg—of the Senate for a number of years. He and I became good friends on this committee when Democrats were for 8 years the majority party, and prior to that we were in the majority

for a long time. During that time-frame, Frank Lautenberg and I became good friends. We had some things in common people were not aware of; that is, we both came from the corporate world. We were involved in doing things together and looking at things through a corporate mind.

But this bill we are talking about now is one where we are enjoying 60 co-sponsors.

I would mention that Bonnie Lautenberg is in the Gallery today. She has been so cooperative. If you can single out one legacy of the great Frank Lautenberg, it would be this bill. I can remember calling Bonnie and asking if she would be willing to come and testify before the committee—this was some time ago—and she was more enthusiastic than I expected she would be, and she has been a big help.

It is great to see so many of my colleagues excited about TSCA reform and specifically the Lautenberg bill, which now has overwhelming support on both sides of the aisle. For a long time, we have been focused—and rightfully so—on the public health and environmental benefits of reforming this 39-year-old failed law. I know a lot of my friends across the aisle who are here will continue talking about that today, so I wanted to take my time on the floor to tell them some of the benefits of TSCA reform that they might not be aware of, from a Republican perspective.

TSCA reform, in addition to providing greater protections for families in my State of Oklahoma and the rest of the country, can play a pivotal role in boosting our economy, creating well-paying American jobs, and creating regulatory certainty for businesses not only in the United States but across the world.

Today, the U.S. chemical industry is experiencing a resurgence. Nobody had ever predicted it. For years, chemical manufacturing has been moving its way out of this country, relocating in places such as China, Saudi Arabia, and South America. One of the reasons for this is that we have this antiquated law on the books that made it very difficult for them to operate in the United States. So we kind of got used to this. Everyone was leaving the United States because of that. Now they are coming back. The interesting thing is, there are two reasons that I am going to mention to you in a minute for why they are coming back and what it means to us economically.

In the last few years, one thing has completely flipped the idea on its head that we are not going to be able to change the laws that are regulating the chemical industry. Natural gas liquids are the primary feedstock for chemical manufacturing in the United States. Due to the shale boom or the shale revolution—we are very sensitive to that in my State of Oklahoma—natural gas production from companies such as

Continental Resources, Devon, Chesapeake Energy—all in my home State of Oklahoma—manufacturers have an abundant and reliable source of natural gas for decades to come.

This provides the stability and certainty that manufacturers need to once again make major investments in the United States. There is no better example of an industry reinvesting in this country because of our energy revolution than the chemical industry. As of this June, the chemical industry has announced 238 investment projects valued at \$145 billion. Let me repeat that: \$145 billion in new capital investments in the United States of America by the chemical industry in large part due to American natural gas production.

This investment is predicted to be responsible for over 700,000 new jobs along with \$293 billion in permanent new domestic economic output by 2023. The benefits don't stop there. This investment is also predicted to lead to \$21 billion in new Federal, State, and local tax revenue in the next 8 years and will lower our trade deficit by increasing our exports by nearly \$30 billion by 2030.

Right now the U.S. chemical industry is capturing market share from around the world, and all of those facilities that packed up and moved to China, moved to the Middle East, and moved to Western Europe are rushing back. You don't have to look any further than comments by folks such as Antonio Tajani, the European Commissioner for Industry, who said:

When people choose whether to invest in Europe or the United States, what they think about most is the cost of energy. The loss of competitiveness is frightening.

In North America as a whole, chemicals and plastics production is predicted to double in the next 5 years, while it falls by one-third in Europe. In other words, it will go down by one-third in Europe. At the same time, it doubles in the next 5 years in the United States. Some of you may be wondering what this has to do with TSCA reform because I am talking about the cheaper prices of energy. The main stock for chemicals is natural gas.

Specifically, the Lautenberg bill, what we are talking about today—let me tell you, passing this bill and getting TSCA reform signed into law not only provides these domestic industries with one manageable national rule book so products can be manufactured and distributed in all 50 States consistently, it also provides necessary regulatory certainty, the lack of which could be the one thing to drive away this much needed economic investment.

Moreover, today global chemical manufacturing and use, in the absence of a coherent and functioning U.S. chemical policy, is dominated by the European system called REACH. I will

not get into much detail about the European regulatory system, but it is significantly more burdensome and costly than many of our businesses can afford to deal with.

Unfortunately, today it is the global standard. By enacting meaningful U.S. chemical policy, our Nation will be on the path to once again be the world leader, not only in chemical manufacturing or manufacturing in general but to set the global standard in how chemicals should be managed. That is what we are talking about. That is what this is all about. So there are two things that are bringing this industry back to the United States. One is our plentiful and cheap natural gas and the other is this legislation.

Imagine people anticipating that the legislation is going to pass and making corporate decisions bringing back many jobs to the United States. So there is going to be a surge in economic benefit, and consequently right now the price of natural gas, the main feedstock that goes into chemical manufacturing, is far cheaper in this country than it is in Europe.

So I say to my good friend who has carried this ball, Senator UDALL, that it is great that those two things are happening at the same time. Again, when I looked around at the press conference we had this morning—and we saw everyone ranging from the most liberal Democrats and the most conservative Republicans. That does not happen very often in Washington, DC. I think a lot of it is due to my good friend from New Mexico, along with Senator VITTER, who has been carrying this ball.

I would vacate the floor and ask for any comments.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I thank Chairman INHOFE very much. I thank him for his leadership. He is the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I remember we came early on—Senator VITTER and myself—to him, and said: We have been working on this bill a couple of years. We think it is ready to go, but obviously it has to go through your committee.

The Senator worked with us all the way along the line. A lot of this has to do with his leadership and helping us with—amending it in a way to keep making it bipartisan. That has been the history of this bill; that it has grown. As we know, it passed his committee 15 to 5.

I say to Chairman INHOFE, our next speaker, Senator WHITEHOUSE, who is on your committee, was able to work with you and three other members of the Environment and Public Works Committee to get the bill in shape so we could then get it ready for the floor. Working with you, we have made a few additional tweaks and things, but I think it is ready to go; don't you?

Mr. INHOFE. If the Senator will yield, I would observe the number of

people who said—when the bill first started out, there was a lot of opposition. There was opposition in our committee. I think a lot of the people on the committee were surprised when we passed it on a bipartisan basis. Then, of course, once it got down to the floor—this is going to have support from all corners.

Again, yes, it was a bipartisan effort. It is kind of rewarding to have that happen now and then. This is a good example.

Mr. UDALL. This is a great example. Thank you so much. Once again, we could not have done this without your leadership, your chairmanship of the Environment and Public Works Committee. You helped us shape this and helped us move in a bipartisan way.

I am going to next ask Senator WHITEHOUSE to talk a little bit because Senator WHITEHOUSE has the ability—the experience of a State official, a former State attorney general.

He took a look at this bill. It was ready to go in front of the Environment and Public Works Committee. He looked at it as a former AG. He looked at it in terms of the States being able to participate on enforcement and was able to help us craft a bill that could get out of committee 15 to 5.

Senator WHITEHOUSE, we appreciate your help and your hard work on this. You did an amazing job. Any thoughts, comments? Is this something the Senate can take up and get done, in terms of where we have it right now?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I would answer my colleague's question by saying that I think we are very definitely ready to go. We are particularly ready to go because of Senator UDALL's achievement in securing the 60th vote, a filibuster-proof majority who are on this bill as cosponsors. That does not count people who are willing to vote for it. I think we always had 60 people voting for it, but to have 60 people willing to cosponsor it so it is clear from the get-go that if this bill is called up, it will get through.

I think that is very important. There was some dispute on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We had a very lively hearing. I think the impact of that hearing caused people to go back and say: We really do need to improve this bill in some way. I commend Senator MERKLEY and Senator BOOKER for joining me in I guess a little mini "Gang of 3" to pull the bill to a place where we would all support it in the committee. That is part of how it got to 15 and 5.

I think, since then, what Senator UDALL has been able to accomplish is some of those 5 have now come over to join the 15. So to say that it is a 15-to-5 EPW committee-supported bill actually understates this support because of Senator UDALL's continued work.

There is one issue on which I want to make a particular point because I

know both Senator UDALL and I have served as attorney general of our States. We take this question of a sovereign State's ability to defend its own citizens very seriously. We both were attorneys general. We had the responsibility to very often lead for the State those public protection efforts.

So we wanted to be very careful about making sure there was a significant role for the States in this bill to look out for the health and the safety of their citizens. What we came up with is a provision that I believe tracks very closely with the constitutional provisions that govern this. A State is restricted from taking action here if it would unduly burden interstate commerce. Well, that is a statutory restriction. But guess what. As Senator UDALL knows, that is also the constitutional restriction under the so-called dormant commerce clause. So we were not going to be able to move much further than that anyway. That is essentially the commerce clause written into legislative text.

The next is if the action by the State would violate a Federal law or regulation. There is another part of the Constitution called the supremacy clause, which says that when Congress has made a decision, the States cannot overturn it. Once again, the restriction that we have on States coming to protect their citizens mirrors and matches a restriction that exists in the Constitution.

The last piece says that if a State is going to regulate in this area, it has to be based on peer-reviewed science. There is a third clause in the Constitution called the due process clause. Under the due process clause, the regulatory agency cannot just willy-nilly regulate. If it does, its regulation can be challenged as being arbitrary and capricious. In order to meet the challenge that it is arbitrary and capricious, it has to be based on a sound factual foundation.

Here in the realm of science, that foundation is peer-reviewed scientific evidence. So as a former attorney general working with a former attorney general, I think we are confident that where this bill is now gives our colleague attorneys general the ability to have a very strong case to be made that they still have the authority to take action where their State has a real problem and people's health and safety is suffering and somebody needs to act, even if somebody at EPW will not.

I will close by saying this. This has been an education in legislating for me. I came out of being a prosecutor, I came out of being an executive official, I came out of being a staff person for a Governor, and I came out of being a practicing lawyer. But watching Senator UDALL work has been instructive because—he will not say but I am prepared to say that he cosponsored this

bill at a time when he did not like it. I think he cosponsored this bill at a time when what he saw was not that "this is the bill I am going to go with," but he saw that we need to fix TSCA, we need to have a bipartisan solution to this, and "if it takes me signing up for a bill I don't like as the opener to begin building that consensus"—that went first with TOM, then with Senator CARPER coming on, then with our MERKLEY-BOOKER-WHITEHOUSE contingent, and now most recently with Senators DURBIN and MARKEY joining us—he has been the thread that has made all of that possible.

I wish to close by expressing a personal appreciation to him for hanging in there—particularly through that early period when there was not a lot of support for this in our caucus—and working with us and Senator INHOFE and Senator VITTER to build the coalition that has today made 60-plus cosponsors possible.

Congratulations to Senator UDALL, and I thank him for letting me say a few words.

Mr. UDALL. I say to Senator WHITEHOUSE, thank you so much.

I just want to say about Senator WHITEHOUSE—I mean, this bill would not be where it is today had we not had that trio working in the Environment and Public Works Committee. I really believe that. They took the bill that was coming up, we had a hearing on it, and they really analyzed it and applied all the principles Senator WHITEHOUSE and I have both talked about, and they came up with a very significant improvement. We are here today because of his hard work.

I have been very open. I think Senator VITTER, who will join us in a minute, has been very open. Both of us said: Give us your ideas, give us your input, and we are going to take a look at it. We got technical advice from the EPA and asked, "Will this work?" because they are over there running this bureau.

So the Senator should feel very good about moving it down the field to the point where we are today.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. My only caution going forward is that, for all the wonderful work that has been done by Senator VITTER and Senator UDALL to pull us together, for all the support that has been reached here, this is still a fairly delicate compromise. We first have to figure out and solve the procedural blockages that are preventing this from going through this Chamber.

I would suggest that the majority party ought to be supporting the passage of legislation that is led by the majority party. It is the minority party's role to throw up objections and to make demands against legislation proceeding. So maybe not everybody on the other side is completely taken aboard, but they are in the majority now. So I think those blocks will be

cleared and we will have the chance to go forward. But then we have to do something with the House. Either they have to pass something or they have to pass this or we end up in conference. I think it is important that the record of this bill reflect that there is not a whole lot of wiggle room here for mischief to be accomplished between the House and the Senate.

My confidence is that—I really do think the industry supports this bill. They have worked with us, they have worked with you, and so I don't think there is a huge incentive for mischief, but I think we do have to be on our guard that the spirit, the structure, and the key points of this piece are preserved in anything that goes forward because otherwise we will be back where we started, with everybody back in their seats again.

Mr. UDALL. I say to Senator WHITEHOUSE, I couldn't agree more. I think those are the delicate phases we have to go through.

What we have been telling our House colleagues all along is we have worked long and hard on this, we have been more comprehensive than they have, and so we need their patience to work through it with us. There is not a lot of room. I couldn't agree with you more that that is where we are today.

I have good relationships in the House. I served there 10 years. FRED UPTON, JOHN SHIMKUS, and FRANK PALONE are all willing to work with us. I believe that if we look at what our goal is—to protect the American public and to protect vulnerable populations—we can get this done.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. While we have the floor and until Senator VITTER comes, might it be a good time to say a kind word about our staffs?

Mr. UDALL. Yes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know that during our process, our staff worked enormously hard, and the Senator's has been at this for a longer time than just that intense period of negotiation where we moved the bill in our section, so I defer to the Senator to make those comments. I would applaud the Senator's staff and Senator VITTER's, who have been doing a terrific job.

Mr. UDALL. I couldn't agree with the Senator more.

I also wish to talk a little bit about Senator Frank Lautenberg. I have a picture here of him with his grandchildren.

But let me first say, Senator WHITEHOUSE, did you wish to mention your staff member who worked on it, who I know spent time with Jonathan Black and with the whole team? We have a great team of staff members who are very goal-oriented and who want to get things accomplished.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. My team was led by Emily Enderle, who leads my environmental team. She has terrific credibility in the environmental commu-

nity, and she knows these laws very well, but even with that it was an enormously complicated task. This was a big bill. I forget the number of changes we actually put into it in the course of that negotiation, but it was 20, 22. It was a large array of changes, so it was a lot of work in a short period of time. Emily, the Senator's staff, and everybody who was involved in that really dove in and worked hard in the best traditions of good staff work in the Senate with the intention to get to "yes."

Mr. UDALL. I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE. I very much appreciate his comments here today and especially appreciate his participation in terms of moving this forward in a bipartisan way.

I worked with my staff diligently on this bill. I was lucky to have a chief of staff by the name of Mike Collins who spent many hours working on this. My legislative director, Andrew Wallace—Drew Wallace—worked on this. He is a lawyer by training. Jonathan Black was the legislative assistant in the main policy area. He has been with this bill all along, and he is very even-handed and very good at dealing with the other staff members in getting people to focus on the goal and not get into the arguments and not get sidetracked.

I think this is true of the staff on the Republican side and the staff on the Democratic side. We have had tremendous support, and I expect that to go forward when we start. Indeed, if we can get floor time and get this out—and I believe the bill is ready to go—I think we have the kind of staff effort in the House and the Senate that can resolve most of the major differences without too many problems. So that is what we are looking forward to.

As I said earlier, I would like to say a few words about Senator Frank Lautenberg. This is a picture of Senator Lautenberg and his grandchildren. I served on the Environment and Public Works Committee with Senator Lautenberg for a number of years, and there couldn't have been anything he was more passionate about than his grandchildren. You saw that in his public work.

Before I got onto the committee, Senator Lautenberg was a champion in terms of smoking and indoor smoking and tobacco smoke hurting people and passed some significant legislation. So it was particularly moving to me to hear him say—when he got on this compromise bill with Senator VITTER, he said he thought that bill, the Lautenberg-Vitter bill, would save more lives than all the work he had done in the public health and environmental arena. I know he said that to Bonnie Lautenberg. And that really hit all of us. He saw the legislation, he saw how it was going to evolve, and he really believed this would make a difference.

I saw that in Senator Lautenberg over and over again on the committee.

Whenever an issue would come up—it didn't matter what issue it was—he always came back to his grandchildren: Are we doing the right thing by our children? So if we were looking at a infrastructure issue and the question was “How do we frame the best possible infrastructure package?” he was looking out a couple of generations in the future and saying “Are we going to pass on a better infrastructure system so we can grow jobs and do those kinds of things?” He had passion about it, and he brought up his grandchildren on a frequent basis.

We all miss him very much, and we have named this bill after him. This bill is the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. Everybody is going to know how it started because he was one who believed in fighting for the very best, but he always believed in compromise.

I will never forget when Senator Lautenberg had what I would call the perfect bill—I guess that is the best way to describe it—and he was able to pass it through the Environment and Public Works Committee, but it passed without a single Republican vote. When it passes out of committee, it is now ready for floor time. But everybody realized that without any Republicans on the bill, it wasn't going to go anywhere. So leadership said: You know, you better go back to square one. You can't get this out of the Senate the way it is currently crafted.

To Senator Lautenberg's credit, he then took the opportunity to visit—I believe Senator MANCHIN was involved with this in terms of them going together, and they started talking and saying: Maybe we can come up with something which is bipartisan and which can attract people from both sides. And that was the original Lautenberg-Vitter bill that was introduced. This is one of the interesting things: It immediately had 24 cosponsors—12 Republicans and 12 Democrats. I was one of those cosponsors. I think that was due to the very good staff work—he had some great people on his staff—but it was also due to his meeting of the minds with Senator VITTER, coming together, and finding that common ground.

I will never forget that on that bill, the New York Times came out almost immediately—they had huge respect for Senator Lautenberg, and they said: You know, this is much better than current law. Congress ought to pass this. Of course, it needs a couple of changes—and I think they mentioned three things in their editorial. We eventually made those three changes they were talking about. But that just shows the respect Senator Lautenberg had. He was able to work with everyone, he was able to convey to the media what he was trying to do, and he had tremendous support for engaging the other side.

One of the things that has helped us come such a long way is—we lost Frank, and then I joined with Senator VITTER on the bill. We lost Frank, but we haven't lost Bonnie, his widow. Bonnie Lautenberg has been in this from the very beginning, wanting to see this bill become law and wanting to see that her children and grandchildren are protected. I remember very well the speech she gave on the floor of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Senator INHOFE was very generous in terms of saying: If Senator Lautenberg's wife, Bonnie Lautenberg, wants to come and testify on the bill, we are going to put her right up front.

She spoke very eloquently at the EPW Committee earlier this year:

Frank understood that getting this done required the art of compromise. . . . This cause is urgent, because we are living in a toxic world. Chemicals are rampant in the fabrics we and our children sleep in and wear, the rugs and products in our homes and in the larger environment we live in. How many family members and friends have we lost to cancer? We deserve a system that requires screening of all chemicals to see if they cause cancer or other health problems. How many more people must we lose before we realize that having protections in just a few states isn't good enough? We need a federal program that protects every person in this country.

That was Bonnie Lautenberg testifying before the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Earlier today, we also had a large number of groups, which I will talk about in a little bit, and Bonnie Lautenberg came down once again and spoke eloquently about the need to get this done for our children and to have a tough cop on the beat who is going to look out there, analyze these chemicals, and try to do the right thing when it comes to that regulatory effort—at the same time, as Senator INHOFE said, working with the business community.

It has been great having Bonnie Lautenberg work with us. I know she feels so passionate about this, she picks up the phone from home and calls Senators and says: The bill is at this particular point. We need your help. Will you take a look at it, and get with your staff?

She has been quite an advocate in terms of moving this legislation along.

Now, I just want to say a little bit about what happened earlier today because it was really a remarkable experience to see the coming together of Democrats and Republicans and for us to finally reach the 60 votes we need in order to break a filibuster and get the bill on the floor. We had a variety of groups represented from the public health and environmental side. There was my good friend Fred Krupp from the Environmental Defense Fund, Collin O'Mara from the National Wildlife Federation, and then we had representatives from the March of Dimes, the Humane Society, the Physicians

Committee for Responsible Medicine, Moms Clean Air Force, and other groups there on that NGO side.

We also had business leaders such as former Congressman Cal Dooley, with whom I served in the House of Representatives. Cal is now the head of what is called the American Chemistry Council. And there were other leaders who were there also from the business side: the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Petroleum Institute.

When we got them all there and saw them together, the big question I asked was this: Who would have ever thought that all of these groups would be together supporting this bill and wanting this bill to move forward?

So that is one of the reasons we say to the leadership now that this bill is ready to go. It has 60 Senators. We believe the actual votes would be higher than that, but clearly we have 60 cosponsors now, and we are ready to roll here. So that is something that is very important for both the leadership on our side and the leadership on the Republican side to know, that we are willing to do the hard work on the floor and willing to make sure that these kinds of issues that will arise as we move through this we can take care of.

Now, I want to say a little bit about—I am hoping Senator MANCHIN or Senator VITTER will arrive at some point here because they have crucial things they want to talk about. But people should understand that the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 is there to protect American families, and it doesn't. There are over 84,000 known chemicals and hundreds of new ones every year, and only 5 have been regulated by the EPA—only 5 out of 84,000.

What is absolutely clear here is that the American people want and deserve a government that does its job to keep families safe. That is why I rise today to urge support for the passage of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. Senator VITTER and I introduced this legislation for one reason and one reason only—to fix our Nation's broken chemical safety law.

Ever since the EPA lost a lawsuit in 1991, it hasn't been able to regulate asbestos, a known carcinogen. So that was one of the key things that Senator Lautenberg knew a lot about. In 1991—so imagine, 20-plus years back—the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in a ruling said that in their analysis and in the tests they put forward—and the lawyers at the EPA looked at it and said: We are unable to regulate asbestos now. We are unable to move forward. And no real activity has taken place since then.

There is nothing that says something is more broken than when an agency is

unable to move forward with the regulatory activities it was set up to do. So for decades the risks have been there, the dangers have been there, but there is really no cop on the beat taking a look at chemical safety. The current system has failed. It fails to provide confidence in our consumer products. It fails to ensure that our families and communities are safe. So there is just no doubt that reform is overdue—40 years overdue. On this Sunday, TSCA will be 40 years old.

I see my good friend Senator VITTER has arrived on the floor. Let me just take a moment, before I introduce Senator VITTER, to say that I couldn't have a better partner. I remember that over 2 years ago, Senator VITTER and I met for dinner, and we talked about this bill. We said: Let's work on it with each other, and let's grow bipartisan support. The Senator has worked actively on both sides of the aisle, as have I, and we have come a long way. We think we are ready to go. We think this bill is ready to go. I sure appreciate the partnership that Senator VITTER and I have formed on this. He has been a man of his word. When he said he was going to do something, he did it, and that is the way we have worked through all of the issues. And we have had many issues.

Just to inform the Senator, we are in a colloquy situation now until about 3:40. I think we have about 5 more minutes of the colloquy, and then Senator DAINES, who has arrived, is taking time at about 3:40, unless we can persuade him to give us a minute or two more.

So I thank the Senator for his good work on this. He has really pulled long and hard to get the bill to this point, and we are ready to go; are we not?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, absolutely we are ready to go, and I want to join my friend and colleague Senator UDALL. I want to join the chairman of the committee, Senator JIM INHOFE, and urge all of us to come together, as we have been doing over these many months, and actually pass a good solid bipartisan TSCA reform effort.

It was over 2 years ago that I sat down with the late Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey in an attempt to find compromise and work together on updating the drastically outdated Toxic Substances Control Act, what we are talking about and sometimes known as TSCA. Updating this law was a long-time goal and passion of Frank's, as has been noted, and I am saddened he is not here today to see it finally moving forward because he worked so hard for that.

After Frank's passing, Senator TOM UDALL stepped in to help preserve Frank's legacy and continued working with me to move bipartisan TSCA reform forward. But in the time since,

Senator UDALL and I have worked tirelessly to ensure the bill substantively addresses the concerns of our fellow Republican and Democratic colleagues as well as concerns and ideas from industry and the environmental and public health communities.

If you need any evidence of this being accomplished, look no further than the 60 bipartisan cosponsors of this bill—60 bipartisan cosponsors—as well as endorsements from groups ranging from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Chemistry Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, the March of Dimes, and the Humane Society.

The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act was created to balance the needs of the regulatory bodies, the chemical industry, and the affected stakeholders in an effective and transparent way. Our bipartisan legislation ensures that Americans will have the certainty they deserve that the EPA is overseeing the safety of chemicals in the marketplace without stifling industry's success and innovation.

That work has been a long time in coming, as many of my colleagues have noted, but it is here, and now we need to move forward. We have a moment of opportunity we need to act on, and I urge all of us to come together here on the floor and get this done now. In our work in the Senate, these opportunities don't come a dime a dozen. They do not come every day. They are here before us right now, and so I urge all of us to act.

We have virtually unanimous agreement about a way to move this through the Senate on an extremely short time frame. The only issue is Senators BURR and AYOTTE and their desire to have a vote on a completely unrelated piece of legislation. I am completely sympathetic to their wanting a vote, but we have an agreement otherwise to deal with TSCA on the floor in 2 hours and move it through the Senate. So we must take up this opportunity in an effective, bipartisan and responsible way, and I urge all of us to do that.

I look forward to doing that in the very near future, and I thank again everybody who has worked so tirelessly on this, including my lead Democratic partner in this effort, Senator TOM UDALL.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. UDALL. I thank the Senator so much. As I have said, he has been a great partner to work with on this. He has always been a man of his word.

Senator MANCHIN is now on the floor, and I thought it would be good for him to talk a bit about his involvement. I know he was an early cosponsor. He was a good friend to Senator Lautenberg.

I say to Senator MANCHIN, one of the issues we have been talking about is

the question of whether this bill is ready to go, but please, it is open for your comment and discussion. Please proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a bill that is long past due—long past due—and one that, in part, honors our dear colleague and my dear friend Frank Lautenberg. Anybody who served with Frank knew he served with compassion, and he had a passion with that compassion that was unbeatable.

This is one of those pieces of legislation he had compassion for and the passion to get it done, and I think we can all agree the current Toxic Substances Control Act, which we know as TSCA, is inadequate and the law is long past due to be reformed. The Toxic Substances Control Act has not been improved in more than 30 years.

I couldn't believe that when Frank explained to me the history of this piece of legislation. How this all came about and how I became involved is that in 2013 I started talking to Senator VITTER. He was working it diligently, and he told me that Frank had always been on the frontline and championed this thing. So I went to Frank to get his input, and he said: JOE, the time has come. We have to do something. We have to move the ball forward. It is not going to be a perfect bill. I understand that. And to be honest, I have never seen a perfect bill. So we worked on it, but Frank was willing to move it forward.

Here are the facts. In the 30 years that we have been talking about doing nothing but talking about it, 80,000 chemicals have been registered in the United States—80,000 new chemicals have been registered—which many of us use every day. We use these unknowingly. Only 200 have undergone EPA testing—only 200 out of 80,000. So Frank thought, very pragmatically, if we can just move the ball, can we do 20,000 or 30,000 or 40,000 or 50,000 of them? That is all we were trying to do, and he knew this.

There is not one person here who can question Senator Lautenberg's dedication to not only reforming the law but also protecting the environment and the health and safety of every American. This thing got a little bit nasty, to the point where Frank, really sincere about moving this forward, knew he had to take some steps. After 30 years, I can tell you Frank Lautenberg knew exactly what he was doing. He knew exactly that he had to make some adjustments to move the ball forward, and that is what we are here for. Frank wanted to do that.

So we had a long talk about that, and Frank said: Joe, try to move it if you can. So we all got together, our staffs got together, and things started to happen. Then Senator UDALL became

very much involved, and I appreciate that he was on the committee. He championed it from there. He and Senator VITTER are sitting on that committee and really making things happen.

Reforming TSCA would establish much needed regulatory certainty for the chemical industry, which directly and indirectly employs about 40,000 West Virginians and over 800,000 people nationwide. When Senator Lautenberg met with Senator VITTER, he toughened many of the most important provisions in the law, and Senator UDALL has taken up that effort and further strengthened the bill.

The bill we have before us includes increased States' rights under preemption. That was our hangup for a long time. They worked through this, and I commend both of them for working through preemption and making sure that the States that have been out front and doing things are not going to be harmed by this. That was never the intention.

It ensures that doctors, first responders, and government health and environmental officials would have greater access to confidential business information to guarantee that those potentially exposed to harmful chemicals could receive the best possible treatment.

Most importantly, it contains a safety standard that, unlike current law, is based solely on human health and the environment and includes no cost-benefit analysis.

Now let me get personal here. In my State we had Freedom Industry leak a chemical called MCHM, used in the coal cleaning process in West Virginia. We had no idea what effect this chemical had on humans. We had one plant, one intake on the Elk River that supplied about 300,000 homes with water. The whole valley was affected—everybody. Don't drink it, don't bathe in it, don't wash. We didn't know what effect it would have so all precautions were taken. It shut down a whole industry. It shut down the whole community—the whole city, if you will.

In July of last year, I pushed the NIH and CDC to conduct further studies into the potential impacts of crude MCHM. We didn't know. We had to push them, and we had to get everybody onboard to tell us as quickly as they could what effect it has on our humans and on our children. Does it have any long-lasting effects?

The NIH's National Toxicology Program concluded their study into crude MCHM and indicated that no long-term health effects should be expected for residents who were impacted. That was great news, but it came long after a lot of harm was done.

While I am thrilled with the findings, we shouldn't have to wait more than 1 year to get safety information on the chemicals in question. This bill that we

are working on right now would require the EPA to systematically review all chemicals in commerce for the first time ever. While this will be a long process, it is far superior to the current system that allows the chemicals we use every day to go untested for health impacts on all of us.

Some of my colleagues have argued that the bill could be better. I assure you it could be better. Every bill that we ever pass here could be better. But you have to start somewhere. Frank Lautenberg knew that. After 30 years, he said: Listen, enough is enough. If Frank Lautenberg had been able and we could have gotten this done 2, 3 years later, my community, my State—300,000 residents out of 1.8 million—wouldn't have been affected for 1 year with the uncertainty of what effect it is going to have on them.

I do know that before I decide to vote for a bill, I ask myself three things. Will this improve the quality of life of my constituents? Is it better than the status quo? And have we worked as hard as we can to preserve our core beliefs? For me, the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act is a yes on all three. It is a win-win for all of us. Senator Lautenberg was an extremely smart legislator who knew it was time to move past partisan politics and craft a bill that would finally protect all Americans. This bill does that. It does it in grand fashion.

I think Senator VITTER summed it up. We have a little bit of a jousting going on, if you will. I understand it. I sympathize with Senator BURR and Senator AYOTTE in wanting to get a piece of legislation that most of us—I think all of us—support. It may not be the right fit for it right now, and this bill should go as clean. As much work and as much time as has elapsed, this bill should go clean. I truly believe that.

We are committed with our energy bill coming up, as we are with the LWG—the land-water grant—and we are going to be there. We are going to fight for that. But it should be done in a different format than what this piece of legislation is being done in and given how important this piece of legislation is—the Frank Lautenberg legislation, which he worked so hard on and dedicated his life to. I want to make sure that we support this in the fashion that it should be. It is bipartisan. There are not too many things here that are bipartisan. This is one moment that we should seize and move forward for all of our constituents.

With that, I say to Senator UDALL, I commend you for the job you have done and the work you have put into this, and I know that Frank would be proud of you.

Mr. UDALL. I say to Senator MANCHIN, I want to thank you too because I know you have labored hard on this, and you helped the original co-

sponsors get together and talk with each other and help them find common ground. With Senator VITTER here, we both believe we are going to have a couple of meetings now to try to move forward with the bill, as you have talked about, and meet with leadership and iron out the differences. But this thing is ready to go.

Mr. MANCHIN. If I may, I ask the Senator, the preemption was the last thing hanging, right?

Mr. UDALL. Yes.

Mr. MANCHIN. You have worked through that. All of our States that had concerns about that know they will not be usurped by preemption, that we will commence and you have to reduce your standards.

Mr. UDALL. The key here is that States are going to be able to participate much more. When we started with the original bill, we worked more towards having States participate.

I know that Senator DAINES has been very generous to us and shown us great courtesy. We have run over our time. I am going to yield the floor, Senator MANCHIN, unless you have something else.

Mr. MANCHIN. I would like to recognize Mrs. Lautenberg here to observe this historic moment.

We are so happy to have you here, Bonnie. I know that Frank would be proud of you, having fought the good fight that he fought forever.

There is our good friend right there.

Mr. UDALL. Earlier, before the Senator got here, this is what I showed everybody, which is a picture of Frank and his grandchildren. You know well how he always talked about his grandchildren—

Mr. MANCHIN. God bless.

Mr. UDALL. And how we were supposed to legislate with grandchildren in mind.

I wish to thank Senator DAINES for his courtesies. The Senator can count on me and Senator MANCHIN to work with him on the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Senator MANCHIN is from West Virginia, but I am from the West, like he is. I think we all believe that should move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Montana has a rich legacy of service to our country. From maintaining our Nation's peace-through-strength strategy at Montana's Malmstrom Air Force Base, where we oversee one-third of our Nation's intercontinental ballistic missiles, to our Army and Air National Guard members' work to support our communities in times of emergency and respond to calls for deployment overseas, Montana is playing a critical role in meeting our Nation's security and military needs. Montanans know firsthand the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform.

The National Defense Authorization Act is critical to ensuring servicemembers have the funding and support they need to fulfill their missions. The NDAA prioritizes the needs of our servicemembers, while protecting the important role that Montana holds in our national defense. The passage of this legislation is critical to carrying out our missions in an increasingly dangerous world.

In fact, earlier this year former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He described the perilous state of our global security: "The United States has not faced a more diverse and complex array of crises since the end of the Second World War."

The threats we face from Syria, Russia, China, and ISIS are too serious for our troops to lack the resources they need to protect and defend our Nation from foreign threats. Yet the leader of our troops, our Commander in Chief, has threatened to veto the bipartisan NDAA, which would fund our military priorities at the levels he requested. This is the same foreign policy agenda that has become the hallmark of President Obama's now famous "lead from behind" strategy.

Even former Democratic President Jimmy Carter agrees. In fact, earlier this summer, President Carter was asked whether he thought President Obama's foreign policy was a success or failure on the world stage. Here is what President Carter replied: "I can't think of many nations in the world where we have a better relationship now than we did when he took over."

President Carter then continued: "I would say that the United States' influence and prestige and respect in the world is probably lower now than it was 6 or 7 years ago."

This weekend the Washington Post's editorial board criticized President Obama for holding our troops ransom for his domestic policy agenda. That editorial said this:

American Presidents rarely veto national defense authorization bills, since they are, well, vital to national security. . . . Refusing to sign this bill would make history, but not in a good way.

It is a mistake for President Obama to use our troops for leverage. Our troops deserve better. The NDAA seeks to provide our troops with the support they deserve. It fully authorizes spending on defense programs at the President's budget request level of \$612 billion for fiscal year 2016. It authorizes \$75 million for the Southern Border Security Initiative to help address challenges facing the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports servicemembers beyond their years of sacrifice to our Nation by extending retirement benefits to the vast majority of servicemembers left out of the current system. It includes a provision that mirrors my legislation, which I introduced, called the Securing

Military Personnel Response Firearm Initiative Act, or SEMPER FI Act, which empowers a member of the Armed Forces to carry appropriate firearms, including personal firearms, at DOD installations, reserve centers, and recruiting centers.

Additionally, this bill provides much-needed support for Montana's military missions. There is \$19.7 million for the Tactical Response Force Alert Facility at Malmstrom Air Force Base. There is \$4.26 million for an energy conservation project at Malmstrom. It authorizes funding for Avionics Modernization Program Increments 1 and 2 to ensure that our C-130s can stay in the air. It authorizes funding for C-130 engine modifications. It expresses the sense of Congress that the nuclear triad plays a critical role in ensuring our national security and that it is the policy of the United States to operate, sustain, and modernize or replace the triad and to operate and modernize or replace a capability to forward-deploy nuclear weapons and dual-capable fighter bomber aircraft.

The heroes of our Nation serve our country selflessly day in and day out, and they don't deserve partisan politics. It is unfortunate that critical appropriations for our military and veterans were blocked in recent weeks. Today's vote shows there is overwhelming bipartisan support to fund our troops. Given this, it is senseless that partisan politics continue to block funding for our troops.

I urge our Democratic Senators to put politics aside. Let's do what is right. Join me in supporting the Department of Defense appropriations bill. Our heroes deserve our utmost respect and the security to carry out their missions without threats—without threats from our Commander in Chief. Congress has a constitutional duty to provide for the funding of our troops. This body needs to uphold that responsibility. Let's do what is right. Let's pass the National Defense Authorization Act.

I yield back my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY AND EPA REGULATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, last Friday the Obama administration released the latest numbers on unemployment and jobs, and once again, the numbers were grim. Experts predicted that our economy would create 200,000 new jobs in September. Instead, they fell woefully short. There were only 140,000 jobs, so they were about 60,000

jobs short. That is a big miss. It is nowhere near as many jobs as America's families need now.

Here is how Investor's Business Daily put it in a headline on Monday, October 5, "Private Hiring Pace Is Worst In 3 Years; Labor Force Shrinks." Wages have gone almost nowhere for 6 years. They actually declined in September. We have had 74 straight months with wage growth below 2 and a ½ percent. Before the recession, we routinely had 3 percent growth month after month, but President Obama seems to be satisfied with this limping progress. Over the weekend, he bragged about how many jobs have been created while he has been President.

Is missing expectations good enough for President Obama? It is not good enough for me. It is not good enough to get the economic growth that we need in this country and that we should have coming out of a recession.

One of the very big reasons for this slow growth is due to all of the regulations that this administration has piled onto the backs of American families. Since 2009, this administration has come out with more than 2,500 new regulations. According to the American Action Forum, the total cost of all of these new regulations—this new red tape—is about \$680 billion. That is more than \$2,100 for every man, woman, and child in America right now.

According to the World Bank, the United States is 46th in the world in terms of how easy it is to start a business. Is 46th in the world good enough? Maybe it is good enough for President Obama, but I don't think it is good enough for the American people. All of these regulations make it very tough for someone to start a business right now. It is also tough for existing businesses to create new jobs.

Last week, the energy company Royal Dutch Shell announced that it was going to suspend drilling for oil off the coast of Alaska. They said one of the reasons was "the challenging and unpredictable federal regulatory environment in offshore Alaska." Too much regulation is making it too difficult to produce the American energy and American jobs that we need.

Unelected, unaccountable Washington bureaucrats have been having a field day at the expense of our economy. As the Obama administration runs down, it is in a race to get even more rules on the books.

Just last week the administration announced three big new regulations. On Tuesday, the EPA finalized a rule on oil refineries. It is going to require refineries to install new equipment and spend more money on something other than creating jobs and paying higher wages to their workers. It is estimated that the rule could cost up to \$1 billion and provide very little in the way of health benefits.

On Wednesday, the EPA finalized more limits on coal, gas, and nuclear powerplants. Just like Tuesday's rule, this one will cost another one-half billion dollars a year. The rule sets the unacceptable amounts of some emissions at zero.

Finally, on Thursday the EPA released a new limit on ozone in the air. The limit was 75 parts per billion, and they cut it to 70 parts per billion. This is a tiny change—we are talking about parts per billion—but that tiny change is going to cost more than \$2 billion a year once the rule is in full effect. Huge chunks of the country are going to have to adjust to meet the new standard, and the benefit is minuscule.

Farms and small manufacturing companies will have to buy new equipment or change the way they do things. States and cities will have to change how they do local transportation projects. All of that adds up to lost jobs and even less economic growth than we have had in the past 6 years. These are huge effects, all to chase another few tiny parts per billion of ozone. Five parts per billion is the equivalent of 5 seconds over 32 years. That is how small it is, but the costs are enormous.

Over the course of three days last week, three new regulations have been added. They will cost our economy billions of dollars at a time when the private-hiring pace is at its worst in 3 years and the labor force shrinks.

We all agree that reasonable regulations make good sense. In the 1960s and 1970s, regulations helped to clean up pollution in our air, land, and water, but now Washington bureaucrats are chasing after smaller and smaller trace amounts of chemicals no matter what the cost, how high the cost, or how insignificant the benefits.

The EPA issued one rule that I found hard to believe. I thought it was a misprint, but it is not. They issued one rule that would cost \$9.6 billion per year to administer.

What are the benefits? Only \$4 million. I thought they had misspelled and misplaced the "b" and the "m," but, no. It will cost \$9.6 billion and will produce only \$4 million in direct benefits. That is as much as \$2,400 in costs for every \$1 in benefits. How can they do this? I am talking about direct benefits.

The EPA tried to say: Well, there are all sorts of what they called ancillary benefits. Who gets to decide how much these are worth? Apparently the Obama administration says that it does. It is no surprise that this administration cooks up an imaginary number for those theoretical benefits—not direct benefits, but their "ancillary" benefits, and they say it is big enough to balance the very real costs that American families feel.

It is all a way to justify these ridiculous rules that destroy jobs, restrict

freedom, and do very little good for Americans. It is Washington and this administration run amok.

Is the Obama administration trying to make sure our economy continues to limp along as it has for the past 6½ years? Is that what they want?

In 1972, the Clean Water Act was meant to protect navigable waters. It was reasonable. We want to protect our navigable waters. Today the administration has a new water rule called waters of the United States. It is going to give Washington bureaucrats control over everything from irrigation ditches to small natural ponds in someone's backyard. This is unreasonable. Where does it end? Bipartisan majorities in the Congress already say it needs to end now.

I have introduced a bill that would direct the Obama administration to come up with a new rule on waters of the United States—one that protects traditional navigable water from pollution, which we must do, but it also protects farmers, ranchers, and private landowners. We can do both.

This legislation has 46 cosponsors, Democrats and Republicans. We are telling the Obama administration that enough is enough.

Republicans are also ready to take on some of these other outrageous rules such as the extreme new restrictions on powerplants. That is what Congress is going to be doing to stop the insanity of these out-of-control regulations and out-of-control regulators. We need to cut through the redtape.

Americans want to get back to work. They want to get our economy going again. Congress needs to help them do it because this administration certainly is not. The Obama administration basically needs to get out of the way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wish to speak this afternoon on a very important vote that we took today to move forward on the Defense authorization bill. I thought I would start by backing up a little bit.

Last week we had the opportunity to vote on and talk about funding for our veterans and our troops. In addition to the Defense authorization bill that we voted on today to proceed to that, the votes we took last week were very important. They were very important to the country and certainly very important to my State—the great State of Alaska—which has a huge military presence, but also to our huge veteran

population. We have probably the highest number of veterans per capita than any State in the Union.

I am honored to have a good friend of mine, Representative Bob Herron, the majority whip in the Alaska House. He is in the Gallery today. He is also a marine. So he represents not only Alaska in our State Government but Alaska as a veteran, as a fellow marine.

The American people want the Senate to be working again. We all know the country has huge challenges. I wish to speak about some national foreign policy challenges. We have a huge debt: \$8 trillion. I think we are close to \$19 trillion. We got downgraded in terms of our credit rating for the first time in American history. We can't grow the economy. We have huge challenges.

For years the Senate was not working. It was not moving forward. Some would have called it dysfunctional. No regular order, no amendments, no budget, no appropriations bills; a locked down U.S. Senate not doing its work. I think the American people wanted us to do work. So last fall they said it is time for a change. We need to get to work. We need to start tackling our challenges.

So we are changing that. We are working hard to do things the American people sent us to Washington to do. We passed a budget. It hasn't happened in years. We passed appropriations bills through regular order, Democrats and Republicans, bringing amendments to the floor of the Senate, voting again. One of the things we have been doing—and it happened today—is we are prioritizing where they want us to prioritize. Our national defense, which is probably the most important role we have in this body—our troops, our veterans.

So we are making progress, but progress is halting. It is never a straight line. For some reason—and we saw it over the last couple of weeks—a lot of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle didn't want to fund the government, particularly in terms of these critical issues of our troops, including our national defense and taking care of our veterans—and again we saw that over the last couple of weeks.

Two critical appropriations bills moved to the Senate floor. There was the Defense appropriations bill, which again passed out of the Appropriations Committee by huge bipartisan numbers: 27 to 3. There was huge bipartisan support for that bill. Then we had the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, which passed out of committee 21 to 9. It had huge bipartisan support. Why? Because the American people want us to focus on these critical issues: national defense, our troops, taking care of our veterans. So we are moving forward.

The budget, appropriations bills that we voted on that haven't been voted on for years—bipartisan, prioritizing what

the American people want. But then these appropriations bills, which provide funding for our vets, funding for our troops, came to the floor, and progress stopped. I still don't understand why. When asked by constituents: Why did the other side vote to move these bills out of committee in such a bipartisan way, but then when they got to the floor, they stopped, they filibustered, no spending for our troops or for our vets, I don't know the answer. I have asked. My constituents are asking. Directions from the White House? Who knows. But I do think it is clear to me, I think it is clear to most Americans, and I even think it is clear to all of the Members of this body that when those bills were filibustered over the last 2 weeks, that our troops and our veterans were shortchanged because we are voting to defund them. That is what the filibuster did; it defunded our troops and our veterans.

So I have to admit that when we were getting ready to vote today, I feared a repeat performance on probably one of the most important bills we are going to take up all year—the National Defense Authorization Act. It authorizes spending, pay raises, sets out our military strategy, retirement reform. It is so important to our country. Once again, I wish to commend Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED, the two leaders of the Armed Services Committee who did such a good job moving that bill forward. Once again, it started with such great bipartisan promise. It moved out of committee 22 to 4, very bipartisan. Then it came to the Senate floor for a vote a few months ago, the NDAA, the Defense authorization bill; 71 Senators, incredibly bipartisan, moved forward and voted for that bill. Then it went to a conference with the House where it was improved. It all seemed to be on track to bring this bill back to the floor of the Senate and to vote on moving forward on the conference report.

What happened? That is great bipartisan progress. We are changing things. We are making things happen. The President of the United States has since said he is going to veto the bill. He is going to veto the bill—veto the National Defense Authorization Act.

Once again—and I am not sure, taking orders from the White House or not—the minority leader came to the floor and told the American people this morning he would work with the President to sustain that veto, to sustain the veto of our Defense bill. What a disappointment. We have this huge bipartisan progress. When given the clear choice between standing with our troops and our veterans or the President, who says he is going to veto this bill for reasons I still don't understand, the minority leader is choosing the President.

I am honored to sit on the Armed Services Committee of the Senate as

well as the Veterans' Affairs Committee. As I said in remarks last week on the Senate floor, these are two of the most bipartisan committees we have. It is clear to me that every member—Democratic, Republican—of these committees cares about our troops, respects our troops, cares deeply about our national security. I believe every Member of this body does. Once again, we saw that today. We saw that today. There was no filibuster. Seventy-three Senators voted to move forward on the Defense appropriations bill. It was 71 before and today it was 73—an important bipartisan victory for our national defense, for our veterans, for our troops, but a Presidential veto still hangs out there. The President's veto threat still is like a cloud hanging over this very important vote today.

I mentioned at the outset that this is very important for my State, the great State of Alaska. This is important for the national security of our Nation, and this is important for all of us. It is important to me. As a veteran and a marine in the Reserves, I know this is a critically important issue. If he is going to veto this bill, I don't know how the Commander in Chief will explain to the American people and our troops why he is doing this. There have been only four times in the last 53 years that the NDAA has been vetoed.

Providing the common defense of this Nation, the national defense, is probably our most important duty. And that duty increases when you look around the world and see the threats that are emerging in different parts of the world—the Middle East, Ukraine, the Asian Pacific, the Arctic.

Mr. President, to govern is to choose. To govern is to prioritize. The President's administration spent years negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran, and this body spent weeks debating the merits of the President's Iran deal. That deal and what we debated then needs to be put in the context of the President's veto threat to the Defense authorization bill.

Let me give a few examples.

The President's Iran deal will give billions—tens of billions—in the lifting of sanctions to Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, but the President threatens to veto a bill that will fund our military.

The President's Iran deal lifts sanctions on Iranian military members such as General Soleimani, who literally is responsible for the maiming and killing of thousands of American troops, but the President's veto—his threatened veto—would stop payment of bonuses and improved military retirement benefits to our troops and veterans.

The President's Iran deal gives access to the Iranians by lifting sanctions on conventional weapons, ballistic missiles, and advanced nuclear centrifuges, but the President threatens to

veto in this bill advanced weapons systems for the United States.

The President's Iran deal gives the opportunity for terrorist groups supported by Iran such as Hezbollah and Hamas to have further funding for their terrorist activities, but the President threatens to veto a bill that provides additional funding and resources and capability for our troops to defeat ISIS.

To govern is to choose. To govern is to prioritize. As we move forward on the substance of the national defense authorization bill, we are choosing and prioritizing our troops and our national defense, and that is why this vote was so positive this morning. I hope we can have at least 73 Senators, who voted to move forward today, vote to pass the NDAA and put it on the President's desk for his signature. But if the President chooses to veto this critical piece of legislation, which has enormous bipartisan support, at this moment in time when our country faces serious international threats, I hope that my colleagues—the 73 Senators who voted to move forward on this critical piece of legislation—will also stand strong and vote to override the veto of the President, which is exactly what our troops and the American people would want us to do.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, what we saw in Roseburg last week was a repeat of the evil we have seen in countless places across the country, causing tens of thousands of deaths in towns and cities and suburbs and rural areas across this country.

Evil visited Roseburg. We saw the worst of human character in those moments of mass killing. We saw also the best in human character in the response from the firemen, police, and emergency responders who risked their lives and saved lives.

When the sound of gunshots rang out that morning, my own recollection was triggered of a morning just a few years earlier when I stood with the parents and loved ones on that day of the mass slaughter in Sandy Hook in Newtown.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Roseburg, with the victims and their loved ones. I know that nothing said here—certainly nothing I can say—will help mend those wounds and ease the grief and pain of those loved ones for the great lives lost and the many left behind.

I am frustrated and angry coming here today because the places of those mass killings have become shorthand for a deep disease, an epidemic of violence in America today—Virginia Tech, Columbine, Charleston, Sandy Hook, Newtown, and now Roseburg. They are shorthand for mass slaughters which have occurred at the rate of about one

a week while President Obama has been in office. There have been 142 school shootings since Newtown alone. There are 30,000 deaths per year in America, the greatest, strongest country in the history of the world.

The mass killings are not even the source of the largest numbers. They are individual deaths, such as that of Javier Martinez, a young man from New Haven with an enormously bright and promising future. When I visited his school after he was killed by a gun because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, his classmates asked me to talk about gun violence—not as an abstract notion but as a real threat to them and their community.

It is a phenomenon that faces every community every day, everywhere, and everyone. All of us are touched by it if we think about it, if we put aside the denial that all too often affects us, a denial that causes people to minimize the threat. We all are victims or we know victims or we know of the tragic consequences of real stories in our community as a result of gun violence.

The deaths in Roseburg are tragic, but no less tragic was Javier Martinez' death, nor are the gun deaths that occur in situations that involve domestic violence, gangs, fights between individuals, accidents, and suicides—a major source of death by gun violence—and countless other circumstances where people who are dangerous or who lack the mental health or the maturity to responsibly use guns nonetheless have access to them and use them for deadly purposes.

Let's be very clear. The Second Amendment is a guarantee under our Constitution to law-abiding citizens that they can use guns for lawful purposes, whether recreational or hunting, that they can possess as many as they please, and the vast majority of them support measures that will keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people is the reason we have advanced commonsense, sensible measures to stop gun violence, and the failure to adopt them has made Congress complicit—in effect an aider and abettor to those deaths—because Congress has enabled the continuation of death and destruction that has become a fact of life in America, a disgraceful and shameful emblem of Congress's failure to act. There is a point when inaction causes culpability, when it becomes, in effect, aiding and abetting and complicity. Congress in some ways might just as well be standing at the elbows of those shooters, whether in Charleston or Roseburg or Sandy Hook or elsewhere.

Regret and grief are appropriate, but they are no solution. They are no excuse for inaction. Inaction is reprehensible when it comes to gun violence—an epidemic and disease spreading in this country just as surely as a con-

tagion or infection. The inaction of this body speaks louder than words.

My simple reaction is, enough—enough of inaction. The time for action is now on universal background checks, a ban on illegal trafficking and straw purchases, a prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, as well as mental health initiatives and school safety measures. This kind of comprehensive package of reforms has been proposed. This body failed to adopt it, but that is no excuse for inaction now.

There is no one measure, no single solution, no panacea, no simple fix to this problem, but we must begin because laws have consequences. I refuse to adopt the defeatist or denial approach of many of our colleagues who say the laws simply will not work, cannot do anything, will not solve the problem.

We are here because we believe laws can improve the lives of ordinary Americans, no less so when it comes to gun violence or any other problem we face. In fact, we ought to approach this issue of gun violence with the same urgency and immediacy that America would in attempting to solve any public health crisis because surely we face a public health crisis and emergency in gun violence.

When there is a spread of a contagious disease, whether it is flu, tuberculosis, or Ebola, we track the source, hospitalize the victims, take remedial action, admit them to treatment, and take preventive measures to prevent that kind of disease from recurring. When there is a spread of food poisoning, we don't throw up our arms and say there is nothing laws can do. In fact, law enforcement and health authorities track down the packages that are contaminated and provide relief for the people who suffer from that kind of occurrence and take preventive measures to stop it from recurring by imposing sanitary conditions and rules and regulations on the food producer.

Infections, contagion, and spread of disease can be deadly and crippling; they can threaten fear and harm and cause panic. Gun violence is exactly the same. It is equally insidious and pernicious, and its impact is greater than any of those single epidemics. The spread of stolen guns—guns that are stolen or illegally purchased—is much like a disease in America today, and the ones who will testify to that fact are our law enforcement authorities who see it firsthand and are on our side in urging responsible, commonsense measures and reform.

When this Nation faced, in effect, an epidemic of car deaths and injuries, we didn't stop everyone from driving, but we did put in place reasonable safeguards—seatbelt laws, drunk driving measures, and speed limits—and we enforced them. They were resisted at the time. Drunk driving measures caused

outrage among some civil libertarians, but now they are part of our everyday expectations about how life will work in America, and they have drastically reduced auto fatalities and injuries. The recognition of the damage and destruction that has been caused by automobiles means that we educate and we take commonsense, responsible measures.

Much of the knowledge that led to those commonsense, sensible measures came from research—yes, knowledge. It was fact-based, evidence-driven research done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Like many of my colleagues, I am dismayed by the fact that similar, incredibly valuable public health data about gun control from this world-class institution is unavailable to us because of the restrictive, politically motivated budget riders forbidding it. It is unconscionable that Congress's response to this problem is denial, shutting out research and responsible, fact-based evidence involving the provision of information.

This country knows how to respond to a public health crisis. We are America. We face the challenges; we don't deny or disparage the truth tellers.

After the Stockton schoolyard shooting in California where 34 children were shot and 5 killed, President George H.W. Bush issued an Executive order in 1989 banning the import of semiautomatic assault rifles. There were repeated circumventions of that order. Part of the response was, in 1994, a measure authored by Senator FEINSTEIN—our great colleague—banning the manufacture and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. That measure expired, but it shows how we can act and how we can face challenges.

Ronald Reagan was almost killed by an assassin's bullet—a would-be assassin's bullet—in 1981. Ten years after the event, he wrote in the *New York Times* that if the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act reduced gun deaths by as little as 10 percent, it would be “well worth making it the law of the land because there would be a lot fewer families facing anniversaries such as the Bradys and the Reagan's faced every March 30th.” That bill, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, became law in 1993 with his support 12 years after that near assassination.

Both Stockton and the Reagan near assassination show that these measures are possible. It may look like a marathon. It is never a sprint. It is not only possible, it is obligatory.

I look forward to a number of my colleagues and myself—and I note that a partner in this effort has been my colleague Senator MURPHY, who will follow me shortly—I look forward to all of us coming together and spearheading and championing again a set of reforms that will help make America safer and

better. The time for action is truly now. This public health emergency cannot go unaddressed. The gap in our current laws can be remedied.

I have already offered the Lori Jackson Violence Survivor Protection Act, a bill named for a brave Connecticut mother of two children who was estranged from her husband, fled her home for her life, obtained a temporary restraining order for her and her children's protection, and then was gunned down by her estranged husband because the temporary protective order did not require him to surrender his weapon—a gap in the law that must be remedied. That bill would do so.

This bill is modest. My bill would close this loophole requiring protective orders, whether temporary or permanent, to require the surrendering of weapons. Women who are victims of domestic violence are at the greatest risk. Women who are victims of this insidious peril are most in danger when they first leave or try to leave. That is when the temporary order is, in effect, most necessary, the danger at its greatest but the law at its weakest in stopping gun violence.

We are on the right side of history. We are on the right side of law enforcement. We are on the right side of public opinion. The overwhelming majority of Americans clearly favor these kinds of measures and the overwhelming majority of gun owners too. If history is on our side, we must be on the right side of this issue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to keep faith with the victims of Newtown and Sandy Hook, to demonstrate that our grief and regret is more than just words, that it will lead to action. The time for action is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, let me thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for being such a great partner. He and I have traveled a very long journey together since September of 2012 when we both stood together at the firehouse in Sandy Hook, CT. We have become evangelical in our belief that this mass slaughter has to stop. On Friday we all stopped for a moment and we sent our sympathies to those who were killed in Portland: Lucero Alcaraz, Treven Taylor Anspach, Rebecca Ann Carnes, Quinn Glen Cooper, Kim Dietz, Lucas Eibel, Jason Dale Johnson, Lawrence Levine—he was the assistant professor there—and Sarena Dawn Moore.

Mr. President, 274 days this year and 294 mass shootings. We are averaging one mass shooting—multiple people being shot at one particular moment—more mass shootings than we have days in the year.

Of course, for us, this shooting and the information that came out in the aftermath of it was particularly

chilling because we have seen this young man before. The young man, Christopher Harper-Mercer, was isolated, withdrawn, and obsessed with guns. His family had many of them. He had rebuffed attempts at socialization by his family. He had grievances that he mainly shared with himself. He eventually turned those grievances on nine people who died and about an equal number who were injured.

We know that story because we saw it play out in Connecticut as well—a mentally ill individual, a young man who became isolated from his friends, his community, and his family, who had a rather large store of weapons, and who then took out his frustration and his outrage on 20 little kids at Sandy Hook Elementary.

But I guess to me what is definitional about this scourge of mass violence is not necessarily what happened on Friday but what happened the day after, on Saturday. On Saturday there were likely another 80 people killed by guns all across the country. That is about the number we run every single day. Every day there are a handful of exceptional stories, stories that make your heart turn, that make your gut cringe.

On Saturday there was an 11-year-old boy who confronted his 8-year-old neighbor in Tennessee over the fact that she would not let him play with her pet bunny. When she protested and said she did not want him to play with it, he marched back into his house, got a shotgun, walked back over to her, and shot her with a shotgun. How on Earth did an 11-year-old boy get that quick access to a shotgun? How on Earth have we gotten into a moment in which a dispute over whether you can hold a little pet bunny turns into a murder?

What I can tell you is that I guarantee that scene does not play out in other countries in this world, that 11-year-old boys don't shoot 8-year-old girls with shotguns in Sweden or Japan or in Great Britain. We know that because what is happening here in the United States is exceptional. This rate of 80 people being lost to guns every day, this normalization of mass shootings, is exclusive to the United States. We have a gun homicide rate in the United States that is not twice the average of other OECD countries, it is not 5 times, it is not 10 times, it is 20 times the average of our first-world competitor nations. We have to ask ourselves, what is different about the United States? What is different about life here, the way in which we resolve disputes, from all of these other nations that have gun violence, gun death rates that are 20 times lower than the United States?

Let's be honest about one thing. It is not that the United States has higher rates of mental illness than other countries. It is not that our mental health delivery system spends less than

other countries. There is no more mental illness in the United States than there is in any other industrialized country. Some studies will tell you that we spend more on mental illness treatment and behavioral health treatment than any other country. Yet gun deaths are 20 times what they are in other countries. It is not because we lack for protection. Our malls and our churches and our movie theatres are not any less protected or less secure than those in other countries. We invest in law enforcement at a same or greater rate than all of these other nations. What is different? What is different here in this country? What is different is that we are awash in guns. We are awash in illegal guns. We celebrate weapons that are designed exclusively to kill other people, and we collect them and show them off for sport, military-style assault weapons, cartridges, drums of ammunition that hold 100 rounds, whose utility is only associated with ending life. That is what is different. That is what is different about the United States.

I will admit that the solution is comprehensive because I will be the last person to tell you that fixing our mental health system will not have a beneficial effect on the rates of gun violence. Adam Lanza and Christopher Harper-Mercer were deeply troubled individuals who were ill-served by a behavioral health system that was far too opaque and complex for them. Law enforcement needs more help on the streets of New Haven and New York and Chicago and Los Angeles. All those things will help. But what distinguishes America from the other parts of the world that have much lower rates on gun violence is not investment in law enforcement and is not our rate of mental illness. So we have to have this conversation about our laws that allow for this flow of high-powered guns and illegal guns onto the street.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I are going to join together tomorrow to introduce what we think is a modest measure to ensure that no guns get sold to people who cannot pass a background check. Walmart does it today. They say: We won't sell you a gun unless you can pass a background check. But unfortunately many other retailers take advantage of a loophole that allows for 72 hours to pass without a background check, which then allows them to sell a gun. We just think there should be a simple premise. If you can't pass a background check, you shouldn't be able to get a gun—getting a green light to walk out of a store with a weapon that can kill people.

But that is just one brick in the wall. There are a series of other measures that enjoy 90 percent support in this country, whether it be making sure people who are subject to spousal restraining orders cannot buy a gun during the period of time in which they

are under a restraining order or just expanding background checks to gun shows and Internet sales or just giving more resources to the background check system so they can make sure they upload the proper records. Mental health is part of the solution. It is not a substitute for the reform of our gun laws, but it is part of a solution as well.

I am proud to join with Senator CASIDY to introduce the primary comprehensive mental health reform legislation on the floor of the Senate. It has 10 cosponsors at this moment: five Republicans and five Democrats. We think you should fix the mental health system because it is broken, full stop, but we also understand it will have a downward effect on gun violence.

I wish to close by echoing the sentiments of Senator BLUMENTHAL. We are going to introduce our legislation tomorrow, and we are hopeful it will be taken up by this body.

What we really worry about is that this silence from Congress has become complicit. I know that sounds like a very hard thing to say—that sounds very hyperbolic—but let me walk you through why I have come to believe that the failure to act in the wake of these mass shootings has made us complicit in them. I think these young men—and it is not all young men, but it is mostly young men—these young men whose minds are becoming unhinged and are contemplating mass violence, they take cues from the total, complete, absolute silence from Congress in the face of mass shooting, after a mass shooting. If the Nation's top elected leaders, the people charged with deciding what matters in this Nation, don't even try to stop the mass carnage, then these would-be shooters reasonably conclude that we must be OK with it because if a society doesn't condone settling a grievance with a gun, wouldn't the people in charge of it at least try to stop it.

But we don't try—and that is what is most offensive. That is what truly turns my stomach. We just lived through a summer in which 4,000 people died on the streets of this Nation, and this body is sending a loud, clear signal that we don't care—we don't care. Nine more people died on Friday—another mass slaughter—and we are back to normal this week.

We are going to debate the Toxic Substances Control Act this week. I don't deny that is probably a very important piece of legislation, but we are acting as if there isn't an epidemic of preventable murder happening in this Nation and that it is getting worse.

Somebody wrote last week that the gun control debate ended the day after Sandy Hook because that was the day America decided it was OK to murder 20 first graders. I know that is not the message my colleagues are intending to send, and we appreciate all of the

sincere notes of sympathy that have been sent over the course of the last 2 years, 3 years, to Newtown and those that went out on Friday to Oregon, but words are beginning to become meaningless. The tweets aren't helping. I would argue they are becoming a cover for cowardice.

It is not a coincidence that America has a gun violence rate that is 20 times that of any other competitor nation. We are doing something wrong here and the whole reason we draw our paychecks is to make wrong things right. If we cannot do something—a background check law, a mental health bill, more resources for law enforcement—if we cannot do anything to try to stop this soul-crushing, life-extinguishing violence, then we might as well go home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague Senator MURPHY regarding the responsibility—our responsibility—to deal with the issue of gun violence in our country.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. President, I wish to turn to another subject. I wish to talk about the Land and Water Conservation Fund or the LWCF as it is commonly known.

Last week, at the end of the fiscal year, the LWCF authorization expired. The LWCF is one of the Federal Government's best tools for supporting conservation, and we need to act quickly to renew the law. As cities grow, suburbs swell, and our natural world shrinks, the need for more opportunities for outdoor recreation and education grows.

The LWCF helps expand those opportunities: opportunities for our veterans, our children, and our families. For example, we have heard from veterans who shared the therapeutic value of our public lands.

When Matthew Zedwick served in Iraq, he was comforted by memories of hiking and fishing on public lands in his Oregon hometown. Since coming home to Oregon, he has found that visiting many of the trails, lakes, and streams that are protected by the LWCF helped him heal.

Also, this year, for the first time our Nation's fourth graders have free access to all of our national parks. Why fourth graders? Because fourth graders are able to understand their surrounding environments in more concrete ways. Through these kinds of experiences in our national parks, these fourth graders will, we hope, grow into having a lifelong appreciation of our environment.

Finally, millions of families looking for a weekend getaway flock to our parks, refuges, and wildlife reserves,

areas that are afforded protection thanks to the LWCF.

Despite being chronically underfunded, over the past 50 years the LWCF protected and conserved land in every single State. Rather than relying on taxpayers, money for the fund comes from oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf. Unfortunately, without renewing the LWCF, conservation efforts across the country are at risk, including in Hawaii.

Hawaii's environment is unique. I am sure my colleagues are aware of our beautiful beaches, lush greenery, and spectacular geography. For all its beauty, Hawaii's environment is also fragile. One-third of our native forest birds are endangered, and we are home to almost half of the Nation's threatened and endangered plants, making us in Hawaii the endangered species capital of the world. Our coasts and beaches are being threatened as we speak by sea level rise. Our corals are expected to suffer the worst bleaching event in history this year—this coming on the heels of a major bleaching event that happened just last year. All of these phenomena impact our economy and way of life. We know what is at stake if we do not act today to protect our lands for tomorrow.

That is why my State put together a collaborative landscape proposal to receive LWCF money. This proposal is entitled "Island Forests at Risk," an appropriate title as we are seeing firsthand how the future of our forests is indeed at risk. The Obama administration recognized the importance of this proposal to conserving Hawaii's unique ecosystems. Thanks to this recognition, a number of the island forests at risk land acquisitions are in line to receive LWCF funding in the next fiscal year. Under the plan, almost 5,000 acres will be added to Hawaii's volcano national parks, Hawaii's most popular national park that in 2014 alone attracted almost 1.7 million visitors.

Funds will also help add almost 7,000 acres to help allow Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, a land acquisition that has been the top priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region since 2011. These critical land acquisitions have a pricetag of almost \$15 million, and these acquisitions will only be made possible by the financial assistance provided by the LWCF.

Hawaii is not the only State that is set to receive money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund next year. Over the past few days, my colleagues from across the aisle have come to the floor to talk about the importance of the LWCF in their own States. They have talked about the lands in their States and the experiences they have had in the outdoors with their families.

We all recognize the opportunities that LWCF investments provide for our people, our economies, and future generations. We know oil and gas drilling

is accelerating climate change. We know climate change is threatening our native birds, our coasts, and our coral. Why not reauthorize a fund that takes money from activities that threaten our climate and environment and invests it into conservation efforts? It seems like a no-brainer to me.

Earlier this year, I joined Ranking Member CANTWELL and my fellow Democratic colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in introducing legislation that would permanently reauthorize LWCF—permanently so that it will not end.

I urge my colleagues to join us in finding a bipartisan path forward to permanently reauthorize the commonsense fund that protects the environment and affords outdoor recreation and education opportunities in every single State. We owe it to the people who elected us, and we owe it to our children and our future generations.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELLING USED CARS ON THE RECALL LIST

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, would the Chair like to buy a used car from a used car dealer that was on the recall list because it had a defective Takata airbag in the steering wheel; so that if you had a fender-bender and it suddenly exploded, it might send shrapnel into your face and into your jugular in your neck. The answer is obviously, no; that you would not want to buy such a used car. Well, to the credit of a major used car dealer, as well as new car dealer, AutoNation, headquartered in Florida but with hundreds and hundreds of dealerships all over the country, they have set as company policy that they will not sell a used car on the recall list for defective products until that recall problem has been corrected.

All dealers do this with regard to new cars because it is the law. In fact, in the highway bill we passed a couple of months ago we put in an additional provision, which if you are a rental car company such as Avis, National, and so forth, you cannot rent to a customer if it has a recall on that vehicle until the recall item is fixed. That just makes common sense. You certainly wouldn't want to put a defective product out there for the consuming public.

So then why is the National Association of Automobile Dealers fighting us as we try to extend the law for new cars to used cars when it comes to the sale of a used car with a defective item? It defies common sense.

This is what it is: What is the economic interest versus what is the safe-

ty interest—the economic interest of the used car salesman versus the safety interest of the consuming public that would buy that used car? I hope the national association will reconsider. This is an argument that cannot stand on all fours that they are making—that they comply with the sale of new cars but they don't want to comply with the sale of used cars.

What we ought to be looking out for in light of all of these revelations of all of the defective automobiles—look what happened with General Motors and the ignition. Look what has happened to Toyota and Honda with the Takata airbags. By the way, in airbags we are talking some 20 million recalls worldwide. It is huge. If we are going to protect the consuming public, we ought to make sure that recall items are taken care of before those vehicles are sold.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I wish to highlight a few items that are in the NDAA conference report authorization that we are considering this week. In April of this year, my office came across a \$115,000 marketing contract with the New York Jets and some other teams. But the contract with the New York Jets showed that the weekly hometown hero tribute was actually paid for by the taxpayers. A resulting investigation found that other taxpayer-funded tributes were not just with the Jets or with the NFL but extended to other sports leagues, as well as the NCAA. We don't need this kind of paid-for patriotism.

I wish to note that many in the NFL, many teams, and others of our sports teams and other leagues do this out of the goodness of their heart. It is what it looks like. But in many instances, these salutes to the troops have been paid for by the taxpayer. That needs to end. That is why I joined Senator MCCAIN and Senator BLUMENTHAL in adding an amendment to the NDAA that will bring an end to these taxpayer-funded salutes to the troops.

This amendment also encourages sports organizations that have accepted these funds to consider making a contribution to a charity that supports members of the military or veterans or their families. In addition, the NDAA conference report also prohibits the DOD from spending 25 percent of its sports-related marketing budget until they can show that the money that they are spending in this regard actu-

ally contributes towards their marketing goals or towards their recruitment goals.

These results have to be reported to both the House and the Senate. That is a good thing. I want to thank the Pentagon, especially Undersecretary of Defense Brad Carson and his staff, for working with my office and others as we continue to investigate the scope of these taxpayer-funded tributes.

Another item I want to mention in this NDAA bill is that 22-year-old Marine Corps Cpl Jacob Hug of Phoenix was serving as part of the U.S. humanitarian mission to Nepal in response to the earthquakes in that country. In May, Hug was one of six marines and two Nepalese soldiers who were killed when their helicopter crashed during a mission to deliver food and aid to the victims in the earthquakes there. Because Jacob died during a humanitarian mission, Jim and Andrea Hug, his parents, were informed that the DOD was not authorized to pay for their flight to Dover Air Force Base to be on hand when their son's remains returned to the United States.

Currently, the military is only authorized to pay for next-of-kin travel expenses if the servicemember is killed in action. That is not right. The Hugs did get to travel to Dover because many in the Arizona delegation worked with DOD to make sure the costs were eventually paid for by DOD.

I worked with Senator MCCAIN to amend the NDAA to ensure that no other family has to go through this—that if a family of a servicemember serving on an overseas humanitarian mission is killed, the additional hardship is not faced by their family. This amendment help pays for the next of kin to travel to meet the remains of deceased relatives if they are killed in humanitarian operations.

I hope we can approve this NDAA in the coming days and we can send it to the President. I hope that the President will sign it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, Americans across the board recognize the growing threat of global climate change. Last week was a big week on the conservative and corporate sides. New polling revealed strong support among conservatives for smart policies to stem carbon pollution. Coalitions of leading corporate voices—6 major banks and 10 major food and beverage companies—called on us to join them in backing strong climate action.

I come to the floor today, now for the 114th time, to join with them—with scientists and lay people, with military commanders and faith leaders, with environmentalists and capitalists, with Democrats and Republicans, all saying it is time to wake up to this crisis.

Yes, I said “and Republicans.” Outside this Chamber, Republicans are calling for action on climate. The poll out last week, conducted by three leading Republican pollsters, showed a majority of Republican voters, including 54 percent of conservative Republicans, agreeing that the climate is changing and that human activity contributes to the changes we are all seeing.

They want solutions from us. The same proportion of conservative Republicans—54 percent—would favor a carbon pollution fee on electric utilities, provided the revenue would then be rebated to consumers. As we know, a carbon fee is a market-based solution, very much in line with conservative principles. I recently introduced a bill that I hope both Republicans and Democrats can embrace. It would establish an economy-wide carbon fee on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and then return 100 percent of the money to the American people.

It would work. A recent analysis said it would reduce U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 50 percent by 2030. The revenue would offset annual payroll taxes for every working person by \$500, with a similar benefit to veterans and Social Security recipients. It would reduce the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 29 percent. It would return the remaining funds to States to be used locally, for transition costs, efficiency investments or whatever the States prefer.

With this bill, I extend to conservatives what my very conservative friend, former Republican Congressman Bob Inglis, has called not just an olive branch but an olive limb. Whether you want tax reform, a proper free market for energy or even to address climate change, please, let's get to work.

To state the obvious, Congress has been ruled by the lobbyists and political enforcers for the fossil fuel industry. The fossil fuel industry, with political threats and very big money and lots of phony front groups, has made the Republican Party in Congress its political wing. But outside this Chamber, where conservatives don't need fossil fuel industry money, there is considerable conservative support for a carbon fee, from leading right-of-center economists, conservative think tanks, and former Republican officials.

President Nixon's Treasury Secretary, George Shultz; President Reagan's economic adviser, Art Laffer; President George W. Bush's Treasury Secretary, Hank Paulson; and Bush Council of Economic Advisers Chair, Greg Mankiw, have all advocated for some form of a carbon fee as the efficient way to correct a market failure—the market failure where we all have to pick up the costs of carbon pollution for the fossil fuel industry. No wonder they spend so much money around here. That market failure is a sweet

deal for the fossil fuel fellas, but it is not good free market economics.

In a 2013 New York Times op-ed, former Republican EPA Administrators Bill Ruckelshaus, Christine Todd Whitman, Lee Thomas, and William Reilly wrote: “A market-based approach, like a carbon tax, would be the best path to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.”

Republicans in Congress are being squeezed. On one side they see unequivocal scientific consensus, compelling economic theory, and mounting public opinion—all pointing toward the need for strong action on climate. On the other side, they see rich and powerful polluters who fund their politics and who make heavy-handed threats against any Republicans who might dare to cross them. That is why it was such glad news when a group of 11 House Republicans, led by Congressman CHRIS GIBSON of New York, introduced a House resolution committing to address climate change by promoting ingenuity, innovation, and exceptionalism.

That is not a bill yet. We have a ways to go still. But it is another sign that the “denier castle” is crumbling. First, climate change was a hoax. Then, OK, maybe it is not a hoax, but it is natural variation. Then, OK, maybe it is real and humans do cause some of it. But, look, it paused. Then, OK, maybe it didn't pause. But we really can't do anything about it. And then, OK, we can do something about climate change, but please stop asking me about it because I am not a scientist. And now this: A resolution by sitting Republican House Members that we need to take climate action. It has been quite a journey.

The escape of 11 Republicans from the dark, crumbling ramparts of denier castle gives dawning hope to Americans that bipartisan action on climate change is becoming possible, even in Congress.

Last Thursday, Congressman GIBSON and I joined together, bicameral and bipartisan, to hear from major food and beverage companies how climate change affects their industry, supply chains, and bottom line. It marked—as far as I can recall—the first time in years that a sitting Democrat and a sitting Republican Member of Congress joined in a public event on climate change. I hope that is another sign that things in this building have begun to shift.

For these big companies, climate change is not a partisan issue. It is not even a political issue. It is business. It is their reality. “Climate really matters to our business,” Kim Nelson of General Mills told us. “We fundamentally rely on Mother Nature.” The choices we make to protect or forsake our climate, she said, will be “important to the long-term viability of our company and our industry.”

Paul Bakus of Nestle agreed, impressing on us that this is not a hypothetical. Climate change “is impacting our business today,” he said. His company, Nestle, cans pumpkins under the Libby's brand. They have seen pumpkin yields crash in the United States. “We have never seen growing and harvesting conditions like this in the Midwest,” said Mr. Bakus.

Chief sustainability officer for Mars, Barry Parkin, was more blunt: “We are on a path to a dangerous place.”

These companies are reducing carbon emissions and demanding sustainable supply chains. Mars, for example, recently invested in a 211-megawatt wind power farm in Texas to offset all of the electricity used by its U.S. operations. Unilever, in addition to shifting away from fossil fuels toward renewables and biofuel energy, is also fighting deforestation associated with farming.

Message No. 1 from these businesses was: This is important.

Message No. 2 was: They can't do it alone. They need us in government to pay attention. “Business, government, civil society, and individuals all have a part to play,” said General Mills. “We need governments to be involved,” said Unilever.

Specifically, the companies want a strong global climate deal at the Paris conference this December. They released a joint letter pledging to accelerate their own climate efforts and urging governments to do their part as well. They even took out full-page ads in the Washington Post. Here it is.

They had the full text of their letter and the signatures of the 10 CEOs printed in the Financial Times on the very day of our event.

The heads of Mars, General Mills, Nestle USA, Unilever, Kellogg Company, New Belgium Brewing Company, Ben & Jerry's, Cliff Bar, Stonyfield Farm, and Danone Dairy North America had the following statement in the letter:

Climate change is bad for farmers and agriculture. Drought, flooding, and hotter growing conditions threaten the world's food supply and contribute to food insecurity.

They also pledged:

We will: Use our voices to advocate for governments to set clear, achievable, measurable and enforceable science-based targets for carbon emissions reductions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter from the heads of these 10 major food and beverage companies asking world leaders and the Congress to act on climate change be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Accelerating Change]

THIS COULD BE A TURNING POINT

DEAR U.S. AND GLOBAL LEADERS: When you convene in Paris later this year for climate negotiations, you will have an opportunity to take action that could significantly change our world for the better.

As heads of some of the world's largest food companies, we have come together today to call out that opportunity.

Climate change is bad for farmers and for agriculture. Drought, flooding and hotter growing conditions threaten the world's food supply and contribute to food insecurity.

By 2050, it is estimated that the world's population will exceed nine billion, with two-thirds of all people living in urban areas. This increase in population and urbanization will require more water, energy and food, all of which are compromised by warming temperatures.

The challenge presented by climate change will require all of government, civil society and business—to do more with less. For companies like ours, that means producing more food on less land using fewer natural resources. If we don't take action now, we risk not only today's livelihoods, but also those of future generations.

We want the women and men who work to grow the food on our tables to have enough to eat themselves, and to be able to provide properly for their families.

We want the farms where crops are grown to be as productive and resilient as possible, while building the communities and protecting the water supplies around them.

We want to see only the most energy-efficient modes of transport shipping products and ingredients around the world.

We want the facilities where we make our products to be powered by renewable energy, with nothing going to waste. As corporate leaders, we have been working hard toward these ends, but we can and must do more.

Today, we are making three commitments—to each other, to you as our political leaders, and to the world.

We will:

Re-energize our companies' continued efforts to ensure that our supply chain becomes more sustainable, based on our own specific targets;

Talk transparently about our efforts and share our best practices so that other companies and other industries are encouraged to join us in this critically important work;

Use our voices to advocate for governments to set clear, achievable, measurable and enforceable science-based targets for carbon emissions reductions.

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN

Now is the time to meaningfully address the reality of climate change. We are asking you to embrace the opportunity presented to you in Paris, and to come back with a sound agreement, properly financed, that can affect real change.

We are ready to meet the climate challenges that face our businesses. Please join us in meeting the climate challenges that face the world.

Signed,

Grant Reid, President & CEO, Mars Incorporated; Paul Polman, Chief Executive, Unilever; Jostein Solheim, CEO, Ben & Jerry's; Kendall J. Powell, Chairman of the Board & CEO, General Mills, Inc.; Mariano Lozano, President & CEO, Dannon & Regional VP, Danone Dairy North America; John Bryant, Chief Executive Officer, Kellogg Company; Kevin Cleary, CEO, Clif Bar; Paul Grinwood, Chairman & CEO, Nestle, USA; Esteve Torrens, President & CEO, Stonyfield Farm, Inc.; Kimberly Jordan, Co-founder & CEO, New Belgium Brewing Company.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. We heard a similar appeal from America's largest financial powerhouses last week. Bank

of America, Citi, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo released a strong call for governments to come together on a climate agreement.

Here is what they wrote:

Policy frameworks that recognize the costs of carbon are among the many important instruments needed to provide greater market certainty, accelerate investment, drive innovation in low carbon energy, and create jobs. . . . While we may compete in the marketplace, we are aligned on the importance of policies to address the climate challenge.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that their statement also be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

IN SUPPORT OF PROSPERITY AND GROWTH: FINANCIAL SECTOR STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientific research finds that an increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere is warming the planet, posing significant risks to the prosperity and growth of the global economy. As major financial institutions, working with clients and customers around the globe, we have the business opportunity to build a more sustainable, low-carbon economy and the ability to help manage and mitigate these climate-related risks.

Our institutions are committing significant resources toward financing climate solutions. These actions alone, however, are not sufficient to meet global climate challenges. Expanded deployment of capital is critical, and clear, stable and long-term policy frameworks are needed to accelerate and further scale investments.

We call for leadership and cooperation among governments for commitments leading to a strong global climate agreement. Policy frameworks that recognize the costs of carbon are among many important instruments needed to provide greater market certainty, accelerate investment, drive innovation in low carbon energy, and create jobs. Over the next 15 years, an estimated \$90 trillion will need to be invested in urban infrastructure and energy. The right policy frameworks can help unlock the incremental public and private capital needed to ensure this infrastructure is sustainable and resilient.

While we may compete in the marketplace, we are aligned on the importance of policies to address the climate challenge. In partnership with our clients and customers, we will provide the financing required for value creation and the vision necessary for a strong and prosperous economy for generations to come.

Bank of America, Citi, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. These are serious people running big, successful companies. They don't take climate change lightly, they don't scoff and neither should we. They are asking that elected officials find the courage to address climate change. Majorities of voters of both parties and of Independents are also asking elected representatives to find the courage to address climate change. That brings us back to that squeeze I talked about.

If you are not willing to address carbon pollution and the climate change and ocean acidification it is causing, I ask my colleagues who are on the ballot in 2016: What are you going to say? What are you going to say to your voters? Are you going to say it is a hoax? Great. Good luck with that.

Are you going to say: OK. It is real, it is important, these companies are all right, but as far as fixing it, well, we have nothing—because right now that is what they have, nothing.

Maybe they should just beg: Please don't ask me about climate change because the big fossil fuel polluters are paying my party's bills and making mean threats to me. Those are not a great set of options.

At some point soon, I tell my friends: Your party's leaders are going to have to go to the fossil fuel billionaires and say: Enough. Enough. Let my people go. We held out for you as long as we could, but now you have to let my people go, and it has to be soon.

As one executive told Congressman GIBSON and me quite directly, "The window of opportunity to act on climate change is closing."

It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

THE FILIBUSTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to comment on an extraordinary about-face that we have seen from many of my colleagues across the aisle with respect to the filibuster. When I say "across the aisle," I mean an about-face on the part of Democrats who see the filibuster differently now than they did over the last 4 or 5 years. But now, like Paul on the road to Damascus, they have seen the light and have now embraced the filibuster wholeheartedly, and like many converts, they are very active in their faith.

Naturally, this has caused frustration for many Americans who wonder why we cannot address the pressing issues we were elected to address, and there are a lot of frustrated Members of the Senate as well. I am one of those frustrated Members. When we have an opportunity for the Senate to function as James Madison said it should function, I don't understand why we cannot have it function that way. Not surprisingly, the recent series of filibusters on legislation of enormous consequences for our Nation has resulted in new calls for changes to the Senate rules.

First, I would like to take stock of where we are right now. It was just last year that the previous majority leader was abusing the cloture motion to shut down debate and amendments on virtually every single bill, even before the debate had begun, all while blocking any amendments. Any Senator who routinely votes for cloture motions under those circumstances is obviously

abdicated his or her responsibility to the people who elected that Senator to offer and debate any number of different ideas. That is what the Senate is all about.

Nevertheless, when those of us who were then in the minority voted against abdicating our responsibilities as Senators, we had a parade of Democratic Senators come to the floor and accuse us of that most dastardly deed, at least according to them, the filibuster. They repeatedly claimed that strict rule by the majority faction was the principle by which the Senate ought to operate with little or no input from the minority party; in other words, have it operate just like the House of Representatives.

We now have a majority—a Republican majority—that has tried to restore the Senate to function as a deliberative body, as it used to and as it was intended to by the Framers of the Constitution. For instance, last year the previous majority leader didn't bring a single, individual appropriations bill to the floor of the Senate for consideration and vote. By putting off appropriations until the end of the fiscal year, that leader calculated that the threat of being blamed for a government shutdown would force Republicans to accept a massive omnibus bill containing policies that would otherwise be rejected.

This year things are different. The Senate appropriators have done their work and reported out each separate appropriations bill—can you imagine, all 12 of those appropriations bills—and most of them on a bipartisan basis. Then, when the majority leader has attempted to bring them to the floor, Senator MCCONNELL, the majority leader, has been met with a Democratic filibuster of the motion even to proceed to the bill.

What is the justification of that on the part of today's minority? The majority leader Senator MCCONNELL is not blocking amendments. In fact, he is even inviting amendments. So if there is something that the minority wishes to change or add to a bill, they can do it simply by participating in the process and offering amendments. After all, isn't that what the Senate is all about? We have to pass appropriations bills or the government will shut down, so why can't we even bring appropriations bills up for consideration?

Well, the answer is quite obvious: The Democratic leadership is up to those old games they used to keep the Senate from debating appropriations bills that they did over the last 5 years. By blocking appropriations bills and threatening to blame us for the shutdown, they hope and believe they can bully us into busting open the spending caps that a majority in both the House and Senate agreed to in the budget resolution earlier this year. So much, then, for majority rule, which the

Democrats claim was such a deeply held principle, as they expressed it only last year and years before that.

They justify filibustering the appropriations bills because President Obama has threatened to veto them unless he gets more spending. That doesn't make any sense.

The first appropriations bill they filibustered was the Defense appropriations bill—not because that bill didn't provide enough funding but because they want to hold it hostage to extract additional spending in other areas. Now they are holding hostage the bill that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs. So they are holding hostage funding for our men and women in combat and our veterans who have served our Nation in order to protect the President from having to follow through on his threat to veto these bills.

I understand that the President might not want to have to defend vetoing funding for our troops and veterans as a bargaining chip to extract additional spending from the Congress, but protecting the President from having to follow through with his threat is not a very good reason for a filibuster.

A similar thing happened with the filibuster of legislation to disprove the Iran deal. A bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate was in favor of legislation to block President Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. Because the deal was set to go into effect unless Congress acted, the Democrats cannot claim their filibuster was needed for additional deliberation. It was a blatant attempt to run out the clock so the President would not have to use his veto pen.

So clearly it is not as though Democrats have now grudgingly accepted the utility of the filibuster only in extraordinary circumstances; they have now embraced it so completely that they used it simply to prevent embarrassing the President.

In light of this, it is understandable that many in my political party and even in the grassroots are questioning whether we ought to get rid of the filibuster on legislation. This is an expression of the frustration by a lot of conservatives that I hear from in the grassroots of Iowa, and they hear it in the other body as well.

The argument goes kind of like this: After all, the Democrats unilaterally abolished the filibuster on nominations, contrary to Senate rules. Well, they will have to live with that come 2017 when the Republican President is inaugurated, as I hope. But just as I think they will live to regret that move, I think those of us on my side of the aisle would ultimately regret the loss of the Senate as a deliberative body if we were to change the cloture rule for legislation. What would the Democrats do with unchecked power? We don't have to guess. The Democrats

briefly had the 60 votes needed to overcome any filibuster, and they promptly ran the unpopular health care law down the throats of an unwilling American public. They dismissed legitimate criticism from Republicans and skepticism from citizens of America. They promised that Americans would like it once it had passed and when we found out what is in it. Well, Americans now know what is in the health care law, and the law hasn't become any more popular.

So does that mean we have to just accept that ObamaCare and other aspects of "the fundamental transformation of America" the President promised are here to stay? Of course not. But we must not be shortsighted. I think a lot of the people who are conservatives, such as the grassroots of America, who are frustrated, as a lot of us in this body are frustrated, would be shortsighted if they consider changing how the Senate operates.

Keep in mind that the American left was greatly influenced by the progressive movement in the early 20th century which held that history is continually progressing toward a future of more governmental control over people's lives—for the people's benefit, of course. Now, most of us don't buy that—those who hold to the principle of limited government—but there are a lot of people today who are buying it. We hear it in the Presidential campaigns, particularly of the other political party.

This led the progressives of the early 20th century to reject the Declaration of Independence and focus on individual liberty and to oppose our Constitution's system of checks and balances designed to protect that liberty because it made it harder for the government to act. That comes from the philosophy that government always knows best. It also means that those on the left played the long game, sometimes biding their time, sometimes accepting incremental progress toward their goals, and other times making radical changes when they see an opening.

Those of us who are animated by the principle of individual liberty recognize that liberty is the exception in human history, and threats to liberty must be fought constantly or we risk losing liberty and freedom. As such, we are impatient to correct every loss of liberty right away, as we should be. However, in doing so, we must be very careful not to break down those very safeguards that are in place to prevent government encroachment on individual liberty. If we are not careful, then short-term gains could lead to even greater loss of liberty in the future.

The President's former Chief of Staff was famous for saying something like this, and hopefully I am quoting him accurately: "You never let a serious

crisis go to waste, and what I mean by that, it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before."

In other words, we have seen a concerted effort to take advantage of momentary passions and temporary majorities to enact longstanding policy goals of more governmental intervention in the economy and intervention in the lives of Americans. Preventing such a power play is precisely the role the Senate was designed to play. Just listen to this passage from Federalist No. 62: "The necessity of a senate is not less indicated by the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions, and to be seduced by factious leaders into intemperate and pernicious resolutions."

Of course, that was written by James Madison, who is rightly called the father of the Constitution. Madison prepared extensively for the Constitutional Convention by studying ancient republics and ancient and contemporary political philosophers. He came to the convention with what was called the Virginia plan, which the convention used as a starting point for what became the U.S. Constitution. Madison also took extensive notes throughout the Constitutional Convention.

In other words, I think that when he speaks about the intent behind the structure of the U.S. Constitution, he ought to know better than anybody, and that is particularly as he writes about the function of the Senate in our Constitution system.

It is true that Madison did not speak to the filibuster itself, and the Constitution leaves the rules of the House and Senate up to each Chamber, but you cannot read the Federalist papers without a clear understanding that our system of government was intended to allow only measures that have broad and enduring support to actually get into law. The Constitution was not designed to allow whatever faction happens to be in power to have a free hand to do whatever it wishes.

As Madison said in Federalist No. 10, "Measures are too often decided not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority."

Where that minority is protected is in the U.S. Senate—the only place in our political system. In fact, in arguing for the necessity of the Senate in Federalist Paper No. 63, Madison is quite critical of pure majoritarian democracies in ancient times and attributes their failure to the lack of something we call the U.S. Senate.

That said, I understand why some of my Republican colleagues in the House of Representatives are frustrated with the fact that many of the things they pass become stalled here in the Senate. I say to them that a lot of us on this side of the aisle share that frustration.

So I and we need to make sure those obstructing are held accountable. But anyone who would change the Senate rules to give the majority leader the power to ram any bill through the Senate on a party-line vote should then ask whether they can trust that this power will be used fairly by future majority leaders. Remember that the previous majority leader tried to shut the minority out of the legislative process at almost every stage. The Senate was routinely presented with bills often written behind closed doors in the majority leader's office and told that there would be only an up-or-down vote with no amendments.

Moreover, what would conservatives gain by abolishing the filibuster? I want people to think about what might happen if the filibuster is abolished. In the short term, we would have the emotional satisfaction of seeing President Obama use his veto pen, but that is about it. In the long run, you can bet that modern-day progressives will use those tools to impose all sorts of policies to expand the scope of government that would otherwise not make it through our constitutional system.

If you want to know what some of those "intemperate and pernicious resolutions" that Madison warned us about might be, we need only look to the past. I will list a whole bunch of things that could be the law of the land today.

Had the Senate operated on a purely majoritarian basis in the past, our country would be in much worse shape than it is now. For instance, if you think ObamaCare is bad, we would have had a single-payer, totally government-run health care system if it weren't for the 60-vote requirement. We would have had the disastrous cap-and-trade bill in 2008 with its crony giveaways, making special interests rich while destroying jobs for hard-working Americans. The list of items that would have passed the Senate goes on and on—the 2007 immigration amnesty bill; the DISCLOSE Act to intimidate private groups who engage in political speech that was brought up in 2010; the abolition of secret ballot elections for unions in 2007; the prohibition on businesses replacing striking employees that was brought up in 1992; a bill to encourage public safety employees to unionize in 2010; the 1992 Clinton crime bill; drug price negotiations in Medicare Part D that amount to Federal price controls in 2007; an amendment to the Constitution to cancel First Amendment protections for speech around election time in 2014; stripping religious liberty protections from Christian business owners who object to paying for drugs that can cause an abortion in 2014; President Obama's second big-spending stimulus proposal in 2011; the so-called Buffett tax would have been passed several times by now; the tax increase to pay local govern-

ment employee salaries in 2011; and who knows how many other tax increases they would have passed if they knew they could get away with it. Of course, we heard a few weeks ago a speech by Senator ALEXANDER, who has argued that one of the first things the Democratic leadership would do is follow the orders of union bosses and outlaw the many right-to-work laws we have in the United States, forcing associations against the will of some people.

This Senator knows well what it is like in the majority and what it is like being in the minority in the Senate, and I know things look very different from each perspective. I would ask my conservative colleagues who are frustrated that the current majority is not able to work its will to consider the example of history and look to the future.

It is also interesting to observe the behavior of the many Democrats who had never experienced a minority before who have now gained a new perspective on the filibuster and the power of the minority and the protection of the minority by supporting the filibuster every chance they get—and it didn't take long. On the third vote in the Senate this year—after the change of control, that is—most of the Democrats, including the loudest critics of the filibuster, voted against cloture on a motion to proceed, which until that point they claimed to be an egregious and inappropriate abuse of Senate rules. I know there are some Senate Democrats who still say they are opposed to the filibuster even in principle, although apparently not in practice. It is no good saying "Stop me before I filibuster again." If you think it is wrong, don't do it. It is as simple as that.

When Senator WYDEN and I began to work on ending the practice of secret holds, we pledged to disclose any hold that we placed on a bill in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and we did that for years before finally getting the rules changed so that every Member had to do that.

The Senate Democrats have shown through their actions that they now fully support the Senate filibuster. I guarantee that the next time Republicans are in the minority, we, too, will see the necessity of this traditional protection against what Madison referred to as "the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority."

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the year 1789, the U.S. Senate, in a chamber not far from here, approved the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. The Second Amendment reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the

right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” The Second Amendment to the Constitution is an amendment which has been uttered, debated, and litigated over the entire history of the United States. Whatever the true intent of our Founding Fathers in writing that language, that brief sentence, I wonder if they could even imagine what we are dealing with today in the name of the right of people to keep and bear arms because every day, on average, in America, 297 people are shot—every day—and 89 of them die every day in America.

Last Saturday I was with my wife in Chicago having a cup of coffee and reading over the papers, listening to National Public Radio. They reported the Roseburg, OR, shooting at the community college, and they cited a statistic that I was not aware of: That shooting at the community college that killed nine innocent people was the 45th school shooting in America this year. There have been 45 shootings in schools. There were many other mass shootings in different places, but now even schools, even students, even schoolchildren are not safe from the rampage of guns.

I am honored to represent the city of Chicago. It is a great city. I do my best to help it in every way I can. But I also have to be very candid and honest with you. So far, there have been 2,300 shootings in the city of Chicago this year. Where are all these guns coming from?

Yesterday morning I went to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in Chicago and sat down with the new special agent in charge and asked him the question: Where are all these guns coming from? Why do we have more guns per capita in Chicago than in New York? Why is it that so many of these teenagers, kids, moms, and dads are armed to the teeth? Where are all these guns coming from?

He said: Senator, the No. 1 source of guns in the State of Illinois—crime guns that we have taken in the commission of crime and can trace—the No. 1 source is Illinois.

We have a phenomenon where people go into a federally licensed arms dealer and purchase guns and use them in crime. But the bigger problem is they send in someone without a criminal record who can pass a background check and who buys guns and turns them over to drug gang thugs and criminals on the street. They call it straw purchasing. So the No. 1 source of guns is trading guns within the State of Illinois and these traffickers, these straw purchasers who purchase a gun not for their own use but to turn it over to a criminal or sell it to a criminal. That is the No. 1 source.

What is the No. 2 State that supplies guns to the State of Illinois? It is Indiana, which adjoins Illinois to the east—specifically, Lake County, IN, in the northwestern section of that State.

Why do we get so many guns from Indiana into Illinois that are used in the commission of crime? Because of gun shows. Gun shows occur on the weekends, and people literally show up in Indiana, show some State identification, and without any background check walk out with a gun—not just a gun but many times fill their trunks with guns and ammunition and drive across the border into Chicago, Cook County, and go to the west side of town or down south in Englewood. They pull up in an alley or maybe even on the curbside and have an open market, selling these guns picked up at gun shows. The people who purchase these never went through a background check. Nine times out of 10, unless they are buying from a gun show from a Federal dealer, it is just an arms-length transaction—however many guns you want to buy; no questions asked. Many of these people would be disqualified if they went to a Federal gun dealer. They have a history of committing felonies and other acts that disqualify them.

The fact is that today that is the No. 2 source of crime guns—Indiana.

What is the No. 3 source of crime guns in the city of Chicago? Mississippi. Mississippi. Why? Because their gun show requirements are even more lax than in the Midwest. It is an ongoing commerce of running those guns up the interstate and selling them in the city of Chicago.

So what is happening? There is a dramatic increase in homicides across America. We are awash in guns. Sadly, many of them are in the hands of people who buy them to kill innocent people. There has been a spike in homicides this year—not just in Chicago but in Milwaukee, St. Louis, Houston, Baltimore, New Orleans, and many other cities. The plain reality is that we are now awash in guns in America, and it is far too easy for convicted criminals, felons, and unstable people to get their hands on a gun and to use it.

When guns are everywhere and when it is easy for dangerous people to get them, it puts everyone at risk. Can you imagine for a second that any of those students heading into that community college in Oregon that morning had even an idea they would face a gunman and some would die? The heartbreaking stories—one I remember hearing from a minister who talked about his daughter, who survived because she appeared to be a bloody corpse. The gunman stepped over her. The father could hardly contain his emotions when he talked about dropping that girl off at school and living with the possibility that she would have died there and that would have been his last memory of his daughter. Is that what America has come to? Is that what we are?

Pretty much anywhere you go now, you have it in the back of your mind that someone could have a gun, some-

one could start shooting. Do we want to live this way in America?

If you talk to the gun lobby and the special interest groups that manufacture guns and want to sell more and more, they will say the solution is to arm more good guys with guns so they can shoot the bad guys. That is a solution they like because it sells more guns, but why wouldn't we try in the first place to keep guns out of the hands of bad guys?

The Supreme Court has said there is no constitutional problem in the provision that I read with keeping guns away from felons, domestic violence abusers, the mentally unstable, and other dangerous people. The Supreme Court across the street said that is completely consistent with the Second Amendment. Why don't we do it? If our country did a better job of preventing bad guys from getting guns, there are a lot of innocent people who would still be here today.

I held a hearing in my Constitution subcommittee a couple years ago about gun violence. We talked about the need for better laws to stop illegal straw purchases and gun trafficking.

One of our witnesses, a young woman who has become my friend, was Sandra Wortham of Chicago. Her brother Thomas was a Chicago police officer. He had served two tours of duty in Iraq. He was a great guy. He was gunned down in front of his parents' home on the South Side of Chicago. He was murdered by gang members with a straw-purchased gun. He was an extraordinary police officer. When he was shot, he had a gun on him. He shot back at the armed gunmen who were trying to rob him, and so did his father, who was standing nearby, also a retired police sergeant. But Officer Wortham was killed. He died in front of his parents' house on May 19, 2010. I attended his funeral.

Thomas Wortham's sister Sandra spoke at that hearing. It was powerful. This is what she said:

My brother carried a gun. My father carried a gun. But the fact that my brother and father were armed that night did not prevent my brother from being killed. We need to do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands in the first place. I don't think that makes us anti-gun; I think it makes us pro-decent, law abiding people.

Sandra Wortham is right. I hope my colleagues will hear her words.

Some say it is impossible to stop bad guys from getting guns; they are just going to get them. It is true that there are a lot of loopholes in the law to get them today, like the gun show loophole and the Internet loopholes in the background check system. I don't question the possibility that those loopholes are there. It is also true that the gun lobby is working hard every day to further weaken the laws on the books and to strike them down in court. But we can stop the gun lobby from gutting the laws on the books, and we can close

those loopholes if lawmakers just have the courage and political will.

Our goal should be to keep guns out of the hands of bad guys, not to take them away from people who use them in a responsible and legal way. I grew up in downstate Illinois. Owning shotguns and rifles is just part of life. Taking your son or in some cases even your daughter out hunting is normal. It is what people do. I have been out duck hunting in Stuttgart, AR, with my former colleague, Mark Pryor. We had a good time. Everybody there knew that a gun was a dangerous weapon that had to be handled carefully. We filed the necessary permits and licenses to be out there hunting on that day and followed a long list of requirements that limited our right to go shooting ducks, migrating ducks in that area. We did it because it was the law and law-abiding people pay attention to the law.

But what are we going to do now to respect those law-abiding people but still get serious about stopping these guns that end up in the hands of felons and mentally unstable people? Are we going to shrug our shoulders? Are Members of Congress going to put out the standard press release after a mass shooting? Or are we going to rise to this challenge on this occasion and do something? What a breakthrough it would be if we could save these innocent lives.

I cannot imagine that classroom in that community college in Oregon where that crazy gunman, loaded and armed, went up to each of those students and asked if they were Christians. If they said yes, he told them: You are on your way to Heaven, and then he shot them dead. I cannot imagine that moment. I certainly cannot imagine if in that classroom was someone I loved, someone I knew, someone I cared about, and they were the victim of that kind of mental instability.

So are we going to shrug our shoulders, remember the victims in our thoughts and prayers and do nothing? Is that what it has come to? We are better than that. We can easily pass laws to protect domestic violence victims by keeping the guns out of the hands of their abusers. All it takes is will. We could easily hold gun dealers accountable for guns that they purposefully misplace into the hands of criminals. All it takes is the will. We can easily adopt technology to stop criminals from stealing guns and stop kids from using them accidentally. All it takes is will. We can easily create a better background check system and pass better laws to stop straw purchasing and illegal gun trafficking. All it takes is will. We can stop the gun lobby from gutting the laws on the books, and we can close these loopholes if lawmakers just have the courage and the political will.

As President Obama said, our thoughts and prayers are not enough.

Stopping this violence requires courage and political will. I hope the Congress can rise to this challenge. I am not giving up. I have seen too many lives cut short, too many families and communities devastated by this violence. I am going to do all I can to bring down the number of shootings in America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, imagine a successful and popular program that saves our special natural places, such as parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, and forests. Imagine further that this is accomplished not with tax dollars, but with royalties paid by companies that extract oil or minerals from our public lands. What is not to love about a program like that? Now imagine that some in Congress want to kill or weaken that program. In fact, its charter just expired on October 1.

For 50 years, a bipartisan commitment has promoted the preservation of our national parks, forests, and refuges and the vistas that are so iconic in our national identity. But today we find ourselves yet again in the midst of a made-in-Washington crisis that devalues this history of shared commitment, replacing it with the misplaced ire of those who do not understand its profound, community-driven impact on the land and on our economy.

On September 30, the authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, LWCF, America's most successful conservation and recreation program, was allowed to expire. Founded on the principle of balancing the depletion of certain natural resources by conserving other resources, the fund uses revenues from royalties of offshore oil and gas extraction to support the conservation of our land and water, a symmetry that conservation advocates have praised. More to the point, the fund is supported at no cost to taxpayers. Similarly, congressional inaction allowed the Historic Preservation

Fund—also a budget-neutral program with longstanding bipartisan support—to lapse. Together, these twin programs represent key commitments to protecting our Nation's historic resources and lands for future generations.

For 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported the creation of parks and refuges, but it has also filled in plots of land at risk of loss through development in our national parks to create a seamless park system that is easier and more cost-effective to manage. It has provided resources to local communities to achieve otherwise cost-prohibitive conservation projects in small towns. It supports community playgrounds and maintains trails, while fostering and protecting our innate appreciation of the world around us, and it accomplishes all of this while being a boon to local economies.

In Vermont more than \$123 million in LWCF grants have supported hundreds of projects over the last five decades, and the benefits can be seen across every county in the Green Mountain State. These grants back an economy of outdoor recreation supporting 35,000 jobs, generating \$187 million in state tax revenue and \$2.5 billion in retail sales in Vermont alone, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. On top of this, an estimated 545,000 people hunt, fish, and enjoy the wildlife of the Green Mountain State every year—a stunning number that nearly matches our State's entire population.

In addition to local recreation projects, the LWCF in Vermont has supported the creation of our State's only national park, the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park. It has helped to add 100,000 acres to the Green Mountain National Forest, to establish the Conte National Wildlife Refuge, and to forever preserve large swaths of the Appalachian and Long Trails. These are treasures today, preserved for future generations.

Across the country, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been valued as America's premier conservation program—an outgrowth of what has been called "America's Best Idea," the creation of our National Park System. It has drawn strong bipartisan support for half a century, even as the political atmosphere has become more divisive. I recently led a bipartisan coalition of 53 Senators representing every corner of the Nation in asking for a short-term extension of the LWCF and a commitment to work to permanently authorize and fund the program. We sent a similar letter calling on Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Minority Leader REID to support permanent funding for the program, which was followed by a similar bipartisan letter from members of the House to Speaker BOEHNER.

But despite this strong bipartisan and bicameral support, there are those

who seek to throw this longstanding, commonsense program out the window, shutting down one of the few reliable sources that fund conservation work across the country, a truly devastating bid that threatens our land and water and our local economies. It makes no sense.

Several times last week, opponents of the widely popular LWCF objected to extending its authorization, claiming that the fund was used to purchase privately held land from landowners. But that is precisely what the fund is intended to support: the purchase of land from willing sellers interested in seeing land protected rather than developed. Often these land deals include land exchanges, thus ensuring that the Nation's most sensitive lands are not developed, while ensuring that other working lands remain privately owned.

Too often we see these deals evaporate because the funding is not there. This is why we need to ensure the fund is permanently authorized and fully funded. These projects should not slip away, as we have seen in Vermont and other parts of the country, because of a fundamental misunderstanding of how the fund operates and how it is supported.

We have watched conservation funding wither across the country while developments encroach our precious national parks and while the real threat of climate change draws closer and closer. Now is not the time to break a commitment to conserve our natural resources, our heritage, and the legacy we will hand to our children and grandchildren. We must value and protect our heritage by renewing the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDAL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 2015 Idaho Hometown Hero Medalists in the fifth year of the presentation of this recognition.

The Idaho Hometown Hero Medal celebrates those working for the betterment of our communities. Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim established the recognition to honor individuals who embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives. I congratulate the 2015 award recipients and commend the Rahim brothers, the award's committee members, the cosponsors, volunteers, and other organizations supporting this honor for partnering to highlight good works.

Ten exceptional Idahoans from communities across our great State are 2015 Hometown Hero Medal recipients. Marianna Budnikova, of Boise, started two nonprofits to help girls take part in technology and pursue careers in

computer sciences. Carrie French, of Caldwell, is being awarded posthumously for her dedicated, courageous service to our Nation. She enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 19 and died serving bravely in the Iraq war. Tiara Lusk, an ex-policewoman from Sugar City, started two initiatives to help women who are victims of domestic abuse and started a training program to help women enlist in the police force.

Sylvia Medina, a successful businesswoman from Idaho Falls, works to economically empower women and encourage the Latina community to participate in politics. John Rauker, an anti-drug campaign advocate, rescues at-risk children and opened drug rehab centers in Twin Falls and Pocatello for teens. Maria Sanchez, from American Falls, is an Idaho State University student who has excelled playing soccer for the university and is training to play for the Mexican national women's soccer team in the World Cup. Donna Scroggins, of Ririe, has dedicated many years to service. She is a World War II veteran who also served as a Peace Corp volunteer and nursed those in need in Ecuador and Afton, WY.

Judge Norman Randy Smith, of Pocatello, has served with distinction on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and is significantly involved with education and empowering students. Carmen Stanger, of Boise and Pocatello, channeled the loss of her daughter to bullying to leading antibullying efforts and working to empower teens and prevent similar tragedies in other families. Pastor Jacqueline Thomas, of Pocatello, grew the church she started from a congregation of 3 to more than 200. As an African-American woman pastor, she is actively involved in helping people in the community and providing a safe haven for those who are struggling.

Thank you to all the Hometown Hero Award recipients for the good works you inspire in others through your commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. Congratulations on receiving this deserved recognition.●

TRIBUTE TO THE FITE FAMILY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Aaron and Tami Fite of Platte, SD. I selected the Fites to receive the 2015 Angels in Adoption Award presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. I chose this couple for the way they have opened their hearts and homes to their children Cody and Cate through adoption and the way they have helped inspire their community to better understand adoption and children with all types of abilities.

Though they initially intended to adopt a child from abroad, God changed their hearts and brought Cody into

their lives. During the first 3 years of his life, Cody had a variety of complex medical needs, but thanks to Aaron and Tami's love and support, today he is a healthy and vibrant 11-year-old who competes in basketball, track, and softball at the Special Olympics.

Two years after adopting Cody, Aaron and Tami welcomed a baby girl, Cate, into their home through adoption. Cate has a condition she developed in the womb that prevents her from being able to walk or talk on her own. Despite these challenges, she has mastered using a Mustang walker to walk and using an Eyegaze communication tool that allows her to talk to others using her eyes. Cate captivates others with her beautiful smile and gentle spirit.

Not long after adopting Cate, Tami unexpectedly became pregnant. Chloe was born in 2010, and another daughter, Clare, was born in 2012.

I am inspired by the Fites' faith in the Lord and their desire to spread the word about life. I am pleased they were able to travel to Washington, D.C., to help advocate for their message that opening homes to children through adoption can help spread the word that every life is valuable.

The Angels in Adoption award recognizes individuals, couples, and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of a family. Awardees from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, come together in Washington, D.C., each year to participate in events that celebrate their heroic actions and enable them to use their personal experience to effect change on a national level.

Aaron and Tami's exemplary actions demonstrate the positive impact adopting a child can have on a family and a community, and the Fites are more than deserving of this award. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Aaron and Tami and their family, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.●

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, too often our days are filled with news of worldwide violence and hardship. It is during these times that it is especially important to recognize those communities that find ways daily to celebrate life, family, and culture. Today, I would like to recognize Lafayette, LA, a city that goes above and beyond to distinguish itself as a cultural crossroads and one of the happiest places to live in America.

According to a 2014 report by the Wall Street Journal's MarketWatch, the top five happiest cities in America are all located in Louisiana, with Lafayette taking the top spot. For anyone who has ever visited this jewel of

south Louisiana, the recognition will come as no surprise. Lafayette is located in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole country—an area known for its upbeat music, flavorful foods, and for letting the good times roll.

Each and every day, Lafayette's rich, unique history and culture can be seen throughout the streets of the city and the personalities of its residents. Entertaining, educational events are scattered throughout the calendar year, ensuring guests from around the world are shown a slice of the Lafayette way of life. Festivals such as the Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, held every October, provide an opportunity to experience the one-of-a-kind food, music, and traditions that the Lafayette region has to offer. Another annual Lafayette festival, the Festival International de Louisiane, attracts folks from across the State and the region in celebrating the intriguing history and culture shared between Louisiana and the Francophone world.

Lafayette is truly like no other place in the world; just ask any of its residents. With renowned food, music, and festivals, it is no wonder the population of this southern paradise always has a reason to smile. Congratulations again to Lafayette, LA, on the recognition of being the happiest place to live; and I wish you many more successful, happy years building and growing south Louisiana.●

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE MUSIC COMPANY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, American musicians play a large role in the cultural development of our Nation's history, and much of that success is due to the local small businesses responsible for providing the equipment and instruction musicians need. This week's Small Business of the Week has an expert staff that is dedicated to serving all kinds of musicians. Congratulations to Lafayette Music Company of Lafayette, LA, for being selected Small Business of the Week.

The Lafayette Music Company is a 60-year-old family-owned business that has continuously provided musicians in their community with excellent equipment and instruction. Built in 1955 by Mr. William C. "Bill" Peyton, the Lafayette Music Company initially focused on the sale of pianos and organs. When Mr. Raymond J. Goodrich joined the sales team in 1967, he expanded the company's focus to include servicing additional instruments, including the brass family. Under Mr. Goodrich's management, the Lafayette Music Company developed a band department, catering to schools in the Acadiana region of south Louisiana. Mr. Goodrich's affable approach to securing a local consumer base offered a unique and personalized level of assistance that was unrivaled in the area.

After working as a salesman and sales manager for 6 years and part owner for 3 years, Mr. Goodrich purchased a majority of the company's shares to become the primary owner.

Today, Mr. Goodrich and his wife, Karen, provide beginner, intermediate, and expert musicians with a diverse product selection. The Lafayette Music Company offers a wide array of the latest guitars, drums, band instruments, accessories, pianos, church organs, and more, as well as an in-house repair department that has been in service for more than 80 years. Additionally, the Lafayette Music Company boasts an astonishing customer service record that has ranked them in the top 100 largest music products retailers by The Music Trades magazine for 3 consecutive years.

Mr. Goodrich and his wife, Karen, provide entrepreneurs across the Nation with an inspiring example of how pursuing a business plan with unrelenting vigor and creativity is the key to success. Centered in an area of the country with world-renowned music and an incomparable heritage, the Goodrich family has secured the business of a community of musicians with specific needs. Congratulations again to Small Business of the Week, Acadiana's own Lafayette Music Company.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT AMENDING THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Supplementary Agreement Amending the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic (the "Supplementary Agreement"). The Supplementary Agreement, signed at Prague on September 23, 2013, is intended to modify a certain provision of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of

America and the Czech Republic, with Administrative Arrangement, signed at Prague on September 7, 2007, and entered into force January 1, 2009 (the "U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement").

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement as amended by the Supplementary Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, and the Republic of Korea. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Supplementary Agreement amends the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement to account for a new Czech domestic health insurance law, which was enacted subsequent to the signing of the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement in 2007. By including the health insurance law within the scope of the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement, this amendment will exempt U.S. citizen workers and multinational companies from contributing to the Czech health insurance system, when such workers otherwise meet all of the ordinary criteria for such an exemption.

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement, as amended, will continue to contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Supplementary Agreement and its estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Supplementary Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the Supplementary Agreement to the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement and related documents.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 6, 2015.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2835. An act to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

At 5:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Public Law 111-68, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146), the Democratic Leader appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Care: Ms. Charlene Taylor of Elk Grove, California.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2129. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2130. A bill making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2131. A bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2132. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2146. A bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2136. A bill to establish the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BURR, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2137. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide a period for the relocation of spouses and dependents of certain members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station in order to ease and facilitate the relocation of military families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2138. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the review and acceptance of subcontracting plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2139. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for the procurement of covered contracts; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2140. A bill to establish criminal penalties for failing to inform and warn of serious dangers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2141. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health information technology; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2142. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2143. A bill to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2144. A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2145. A bill to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2146. A bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 278. A resolution welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 279. A resolution honoring the Red Land Little League Team of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, for the performance of the Team in the 2015 Little League World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. Con. Res. 22. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the White House Fellows program; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 89

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to repeal the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 255

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 255, a bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions

of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 395

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 395, a bill to implement a demonstration project under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to examine the costs and benefits of providing payments for comprehensive coordinated health care services provided by purpose-built, continuing care retirement communities to Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 480

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 480, a bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 800, a bill to improve, coordinate, and enhance rehabilitation research at the National Institutes of Health.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans ex-

posed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1424

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to provide for increased Federal oversight of prescription opioid treatment and assistance to States in reducing opioid abuse, diversion, and deaths.

S. 1455

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1455, a bill to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1550

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1550, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1789

At the request of Mr. RISCH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1789, a

bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

S. 1860

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1860, a bill to protect and promote international religious freedom.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1896

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1896, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure that employees are not misclassified as non-employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 2116

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2116, a bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2120

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2120, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out

a program to support veterans in contact with the criminal justice system by discouraging unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and other non-violent crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 2126

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2126, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2143. A bill to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2143

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STARR-CAMARGO BRIDGE.

Public Law 87-532 (76 Stat. 153) is amended—

(1) in the first section, in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “, and its successors and assigns,” after “State of Texas”;

(B) by inserting “consisting of not more than 14 lanes” after “approaches thereto”; and

(C) by striking “and for a period of sixty-six years from the date of completion of such bridge,”;

(2) in section 2, by inserting “and its successors and assigns,” after “companies”;

(3) by redesignating sections 3, 4, and 5 as sections 4, 5, and 6, respectively;

(4) by inserting after section 2 the following:

“SEC. 3. RIGHTS OF STARR-CAMARGO BRIDGE COMPANY AND SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Starr-Camargo Bridge Company and its successors and assigns shall have the rights and privileges granted to the B and P Bridge Company and its successors and assigns under section 2 of

the Act of May 1, 1928 (45 Stat. 471, chapter 466).

“(b) REQUIREMENT.—In exercising the rights and privileges granted under subsection (a), the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company and its successors and assigns shall act in accordance with—

“(1) just compensation requirements;

“(2) public proceeding requirements; and

“(3) any other requirements applicable to the exercise of the rights referred to in subsection (a) under the laws of the State of Texas.”; and

(5) in section 4 (as redesignated by paragraph (3))—

(A) by inserting “and its successors and assigns,” after “such company”;

(B) by striking “or” after “public agency,”;

(C) by inserting “or to a corporation,” after “international bridge authority or commission,”; and

(D) by striking “authority, or commission” each place it appears and inserting “authority, commission, or corporation”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 278—WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA RELATIONSHIP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 278

Whereas the Government and people of the United States and the Republic of Korea share a comprehensive alliance, a dynamic partnership, and a personal friendship rooted in the common values of freedom, democracy, and a free market economy;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea is a linchpin of regional stability in Asia, including against the threats posed by the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas cooperation between our nations spans across the security, diplomatic, economic, energy, and cultural spheres;

Whereas the relationship between the people of the United States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance was forged in blood, with casualties of the United States during the Korean War of 54,246 dead (of whom 33,739 were battle deaths) and more than 103,284 wounded, and casualties of the Republic of Korea of over 50,000 soldiers dead and over 10,000 wounded;

Whereas the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act (Public Law 111-41) was enacted on July 27, 2009, and President Barack Obama issued a proclamation to designate the date as the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day and called upon Americans to display flags at half-staff in memory of the Korean War veterans;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has stood shoulder-to-shoulder alongside the United

States in all 4 major engagements the United States has faced since World War II—the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, in Afghanistan, and in Iraq;

Whereas, since the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty, to which the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification on January 26, 1954, United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula, and currently there are approximately 28,500 United States troops stationed in the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, in January 2014, the United States and the Republic of Korea successfully concluded negotiations for a new five-year Special Measures Agreement (SMA), establishing the framework for Republic of Korea contributions to offset the costs associated with the stationing of United States Forces Korea (USFK) on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas, the Governments and people of the United States and the Republic of Korea share a deep commitment to addressing the continued suffering of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea due to the human rights abuses and repression of the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas, on March 15, 2012, the United States-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement entered into force, which both sides have committed to fully implement, and the Republic of Korea is the United States sixth-largest trade partner, with United States goods and exports to Korea reaching a record level of \$44,500,000,000 in 2014, up over 7 percent compared to 2013;

Whereas, on May 7, 2013, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance Between the Republic of Korea and the United States;

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, addressed a Joint Session of Congress;

Whereas the United States Government notes the address delivered by President Park Geun-hye in Dresden, Germany, on March 28, 2014, and recognizes her efforts to promote peace, stability, and cooperation in Northeast Asia;

Whereas the United States Government appreciates the Government of the Republic of Korea's leadership and the critical role of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance in defusing tensions along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in August and September of 2015, that were provoked by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

Whereas there are deep cultural and personal ties between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea, as exemplified by the large flow of visitors and exchanges each year between the 2 countries, including Korean students studying in United States colleges and universities;

Whereas Korean-Americans have made invaluable contributions to our Nation's security, prosperity, and diversity;

Whereas, from October 14-16, 2015, President Park Geun-hye will visit Washington for a second official visit to the United States since her election as President; and

Whereas the United States Government looks forward to continuing to deepen our enduring partnership with the Republic of Korea on security, economic, cultural issues, as well as embracing new opportunities for cooperation on emerging regional and global challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, on her official visit to the United States;

(2) reaffirms the importance of the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, as enshrined in the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953, that is vital to peace and security in Northeast Asia, and welcomes opportunities to strengthen security ties, including on space, cyber, and missile defense; and

(3) encourages the United States Government and the Government of the Republic of Korea to continue to broaden and deepen the alliance by enhancing cooperation in the security, economic, scientific, health, education, and cultural spheres.

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—HONORING THE RED LAND LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF LEWISBERRY, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TEAM IN THE 2015 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 279

Whereas on Saturday, August 29, 2015, the Red Land Little League Team won the United States championship at the Little League Baseball World Series, defeating a versatile and dynamic team from Pearland, Texas, with a walk-off hit in the bottom of the sixth inning to win 3-2;

Whereas on Sunday, August 30, 2015, the Red Land Little League Team competed against the Kitasuna Little League Team from Tokyo, Japan, in the 69th Annual Little League World Series championship and set the record for the most runs scored in the first inning with 10 runs;

Whereas the Red Land Little League Team is the first York County team to win a national Little League championship and the first team from Pennsylvania to win the national Little League championship since 1990;

Whereas the Red Land Little League Team is comprised of: Camden Walter, Braden Kolmansberger, Dylan Rodenhauer, Adam Cramer, Jaden Henline, Chayton Krauss, Kaden Peifer, Cole Wagner, Zack Sooy, Jake Cubbler, Jarrett Wisman, Bailey Wirt, and Ethan Phillips;

Whereas the Red Land Little League Team is managed by Tom Peifer and coached by J.K. Kolmansberger and Bret Wagner, among others; and

Whereas the Red Land Little League Team has brought tremendous excitement, pride, and honor to the city of Lewisberry, the county of York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the Red Land Little League Team and its loyal fans, affectionately known as the “Red Sea”, on the performance of the Team at the 69th Little League World Series championship;

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the members, parents, families, coaches, and managers of the Red Land Little League Team; and

(3) recognizes and commends the people of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and the surrounding area for their outstanding loyalty, support, and countless hours of volunteerism for the Red Land Little League Team throughout the season.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 22

Whereas, in 1964, John W. Gardner presented the idea of selecting a handful of outstanding men and women to come to Washington, DC to participate as White House Fellows and learn the workings of the highest levels of the Government, learn about leadership as they observed the officials of the United States in action, and meet with these officials and other leaders of society;

Whereas John W. Gardner believed that serving as Fellows would strengthen the abilities and desires of the Fellows to contribute to their communities, their professions, and their country;

Whereas President Lyndon B. Johnson established the President's Commission on White House Fellowships through Executive Order 11183 (October 3, 1964) to create a program that would select between 11 and 19 outstanding young people of the United States every year and bring them to Washington, DC for “first hand, high-level experience in the workings of the Federal Government, to establish an era when the young men and women of America and their government belonged to each other—belonged to each other in fact and in spirit”;

Whereas the White House Fellows program has steadfastly remained a nonpartisan program that has served and been supported by 9 Presidents exceptionally well;

Whereas the 725 White House Fellows who have served have established a legacy of leadership in every aspect of our society, including—

(1) appointments as Cabinet officers, ambassadors, special envoys, United States Attorneys, deputy and assistant secretaries of departments, and senior White House staff;

(2) election to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and State and local government;

(3) appointments to the Federal, State, and local judiciary;

(4) leadership in many of the largest corporations and law firms in the United States; and

(5) service as presidents of colleges and universities, deans of the most distinguished graduate schools in the United States, officials in nonprofit organizations, leaders in national journalism and the working press, senior leaders in every branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, and distinguished scholars and historians;

Whereas the legacy of leadership of the White House Fellows program is a national resource that has served the United States in major challenges, including—

(1) organizing resettlement operations following the Vietnam War;

(2) assisting with the national response to terrorist attacks;

(3) managing the aftermath of natural disasters, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;

(4) providing support to earthquake victims in Haiti and Nepal;

(5) serving in the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

(6) reforming and innovating in national and international securities and capital markets;

Whereas the post-Fellowship years of the 725 White House Fellows are characterized by

a demonstrable lifetime commitment to public service through continuing personal and professional renewal and association, creating a White House Fellows Community of Mutual Support for leadership at every level of government and in every element of life in the United States; and

Whereas September 1, 2015, marked the 50th anniversary of the first class of White House Fellows to serve the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the White House Fellows program and commends the White House Fellows for their continuing lifetime commitment to public service;

(2) acknowledges the legacy of leadership provided by White House Fellows over the years in their local communities, the United States, and the world; and

(3) expresses appreciation and support for the continuing leadership of White House Fellows in all aspects of the national life of the United States in the years ahead.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2708. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SA 2709. Mr. DAINES (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

SA 2710. Mr. DAINES (for Mr. SASSE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3116, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2708. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration; as follows:

On page 1, lines 8 and 9, strike “July 8” and insert “December 8”.

SA 2709. Mr. DAINES (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, add the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (Public Law 109-424; 33 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.).

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF PURPOSES OF TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT.

Section 3 (33 U.S.C. 3202) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “research,” after “warnings.”;

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) to enhance and modernize the existing United States Tsunami Warning System to increase the accuracy of forecasts and warnings, to ensure full coverage of tsunami threats to the United States with a network of detection assets, and to reduce false alarms.”;

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) to improve and develop standards and guidelines for mapping, modeling, and assessment efforts to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, mitigation, resiliency, response, outreach, and recovery.”;

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (8), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) to improve research efforts related to improving tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, mitigation, resiliency, response, outreach, and recovery.”;

(6) in paragraph (5), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “and increase” and inserting “, increase, and develop uniform standards and guidelines for”; and

(B) by inserting “, including the warning signs of locally generated tsunami” after “approaching”;

(7) in paragraph (6), as redesignated, by striking “, including the Indian Ocean; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(8) by inserting after paragraph (6), as redesignated, the following:

“(7) to foster resilient communities in the face of tsunami and other similar coastal hazards; and”.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF TSUNAMI FORECASTING AND WARNING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(a)) is amended by striking “Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico region” and inserting “Atlantic Ocean region, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico”.

(b) COMPONENTS.—Subsection (b) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “established” and inserting “supported or maintained”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) to the degree practicable, maintain not less than 80 percent of the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis buoy array at operational capacity to optimize data reliability.”;

(5) by amending paragraph (5), as redesignated by paragraph (3), to read as follows:

“(5) provide tsunami forecasting capability based on models and measurements, including tsunami inundation models and maps for use in increasing the preparedness of communities and safeguarding port and harbor operations, that incorporate inputs, including—

“(A) the United States and global ocean and coastal observing system;

“(B) the global Earth observing system;

“(C) the global seismic network;

“(D) the Advanced National Seismic system;

“(E) tsunami model validation using historical and paleotsunami data;

“(F) digital elevation models and bathymetry;

“(G) newly developing tsunami detection methodologies using satellites and airborne remote sensing; and

“(H) any other data the Administrator determines is necessary.”;

(6) by amending paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (3), to read as follows:

“(7) include a cooperative effort among the Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation under which the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

“(A) provide rapid and reliable seismic information to the Administrator from international and domestic seismic networks; and

“(B) support seismic stations installed before the date of the enactment of the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015 to supplement coverage in areas of sparse instrumentation.”;

(7) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “, including graphical warning products,” after “warnings”;

(B) by inserting “, territories,” after “States”; and

(C) by inserting “and Wireless Emergency Alerts” after “Hazards Program”; and

(8) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “provide and” before “allow”; and

(B) by inserting “and commercial and Federal undersea communications cables” after “observing technologies”.

(c) TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.—Subsection (c) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.—The program under this section shall operate a tsunami warning system that—

“(1) is capable of forecasting tsunami, including forecasting tsunami arrival time and inundation estimates, anywhere in the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and providing adequate warnings;

“(2) is capable of forecasting and providing adequate warnings, including tsunami arrival time and inundation models where applicable, in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, that are determined—

“(A) to be geologically active, or to have significant potential for geological activity; and

“(B) to pose significant risks of tsunami for States along the coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico; and

“(3) supports other international tsunami forecasting and warning efforts.”.

(d) TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS.—Subsection (d) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall support or maintain centers to support the tsunami warning system required by subsection (c). The Centers shall include—

“(A) the National Tsunami Warning Center, located in Alaska, which is primarily responsible for Alaska and the continental United States;

“(B) the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, located in Hawaii, which is primarily responsible for Hawaii, the Caribbean, and other areas of the Pacific not covered by the National Center; and

“(C) any additional forecast and warning centers determined by the National Weather Service to be necessary.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the centers supported or maintained under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Continuously monitoring data from seismological, deep ocean, coastal sea level, and tidal monitoring stations and other data sources as may be developed and deployed.

“(B) Evaluating earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions that have the potential to generate tsunami.

“(C) Evaluating deep ocean buoy data and tidal monitoring stations for indications of tsunami resulting from earthquakes and other sources.

“(D) To the extent practicable, utilizing a range of models, including ensemble models, to predict tsunami, including arrival times, flooding estimates, coastal and harbor currents, and duration.

“(E) Using data from the Integrated Ocean Observing System of the Administration in coordination with regional associations to calculate new inundation estimates and periodically update existing inundation estimates.

“(F) Disseminating forecasts and tsunami warning bulletins to Federal, State, tribal, and local government officials and the public.

“(G) Coordinating with the tsunami hazard mitigation program conducted under section 5 to ensure ongoing sharing of information between forecasters and emergency management officials.

“(H) In coordination with the Coast Guard, evaluating and recommending procedures for ports and harbors at risk of tsunami inundation, including review of readiness, response, and communication strategies, and data sharing policies.

“(I) Making data gathered under this Act and post-warning analyses conducted by the National Weather Service or other relevant Administration offices available to the public.

“(J) Integrating and modernizing the program operated under this section with advances in tsunami science to improve performance without compromising service.

“(3) FAIL-SAFE WARNING CAPABILITY.—The tsunami warning centers supported or maintained under paragraph (1) shall maintain a fail-safe warning capability and perform back-up duties for each other.

“(4) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the forecast offices of the National Weather Service, the centers supported or maintained under paragraph (1), and such program offices of the Administration as the Administrator or the coordinating committee, as established in section 5(d), consider appropriate to ensure that regional and local forecast offices—

“(A) have the technical knowledge and capability to disseminate tsunami warnings for the communities they serve;

“(B) leverage connections with local emergency management officials for optimally disseminating tsunami warnings and forecasts; and

“(C) implement mass communication tools in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015 used by the National Weather Service on such date and newer mass communication technologies as they are developed as a part of the Weather-Ready Nation program of the Administration, or otherwise, for the purpose of timely and effective delivery of tsunami warnings.

“(5) UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall—

“(A) develop uniform operational procedures for the centers supported or maintained under paragraph (1), including the use of software applications, checklists, decision support tools, and tsunami warning products that have been standardized across the program supported under this section;

“(B) ensure that processes and products of the warning system operated under subsection (c)—

“(i) reflect industry best practices when practicable;

“(ii) conform to the maximum extent practicable with internationally recognized standards for information technology; and

“(iii) conform to the maximum extent practicable with other warning products and practices of the National Weather Service;

“(C) ensure that future adjustments to operational protocols, processes, and warning products—

“(i) are made consistently across the warning system operated under subsection (c); and

“(ii) are applied in a uniform manner across such warning system;

“(D) establish a systematic method for information technology product development to improve long-term technology planning efforts; and

“(E) disseminate guidelines and metrics for evaluating and improving tsunami forecast models.

“(6) AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service, shall ensure that resources are available to fulfill the obligations of this Act. This includes ensuring supercomputing resources are available to run, as rapidly as possible, such computer models as are needed for purposes of the tsunami warning system operated under subsection (c).”.

(e) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.—Subsection (e) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) develop requirements for the equipment used to forecast tsunami, including—

“(A) provisions for multipurpose detection platforms;

“(B) reliability and performance metrics; and

“(C) to the maximum extent practicable, requirements for the integration of equipment with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global Earth observing system of systems, the global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System;

“(2) develop and execute a plan for the transfer of technology from ongoing research conducted as part of the program supported or maintained under section 6 into the program under this section; and

“(3) ensure that the Administration’s operational tsunami detection equipment is properly maintained.”.

(f) FEDERAL COOPERATION.—Subsection (f) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) FEDERAL COOPERATION.—When deploying and maintaining tsunami detection technologies under the program under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) identify which assets of other Federal agencies are necessary to support such program; and

“(2) work with each agency identified under paragraph (1)—

“(A) to acquire the agency’s assistance; and

“(B) to prioritize the necessary assets in support of the tsunami forecast and warning program.”.

(g) UNNECESSARY PROVISIONS.—Section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203) is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by striking subsections (i) through (k); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(h) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS.—Subsection (g) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203(g)), as redesignated by subsection (g)(3), is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “30” and inserting “90”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(3) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator”;

(4) in paragraph (1), as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the occurrence of a significant tsunami warning.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONTENTS.—In a case in which notice is submitted under paragraph (1) within 90 days of a significant tsunami warning described in subparagraph (C) of such paragraph, such notice shall include, as appropriate, brief information and analysis of—

“(A) the accuracy of the tsunami model used;

“(B) the specific deep ocean or other monitoring equipment that detected the incident, as well as the deep ocean or other monitoring equipment that did not detect the incident due to malfunction or other reasons;

“(C) the effectiveness of the warning communication, including the dissemination of warnings with State, territory, local, and tribal partners in the affected area under the jurisdiction of the National Weather Service; and

“(D) such other findings as the Administrator considers appropriate.”.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 (33 U.S.C. 3204) is amended by striking subsections (a) through (d) and inserting the following:

“(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the heads of such other agencies as the Administrator considers rel-

evant, shall conduct a community-based tsunami hazard mitigation program to improve tsunami preparedness and resiliency of at-risk areas in the United States and the territories of the United States.

“(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The Program conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Technical and financial assistance to coastal States, territories, tribes, and local governments to develop and implement activities under this section.

“(2) Integration of tsunami preparedness and mitigation programs into ongoing State-based hazard warning, resilience planning, and risk management activities, including predisaster planning, emergency response, evacuation planning, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and community development and redevelopment planning programs in affected areas.

“(3) Activities to promote the adoption of tsunami resilience, preparedness, warning, and mitigation measures by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments and nongovernmental entities, including educational and risk communication programs to discourage development in high-risk areas.

“(4) Activities to support the development of regional tsunami hazard and risk assessments. Such regional risk assessments may include the following:

“(A) The sources, sizes, and other relevant historical data of tsunami in the region, including paleotsunami data.

“(B) Inundation models and maps of critical infrastructure and socioeconomic vulnerability in areas subject to tsunami inundation.

“(C) Maps of evacuation areas and evacuation routes, including, when appropriate, traffic studies that evaluate the viability of evacuation routes.

“(D) Evaluations of the size of populations that will require evacuation, including populations with special evacuation needs.

“(E) Evaluations and technical assistance for vertical evacuation structure planning for communities where models indicate limited or no ability for timely evacuation, especially in areas at risk of near shore generated tsunami.

“(F) Evaluation of at-risk ports and harbors.

“(G) Evaluation of the effect of tsunami currents on the foundations of closely-spaced, coastal high-rise structures.

“(5) Activities to promote preparedness in at-risk ports and harbors, including the following:

“(A) Evaluation and recommendation of procedures for ports and harbors in the event of a distant or near-field tsunami.

“(B) A review of readiness, response, and communication strategies to ensure coordination and data sharing with the Coast Guard.

“(6) Activities to support the development of community-based outreach and education programs to ensure community readiness and resilience, including the following:

“(A) The development, implementation, and assessment of technical training and public education programs, including education programs that address unique characteristics of distant and near-field tsunami.

“(B) The development of decision support tools.

“(C) The incorporation of social science research into community readiness and resilience efforts.

“(D) The development of evidence-based education guidelines.

“(7) Dissemination of guidelines and standards for community planning, education, and training products, programs, and tools, including—

“(A) standards for—

“(i) mapping products;

“(ii) inundation models; and

“(iii) effective emergency exercises; and

“(B) recommended guidance for at-risk port and harbor tsunami warning, evacuation, and response procedures in coordination with the Coast Guard.

“(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—In addition to activities conducted under subsection (b), the program conducted under subsection (a) may include the following:

“(1) Multidisciplinary vulnerability assessment research, education, and training to help integrate risk management and resilience objectives with community development planning and policies.

“(2) Risk management training for local officials and community organizations to enhance understanding and preparedness.

“(3) Interagency, Federal, State, tribal, and territorial intergovernmental tsunami response exercise planning and implementation in high risk areas.

“(4) Development of practical applications for existing or emerging technologies, such as modeling, remote sensing, geospatial technology, engineering, and observing systems, including the integration of tsunami sensors into Federal and commercial submarine telecommunication cables if practicable.

“(5) Risk management, risk assessment, and resilience data and information services, including—

“(A) access to data and products derived from observing and detection systems; and

“(B) development and maintenance of new integrated data products to support risk management, risk assessment, and resilience programs.

“(6) Risk notification systems that coordinate with and build upon existing systems and actively engage decisionmakers, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments and agencies, business communities, nongovernmental organizations, and the media.

“(d) **COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall maintain a coordinating committee to assist the Administrator in the conduct of the program required by subsection (a).

“(2) **COMPOSITION.**—The coordinating committee shall be composed of members as follows:

“(A) Representatives from each of the States and territories most at risk from tsunami, including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas Islands.

“(B) Such other members as the Administrator considers appropriate to represent Federal, State, tribal, territorial, and local governments.

“(3) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—The Administrator may approve the formation of subcommittees to address specific program components or regional issues.

“(4) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The coordinating committee shall—

“(A) provide feedback on how funds should be prioritized to carry out the program required by subsection (a);

“(B) ensure that areas described in section 4(c) in the United States and its territories have the opportunity to participate in the program;

“(C) provide recommendations to the Administrator on how to improve and continu-

ously advance the TsunamiReady program of the National Weather Service, particularly on ways to make communities more tsunami resilient through the use of inundation maps and models and other hazard mitigation practices;

“(D) ensure that all components of the program required by subsection (a) are integrated with ongoing State based hazard warning, risk management, and resilience activities, including—

“(i) integrating activities with emergency response plans, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and community development programs in affected areas; and

“(ii) integrating information to assist in tsunami evacuation route planning.

“(5) **EXEMPTION FROM FACA.**—The provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the committee established and maintained under paragraph (1).

“(e) **NO PREEMPTION WITH RESPECT TO DESIGNATION OF AT-RISK AREAS.**—The establishment of national standards for inundation models under this section shall not prevent States, territories, tribes, and local governments from designating additional areas as being at risk based on knowledge of local conditions.

“(f) **NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed as establishing new regulatory authority for any Federal agency.”

(b) **REPORT ON ACCREDITATION OF TSUNAMIREADY PROGRAM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on which authorities and activities would be needed to have the TsunamiReady program of the National Weather Service accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

SEC. 6. MODIFICATION OF TSUNAMI RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 6 (33 U.S.C. 3205) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “The Administrator shall” and all that follows through “establish or maintain” and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with such other Federal agencies, State, tribal, and territorial governments, and academic institutions as the Administrator considers appropriate, the coordinating committee under section 5(d), and the panel under section 8(a), support or maintain”;

(2) in subsection (a), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking “and assessment for tsunami tracking and numerical forecast modeling. Such research program shall—” and inserting the following: “assessment for tsunami tracking and numerical forecast modeling, and standards development.

“(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The research program supported or maintained under subsection (a) shall—”; and

(3) in subsection (b), as designated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) consider other appropriate and cost effective solutions to mitigate the impact of tsunami, including the improvement of near-field and distant tsunami detection and forecasting capabilities, which may include use of a new generation of the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis array,

integration of tsunami sensors into commercial and Federal telecommunications cables, and other real-time tsunami monitoring systems and supercomputer capacity of the Administration to develop a rapid tsunami forecast for all United States coastlines;”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “include” and inserting “conduct”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) develop the technical basis for validation of tsunami maps, numerical tsunami models, digital elevation models, and forecasts; and”;

(E) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (C), by striking “to the scientific community” and inserting “to the public and the scientific community”.

SEC. 7. GLOBAL TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION NETWORK.

Section 7 (33 U.S.C. 3206) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.**—The Administrator shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State and in consultation with such other agencies as the Administrator considers relevant, provide technical assistance, operational support, and training to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations, and such other international entities as the Administrator considers appropriate, as part of the international efforts to develop a fully functional global tsunami forecast and warning system comprised of regional tsunami warning networks.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “shall” each place it appears and inserting “may”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “establishing” and inserting “supporting”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “establish” and inserting “support”; and

(ii) by striking “establishing” and inserting “supporting”.

SEC. 8. TSUNAMI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Act is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 8 (33 U.S.C. 3207) as section 9; and

(2) by inserting after section 7 (33 U.S.C. 3206) the following:

“SEC. 8. TSUNAMI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY PANEL.

“(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The Administrator shall designate an existing working group within the Science Advisory Board of the Administration to manage the Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel to provide advice to the Administrator on matters regarding tsunami science, technology, and regional preparedness.

“(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **COMPOSITION.**—The Panel shall be composed of no fewer than 7 members selected by the Administrator from among individuals from academia or State agencies who have academic or practical expertise in physical sciences, social sciences, information technology, coastal resilience, emergency management, or such other disciplines as the Administrator considers appropriate.

“(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—No member of the Panel may be a Federal employee.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not less frequently than once every 4 years, the Panel shall—

“(1) review the activities of the Administration, and other Federal activities as appropriate, relating to tsunami research, detection, forecasting, warning, mitigation, resiliency, and preparation; and

“(2) submit to the Administrator and such others as the Administrator considers appropriate—

“(A) the findings of the working group with respect to the most recent review conducted under paragraph (1); and

“(B) such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the working group considers appropriate to improve Federal tsunami research, detection, forecasting, warning, mitigation, resiliency, and preparation.

“(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than once every 4 years, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the findings and recommendations received by the Administrator under subsection (c)(2).”.

SEC. 9. REPORTS.

(a) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (33 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A detailed description of the progress made in implementing sections 4(d)(6), 5(b)(6), and 6(b)(4) of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act.

(B) A description of the ways that tsunami warnings and warning products issued by the Tsunami Forecasting and Warning Program established under section 4 of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (33 U.S.C. 3203) can be standardized and streamlined with warnings and warning products for hurricanes, coastal storms, and other coastal flooding events.

(b) REPORT ON NATIONAL EFFORTS THAT SUPPORT RAPID RESPONSE FOLLOWING NEAR-SHORE TSUNAMI EVENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly, in coordination with the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the heads of such other Federal agencies as the Administrator considers appropriate, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the national efforts in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act that support and facilitate rapid emergency response following a domestic near-shore tsunami event to better understand domestic effects of earthquake derived tsunami on people, infrastructure, and communities in the United States.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of scientific or other measurements collected on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act to quickly identify and quantify lost or degraded infrastructure or terrestrial formations.

(B) A description of scientific or other measurements that would be necessary to collect to quickly identify and quantify lost or degraded infrastructure or terrestrial formations.

(C) Identification and evaluation of Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and military first responder and search and rescue operation centers, bases, and other facilities as well as other critical response assets and infrastructure, including search and rescue aircraft, located within near-shore and distant tsunami inundation areas on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(D) An evaluation of near-shore tsunami response plans in areas described in subparagraph (C) in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, and how those response plans would be affected by the loss of search and rescue and first responder infrastructure described in such subparagraph.

(E) A description of redevelopment plans and reports in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act for communities in areas that are at high-risk for near-shore tsunami, as well identification of States or communities that do not have redevelopment plans.

(F) Recommendations to enhance near-shore tsunami preparedness and response plans, including recommended responder exercises, predisaster planning, and mitigation needs.

(G) Such other data and analysis information as the Administrator and the Secretary of Homeland Security consider appropriate.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 9 of the Act, as redesignated by section 8(a)(1) of this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$27,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021, of which—

“(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year shall be for activities conducted at the State level under the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

“(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6.”.

SEC. 11. OUTREACH RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with State and local emergency managers, shall develop and carry out formal outreach activities to improve tsunami education and awareness and foster the development of resilient communities. Outreach activities may include—

(1) the development of outreach plans to ensure the close integration of tsunami warning centers supported or maintained under section 4(d) of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (33 U.S.C. 3203(d)) with local Weather Forecast Offices of the National Weather Service and emergency managers;

(2) working with appropriate local Weather Forecast Offices to ensure they have the

technical knowledge and capability to disseminate tsunami warnings to the communities they serve; and

(3) evaluating the effectiveness of warnings and of coordination with local Weather Forecast Offices after significant tsunami events.

SEC. 12. MODIFICATION OF COASTAL OCEAN PROGRAM.

Section 201(c) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-567; 106 Stat. 4280) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—” before “Of the sums” and indenting appropriately; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) REGIONAL COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT COALITIONS.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may form regional coastal risk management coalitions comprised of representatives of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, community groups, academic institutions, and nongovernmental groups to advance the goals of this section for communities facing common coastal hazards and risks. Such coalitions may enter into an agreement with an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a nonprofit foundation in order to accept gifts and donations to support the goals of this subsection.”.

SEC. 13. REPEAL OF DUPLICATE PROVISIONS OF LAW.

(a) REPEAL.—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-479) is amended by striking title VIII (relating to tsunami warning and education).

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to repeal, or affect in any way, Public Law 109-424.

SA 2710. Mr. DAINES (for Mr. SASSE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3116, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __. REPORT ON DATA SECURITY PROCEDURES OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a review of the data security procedures of the Bureau of the Census, including such procedures that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the review required by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify all information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information;

(B) described any actions carried out by the Secretary of Commerce or the Director of the Bureau of the Census to secure sensitive information that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015;

(C) identify any known data breaches of information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information; and

(D) identify whether the Bureau of the Census stores any information that, if combined with other such information, would comprise classified information.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The U.S. Role and Strategy in the Middle East: Yemen and the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 6, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Stealing the American Dream of Business Ownership: The NLRB's Joint Employer Decision."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT, AGENCY ACTION, FEDERAL RIGHTS, AND FEDERAL COURTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights, and Federal Courts, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 6, 2015, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Gifford J. Wong, who is an American Association for the Advancement of Science fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 237, H.R. 34.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 34) to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (Public Law 109-424; 33 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.).

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF PURPOSES OF TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT.

Section 3 (33 U.S.C. 3202) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "research," after "warnings,";

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) to enhance and modernize the existing United States Tsunami Warning System to increase the accuracy of forecasts and warnings, to ensure full coverage of tsunami threats to the United States with a network of detection assets, and to reduce false alarms;"

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) to improve and develop standards and guidelines for mapping, modeling, and assessment efforts to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, mitigation, resiliency, response, outreach, and recovery;"

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (8), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) to improve research efforts related to improving tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, mitigation, resiliency, response, outreach, and recovery;"

(6) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking "and increase" and inserting "increase, and develop uniform standards and guidelines for"; and

(B) by inserting "including the warning signs of locally generated tsunami" after "approaching";

(7) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking "including the Indian Ocean; and" and inserting a semicolon; and

(8) by inserting after paragraph (6), as so redesignated, the following:

"(7) to foster resilient communities in the face of tsunami and other similar coastal hazards; and".

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF TSUNAMI FORECASTING AND WARNING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 4 (33 U.S.C. 3203) is amended by striking "Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico region" and inserting "Atlantic Ocean region, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico".

(b) COMPONENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section 4 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "established" and inserting "supported or maintained";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (9) through (11), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) to the degree practicable, maintain not less than 80 percent of the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis buoy array at operational capacity to optimize data reliability;"

(5) by amending paragraph (5), as redesignated by paragraph (3), to read as follows:

"(5) provide tsunami forecasting capability based on models and measurements, including tsunami inundation models and maps for use in increasing the preparedness of communities and safeguarding port and harbor operations, that incorporate inputs, including—

"(A) the United States and global ocean and coastal observing system;

"(B) the global Earth observing system;

"(C) the global seismic network;

"(D) the Advanced National Seismic system;

"(E) tsunami model validation using historical and paleotsunami data;

"(F) digital elevation models and bathymetry; and

"(G) newly developing tsunami detection methodologies using satellites and airborne remote sensing;"

(6) by inserting after paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (3), the following:

"(8) include a cooperative effort among the Administration, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation under which the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

"(A) provide rapid and reliable seismic information to the Administrator from international and domestic seismic networks; and

“(B) support seismic stations installed before the date of the enactment of the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015 to supplement coverage in areas of sparse instrumentation.”.

(7) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “, including graphical warning products,” after “warnings”;

(B) by inserting “, territories,” after “States”; and

(C) by inserting “and Wireless Emergency Alerts” after “Hazards Program”; and

(8) in paragraph (10), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “provide and” before “allow”; and

(B) by inserting “and commercial and Federal undersea communications cables” after “observing technologies”.

(c) TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.—Subsection (c) of such section 4 is amended to read as follows:

“(c) TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.—The program under this section shall operate a tsunami warning system that—

“(1) is capable of forecasting tsunami, including forecasting tsunami arrival time and inundation estimates, anywhere in the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and providing adequate warnings;

“(2) is capable of forecasting and providing adequate warnings, including tsunami arrival time and inundation models where applicable, in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, that are determined—

“(A) to be geologically active, or to have significant potential for geological activity; and

“(B) to pose significant risks of tsunami for States along the coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico; and

“(3) supports other international tsunami forecasting and warning efforts.”.

(d) TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS.—Subsection (d) of such section 4 is amended to read as follows:

“(d) TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall support or maintain centers to support the tsunami warning system required by subsection (c). The Centers shall include—

“(A) the National Tsunami Warning Center, located in Alaska, which is primarily responsible for Alaska and the continental United States;

“(B) the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, located in Hawaii, which is primarily responsible for Hawaii, the Caribbean, and other areas of the Pacific not covered by the National Center; and

“(C) any additional forecast and warning centers determined by the National Weather Service to be necessary.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the centers supported or maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Continuously monitoring data from seismological, deep ocean, coastal sea level, and tidal monitoring stations and other data sources as may be developed and deployed.

“(B) Evaluating earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions that have the potential to generate tsunami.

“(C) Evaluating deep ocean buoy data and tidal monitoring stations for indications of tsunami resulting from earthquakes and other sources.

“(D) To the extent practicable, utilizing a range of models, including ensemble models, to predict tsunami, including arrival times, flooding estimates, coastal and harbor currents, and duration.

“(E) Using data from the Integrated Ocean Observing System of the Administration in coordination with regional associations to cal-

culate new inundation estimates and periodically update existing inundation estimates.

“(F) Ensuring supercomputing resources of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction are available to run, as rapidly as possible, such computer models as are needed for purposes of the tsunami warning system operated pursuant to subsection (c).

“(G) Disseminating forecasts and tsunami warning bulletins to Federal, State, tribal, and local government officials and the public.

“(H) Coordinating with the tsunami hazard mitigation program conducted under section 5 to ensure ongoing sharing of information between forecasters and emergency management officials.

“(I) Evaluating and recommending procedures for ports and harbors at risk of tsunami inundation, including review of readiness, response, and communication strategies to ensure coordination and data sharing with the Coast Guard.

“(J) Making data gathered under this Act and post-warning analyses conducted by the National Weather Service or other relevant Administration offices available to the public.

“(K) Integrating and modernizing the program operated under this section with advances in tsunami science to improve performance without compromising service.

“(3) FAIL-SAFE WARNING CAPABILITY.—The tsunami warning centers supported or maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall maintain a fail-safe warning capability and perform back-up duties for each other.

“(4) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the forecast offices of the National Weather Service, the centers supported or maintained pursuant to paragraph (1), and such program offices of the Administration as the Administrator or the coordinating committee consider appropriate to ensure that regional and local forecast offices—

“(A) have the technical knowledge and capability to disseminate tsunami warnings for the communities they serve;

“(B) leverage connections with local emergency management officials for optimally disseminating tsunami warnings and forecasts; and

“(C) implement mass communication tools in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015 used by the National Weather Service on such date and newer mass communication technologies as they are developed as a part of the Weather-Ready Nation program of the Administration, or otherwise, for the purpose of timely and effective delivery of tsunami warnings.

“(5) UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall—

“(A) develop uniform operational procedures for the centers supported or maintained pursuant to paragraph (1), including the use of software applications, checklists, decision support tools, and tsunami warning products that have been standardized across the program supported under this section;

“(B) ensure that processes and products of the warning system operated pursuant to subsection (c)—

“(i) reflect industry best practices when practicable;

“(ii) conform to the maximum extent practicable with internationally recognized standards for information technology; and

“(iii) conform to the maximum extent practicable with other warning products and practices of the National Weather Service;

“(C) ensure that future adjustments to operational protocols, processes, and warning products—

“(i) are made consistently across the warning system operated pursuant to subsection (c); and

“(ii) are applied in a uniform manner across such warning system;

“(D) establish a systematic method for information technology product development to improve long-term technology planning efforts; and

“(E) disseminate guidelines and metrics for evaluating and improving tsunami forecast models.

“(6) AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—The Administrator, through the National Weather Service, shall ensure that resources are available to fulfill the obligations of this Act. This includes ensuring supercomputing resources are available to run such computer models as are needed for purposes of the tsunami warning system operated pursuant to subsection (c).”.

(e) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.—Subsection (e) of such section 4 is amended to read as follows:

“(e) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) develop requirements for the equipment used to forecast tsunami, including—

“(A) provisions for multipurpose detection platforms;

“(B) reliability and performance metrics; and

“(C) to the maximum extent practicable, requirements for the integration of equipment with other United States and global ocean and coastal observation systems, the global Earth observing system of systems, the global seismic networks, and the Advanced National Seismic System;

“(2) develop and execute a plan for the transfer of technology from ongoing research conducted as part of the program supported or maintained under section 6 into the program under this section; and

“(3) ensure that the Administration’s operational tsunami detection equipment is properly maintained.”.

(f) FEDERAL COOPERATION.—Subsection (f) of such section 4 is amended to read as follows:

“(f) FEDERAL COOPERATION.—When deploying and maintaining tsunami detection technologies under the program under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) identify which assets of other Federal agencies are necessary to support such program; and

“(2) work with each agency identified under paragraph (1)—

“(A) to acquire the agency’s assistance; and

“(B) to prioritize the necessary assets.”.

(g) UNNECESSARY PROVISIONS.—Such section 4 is further amended—

(1) by striking subsections (g) and (i) through (k); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(h) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS.—Subsection (g) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (g)(2), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator”;

(3) in paragraph (1), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the occurrence of a significant tsunami warning.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONTENTS.—In a case in which notice is submitted under paragraph (1) within 90 days of

a significant tsunami warning described in subparagraph (C) of such paragraph, such notice shall include brief information and analysis of—

“(A) the accuracy of the tsunami model used;
“(B) the specific deep ocean or other monitoring equipment that detected the incident, as well as the deep ocean or other monitoring equipment that did not detect the incident due to malfunction or otherwise;

“(C) the effectiveness of the warning communication procedures including the integration of warnings with State, territory, local, and tribal partners in the affected area under the jurisdiction of the National Weather Service; and

“(D) such other findings as the Administrator considers appropriate.”.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 5 (33 U.S.C. 3204) is amended by striking subsections (a) through (d) and inserting the following:

“(a) *PROGRAM REQUIRED.*—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the heads of such other agencies as the Administrator considers relevant, conduct a community-based tsunami hazard mitigation program to improve tsunami preparedness and resiliency of at-risk areas in the United States and the territories of the United States.

“(b) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.*—The Program conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Technical and financial assistance to coastal States, territories, tribes, and local governments to develop and implement activities under this section.

“(2) Integration of tsunami preparedness and mitigation programs into ongoing State-based hazard warning, resilience planning, and risk management activities, including predisaster planning, emergency response, evacuation planning, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and community development and redevelopment planning programs in affected areas.

“(3) Activities to promote the adoption of tsunami resilience, preparedness, warning, and mitigation measures by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments and non-governmental entities, including educational and risk communication programs to discourage development in high-risk areas.

“(4) Activities to support the development of regional tsunami hazard and risk assessments. Such regional risk assessments may include the following:

“(A) The sources, sizes, and other relevant historical data of tsunami in the region, including paleotsunami data.

“(B) Inundation models and maps of critical infrastructure and socioeconomic vulnerability in areas subject to tsunami inundation.

“(C) Maps of evacuation areas and evacuation routes, including, when appropriate, traffic studies that evaluate the viability of evacuation routes.

“(D) Evaluations of the size of populations that will require evacuation, including populations with special evacuation needs.

“(E) Evaluations and technical assistance for vertical evacuation structure planning for communities where models indicate limited or no ability for timely evacuation, especially in areas at risk of near shore generated tsunami.

“(F) Evaluation of at-risk ports and harbors.

“(G) Evaluation of the effect of tsunami currents on the foundations of closely-spaced, coastal high-rise structures.

“(5) Activities to promote preparedness in at-risk ports and harbors, including the following:

“(A) Evaluation and recommendation of procedures for ports and harbors in the event of a distant or near-field tsunami.

“(B) A review of readiness, response, and communication strategies to ensure coordination and data sharing with the Coast Guard.

“(6) Activities to support the development of community-based outreach and education programs to ensure community readiness and resilience, including the following:

“(A) The development, implementation, and assessment of technical training and public education programs, including education programs that address unique characteristics of distant and near-field tsunami.

“(B) The development of decision support tools.

“(C) The incorporation of social science research into community readiness and resilience efforts.

“(D) The development of evidence-based education guidelines.

“(7) Dissemination of guidelines and standards for community planning, education, and training products, programs, and tools, including—

“(A) standards for—

“(i) mapping products;

“(ii) inundation models; and

“(iii) effective emergency exercises; and

“(B) recommended guidance for at-risk port and harbor tsunami warning, evacuation, and response procedures in coordination with the Coast Guard.

“(c) *AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.*—In addition to activities conducted under subsection (b), the program conducted pursuant to subsection (a) may include the following:

“(1) Multidisciplinary vulnerability assessment research, education, and training to help integrate risk management and resilience objectives with community development planning and policies.

“(2) Risk management training for local officials and community organizations to enhance understanding and preparedness.

“(3) Interagency, Federal, State, tribal, and territorial intergovernmental tsunami response exercise planning and implementation in high risk areas.

“(4) Development of practical applications for existing or emerging technologies, such as modeling, remote sensing, geospatial technology, engineering, and observing systems, including the integration of tsunami sensors into Federal and commercial submarine telecommunication cables if practicable.

“(5) Risk management, risk assessment, and resilience data and information services, including—

“(A) access to data and products derived from observing and detection systems; and

“(B) development and maintenance of new integrated data products to support risk management, risk assessment, and resilience programs.

“(6) Risk notification systems that coordinate with and build upon existing systems and actively engage decisionmakers, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments and agencies, business communities, nongovernmental organizations, and the media.

“(7) Formation of regional coastal risk management coalitions of Federal, State, local and tribal governments, community groups, academic institutions, and non-governmental groups to advance the goals of this section for communities facing common coastal hazards and risks. Such coalitions may enter into an agreement with an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a nonprofit foundation in order to accept gifts and donations to support of the goals of this section.

“(d) *COORDINATING COMMITTEE.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator shall maintain a coordinating committee to assist the Administrator in the conduct of the program required by subsection (a).

“(2) *COMPOSITION.*—The coordinating committee shall be composed of members as follows:

“(A) Representatives of States and territories most at risk from tsunami, including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa.

“(B) Such other members as the Administrator considers appropriate to represent Federal, State, tribal, territorial, and local governments.

“(3) *SUBCOMMITTEES.*—The Administrator may approve the formation of subcommittees to address specific program components or regional issues.

“(4) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—The coordinating committee shall—

“(A) provide feedback on how funds should be prioritized to carry out the program required by subsection (a);

“(B) ensure that areas described in section 4(c) in the United States and its territories have the opportunity to participate in the program;

“(C) provide recommendations to the Administrator on how to improve and continuously advance the TsunamiReady program of the National Weather Service, particularly on ways to make communities more tsunami resilient through the use of inundation maps and models and other hazard mitigation practices;

“(D) ensure that all components of the program required by subsection (a) are integrated with ongoing State based hazard warning, risk management, and resilience activities, including—

“(i) integrating activities with emergency response plans, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and community development programs in affected areas; and

“(ii) integrating information to assist in tsunami evacuation route planning.

“(5) *EXEMPTION FROM FACA TERMINATION REQUIREMENT.*—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 14) shall not apply to the committee established and maintained pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(e) *NO PREEMPTION WITH RESPECT TO DESIGNATION OF AT-RISK AREAS.*—The establishment of national standards for inundation models under this section shall not prevent States, territories, tribes, and local governments from designating additional areas as being at risk based on knowledge of local conditions.

“(f) *NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.*—Nothing in this Act may be construed as establishing new regulatory authority for any Federal agency.”.

(b) *REPORT ON ACCREDITATION OF TSUNAMIREADY PROGRAM.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on which authorities and activities would be needed to have the TsunamiReady program of the National Weather Service accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

SEC. 6. MODIFICATION OF TSUNAMI RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 6 (33 U.S.C. 3205) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “The Administrator shall” and all that follows through “establish or maintain” and inserting the following:

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator shall, in consultation with such other Federal agencies, State, tribal, and territorial governments, and academic institutions as the Administrator considers appropriate, the coordinating committee under section 5(d), and the panel under section 8(a), support or maintain”;

(2) in subsection (a), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking “and assessment for tsunami tracking and numerical forecast modeling. Such research program shall—” and inserting

the following: “assessment for tsunami tracking and numerical forecast modeling, and standards development.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The research program supported or maintained pursuant to subsection (a) shall—”; and

(3) in subsection (b), as designated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) consider other appropriate and cost effective research to mitigate the impact of tsunami, including the improvement of near-field and distant tsunami detection and forecasting capabilities, which may include use of a new generation of the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis array, integration of tsunami sensors into commercial and Federal telecommunications cables, and other real-time tsunami monitoring systems and supercomputer capacity of the Administration to develop a rapid tsunami forecast for all United States coastlines;”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “include” and inserting “conduct”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) develop the technical basis for validation of tsunami maps, numerical tsunami models, digital elevation models, and forecasts; and”;

(E) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (C), by striking “to the scientific community” and inserting “to the public”.

SEC. 7. GLOBAL TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION NETWORK.

Section 7 (33 U.S.C. 3206) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.—The Administrator shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State and in consultation with such other agencies as the Administrator considers relevant, provide technical assistance and training to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations, and such other international entities as the Administrator considers appropriate, as part of the international efforts to develop a fully functional global tsunami forecast and warning system comprised of regional tsunami warning networks.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “establishing” and inserting “supporting”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “establish” and inserting “support”; and

(ii) by striking “establishing” and inserting “supporting”.

SEC. 8. TSUNAMI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 8 (33 U.S.C. 3207) as section 9; and

(2) by inserting after section 7 (33 U.S.C. 3206) the following:

“SEC. 8. TSUNAMI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY PANEL.

“(a) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate an existing working group within the Science Advisory Board of the Administration to serve as the Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel to provide advice to the Administrator on matters regarding tsunami science, technology, and regional preparedness.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) COMPOSITION.—The working group designated under subsection (a) shall be composed of no fewer than 7 members selected by the Administrator from among individuals from academia or State agencies who have academic or practical expertise in physical sciences, social sciences, information technology, coastal resilience, emergency management, or such other disciplines as the Administrator considers appropriate.

“(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—No member of the working group designated pursuant to subsection (a) may be a Federal employee.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not less frequently than once every 4 years, the working group designated under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) review the activities of the Administration, and other Federal activities as appropriate, relating to tsunami research, detection, forecasting, warning, mitigation, resiliency, and preparation; and

“(2) submit to the Administrator and such others as the Administrator considers appropriate—

“(A) the findings of the working group with respect to the most recent review conducted pursuant to paragraph (1); and

“(B) such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the working group considers appropriate to improve Federal tsunami research, detection, forecasting, warning, mitigation, resiliency, and preparation.

“(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than once every 4 years, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the findings and recommendations received by the Administrator under subsection (c)(2).”.

SEC. 9. REPORTS.

(a) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TSUNAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (33 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A detailed description of the progress made in implementing sections 4(d)(6), 5(b)(6), and 6(b)(4) of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act.

(B) A description of the ways that tsunami warnings and warning products issued by the Tsunami Forecasting and Warning Program established under section 4 of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (33 U.S.C. 3203) can be standardized and streamlined with warnings and warning products for hurricanes, coastal storms, and other coastal flooding events.

(b) REPORT ON NATIONAL EFFORTS THAT SUPPORT RAPID RESPONSE FOLLOWING NEAR-SHORE TSUNAMI EVENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly, in coordination with the Director of the United States Geological Survey, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the heads of such other Federal agencies as the Administrator considers appropriate, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the national efforts in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act that support and facilitate rapid emergency response following a domestic near-shore tsunami event to better understand

domestic effects of earthquake derived tsunami on people, infrastructure, and communities in the United States.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of scientific or other measurements collected on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act to quickly identify and quantify lost or degraded infrastructure or terrestrial formations.

(B) A description of scientific or other measurements that would be necessary to collect to quickly identify and quantify lost or degraded infrastructure or terrestrial formations.

(C) Identification and evaluation of Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and military first responder and search and rescue operation centers, bases, and other facilities as well as other critical response assets and infrastructure, including search and rescue aircraft, located within near-shore and distant tsunami inundation areas on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(D) An evaluation of near-shore tsunami response plans in areas described in subparagraph (C) in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, and how those response plans would be affected by the loss of search and rescue and first responder infrastructure described in such subparagraph.

(E) A description of redevelopment plans and reports in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act for communities in areas that are at high-risk for near-shore tsunami, as well identification of States or communities that do not have redevelopment plans.

(F) Recommendations to enhance near-shore tsunami preparedness and response plans, including recommended responder exercises, predisaster planning, and mitigation needs.

(G) Such other data and analysis information as the Administrator and the Secretary of Homeland Security consider appropriate.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 9 of the Act, as redesignated by section 8(a)(1) of this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$27,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021, of which—

“(A) not less than 27 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year shall be for activities conducted at the State level under the tsunami hazard mitigation program under section 5; and

“(B) not less than 8 percent of the amount appropriated shall be for the tsunami research program under section 6.”.

SEC. 11. OUTREACH RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with State and local emergency managers, shall develop and carry out formal outreach activities to improve tsunami education and awareness and foster the development of resilient communities. Outreach activities may include—

(1) the development of outreach plans to ensure the close integration of tsunami warning centers supported or maintained pursuant to

section 4(d) of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act (33 U.S.C. 3203(d)) with local Weather Forecast Offices of the National Weather Service and emergency managers;

(2) working with appropriate local Weather Forecast Offices to ensure they have the technical knowledge and capability to disseminate tsunami warnings to the communities they serve; and

(3) evaluating the effectiveness of warnings and of coordination with local Weather Forecast Offices after significant tsunami events.

SEC. 12. REPEAL OF DUPLICATE PROVISIONS OF LAW.

(a) **REPEAL.**—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-479) is amended by striking title VIII (relating to tsunami warning and education).

(b) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to repeal, or affect in any way, Public Law 109-424.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Thune amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2709) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 34), as amended, was passed.

**QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
REAUTHORIZATION ACT**

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3116 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3116) to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sasse amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2710) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To protect privacy for the American public)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. REPORT ON DATA SECURITY PROCEDURES OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a review of the data security procedures of the Bureau of the Census, including such procedures that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the review required by subsection (a).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify all information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information;

(B) described any actions carried out by the Secretary of Commerce or the Director of the Bureau of the Census to secure sensitive information that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015;

(C) identify any known data breaches of information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information; and

(D) identify whether the Bureau of the Census stores any information that, if combined with other such information, would comprise classified information.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 3116), as amended, was passed.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 22) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the White House Fellows program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DAINES. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 22) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE RED LAND LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF LEWISBERRY, PENNSYLVANIA, IN THE 2015 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 279, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 279) honoring the Red Land Little League Team of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, for the performance of the Team in the 2015 Little League World Series.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DAINES. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 279) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FOR 150 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 272.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 272) congratulating the University of Kansas for 150 years of outstanding service to the State of Kansas, the United States, and the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DAINES. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 272) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 30, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 2146

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2146) to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

Mr. DAINES. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill

on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 7, 2015

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, with the time until 1 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that the

time from 1 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. be controlled by the Democratic manager or his designee, and that the time from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. be controlled by the chairman or his designee; further, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all postcloture time on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735 be deemed expired at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 7, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, October 6, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 6, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, on the campus of Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, nine innocent men and women lost their lives. They were killed, as so many have been this year in communities across our country, because a person with evil in their heart was able to get his hands on a gun.

This horrific event was the 294th mass shooting that we have seen in 2015, more than any other country in the world. So far this year, we have mourned nine parishioners who were killed during Bible study at their church in Charleston, South Carolina; two women who were killed and nine others who were injured at a movie theater in Lafayette, Louisiana; and a local television reporter and her cameraman who died covering a story outside Lynchburg, Virginia.

But there were thousands of other victims of gun violence. Their deaths have garnered less media attention, but they too deserve to have their stories told.

In the United States this year, more than 10,000 people have died and more than 20,000 have been injured during an incident that involved a gun. Each day an average of 92 Americans are killed in an incident involving a gun.

Yesterday the victims included the supervisor of a food market in Houston who was killed by a disgruntled employee; a 21-year-old father of two in Louisville; and a 23-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman who were killed outside New Orleans during a drive-by shooting. Altogether, nearly 1.5 million Americans have lost their lives to gun violence since the year 1970.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that every one of my colleagues in this Chamber has spent much of the last few days thinking about and praying for the victims in Oregon and their families. I know I have.

But to put it bluntly, our thoughts and prayers aren't good enough, not for those who have already been killed and not for the 92 Americans who are going to lose their lives today, tomorrow, and every day until we do something.

Thoughts and prayers won't bring back the innocent men, women, and children who have been killed or heal the families that have been torn apart. Thoughts and prayers are no excuse for inaction and cowardice in the face of powerful special interests.

It is on all of us to do better than thoughts and prayers. It is long past time to take actions to reduce the threat of gun violence and to do all we can to protect our constituents from the ravages of this epidemic.

Earlier this year I introduced a package of three bills to get to the core of our country's problem with gun violence by focusing on keeping guns from children, criminals, and those who are severely mentally ill such that possession of a firearm would pose a threat to themselves or others.

The End Purchase of Firearms by Dangerous Individuals Act, H.R. 2917, requires that States provide information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System on individuals who are committed to a mental institution or make a threat of violence to a mental health professional that demonstrates that this individual would present a danger to himself or others if armed with a gun.

The Fire Sale Loophole Closing Act, H.R. 2916, ends the practice by which Federally licensed gun dealers who lose their licenses for misconduct can convert their entire inventory to a "personal collection" in order to liquidate

it without conducting background checks on their customers. Under the law, such dealers could transfer their inventory only to other properly licensed Federal gun dealers.

I also introduced a resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, to support the goals of National ASK Day, which falls on June 21 each year. National ASK Day encourages parents to ask other parents whether their children are playing in a house with an unlocked gun.

In the United States, 1.7 million children are in homes with loaded, unlocked guns. This initiative is supported by Head Start, the American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In addition to these measures that I have introduced, I have also co-sponsored the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act to ban the sale of large-capacity magazines and Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act to prohibit individuals suspected of ties to terrorist organizations from purchasing a gun, and H.R. 2380 and H.R. 3411, which fix our broken background check system.

Any of these bills would immediately improve public safety in this country, a country that sees its citizens die at the hands of a loaded gun 297 times more than in Japan, 49 times more than in France, and 33 times more than in Israel.

Any one of these rational, common-sense proposals would immediately make life safer for men, women, and children in cities and towns across America; yet, we are going to sit on our hands because Republican leaders would rather genuflect before the National Rifle Association than do anything that could help save the lives of thousands of Americans.

The last time this institution passed a major bill to prevent gun violence was November 10, 1993, when the House approved the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and President Clinton signed it into law.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by saying I do not know what it will take for us to finally take action. But I do know what I will do. I will continue speaking out every week on the floor of this Chamber until we get something done that makes our communities safer and honors the lives of all the victims who have lost their lives in this country to gun violence.

AMERICA MUST STAND FIRM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I just wrote on the board that it has been 1,510 days since the President said that Syria's Bashar Assad must go. He is still in office.

It is 767 days since the President drew the red line in the sand that said, if Bashar Assad used chemical weapons on his own people, he must go. He is still in office.

What we are seeing in Syria—the refugees' humanitarian crisis, a bloody civil war, the rise of ISIS—is a direct response to this administration's ineptness to handle these problems.

Now we have Russia's Putin on the floor of the U.N.—on U.S. soil—saying America is weak. But we didn't need Putin to tell us that by his words. He has done it by his actions. He invaded Crimea in Ukraine because he knew that this administration would draw another red line, but do nothing about it.

America is losing her standing in the world because we would rather appease our enemies than show strength. This administration still has no strategy handling ISIS, no tangible plan to handle the Syrian problem or defeating Assad, and certainly no plan to deal with Russia's new very powerful aggression in many areas of the world.

Assad must go. ISIS must be defeated. America must stand firm and show the world that we are a force to be reckoned with, not to be trampled on.

CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF BEN KUROKI AND SUSUMU "SUS" ITO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lives of two trailblazers for the Asian American community, Ben Kuroki and Susumu "Sus" Ito.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Kuroki and his brother were one of the first Japanese Americans to enlist in the United States Air Force during World War II at a time when over 100,000 other Japanese Americans were forced into incarceration camps without due process under the law.

The need for aerial gunners was high; so, Kuroki applied for the job, was approved, and was sent to a 2-week course in Britain. Kuroki received on-the-job training. His maiden flight was on December 13, 1942.

During this time of heavy discrimination against Japanese Americans, Kuroki's flight crew was instrumental in protecting him from the sneers and abuse by his fellow soldiers.

Kuroki received three Distinguished Flying Cross medals for volunteering to fly 25 combat missions against Germany and 28 missions in the Pacific. He

was the only Japanese American to serve as an aerial gunner in the Asia-Pacific theater during World War II.

The son of Japanese immigrant farmers, Kuroki was born on May 16, 1917, in Gaithersburg, Nebraska.

After his many missions in Europe, Kuroki visited other Japanese Americans behind barbed wire to promote the military and asked other Japanese Americans to join what would soon become the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Ben Kuroki exemplified the embodiment of patriotism and service above self. He often said, "I had to fight for the right to fight for my own country, and now I feel vindication."

Today I rise to share Ben Kuroki's tremendous accomplishments and dedicated public service with the House of Representatives. Ben Kuroki was the definition of an American hero.

I would also like to take this time to recognize another extraordinary trailblazer for the Japanese American community, Susumu "Sus" Ito.

Ito, the oldest and only son of Japanese immigrants, was drafted into the military in 1940. After Pearl Harbor, his parents and his sister were sent to the incarceration camp in Rohwer, Arkansas. During this time, he volunteered to become a forward observer for the 442nd Infantry Battalion, one of the most dangerous positions in the battalion.

Known as mischievous, he brought with him to Europe an Agfa Memo, a contraband 35-millimeter camera that fit right in the palm of his hand. Ito spent his deployment in Europe, starting in 1944 until the war ended, taking pictures of his surroundings.

From playing chess during downtime to posing with the Colosseum during their trek into Rome, he spent the war revealing the daily lives of this little known mostly Japanese American unit.

However, many of Ito's pictures also accurately depicted the brazenness of war. The 442nd was one of the first battalions to reach the Dachau Concentration Camp, and Ito took pictures of dazed prisoners leaving the camp for the very first time. He also captured the despair of his fellow soldiers as they rescued the Lost Battalion.

After World War II and through the GI Bill, he started an extraordinary career as a cellular biologist and became a researcher and professor at Harvard Medical School, where he worked for over 50 years.

Ito donated his vast collection, thousands of images, to the Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles, as part of their Before They Were Heroes: Sus Ito's World War II Images collection.

In August, I had the opportunity to tour this exhibit. The images he captured constantly reminded me of the courage of our Japanese American GIs who fought valiantly for our country

while their families remained behind barbed wire.

Today I rise to share Sus Ito's tremendous accomplishments and dedicated public service with the House of Representatives.

□ 1215

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Nation saw a very important program expire, the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I rise today to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with me and call for a vote on a full and continued permanent reauthorization of the LWCF.

For 50 years, this critical fund has added value to my district and to so many across the Nation. Last week, inaction by Congress led to the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I believe it is critical that we renew our commitment to the fund.

The fund helps our communities protect critical lands by providing State and local governments with necessary funding and flexibility to develop and improve the very land on display for everyone to enjoy. Nowhere is it more critical than in my home State of Pennsylvania.

Over the past 50 years, Pennsylvania has received approximately \$300 million in land and water conservation funding for protection in many areas of national significance, such as Gettysburg National Military Park, the Paoli Battlefield, the Brandywine Battlefield, Valley Forge National Historical Park, and John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

Not only have we seen the LWCF at work on the State level, we have also seen its benefits at the local level, including the Birdsboro Waters Forest Legacy Project, protecting critical woodlands at the East Coventry Wineberry Estates, expanding Shaw's Bridge Park in East Bradford Township, and enhancing the Pottstown Borough Memorial Park with a new dog park, pavilions, restrooms, ballfields, and walking trails.

The outdoor recreation industry, Governors, mayors, sportsmen, small-business owners, conservation leaders, landowners, ranchers, farmers, and millions of Americans are united in a push for permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it provides an economic benefit to our region and across the country. The LWCF gives a boost to the \$646 billion recreation economy and serves to protect our national parks and other public lands from being destroyed.

Indeed, in one such study, the Outdoor Industry Association has found that outdoor active recreation generates \$21.5 billion annually in consumer spending in Pennsylvania alone. Outdoor recreation supports over 219,000 jobs across the State and generates \$7.2 billion in wages and salaries. It also produces \$1.6 billion annually in State and local tax revenue.

Outdoor recreation benefits the Pennsylvania economy. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 5.4 million people participated in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Pennsylvania, contributing \$5.4 billion to the State economy.

Additionally, the Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program provides matching grants to help States and local communities protect parks and recreation resources. Nationwide, the LWCF has benefited countless counties in America, supporting over 41,000 projects.

The State assistance 50–50 matching program acts as the primary investment tool to ensure that all can enjoy hiking, biking, running trails, community parks, and playgrounds. Approximately \$4 billion in LWCF grants have been awarded to States, including \$4.27 million for 34 total projects in Berks County, \$4.78 million for 30 total projects in Chester County, \$2.8 million for 49 total projects in Montgomery County, and over \$800,000 for 11 projects in Lebanon County. These are all counties in my congressional district.

Our public lands and outdoor recreation areas are an integral part of our heritage, civic identity, and local community. I believe the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of our most important conservation programs and an excellent example of a bipartisan commitment to the safeguard of our natural resources and cultural heritage, and we must reauthorize it.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1814 to permanently reauthorize the LWCF, I look forward to working with my colleagues to preserve our public lands so that current and future generations may continue to enjoy and appreciate them year-round.

I respectfully call upon my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to work for a bipartisan solution to reauthorize this very important program.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, I would like to recognize the great achievement of Latinos within their communities.

America has been home to countless numbers of outstanding Latinos over time who reflect the best of our com-

munity: activists like Cesar Chavez and Joan Baez; artists like Selena and Carlos Santana; the brave women and men who have served in our armed services; and, of course, today's ambitious young DREAMers.

Latinos, like all Americans, are committed to building a better and stronger future for our country and within our communities. We strive to instill a culture of hard work, of healthy living, and of academic success.

Latino families recognize the importance of attaining an education in today's society. In the past decade, Latinos have worked to cut their dropout rate in half, while tripling enrollment in 2- and 4-year colleges.

The top degrees that we earn speak to our involvement in community: our liberal arts degrees, to help the less fortunate; to heal the sick with our healthcare degrees; to create employment with our business diplomas.

In regards to health care, with the landmark Affordable Care Act, a record 2.6 million new Latinos are signed up for health care, and they are on track to leading healthier lives.

But, Mr. Speaker, even with these great advances in our communities, there is still so much work to be done. Although our dropout rate is lower, we still have the highest dropout rate among all ethnic groups. Latinos have increased their scores in math and science, but we are still below the national average. And while our communities have made massive strides in putting our children in college, still only 15 percent of college degrees are in the hands of Latinos, again, the smallest percentage of any ethnic group.

And even while 2½ million new Latinos signed up for health care, 25 percent of Latinos have no healthcare plan, and we battle high obesity and diabetes.

So I have seen these issues firsthand in my district and in California and, as a whole, have seen and have worked to improve our condition.

This Congress, I introduced the All-Year ACCESS Act, which would restore Pell grants for both full-time and part-time students, giving access to postsecondary education all year-round. Back in my home district, I relaunched Enroll OC, adding an additional 2,000 people this year, Latinos in my district, to health care.

So while we make these incredible strides in wellness and education, the Latino community still has so many issues to address. I will tell you this: the problems are not just Latino problems; they are problems for the United States because, you see, America is a family. It is a familia, and we have to address these issues together because, for the first time in my beautiful home State of California, the largest majority ethnic group is now Latino.

And you know what? This should not frighten people, Mr. Speaker. I think it

is actually pretty exciting because the Latino community is so embedded in the success of the American Dream, and the American Dream is so embedded in us. We are not aliens, Mr. Speaker. We are doctors, lawyers, community leaders, social workers, laborers, and DREAMers. But more importantly, we are sons, daughters, parents, siblings, and we are neighbors.

It is time for the United States as a whole to embrace the power and the potential of the Latino community and to realize that we share the common goal of furthering the greatness of this Nation. I believe as soon as we realize Latinos yearn to share the same American values and aspirations as so many descendants of other immigrant groups—of Italian Americans and Irish Americans and German Americans and Asian Americans and all Americans—certainly America will thrive.

Latinos are finding their voice, and America needs to listen.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Holy and compassionate God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As they return from their constituent visits, bless the Members of the people's House. Amid so many political pushes and pulls, give them perseverance and wisdom to address those most pressing needs for the benefit of our Nation.

In the aftermath of severe storms, bless those recovering from floods and storms this past week, and bless those emergency workers who have placed themselves in danger's path in service to their brothers and sisters in need.

May we all be inspired by their heroic example and moved to step forward in those times when we might be called upon as well.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ADMINISTRATION'S ROLE IN RUSSIAN RISE

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today, I note with great concern the divisive involvement of Russian forces in Syria. Due to the failure of this administration to articulate a strategy, Russia has now stepped in to conduct its own strategy, including airstrikes.

United States adversaries have picked up on the administration's lack of a well-articulated strategy in Syria. Sources say that Russian forces are launching deliberate airstrikes on Syrian groups backed by the CIA. While conducting these contentious attacks, Russia has violated Turkish airspace.

NATO has warned President Putin to halt the airstrikes, but where is President Obama with his warnings? If sources are accurate, the administration has abandoned CIA-backed fighters. President Obama is fearful of taking the necessary steps. But given his failings in the region, is anyone surprised by Russia's actions?

This unrest contributes to the growing refugee crisis, putting a strain on our own country and others to manage the influx of refugees fleeing the turmoil that this administration has helped to create.

As warned in Proverbs 28:19, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

REPUBLICANS' CALENDAR OF CHAOS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, last week 151 Republicans, a majority of the Republicans in Congress, voted to shut

down the Federal Government. This week, another entry into this calendar of chaos and dysfunction. We are coming up on several crucial deadlines, and so far the Republican leadership in Congress has presented no clear plan, no path forward.

As we approach another debt limit, there are questions as to whether the United States Government will default on its obligations. There is another highway funding expiration, another government funding deadline of December 11, and lack of the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which is costing the United States jobs—thousands of jobs.

The American people are frustrated, and rightfully so.

We may not agree on this floor, we may not agree with the majority, but there is no excuse for not getting your job done. That is what I hear from the people back home, from the American people, a simple question: Why can't Congress just do its work, just do its job?

We stand ready to work with Republicans. We need a willing partner. There is a lot of work to do for the American people. Let's get down to business.

SYRIAN REFUGEES AND THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, recently Secretary Kerry pledged that the United States would accept 185,000 refugees from the war-torn Syrian area. This would be over 2 years.

America has been a generous, welcoming country; but I have to tell you, while we have compassion for these refugees, Secretary Kerry's pledge leaves us with some grave concerns.

The first is security. How can we verify these refugees do not present a threat to our national security? Syria has proven to be a fertile recruiting ground for Islamic extremists and terrorists.

Second, the Office of Refugee Resettlement has not been transparent and accountable enough to handle the transfers. Over the past year, I have been investigating ORR and found that they have not been filing annual reports on their activities as required by law. In addition, there is evidence of widespread abuse of refugees, including children, who are improperly handled by the ORR. In many instances, a failure to refer the abuse to the FBI has allowed child abusers to walk free.

The curtain must be pulled back completely on the ORR's operations before we can trust it with a responsibility as serious as settling Syrian refugees in the U.S. We must find the deli-

cate balance and protect our safety and security.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT AMENDING THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-64)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Supplementary Agreement Amending the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic (the "Supplementary Agreement"). The Supplementary Agreement, signed at Prague on September 23, 2013, is intended to modify a certain provision of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic, with Administrative Arrangement, signed at Prague on September 7, 2007, and entered into force January 1, 2009 (the "U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement").

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement as amended by the Supplementary Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, and the Republic of Korea. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Supplementary Agreement amends the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement to account for a new Czech domestic health insurance law, which was enacted subsequent to the signing of the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement in 2007. By including the health insurance law within the scope of the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement, this amendment will exempt U.S. citizen workers and multinational companies from contributing to the Czech health insurance system, when such workers otherwise meet all of the ordinary criteria for such an exemption.

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement, as amended, will continue

to contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Supplementary Agreement and its estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Supplementary Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the Supplementary Agreement to the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement and related documents.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 6, 2015.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 6, 2015 at 2:59 p.m.:

Appointment:
Social Security Advisory Board.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the

vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CHILD SUPPORT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2091) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2091

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Support Assistance Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. REQUESTS FOR CONSUMER REPORTS BY STATE OR LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

Paragraph (4) of section 604(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or determining the appropriate level of such payments" and inserting "determining the appropriate level of such payments, or enforcing a child support order, award, agreement, or judgment";

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking "paternity" and inserting "parentage"; and

(B) by adding "and" at the end;

(3) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(4) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2091. My friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), has worked hard to build significant bipartisan support for this commonsense legislation. It passed out of the Committee on Financial Services with a vote of 56-2.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that most child support payments are collected from noncustodial parents through income withholding.

In order to verify income, assets, and debt for purposes of establishing or enforcing child support obligations, State and local child support agencies and courts often request consumer reports from the consumer reporting agencies.

State and local child support agencies argue that the 10-day notice provision provides obligors with an opportunity to hide savings and other assets, run up credit card debt, and take other financial or employment actions to avoid or reduce child support payments.

This bill authorizes a consumer reporting agency to furnish a consumer report in response to a request by the head of a State or local child support enforcement agency if the requestor certifies that the report is needed for enforcing a child support order, award, agreement, or judgment. The bill also repeals the requirement of 10 days' prior notice to a consumer whose report is requested.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support H.R. 2091, the Child Support Assistance Act, because it will help child support enforcement agencies do their job and will make child support payments more efficient.

When a State child support enforcement agency wants to locate a parent who is delinquent on his or her child support payment, the agency requests the parent's consumer report from one of the consumer reporting agencies. This allows the agency to verify the parent's employment and income, which are key factors for child support payments.

Current law, however, requires the agency to provide the delinquent parent 10 days' notice before it can even request the consumer report from the credit bureaus. This 10-day head start serves no legitimate policy purpose. In fact, the only thing it does is give delinquent parents time to manipulate their financial position to evade paying their child support obligations.

The consequences of this 10-day notice requirement is that some delinquent parents who should be paying child support are not paying all they owe and the money they do pay isn't getting to the families as quickly as it should.

This bill would eliminate this loophole by doing away with the 10-day notice requirement. Providing 10 days' notice before pulling someone's consumer report might make sense in some circumstances, but in this situation, it only slows down the wheels of justice and gives delinquent parents an opportunity to further avoid paying their child support obligations.

I support this bill that was reported out almost unanimously, with only two people voting against it. I would like to thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) as well as Mr. ELLISON on the Democratic side for their hard work on this commonsense bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN). He has worked tirelessly on this piece of legislation. I appreciate his efforts.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I am thrilled to stand before the House today as the author of the Child Support Assistance Act, H.R. 2091.

Across America today we have 17 million kids coast to coast who benefit from the child support program. In our great State of Maine alone, there are some 57,000 kids who need our help. As a single parent myself, I believe that the most important job in the world is taking care of our kids. Unfortunately, not every parent believes that.

After a court determines that a non-custodial parent owes financial support for his or her children, there currently is, as Mrs. MALONEY stated, a 10-day waiting period between the time when the court determines that money is owed for the kids and when the State agencies can start collecting that money. As a result, here across America there is about \$100 billion in unpaid child support. In the State of Maine alone, there is over \$500 million that is owed our kids.

This bill, H.R. 2091, the Child Support Assistance Act, fixes a technical part of this law that is a commonsense fix. As Mrs. MALONEY stated, it removes this 10-day waiting period.

Now, what that simply means is that a parent who is supposed to be responsible for his or her children will have less of an opportunity, less time to shift those assets or hide those assets, put them in the name of someone else or maybe even quit his or her job and be paid under the table.

That is not right, and that is certainly not fair. We need in this Chamber Republicans and Democrats to stand up and be compassionate and to help those 17 million kids across our country that need this support.

As a single parent myself, I know what it is like to work a demanding full-time job and to care for a child. In my case, it was one child, my son. I know what it is like to pick up my son after school and then to rush off to the grocery store to do our shopping and get home quickly so I can start dinner and he can start working on his homework. When that is done, we have to clean up and I expect Sammy to do his reading or I read to him and then it is a bath and to bed.

Then while you are working on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the

next day and thinking about what you have to do with your own job, you get a few hours' sleep after that before you have to do it all over again.

I cannot imagine, Mr. Speaker, what it must be like for a single mom or dad to do this with two, three, or four kids. The last thing our single parents need is to worry about child support payments that they are rightly owed, that the court says they are due, to help their kids have food on the table or buy a new pair of winter boots or to make sure there is lunch money the next day.

In this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, we speak about a lot of things—debt and spending and national security issues—but this bill is so close to the ground that it directly and immediately will help our kids and our single parents who are trying to raise our kids under very difficult circumstances for a lot of them.

I am thrilled to offer this bill, Mr. Speaker. I am greatly appreciative of the tremendous bipartisan support. I do thank Mr. ELLISON for all of his hard work on this bill. I encourage everybody to please support the Child Support Assistance Act.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I just urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill that Mr. POLIQUIN pointed out can make a real difference in the lives of single parents and their children. Again, I thank him for his leadership on it and his very eloquent statement today on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, too many children grow up in today's society without basic essentials: food, clothing, proper shelter. Many times this is the result of a lack of child support payments from an estranged parent.

I have a young boy, and I can tell you he takes a lot of energy out of my wife and me. We do everything we can to support him to our fullest with love and all the basic essentials, but not all children are that lucky. Some are due child support payments that they don't receive.

I know our local district attorneys do a lot in furtherance and sheriff's departments do a lot in furtherance of collecting those child support payments, but Congressman POLIQUIN's commonsense measure here, the Child Support Assistance Act, is going to help State and local enforcement agencies aid families in collecting child support payments in a timely manner.

How is that going to happen? It is going to allow enforcement agencies to obtain consumer reports on negligent parents in a more expeditious manner. Consequently, that is going to stream-

line the process and better enforce the collection of child support payments.

I believe Representative POLIQUIN stated it very eloquently just a moment ago. This is something that we can all get behind. It is for the good of this country. It is for the good of children across America. Let's be proud as we ensure that our children have the resources to succeed, with this legislation being a positive step in the right direction.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2091.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL BANK EXAM CYCLE REFORM ACT OF 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1553) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to specify which smaller institutions may qualify for an 18-month examination cycle.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1553

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SMALLER INSTITUTIONS QUALIFYING FOR 18-MONTH EXAMINATION CYCLE.

Section 10(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1820(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$500,000,000" and inserting "\$1,000,000,000"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking "\$100,000,000" and inserting "\$200,000,000"; and

(2) in paragraph (10)—

(A) by striking "\$100,000,000" and inserting "\$200,000,000"; and

(B) by striking "\$500,000,000" and inserting "\$1,000,000,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1615

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative TIPTON for his hard work in advocating for community bank regulatory relief. This is a commonsense regulatory relief measure that has earned significant bipartisan support. It was reported out of the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 58-0.

This legislation is designed to allow additional well-managed financial institutions to qualify for an 18-month exam cycle. The longer exam cycle permits community banks to focus their time and resources on the surrounding community rather than on the exam process. This bill also allows bank examiners to spend their resources working with banks that need additional attention instead of with banks that are already considered well managed.

To qualify, an institution must have total assets of less than \$1 billion, and at its most recent examination, it must have earned an "outstanding" or "good" rating under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System, or CAMELS. So only smaller, well-financed, well-rated financial institutions who pose very little risk would qualify for extended exam cycles.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1553, the Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act. This bill allows more small banks to qualify for a longer, 18-month exam cycle. This means that these banks would only have a full, onsite examination every 18 months, rather than every 12 months.

The logic behind this bill is simple: small community banks that are both well capitalized and well managed do not need as much regulatory scrutiny as larger, more complex banks. In addition, regulators need the ability to focus their limited resources on the banks that present bigger risks. That is why we have long allowed well-run small banks to have less frequent examinations than larger, more complex banks.

This bill simply increases the threshold for banks that qualify for the 18-month cycle from \$500 million to \$1 billion. Onsite examinations are time-consuming endeavors both for the regulator and the bank, and if the regulator is conducting exams of these well-run banks more frequently than he really needs to, then he is wasting precious government resources. In addition, he is also wasting the bank's resources, because the frequent exams require the time and attention of the bank's execu-

tives and staff, and it is costly. Therefore, banks with assets between \$500 million and \$1 billion that are well capitalized and well managed will receive real, meaningful regulatory relief as a result of this bill.

Not only is this bill supported by small banks, it is also supported by the regulators. The OCC has in fact advocated for this change for some time now.

I am very glad that we are moving this bill through the House today, and I hope that the Senate will act quickly on the bill as well so that we can get regulatory relief to some very deserving community banks. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I congratulate my colleague, LACY CLAY, for also being the lead Democrat and working very hard on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, community banks are a crucial source of credit for many across the Nation, but these banks are currently facing an ever-increasing regulatory burden that they can no longer shoulder. These misguided regulations are resulting in a devastating impact on small banks, forcing consolidation or failure and stifling creation of new banks in communities that need access to credit.

In rural areas, such as my district in western Colorado, oftentimes the only access to credit for small businesses is a community bank. Unfortunately, rising compliance costs and complicated regulatory requirements have dried up bank credit for those in need of it most.

For these reasons, I introduced, along with Representative LACY CLAY and Representative BARR, the Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act, a targeted relief effort designed to allow additional well-managed financial institutions to qualify for an 18-month exam cycle.

Full-scope, onsite examinations of insured depository institutions are a rigorous event for banks of all sizes, especially small banks that may not have dedicated compliance staff. These examinations require significant preparation leading up to the examination, as well as attention to the onsite examiner during the exam itself.

Whereas larger banks can absorb the work hours and compliance costs associated with these onsite examinations, community banks, much smaller institutions, do not have the economy of scale to deflect the burden. However, a longer exam cycle permits well-run community banks to focus their time and resources on the surrounding community rather than on the exam process, opening up opportunities for sustainable economic growth in towns across the United States.

The Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act amends the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to increase the qualifying asset threshold from \$500 million to \$1 billion for small banks. This relief measure is only for well-managed community banks that did not cause the financial crisis but are now living with regulatory blowback.

As part of the examination process, financial regulators rate financial institutions on several criteria, including safety and soundness and their compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. To qualify for the 18-month exam cycle, an institution must have earned an outstanding or good rating on their most recent examination. Only smaller, well-rated banks, those which pose little risk, can qualify for extended exam cycles.

The banking regulators also support an increase in the qualifying asset threshold. In February, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency sent draft legislative ideas for regulatory relief to the House Financial Services Committee, including a proposal that is the framework for H.R. 1553. The Comptroller of the Currency, Thomas Curry, publicly stated such a change would reduce burdens on well-managed community institutions. It also was applauded by the FDIC and the OCC during committee hearings earlier this spring.

Not only will this legislation provide relief for community banks, it will also allow examiners to focus their resources, working with banks that need the additional attention or present supervisory concerns.

This bipartisan legislation enjoys the support of the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers Association, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, as well as 19 bipartisan cosponsors. The legislation was voted out of the Financial Services Committee with a unanimous 58-0 vote.

Congress last raised the threshold for outstanding-rated institutions in 2006 and granted agencies discretion to increase the threshold for good-rated institutions in 2007. It is time again to raise the threshold in statute so these small banks can continue to serve their important purpose in our communities: providing capital for small business growth and banking products for their local communities.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), who is also the ranking member on the Financial Institutions Subcommittee and the lead Democrat on this bill.

Mr. CLAY. Let me thank my colleague from New York for yielding.

I, too, rise today to support H.R. 1553, the Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act. I would also like to commend the

gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) as well as Mr. BARR for their leadership on this important issue.

The overwhelming majority of banks in this country are community banks with less than \$1 billion in assets. As the regulatory landscape has evolved for the Nation's financial institutions since the financial crisis, I have worked with my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee to ensure that our community banks are not unduly burdened. H.R. 1553 is a part of that effort, as it will extend much-needed relief to Main Street banks by allowing well-managed, well-capitalized community banks an opportunity to take advantage of an extended 18-month examination cycle.

While bank examinations are vital to the safety and soundness of the American banking system, the time and resources that banks put into preparing for and responding to examinations can be extremely time consuming, particularly for smaller banks with limited staff and resources that cannot afford to divert key personnel away from their core business in order to prepare for examinations.

H.R. 1553 also allows banking regulators to better allocate their resources to financial institutions that warrant additional attention and away from community banks that have otherwise demonstrated that they are soundly managed and well capitalized.

I have heard from community bankers in Missouri and from across the country that straightforward, bipartisan, commonsense regulatory relief proposals like H.R. 1553 can contribute significantly to community banks' ability to lend to Main Street businesses and reinvest in our communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield the gentleman such time as he may consume.

Mr. CLAY. I look forward to working with Mr. TIPTON and my other colleagues on the Financial Services Committee to find additional opportunities to enact targeted relief for our community banks, and I would urge my colleagues to adopt H.R. 1553.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense piece of legislation. You talk about bipartisan; when it passes out of your committee with no opposition, that is bipartisan support. I think that says a lot about how important community banks are to America and how important this Congress thinks community banks are.

The fact is these organizations that are well managed and have good ratings will only have to get an examination every 18 months. So I encourage support for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1553.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DISCLOSURE MODERNIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1525) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1525

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SUMMARY PAGE FOR FORM 10-K.

Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall issue regulations to permit issuers to submit a summary page on form 10-K (17 C.F.R. 249.310), but only if each item on such summary page includes a cross-reference (by electronic link or otherwise) to the material contained in form 10-K to which such item relates.

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT OF REGULATION S-K.

Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall take all such actions to revise regulation S-K (17 C.F.R. 229.10 et seq.)—

(1) to further scale or eliminate requirements of regulation S-K, in order to reduce the burden on emerging growth companies, accelerated filers, smaller reporting companies, and other smaller issuers, while still providing all material information to investors;

(2) to eliminate provisions of regulation S-K, required for all issuers, that are duplicative, overlapping, outdated, or unnecessary; and

(3) for which the Commission determines that no further study under section 4 is necessary to determine the efficacy of such revisions to regulation S-K.

SEC. 4. STUDY ON MODERNIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF REGULATION S-K.

(a) STUDY.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall carry out a study of the requirements contained in regulation S-K (17 C.F.R. 229.10 et seq.). Such study shall—

(1) determine how best to modernize and simplify such requirements in a manner that reduces the costs and burdens on issuers while still providing all material information;

(2) emphasize a company by company approach that allows relevant and material information to be disseminated to investors without boilerplate language or static requirements while preserving completeness and comparability of information across registrants; and

(3) evaluate methods of information delivery and presentation and explore methods for discouraging repetition and the disclosure of immaterial information.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Commission shall consult with the Investor Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Small and Emerging Companies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 360-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a report to the Congress containing—

(1) all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a);

(2) specific and detailed recommendations on modernizing and simplifying the requirements in regulation S-K in a manner that reduces the costs and burdens on companies while still providing all material information; and

(3) specific and detailed recommendations on ways to improve the readability and navigability of disclosure documents and to discourage repetition and the disclosure of immaterial information.

(d) RULEMAKING.—Not later than the end of the 360-day period beginning on the date that the report is issued to the Congress under subsection (c), the Commission shall issue a proposed rule to implement the recommendations of the report issued under subsection (c).

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Revisions made to regulation S-K by the Commission under section 3 shall not be construed as satisfying the rulemaking requirements under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

□ 1630

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the chairman of the Financial Services Committee—that would be the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING)—for his leadership in helping to bring a number of bills, as we have just seen, to the floor today.

I would also like to thank all of my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee from both sides of the aisle—obviously, both sides—because they have voted unanimously, voted

the Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act out of committee not just once, but twice, when you include passage last year as well.

I would also like to add this legislation passed the House of Representatives by voice vote in December of 2014.

So you ask what is the purpose of this bill, and why is it necessary.

Well, Mr. Speaker, look, if you step back about eight decades ago, Congress made the monumental decision in this country that disclosure, opening up, and transparency would be the centerpiece of our Nation's securities law.

See, instead of carving out or creating a merit review system where the Federal Government determined which companies we were allowed to put our money into, Congress wisely went down the other road and decided that those decisions would be best made where?

Left in the hands of the people, in the hands of the investors themselves, so long as they were provided with a sufficient level of disclosure from publicly traded companies.

Unfortunately, over the last eight decades since the securities laws were first put in place, the quarterly and annual reports filed by the public companies have grown, and they have grown in size tremendously, larger and more complex than ever, to the point where now the most sophisticated of investors have trouble understanding even the most basic operations and risks of these companies. This has come to be known as the phenomenon of information overload.

So to put this in perspective, a recent article in the Wall Street Journal noted that the average annual report from public companies is now 42,000 words, a 40 percent increase just from the year 2000 alone and even longer than the entire Sarbanes-Oxley bill that passed Congress in 2002.

Another recent report out of Stanford University found that only 38 percent of institutional investors view disclosures about executive compensation as "easy to understand."

So, if you think about it, if the majority of institutional investors can't understand the disclosure, what chance does the little guy, the mom-and-pop investor, have to understand all this?

They, of course, have very little chance and can even be harmed by the disclosures that too voluminous and complex reports show.

As then-SEC Commissioner Troy Paredes put it way back in 2013, "If investors are overloaded, more disclosure actually can result in less transparency and worse decisions, in which case capital is allocated less efficiently and market discipline is compromised."

So what would our bill do today? It would rectify the situation.

How? One, it would require that the SEC eliminate any outdated or dupli-

cative disclosure requirements that are not material to investors and, furthermore, to scale disclosures for emerging growth companies and small issuers.

Two, it will allow issuers to file a summary page of their annual report that will include simply cross-references to the material already included.

Three, it would require the SEC to produce a broad study on how best to, amongst all the other things, utilize technology in order to improve delivery and presentation systems for disclosure and, also, a requirement that the SEC commence a rulemaking in order to implement some of these ideas that come out of the study.

You see, these provisions will help our disclosure regime of the 21st century while at the very same time address the issue of information overload that I mentioned before.

If you go back, as part of the JOBS Act, Congress directed the SEC to review its existing disclosure requirements, and it was told to identify ways to make our current disclosure regime less burdensome for issuers and for people as investors.

While the SEC produced a report a few years ago—2013—that identified a number of obsolete things and duplicative requirements that could be addressed, unfortunately, the agency has yet to act upon them, this despite an ongoing disclosure effectiveness review that has so far only produced a concept release.

So, at the end, it is important that this Congress come here today and act on behalf of all the American investors, all the people in this country, in order to keep the original intent of our securities laws relevant today and ensure that the effective disclosure remains this very centerpiece of the capital markets.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this bill. I thank Mr. GARRETT for his hard work. We worked together on this in the last Congress, and I added an amendment to improve the bill in the markup last year.

Markets are constantly evolving, and so too must our regulatory regime. This is especially true when it comes to reporting requirements for small public companies.

The process of scaling and streamlining the reporting requirements for these small companies is something that, in order to keep pace with the ever-evolving marketplace, has historically been revisited roughly once every 10 years. It requires vigilance by the SEC and, also, by Congress.

The Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act directs the SEC to simplify the reporting requirements for small companies in regulation S-K.

First, the SEC would be required to revise regulation S-K to take care of any low-hanging fruit, that is, make any improvements to regulation S-K that they have already identified as helpful for small companies.

Next, the SEC would conduct a study of the best way to simplify and modernize the disclosure requirements in regulation S-K while still providing all the necessary information to investors and to also make specific detailed recommendations to Congress for how to achieve this.

Finally, the bill allows companies to submit a summary page on their form 10-K annual reports in order to make these annual reports easier to understand by investors.

In testimony before the Financial Services Committee last year, Colombia Professor John Coffee called the idea "simple and unobjectionable" and said that he "didn't see how anyone could be opposed to it."

I agree that this is a commonsense idea that could make lengthy annual reports, which are often hundreds of pages long and difficult to navigate, significantly more investor-friendly.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I thank my colleague, Mr. GARRETT, for his leadership. He has worked on this for several Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentlewoman from New York for working with us today and also working with us over the last several years as well, trying to move this along. As you have said and I have said, this is one of those proverbial commonsense pieces of legislation.

If anyone got confused by all the technical terms that you and I used here, at the end of the day, it means, whether you are a sophisticated institutional investor or whether you are a mom-and-pop-type investor or if you are something in between, you just want to have clarity, you just want to understand what all these voluminous, hundreds-of-pages annual reports and quarterly reports are.

That is what our bill does. It just makes it a little bit simpler and then directs the SEC to go even the step further to develop other ways to do so as well.

So I look forward to passing this out of this House now for the third time, I believe, send it over to the Senate and, hopefully, get some action in the Senate and put it on the President's desk.

I encourage Members from both sides of the aisle, once again, out of the House and to the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1525.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REFORMING ACCESS FOR INVESTMENTS IN STARTUP ENTERPRISES ACT OF 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1839) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1839

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises Act of 2015” or the “RAISE Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. EXEMPTED TRANSACTIONS.

(a) EXEMPTED TRANSACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) transactions meeting the requirements of subsection (d).”;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (b) (relating to securities offered and sold in compliance with Rule 506 of Regulation D) as subsection (c); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) CERTAIN ACCREDITED INVESTOR TRANSACTIONS.—The transactions referred to in subsection (a)(7) are transactions meeting the following requirements:

“(1) ACCREDITED INVESTOR REQUIREMENT.—Each purchaser is an accredited investor, as that term is defined in section 230.501(a) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

“(2) PROHIBITION ON GENERAL SOLICITATION OR ADVERTISING.—Neither the seller, nor any person acting on the seller’s behalf, offers or sells securities by any form of general solicitation or general advertising.

“(3) INFORMATION REQUIREMENT.—In the case of a transaction involving the securities of an issuer that is neither subject to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m; 78o(d)), nor exempt from reporting pursuant to section 240.12g3-2(b) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, nor a foreign government (as defined in section 230.405 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations) eligible to register securities under Schedule B, the seller and a prospective purchaser designated by the seller obtain from the issuer, upon request of the seller, and the seller in all cases makes available to a prospective purchaser, the following information (which shall be reasonably current in relation to the date of resale under this section):

“(A) The exact name of the issuer and the issuer’s predecessor (if any).

“(B) The address of the issuer’s principal executive offices.

“(C) The exact title and class of the security.

“(D) The par or stated value of the security.

“(E) The number of shares or total amount of the securities outstanding as of the end of the issuer’s most recent fiscal year.

“(F) The name and address of the transfer agent, corporate secretary, or other person responsible for transferring shares and stock certificates.

“(G) A statement of the nature of the business of the issuer and the products and services it offers, which shall be presumed reasonably current if the statement is as of 12 months before the transaction date.

“(H) The names of the officers and directors of the issuer.

“(I) The names of any persons registered as a broker, dealer, or agent that shall be paid or given, directly or indirectly, any commission or remuneration for such person’s participation in the offer or sale of the securities.

“(J) The issuer’s most recent balance sheet and profit and loss statement and similar financial statements, which shall—

“(i) be for such part of the two preceding fiscal years as the issuer has been in operation;

“(ii) be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or, in the case of a foreign private issuer, be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or the International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board;

“(iii) be presumed reasonably current if—

“(I) with respect to the balance sheet, the balance sheet is as of a date less than 16 months before the transaction date; and

“(II) with respect to the profit and loss statement, such statement is for the 12 months preceding the date of the issuer’s balance sheet; and

“(iv) if the balance sheet is not as of a date less than 6 months before the transaction date, be accompanied by additional statements of profit and loss for the period from the date of such balance sheet to a date less than 6 months before the transaction date.

“(K) To the extent that the seller is a control person with respect to the issuer, a brief statement regarding the nature of the affiliation, and a statement certified by such seller that they have no reasonable grounds to believe that the issuer is in violation of the securities laws or regulations.

“(4) ISSUERS DISQUALIFIED.—The transaction is not for the sale of a security where the seller is an issuer or a subsidiary, either directly or indirectly, of the issuer.

“(5) BAD ACTOR PROHIBITION.—Neither the seller, nor any person that has been or will be paid (directly or indirectly) remuneration or a commission for their participation in the offer or sale of the securities, including solicitation of purchasers for the seller is subject to an event that would disqualify an issuer or other covered person under Rule 506(d)(1) of Regulation D (17 C.F.R. 230.506(d)(1)) or is subject to a statutory disqualification described under section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

“(6) BUSINESS REQUIREMENT.—The issuer is engaged in business, is not in the organizational stage or in bankruptcy or receivership, and is not a blank check, blind pool, or shell company that has no specific business plan or purpose or has indicated that the issuer’s primary business plan is to engage in a merger or combination of the business with, or an acquisition of, an unidentified person.

“(7) UNDERWRITER PROHIBITION.—The transaction is not with respect to a security that constitutes the whole or part of an unsold allotment to, or a subscription or participation by, a broker or dealer as an underwriter of the security or a redistribution.

“(8) OUTSTANDING CLASS REQUIREMENT.—The transaction is with respect to a security of a

class that has been authorized and outstanding for at least 90 days prior to the date of the transaction.

“(e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an exempted transaction described under subsection (a)(7):

“(A) Securities acquired in such transaction shall be deemed to have been acquired in a transaction not involving any public offering.

“(B) Such transaction shall be deemed not to be a distribution for purposes of section 2(a)(11).

“(C) Securities involved in such transaction shall be deemed to be restricted securities within the meaning of Rule 144 (17 C.F.R. 230.144).

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The exemption provided by subsection (a)(7) shall not be the exclusive means for establishing an exemption from the registration requirements of section 5.”.

(b) EXEMPTION IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN EXEMPT OFFERINGS.—Section 18(b)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77r(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subparagraph (D) and subparagraph (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) section 4(a)(7).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again commend the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY), who just joined us, for all of his work on this bill and the earlier bills as well and for his continued work on capital formation issues.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the JOBS Act of 2012 has been a tremendous success, a huge success, for the American public and the public marketplace.

The number of companies that have gone public has risen dramatically ever since the barriers to capital formation that existed for several years have been lifted, if you will, helping to make our capital markets more attractive to companies and investors in the United States and all around the world as well.

But the JOBS Act also did something else, somewhat ironically. It included a number of provisions that helped companies to stay private for a longer period of time.

You see, these provisions have allowed pre-IPO companies to expand their investor base, if you will, and have allowed them to open up the doors to capital that were previously shut out to them.

But, you see, as these companies raise more capital and as these companies issue more shares to investors, it can become even more difficult and even more costly for shareholders to find a willing buyer or to exit their position in that company.

That is what this bill is all about. That is where H.R. 1839, the RAISE Act, would come in. The RAISE Act would build upon the success of the JOBS Act of 2012 by creating an environment, if you will, where restricted securities of pre-IPO companies can be traded in a more liquid secondary market, which then could ultimately have the effect of lowering the cost of capital for businesses.

So the RAISE Act does this how? By codifying the longstanding exemption developed by the courts, the SEC, and the securities laws that would provide a means for the resale, if you will, of these private restricted securities.

Now, for those just listening here, this sounds a little bit technical. Maybe it sounds a lot technical to be effective. But, really, it is a simple fix that could ultimately have the effect of helping literally thousands of businesses all across this country to do what? To raise more capital and put it to use, put it to use to innovating or to hiring more employees.

That is at the end of the day exactly the type of bipartisan solution our constituents are calling on Congress to implement. I urge all of my colleagues, again, on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1839, which is an excellent example of bipartisan compromise that I think we should do more of in this body.

I would like to thank Mr. MCHENRY and Ranking Member WATERS for all of their work on this bill on which I am pleased to be the lead Democrat.

This bill codifies a longstanding rule that has been recognized in the securities law, known informally as rule 4(1)(½), which allows investors to resell private restricted securities without registering with the SEC.

Rule 4(1)(½) has long been recognized by the SEC and has been recognized by the Federal courts on numerous occasions as well.

But no one has ever bothered to codify this rule, even though everyone is okay with it and supports it, with investors relying on this informal rule.

The reason that the SEC and the courts have long recognized this rule is

that it fully complies with the spirit of the Securities Act of 1933. These sales are really just transactions between two sophisticated investors.

As a result, different law firms have different interpretations of what rule 4(1)(½) requires and the market has become very fragmented.

So I think it is a very good idea to finally codify rule 4(1)(½) so that everyone knows the rules of the road and investors can have confidence that they are complying with the law when they resell private securities to other sophisticated investors.

But this bill doesn't just codify rule 4(1)(½). It actually improves upon it by establishing minimum standards for disclosure, marketing, and a holding period that will protect investors, foster transparency, and make this market even stronger.

□ 1645

This bill addresses several concerns that we heard from investor groups and regulators:

First, it requires that the seller provide the buyer with some basic information about the company, which ensures that buyers have the standard information they need before making an investment decision.

Second, it prohibits bad actors, such as people who have been banned from the securities industry, from taking advantage of the rule.

Third, it prohibits the securities of shell companies from being sold under this new rule, 4(1)(½).

So I am pleased that we were able to work together with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) on this bill and that we were able to add these important investor protections because now we have a bill that will enjoy strong bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Again, I thank the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the chairman of the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee, for yielding time.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the ranking member of the subcommittee, for working with me on the provisions of the bill we are talking about this afternoon.

I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), the ranking member of the full committee, for working with us to craft this compromise we have on the floor here today.

I have joined together with my colleagues from across the aisle to offer a

Federal exemption from registering for the resale of private company securities, which is vital for adding liquidity to the secondary markets and driving economic growth.

Today private growth companies are not only disrupting existing industries, but are creating entirely new markets. Thanks to private markets, in particular, the advancement in American technology and entrepreneurship is thriving.

Funding the growth of these private companies, however, has created a paradigm shift. This shift requires our regulatory framework to achieve a balance between encouraging innovation and growth while ensuring that shareholders and investors are protected, and those investor protections need to remain strong.

Unfortunately, as successful entrepreneurs and startup employees look to sell their private shares in the secondary markets, they encounter a regulatory framework that is inefficient. That inefficiency is costly and dries up the liquidity of these securities and is harmful to economic growth.

Most private secondary transactions rely on a broadly accepted exemption known as section 4(1)(½). While widely known and applied, section 4(1)(½) has never been formally codified into securities law. The result has been a disjointed collection of case law and no-action SEC letters that have shaped these private secondary transactions.

Our bill attempts to fix this problem. The bill would provide an exemption for these types of transactions, allowing startup employees the ability to execute trades in a way that is consistent, clear, and certain.

That is why we have Federal securities laws, for that certainty, that clarity, and that consistency. It would allow for private companies to find a much better way to raise capital by opening up the secondary markets.

Although the bill is a technical fix, we have worked hard to seek compromise and find commonsense solutions to this complicated exemption.

While we have negotiated in good faith on this bill, as has the party across the aisle, my goal is to ensure that the language and operation of this compromise will work in the real world.

Further improvements to the bill may be necessary to fully codify existing uses of that authority, and I am committed to working with my colleagues across the aisle as well as folks in the Senate to clarify the intent here.

I look forward to continuing to work with our ranking member of the full Committee on Financial Services, as necessary, to ensure that the law is a useful tool and serves as an example of how policy can meet the demands of a changing marketplace.

The bottom line is this bill is a sensible way forward. This bill will lower

costs and provide transparent standards for the issues that are important in the private and secondary transactions. Additionally, the bill will give today's private growth companies a foundation on which they can confidently plan their trajectory through the capital markets, both private and public.

Ultimately, codifying this exemption will ensure the United States remains the best market in the world for the world's innovators to build their businesses here and employ Americans and grow our economy.

I am pleased that this legislation enjoys bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her support on this and the prior legislation, and I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

When the gentleman from North Carolina makes a reference to the regulations of 4(1)(½), then you know there is something wrong out there that there are just too many obscure regulations that are holding back and being impediments to our capital markets.

The gentleman from North Carolina also came up with the right summation of this. It is a technical bill to deal with all of these absurdities and technicalities just to make it easier for people to be able to start a business, grow a business, sell a business, hire employees, grow capital formation and the number of employees in this country as well.

With that being said, I look forward to strong, bipartisan support, as we have seen in the past on this type of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1839, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2078) to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2078

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(1) was created by Congress to independently assess and to accurately and unflinchingly describe threats to religious freedom around the world; and

(2) in carrying out its prescribed duties, should use its authorized powers to ensure that efforts by the United States to advance religious freedom abroad are timely, appropriate to the circumstances, prudent, and effective.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

SEC. 4. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431).

(3) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means a member of the Commission.

(4) VICE CHAIR.—The term "Vice Chair" means the Vice Chair of the Commission who was appointed to such position by an elected official from the political party that is different from the political party of the elected official who appointed the Chair of the Commission.

(b) STRATEGIC POLICY AND ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW PLANNING PROCESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than biennially thereafter, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, in coordination with the Commissioners, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Commission staff, and others jointly selected by the Chair and Vice Chair, shall carry out a strategic policy and organizational review planning process that includes—

(1) a review of the duties set forth in section 202 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432) and the powers set forth in section 203 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6432a);

(2) the preparation of a written description of prioritized actions that the Commission is required to complete to fulfill the strategic plan required under subsection (d);

(3) a review of the scope, content, and timing of the Commission's annual report and any required changes; and

(4) a review of the personnel policies set forth in section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) and any required changes to such policies.

(c) UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the greatest extent possible, the Chair, Vice Chair, and all of the Commissioners shall ensure that this section is implemented in a manner that results in unanimous agreement among the Commissioners with regard to—

(A) the strategic policy and organizational review planning process required under subsection (b); and

(B) the strategic plan required under subsection (d).

(2) ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS.—If unanimous agreement under paragraph (1) is not possible, items for inclusion in the strategic plan may, at the joint discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair, be approved by an affirmative vote of—

(A) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party of the President; and

(B) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party that is not the party of the President.

(d) SUBMISSION OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, and not less frequently than biennially thereafter, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission shall jointly submit, to the appropriate congressional committees, a written strategic plan that includes—

(1) a description of prioritized actions for the Commission for a period of time to be specified by the Commissioners;

(2) a description of any changes the Commission considers necessary with regard to the scope, content, and timing of the Commission's annual report;

(3) a description of any changes the Commission considers necessary with regard to personnel matters; and

(4) the Commission's funding requirements for the period covered by the strategic plan.

(e) PENDING ISSUES.—The strategic plan required under subsection (d) may identify any issues or proposals that have not yet been resolved by the Commission.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONNEL PROVISIONS AND ANNUAL REPORT.—Notwithstanding section 204(a) and 205(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b(a) and 6533(a)), the Commission is authorized to implement provisions related to personnel and the Commission's annual report that are included in the strategic plan submitted pursuant to this section.

(g) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Upon request, the Commission shall—

(1) make available for inspection any information and documents requested by the appropriate congressional committees; and

(2) respond to any requests to provide testimony before the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission \$3,500,000

for each of the fiscal years 2016 to 2019 to carry out the provisions of this Act and section 4 of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015.

“(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until the earlier of—

“(1) the date on which they have been expended; or

“(2) the date on which the Commission is terminated under section 209.

“(c) LIMITATION.—In each fiscal year, the Commission shall only be authorized to expend amounts that have been appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) if the Commission—

“(1) complies with the requirements set forth in section 4 of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015; and

“(2) submits the annual financial report required under section 208(e) to the appropriate congressional committees.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, tragically, religious persecution around the world continues. I thought I would give one example that we heard in our committee last week, the Foreign Affairs Committee, from “Bozi,” who is a young 20-year-old Yazidi woman from Iraq. She told us the story.

She very bravely recounted her brutal captivity and the abuse she faced at the hands of ISIS. As we are talking about religious freedom, she explained that, in her village, the 700 men and boys were killed, including several of her brothers. One small brother survived because he had a bullet in his head and they thought he was dead. But, other than that, her family is all gone.

She was bought by an American who had been recruited to ISIS about 4 years prior, she said. He bought 10 of the girls, sold 9, and kept her as a concubine.

She recounted how he explained to her that, because she was a Yazidi, she was an infidel, in his mind, and she was a Pagan, in his mind; and, therefore, he had the right to enslave and rape and sell Yazidi women and children, and he does this.

After about a year, she escaped. But she reported that there were about

3,000 girls and women in ISIS captivity, Yazidis, who faced the same fate that she faced while she was in that captivity.

These crimes are just the latest outrage against people of faith which continues in so many parts of the world, whether it be against Yazidis or Christian minorities in the Middle East or the Baha’i in Iran or religious communities attempting to worship without official supervision by repressive regimes, for example, in Burma or in North Korea. Anti-Semitism also is on the rise, including in Europe.

This legislation, which was passed unanimously by the Senate last week, will continue the good work of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Congress created this Commission as an independent Federal entity back in 1998.

The reason it was created was because, while the fundamental freedom of religion was under siege around the world, it did not receive enough attention in U.S. foreign policy circles.

This Commission is a body of experts who speak out on behalf of persecuted believers of any faith and push for accountability, accountability beyond what the State Department or the White House may view as diplomatically feasible.

The Commission’s independent voice remains critical today, as the State Department too often pushes religious freedom to the side. For example, the State Department’s Ambassador at Large for religious freedom sat vacant for 2 years during the start of this administration and again for another 10 months before the appointment of the current Ambassador, Rabbi David Saperstein.

And this year, after a 3-year lapse, the Department finally made the legally required designation of “Countries of Particular Concern” for religious freedom, 3 years of the State Department shirking its legal responsibility.

But, as the Commission has found, another eight countries should also be placed on that list and were not placed on the list. Those countries include Vietnam, whose recent so-called amnesty of more than 18,000 prisoners included convicted murderers, convicted drug dealers, human traffickers.

But what it did not include was prisoners of religious conscience, such as the Venerable Thich Quang Do of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. I have visited him under house arrest. They did not include Father Nguyen Van Ly, the Catholic priest who has been repeatedly beaten. These were not the people released. No. It was the human traffickers and the murderers.

So this Commission is critical in calling out these abuses.

This bill extends the authorization of the Commission for 4 more years and includes new strategic planning and

transparency improvements in the act. This should ensure that the Commission’s important work remains strongly bipartisan and represents the diverse American consensus on the importance of our first freedom: religious liberty.

I want to thank Senators CORKER and CARDIN and their colleagues who worked to craft this bill, which received unanimous support in the other body.

I also want to recognize the important work of the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the author of the House side reauthorization bill, who has been a legislative leader on religious freedom issues throughout his career.

And, as always, I appreciate the cooperation of the ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL of New York, and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) in bringing this legislation to the floor today.

So this bill, which has the unanimous support of the Senate and all nine current Commissioners, deserves our support also. With its passage, it goes to the President’s desk. With his signature, it will ensure that freedom of religion under continuous threat from extremists and authoritarian governments remains front and center.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of S. 2078.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, what we call USCIRF, and it deserves this body’s strong support.

I want to begin by thanking Senator CORKER, Senator CARDIN, and Senator DURBIN for the work that they did in pushing this bill on the Senate side. I want to thank our chairman, Chairman ROYCE, and Representative CHRIS SMITH for his strong leadership here in the House on matters dealing with religious freedom.

This bill, which has been endorsed by all nine of the current Commissioners, would reauthorize the Commission for 4 years and require that the Commission agree on a bipartisan strategic plan to be submitted to Congress within 180 days. Moreover, the Commission will also be required to reach bipartisan agreement on personnel policies, which I hope they will see as an opportunity, as an organization dedicated to promoting freedom and tolerance, to include strong nondiscrimination protections for religion, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, as well as the other federally protected classes.

The right to practice religion and worship freely is a bedrock principle of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, of course, of our own Constitution. This Commission on International Religious Freedom does so much to defend that liberty, whether through invaluable research, analysis, and reporting or efforts to guide lawmakers from the United States and elsewhere on the importance of this issue. Yet every day, religious communities around the world endure violence, persecution, and discrimination—and the problem, sadly, is escalating.

In Nigeria, Christian and Muslim communities live in fear of the fanatical terrorist group Boko Haram. In Iran, the regime continues to persecute members of the Baha'i faith. In Vietnam, Christians are arrested and beaten by police. Pakistan has fallen down on the job of prosecuting violence against religious minorities, while at the same time convicting religious minorities for blasphemy. And, of course, people of all faiths are being massacred by ISIL as it attempts to wipe out any beliefs that don't align with its perverted version of Islam.

Mr. Speaker, this sort of intolerance has no place in the 21st century. Governments are obligated to respect the religious freedom of all citizens. It is the right thing to do, and it is also in their own interests. After all, when societies are more open, they become more prosperous. When citizens live freely without fear of persecution, they contribute more and help drive growth and stability.

So the United States wants to see religious freedom thrive around the world. That is why we established the Commission on International Religious Freedom, and that is why we should vote today to support the Commission's vital continued work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2078.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). He worked on the original authorization of the Religious Freedom Act, and he is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the chairman for his leadership and for his commitment to human rights, particularly religious freedom, and I want to thank Senator CORKER for helping to shepherd this legislation through the Senate when there were some contentious issues.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was created as part of the landmark International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, originally authored by my good friend and former colleague Frank Wolf, who provided exemplary service and leadership in this House.

The creation of USCIRF made the promotion and protection of religious freedom a priority of U.S. foreign policy; and believe me, before the passage of this law, it was not. Since its inception, USCIRF has been a valuable, independent, and bipartisan source of information and policy recommendations for the Congress, U.S. Government, and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, USCIRF gives voice to persecuted religious groups and raises prisoner cases, individual cases, at the highest levels of the U.S. Government. USCIRF's annual report—and I encourage Members to read it—often provides a fuller view of violations of religious freedom than the State Department's International Religious Freedom Report. As an independent body, USCIRF has the political freedom to report the facts and provide critical insight and recommendations on countries like Vietnam, Pakistan, India, Cuba, or China, countries where the U.S. Government may be hesitant to draw attention to religious rights violations because it is concerned about upsetting foreign governments.

It needs to be noted that in the beginning, the Clinton administration actively opposed passage of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. I know because I chaired the hearings. We heard from people like Assistant Secretary John Shattuck, who said it would create a hierarchy of human rights, which it did not. It put religious freedom in its rightful place. Of course, years later, people from the administration pointed out that none of that happened and it was a very important addition to our work. I also want to note that a very broad coalition supported and continued to support IRFA in general and USCIRF in particular. In the end, President Clinton did sign the legislation into law.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops endorses USCIRF's reauthorization, as do over 80 different nongovernmental organizations and religious groups, part of the International Religious Freedom Roundtable. These groups sent a letter to every Member of Congress and said, in pertinent part, "while there is very little we agree on theologically, or politically, we all agree on the importance of religious freedom."

Mr. Speaker, bipartisan cooperation is critically important at a time when religious freedom is under siege through the world. Anti-Semitism, pervasive in most of the Middle East, has spread like a cancer to parts of Europe. The increase in violence perpetrated against Christians, Muslims, and other religious minorities has reached staggering proportions, including disturbing reports of torture, rape, imprisonment, forced exile, and murder.

Mr. Speaker, the world faces a deepening crisis of religious freedom restrictions and abuses by governments.

The Pew Foundation estimates that over 75 percent of the world's population lives in countries where severe religious freedom abuses are commonplace. Ancient Christian communities in Iraq and Syria are on the verge of extinction, and other religious minorities in the Middle East face a constant assault from ISIS. ISIS, as we all know, has committed and is committing genocide, mass atrocities, and war crimes.

China continues to suppress religious practice broadly and with impunity. It has been another punishing year for the Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims, Christians, as well as Falun Gong practitioners who face restrictions, imprisonment, and torture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Burma is a problem; Rohingya Muslims face problems. In Pakistan, as we all know, there are problems; in Iran, not just with the Baha'i who are persecuted again and have been facing that with unrelenting pressure, but also other Christians who live there and other Muslims.

Mr. Speaker, the need for USCIRF is clear, and I hope all Members will support this important human rights legislation.

I thank the Chair, and I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any more speakers, so I yield myself the balance of my time.

First, again, I want to thank our chairman, Ed ROYCE, and our ranking member ELIOT ENGEL for, once again, the bipartisan way in which the work of the Foreign Affairs Committee is conducted, evidenced again today with strong bipartisan support for this bill. I also want to acknowledge the great leadership of Congressman SMITH, who has worked in this area for a very long time.

Mr. Speaker, my home State, Rhode Island, was founded by ROGER WILLIAMS, searching for a place that respects religious freedom. Rhode Island is home to the oldest synagogue in America, the Touro Synagogue, where President Washington famously wrote to the Hebrew congregation at Touro Synagogue to reassure them that this new, young Nation will be a place that respects religious freedom of all its citizens. It is this Commission that continues to promote that work around the world, to ensure that religious freedom is respected everywhere in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the

chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, religious liberty is the first right in our Bill of Rights, and it is in the First Amendment. There are five rights in the First Amendment. Religious liberty is the first of those five rights. That is not by accident. Our ancestors believed in the right of religious liberty.

In fact, throughout the world today, religious freedom is the most important personal right for many, many people of all religious faiths—the right to practice one's religion free of persecution regardless of what that religion is.

Mr. Speaker, Saddique Azam was promoted as the headmaster of an elementary school in Pakistan a few months ago. Three Muslim teachers didn't like the fact that they had a Christian as their boss. So, yesterday, about 7:45 in the morning, they stormed his office and demanded that he resign because he was a Christian. He refused. They beat him up until he was rescued by some other staff members.

Curricula in schools throughout the world are teaching religious intolerance. The Saudi school curriculum openly vilifies other faiths, including Jews and Christians. Not too long ago, there was a 14-year-old boy by the name of Ayman Nabil Labib, a Christian in Egypt, a Coptic Christian. He went to school. The teacher of his class, a non-Christian, saw that he had a cross on his wrist. Coptic Christians I understand have a tattoo of a cross. He was told to cover up the cross. He did not. In fact, he pulled out a cross from underneath his shirt and displayed it as well. The teacher grabbed him around the neck and started choking him and asked the other students: What are you going to do about this? And they beat him to death—a 14-year-old Coptic Christian in Egypt.

Persecution happens to all faiths throughout the world.

It is the most important, in my opinion, human right, natural right, to practice one's faith, religion, and belief freely without persecution by government especially. This legislation helps protect that right worldwide. It is an important right here, but, as I said, it is a natural right, and it should be protected. I support this legislation because it protects the basic right of religious freedom.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressmen CHRIS SMITH, DAVID CICILLINE, and Judge TED POE.

Two weeks ago, we were all here on the floor of the House, and we heard Pope Francis charged with those listening to his remarks of the important

responsibility of safeguarding religious freedom. He stated at the White House that that freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions. Of course, that freedom is not only an American possession, and it is not only enjoyed by certain religions. That freedom flows from the inherent dignity of every human person and should be protected wherever it is threatened.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom remains a strong, independent, and authoritative voice on behalf of religious believers everywhere. This measure will ensure that it continues to pursue the Commission's nonpartisan mission of promoting around the world the right of religious liberty that we hold so dear as a nation. It deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a commission which embodies the highest of our democratic principles: independence, bipartisanship, transparency and the defense of our fundamental freedoms.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom was created from a landmark piece of legislation, the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).

How that bill came about is a story in its own right, and a demonstration of how a diverse set of our nation's leaders can come together to protect a foundational freedom.

One of the best ways to expose attacks on religious freedom is meticulous chronicling of such abuses and then proclaiming them loud and clear to a watching world.

The importance of USCIRF's mission of monitoring, recording and publishing attacks on religious belief—or any belief at all—cannot be overestimated.

Their annual report is an invaluable reference for my colleagues and me and our staffs.

Like the TIP report which monitors countries' records on human trafficking, the USCIRF annual report exposes lawbreakers and violators of human rights—and recommends what actions should be taken.

And we have seen how across the world religious minorities are under attack.

Christians made up 20 percent of the Middle East population at the start of the 20th century.

Given a sustained attack in recent years on Christian belief and practice, that number is now around 5 percent and declining.

In fact, less than 1 percent of the world's more than 2 billion Christians live in the Middle East—the birthplace of the religion.

Other religions and belief systems have suffered under sustained persecution.

Yazidis in Iraq and Syria have been systematically targeted by ISIS for slavery and execution.

Just this week, news reports have revealed Yazidi women have taken their own lives out of despair after repeated rapes and assaults.

USCIRF has documented ethnic cleansing of Muslims and sectarian violence in the Central African Republic, and urged the State Department designate it as a Country of Particular Concern.

In Russia, "serious violations of freedom of religion or belief continue."

China has taken further steps to "consolidate" its "authoritarian monopoly" over the lives of its citizens.

This has led to "unprecedented violence" against Uigher Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, Catholics, Protestants, and Falun Gong practitioners.

And the list goes on and on.

An attack on the religious belief of one is an attack on all of us.

USCIRF is a unique, independent voice calling the world to pay attention and act, especially when this freedom can take a backseat in foreign affairs.

The world forgets that the chilling of religious belief is the first step toward totalitarian control over all areas of life.

All other freedoms flow from religious liberty.

Without the freedom to believe what your conscience tells you, and live that belief out without fear of violence or other persecution, all other freedoms are meaningless.

USCIRF recognizes this reality, and acts in defense of all peoples everywhere.

I urge the House and reauthorize this important commission, and continue to defend and promote our First Amendment freedoms around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2078.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AIRPORT ACCESS CONTROL SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3102) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3102

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. AVIATION SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1602. RISK-BASED SCREENING OF EMPLOYEES AT AIRPORTS.

"(a) SCREENING MODEL.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a risk-based, intelligence-driven model for the screening of employees at airports based on

level of access and employment positions at domestic airports. Such screening model shall—

“(A) ensure that only those individuals authorized to have access to the secure areas of a domestic airport are permitted such access;

“(B) ensure that an individual is immediately denied entry to a secure area when such individual's access authorization for such secure area is withdrawn; and

“(C) provide a means to differentiate between individuals authorized to have access to an entire secure area and individuals authorized access to only a particular portion of a secure area.

“(2) FACTORS.—The Administrator shall consider the following factors when establishing the screening model described in paragraph (1):

“(A) Whether and how often employees at airports require employment-related access to Secure Identification Display Areas, Airport Operations Areas, or secure areas.

“(B) The ability of each airport operator to reduce employee entry and exit points to a mutually agreed upon minimum number of such entry and exit points necessary to maintain airport operations.

“(C) In consultation with airport operators, the ability of the Administration to create a randomization plan for screening at the defined operational minimum entry and exit points at airports which maximizes the deterrent effect of screening efforts.

“(b) DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, labor organizations representing aviation, ground, and cabin crew workers, and the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, shall conduct an aviation security risk-based review of the disqualifying criminal offenses codified in sections 1542.209 and 1544.229 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to determine the appropriateness of such offenses as a basis for denying to an employee a credential that allows unescorted access to Secure Identification Display Areas of airports. Such review shall consider the following:

“(A) The adequacy of codified disqualifying offenses to address the current aviation security threat environment, particularly the terrorism insider threat.

“(B) If such codified disqualifying offenses should be tailored to address the current aviation security threat environment, particularly the terrorism insider threat, by excluding or including other offenses.

“(C) The potential security benefits, drawbacks, and challenges associated with identifying patterns of misdemeanors or of other non-disqualifying offenses that could jeopardize aviation security.

“(D) The feasibility of integrating similar departmental eligibility requirements for access to Secure Identification Display Areas of airports.

“(E) If the ten year look-back period for disqualifying offenses is appropriate, in light of the current aviation security threat environment, particularly the terrorism insider threat.

“(2) WAIVER.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall provide an adequate redress process for an employee who is subject to an adverse employment decision, including removal or suspension of such employee, due to a disqualifying offense referred to in paragraph (1), that is consistent with the ap-

peals and waiver process established for applicants for commercial motor vehicle hazardous materials endorsements and transportation workers at ports under section 70105(c) of title 46, United States Code.

“(3) NOTICE.—Any changes to the Secure Identification Display area badge program, such as changes considered pursuant to subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (1) shall be subject to notice of proposed rulemaking.

“(4) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the aviation security risk-based review required under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the results of such review.

“(c) CREDENTIALING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, shall review the auditing procedures for all airport-issued identification media. Such review shall determine the following:

“(1) The efficacy of the auditing program requirements at domestic airports to ensure the integrity, accountability, and control of airport-issued identification media.

“(2) The feasibility of including biometrics standards for all airport-issued identification media used for identity verification and badge verification.

“(3) The feasibility of integrating other departmental programs' eligibility requirements for access to secure areas of airports.

“(d) VETTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

“(A) establish a program to allow airport badging offices to utilize the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note; commonly referred to as ‘E-Verify’) to determine the eligibility to work in the United States of all applicants seeking access to secure areas of airports;

“(B) establish a process to transmit applicants' biometric fingerprint data to the Office of Biometric Identity Management's (OBIM's) Automated Biometrics Identification System (IDENT) for vetting; and

“(C) conduct a data quality assessment to ensure that credential application data elements received by the Administration are complete and match the data submitted by the airport operators.

“(2) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the responsibilities specified in paragraph (1), the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the results of such completion.

“(e) REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a nationwide program for the anonymous reporting of violations of airport security.

“(f) CENTRALIZED DATABASE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, shall—

“(1) establish a national database of employees who have had either their airport or

aircraft operator-issued badge revoked for failure to comply with aviation security requirements;

“(2) determine the appropriate reporting mechanisms for airports and airlines to submit data regarding employees described in paragraph (1) and to access the database established pursuant to such paragraph; and

“(3) establish a process that allows individuals whose names were mistakenly entered into such database to have their names removed and have their credentialing restored.

“(g) UPDATED REVIEW.—Not later than April 8, 2016, the Administrator, in consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, shall conduct an updated and thorough review of airport access controls.

“(h) EMPLOYEE SCREENING STUDY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Comptroller General of the United States a cost and feasibility study of a statistically significant number of Category I, II, and X airports, that ensures that all employee entry and exit points that lead to secure areas of such airports are comprised of the following:

“(A) A secure door utilizing card and pin entry or biometric technology.

“(B) Surveillance video recording, capable of storing video data for at least 30 days.

“(C) Advanced screening technologies, including at least one of the following:

“(i) Magnetometer (walk-through or handheld).

“(ii) Explosives detection canines.

“(iii) Explosives trace detection swabbing.

“(iv) Advanced imaging technology.

“(v) X-ray bag screening technology.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include information related to the employee screening costs of those airports which have already implemented practices of screening one-hundred percent of employees entering secure areas of airports, including the following:

“(A) Costs associated with establishing an operational minimum number of employee entry and exit points.

“(B) A comparison of costs associated with implementing the requirements specified in paragraph (1), based on whether such implementation was carried out by the Administration or airports.

“(3) COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon completion of the study required under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall review such study to assess the quality and reliability of such study.

“(B) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the receipt of the study required under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the results of the review required under subparagraph (A).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1601 the following new item:

“Sec. 1602. Risk-based screening of employees at airports.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

□ 1715

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3102 is a critically important, bipartisan piece of legislation, which serves as a culmination of months of intense oversight on the issue of airport access controls and the insider threat to aviation security.

The gaps in airport employee access control made headlines after an investigation revealed that aviation employees were trafficking weapons and ammunitions between Atlanta and New York. More than 170 guns were trafficked in such a manner.

Furthermore, a recent inspector general report found that TSA failed to identify 73 aviation workers with possible links to terrorism. Lastly, at airports such as Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles International, and Oakland, many major drug-trafficking rings have been uncovered involving employees using their insider ability to access the airports.

It is the responsibility of this committee to act to prevent similar stories from continuing to emerge.

Specifically, H.R. 3102 requires TSA to consult with Federal and private sector partners to review existing employee screening protocols and work comprehensively to improve the effectiveness of controls at airports across the United States.

Moreover, the bill improves standards of vetting for the credentials granted to individuals with access to secure areas of airports and takes a robust approach to bolstering the oversight of the access given to these employees.

H.R. 3102 codifies a number of recommendations put forward by the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, which examined the issue of airport access controls earlier this year at our urging.

This legislation reflects rigorous oversight, including a number of hearings, site visits, and briefings from Homeland Security, TSA, the FBI, and aviation stakeholders.

Furthermore, I am very proud of the cooperation among our private sector

stakeholders, Federal partners, and the labor community that has helped to bring this bill to the floor today.

Throughout this legislation's development, we have worked tirelessly with the same end goal in mind: to enhance the security of our Nation's airports and mitigate threats to aviation workers and the traveling public.

The insider threat to aviation is real, and it is critical that we evolve our security standards and best practices to stay abreast of changing threats to transportation.

I wish to thank Ranking Member RICE and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their hard work and attention to this issue, as we have focused heavily on these problems in a bipartisan manner.

I also wish to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for his support on the committee's oversight efforts and for seeing this bill through the committee.

Together—together—we can fix these problems and assure the American public that their aviation system is secure and adaptive to changing threats.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3102.

Last year we learned that airport employees used their access to the secure areas of airports to bypass screening to smuggle weapons and drugs onto commercial flights.

In response, then-Acting Administrator Melvin Carraway requested that TSA's stakeholder advisory committee, the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, take on the challenge of evaluating airport access controls and come up with approaches to address security vulnerabilities.

In April, the ASAC issued a thoughtful report with 28 recommendations designated to mitigate threats and risks associated with airport access controls.

Congress approved legislation in December 2014 to codify ASAC in law in the hopes that it would result in better aviation security policymaking at TSA.

We envisioned a process in which various stakeholders throughout the aviation community were able to come together and address security issues affecting the industry. In this instance, the process worked as envisioned, and TSA is making sure and steady progress towards addressing many of the recommendations.

I believe that, by advancing this bill today, we will send a message to TSA and aviation stakeholders that we have a strong interest in raising the bar when it comes to securing our Nation's airports.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I simply reiterate that the committee remains in-

terested in raising the level of security within our Nation's airports. As such, we will continue to track TSA's efforts at bolstering access controls and addressing the ASAC's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the issues addressed in H.R. 3102 are a pressing concern to the security of our Nation's airports. It is critical that we send this bill to the Senate today. Congress cannot stand idly by and grant tacit approval to lax security standards for employees when we have the authority and responsibility to spur action and keep the traveling public safe from harm.

I want to thank Mr. RICHMOND for his bipartisan comments. That truly is the nature of what we have done today, is act in a bipartisan manner to attack a problem.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise to speak on H.R. 3102, the "Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015," which amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, and streamline transportation security regulations.

The objective of the bill is to establish a risk-based, intelligence-driven model for the screening of employees at airports based on level of access and employment positions at domestic airports.

The model is intended to ensure that only those individuals authorized to have access to secure areas of a domestic airport are permitted such access.

The model must be able to differentiate between individuals authorized to have access to an entire secure area and those who are not permitted access.

The Director of the FBI and Director of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee are directed to review the disqualifying criminal offenses in the Code of Federal Regulations to determine the adequacy for an individual to have continued access to Secure Identification Display Areas of airports.

The review based on the current language of the bill would consider whether the list of disqualifying offenses should be amended to include other offenses.

As House Judiciary Committee's Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Investigation, I am concerned that the bill contains this language.

At a time when we are discussing the rights of non-violent offenders to have an opportunity, if their conduct and records dictate to be able to fully reintegrate into society, that there may be other efforts to make this process more difficult without a serious review of why such measures should be taken and for whom should they be applied?

I would offer to work with my fellow members on the House Committee on Homeland Security to consider carefully the reasons for any expansion on this list, especially if the expansion only involves the Department of Homeland Security.

There are similar concerns regarding language in the bill that may extend the period of time that may be considered between a particular situation and the life a person is currently leading.

Considering behavior of a teenager when considering the conduct of a 35 year-old adult, the weight of the consideration should be on the life of the adult and the seriousness of the offense.

Any new model that may be developed that would impact the employability of current persons who hold access credentials and future employees should be further reviewed by the full committee prior to becoming policy.

The bill's goals are important—the House should consider every aspect of airport security to improve aviation safety.

I will continue to work in my capacity on both the House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Committee on the Judiciary to improve aviation security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3102, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY ACT OF 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3510) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity strategy for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3510

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 230. CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop a departmental strategy to carry out cybersecurity responsibilities as set forth in law.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Strategic and operational goals and priorities to successfully execute the full range of the Secretary’s cybersecurity responsibilities.

“(2) Information on the programs, policies, and activities that are required to successfully execute the full range of the Secretary’s cybersecurity responsibilities, including programs, policies, and activities in furtherance of the following:

“(A) Cybersecurity functions set forth in the second section 226 (relating to the national cybersecurity and communications integration center).

“(B) Cybersecurity investigations capabilities.

“(C) Cybersecurity research and development.

“(D) Engagement with international cybersecurity partners.

“(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) consider—

“(A) the cybersecurity strategy for the Homeland Security Enterprise published by the Secretary in November 2011;

“(B) the Department of Homeland Security Fiscal Years 2014–2018 Strategic Plan; and

“(C) the most recent Quadrennial Homeland Security Review issued pursuant to section 707; and

“(2) include information on the roles and responsibilities of components and offices of the Department, to the extent practicable, to carry out such strategy.

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the development of the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue an implementation plan for the strategy that includes the following:

“(1) Strategic objectives and corresponding tasks.

“(2) Projected timelines and costs for such tasks.

“(3) Metrics to evaluate performance of such tasks.

“(e) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate for assessment the following:

“(1) A copy of the strategy required under subsection (a) upon issuance.

“(2) A copy of the implementation plan required under subsection (d) upon issuance, together with detailed information on any associated legislative or budgetary proposals.

“(f) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as permitting the Department to engage in monitoring, surveillance, exfiltration, or other collection activities for the purpose of tracking an individual’s personally identifiable information.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CYBERSECURITY RISK.—The term ‘cybersecurity risk’ has the meaning given such term in the second section 226, relating to the national cybersecurity and communications integration center.

“(2) HOMELAND SECURITY ENTERPRISE.—The term ‘Homeland Security Enterprise’ means relevant governmental and nongovernmental entities involved in homeland security, including Federal, State, local, and tribal government officials, private sector representatives, academics, and other policy experts.

“(3) INCIDENT.—The term ‘incident’ has the meaning given such term in the second section 226, relating to the national cybersecurity and communications integration center.”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON REORGANIZATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not change the location or reporting structure of the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, or the location or reporting structure of any office or component of the Directorate, unless the Secretary receives prior authorization from Congress permitting such change.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end of the list of items for subtitle C of title II the following new item:

“Sec. 230. Cybersecurity strategy.”.

(d) AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of the second section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148; relating to the national cybersecurity and communications integration center) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the term ‘incident’ means an occurrence that actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information on an information system, or actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, an information system.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3510, the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015, sponsored by Representative CEDRIC RICHMOND, ranking member of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee, of which I am the chairman.

This legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop and to submit to Congress a cybersecurity strategy and implementation plan. Because the Department of Homeland Security is charged with securing the dot-gov domain and working with the private sector to secure the dot-com domain, a comprehensive strategic plan and implementation plan will support DHS’ essential cybersecurity mission.

Mr. Speaker, too often these days cyber attacks disrupt the operations of government, of businesses, and of the lives of the American people. The increasingly sophisticated nature of the cyber threats we face on a daily basis underscore the need to manage and

strengthen the cybersecurity of our Nation's critical infrastructure.

The Government Accountability Office has recommended the implementation of an overarching Federal cybersecurity strategy. H.R. 3510 is an important step toward accomplishing this task.

H.R. 3510 also precludes any reorganization effort of the Department of Homeland Security's National Protection and Programs Directorate, or NPPD, without congressional approval. This is an effort to ensure that congressional oversight is conducted.

Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, a story in the press announced that the NPPD was planning a significant reorganization. Since June, very few specifics have emerged, and even those that have been very sparse in detail.

The details that have been made public elicit concern because they support overhauling the infrastructure protection and cybersecurity functions of the directorate without providing details on exactly what this would mean for the mission, for the structure, or for the workforce of the directorate.

The language in this bill follows a bipartisan letter sent just last month to the Department expressing congressional concern with the lack of transparency surrounding this proposed reorganization and communicating the congressional intent to provide oversight on this issue. The letter also clearly stated that any reorganization or realignment should require congressional authorization.

Over the past several years, the Committee on Homeland Security, on which I serve, has built up a collaborative working relationship with the NPPD, consulting with it to pass several strong and bipartisan pieces of legislation to improve chemical security and to strengthen DHS' cybersecurity mission and stature in the Federal Government.

Given our shared goal of protecting this country and the committee's continued legislative oversight efforts to strengthen DHS' cybersecurity functions, it is essential that the Department submit any proposal to Congress prior to reorganization or realignment.

It is Congress' role and responsibility to authorize the key responsibilities of the executive branch to include strengthening our cybersecurity posture and ensuring the security and resiliency of our Nation's critical infrastructure.

I would like to thank Mr. RICHMOND for the work that he and his staff have done to come together in a bipartisan way on this legislation.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3510.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. RATCLIFFE. I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, who all signed on and support this legislation.

H.R. 3510, the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015, will require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan for carrying out its diverse and complex cyber and information security missions.

Today the Department of Homeland Security is not only responsible for working with Federal agencies to protect Federal civilian networks, but also for helping to bolster information security within the private sector, principally through the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center.

It also plays a major role in information security research and development, cyber crime investigations, and international engagement with cybersecurity partners.

My bill requires DHS to put in place a strategy that includes necessary strategic and operational goals for executing the Secretary's broad responsibilities.

In September, the inspector general issued a report highlighting the need for such strategy. The report, entitled "DHS Can Strengthen Its Cyber Mission Coordination Efforts," found that intradepartmental coordination was lacking and recommended that the Department develop a comprehensive cross-departmental strategic implementation plan that defines each component's cyber missions and responsibilities.

The Department operates frontline programs that protect this Nation from manmade and natural disasters. With cyber threats increasingly at the forefront today, it is essential that all of the Department's day-to-day programs, policies, and activities are effective and meeting its multi-layered cybersecurity responsibilities.

As the lead Federal agency responsible for securing Federal civilian networks and as the vital cyber information-sharing partner to national critical infrastructures, it is crucial that the Department have a comprehensive and achievable strategic plan in place.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, Congress has provided significant resources to the Department to expand its cyber operations and workforce.

A lot of money has been spent to respond to cyber events and persistent information security threats. We must make sure our investments in operational plans and research and development are technically achievable and transparent where they can be.

Fundamentally, my bill seeks to ensure that the Department takes a

measurable, strategic posture that can be a model for others and to help protect our Nation's vulnerable information security networks.

I ask for my colleagues' support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3510.

I thank Congressman RICHMOND for his bipartisan approach in bringing this bill to the floor today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 3510, the "Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015," which amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity strategy for the Department of Homeland Security.

The strategy must include information on the programs, policies, and activities that are required to successfully execute the full range of the cybersecurity programs, policies, and activities in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security's mission regarding the National Cybersecurity and Communication Integration Center.

The National Cybersecurity and Communication Integration Center addresses cybersecurity risks faced by federal and non-federal entities.

In July of this year it was reported that the Office of Personnel Management lost personal information on 21.5 million current and former federal employees and their families.

In 2014, the following agencies reported breaches: The State Department revealed that its unclassified email network had been breached in a cyberattack; the U.S. Postal Service reported that 800,000 personnel files were potentially affected by a cyber breach; the Department of Health and Human Services reported cyber intruders had accessed a server used to test code for the healthcare.gov website and installed malicious software; and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the agency that oversees the U.S. nuclear power industry, revealed a number of attempted intrusions and three successful intrusions into its computer systems.

In cyber time, which is near the speed of light—federal computer networks will not get a warning from a determined enemy that an attack is occurring.

Our nation's critical infrastructure and civilian government agencies depend on the cybersecurity talent and resources that the Department of Homeland Security can provide on the frontline to defend against attacks.

As with other threats that this nation has faced and overcome, we must create the resources and the institutional responses to protect our nation against cyber threats while preserving our liberties and freedoms.

We cannot accomplish this task without the full cooperation and support of the private sector, computing research community and academia.

This level of engagement requires the trust and confidence of the American people that this new cyber threat center will be used for the purpose it was created and that the collaboration of others in this effort to better protect computing networks will be used only for protection and defense.

There are people with skills and those with the potential to develop skills that would be of benefit to our nation's efforts to develop an effective cybersecurity defense and deterrence posture.

It is my hope that as we move forward the Committee on Homeland Security will continue in a bipartisan manner to seek out the best ways to bring the brightest and most qualified people into the government as cybersecurity professionals.

Toward that end, I am hosting a Town Hall on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, Town Hall on Minority Representation in the Cybersecurity Workforce.

I am pleased to have the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus join me in support of this important Town Hall.

The message from the federal government to the public regarding the employment opportunities available in STEM careers that include cybersecurity.

It is my commitment that Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Native American Colleges and Women's Colleges and Universities should be actively engaged when agencies conduct outreach and program development on cybersecurity.

The Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy," reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

Half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

There will be STEM winners and losers, but not because the skills needed are too difficult to obtain, but because people are not aware of the jobs that are going unfilled today, nor do they know what education or training will create job security for the next 2 to 3 decades.

I am very aware of the importance of STEM job training and education.

A third of Houston jobs are in STEM-based fields.

Houston has the second largest concentrations of engineers (22.4 for every 1,000 workers according to the Greater Houston Partnership.)

Houston has 59,070 engineers, the second largest populations in the nation.

STEM jobs are at the core of Houston's economic success, but what we have done with STEM innovation and job creation in the city of Houston is not enough to satisfy the regions demand for STEM trained workers.

We anticipate that in the next 5 years the gap in the number of people with STEM skills and training will not keep up with the number of positions requiring those skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3510, the "Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3510, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADOPTIVE FAMILY RELIEF ACT

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1300) to amend section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1300

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Adoptive Family Relief Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF FEES FOR RENEWAL OF IMMIGRANT VISA FOR ADOPTED CHILD IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

Section 221(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) PERIOD OF VALIDITY; RENEWAL OR REPLACEMENT.—

"(1) IMMIGRANT VISAS.—An immigrant visa shall be valid for such period, not exceeding six months, as shall be by regulations prescribed, except that any visa issued to a child lawfully adopted by a United States citizen and spouse while such citizen is serving abroad in the United States Armed Forces, or is employed abroad by the United States Government, or is temporarily abroad on business, shall be valid until such time, for a period not to exceed three years, as the adoptive citizen parent returns to the United States in due course of his service, employment, or business.

"(2) NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.—A non-immigrant visa shall be valid for such periods as shall be by regulations prescribed. In prescribing the period of validity of a non-immigrant visa in the case of nationals of any foreign country who are eligible for such visas, the Secretary of State shall, insofar as practicable, accord to such nationals the same treatment upon a reciprocal basis as such foreign country accords to nationals of the United States who are within a similar class; except that in the case of aliens who are nationals of a foreign country and who either are granted refugee status and firmly resettled in another foreign country or are granted permanent residence and residing in another foreign country, the Secretary of State may prescribe the period of validity of such a visa based upon the treatment granted by that other foreign country to alien refugees and permanent residents, respectively, in the United States.

"(3) VISA REPLACEMENT.—An immigrant visa may be replaced under the original number during the fiscal year in which the original visa was issued for an immigrant who establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer that the immigrant—

"(A) was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity

because of reasons beyond his control and for which he was not responsible;

"(B) is found by a consular officer to be eligible for an immigrant visa; and

"(C) pays again the statutory fees for an application and an immigrant visa.

"(4) FEE WAIVER.—If an immigrant visa was issued, on or after March 27, 2013, for a child who has been lawfully adopted, or who is coming to the United States to be adopted, by a United States citizen, any statutory immigrant visa fees relating to a renewal or replacement of such visa may be waived or, if already paid, may be refunded upon request, subject to such criteria as the Secretary of State may prescribe, if—

"(A) the immigrant child was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity as a direct result of extraordinary circumstances, including the denial of an exit permit; and

"(B) if such inability was attributable to factors beyond the control of the adopting parent or parents and of the immigrant.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 1300 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When I hold and kiss my little children good-bye to come to this place every week, the pain that I feel in leaving them for several days is mitigated by the conviction that I will be seeing them again very soon.

But I stand here tonight, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of hundreds of American families who are separated from their children with no sense of certainty or knowing when they will be allowed to see their children again or to know when their children will be home for good. That is because, in September of 2013, now more than 2 years ago, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or the DRC, ceased issuing exit visas, including visas for the more than 350 children who had been fully legally adopted by American families. These families had fully complied with international adoption laws in both the United States and the DRC, had already spent months or years going through the tedious intercountry adoption process, and some of them had already arrived in the DRC with the belief that they would be bringing their adoptive children home at last to their forever families in America.

Despite significant, ongoing efforts by both Congress and the State Department to alleviate any of the DRC Government's concerns and resolve the exit permit process, Mr. Speaker, it is unknown when that suspension will be lifted. Meanwhile, American adoptive families are being faced with the added burden of having to repeatedly renew their adoptive child's adoption paperwork and visas in order to keep it up to date.

Thus, the Adoptive Family Relief Act grants flexibility to the State Department to waive the immigration visa renewal fees of \$325 per child for adoptive families in America in extraordinary circumstances like this where the cause of delay is out of the family's control. Mr. Speaker, waiving the visa renewal fee would alleviate one portion of the overwhelming burden that these American families are enduring until their adoptive child or children can travel to the U.S.

While the U.S. Government continues to work toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo lifting the exit permit suspension, this legislation is critically important and will offer some practical relief to the American families held powerless in a very difficult situation.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the many families waiting to bring their adopted children home will receive encouragement from the strong bipartisan effort here in Congress to support them during this time, as we work collectively to engage the DRC Government and work toward the suspension being fully lifted. This bill is a reminder to them that the Congress has not and will not forget their plight, and we will not cease working on their behalf until their families are finally permanently united and whole.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Chairman ROYCE for their noble and principled leadership in helping to elevate this issue and bring this legislation to the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1300, the Adoptive Family Relief Act.

As has been mentioned, 2 years ago, the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspended issuing exit permits to children who had been adopted and trying to leave the country to be with their parents. To this day, that country continues to suspend issuing these permits; and without permits, the children can't join their mom and dad, the people who have adopted them, even though the children are in possession of immigrant visas.

Now, we know to be separated from a child and not to be able to provide love and care for that child is a stressful and tormenting episode for any parent. For the families that adopted children in the DRC, this is exacerbated by the

fact that their children are stuck in a country that has one of the worst healthcare systems in the world.

There are hundreds of families throughout the United States—and about 350 of them are waiting simply for an exit permit—missing their children and worried about the health of their children stuck in the DRC. The only thing that is preventing them from bringing their child or children home is this exit visa.

Now, our visas are valid only for 6 months, unfortunately, and I think, as was mentioned, it costs \$325 to renew a visa even though, really, there is no work involved. We have checked with the State Department, and there is minimal expense. So this is not going to be a hit on the State Department's budget, but it is a hit on the budget of families. Some families have spent \$1,000 over the past 2 years, and since we don't know when the DRC is going to start issuing these visas, we don't know how much money these families are looking at in the future.

This bipartisan bill doesn't solve the exit problem, but at least it solves the financial burden that we have put, not intentionally, on these families. It is the right thing to do. It will show support for these families during this distressing time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1300, the Adoptive Family Relief Act.

For many, family is everything, and as any parent knows, not seeing your child for even one day can be hard. Now, imagine you are separated from your child by over 6,000 miles for more than 2 years. This is the reality for too many Americans. Hundreds of adopted children are stuck in the Democratic Republic of the Congo because their government has refused to provide the paperwork required for these children to leave.

For over 2 years, the Meyers, a family in my district, have been waiting to bring home their son and daughter, Papy and Octavie. We can do better for Papy and Octavie and all the other children waiting to come home to their families.

As the Department of State continues to work to bring home these children, S. 1300 would provide much-needed relief to American families going through this harrowing experience. I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation. It is the right thing to do and worthy of your support.

Ms. LOFGREN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S.

1300, the Adoptive Family Relief Act. This bill seeks to remove obstacles for immigrant visas to be issued to adopted children from other countries. It eliminates fees for such visas.

Clearly, the challenge of caring for orphans due to crises worldwide is increasing. Rather than frustrate, however, or undermine the compassion and the love of American families who seek to adopt, this legislation modestly seeks to remove some of those barriers and some of those obstacles.

I would point out to my colleagues that I have held of number of hearings on adoption in my subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. At one of those hearings several months ago, one of our witnesses made a very keen observation that there are more than 50 million children orphaned on the continent of Africa; and if you put that number in perspective, that would make that number of children, if they were in a single country, the fourth largest country in all of Africa after Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

One remedy, of course, for this crisis is intercountry adoption, which sometimes brings children from Africa to our shores to provide them with loving homes. Of course, this is only a partial remedy. Many do find a place to live, a home with family members, but many others are left to fend for themselves.

This legislation recognizes that countries' policies do matter. Look at the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Currently, there are more than 400 American families who have successfully adopted children from the DRC. However, due to the DRC Government's suspension of exit permits, which was implemented beginning in September of 2013, many of these families have been unable to bring their adopted children home to the United States. About a dozen of those children have paid with their lives, dying in the country before they could receive medical attention. Others are in dire need of medical aid which, again, this legislation would help, at least, in terms of the families to give them a bridge for the financial burdens they face.

I would point out that at one of my hearings, one of the witnesses really, in a very powerful way, said—and her name was Jovana Jones, an adoptive parent—“As adoptive parents, we spend years preparing, and it is imperative that our children come home immediately. We have done our part. Our families have done all we can, and we are at our limit.”

And then she said: “Our arms are open now, and our homes are ready to receive them today. We pray that our government mirrors our dedication and acts now so that our children come home soon.”

This is a very important piece of legislation that hopefully will facilitate

the adoption and, at least, help those parents who are putting their money on the line; and it allows them to facilitate that adoption, to just hang in there until they can get their children.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, before coming to the floor, I wanted to reassure myself that the State Department did not have the authority to waive these fees just administratively. It is pretty clear that they need this legislation in order to waive these fees. In fact, they want to waive the fees; they want to support the families. So there is no argument here between the House and Senate, between Republicans and Democrats, between the administration and the legislative branch. This is something that we can all agree on.

You know, to raise kids is one of the most wonderful experiences you can ever have, and we have wonderful American families that want to provide a home for orphans, not only in the DRC, but to orphans all around the world. So it is really important for those of us in the government, administration, and Congress to do what we can to support American families who want to raise these adoptive children.

It is worth noting that the DRC is the problem today, but we have had other problems in the past in other countries, in Latin America and Asia. So this change in the law is going to provide the necessary basis for relieving parents from excessive fees should this occur, God forbid, with other countries.

We would ask our State Department to redouble its efforts with the DRC to get these exit permits underway. It is really unfair to the children and their parents to keep these kids stranded.

□ 1745

Finally, I would just note that we have not done very much by way of anything touching on immigration where we could have bipartisan support. I still wish that we had before us comprehensive immigration reform. That is not this, but it doesn't mean that we shouldn't support this. I think that it is important that we pass this and show these American parents that we are on their side and we hope that they can use the funds that they save to provide for their new sons and daughters.

Mr. Speaker, unless the gentleman has additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are very few things that we do in this body more important than trying to make sure that parentless little children have hope in life. Through our State Department, all across the world we do very laudable things to try to make sure they have this chance in life. Sometimes it is orphanages; sometimes it is just other types of help through NGOs.

In this particular case, we are doing everything that we can to facilitate children being put into a loving family on a permanent basis. To bring sometimes childless parents together with often parentless children is, I think, a very beautiful and noble effort on our part. I hope that this bill allows that in a greater way with the DRC and, as Ms. LOFGREN mentioned, with other states across the world if it becomes necessary.

I am grateful for all the bipartisan support. I know this is something that we have come together on. Again, I express appreciation to Chairman ROYCE, Chairman GOODLATTE, and to the gentlewoman who has expressed her support for this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and appreciate Chairman GOODLATTE's work to bring it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, all of us have had constituents who have adopted children internationally. These families go through a long, complex and very emotional process as they wait on legal decisions and government reviews.

Along with the emotional stress can come financial stress too. In a number of cases, as wait times lengthen and lengthen, an adoptive child's American visa will expire before they are able to leave their home country. This means the American parents adopting this child have to reapply and repay hefty fees.

But under this legislation, that reapplication fee can be waived if a family is faced with extraordinary circumstances outside their control.

This is common sense.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill—and the President's signature—means immediate help for hundreds of American families seeking to adopt children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Foreign Affairs Committee has been particularly focused on this tragic and frustrating situation.

These American families have been unable to bring their legally adopted children home from the DRC because of a bureaucratic chokehold by the Congolese government. In some cases, some children who had a loving home ready and waiting in the United States died in Congo's orphanages. Yes, died.

Nearly every congressional district has a family impacted by this tragic policy of the Congolese government.

I have met with a number of families from Southern California, who have adopted children from the DRC that they now cannot take home. Some of these families have paid over \$1,000 in fees to the U.S. government—and will continue to pay more—to keep their adoptive child's visa active, while they wait in limbo for the Congolese government to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, last month marked the two-year anniversary of the DRC suspending international adoptions. For two years these families have been hurting. The Congolese system is failing these children, for sure. But today, the American system will respond to give these families some relief during this time of distress. We are doing all we can to see that these legally adopted children are allowed into

loving American homes, but for now, we can all feel good about relieving this financial burden.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1300.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1553, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 1839, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SMALL BANK EXAM CYCLE REFORM ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1553) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to specify which smaller institutions may qualify for an 18-month examination cycle, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 534]

YEAS—411

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt

Aguilar
Allen
Amash

Amodei
Ashford
Babin

Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Clever
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Dold
Donovan

Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind

King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Masse
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascarella
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson

Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)

Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shinkus
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton

Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—23

Capuano
Clyburn
Conyers
Dingell
Engel
Fitzpatrick
Grijalva
Gutiérrez

Hudson
Hunter
Jenkins (WV)
Kelly (IL)
Lummis
Marchant
Rooney (FL)
Simpson

Sinema
Smith (TX)
Walorski
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Yarmuth

□ 1857

Mr. HONDA and Ms. BASS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 534 I was not present due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAGEDY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the lives of those who were taken too soon at Umpqua Community College on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

I ask that all Americans pray for the friends and families of these nine victims as they grieve and rebuild from this tragedy.

We must also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who were injured

physically and emotionally by this event. It will take time, our support, and patience as they grieve and recover.

Mr. Speaker, Roseburg is a small, strong, and tight-knit community. I am heartened, and not surprised, by the acts of kindness and generosity in response to this unthinkable act. We call that “UCC Strong,” “Roseburg Strong.” It is this strong spirit that will carry everyone through this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House pause for a moment of silence in honor of those impacted by the tragic events at Umpqua Community College last week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will observe a moment of silence.

REFORMING ACCESS FOR INVESTMENTS IN STARTUP ENTERPRISES ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1839) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 535]

YEAS—404

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan F.	Chu, Judy
Adams		Clark (MA)
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)
Aguilar	Brady (TX)	Clawson (FL)
Allen	Brat	Clay
Amash	Bridenstine	Clever
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Coffman
Ashford	Brooks (IN)	Cohen
Babin	Brown (FL)	Cole
Barletta	Brownley (CA)	Collins (GA)
Barr	Buchanan	Collins (NY)
Barton	Buck	Comstock
Bass	Bucshon	Conaway
Beatty	Burgess	Connolly
Becerra	Bustos	Cook
Benishek	Butterfield	Cooper
Bera	Byrne	Costa
Beyer	Calvert	Costello (PA)
Bilirakis	Capps	Courtney
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Cramer
Bishop (MI)	Carney	Crawford
Bishop (UT)	Carson (IN)	Crenshaw
Black	Carter (GA)	Crowley
Blackburn	Carter (TX)	Cuellar
Blum	Cartwright	Culberson
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Cummings
Bonamici	Castro (TX)	Curbelo (FL)
Bost	Chabot	Davis (CA)
Boustany	Chaffetz	Davis, Danny

Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Olson
DeFazio	Jolly	Palazzo
DeGette	Jones	Pallone
Delaney	Jordan	Palmer
DeLauro	Joyce	Pascrell
DelBene	Katko	Paulsen
Denham	Keating	Payne
Dent	Kelly (MS)	Pearce
DeSantis	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi
DesJarlais	Kennedy	Perlmutter
Deutch	Kildee	Perry
Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Peters
Doggett	Kind	Peterson
Dold	King (IA)	Pingree
Donovan	King (NY)	Pittenger
Doyle, Michael F.	Kinzinger (IL)	Pitts
Duckworth	Kirkpatrick	Pocan
Duffy	Kline	Poe (TX)
Duncan (SC)	Knight	Poliquin
Duncan (TN)	Kuster	Polis
Edwards	Labrador	Pompeo
Ellison	LaHood	Posey
Ellmers (NC)	LaMalfa	Price (NC)
Emmer (MN)	Lamborn	Price, Tom
Eshoo	Lance	Quigley
Esty	Langevin	Rangel
Farenthold	Larsen (WA)	Ratcliffe
Farr	Larson (CT)	Reichert
Fattah	Latta	Renacci
Fincher	Lawrence	Ribble
Fitzpatrick	Lee	Rice (NY)
Fleischmann	Levin	Rice (SC)
Fleming	Lewis	Richmond
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Rigell
Forbes	Lipinski	Roby
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Roe (TN)
Foster	Loeb sack	Rogers (AL)
Fox	Loftgren	Rogers (KY)
Frankel (FL)	Long	Rohrabacher
Franks (AZ)	Loudermilk	Rokita
Frelinghuysen	Love	Ros-Lehtinen
Fudge	Lowenthal	Roskam
Gabbard	Lowe	Ross
Galleo	Lucas	Rothfus
Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Rouzer
Garrett	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Roybal-Allard
Gibbs	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Royce
Gibson	Lynch	Ruiz
Gohmert	MacArthur	Ruppersberger
Goodlatte	Maloney,	Rush
Gowdy	Maloney, Carolyn	Russell
Graham	Maloney, Sean	Ryan (OH)
Granger	Marino	Ryan (WI)
Graves (GA)	Massie	Salmon
Graves (LA)	Matsui	Sanchez, Linda T.
Graves (MO)	McCarthy	Sanchez, Loretta
Grayson	McCaul	Sanford
Green, Al	McClintock	Sarbanes
Green, Gene	McCollum	Scalise
Griffith	McDermott	Schakowsky
Grothman	McGovern	Schiff
Guinta	McHenry	Schrader
Guthrie	McKinley	Schweikert
Hanna	McMorris	Scott (VA)
Hardy	Rodgers	Scott, Austin
Harper	McNerney	Scott, David
Harris	McSally	Sensenbrenner
Hartzer	Meadows	Serrano
Hastings	Meehan	Sessions
Heck (NV)	Meeks	Sewell (AL)
Heck (WA)	Meng	Sherman
Hensarling	Messer	Shimkus
Herrera Beutler	Mica	Shuster
Hice, Jody B.	Miller (FL)	Sires
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Slaughter
Hill	Moolenaar	Smith (MO)
Himes	Mooney (WV)	Smith (NE)
Hinojosa	Moore	Smith (NJ)
Holding	Moulton	Smith (WA)
Honda	Mullin	Speier
Hoyer	Mulvaney	Stefanik
Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)	Stewart
Huffman	Murphy (PA)	Stivers
Huizenga (MI)	Nadler	Stutzman
Hultgren	Napolitano	Swalwell (CA)
Hurd (TX)	Neal	Takai
Hurt (VA)	Neugebauer	Takano
Israel	Newhouse	Thompson (CA)
Issa	Noem	Thompson (MS)
Jackson Lee	Nolan	Thompson (PA)
Jeffries	Norcross	Thornberry
Jenkins (KS)	Nugent	Tiberi
Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Tipton
Johnson (OH)	O'Rourke	Titus
Johnson, E. B.		Tonko

Torres	Walden	Wilson (FL)
Trott	Walker	Wittman
Tsongas	Walters, Mimi	Womack
Turner	Walz	Woodall
Upton	Wasserman	Yoder
Valadao	Schultz	Yoho
Van Hollen	Waters, Maxine	Young (AK)
Vargas	Watson Coleman	Young (IA)
Veasey	Weber (TX)	Young (IN)
Velázquez	Webster (FL)	Zeldin
Visclosky	Welch	Zinke
Wagner	Wenstrup	
Walberg	Westerman	

NOT VOTING—30

Capuano	Hahn	Simpson
Ciциline	Hudson	Sinema
Clyburn	Hunter	Smith (TX)
Conyers	Jenkins (WV)	Vela
DeSaulnier	Kaptur	Walorski
Dingell	Kelly (IL)	Westmoreland
Engel	Lummis	Whitfield
Gosar	Marchant	Williams
Grijalva	Reed	Wilson (SC)
Gutiérrez	Rooney (FL)	Yarmuth

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 535, I was not present due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 534 and 535.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZELDIN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on the postponed questions will be taken later.

WEST COAST DUNGENESS CRAB MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2168) to make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2168

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act".

SEC. 2. DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY MANAGEMENT.

Section 203 of the Act entitled "An Act to approve a governing international fishery

agreement between the United States and the Republic of Poland, and for other purposes", approved November 13, 1998 (Public Law 105-384; 16 U.S.C. 1856 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (i); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering H.R. 2168, sponsored by my friend and fellow Washingtonian, Congresswoman JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER.

This bipartisan, consensus-based legislation makes permanent the long-standing management of the Dungeness crab fishery by Washington, Oregon, and California. The three States manage this crab fishery under the umbrella of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Management is funded by the participating States.

We must pass legislation to continue this management. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that H.R. 2168 would save the Federal Government up to \$1 million in discretionary Federal spending since State management would continue under this bill.

If State management expires and this bill is not enacted, then the Federal Government would have to expend new resources to manage the fishery. This bill keeps that from happening. The States have shown that they are exemplary at handling this management and it is unnecessary for this authority to fall to the Federal Government.

This bill is a win for the American taxpayer, a win for the seafood consumer, a win for my home State as well as the States of Oregon and California, and a win for those employed by the sustainable harvest of the species.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2168 would repeal the sunset clause from legislation that allows the West Coast Dungeness crab fishery in Federal waters to be managed cooperatively by the States instead of by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

□ 1915

The Dungeness crab fishery is one of the most valuable fisheries on the Pacific Coast, and it is a model of effective marine resource management.

The specifics of the fishery, including robust stock assessments, accurate catch reporting, and harmony between Federal waters commercial fishermen and near-shore recreational crabbers, make regional management a good choice.

California, Oregon, and Washington have managed the fisheries together with oversight from NOAA since 1980 and have proven they can do so responsibly.

H.R. 2168 would allow the States to continue managing the Dungeness fishery without having to return to Congress every several years for permission.

As opposed to a fishery like the Gulf of Mexico red snapper, management of the Dungeness crab is based on cooperation among States and fishing sectors as well as respect for the best available science, and the States have proven to be good stewards of the resource.

I agree with the goals of this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to stand with me in support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), my colleague and friend, who has committed to me that she will go to every effort to make sure she has samples of Dungeness crab in her office so we all know what we are talking about.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2168, the West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act. This bipartisan bill is an important solution for residents of coastal communities in southwest Washington.

The successful, two-decades-old tri-state Dungeness crab management agreement will expire September 30 of 2016. This bill simply makes permanent the management authority between Washington, Oregon, and California. This management authority has worked.

For the last 20 years, these States have overseen one of the most valuable fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. In 2014, fishermen delivered 53 million pounds of crab, totaling \$170 million. This economic activity helped support the 61,000 jobs relating to the seafood industry in Washington State alone.

How has it maintained this success? The fishery has been managed in a sustainable way. And, importantly, it doesn't cost taxpayers a dime.

However, should this authority expire, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, says its management of the fishery will cost taxpayers over \$1.15 million each year.

So, simply put, this bill maintains local control on the West Coast and en-

sures sustainability of the Dungeness crab fishery, and it saves taxpayer dollars.

I want to thank Chairman BISHOP and the House Natural Resource staff for bringing this bill to the floor. It is common sense.

I urge the House to vote "yes" on this bill to ensure a bright, sustainable economic future for coastal crab-dependent communities like Ilwaco, Washington, and many others on the West Coast.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2168.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2168, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 986) to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 986

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 19 PUEBLOS.—The term "19 Pueblos" means the New Mexico Indian Pueblos of—

- (A) Acoma;
- (B) Cochiti;
- (C) Isleta;
- (D) Jemez;
- (E) Laguna;
- (F) Nambe;
- (G) Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan);
- (H) Picuris;
- (I) Pojoaque;
- (J) San Felipe;
- (K) San Ildefonso;
- (L) Sandia;
- (M) Santa Ana;
- (N) Santa Clara;
- (O) Santo Domingo;
- (P) Taos;
- (Q) Tesuque;
- (R) Zia; and
- (S) Zuni.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "The Town of Albuquerque Grant, Bernalillo County, within Township 10 North, Range 3 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico—Metes and Bounds Survey" and dated August 12, 2011.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF 19 PUEBLOS.

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take into trust all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land described in subsection (b) for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos immediately after the Secretary determines that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) have been satisfied regarding the trust acquisition of the Federal land.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) take such action as the Secretary determines to be necessary to document the transfer under paragraph (1); and

(B) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The Federal land referred to in subsection (a)(1) is the 4 tracts of Federal land, the combined acreage of which is approximately 11.11 acres, that were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School, more particularly described as follows:

(1) ABANDONED INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD.—The approximately 0.83 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the map.

(2) SOUTHERN PART TRACT D.—The approximately 6.18 acres located in sec. 7 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the map.

(3) TRACT 1.—The approximately 0.41 acres located in sec. 7 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the map.

(4) WESTERN PART TRACT B.—The approximately 3.69 acres located in sec. 7 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the map.

(c) SURVEY.—The Secretary shall conduct a survey of the Federal land to be transferred consistent with subsection (b) and may make minor corrections to the survey and legal description of the Federal land described in subsection (b) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to correct clerical, typographical, and surveying errors.

(d) USE OF LAND.—The Federal land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos.

(e) LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS.—The Federal land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS USE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 19 Pueblos shall allow the Bureau of Indian Affairs to continue to use the land taken into trust under subsection (a) for the facilities and purposes as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The use by the Bureau of Indian Affairs under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be free of any rental charge; and

(B) continue until such time as the Secretary determines there is no further need for the existing Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities.

SEC. 4. EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), Federal land taken into trust under section 3(a) shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian land.

(b) GAMING.—No class I gaming, class II gaming, or class III gaming (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)) shall be carried out on the Federal land taken into trust under section 3(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 986, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to place 11 acres of Federal land into trust for the collective benefit of 19 Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

These 11 acres were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School site, which are culturally and historically significant to the Pueblos. Upon transfer, the lands may be used by the 19 Pueblos for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development purposes by these Pueblo tribes. One important thing to note is this land may not be used for gaming purposes under this bill.

Since 1976, the 19 Pueblos have used the lands of the former Albuquerque Indian School for the cultural and economic benefit of the 19 Pueblos. This is the last portion of Federal lands of the former school site, which has not been conveyed to the 19 Pueblos.

This bill is supported by the entire New Mexico congressional delegation. Recognizing the support of the local delegation, the House companion bill, H.R. 1880, sponsored by Congresswoman LUJAN GRISHAM, was favorably reported by the Natural Resources Committee on September 30 of 2015.

I urge passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate bill S. 986 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to

convey approximately 11 acres of land to the United States to be held in trust for the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.

The land taken into trust shall be used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos.

Passage of this bill will finally complete the process started in 1969 when the United States began converting the Albuquerque Indian School Reserve into land under the jurisdiction and control of the 19 Pueblos.

I would like to thank our colleague, Ms. LUJAN GRISHAM, for introducing and championing the House version of the act and to Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for moving it swiftly through committee.

I would also like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Washington, for joining me tonight in managing this bill.

Just as Mr. NEWHOUSE stated, this legislation is supported by the entire New Mexico delegation. I urge its quick adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM), the sponsor of the House version of the bill.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SABLAN and Representative NEWHOUSE for their support. I also thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their help in bringing this legislation to the floor. Of course, I extend my gratitude to our Senator TOM UDALL for working with me on this important piece of legislation.

I am the proud sponsor of the House companion to the Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act, which, as you have heard, directs the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust four tracts of land for the New Mexico 19 Pueblos.

The land taken into the trust would be used for educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the New Mexico Pueblos. The four parcels are located within a former Federal Indian boarding school site called the 1884 Albuquerque Indian School Reserve in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1969, the United States started the long process of converting the Reserve into land under the jurisdiction and control of the New Mexico Pueblos. Since then, Congress has enacted legislation in 1978, 2001, and 2008 to convey additional land from the Reserve in trust for the New Mexico Pueblos.

Pursuant to the 2008 legislation, the Bureau of Land Management conducted a new survey of the former school properties and identified minor discrepancies in the previous trust deeds and,

also, identified the correct boundaries of two additional tracts of land within the Reserve that the Bureau of Indian Affairs no longer needed for its administrative functions.

This legislation addresses those technical discrepancies identified by BLM's survey, and it would complete the process of transferring BIA's portion of the Reserve to New Mexico's Pueblos.

This transfer allows the Pueblos to expand their current economic development plan for the region, which creates jobs, expands educational and cultural opportunities, while continuing to generate revenue for the New Mexico Pueblos.

I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial legislation, which, as you have heard, has the support of the entire New Mexico delegation and would benefit the New Mexico 19 Pueblos.

Mr. SABLAN. I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support S. 986.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 986.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEW ENGLAND FISHERMAN PRESERVATION ACT

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, heavy new fines the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is proposing could destroy New Hampshire's remaining fishermen who are carrying on a proud New England tradition.

That is why I recently introduced legislation to stop the Federal agency from shifting its funding responsibility to our struggling Granite State fishermen.

NOAA mandates that at-sea contractors monitor their daily catch, but will cease to pay for this government mandate in December, forcing fishermen to pick up the more than \$700 per day tab.

These small family businesses will be on the hook for thousands of dollars in new fees each month. That is a figure that would simply eradicate the industry in my home State.

This is not a partisan issue. The New England Fisherman Preservation Act simply asks the Federal agency to continue paying for a program it has funded for years rather than forcing hardworking, middle-class families to pay for it.

I am asking colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of this bill, so important to hardworking fishermen who put food on our tables so that they can continue with their task.

□ 1930

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am the proud mother of a United States Marine war veteran, and our family is blessed he returned home with sound body and mind, but too many of our courageous heroes did not.

October 5 marks the 1-year anniversary of the dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. It is a beautiful tribute to the brave men and women who suffered permanent injuries on the battlefield. This memorial sits just south of our Capitol, and it reminds us every day of the selflessness of those who fought for our freedom and returned home with the scars of duty.

I offer my great thanks and appreciation to the 4 million veterans who are living today with service-related disabilities and the friends and the family who take care of them. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial celebrates your lives every day, as we all do in our hearts and our minds.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE TOTI MENDEZ CARDIOPULMONARY DIAGNOSTIC SUITE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tragically short life of Ramiro "Toti" Mendez and to honor the dedication of the Toti Mendez Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Suite at Florida International University, my alma mater, in Miami.

Toti was an accomplished 20-year-old FIU student baseball player who passed away, sadly, on April 2, 2000, as a result of an undetected heart problem. Florida International University will celebrate the dedication of this important health resource on Monday, October 19. Parents of student athletes may now find the peace of mind that their sons or daughters are clear of any underlying heart issues before they ever hit the field.

Through the Toti Mendez Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Suite, Toti's legacy will continue to live on at FIU in support of other student athletes throughout south Florida, indeed, throughout our great State.

I congratulate Toti's mom and the entire family for helping keep his legacy alive and for saving so many student athletes' lives.

THE ROBOGALS ARE AN INSPIRATION TO YOUNG WOMEN

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the triumph of the RoboGals, a student robotics team from the 11th Congressional District of Illinois.

The RoboGals are Kaiya Hollister, a fifth grader at the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School, and Jencie Coonradt, a fourth grader at The Wheatlands Elementary School, both in Aurora, Illinois. They met at an after-school robotics club hosted by Chasewood Learning, an educational organization that uses Lego robots to teach students how to build and program their machines for competition.

After winning the regional competition at SciTech Hands On Museum in Aurora, Illinois, the RoboGals went on to win the national championship of the World Robotic Olympiad in Michigan. Now they advance to the world championship round in Qatar, taking on over 50 countries from all over the globe. I, together with all Americans, wish them the best of luck.

The RoboGals are an inspiration to young women across our country who are enthusiastic about science and engineering, and the 11th Congressional District is proud to have such bright young women representing our country on the global stage.

NUMBERS NEVER LIE—UNLESS THEY DO

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the numbers never lie—unless they do.

Each month we all react to the release of the employment report as the supposed indicator of economic health around our country. The most recent jobs numbers show an unemployment rate of 5.1 percent, but that headline number paints a picture that simply doesn't exist. It distorts the economic outlook and distracts this Chamber from working toward the creation of better jobs and more opportunities for millions of Americans.

Economists of all persuasions have criticized this method as overstating job market strength, noting that the Bureau of Labor Statistics only considers limited factors when reporting the unemployment rate and ignoring things like underemployment or the number of workers who have left the

labor force. What we are left with is a flawed view of labor market strength.

With that in mind, I have joined with colleagues in introducing the Labor Statistics Improvement Act, which would clear the way for changes in methodology that could help the unemployment rate more accurately reflect the strength of the labor market.

If the jobs report dictates how this Congress addresses real economic challenges, we can't afford to get it wrong.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERMA JOHNSON HADLEY

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated Fort Worth community leader, Erma Johnson Hadley, who passed away last week after a very long battle with cancer.

Mrs. Hadley was born in Leggett, Texas, where she graduated from high school in 1959 and became the first Black woman from Leggett to attend college. Mrs. Hadley attended Prairie View A&M University.

When she finished her career teaching in high school, she came to Tarrant County College, where she served in a variety of different roles, including vice chancellor, and was ultimately named the interim chancellor and chancellor in 2010 of the Tarrant County College system.

Chancellor Hadley was known for her passion for ensuring accessible and affordable education for students in Tarrant County. I will never forget Mrs. Erma Johnson Hadley telling me a story about how while all kids are not necessarily gifted equally, all kids that put their mind to it, if their parents work with them, can get a good education and make something of themselves.

Mrs. Hadley believed in each and every student that attended Tarrant County College, and I know that the campus and the students are going to continue to benefit from her legacy and her belief in them.

She is survived by her husband, Bill Hadley; Ardenia Johnson Gould, who is her daughter; and Spencer Gould, her son-in-law; and a grandchild.

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is a very difficult time for Americans as we mourn with our fellow citizens in Oregon. I offer my deepest sympathy to the congressional delegation here in the Congress, as we join them in their expression of deep sympathy to those who were injured and those who lost their lives, to the families of those individuals.

I spoke to a member of the United States military, and he indicated that in battle he had two guns. We understand that the perpetrator of this horrible act had at least 14 guns, or double-digit guns.

I have heard the refrain: "What else will have to happen before we address the question of gun regulation and gun safety?" Mr. Speaker, it is time now to ask the question of an extended waiting period so that someone would not amass 14, 15, 30 guns, more than the United States military, and a serious background check dealing with any issues that would impact a person's stability in having guns.

Yes, people do kill, not guns, but they use guns to kill. I have been through too many of these, Mr. Speaker, from Columbine to this incident. Every single one I have been through since being in the United States Congress. It is time for the Congress to act.

IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT AFFECT AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the attention of the House is drawn to many, many issues this week. Certainly, the tragedy in Oregon draws all of our attention, our sympathy, but unfortunately not our vote. We have never really had a vote here on the floor of the House to deal with this issue of gun safety; although, legislation has been passed around many, many times.

Even the most conservative columnists are now saying that we must take action, and we really should. So I will just start by saying to all of our colleagues: Let's vote, vote up or down on the various proposals that have been made.

Certainly the attention of this body is turned to who is going to be the next Speaker. It seems to occupy most of the discussion and most of the articles in the newspapers around this town. It is important, but there are many, many other issues that come before the House. Some of them are really going to affect America.

I want to talk about one of them today, and it is in the context of something we have been discussing here for the last 4 or 5 years. We call it Make It In America. It is about rebuilding the American manufacturing sector. It is about rebuilding the American middle class. It is about creating jobs in America by doing what we once did so very, very well, which is manufacturing. Make things: big things, little things, all kinds of things. We call it our Make It In America agenda.

I am going to go through it very quickly here and then focus on one piece of this agenda. Here it is: trade policies. This is going to take a lot of time to discuss this. We are not going to go into it today, but the President announced just in the last couple days that the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal is done.

Now, we don't know what is in it. We have—at least I have—great concerns about this and that it will be one more step in hollowing out the American manufacturing sector, but it is all secret. We don't know yet. We will find out soon enough, and we will undoubtedly come back and talk about trade.

Taxes and tax policies, I will hit on this in a few moments.

Labor issues, well, that ties back to the trade issue and whether we are going to send more of our jobs overseas.

Education, research, infrastructure, today I really want to focus on this energy and infrastructure. If you bear with me a few moments, I want to go into this in some detail.

For many, many years, we have tried to make America energy independent, and in the last 5 years, 6 years now, we have seen an enormous increase in the production of energy in the United States.

Now, a lot of that energy has come from green technologies—solar, wind, and biofuels—and many other ways of producing renewable energy called green energy. That is good because all of that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and we need to do more of it.

Frankly, we need tax policy.

Maybe I will put this back up again so I can point out the way in which the Make It In America agenda fits all of this.

Tax policy has a great deal to do with green energy. There are tax breaks for solar installation on your home, solar installation for businesses, the production tax credit for wind and solar. All of these things make it really possible to advance the green energy agenda.

Tax policy also has a great deal to do with the other part of our energy independence—we are not quite there, but we are making great advances on it—and that has to do with petroleum products: natural gas and crude oil.

There has been much talk about the Bakken revolution in Wyoming and North Dakota producing a lot of energy. We are talking about different techniques to extract oil, enhanced oil production, otherwise known as fracking. All of these things have led to an explosion—well, literally, in the case of the Bakken fuel because it is highly volatile, and it does explode when trains tip over.

But what we are talking about here is an explosion in the volume of oil and natural gas produced in America. We have literally doubled the production

of natural gas and oil over the last 5 to 6 years, bringing down the cost of fuel. Also, around the world, the slowdown of the Chinese economy and Europe have reduced the demand for oil, and we are seeing a reduced price of oil on the world market, even at a time when we are seeing more and more production of crude oil and natural gas here in the United States.

What does all this mean to the oil industry, to the petroleum industry? It means they have got a lot of oil, and the United States is not consuming all of it or as much as they would like to keep the prices up. So guess what they want to do. They want to export oil. Isn't that something?

□ 1945

How do we become energy-independent if we are exporting oil? Well, we have got a lot of interesting economic arguments about how that could be done. I am saying I don't think so.

I don't think it is in the interest of the United States to take a strategic national asset—natural gas, crude oil—and export it to China. It may be good for China. It certainly would be good for the energy industry, the petroleum industry. Wow, they have got a new market.

You see, right now there is a Federal ban on the export of crude oil to other countries, with the exception of Mexico and Canada. We swap crude oil back and forth. A little bit of crude oil is also shipped out of the United States from the North Slope of Alaska.

A very interesting law was established back in the seventies, when there was this energy crisis and there were long lines at the gasoline pumps. That law said: No. You cannot export crude oil.

And then later, in the 1990s, there was a little opening provided for Mexico and Canada and for Alaska North Slope oil. It could be shipped to other countries—exported—with this caveat: You cannot increase domestic oil prices.

I don't know that that was ever enforced. We certainly saw the gasoline prices zip to the top last year. Now it is coming back down, and that is good. It is bad that it went up, good that it is coming down.

But I don't think the Department of Energy or the Department of Commerce really enforced what was in the law about the export of crude oil from Alaska.

So we have got this strategic asset—natural gas and crude oil—that has allowed us to have a resurgence of American manufacturing. They are coming home. American manufacturers are coming home to make it in America.

Dow, a big chemical operation, is coming back to America because natural gas prices are low. Other companies are doing the same thing. Because the United States has a strategic advantage as a result of strategic assets:

oil and natural gas, together with green energy.

So what does the petroleum industry want to do? They want to ruin all of that. They want to take the strategic assets and ship them overseas.

This week the House of Representatives is going to take up a piece of legislation that opens the spigot for the export of crude oil. There is already an open spigot for the export of natural gas. I will come to that in a few moments.

So is this in the interest of the United States? Well, if you are in the oil patch—North Dakota, Texas, maybe even California—maybe it is good. Maybe you will be able to make a little more money.

But at the expense of who? America, American consumers at the pump, truckers, trains. All of those use diesel produced here in the United States from our refineries.

So good for the petroleum industry, but bad for America. We ought not do that. And if you would consider for a few moments that, should we ever allow the export of crude oil, we ought to put some serious caveats on that piece of legislation.

But just today the Rules Committee of this House decided no, no, no caveats. Just a bare bill. Open the spigot. Send the crude oil overseas. Don't worry about the price of fuel. Don't worry about the price of energy in the United States. Worry about the bottom line of the petroleum industry.

I say time out. Wait a minute. This is America. This is about the American economy. This is about men and women that go to the gas pump and buy gasoline, farmers out there having to buy diesel in order to plow their fields and harvest their crops, trains moving goods and services back across the United States, the airline industry.

This is not just about the petroleum industry. This is a big deal for America. If we take a strategic national asset and just allow it to go anywhere in the world so that it is to the benefit of a small, but important, slice of the American economy, we are making a big mistake.

So let me just put some caveats on this piece of legislation. Harken back to the Alaska situation back in 1995 where they opened the spigot. They put in a caveat that said: No. You can't do it if it results in an adverse effect on the price of transportation fuels and home heating fuels in the United States.

Does the legislation we have this week have any caveats on it? No. It doesn't have that one.

Let me give you another caveat. If we are going to ship a strategic national asset overseas, why don't we look at other strategic assets in the United States, shipbuilding?

The entire United States Navy is dependent on American shipyards for all

of their ships. Those shipyards no longer produce large, ocean-going commercial vessels. All of that has been off to China, off to Korea and Japan. All of those countries subsidize those shipyards. We don't do it in the United States.

But we can put caveats on the export of this crude oil and simply say, if we are going to export crude oil, caveat one, not at the expense of American consumers; two, not at the expense of American refiners and other strategic asset—the refinery of these petroleum products; and, three, ship it on American-built ships with American mariners.

Right now there are over 400,000 men and women working in the shipyards producing smaller ships for trade within the coastal zone of the United States and for the barges up and down the rivers and canals of the United States, but not building ocean-going tankers. What does it mean? Well, let me just give you an example.

It has been estimated that the maximum amount of oil that could be shipped is somewhere about 3.6 million barrels a day. That is at the top level. Hopefully, they will never get close to that because that is almost certain to raise prices. But let's say that they do.

For the largest tanker currently on the ocean today—these are the maximum tankers, too large to even go through the new Panama Canal and larger than the Panamax ships—it would take 180 ships to handle 3.6 million barrels of oil a day.

What if those ships were American-built ships? This isn't Saudi Arabian oil. This isn't Iraqi oil, Venezuelan oil. This is American oil. What if we require that that oil be shipped on American ships and suddenly, over the next decade or two, our shipyards were to build 180 supertankers or, if they are Panamax-size ships, 384 Panamax-size ships?

Think of the employment that would take place in the American shipyards and then through the entire supply train, all of the engines, all of the communications, all of the electronics, all of the pumps, all of the valves. We could see a resurgence in American manufacturing.

Who benefits from this? Americans benefit. Americans benefit in the shipyards and in the manufacturing facilities all across this Nation.

But, no, we are not going to do that here on the House floor. We are going to simply take a bill that opens the spigot and that gives the benefits to the oil patch, to the petroleum industry.

And I am not saying that is not good for them. There will certainly be jobs. There will be some construction jobs, and there will be oil rigs that will have to be built. That is good.

But think what we could do if we had a law that said: Okay. We are going to

ship, but we are going to protect the domestic price of refined products, we are going to protect the American refineries, we are going to build American ships, and we are going to put American mariners on those ships.

We are talking about tens of thousands, if not a hundred thousand, new jobs in the United States. That is a good thing for the middle class. That is a good thing for America.

We can do it by simply amending the oil export bill. But it is not going to happen. The majority here isn't going to allow that. They are simply going to pass a bill that opens the spigot.

It is a shame. Shame on all of us if we would allow that to happen. Shame on us if we do not protect the American consumer. Shame on us if we do not protect the American maritime industry, the shipyards of America, the American middle class.

Watch closely. It is going to happen. It is going to happen here on the House floor this week while all of the attention of America is looking at this Speakership thing.

Okay. That is where we are on one critical issue. I want to take up one more and then I will call it a night.

That is a new Amtrak locomotive for the Eastern Corridor, and it is 100 percent American-made. Why is it 100 percent American-made for the first time in decades—well, at least a decade and a half—and that the United States is once again producing locomotives?

By the way, that is made near my district, in Sacramento. It is about 4 or 5 miles from the edge of my district. Several hundred men and women are employed doing this.

Why did this happen? Because the Congress wrote policy that said your taxpayer dollars are going to be used not to buy a locomotive made in China or Japan or Europe, but to buy a locomotive made in America, made in America. Your tax dollars are being used to build locomotives in America.

It is part of a transportation policy, which is where I want to go now. Before I do, I guess I forgot this.

This is a liquefied natural gas tanker. I was just talking about crude oil and what could be done. This is another one. If we are going to export our natural gas—that strategic asset—it ought to be exported on American-made liquefied natural tankers.

A new facility is opening down in Texas to export liquefied natural gas. That facility will take 100 tankers for that one facility. Not to worry. Those tankers are going to be made in China, Japan, Korea. They are not going to be made in America.

But under 16 lines of law—all we need to do is write 16 lines of law—we would be manufacturing these tankers in the United States.

It is the same argument that I made about the crude oil tankers. I won't go into it in any more detail. This is one

of the great could-do's, should-do's, ought-to-do's for America.

So the export of these strategic national assets—natural gas, petroleum—why don't we build them in America? Why don't we make it in America?

I started to talk about the locomotives. October 29 is just about 23 days from today. The highway trust fund is out of money. Once again, we are on one of those cliffs—this time, a transportation cliff—and we have got to do something.

And so what are we going to do? The President proposed the GROW America Act. It provides money for our crumbling transportation system, the infrastructure structure.

There is a rail portion of it, locomotives, improving the rail system. There are buses, ports, bridges, and highways. It is a very, very good piece of legislation. It is \$476 billion over the next 6 years. It is a big deal.

□ 2000

It helps America come from number, I think, 18 in the infrastructure capability compared to other nations of the world.

China has, I don't know, 5,000, 3,000 miles of high-speed rail. The United States has zero. Chinese airports, Japanese airports. I think even Cuba is now in the process of building a new deep-water port to take the Panamax ships.

And what are we doing? Not much. The Grow America Act is totally stalled. It is not going anywhere right now.

But we have got 23 days. So what are we proposing? Are we proposing something that will increase the rail capacity in the United States, that will combine rail, ports, and highways into a system to provide for goods movement, freight movement, integrated? No, we are not going to do such a thing. Other countries do it. Hey, but this is America. We just like to fall behind.

So where are we with the Grow America Act? Well, some of us have introduced it. Some of us think we ought to do something like this, that we really ought to pay for our infrastructure.

Oh, by the way, this doesn't raise gas taxes. It doesn't raise diesel taxes, but it does require that those American corporations that have skipped out on their obligation to their home country to bring their profits back to the United States and be taxed.

So we maintain the existing excise tax on gasoline and fuel, and we pay for the rest of this by having American corporations pay their just due to this Nation by repatriating their foreign earnings hidden off somewhere in Ireland or some other tax havens, not taxed, even though they are American corporations.

Oh, and some of this stuff is just too good.

Apple, an American company, all of their manufacturing is overseas, and

most of their profits are overseas also because, even though it is invented here, even though the software, even though the new equipment is invented in California, it is licensed in Ireland, and the profits stay in Ireland and are taxed there at a very low percentage—not fair to America.

So those profits would come home from other companies as well, and it would fill this \$476 billion over 6 years.

I want to just go through some of this, and then we will wrap this up.

The Grow America Act would provide \$52 billion a year for highways. We are presently spending \$41 billion a year for highways, so we are looking at something \$11 billion more for highways. Maybe there won't be so many potholes. Maybe one out of four bridges in the United States will get repaired. Right now, they are deficient. They could fall down. They are insufficient in capacity. Maybe we could do that.

Now, the Senate has done a little better. The Senate has passed a highway bill that is \$46 billion a year, which is \$5 billion more than we are currently spending, and that is good. It is a 5-year program that is only paid for in 3 years.

Huh? How does that work? It doesn't, but it is a good start. But the Grow America Act, \$52 billion a year.

Anybody take buses in the United States? Anybody take BART in California, or the Metro system in Los Angeles, or here in Washington, the Metro, or the subways in Chicago, New York, Atlanta and so forth? That is called transit. We are presently spending about \$10 billion, \$10.6 billion a year on transit, supporting these transportation systems. The Senate bill adds about \$2 billion, so they go to \$12.5 billion.

The Grow America Act, let's get on with it. Let's build those systems. \$19 billion, without raising your fuel taxes.

But if you happen to be those American companies that have skipped out on their obligation to this Nation, they are going to wind up paying their fair share.

So we go from 10.6 for transit, \$10.6 billion annually for transit, to \$19 billion in the Grow America Act.

Remember, I put some of these trains up here? We presently spend \$1.4 billion on our rail system—not the transit. This is the heavy rail system. The Senate would go to \$2.2 billion, and the Grow America Act would go to \$4.7 billion.

Are we going to do this? Not likely. Not likely.

We have perfected a childhood game here in the House of Representatives and the Senate. In fact, your American Government has perfected this game. Something, when you didn't have a ball to kick around, you would kick a can around. It is called kick the can down the road. We have perfected that. I think we have done it more than 30

times to transportation over the last decade and a half.

We are highly likely to do it again, as the attention of America and the attention here amongst all of us is focused on the Speakership fights, which will culminate at the end of October when the Speaker retires and we will have a new vote. But in the intervening 23 days, are we going to focus on a transportation program for America or are we going to focus on the internal politics of the House of Representatives?

I will tell you where I would put my money. I would put my money on the House of Representatives worrying about the internal politics of who is going to be the next leader and not paying attention to what America wants us to do.

America wants us to pay attention to their needs, not to the internal politics of this place, but to the needs of America, American jobs for American workers.

Can we build ships? Oh, yeah, we can build ships.

Can we build liquefied natural gas tankers? You bet we can. We are already building ships that are fueled by liquefied natural gas. We are doing it in San Diego. We know how to do this. We would have to ramp up. We are not going to build 180 ships in 1 year, but we sure could over the next two decades.

But maybe we care more about the petroleum industry than we do about the American worker and the American sailor and the shipyards of America. I am afraid that is the way it is likely to be here.

I notice that I am joined here by an extraordinary woman from what used to be the manufacturing center of the United States, the Midwest, Ohio, to be quite clear.

MARCY KAPTUR, I have been going on for more than I probably should have in time but, boy, these are important issues. These are really important issues. Please join us.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR, I thank the gentleman from California for being an extraordinary leader on Make It In America and restoring prosperity to all corners of this country. The citizens of California really have sent an amazing Congressman to speak on behalf of the Nation and the importance of making items in America.

It is probably a tragedy, over the last three decades, that we have accumulated over \$9 trillion in trade deficit, which translates into lost wealth, lost income for America's families, and, ultimately, a budget deficit that we just can't get under control because people aren't earning enough. So much economic activity has been outsourced that there are many who have forgotten how much manufacturing actually matters.

So I agree with the gentleman. Make it in America, grow it in America, use the technology of America to transform farm field products into ethanol and biodiesel.

Let us use the sun. Let us invent our way forward to become energy independent because, at some point, not in our lifetime, but at some point over the next 100 years, the oil wells will run dry, and even the natural gas fields currently being discovered in Ohio and Pennsylvania, which are mother lode supplies with horizontal drilling, those are finite and they will be gone. So the world with many more people is going to have to figure out how to sustain life.

The gentleman has addressed many of these issues in terms of energy production, America's need to become energy secure, which would create prosperity here at home, and also all the investments of hard infrastructure on rail, on over-the-road, air transportation.

I have to add, obviously, our ports and, in my part of the country, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway so in need of infrastructure improvement, several billion dollars actually.

We are having a Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway meeting tomorrow morning, inviting in many of the business interests along the seaway and looking for ways in our transportation bill where we can make more investment in that region so it can sing fully economically again.

So I thank the gentleman for a moment here. And believe me, I unite with you in your efforts to make America fully strong again, and Make It In America can lead us down that path.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You have been a leader on these issues for many, many years and certainly in your territory of Ohio. You saw what happened when the manufacturing plants left; but they are coming back, and we can make policy to do that.

I think you may have other things that you would like to bring to our attention. You are certainly welcome to do so.

I think with that, it is time for me to say "enough," or maybe I have said too much already.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCSALLY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this evening, just before votes, I went outside on the balcony here of this Capitol to watch the sun set. It was one of those beautiful evenings of crimson and gold and gray

clouds silhouetted against the twilight glow of the evening. And then I glanced over to the buildings here at the Capitol and was suddenly brought back to reality when I saw so many flags on our buildings flying at half mast, flying at half mast because, once again, we are remembering the tragedies that have shaken our Nation time and time again.

This has been a bloody summer, a bloody summer of many attacks that have been associated with folks with mental illness.

I know most people with mental illness are not violent, and I know that there are many other tragedies that occur; but tonight, during this week, which is Mental Health Week in America, I want to highlight, Madam Speaker, what we must do as a nation, what we cannot continue to push aside.

Just think of what happened this summer, just a few examples:

June 13, attack on the Dallas Police headquarters by a man who had a history of family violence and mental instability;

July 23, Lafayette, Louisiana, a shooting in a movie theater by a man who had had a judge's orders to send him to a mental hospital in the past;

August 16, Antioch, Tennessee, a movie theater attack;

August 26, Roanoke, Virginia, a live, on-air shooting, a tragic scene of a reporter being killed, and a cameraman;

August 28, 2015, Houston, Texas, while a deputy police officer was at a gas station, riddled with bullets by a man who had a history of mental illness;

September 22, the son of a State senator, former State senator of Virginia, killed a man, and also killed himself in Bowling Green;

And this last week, October 1, in Roseburg, Oregon, nine people were killed, and the gunman killed himself in another tragic scene.

There is more to it than this, of course. In this country last year, 125 people with mental illness were killed in some sort of a police shooting where the police oftentimes did not even know, but the confrontation grew and ended in a death.

It is estimated there were somewhere between 1,200 and 1,500 murders in this country this last year by people with mental illness. But more than that, there are 10,000 or more, maybe 20,000, maybe 100,000 people with mental illness who are the victims of crime. Some are killed.

There are thousands and thousands of people who are homeless, who die that slow-motion death of homelessness, of their physical ailments and their illnesses.

There were 41,000 suicide deaths, 1.2 million suicide attempts that required some medical care, 43,000 substance abuse overdose deaths. This list goes on and on and on.

And what happens is, when we treat people with mental illness early in their life, their prognosis is improved. In many cases, they can go on to have fruitful lives. But when it is untreated, they likely develop other problems, not just with mental illness, but social, job, and physical health.

Persons with serious mental illness, in treatment, are 15 times less likely to engage in an act of violence than those who are not in treatment.

□ 2015

In America, some 60 million people in any given year will have some diagnosable mental illness, from the very mild and transient ones, which we all experience, to severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia or bipolar or extreme depression. But of those with serious mental illness, about 4 million of those 11 million will not have any treatment for a variety of reasons: treatment may not be available; they may refuse treatment; or what happens so often with those with serious mental illness, they are characteristically unaware that they have an illness—it is a brain illness, a serious mental illness—like a person with Alzheimer's or stroke or traumatic brain injury, a person who may not even know that they have a problem.

What do we do about this as a nation? Mostly we just talk. Sadly and tragically, what we do here in the House of Representatives, we will have a moment of silence, but it is not followed by action. What we need is not more silence. We need action.

Madam Speaker, we need people in this country to rise up and say: This is the time. This is the day. This is the issue where we are, once and for all, going to do comprehensive reform of our mental health system in America.

Our mental health system in America is fragmented at best, a system with regulations that are abusive and neglectful towards those with serious mental illness. And more so, it is worse if you are a minority or low-income.

This is odd because in a field that is filled with some of the most compassionate and caring people I know, people I have had the pleasure to work side by side with in my role as a psychologist, we have Federal policies and State policies that leave their hands tied, their eyes blinded, and their mouths gagged to prevent treatment from occurring. Ultimately, the individuals suffer and their families suffer.

Tonight we will review what the problem is and what can be done systematically, thoroughly, and definitively, what this country must do if we are serious about treating mental illness.

One of my colleagues from the Toledo area, who represents northern Ohio, is with us now. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank you, Congressman MURPHY, for yielding to me. I

want to say how fortunate the country is that the people of Pennsylvania have elected you here to serve the people of our Nation with the strong background that you have and with the obvious depths of knowledge that you have about those who are mentally ill and the compassion you have in a field that is very difficult, where the answers still remain incomplete.

I want to be on the floor this evening to say to those who are listening in the Chamber, to those who may be listening outside, your efforts to draft the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646, is a watershed moment in this Congress.

I have served in this Congress a lot longer than the others on the floor this evening. I was here in 1998 when, sadly, we lost two of our Capitol Police officers, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. A diagnosed schizophrenic receiving Federal SSI benefits but off his medicines and estranged from his family headed on a rampage all across the country, all the way from the West to here, and delusionally, he set out to quash, I guess, a purple force he had tracked here to the Capitol.

He broke into the majority leader's office. All the staff went under the desks. I thought, well, maybe this is the moment that Congress will finally face up to the violent impulses that have fallen right at our knees. I said, but I would wager one of two things will happen: either we will finally cut the mustard and do what is right, or we will have more barricades and armed officers. Well, it was the latter option that actually happened.

As we mourn the deaths of nine innocent victims at Umpqua Community College, I commend Congressman MURPHY of Pennsylvania for putting a bill forward that forces us to probe deeply the pattern of these mass shootings. We need to know the perpetrators.

We understand the perpetrator in Oregon had served in the U.S. military for a very brief time. He was discharged. And my question to the U.S. military is: Why? Why was he discharged? Did you discharge him to care if you saw a pattern that needed treatment? Or did you close your eyes too? Because that has happened repeatedly in the U.S. military, though I must say that they are doing a little bit better, because some of their own members have now been killed around the country because of individuals who face very severe illnesses in their own lives and have simply never had the kind of doctor to help them come out of the dark shadows of the existence in which they have been living.

Many of these individuals have been abandoned by their families. Many times they are expelled from school.

As you look around the country and you see the people who commit these heinous, heinous crimes and then many times take their own life, they are

completely alone or they are living with one member of their family, abandoned by their other family members and, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania has said, many times ending up homeless, the victims of attacks themselves, or many times, out of whatever is happening in a very ill brain, taking it out on the rest of society.

Probing deeply into mental illness requires a discipline that Congressman MURPHY has and an understanding that no Congress yet has had. That myopia is symptomatic of what is happening across our Nation: more security but no significant attention to those who show out-of-control and violent tendencies, those tragically mentally ill citizens who are driven by their illness to harm others.

If someone has a broken back, we have special wards. What happens to the mentally ill in the district that I represent and across this country, some of them end up in the jail. Seventy-five percent of those incarcerated in northern Ohio have dual diagnoses of mental illness and substance abuse. What does that tell us? Our jails have become the depositories for this Nation's mentally ill.

I am not saying that individuals diagnosed with mental illness are more likely to commit crimes. I agree with Congressman MURPHY that most of them become victims of crimes because they aren't thinking straight, and it doesn't have to be this way.

The bill that Congressman MURPHY has written and has vetted and has worked with different groups and individuals, and which I support and a host of other Members do on a bipartisan basis, is supported by one of the most important organizations in our country: the National Alliance on Mental Illness. I have the highest respect for them.

H.R. 2646 fixes the Nation's broken mental health system by refocusing programs, reforming grants, and removing Federal barriers to care. It names an assistant secretary for mental illness at the Department of Health and Human Services, and it encourages more meaningful involvement from family members and caregivers who, frankly, at this point, many times, just give up because they have this force within their homes that they cannot contain.

Rather than just paying tribute to those among us who have been lost and those who save them at risk to their own lives, cannot we elevate the solution to efforts that could help to prevent further tragedies?

We think about the Capitol shootings. We think about Sandy Hook. We think about Virginia Polytechnic. The U.S. leads the world in mass shootings. There have been 294 mass shootings in 2015 alone, and each one gives us an indicator of the possible sign of untreated mental illness. Each one rep-

resents a failure of our society, and dispelling the stigma of mental illness for those who suffer remains a task unfinished.

When do the elected Representatives of the American people say, "Enough. America can do better. America must do better"? Let's create a pathway, by passing H.R. 2646, to immediate treatment for those mentally ill citizens dangerous to others and dangerous to themselves.

Congressman MURPHY, I can't thank you enough. I don't recall a bill which has had such broad bipartisan support. You have worked so hard to go around the country. This is not a partisan issue; this is an American issue. I hope America can lead the world in trying to find a better way.

The suffering that we see in our districts, in community after community after community, broken families, broken people, this doesn't have to be in our country.

In the hearing that you conducted in Cleveland, I learned something really important that I didn't know, and that is that in the way that the reimbursement occurs to hospitals for people seeking care, that research in mental illness is at the bottom of the list because reimbursement doesn't flow the same way. So as we try to find answers to what is going on in the human brain, with the secretion of such chemicals like dopamine and serotonin and these different chemicals that those who are healthy have being secreted at a normal level, those who do not have that system working for them have big problems; but yet, if doctors try to get research dollars to solve and figure out what is going on in the human brain, the reimbursement system we have today simply doesn't work. I didn't know that.

So I thank you for coming to Ohio because I am focused on that like a laser beam, and it is a part of the answer. So thank you for allowing me some time tonight on the floor. The people I represent thank you. We want to help you. I hope those listening will find cosponsors from their different parts of the country to help you move this bill forward. We couldn't do anything more important for the country. Thank you.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a cosponsor of this bill.

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Thank you to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

I, too, want to thank him for his tireless work on this effort. This is such an important piece of legislation in dealing with mental health and putting necessary reforms in place. The gentleman has truly been an absolute champion on this issue, and H.R. 2646 is

such a meaningful piece of legislation that will help in so many different ways.

Mental health in this country is a crisis and it is an epidemic, and there are so many families across this country that are dealing with this issue.

The gentleman came to my district a little over a year ago, and we had a wonderful roundtable discussion. There were so many individuals who came to it, so many family members who came to it to speak on this issue. They were so appreciative of the fact that there was actually some legislation that was being developed to deal with this issue. These are families that have nowhere else to go.

In my experience as a nurse, in health care, but then also as my experience has gone forward in taking care of those in my district and then traveling across the country and meeting with families and talking with individuals about how much this affects their lives, and it is almost amazing when you start having the conversation about this piece of legislation because I don't even think they think that anybody wants to help them anymore. I think they feel so far and left behind that it isn't even in their mind that someone is out there looking for an answer and helping in a way that will be meaningful into the future.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania has done extensive work with so many groups, so many patient advocacy groups. His own personal knowledge as a child psychologist has played into this issue. There are certain barriers that are in place, and they are in place because we have put them there. Well-meaning, well-intended HIPAA laws, all of these things that have been put in place to help protect patients and their privacy and their issues, yet it prevents us from being able to understand the situation. It prevents families from being able to get care for their loved ones.

Maybe an adult child of parents who are struggling to help their child, their son, their daughter. They may be out on the streets; they may be at home; they may have issues; they may not be working. I mean, there are so many different things that can be happening, and they know that that individual needs help, and they have no one to go to.

□ 2030

Madam Speaker, this legislation will change much of that. It is a step in the right direction. There is much more that needs to be done. We were just talking a moment ago about our jails, our prisons, and how many of those who are within those walls and behind those bars literally are there because they have mental health issues. Yes, they may have committed a crime; yes, they may have found themselves in a terrible situation and ended up in jail,

possibly even drug abuse; but the bottom line is the mental health issue that lies there.

We are talking even about issues of fiscal responsibility in this country, and I think of how much money we will save and how much of a difference it will make if we deal with this issue in the way that it needs to be dealt with.

So, Madam Speaker, I am a cosponsor of this legislation. This is an incredibly important piece of legislation. It is bipartisan, and it is for every American in this country, every American in this country that is dealing with this issue with a loved one or with a friend. We all have them. We all walk down the streets and see individuals who we know are homeless, and we know that the root cause is mental illness. We can change something in this country. This is one change we need to make. We need to come together as a whole House of Representatives to pass this piece of legislation.

Again, I just want to finish by thanking the gentleman from Pennsylvania one more time for his tireless efforts. You have truly been the champion for every mental health issue, and this piece of legislation passed by the House of Representatives will be a monumental step in the direction of mental health reform.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlewoman for her comments and for her continued pursuit of making sure we pass this.

This bill was first introduced over a year ago, reworked with a lot of bipartisan input, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, and also from many, many organizations. The other day, some 23 organizations delivered a letter to some Members of Congress saying they want to see comprehensive mental health reform.

This is the first and the most comprehensive mental health reform our country has seen. The last time some efforts were made, it was the very last bill that President Kennedy signed before he was assassinated to begin to make some change in our country to move away from the asylums and towards community mental health. Unfortunately, that dream only came partially true because what happened is we closed those asylums.

Back in the 1950s, we had 550,000 psychiatric hospital beds in this country. At that time the population of the country was 150 million. Now the population of the country is over 316 million, 320 million, and we only have 40,000 psych beds.

Now, Madam Speaker, some of that is because we have come up with more effective treatments, better ways of identifying and diagnosing people, better medications, and, quite frankly, those asylums of yesteryear needed to close. Many times they were homes of abuse and given nicknames like snake pits, cuckoo's nests, and other derogatory

terms because they were so bad. But then along came community medical health centers, and that was supposed to pick up the slack. As States found that they could close these asylums, they looked and saw that they could save some money, and they didn't put the money into mental health services, nor did the Federal Government. What happened instead was the people traded the hospital bed for the jail cell, for the homeless shelter, and for the morgue. That is where we are today.

Now, it is not for lack of trying because, indeed, the Federal Government has spent a lot of money—some \$100-plus billion a year—on this, mostly through disability payments, but some for Federal programs.

Madam Speaker, what I want to do tonight is now talk about 10 things we can do as a nation to deal with this, 10 things we must do.

First of all, the General Accounting Office report that we commissioned from the Energy and Commerce Committee, we said: Tell us what programs there are in the Federal Government that deal with mental health and, more specifically, serious mental illness.

I was amazed to hear how many there were, 112 agencies scattered across eight departments. It is a dysfunctional and uncoordinated system. It is a system that really does not have central control. It is a system that has not even met among these agencies for years, even though one of the agencies, SAMHSA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is supposed to be the lead agency to say get together and meet. They hadn't even met since 2009.

By the way, when we had a hearing on this in the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, they said: Oh, we will start doing that soon. But this report that came out that excoriated the Federal programs said that they are not only uncoordinated, but nobody even checks to see if what they do works. They are programs with the Department of Defense; Veterans' Affairs; Education, Health and Human Services; HUD. The list goes on and on. I think there are 20-plus programs for homelessness. There was redundancy and there was overlap, but it is not coordinated. We make it the most difficult for those who have the most difficulty.

So here is number one of what we want to do. We want to have the office of the assistant secretary for mental health and substance abuse created—a new office, but not new money. We do not need any money for this. We take the current office of SAMHSA and elevate that title of the person who runs that agency to the level of an assistant secretary. That person's job will be to create an annual report to Congress to tell us the state of the States, tell us how they spend their money that they get from the Federal level, tell us what

are the best practices out there that can serve as models for other States, collect that data.

Right now what we do get is data on numbers of suicides. We get some homicide data, but we really don't get that much on homeless data. We have so-so quality of data for substance abuse, what happens there. But for the most part, no one asks about these agencies and coordinates them. This person's job is to do this. More so, this person is going to have to be a mental health provider, someone who understands the field. The last Director of SAMHSA was an attorney, perhaps well-intended, but did not understand the field. Just like you would not appoint someone to head the Joint Chiefs of Staff to run the Army who is not a general or the Navy who is not an admiral, you need someone to run this who knows what they are doing.

In addition to coordinating these agencies, what they would do is give a report to Congress of which ones can be eliminated because they are redundant, merge the money together, make more money available, and send more money out to communities. Let Congress then act to revamp these multiple organizations to do what is most effective to get funding back to the communities and to the people where it is needed, not to stay in Washington, D.C.

I think President Reagan talked about perhaps some proof of eternity is a Federal program. What we don't want to have here is the continuation of programs that exist just for the sake of employment. Programs should exist for the sake of doing the right thing for people out there, and right now, we have a failure.

The second item is to drive evidence-based care. Another General Accounting Office report which came out talked about some of the abysmal conditions here. They were saying that agencies had difficulty identifying programs supporting individuals with serious mental illness because they didn't always track whether or not such individuals were among those served by the program.

Again, SAMHSA in the past—which is supposed to lead these organizations—doesn't really track to say: What are the evidence-based programs you are doing? When we had a hearing on these issues, SAMHSA told me afterwards they would change nothing. They do list some evidence-based programs, but the evidence base is oftentimes people who do programs and say: Take my word for it, it works.

If it works, why do we have millions of people with mental illness? Why do we have 4 million people not getting any care at all? Why do we continue to fill our jails, homeless shelters, and morgues with people with mental illness? There are some excellent programs out there, quite frankly, but there are also many that need to be changed.

As part of this process, it was stated in the GAO report that many of the programs hadn't completed their evaluations, many had no evaluations, some were underway, and 17 programs had no evaluation completed and none planned. So the government was not even looking to see if what they were doing had any value. We are going to change that, Madam Speaker. We are going to make sure the programs that are out there have evidence-based care.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network is an excellent program that does a great job. Another program is called RAISE, Response After Initial Schizophrenia Episode. It does a great job because they work in terms of getting care early in someone's life when they first show symptoms. It is called the prodromal stage. When you get to someone early, you improve their prognosis. But a lot of these other programs—and I will highlight some of the sloppy and irrational programs we have out here tonight—can make a difference if they are done the right way.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that with regard to serious mental illness, about 50 percent of those with serious mental illness, it will emerge by age 14, and about 75 percent of the cases by age 24. Every time a person has what the public popularly knows as a breakdown, or we refer to it as a psychological or psychiatric crisis, there is harm that occurs to the person, psychological harm and neurological harm, because it is a brain disease. So it is important to get to people early on. That is why we want evidence-based care that really and truly does that and not programs that are fluff. We want them to have outcome measures and determine them.

By the way, Madam Speaker, just the opposite of that, some of the things that SAMHSA has funded in the past have also been programs specifically geared toward telling people to stop taking their medication. When people have anxiety, they have plans in telling you how to drink a fruit smoothie. None of those are evidence-based care, and none of those treat people with serious mental illness.

Number three, go to the mental health workforce. We have a serious, serious shortage here of providers. Even if you wanted to get care, you can't get care in many counties. I think perhaps one-fourth or one-third of counties in Oregon do not even have a psychiatrist in them. Many do not have a clinical psychologist or clinical social workers or peer support teams with the adequacy to meet the need. It is the same across the Nation.

What happens here is there are about 9,000 child psychiatrists in this country. We need 30,000, precisely for the reason I said before, that these problems emerge during those adolescent and young adult years. If you don't have the right qualified people, you

can't treat them. Similarly, clinical psychologists, counseling psychologists, clinical social workers, and peer support teams specifically trained and available to be out there, we have massive shortages.

Part of the job of the assistant secretary is going to be to identify what do we need in communities and how do we get them. Our bill authorizes, for the first time, minorities to work with fellowships.

We also authorize people to be volunteers at community health centers. This is one of the bizarre things that only the Federal Government can do. If you want to work at a community health center, you can work, and your medical malpractice insurance is covered. If you want to volunteer, it is not there.

Now, think about this. If there are some well-intended and compassionate—as I know many are—mental health providers who want to volunteer maybe an afternoon a week, give of their time to help, they are not allowed to do it because the center can't afford their malpractice insurance because they would have to pay the regular rate as opposed to a Federal plan rate. Our bill also authorizes that they can volunteer.

We also authorize programs with telemedicine so that when a pediatrician or a family member identifies someone in need of care, they can access them immediately if need be, especially in rural areas and faraway areas where there is not enough support there.

The next one is the shortage of mental health beds. I had mentioned earlier this grave shortage where we had 550,000 beds in the 1950s; we have 40,000 today. It is a serious crisis-level shortage in every community.

During one of our hearings, Senator Creigh Deeds, a State senator in Virginia, testified. Many are familiar with his story. He was a former gubernatorial candidate in Virginia, and he took his son, Gus, with him oftentimes campaigning around the State of Virginia.

Gus played a musical instrument, and they enjoyed their time together; but sadly, Gus deteriorated. When his father, who raised him, fed him, and clothed him, took him to a hospital for care, the hospital said: We don't have any psych beds.

As they made calls and tried to find more in Virginia, they couldn't find any. Young Gus was sent home with his father. They wouldn't provide many details, but they sent Gus home. Gus took a knife and attacked his father, nearly killing him. Creigh escaped, and Gus then killed himself, all because of a lack of beds.

Madam Speaker, there was a story last week in *The Washington Post* about another Virginia man, a 24-year-old man who was arrested for \$5 worth

of shoplifting at a 7-Eleven in Virginia. He was taken to jail for shoplifting. But upon recognizing that he had a serious mental illness, they wanted to get him to a hospital. Again, there weren't beds available. So he stayed in that jail, I believe, over 70 days, often naked, covered in his own feces, refusing to eat, and losing 40 pounds. Ultimately, he died for lack of a bed.

Now, that is not the only problem that is out there. Understand that we don't want to bring back those asylums, but when a person is in that crisis mode, it is not appropriate to bring them to a jail.

□ 2045

It is not appropriate to leave them in an emergency room for hours or days or weeks sometimes waiting for a hospital bed to open up, and it certainly is inappropriate to discharge someone without any wraparound services or care.

But what happens is, when you have a bed shortage, you cannot get care for crisis by qualified persons. We don't have the providers. We don't have the places.

It is important for someone to have a clean and calm and caring environment separate from other environmental stresses and problems so you can work with them and stabilize them, perhaps get them on medication, help them relax, help organize things for home care or outpatient care for them. Sometimes that takes a few days. Sometimes that takes a couple weeks. But the idea is you need a place for them.

Without beds, oftentimes a staff simply cannot do a thorough evaluation and they sometimes then will simply make an uninformed and premature release of the individual, of the consumer, saying, "Well, he doesn't seem that bad. We will send him home," not really understanding whether or not that person is a threat to themselves or someone else.

Understand this, that even with the brain diseases of schizophrenia and bipolar, when questioned, someone could be in a position where, when asked if they are going to harm themselves or someone else, they would say, "No. I am fine. Really, it is okay. It was just a disagreement I had." They can keep it together for a little bit.

And if a staff is already saying: Look, we don't have hospital beds. Let's send him home," they will be sent home without really knowing the seriousness of their illness or providing full services.

Further, if you want to evaluate if someone is a threat to harm themselves or someone else or in imminent danger of that, many times the doctors and the courts are reluctant to go through that process. Many times they are looking for another out.

And many times—like in Pennsylvania, it is called a 302 procedure—they

will bypass that or they will say to the patient, "Can you just voluntarily commit yourself or promise you will be okay and you will go out and get care?"

I want to add this because it is very important while the President and other people are talking about access to guns and talking about background checks. You can't do a background check if you don't have a background record—you can't do a background check if you don't have a background record—and if there is no place to help people when they are in crisis.

And if doctors and judges are not going to have someone involuntarily committed, there is no record. There is nothing that can appear on the national list to prevent a person from purchasing a firearm.

There was no time spent in a hospital where staff can truly evaluate are these delusions and hallucinations which can be controlled with medication, will the person be stabilized, are they a risk threat. You can't do that. We need more beds, and our bill says there will be more.

This is one of those areas of incredible prejudices and bigotry. You see, Medicaid has this rule that, if you are between the ages of 21 and 64, you cannot go into a private hospital that has more than 16 beds. Now, think about that.

If you have money, you can go in a hospital. If you are low income, you are out of luck. You are on the street. It is a different standard that is grossly unfair and incredibly prejudicial. And again I go to this point, that those who are minorities or low income are treated the worst.

A person is ten times more likely to be treated in a jail cell than in a hospital if they are seriously mentally ill—ten times more likely. And, yet, that treatment in a jail cell is not appropriate at all.

It is not treatment. Oftentimes they are put in isolation. They may get in a fight with a guard. What started off as a small charge may end up as a felony assault charge.

A person with serious mental illness oftentimes for the same crime will spend four times the amount in jail as a person who is not mentally ill. And all along, if we had the proper place to treat them, we could have done that.

Our bill lifts this 16-bed cap, this ridiculously absurd 16-bed cap, and says, instead, we would like to have an average length of stay of less than 30 days. That can be achieved. In about 98 percent of cases, it can be achieved.

And, by the way, it is far less expensive to have someone in a psychiatric hospital bed than an emergency room by about four times. Some studies have gone as high as saying it is about 20 times less expensive to have them in outpatient care than in a jail cell.

We would save a lot more money if we fixed this crisis shortage, worked on

other outpatient care to transition people out, and wrap them around with the necessary services so they could go out more stable.

Point number five: We eliminate the same day doctor barrier, another one of those ridiculously prejudicial rules out there that Medicaid has that harms those of low income.

I mentioned a number of times that the prodromal stages of adolescents and young adulthood is when serious mental illness begins to emerge, those first symptoms that sometimes someone may think is a little bit strange, there is something different about this person. Perhaps their grades are dropping. Perhaps they are not taking care of themselves the way they used to. Perhaps they are withdrawing from relationships and friends.

Those could be early signs of a bigger problem. But it takes, between first symptoms and first professional treatment, on average, 110 weeks, over 2 years, of waiting time between first symptoms, in part, because people are not aware of what to look for in the symptoms, but, in part, because they are not connected with other providers here and, even when they are, they are not allowed to do anything.

The same day doctor rule is a Medicaid rule which says you can't see two doctors in the same day at the same location.

So here is the problem. If a pediatrician says to a mother or father, "We are very concerned about your teenage son"—who is in the later years, 17 or so—"I would like him to see a psychiatrist right away because I am very concerned about the behaviors you are describing to me" and then, when that doctor realizes that that person is on Medicaid, basically, Medicaid says, "We are not paying for it," how cruel and abusive is that, to say to someone, "Just because you have low income we are not going to cover the services here" when this is a critical time?

When you have that warm hand-off in the doctor's office, there is a 95 percent likelihood that the person will follow up, according to a study by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

When you wait and you say, "Here is the number. Call it another day," that likelihood drops below 45 percent.

And when you miss that golden opportunity to help a person in times of need, that person may be very reluctant to come back for care in the future. We fix this by saying we are going to drop that same day doctor rule.

Number six: We have to empower parents and caregivers to be part of the solution. Twenty years ago HIPAA laws came out that said, "In order to help your insurance be portable, we want to protect the records." Good idea. "We wanted to make sure records had privacy." Good idea.

But HIPAA moved from the place where we are supposed to assist care

and confidentiality to the point where it impairs care. It has gone too far. Let me give you a couple of examples.

Right now a doctor—and I am a psychologist. If I know a family member brings someone in to see me, I can listen to them in a very passive mode, but I can't provide them any information. That is helpful. They are giving me vital information for history.

If I don't have the accurate history, a provider does not have accurate history, you can't accurately diagnose. You don't know if the person has been on medication before, does it work or not work, who has this person seen before, what sets them off, are they doing better, what are their symptoms.

If I don't have or a provider does not have that information, they may miss making the accurate diagnosis and then not be able to provide proper treatment and follow-up. When that occurs, harm can follow.

Now, if I get the information, great. But what happens if that family member is not there? The provider can't go out and seek other family members and friends to get that information because HIPAA laws are seen as barriers to that.

Because as soon as a doctor at a hospital calls and says, "Your adult son is in the hospital. I need to ask you some information about it," that doctor has already violated HIPAA laws by identifying the person's son is in a hospital.

Now, think about this, though. A parent, the person who was caring and loving throughout a lifetime, committed to their family member, a brother, a sister, someone's mother or father, they are prohibited from being part of the care team by HIPAA laws.

A stranger, some appointed worker, someone who may see them as they roll in and out of their job, even if they care and they burn out, they will be maybe sitting next to a family member in court and simply say, "I can't tell you anything about this family member. You will have to find out for yourself."

Here is another problem, though. Not only are you impaired from getting diagnostic information, you can't evaluate medications. But understand that people with serious mental illness are often at high risk for other medical problems, in part, because their hygiene may be poor, they may not take care of themselves, may not see doctors, et cetera.

But they also are in a situation where they may take some medications that make them high risk for diabetes or heart disease. And without getting a family member to help them with that, they do not have the ability to properly treat them.

My goal in this bill is to simply say that, in cases where someone has diminished capacity to take care of themselves where, in absence of treatment, they become gravely disabled, a

provider may tell a known caregiver—so notice I have already set the bar pretty high—may tell a known caregiver a few simple facts: the diagnosis, the treatment plan, the treating doctors, time and place of appointment, and what are the medications they are on. No therapy notes are allowed to be exchanged. We specifically prohibit that in this bill. But that is important.

And, by the way, I might add one other thing. As I hear a lot of people talking about the concerns of why didn't a parent do anything, why didn't they know anything in some cases, like the young man at Virginia Tech who killed so many students or the gentlemen in Oregon or at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, it is because providers cannot do a risk assessment.

They cannot contact a family member and say, "Can you tell me if this person has any morbid fantasy and fascination with death, with extremely violent video games, with dark Web sites? Do they have weapons that are unsecured? Do they talk about violent issues? Have they made threats before?" You can't do that risk assessment. Without that, you end up not knowing the risk.

Number seven: States receive money for mental health services and substance abuse disorders. Those dollars are about \$500 million for mental health and about \$600 to \$700 million for substance abuse. The odd thing about this is States are not allowed to mingle that money. They can't braid it together.

Even worse is that many people with a substance abuse disorder have a mental illness and many people with mental illness will turn toward other substances to self-medicate. And, yet, the person will have to go to two different providers, two different clinics, to get care instead of one. We drop that barrier and say Federal grants should go to States in a way that help the States work this best.

Number eight: We want to bring accountability to the spending of Federal funds. Now, here is where we have seen in another GAO report the absolute absurdity and cruelty of how money is spent.

A GAO report done this last summer told us that many times documents and applications for many who receive grants were not reviewed. They couldn't tell you what the application criterion was to get an award. They didn't have program-specific guidance. Information was missing or not readily available. They didn't even know where it was stored. You couldn't follow the paper trail to see where it was. And so what happens is no one knows how this money was spent.

But let me tell you some of the absurd things we have found money is spent on, our tax dollars. How about this? A Web site last winter was posted

by SAMHSA for the people of Boston to help them with their worries about snow. That is right. They posted a 1-800 number you could call if you had snow anxiety. These are people from New England, for goodness sake. They know how to handle snow. But our tax dollars went to help them understand it.

There are Web sites that tell you to drink a fruit smoothie if you are anxious, programs that tell you how to make a mask, programs that we fund to how to make collages, a painting in SAMHSA's headquarters that cost \$22,500 of two people sitting on a rock surrounded by other people—\$22,000.

When we asked the director of SAMHSA what that was for, they said it is more mental health awareness. The only thing I am aware of is it is a waste of money and that money could have gone to help pay someone's salary to actually treat a patient.

Well, it gets worse. A Web site for 3-year-old children, the cost of \$426,000, with animated characters and sing-along songs. The purpose, we asked the director of SAMHSA, prevention. "Prevention of what?" we said. "Well, we think prevention is good." "Well, what does this prevent and what does it do and does it work and does it do anything?" We waited for weeks to get an answer and we still don't have it 1 month later. By the way, they took the Web site down when we shined a bright light on it, saying, "What does this do?"

We want accountability to this spending. There will be different grant programs now—demonstration grants, innovation grants—where people will know what these grants are. They can look at them as scientific studies in a blind review to make sure it is going to quality programs that really make sense. No more of this behavioral wellness stuff, but truly working at things that make a difference.

Number nine: Develop alternatives to institutionalization and have real jail diversion. I said already what happens to so many people with mental illness. They end up in jail. Forty to sixty percent of people in prison have a mental illness.

And what this does is it helps provide some extra funding for States that have wraparound services for those who have this history of violent incarcerations, arrests, mental illness.

□ 2100

New York has a program called Assisted Outpatient Treatment. Their program, which means a judge will say you need to stay in treatment at an outpatient level, has found they reduced incarcerations by 81 percent. They reduced homelessness by over 70 percent. They reduced admissions to emergency rooms by over 70 percent. They had patient satisfaction, consumer satisfaction at over 90 percent. And they cut costs in half.

States have different programs here. About 46 States have something on the books. But many of these States do not put these programs in practice because of the big cost. We know States will save a lot of money once they start doing this.

But what we want to do is take people out of this cycle, this revolving door of jail and risk and more damage, and say that States need to have programs where it wraps around services for that person. Don't just dump them from jail onto the streets and expect a problem because it will erupt again. Make sure those services are there. Make sure the person stays in treatment.

Now some say, well, that is unfair. Some say that might be an involuntary commitment, that it puts people there against their will and you impair their rights.

But I say this, that a person with serious mental illness 40 percent of the time is not even aware they have a problem and so many times they refuse treatment or their past run-ins with the police and other hospitals because they don't want to be there, they don't want to get treatment.

If we provide quality, compassionate, accessible care, they may get that, but not under the current system. We want to make sure they have that care, and we will provide the funding to do it.

Number 10, advance early intervention and prevention programs: A lot of what our government spends money on is what is called primary prevention, the things we do for everybody, like don't smoke, wear a seat belt.

But what happens is, in the area of mental illness, those wellness programs like I described before that are out there, the silly things that SAMHSA does, are not an effective use of dollars.

Secondary and tertiary prevention is valuable. Secondary is when you recognize someone is at risk, but not with symptoms. Tertiary is when they have symptoms and you try and help them get better.

By focusing money on the programs I mentioned before—the RAISE program or others, the Child and Adolescent Traumatic Stress Network—you can move the dollars where they need to be funded and stop this silliness.

Now, I should say this while I am talking about SAMHSA, that despite two GAO reports that criticize them—and one time afterwards I had the director of SAMHSA in my office and I said, “Okay. Here is your opportunity. Would you change anything?” And she said, “No. I wouldn't change a thing.”

Another time during one of our hearings one of my colleagues said, “On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself on your programs?” And the director said, “I would give myself a 10,” despite all these failures.

That is the reason why we need to have an assistant secretary of mental

health. That is the reason why we need to make these changes. This is the current reason why we have so many of these problems.

Before I wrap up here, I want to yield a couple of minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), who has also been involved in the field of wellness and is also a supporter of this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding and for leading on this incredibly important issue that is before us.

I rise in support of Congressman MURPHY's bill, H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015. You know this significant piece of legislation aims to address the fact that millions of Americans who suffer from a serious mental illness are going without treatment, as families and caregivers struggle to find support in a disorganized healthcare system.

I practiced rehabilitation services for 28 years before I had the privilege and honor in 2009 to come to work on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. Part of my career was working acute psychiatric services, working with people that were experiencing some of the most chronic and reoccurring disabling conditions that are out there.

Many times the system that we are in only really responded when people were in crisis, but it only responded to the point that the person was no longer a danger to themselves or someone else.

The system did not allow for the types of resources to be deployed and the care to be provided to really meet the needs of these individuals to stop the cycle.

It was really a privilege and honor to work with many different individuals and many different family members.

But I am so excited about this step that we are taking with this bill, and I really encourage leadership. This is a bill whose time is now. We need to elevate it to the House and to the Senate. This needs to be on the President's desk because we can make a difference in people's lives with this bill.

It is hard to deny the staggering consequences of neglecting our mental health system. Suicide rates are at the highest they have been in more than 25 years. Our nationwide shortage of psychiatric beds is nearly at 100,000. The three largest mental health hospitals in the United States are classified as criminal incarceration facilities, prisons.

I have taken the opportunity—I think it is important—to make visits to our prisons within the congressional district. I have done that. I have more of those visits coming up.

It is very apparent to me that, as we have closed in the past facilities that perhaps we could have improved upon

versus closing, all we did was shift people to the streets and from the streets to the prisons.

So many people today have a dual diagnosis, some type of psychiatric diagnosis, but also a substance abuse diagnosis, which tends to be a part of that spiral. And your heart breaks to see that.

If we want to reduce our prison population and the cost that it takes to maintain individuals, then this bill is a good step in that direction of breaking that cycle. I would argue that this bill will help have a cost savings over time, short term and certainly long term.

Congressman MURPHY has taken a compassionate and evidence-based approach to reforming the way the Federal Government addresses mental health.

H.R. 2646 breaks down barriers for families. It encourages innovative models of care. It advances early intervention and prevention programs.

Notably, it employs telepsychiatry to reach underserved and rural population areas where patients have difficulty accessing needed care. I know for a fact using telepsychiatry reduces the stigma of reaching out for help.

I authored a bill that has become law. It is called the STEP law, the Servicemember Telemedicine Electronic Portability Act, which we really did this for our military, our Active-Duty military Reserve and Guard.

We changed the law a few years back with a piece of legislation that has expanded telemedicine that is used by the Department of Defense, and it really has helped save lives. It has not been the only thing we have done, but it was a valuable part in the reduction of the suicide rate among our military.

So we know the many provisions within this bill are tested. They are proven. There are lives to be improved and lives to be saved. It recognizes the important role of the family, the caregiver.

Now, these are some of the most chronic and recurring conditions, and you need a strong support system. The way our system is today, it excludes those family members.

So there is just a lot to support here, and I am certainly proud to do it.

It is important that we make a commitment to address mental health with the same urgency as we do physical health.

I will remain steadfast in my support for H.R. 2646, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. In my closing minute, let me say this: As I opened up, this will be known as the bloody summer of 2015. Let this time be the autumn of our compassion in 2015.

The time is now. We have 40 newspapers around this country that have published endorsements for this legislation. We have 133 bipartisan cosponsors.

I plead with my colleagues to please become a cosponsor to this bill. I beg leadership. Let's no longer have a blind eye to this, let's no longer have a moment of silence, and let this be the time of our action.

Let's pass H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, and let's bring compassion and care to the many families in America who are suffering from mental illness and show them that that twilight, as the sun sets, is indicating that there soon will be a dawn of great hope in America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A SELECT INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Ms. FOXX (during the Special Order of Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-288) on the resolution (H. Res. 461) establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3192, HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 12, 2015, THROUGH OCTOBER 19, 2015

Ms. FOXX (during the Special Order of Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-289) on the resolution (H. Res. 462) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3192) to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from October 12, 2015, through October 19, 2015, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and October 7 on account of family reasons.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2835. An act to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on October 5, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1624. To amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 7, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3029. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31035; Amdt. No.: 3659] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3030. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0245; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-135-AD; Amendment 39-18268; AD 2015-19-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3031. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31034; Amdt. No.: 3658] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3032. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0676; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-164-AD; Amendment 39-18238; AD 2015-17-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3033. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Jet Route J-513; North Central United States [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3601; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3034. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0656; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-027-AD; Amendment 39-18259; AD 2015-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3035. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0583; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-130-AD; Amendment 39-18258; AD 2015-17-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3036. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1044; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-148-AD; Amendment 39-18245; AD 2015-17-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3037. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2047; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-013-AD; Amendment 39-18243; AD 2015-17-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3038. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3375; Amendment No.: 71-47] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3039. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1130; Directorate Identifier 2015-NE-04-AD; Amendment 39-18250; AD 2015-17-17] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3040. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0625; Directorate Identifier 2015-NE-09-AD; Amendment 39-18253; AD 2015-17-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3041. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshift Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0900; Directorate Identifier 2015-NE-12-AD; Amendment 39-18251; AD 2015-17-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3042. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0779; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-052-AD; Amendment 39-18260; AD 2015-18-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3043. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31036; Amdt. No.: 3660] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3044. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0242; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-100-AD; Amendment 39-18240; AD 2015-17-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3045. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31033; Amdt. No.: 3657] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3046. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1050; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-123-AD; Amendment 39-18241; AD 2015-17-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3047. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines

[Docket No.: FAA-2014-0363; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-08-AD; Amendment 39-18252; AD 2015-17-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3048. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class C Airspace; Burbank, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0690; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWA-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3049. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0680; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-165-AD; Amendment 39-18236; AD 2015-17-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3050. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0772; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-090-AD; Amendment 39-18233; AD 2015-16-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3051. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International S.A. Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0277; Directorate Identifier 2015-NE-05-AD; Amendment 39-18262; AD 2015-18-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3052. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Portland, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1137; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-4] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3053. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0823; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-211-AD; Amendment 39-18249; AD 2015-17-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3054. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Douglas, WY [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1089; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-11] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3055. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0777; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-088-AD; Amendment 39-18257; AD 2015-17-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3056. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Delta, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0343; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-10] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3057. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0085; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-078-AD; Amendment 39-18255; AD 2015-17-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3058. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0926; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-121-AD; Amendment 39-18263; AD 2015-18-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3059. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Iron Mountain, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1871; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-10] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3060. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Newberry, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1869; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-9] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3061. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0673; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-034-AD; Amendment 39-18244; AD 2015-17-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3062. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tracy, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1623; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWP-10] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3063. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tracy, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1623; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWP-10] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3064. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Aurora, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1070; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-9] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3065. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31039; Amdt. No.: 522] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3066. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0523; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-050-AD; Amendment 39-18246; AD 2015-17-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3067. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0455; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-006-AD; Amendment 39-18247; AD 2015-17-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3068. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0822; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-210-AD; Amendment 39-18248; AD 2015-17-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3069. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the final Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan integrated project implementation report and environmental impact statement, pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, Sec. 601; (H. Doc. No. 114-65); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

3070. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the report on modifications to Calcasieu Lock, inland navigation project, pursuant to the River and Harbor Act of 24 July 1946; (H. Doc. No. 114-66); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1525. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-279). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1553. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to specify which smaller institutions may qualify for an 18-month examination cycle (Rept. 114-280). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1839. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-281). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2091. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards (Rept. 114-282). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3102. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-283). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3510. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity strategy for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-284). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2295. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to identify and designate National Energy Security Corridors for the construction of natural gas pipelines on Federal land, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-285). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2288. A bill to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-286). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2358. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to enhance the reliability of the electricity grid and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands by facilitating vegetation management on such lands; with an amendment (Rept. 114-287, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 461. Resolution establishing a Se-

lect Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Rept. 114-288). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. STIVERS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 462. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3192) to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from October 12, 2015, through October 19, 2015 (Rept. 114-289). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2358 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 3684. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia: H.R. 3685. A bill to direct the United States Trade Representative to initiate negotiations with the Government of the Republic of Turkey to seek to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with Turkey; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 3686. A bill to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to make certain reports publicly available and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 3687. A bill to modify the prohibition on United States assistance and financing for certain exports to Cuba under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUELLAR: H.R. 3688. A bill to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 3689. A bill to establish a worker adjustment assistance program to provide assistance and job retraining for workers who have lost their jobs due to unplanned closures of coal and coal dependent industries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 3690. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 3691. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women and to establish a pilot program to provide grants to State substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for such women; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 3692. A bill to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3693. A bill to require a report on whether Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is a terrorist entity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TROTT (for himself and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 3694. A bill to combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 3695. A bill to simplify and improve the Federal student loan program through income-contingent repayment to provide stronger protections for borrowers, encourage responsible borrowing, and save money for taxpayers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H. Res. 463. A resolution recognizing October 7th as National Trigeminal Neuralgia

Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. McHENRY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H. Res. 464. A resolution affirming that private equity plays an important role in growing and strengthening United States businesses throughout all sectors of the economy and in every State and congressional district and that it has fostered significant investment in the United States economy; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 465. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the justices of the United States Supreme Court should make themselves subject to the existing and operative ethics guidelines set out in the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, or should promulgate their own code of conduct; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 3684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: “. . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 3685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states that “Congress shall have the power . . . [t]o regulate Commerce with foreign Nations . . .” and that

“Congress shall have the power . . . [t]o make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 3686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have Power

to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 3687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, to regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 3688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 3689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 3690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 3691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 3692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. TROTT:

H.R. 3694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 3695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. COLE, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. FOXX, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

- H.R. 167: Mr. DENHAM and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 174: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 192: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 213: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 228: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 302: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 403: Mr. LOEBSSACK.
H.R. 410: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 446: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 542: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 546: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 563: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 581: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 590: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 662: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 670: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 699: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 721: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 757: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 814: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 829: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 837: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 870: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 879: Mr. WALKER and Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 953: Mr. HANNA, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 957: Mr. ASHFORD.
H.R. 969: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 986: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 1055: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1093: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1107: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1148: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1188: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 1197: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1217: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SIREs, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. HAHN, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. FARR, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 1233: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1256: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1258: Ms. MENG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1283: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 1288: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 1309: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1312: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1401: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1422: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1427: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1453: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1475: Mr. FARR, Mr. BEYER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SIREs, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 1482: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
H.R. 1516: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1550: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1567: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1571: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1603: Mr. GARRETT and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 1608: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1625: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1632: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 1653: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1684: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1728: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1737: Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 1752: Mr. BLUM and Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1761: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1769: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1786: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. PITTENGER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1814: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 1843: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1850: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1854: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1877: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1919: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1934: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1941: Mr. MICA.
H.R. 1942: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. KATKO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2009: Ms. MCSALLY and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2013: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2050: Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2083: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 2090: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2293: Ms. MENG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. HURD of Texas.
H.R. 2304: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 2315: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2368: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2404: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 2405: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2406: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2460: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. REED, and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 2473: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2492: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2513: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 2519: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2540: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2568: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 2597: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2611: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2646: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 2661: Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2663: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2675: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 2698: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2710: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 2726: Mr. HONDA and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2728: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2737: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 2759: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 2799: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2802: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 2855: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 2858: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MENG, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 2869: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 2872: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2873: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2880: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2903: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 2906: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2916: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2917: Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2920: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2922: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 2948: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2957: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2962: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2965: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 2987: Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 3011: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 3018: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 3033: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 3081: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 3099: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 3119: Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 3193: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3221: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 3223: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 3255: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 3286: Mr. HURD of Texas.
H.R. 3293: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 3308: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3310: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3326: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BUCK, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 3337: Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3338: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 3381: Mr. HARPER and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3411: Mr. BEYER and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3412: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 3428: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3463: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 3471: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 3473: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 3477: Mr. COLE and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3480: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 3497: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 3510: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3514: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VELA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 3516: Mr. PERRY, Mr. BLUM, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3517: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 3519: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3549: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3573: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 3623: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 3626: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 3643: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 3644: Mr. POSEY and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3646: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 3651: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. BLUM, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FRANKS of Ari-

zona, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BRAT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VELA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MESSER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SIRES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 3665: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3666: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3678: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 56: Mr. POE of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 65: Ms. BASS, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TROTT, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 54: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 112: Mr. CICILLINE.

H. Res. 130: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 230: Mr. WALDEN.

H. Res. 354: Mr. PERRY.

H. Res. 396: Mr. TROTT.

H. Res. 422: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. FATTAH.

H. Res. 428: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H. Res. 429: Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELAURO, and Mrs. ROBY.

H. Res. 436: Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 437: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. FOSTER.

H. Res. 443: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H. Res. 445: Mr. MOULTON.

H. Res. 451: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JONES, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. POSEY.

H. Res. 452: Mr. NOLAN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SYDNEY HUGHES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sydney Hughes of Meeker, Colorado. She was recently awarded a National Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators Association student athlete scholarship for her excellence on and off the field.

The National Athletic Administrators Association awards scholarships to high school students based on their academic achievement and athletic accomplishments. Ms. Hughes was selected to the second team All-state girls' basketball team for the 2014–2015 season and was the only player from the Third Congressional District of Colorado to hold such honor in division 2A girls' basketball. She was also selected to the Western Slope Grand Mesa All-Conference teams in volleyball and track and field, all while maintaining a 4.2 Grade Point Average throughout her high school career.

Excellence in academics and athletics provides a wealth of life-long advantages, not least because they instill qualities of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork that are hallmarks of future success. Ms. Hughes embodies all of these qualities and knows that her resiliency and dedication in high school athletics and academics will continue through college and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent inspiring high school students like Ms. Hughes and I wish her nothing but the best as she continues through life's challenges. She is a terrific role model for her peers and represents the best that the Third District has to offer.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ASSIGNED TO LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of World War II's Italian Service Units, in particular, the 321st Quartermaster Battalion once assigned to Letterkenny Army Depot near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

During the summer of 1943, fierce fighting took place across North Africa and Sicily between Allied Forces and the Axis Powers. The U.S. and its allies captured approximately

275,000 prisoners of war and sent nearly 1,250 Italian soldiers to the Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania. A few months later, an armistice was signed with Italy and the one-time foes transformed into Italian Service Units culminating as the 321st Quartermaster Battalion.

With sworn allegiance to the United States, they spent the next seventeen months ordering, stocking and shipping critical military items to our men and women serving in the Pacific and European Theaters of war. The rugged labor and staunch commitment of the 321st Quartermaster Battalion were integral to the Allies' eventual defeat of the Axis Powers. Additionally, the men once held prisoner now helped to construct the depot itself, including a chapel and bell tower resplendent in Tuscan style.

As we mark the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, we also celebrate the repatriation of these distinctive soldiers and honor their contributions to both our home front and efforts abroad. They will forever remain entwined in our history and in our hearts.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metropolitan State University of Denver, or MSU Denver, on its 50th anniversary. The extraordinary faculty and staff at MSU Denver have had an incredible impact on the lives of students in my district and on the Denver community as a whole.

Since its founding in 1965, MSU Denver has been known as a gateway to opportunity. The University opens its doors to students from all walks of life and provides rigorous academic coursework relevant to the Colorado economy. The University formed out of an idea for a new, different type of college, dedicated to supporting hard-working, scrappy students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend an institution of higher education. As a sign of its future success, MSU Denver enrolled double the number of students than anticipated when it first opened its doors on October 1, 1965.

Today, MSU Denver is Colorado's urban land-grant university, offering individualized, relevant bachelor's and select master's degrees to more undergraduate Coloradans than any other four-year university in the state. It has served as a leader in diverse enrollment among Colorado's four-year universities with 35 percent students of color and 32 percent first-generation students this year. The University has been a leader in educating students

to think critically, solve problems, address community concerns, and meet Colorado's workforce needs. Most of the school's 85,000 alumni have stayed within our state and continue to contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of Colorado.

I am not the only one that has recognized the value of the education MSU Denver provides to its students. Recently, the Military Times named MSU Denver the best college in the state for veterans. Further, MSU Denver strives to keep tuition affordable while providing a quality education. It has consistently been recognized in numerous rankings and articles for its affordability, its return on investment, and its incredible value in education. We are truly fortunate to have such a valuable resource in the First Congressional District.

For the last five decades, Metropolitan State University of Denver has transformed the lives of countless students, served as a courageous leader in higher education, and boldly advanced the well-being of communities throughout the State of Colorado. I congratulate each and every member of the MSU Denver community on this 50th anniversary. I wish MSU Denver continued success and growth for many years to come.

HONORING TERRY BOSTON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF PJM INTERCONNECTION, LLC

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Terry Boston, President and CEO of PJM Interconnection, LLC headquartered in Audubon, Pennsylvania.

Since 2008, Terry Boston has attentively served his role as the CEO by leading his team—600 of which are located in my district—and oversees the largest power grid in North America. As a result of his leadership, 51 million residents across 14 states, and many in PA-06, have access to reliable, affordable, and high quality electricity.

Mr. Boston and his team truly keep the lights on for millions, and for that we are grateful.

Mr. Boston has served a notable career as the President of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, Inc., immediate past president of the GO 15, past chair of the North American Transmission Forum, and the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Further, Terry recently was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honors for an engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Boston on his distinguished career and wish him well in his retirement.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PAUL DEVROUAX

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul S. Devroux, New Orleans native and leading architect in Washington, DC. Mr. Devroux passed away on March 22, 2010, at the age of 67.

Mr. Devroux was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1942. He studied architecture at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he graduated in 1966. Mr. Devroux was drafted into the United States Army and was promoted to Sergeant in the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He first came to Washington, DC, after his unit was deployed in the wake of riots after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the decades that followed, Mr. Devroux returned to the nation's capital and helped rebuild the blighted city. He founded Devroux + Purnell, an African-American architectural firm. In 1986, Mr. Devroux designed Frank D. Reeves Municipal Building which initiated the revitalization of the historic U Street neighborhood.

Mr. Devroux was a trailblazer in the architectural field in Washington, DC. The Pepco Headquarters became the first building in downtown Washington designed by an African-American architectural firm. Mr. Devroux also worked on many of the city's recent landmarks, including the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Verizon Center, the Nationals Stadium, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. His passion for his profession and his community spurred him to mentor young architectural students.

Mr. Devroux's legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Stories like his will inspire generations of Americans to pursue their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Devroux, a beloved father, and example to aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMBERSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA NOONTIME LIONS CLUB FOR 90 YEARS
OF HISTORY AND SERVICE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club on the occasion of its 90th year of service to the Chambersburg community.

The Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club is one of the oldest of 46,000 Lions Club International chapters in operation today. Since the club was chartered in 1925, its members have included a diverse group of individuals united in their passion for community service. In that time, hundreds of men and women have lent

their time and talents to improve the quality of life throughout the Chambersburg area. The Noontime Lions Club continually invests in the organizations that have the greatest access to areas of high need in the community, with resources going to Meals on Wheels, Easter Seals, Little League, Girl Scouts, and more.

Although they tackle a breadth of community concerns, they focus the majority of their efforts on eyesight preservation projects. As such, the Noontime Lions Club frequently offers eye exams, assists in the purchase of eyeglasses, and maintains active partnerships with organizations such as Leader Dogs for the Blind and Beacon Lodge. As an example of their generosity, the Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club has previously assisted a local family by funding much needed surgery for their seeing-eye dog.

Though much has changed throughout Chambersburg in the past ninety years, the commitment of Noontime Lions Club has remained steadfast, serving the needs of the local community. I am grateful for their contributions throughout Pennsylvania's 9th district and would like to thank all who have helped the organization reach this momentous milestone of 90 consecutive years of service.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S 104TH
NATIONAL DAY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on October 10. As we approach the commemoration of Taiwan's 104th National Day, it is appropriate that we take stock of the incredible progress Taiwan has made in recent decades.

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and I am reminded that American servicemen stood side by side with servicemen from the Republic of China. From General Stilwell to the Flying Tigers, our two countries have a shared experience from that epic struggle, and today we share a commitment to democracy, rule of law, and human rights. Taiwan has consolidated its transition to a full-fledged representative democracy. Its success serves as an example of what can be built based on these principles, and that is why it is so important to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important ways the U.S. can show support for Taiwan is to protect Taiwan's international space. As such, I support Taiwan's aspiration to be included in a second round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Taiwan is a responsible nation which abides by international laws and norms of conduct, and seeks to foster peace and contribute to aid efforts in a challenging region of the world. It is the U.S.'s tenth largest trading partner and Los Angeles County's fourth largest, and an obvious candidate for inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Given all the two-way trade and business between the U.S. and Taiwan, I actively

supported Taiwan's entry into the Visa Waiver Program and passed legislation to make Taiwan an observer to the International Civil Aviation Organization. I am now supporting legislation for Taiwan to join INTERPOL as an observer to increase the safety and efficiency of our people and commerce.

As Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have made the U.S.-Taiwan relationship a top priority. Last March, I led a seven member bipartisan congressional delegation to Taipei to reaffirm the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. It was my third visit in as many years. I am also proud to represent one of the largest Taiwanese American communities in the country. The community serves as a bridge of cultural, familial, and business ties to Taiwan and is at the heart of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

On this important day, we reaffirm the strength of U.S.-Taiwan relations, and America's steadfast commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act which has underpinned the relationship for thirty-six years. We are committed to provide for Taiwan's self-defense, and I am dedicated to ensuring that we abide by our promise to provide the defense items to Taiwan that it needs.

Today, I am honored to rise in support of our great friend, Taiwan. We join the people of Taiwan in the celebration of their National Day, recognize the shared strengths of the relationship, and salute the strong friendship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH CHINA
SEA PEACE INITIATIVE AND
104TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOUBLE
TEN DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF
TAIWAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss issues important to Taiwan, our close partner and ally in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, I am concerned about current maritime disputes in the South China Sea, also known as the East Sea. I am concerned about China's growing presence in disputed waters in the South China Sea through land reclamation, neglect of international law, and disregard of the needs and territorial claims of its neighbors. A number of U.S. partners and allies in the region have taken different steps to address these illegal actions. Each plays an important role in signaling international disapproval of Beijing's actions. However, I want to highlight the efforts of Taiwan, under President Ma Ying-jeou, who has proposed a South China Sea Peace Initiative, which I believe should be seriously considered.

Taiwan understands that the tensions between claimants in the East China Sea and South China Sea threaten the peace and stability of the entire region. These disputes also threaten the political, economic, and security interests of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. Through the South China Sea Peace Initiative, Taiwan calls on all relevant parties to exercise restraint, respect international law, shelve sovereignty disputes, and adhere to a code of conduct.

This course of action is similar to the one proposed by President Ma in his East China Sea Initiative of 2012. The spirit of that proposal helped to alleviate tensions among China, Taiwan, and Japan, and led to a fisheries agreement between Taiwan and Japan in 2013—ending a 40-year fisheries dispute. It is my hope that the South China Sea Peace Initiative will have a similar effect on the parties of the South China Sea dispute. Moreover, the South China Sea Peace Initiative is similar to the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which was agreed to by ASEAN, including China, in 2002. The declaration committed all parties of the territorial disputes to “reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law” and to “resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force.”

I encourage my colleagues to commit to a greater focus on developments in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly with regards to China's illegal actions in the South China Sea, and to this latest initiative from Taipei. During the 113th Congress, the House passed House Resolution 714, which was introduced by the good friend and former Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa, and sent a clear message that the U.S. will not stand for these illegal and dangerous actions by China in the South China Sea. I hope that we will pass a similar resolution again this Congress, and I commit to working with my colleagues to send a clear message to China that their actions are intolerable.

Moreover, I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending another important signal about Congress' commitment to our allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region by acknowledging the upcoming celebrations of the 104th anniversary of “Double Ten Day.” Double Ten Day is a celebration of the birth of democracy in Taiwan. It traces its roots to the Wuchang Uprising that occurred on October 10, 1911. The Wuchang Uprising signaled the end of the Qing Dynasty and the start of a democratic movement that continues to be celebrated and recognized.

The strength of the relationship between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States is strong. I look forward to continue working to expand business opportunities between our countries and deepen our mutual appreciation for each other's unique cultures. Exchange of our cultures is clearly evidenced on Guam, which is home to many people of Chinese ancestry. Guam continues to benefit from their cultural contributions to our community and the promotion of trade and economic opportunities.

On this 104th Anniversary of Double Ten Day, it is important to recognize that Taiwan has proven time and again to be a friend working to ensure continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. I extend my appreciation to Taiwan for their continuing friendship and contributions to regional peace.

RECOGNIZING JIM JOHNSTON FOR HIS LEADERSHIP ON ISSUES RELATED TO SMALL BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Johnston of Grain Valley, MO. This October, Jim will be completing his eighth term and fourth decade as the President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), an organization that formed to give owner-operators and drivers a voice where they previously had none. Jim is widely considered a national leader on all issues affecting small business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers.

It is hard to believe that OOIDA began in an office trailer chained to a light pole at a truck stop in Grain Valley. Under Jim's leadership, it is now the largest organization of small business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers in the country, with more than 155,000 members nationwide. OOIDA has members in every state and every Congressional district.

There is no single person or organization that is more capable of representing the interests of truck drivers. In fact, Jim leads a twenty-two member Board of Directors that collectively has more than eight-hundred years of truck driving experience, and a staff of three-hundred twenty OOIDA employees, many of whom were truck drivers themselves. Needless to say, Jim is an invaluable resource on trucking and transportation issues to those fortunate enough to work with him.

To say that Jim is a tireless advocate representing the interests of truck drivers is an understatement; it has been his life's work and there is nobody more dedicated to the cause. Throughout his career, he has worked with legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, law enforcement agencies, other trucking and transportation organizations, and he has served on numerous commissions and advisory boards. His mission is simple: fight for the rights of all professional truck drivers. While some of his colleagues might say that he is a fierce adversary—perhaps another understatement—I think most people would agree that he conducts himself with integrity and the utmost professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to work with Jim and his team at OOIDA. I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Jim Johnston for his lifelong dedication to the members of OOIDA and the trucking industry and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING LEON EWING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM FIRSTMARK CREDIT UNION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Leon Ewing, President

and CEO of Firstmark Credit Union in San Antonio, on his over four decades of hard work and contributions to South Texas.

On December 31, 2015, Mr. Ewing will retire from Firstmark Credit Union after 34 years, concluding a distinguished career in the credit union industry. Under Mr. Ewing's leadership, Firstmark Credit Union became the fourth largest credit union in San Antonio.

In the local community, Mr. Ewing contributed his time and energy to San Antonio by serving on the boards of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. He has earned the trust and respect of his colleagues, employees, and customers and we wish him all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 1, 2015 I was not present to cast a vote on the conference report for H.R. 1735 and H.R. 3457.

Had I been present for roll call No. 532, I would have voted “NO.”

Had I also been present for roll call No. 533, I would have voted “NO.”

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRAMENTO CABRILLO CIVIC CLUB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ms. MATSUI to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic Cabrillo Civic Club in Sacramento, California—an institution that has brought families and communities together since its establishment.

The Spanish mission style building began as the Sutter School in 1915, an elementary school whose students were mostly children of immigrants. Due to the majority of students being of Portuguese descent or children of Japanese farmers, the students of the Sutter School relied heavily on their education to assimilate as Americans. As the school grew in popularity and enrollment increased, two additional wings were added to the building, but eventually closed its doors as a school in 1952.

In 1954, the property was purchased by the current owners, Cabrillo Civic Club Number 5 of Sacramento County. The members of the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California are dedicated to the civic progress of Californians of Portuguese descent in memory of their compatriot, John Rodrigues Cabrillo, discoverer of California on September 28, 1542. Being third generation Portuguese, I feel strongly that this organization has helped foster the growth of our rich culture and sustained the strong community values we hold.

Today the members continue to be dedicated to community development and involvement in and around every club. Not only is the building available for rent to host events such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, reunions, fundraisers, and memorials for the Sacramento County, but the club also promotes scholarships for students of Portuguese descent and better education in campus youth programs. These programs perpetuate the achievements of other Portuguese forefathers in the state of California, just like Cabrillo.

The Club has also been known for many charitable activities, including: blood drives; fund raising for polio and cancer research, and assisting candidates for U.S. citizenship. In addition, they foster a great amount of energy into promoting Portuguese culture through sponsorship of various special events such as Portuguese Immigrant Week and local "Festas Portuguesas." The Cabrillo Civic Club of Sacramento County has done an incredible job for the past 100 years in uniting families of Portuguese descent in a community where public service, education, and culture are valued.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Ms. MATSUI and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in congratulating the 100th anniversary of the historic Cabrillo Civic Club in Sacramento, and to wish them many more prosperous years in promoting Portuguese achievements in the state of California.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE FAYETTE, THE EBERLY CAMPUS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Since the return of Penn State undergraduate education to southwestern Pennsylvania in 1965, the Fayette campus has grown to encompass about 100 acres and 10 buildings. Penn State Fayette's impressive development is also illustrated by its increased breadth and depth of program offerings, which now includes nine baccalaureate and seven associate degree options. Just as when it first came to the area, Penn State Fayette continues to offer our area students a local option for a globally competitive education.

Additionally, I am proud to highlight those who have made these remarkable advancements possible. While a debt of gratitude is owed to those who have supported Penn State Fayette's continuing progress, like the Eberly Family, the campus's administration and faculty have also played a fundamental role in this success. Unlike many other universities, the faculty at Penn State Fayette serves students as not only teachers but also advisors, enabling students to get a truly worthwhile educational experience.

Walking around the campus today, visitors will notice an atmosphere of unity that has been cultivated by more than 25 student clubs

and organizations. In addition to creating this vibrant and dynamic learning environment, the Fayette campus also maintains the Coal and Coke Heritage Center, which pays homage to the area's rich industrial past and represents the hardworking nature of Fayette County citizens, from its students to those who have long since retired.

I am privileged to congratulate Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus for 50 years of success, and to thank all who have helped this community continue to grow and prosper.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS HUNT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lois Hunt for being selected as Ringgold County's 2015 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Lois' contributions to 4-H have been far-reaching, as she has served in a number of different capacities within Extension 4-H as a volunteer, Extension Council member, program assistant, area specialist, and area director. She has also been involved with the Iowa 4-H Foundation. It has been said that Lois has "green blood" and cherishes the success she sees in Iowa's youth who have participated in 4-H throughout her years of service with the organization.

Mr. Speaker, Lois' efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Lois for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATING DR. BARBARA IGLEWSKI

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Barbara Iglewski on her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame. On October 3, Dr. Iglewski and nine other women were honored in Seneca Falls, New York, the birthplace of the women's rights movement.

Dr. Iglewski was chosen for this honor in recognition of her outstanding work in the field of microbiology. Her groundbreaking research led to a landmark scientific discovery about the impact of infectious bacteria on the body's immune system. Her work led to the development of preventative medications that protect humans from several types of infections and diseases.

Dr. Iglewski earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Allegheny College before earning her master's and doctorate degrees in microbiology from Penn State University. She currently holds the distinguished positions of Professor Emeritus of Microbiology and Immu-

nology and Director of International Programs at the University of Rochester Medical Center. In addition, she has previously served as Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education. Dr. Iglewski has published over 150 research papers and is recognized by the Institute of Scientific Information as a highly cited scientist.

Equally as impressive is the work Dr. Iglewski has done to create opportunity for women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. As president of the American Society for Microbiology, she helped women advance their careers by obtaining editorial positions at various scientific journals. As the first woman to chair a department at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, she mentored female students and paved the way for female scientists to become leaders in their fields of study.

I commend Dr. Iglewski on this well-deserved recognition. Her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame cements her place in history alongside Maya Angelou, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, and the many other women whose contributions have had a profoundly positive impact on our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AVALON ACADEMY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor The Avalon Academy, a unique and visionary school in Burlingame, California which is celebrating 10 years of exceptional service. The school provides educational and therapeutic opportunities to children with cerebral palsy and similar movement disorders.

Avalon Academy was founded by two sets of parents of children with cerebral palsy, Annie Noonan and her husband, Jeffrey Wohl, and Lynette Mullens and her husband, Stephen Dilly, and a special education teacher, Kinga Czegeni. They were frustrated with the fragmented educational system for children with motor disabilities and decided to create a learning environment that addresses the academic, motor skill development, recreational, social and emotional needs of these students. The outcome is a beautiful school that for ten years has allowed the children to thrive and give their families peace of mind and certainty that their children are developing to their full potential.

Avalon Academy is certified as a non-public school by the California Department of Education for grades K through 12. It started ten years ago with three students, three staff members and three volunteers. Today it serves 8 children and has 27 staff members. Most of the students have cerebral palsy. Their degree of mobility ranges from being able to walk with assistance to being dependent on a wheelchair. Their cognitive abilities also vary greatly and the faculty caters to their individual needs. Cerebral palsy commonly co-exists with related challenges from communication delays, intellectual impairment, social

and emotional difficulties and eating challenges. Traditional schools are mostly not specialized to meet those challenges and that is why Avalon Academy is so effective and essential because the school addresses all the needs in one location. The teachers, physical therapists and speech pathologists integrate movement into all classroom activities, no matter the level of physical limitation of the student. This unique approach enhances motor abilities and encourages the children to be as independent and safe as possible in their lives.

I have the highest regard and admiration for the faculty at Avalon Academy who work miracles every day. They are led by Kinga Czegeni, the Head of School. She holds an M.A. in Special Education from the International Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary and was recruited to California in 1997. Before co-founding Avalon Academy she was the director of Step by Step in Millbrae. She is a certified practitioner in the Ana Baniel Method, has worked with children with cerebral palsy for two decades and has developed Avalon's unique Movement Integrated Special Teaching System.

The two other founders and now board members are professional women and amazing mothers. My dear friend, Annie Noonan, is a successful attorney and employment law expert. She is the mother of Julianne and Sam, who developed cerebral palsy after an illness when he was 14 months old. Annie took Sam's condition and turned it into a rallying cry for better educational opportunities for children like him. I continue to be in awe of her energy and optimism.

Lynette Mullens holds a Ph.D. and specializes in the clinical research and development of drugs for the treatment of neurologic and psychiatric disorders, including drugs that are commonly used for seizures associated with cerebral palsy. Her work in California with a non-profit that provides online access to clinical trials inspired her to enhance the lives of children with cerebral palsy. She is the mother of George, who has cerebral palsy, Fred and Harriet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the extraordinary individuals who founded and have run Avalon Academy for a decade. They provide the best education imaginable for children with special needs and should serve as a model around the country.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southwest Iowa Planning Council as they celebrate their 40th year in operation.

The Southwest Iowa Planning Council's goals are to promote regional cooperation, to serve the counties and cities within our region with community and economic development activities, and to improve the quality of life for

all residents in Southwest Iowa. Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) operates the public transit system in our eight-county region, and Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund (SWHTF) provides safe, affordable housing by expanding housing opportunities in the region. These additional services the Southwest Iowa Planning Council provides play an important role in improving the quality of life for Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent Southwest Iowa Planning Council and its hard working employees in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Council on their 40th anniversary and wish them nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 104TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise in support of a great friend of the United States, Taiwan. As you know, October 10 is the 104th National Day of the Republic of China.

No one forgets the unbelievable sacrifices the Chinese endured against Imperial Japan during World War II. Nor do we forget that the Republic of China was in that conflict a full four years prior to the entry of the United States. Earlier this year, our two countries observed the 70th anniversary of the end of that war. After 1949, Taiwan held out as a key non-Communist partner during the early days of the Cold War. As a well-established democracy and as an economic powerhouse, Taiwan has set a model example for the rest of Asia and the world in recent years.

Given our long shared history as allies, it is entirely appropriate that we share in the celebration of Taiwan's National Day. To all of my Taiwanese friends, I wish you a happy and joyous day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. NANCY MACDONALD CLARK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Nancy MacDonald Clark, a champion of nursing education in the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Clark's efforts in improving the lives of Valley residents, as well as expanding the California State University Stanislaus Department of Nursing, makes her extraordinarily deserving of having the university's Community Health Simulation Lab named in her honor.

Nancy Joan MacDonald Clark was born July 13, 1946 in San Francisco to Joseph MacDonald, a pharmacist, and Edith Bakke Mac-

Donald, a registered nurse. She passed away on December 29, 2014 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Nancy's family moved from the bay area to Atwater, California in 1951 to open a drug store. Nancy learned the value of service from her parents' involvement in the community. Her father served as Mayor of Atwater for two terms, and her mother hosted Atwater Chamber of Commerce coffee meetings for the newly arrived airmen at Castle Air Force Base. Nancy graduated from Atwater High School in 1964 and became an active member of the Atwater Women's Club.

Nancy graduated from then Fresno State College with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing in 1968. She then went on to earn a Master's of Science in Nursing from California State University Fresno in 1983. She completed a Master's in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 1985, and earned her Doctorate in Education from University of California, Davis/California State University Fresno's Joint Doctoral Program in 2004.

Dr. Clark worked in acute care in San Francisco, Texas and Florida for two years before relocating to the Central Valley, where she worked in Migrant Health. She then worked as a nurse in the Merced County Health Department for six years. After raising two young children for a number of years, she accepted an appointment at California State University, Stanislaus as a visiting lecturer. Nancy eventually progressed through the ranks to become a full professor in the nursing program, an RN to BSN Second Degree Program.

Dr. Clark was appointed Chair of the Nursing Department at CSU Stanislaus in 1999 and implemented a partnership with Sonoma State University to bring an MSN-FNP Program to campus. As Chair of the program, Nancy was most proud of founding the Pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in 2002, the first generic nursing program to open in California in ten years. Before leaving the department, she had completed a needs assessment and proposal for an MSN program which opened in spring 2009.

After earning her doctorate in 2004, Dr. Clark was appointed Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences at CSU Stanislaus. Following two years of leave and twenty-eight years in academia, Nancy retired in the summer of 2008 to focus on her health and family.

Mr. Speaker it is with reverence that I recognize the memory of Dr. Nancy Joan MacDonald Clark. Nancy dedicated many years of her life educating nurses of the future, and enabling those students to not only improve the lives of California residents but the lives of people throughout our nation. May her years of service to the California State University, Stanislaus never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO NICK AND SUE HUNT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nick and

Sue Hunt of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award, presented by the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District. This award is a joint effort of the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Department of Natural Resources.

The Conservationist of the Year Award recognizes the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers who work to improve and protect the environment and natural resources of our state. Nick and Sue were selected for this award because of their outstanding work in their farming operations and for serving as local leaders in environmental stewardship on their farm, utilizing a variety of techniques and best management practices. Their efforts have helped improve and protect the environment in the State of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Nick and Sue for earning this award. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication to conservation can benefit their property and the environment around them for years to come. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for this outstanding achievement and wishing them nothing but continued success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,604,277,750.63. We've added \$7,523,727,228,837.55 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Broward County Public Schools and the School Board of Broward County as they celebrate their centennial anniversary and the school system's impressive history of educational excellence. As the second-largest public school system in Florida and the sixth-largest in the nation, Broward County teachers and administrators continue to demonstrate their commitment to the betterment of our South Florida community.

This remarkable system includes 238 schools, centers and technical colleges, and 99 charter schools. Their impact on our state and this nation reaches far beyond the 265,000 young students and 175,000 adult

students currently enrolled in one of their programs. Indeed, this school system is a cornerstone of South Florida's growing and vibrant economy.

Broward County Public Schools continues to prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st century. The school system educates students from 204 different countries who speak 184 different languages. Through innovative initiatives and a focus on the needs of our diverse community, they stand as beacon of the American ideals of educational achievement, upward mobility and the resolve to succeed.

It is with great pleasure that I honor Broward County Public Schools, the School Board of Broward County, and its Superintendent, Mr. Robert Runcie.

HONORING TEAM INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the communities of the Lower Naugatuck Valley in extending my sincere congratulations to TEAM, Inc. as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary—a special milestone for this outstanding organization.

Guided by the mission to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community, over the course of the last five decades TEAM, Inc. has diligently worked to provide programs and services to those most in need. From Meals on Wheels for seniors to Head Start programs for children, from energy assistance to eviction prevention and security deposit assistance, and from financial education workshops and employment services to their annual holiday toy drive, as the needs of those they serve have changed, TEAM Inc. has expanded their work to provide their clients with skills and resources they need to succeed and thrive.

TEAM, Inc. works with individuals and families in times of crisis and stressful life changes. People of all ages turn to them for help with things ranging from basic needs and relief during a crisis to support in making long term changes in their lives. I want to extend a special note of thanks to all of the staff and administration of TEAM, Inc. whose hard work and contributions have strengthened the organization and advanced their mission. It takes a special combination of compassion and dedication to provide the myriad of programs and services at TEAM, Inc. The staff and administrators possess those unique qualities and through their efforts make a real difference in the lives of others.

I have had many opportunities to work with TEAM, Inc. and always find myself in awe of the scope of work they undertake every day. In their 50-year history, TEAM, Inc. has touched the lives of thousands, bringing the most precious of gifts—that of hope. There is no greater gift that we can provide to our fellow citizens. I am proud to stand today and

extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone at TEAM, Inc. on this very special occasion and wish them all the best for many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS SAMUELSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Doris Samuelson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the celebration of her 90th birthday. Doris celebrated her 90th birthday in September. She was married to Bill Samuelson for 56 years and has four children. She also taught at the elementary school in the Council Bluffs School District.

Mr. Speaker it is an honor to represent Doris and Iowans like her. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Doris on this incredible milestone, and wish her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND BARBARA CROSSEN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John and Barbara Crossen, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 30th.

Both children of Boston Police Department officers, John and Barbara met and fell in love as teenagers. Married on September 30, 1945 at the Most Precious Blood Church, the young couple lived in Hyde Park for many years before moving to Walpole, Massachusetts in the 1990s.

For many years, John worked at New England Telephone and spent countless hours volunteering on local initiatives. During my years as a Massachusetts State Senator, I had the privilege of working alongside John—who devotedly served his neighbors as an earnest and dedicated community representative. Barbara, too, dedicated her life to public service as Director of Human Resources for the Suffolk County District Attorney's office. Though they are now both retired, they are still involved in their community and maintain a keen interest in politics and public affairs.

As a testament to the profound impact John and Barbara have had on their family, their spirit of service and community has transcended generations. Over the years, many of their children and grandchildren have gone into law enforcement and served in the Boston Police Department. John and Barbara celebrate their 70th anniversary surrounded by their loving family, which has grown to five children, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John and Barbara on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing them and their family many more years of happiness.

HONORING PETER AND SHEILA ARELLANO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the lives of a well-known and beloved couple in the Escalon community, Peter and Sheila Arellano. They passed away within a year of each other. Sheila on October 7, 2014 and Peter on June 14, 2015.

Peter, fondly known as "Chessie" to his friends and family, grew up in Sonora, California where he was noted as a star athlete. After graduating from high school, Peter enlisted in the United States Air Force during WWII. He was stationed in the South Pacific, Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, and Europe where he spent several years diligently and courageously serving our Country. After returning from WWII, he graduated from San Jose State to begin a career teaching and coaching. He also served in his local Lions Club for over 65 years in various positions from Past President to Chairman. He was Stockton County Fair Escalon Exhibit Co-Chair for over 20 years. He also started the Peter Arellano Athletic Scholarship and he previously hosted the Peter Arellano Athletic Scholarship Golf Tournament to raise money for scholar athletes from Escalon High School. Peter married the love of his life, Sheila, and together they moved to Escalon, California where they lived for over 58 years. Pete continued his passion for teaching at Escalon High School.

Sheila proudly worked as the assistant editor for the Escalon Times. Sheila also served as President of the Chamber of Commerce for two terms, member of the Historian Society, Escalon City Committee, Red Hats, Catholic YLI, Actor in Readers Theater, retired teacher aide at Den Elementary and El Portal Middle School, Escalon Sorooptimist Group, and Stockton Country Fair Escalon Exhibit Chair for over 20 years. She started the Escalon Low Vision Support Group, hosted bingo lunch with seniors twice a month, and continued to be an acting Ambulance board member. The community honored them as Mr. and Mrs. Escalon because of their immense participation and contributions.

They have left a permanent mark on the Escalon Community. Both were inspiring human beings even in the face of difficult times. Sheila endured two bouts of breast cancer, kidney failure, heart attacks, and blindness due to macular degeneration. Despite all this, she maintained a smile on her face and a high spirit of gratitude. Pete's energy was just as contagious, and it allowed for them to be confident together. Both lived life the way it should be lived; they enjoyed the simple things and made the most of their time together every day.

Family was central to the Arellanos and they loved their family above all else. They are survived by their three children George Arellano, Tina Jensen and Bahrt Arellano; seven grandchildren Kim Theisen, Craig Berchtold, Holly Page, Heidi Rech, Jeremy Jensen, Cortez Arellano, Vincent Arellano; and eight great-grandchildren Kelsie Theisen, Callie Theisen, Trenton Berchtold, Emma Berchtold, Madelyn Page, Colton Page, Olivia Jensen and Vivian Jensen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Peter and Sheila Arellano for their numerous years of unwavering dedication to the Escalon community. They will be deeply missed by many and may God bless them always.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHEAST POLK HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southeast Polk High School Boys Baseball Team for winning the Iowa Class 4A State Baseball Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team:

Players: Cam Shannon, Kyle Underwood, Tim Neff, Austin Martin, Cole Horton, Nathan Gjersvik, Ryan Lamke, Brayden Shepherd, Jace Surprenant, Brandon Ross, Sam Henry, Thomas McLaughlin, Alex DuToit, Jake Nelson, Sean Joelson, Carter Bauge, Zack Hamilton, Cole Hauser, Alex Pierce, Cole Hassman, Sam Hermes, and Connor Young.

Coaches: Scott Belger, Dave Hartman, Mike Steele, Rick Fee, Ty Weatherman, Scot Surprenant, and Blake Kielman.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these young men and the rest of the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING MELANIE L. CAMPBELL FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AT THE NATIONAL COALITION ON BLACK CIVIC PARTICIPATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Melanie L. Campbell, President and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (the National Coalition) for her exemplary leadership to expand and preserve

civil, human and women's rights in the United States. This year marks the 20th year Ms. Campbell has led the National Coalition, which is composed of organizations that represent some 40 million people across our great nation. Campbell is well known for her unique ability to build powerful coalitions and networks that bring diverse people together for the common good.

The National Coalition was founded nearly 40 years ago on May 5, 1976 in the District of Columbia by great heroes and sheroes of the Civil Rights Movement, including the late Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, Norman Hill, the late Maynard Jackson, Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, William "Bill" Lucy, Eddie Williams and many others—all of whom mentored Campbell to embrace servant leadership as a way of life in her journey in the fight for justice for all people.

Melanie Campbell is a nationally recognized expert in civic engagement, voting rights, women's rights and youth empowerment, and has led many successful coalition-based campaigns that have empowered thousands of African Americans to have a voice in our representative democracy including: 1) the Unity Voter Empowerment Campaign helping increase Black voter participation to historic records over the past decade; 2) the Unity Diaspora Census Campaigns helping reduce the undercount of the Black population in 2000 and 2010; and 3) organizing the ReBuild Hope NOW Coalition in 2005 to assist survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in rebuilding their lives in the Gulf Coast Region.

Ms. Campbell acknowledges that one of her most rewarding accomplishments at the National Coalition has been creating an innovative, youth-led civic leadership development program, Black Youth Vote, which was launched April 4, 1996, under the banner, "the ballot, not the bullet" in commemoration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Campbell is a passionate advocate for women's rights and serves as convener of Black Women's Roundtable (BWR), an intergenerational public policy and organizing network of the National Coalition. Under her leadership, BWR empowers thousands of women and girls annually with tools and resources to live a higher quality of life. BWR is focused on fighting for income equality for women and a living wage job for all Americans.

In 2014, Campbell led a Black Women's Roundtable delegation to challenge the NFL to address domestic violence and diversity in the league; and organized prayer vigils on Capitol Hill, with the National African American Clergy Network, to pray for Congress to confirm Loretta Lynch to become the first African American woman and second woman in history to serve as the U.S. Attorney General of the United States.

Most recently, she established the Black Youth Vote/Gathering of Black Men & Boys Initiative which held a Capitol Hill day on April, 23, 2015, with over 200 young men and boys coming together to learn how the public policy process works and meeting their Congressional representatives from both parties to share their concerns that are impacting their lives. For her black male initiatives work, she was recently appointed to the My Brothers' Keeper Alliance Advisory Council supported by President Obama.

Campbell is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and several other prominent national organizations. She is a native of Mims, Florida and attributes her passion for civil rights and social justice to her parents, Mrs. Janet Campbell and the late Isaac Campbell, Sr., who instilled in her a strong faith in God and the understanding that "helping others is the rent we pay for being born."

Melanie L. Campbell has spent her entire professional life as a mentor and a role model for countless women and youth in the District of Columbia, the nation and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in saluting Melanie L. Campbell for her 20 years of service to our nation as a non-profit leader at the National Coalition, and for being a great humanitarian and outstanding citizen of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) for their 50th Anniversary and outstanding commitment to collegiate honors education. The National Collegiate Honors Council is dedicated to excellence in education, as they serve over 800 colleges and universities across the country and is composed of over 325,000 students dedicated to achieving excellence in diverse subject and curriculum areas to fulfill professional career goals.

I would also like to call attention to Saint Leo University in my district for their dedication to academic excellence and for being a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Students at Saint Leo University experience and grow in core values such as excellence, community, integrity, respect, personal development and responsible stewardship.

The Honors Program at Saint Leo University was started over 30 years ago. Alumni and current students continue to express to others the enormous impact the program has had on their professional work experience. One graduate is now a professional working in instructional technology developing safety training in the energy field and credits the Honors Program at Saint Leo for preparing him to adapt intellectually and to be ready to explore new fields. Students are encouraged to broaden their horizons with a change of scenery and culture through this program. One student interned for a museum in London and was able to incorporate this experience in with their history course. Another student worked on an oral-care education project for the small children of migrant farmworkers who live within a short drive of the campus.

As you can see through the Honors Program, students have been challenged to think deeply about what they want to accomplish

personally and professionally, and are already making strides toward those goals. Saint Leo Honors Program has shown and continues to show their commitment to educating students and influencing their lives positively to help shape them in every way.

Once again, please join me in commending the National Collegiate Honors Council on their 50th Anniversary. Their service to programs like those at Saint Leo University and their dedication to academic excellence and achievement is honorable.

COMMEMORATING 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 104th anniversary of their great Republic on October 10. This day, known as "Double Ten Day" because it falls on the 10th day of the 10th month, is revered in Taiwan the same as we celebrate the 4th of July. It commemorates the Wuchang Uprising, the event that triggered a revolution that led to the overthrow of China's imperial regime and the establishment of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.

Over the following century, as a result of the hard work and dedication of the people of Taiwan, Taiwan has become a democracy that stands as a model to other nations around the world.

On this national day, I would also like to take the time to thank Taiwan for their continuing focus on buying American goods. In 2014, Taiwan surpassed India and Saudi Arabia to become the United States' 10th largest trading partner. Last year, Taiwan purchased nearly \$200 million worth of goods from my home state of Michigan, bolstering our chemical, metal and machinery sectors.

104 years after the Wuchang Uprising, Taiwan has transformed into a flourishing, economically robust society where social justice is a priority. Taiwan's praiseworthy commitment to social justice is perhaps best exemplified by their implementation of the single-payer National Health Insurance (NHI) system. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the system, which guarantees all Taiwanese citizens access to necessary medical care. In just two decades, Taiwan's healthcare system has become globally renowned for providing citizens with easy access to high-quality medical services, and it provides an important lesson to the world about the feasibility of a transition to a single-payer system.

I am proud to commemorate the 104th anniversary of Taiwan's Double Ten Day, and I look forward to continuing the meaningful friendship and cooperation between the peoples and governments of the United States and Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO TOM AND NORMA TROXEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tom and Norma Troxel of Farragut, Iowa, for their induction into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the 2015 Iowa State Fair.

Tom and Norma have been involved in 4-H for most of their lives. They are longtime members of 4-H and became 4-H leaders when their three daughters, Andria, Maggie, and Kimberly, became old enough to join. Tom is a 4th generation ag producer, and Norma has served on the Extension Council and the 4-H Youth and Endowment Committees for a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Tom and Norma for being inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame. They are shining examples of how hard work, leadership, and dedication can serve to promote and support our youth and the mission of 4-H. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Tom and Norma and wishing them nothing but continued success.

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL J. SWORN, JR. OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an esteemed educator, community leader, and personal friend, Mr. Samuel J. Sworn, Jr. Brother Samuel was a community icon and a charter member of the Fort Lauderdale Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He sadly transitioned into the Chapter Invisible on October 5, 2015, surrounded by family, friends, and his beloved wife Millicent.

Brother Samuel believed that mentorship, volunteerism, and philanthropy are the cornerstones of a thriving community and because of his efforts, the Fort Lauderdale Alumni Chapter continues to be a "beacon of light" and a positive influence in the lives of the people of Broward County.

Brother Samuel was also a wonderful educator. For over 30 years, he served the students of Broward County, first as a Blanche Ely High School teacher, then transitioning through the Broward County system to become an administrator at Plantation High School. He had a knack for helping people and on June 13, 2009, Pompano Beach officials dedicated the new aquatic center Houston-Sworn Aquatic Center at Mitchell-Moore Park to honor his many contributions to the Pompano community.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to honor Mr. Samuel J. Sworn, Jr. for his dedication and commitment to education, our fraternity, his community, and most of all to his family. He

was a kind human being whose legacy and memory will always live on. I was truly proud to call Samuel my friend and will miss him dearly.

CONGRATULATING DONALD
"TRAE" SHEEHAN III

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Donald "Trae" Sheehan III of Troop 165 of the Shenandoah Area Council in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. This accomplishment required leadership, service to his community, and a great deal of hard work. It makes me proud to see young West Virginians such as Donald work to better themselves and their communities as they prepare to become our nation's future leaders. I join with Donald's family and friends in congratulating him on becoming an Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO VAN CLARK JR.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Van Clark Jr. for his retirement from Modern Optical in Des Moines after 43 years of dedicated service.

Van has spent his life helping his patients enjoy their lives to the fullest. His dedication to helping others is second to none. During his time at Modern Optical, Van would make special trips to nursing homes in the area to offer optical assistance to those who were in need. He now plans to spend as much time as possible with his family and travel with his wife.

Mr. Speaker, Van's selflessness and willingness to help others is a true embodiment of the Iowa spirit. It is an honor to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on this momentous occasion and wish him nothing but continued success and happiness in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING PAULETTE PYLE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend, Paulette Pyle, for her many years advocating for Oregon's farmers, ranchers and foresters. Paulette is retiring from Oregonians for Food and Shelter where she delivered 35 years of historic service as their Director of Grassroots, and is one

of the most respected and expert advocates in the country in her field. Since many of my colleagues call Paulette a dear friend, I'd like to pay tribute to her numerous contributions to Oregon and its natural resource industries.

Born in Sioux City, Iowa and raised on a wheat and dairy operation near Cottonwood, Idaho, agriculture has always been close to Paulette's heart. As she has worked on behalf of Oregon's farmers for over three decades, Paulette became well known statewide for the passion for and commitment to the farm, ranch and timber families she worked for.

In 1972, after nearly a decade working in health care, Paulette made her first professional foray into politics, serving as district staff for Senator Steve Symms of Idaho during his time in the U.S. House. She campaigned her way from Idaho to Oregon. A tenacious and well-liked go-getter from the start, she was known to go door to door on campaigns with her twin baby girls—one on each hip.

Paulette took her grassroots experience to the newly formed Oregonians for Food and Shelter in 1980. Over the next 35 years, she became a beloved and relied upon household name for Oregon's farmers, ranchers and foresters as well as a highly regarded advocate around the state capitol and in the halls of Congress.

In that role, Paulette became an integral part of Oregon's natural resources community, tying together sometimes differing groups towards a common goal. If there was an issue heating up that affected the industry, you knew you'd find Paulette leading the charge to ensure progress.

Guided by what she knew was right and in the best interest of Oregon, Paulette knew how to get things done. At times when others may have been turned off by a defeat, Paulette just got creative. And this approach often led to success.

One example of Paulette's creative, can-do disposition is the time Paulette worked tirelessly to move a pesticide bill through the legislature, only to have the Governor veto it. Unwilling to give up on the effort, Paulette went to work again, getting the language attached to a bill referring a decision on a light rail project to the voters—a legislative vehicle that the Governor was eager to see approved. Left with a choice between letting the bill move forward with Paulette's language included, or vetoing his own legislative priority, the Governor signed the bill into law. Paulette scored a win on behalf of family farmers, and voters went on to vote down the Governor's project.

This tenacity and skill served Paulette well at the federal level too. Her grassroots efforts were integral as we worked to turn the heat up on the Senate and push the last major federal forest policy reform to become law, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, across the finish line.

State legislators and members of Congress weren't the only ones leaning on Paulette for advice and assistance. President George W. Bush became fast friends with Paulette, and made sure she was included in any ranching, farming or forestry discussion affecting Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The president's team would call me before one of his many visits to Oregon during his presidency to confirm that I had not forgotten to make sure Pau-

lette would be available to join "43" when he visited our family farmers, ranchers and foresters. The Bush White House team soon learned that I did not need a reminder to include Paulette as I'd tell them she was always first on my call list.

In addition to Paulette's significant professional achievements, it is important to note that an even higher priority for her is her cherished family and the faith that guides her daily. Paulette and her husband Ken raised six outstanding children, who in turn are raising their 16 grandchildren. Paulette has led her family by love and Christian example, and this is very clear to all who know her.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Paulette Pyle, for her years of leadership and tremendous dedication on behalf of the natural resource industry. Oregon's farmers, ranchers and foresters have benefited in countless ways over the past three and a half decades thanks to Paulette. I wish Paulette and Ken the best for many years of good health and happiness in retirement and the years ahead. She will forever remain a very special friend.

CONGRATULATING THE 2015 HONOREES OF THE TOLEDO AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY PROJECT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate thirteen community leaders who are being recognized as 2015 honorees of the Toledo African American Legacy Project. The Toledo African American Legacy Project is dedicated to bringing together people to document and preserve the history of northwest Ohio's African American communities and demonstrate the impact and influence of individuals upon Toledo and the greater world community.

This year's honorees are indeed a celebrated group. Elinor Allen is a retired school teacher who for 33 years served as an elementary teacher, Unit Leader, and reading teacher in Toledo Public Schools. Ronald Jackson, Sr., was appointed as the first African American Deputy Chief of the Toledo Police Department and also served as Executive Director of the Board of Community Relations. Theresa M. Gabriel has served in many capacities within the city government including Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and Director of Department of Human Resources. She currently serves on Toledo City Council. John Moore is a consultant, motivational speaker and author whose current and past board memberships include Owens Community College and the College's foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo and Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Doni Miller is the CEO of the Neighborhood Health Association, a federally qualified health center. She earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Toledo and has 25 years of experience in health administration in addition to hosting a local public affairs television program. Ben Williams

has dedicated his life to youth. He is currently the Executive Director of the Ben E. Williams Youth Service, Inc., and was the first African American coach inducted into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

The Toledo African American Legacy Project also posthumously recognized: Dr. Frank A. Brown, who was elected the first African American as Vice President of the Toledo Board of Education and eventually President; and Roland A. Gandy, Jr., who was Chief of Staff at Mercy Hospital and Maumee Valley Hospital and was known for providing services free of charge to Scott High School and the University of Toledo athletics.

In addition to honoring these community leaders, the Toledo African American Legacy Project also highlights young, emerging African-Americans leading the way for the future. This year, four people were recognized for their efforts. Larome Myrick is a Parole Service Supervisor in the Department of Youth Services Toledo Region. Kelly Westmoreland is an agent for Bankers Life and Casualty. Jason Woodward is a minister, deacon and finance director at Trinity Faith Tabernacle Church. Rashieda Timpson is founder and CEO of the Christian based non-profit organization United Sisters (women inspiring women).

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate all of these honorees for their hard work and dedicated service. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and together we build community forward. The 2015 African American Legacy Project honorees represent the excellence that is in us. Their leadership inspires.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARSHA
BIANCONI'S SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE CONFERENCE OF
WESTERN WAYNE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Marsha Bianconi for her distinguished service as the Executive Director of the Conference of Western Wayne. Marsha's commitment to our community has enriched the lives of so many and helped guide the leaders of our region towards collective and coordinated success.

The Conference of Western Wayne is a consortium of eighteen western Wayne County communities who meet monthly to discuss issues including; legislation, transportation, public safety, substance abuse, economic development, and the environment. For over thirty five years, the Conference of Western Wayne has moved forward with its mission to support the bi-partisan, mutual interest of its member communities. For twenty seven of those years, Marsha has shaped the mission, vision, and programming of the organization and taken it far beyond what anyone would have imagined when it started.

As we reflect on her service and accomplishments, it is important to recognize that

Marsha has been a wonderful mother of two children, Steven and Melissa, and a loving wife to her husband Bob. After all, we are all working to build stronger, safer communities not just for ourselves, but for our families and friends. While she is looking forward to retirement, I know that we will not lose her insight and leadership in our region because she will continue to stay involved in so many of our community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mrs. Marsha Bianconi for her twenty seven years of service to our communities and for her dedication to regional co-operation. I thank her for her leadership and wish her many years of joy in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SARA ROSS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sara Ross of Minden, Iowa, for being selected as the Midwest Farm Mom of the Year. Sara grew up in a small rural community in Nebraska, but she did not grow up on a farm. When Sara married her husband Kevin, a sixth-generation Iowa farmer, she took it upon herself to learn the farm business.

The criteria used in selecting the "Farm Mom of the Year" by the American Agri-Women, a national coalition of farm, ranch, and agribusiness women, is based on support for family and commitment to agriculture. Sara's commitment is evident through her blog about farm life, her involvement in volunteer farm organizations, and her international work, including traveling to China to teach women there about U.S. agriculture and soybean production.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Sara for her leadership in the agriculture community in Pottawattamie County, the State of Iowa, and with international partners. Sara's hard work and dedication to her family and farm represents our Iowa values, and I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Sara and in wishing her and her family nothing but the best.

A TRIED AND TRUE TRADITION:
TEXAS BARBECUE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, barbecue is among the great traditions of Texas. Texans are passionate about their favorite barbecue as they are about football and politics. I've heard barbeque, football, and politics should not be brought up in mixed company. All three are contact sports here.

We take our barbecue seriously, and we know we smoke it the best way. Folks are

known to plan road trips across the state to remedy a hankering for barbecue at legendary joints, like Louie Miller Barbecue in Taylor, Black's Barbecue in Lockhart, or City Market in Luling. Let's not forget one of the world's best barbecue cook-offs is held every year at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Folks ask me all the time, "Where do you go for good Texas barbecue?"

My choice, hands down, is located practically in my backyard—Tin Roof BBQ in Atascocita. There are few places I would rather be than sidled up to a table at Tin Roof, catching up on local conversations with neighbors and enjoying authentic Texas barbecue.

Tin Roof has been a staple in our community for 14 years, and over the years, I've eaten there so often that I consider the owners, Ronnie and Nancy Webber, to be friends. Ronnie and Nancy decided to open Tin Roof soon after Ronnie retired from the Houston Police Department. Not content with retirement, they purchased a historic home, located close to Memorial Park, which was used during World War II to house military personnel at Camp Logan. A developer was going to tear it down until the Webbers saved it. They moved the structure to Atascocita and outfitted it in Texas-themed decor.

The restaurant has grown from the original house with several additions, including a Texas-sized covered deck. On a typical Saturday night, folks fill the place to sample delicious, homemade cooking, from Texas' best barbecue to side dishes made from scratch. Of course, there's Ronnie's delicious homemade sauce, sweet tea, and live music.

Family-owned restaurants, like Tin Roof, are the heart of our community. Ronnie and Nancy are deeply rooted here, and it shows. They give back whenever they can. They provide food, friendship, and support for a number of neighborhood organizations, area schools, and our local law enforcement officers. Recently, they participated in a charity cook-off to help the Banded Brigade Outdoors, an organization that provides morale-boosting events, such as hunting, fishing, and target shooting, for those who have served our great country.

Many love barbecue for its taste. Aficionados love it for its craft. Texans love it for its tradition, steeped in community with friends and family gathered around a picnic table, making memories. This weekend grab the family and head to the nearest Texas barbecue joint. Just be careful if you mix it with football and politics.

And that's just the way it is—y'all.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR GZ
(CHARLIE) BROWN

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize University of Oregon Professor GZ (Charlie) Brown, Philip H. Knight Professor of Architecture. For 38 years, Professor Brown has taught and inspired generations of University of Oregon students and practitioners.

Prof. Brown is a leader in sustainable design and founded the UO Energy Studies in Buildings Laboratory, (ESBL) located in Portland and Eugene. As director of the ESBL, he developed and oversaw research projects focused on understanding how building and transportation design determines energy consumption. The lab collaborates with designers, builders, developers, and governmental agencies to develop strategies and design tools that maximize energy efficiency in new materials, components, assemblies, buildings, and communities. The ESBL has acted as a design consultant on more than 100 projects.

Prof. Brown is a pioneer. In 1988, he collaborated on a study investigating the impacts of climate change on the energy performance of buildings. In 1991, he served as an advisor on the Global Warming project for the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress. He is the author of a pioneering book on the practice of sustainable design, *Sun, Wind and Light: Architectural Design Strategies*, and co-author of *Natural Ventilation in Northwest Buildings* and *Inside Out: Design Procedures for Passive Environmental Technologies*. His list of publications includes more than 100 papers and reports on computing, energy, climate, and housing. He has also co-authored software programs to facilitate design, including *Energy Scheming*, *SIP Scheming*, *Energy Module*, and *Auto Architect*.

Prof. Brown's research topics include visualization of building information, manually activated pneumatic shade controls, natural ventilation, daylighting (including the impact of structural design), heat exchangers, modular construction (with a focus on structural insulated panels), classroom design, building massing, passive design, insulation, energy auditing, and straw bale construction.

He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the American Solar Energy Society, and has received awards for leadership in research from the U.S. Green Building Council and the Architectural Research Centers Consortium. In 1984, Prof. Brown received the National Award for Energy Innovation from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Governor's Award for Energy Innovation from the State of Oregon.

Prof. Brown will be honored this month by the University of Oregon for his contributions, and it is my honor to recognize and congratulate him for his years of exemplary service.

TRIBUTE TO TALL CORN MOTEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Tall Corn Motel of Shenandoah, Iowa. For over 60 years, the Tall Corn Motel has been a constant in the Shenandoah community. The business was founded in 1955 and was one of the first motels to be built in the state.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the motel went through many changes and new ownership to accommodate what quickly became a

famous Iowa landmark. With the economy booming, many motel guests looked at the motel as their home away from home. In fact, even world famous movie stars and musicians, such as the Everly Brothers, Elizabeth Taylor, Dolly Parton, Lucille Ball, John Wayne, and Marilyn Monroe, made appearances throughout the years at the Tall Corn Motel.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Tall Corn Motel for 60 years of dedicated service to the communities and visitors of Shenandoah and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Tall Corn Motel owners, and wishing them and their entire staff nothing but the best moving forward.

'EL FARO' TRAGEDY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my heart and prayers go out to the families of those aboard the cargo ship, *El Faro*, which disappeared Thursday evening, northeast of the Crooked Islands, Bahamas. Along with the family members, I hold out hope that the Coast Guard's search and rescue mission will be able to save the lives of surviving crew members.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I will be asking for a complete investigation into this tragic incident. I commend the Coast Guard for everything they do for our nation in the areas of maritime security and environmental protection, and have worked closely with the agency for many years. I was briefed today by the Coast Guard, and was told that in their search and rescue mission, they currently have:

Two Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplanes from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida.

Two Navy P-8 fixed wing airplanes.

One Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida.

Coast Guard Cutter *Northland*, a 210-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Coast Guard Cutter *Resolute*, a 210-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Coast Guard Cutter *Charles Sexton*, a 154-foot fast response cutter homeported in Key West, Florida.

Three commercial tugboats.

Additionally, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will have an investigative team that will arrive in Jacksonville tomorrow, and I will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide any assistance I am able to.

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, AS THE HAPPIEST CITY IN AMERICA

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lafayette, Louisiana, for being recognized as the Happiest City in America. Lafayette is my home. I was raised there, attended elementary and high school there, obtained my undergraduate degree from the University of Southwest Louisiana there, and began a family there. Anyone who has spent time in our city can tell you it is a place filled with *joie de vivre*—where friends and neighbors become family, our unique Cajun food, music, and culture abound, and everyone knows how to have a good time.

This designation was awarded by the National Bureau of Economic Research based on a 2014 study conducted by Edward Glaeser of Harvard University, Joshua Gottlieb of the Vancouver School of Economics, and Oren Ziv, a Harvard University doctoral student. Amazingly, every city in the top five hail from Louisiana, with Houma, Shreveport-Bossier City, Baton Rouge, and Alexandria following Lafayette in the study's findings. Accordingly, Louisiana was found to be the happiest state in the country.

This is just another reason I am proud to call Lafayette, Louisiana, my home. I'm honored to represent this beautiful and diverse city in Congress, and am grateful to be able to recognize its distinction as the Happiest City in America.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT LUCAS COLOSIMO

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lucas Colosimo for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Lucas made and installed an outdoor meditative pathway, which included the Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas More Center in Panora, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Lucas and his supportive family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of

Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY
OF JOHN JENKINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize John Jenkins on his 75th birthday on October 16th.

Mr. Jenkins was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1940. In his childhood, he worked on his family's farm, and showed a strong work ethic and a dedication to every job he held. He eventually began a career as an investment specialist, helping others achieve the American dream.

However, not everything in John's life was perfect. He struggled with alcoholism, which later led to an addiction to crack cocaine. His addictions caused him to reach rock bottom, and he found himself living in a burned out building. A stranger told John about His Place, a Christian recovery home in Opelika, Alabama.

While there, John overcame his addictions, and found religion. He resolved to make good on the change in his life by helping others, and over the past 15 years has served in numerous positions at His Place, most recently becoming an assistant director there. He also serves as a deacon and elder at Grace Falls Church, and is known and loved throughout his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Jenkins and wishing him a happy 75th birthday.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DIS-
ABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARE-
NESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. As we celebrate the 70th year of recognizing individuals with disabilities within our national workforce, it is paramount that we, as a country, do everything we can to ensure individuals with a disability have opportunities to enter the workforce without barriers.

Individuals with disabilities are a vital part of our national workforce and have contributed greatly to the U.S. economy. Yet, only 19.1% of these Americans are participants in the labor force. Accessibility, transportation, and perceptions of individuals with disabilities are some of the many obstacles that prevent these Americans from being given the opportunity to put in a full day's work and become active members of our communities. Likewise,

it is critical that we recognize the organizations and individuals across the country that provide these opportunities.

The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is one such organization in my district that deserves this special recognition. Founded in 1931, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind provides employment opportunities for the visually impaired. The organization enhances the lives of hundreds of individuals with disabilities. In doing so, they bring tremendous value to our community.

As we recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, I call on employers, schools, and other organizations to work throughout the year—not only in October—to ensure that individuals with disabilities have a chance to contribute in meaningful and long-lasting ways through gainful employment. Mr. Speaker, individuals with disabilities have a lot of value to contribute to our society, and I am pleased to recognize their contributions during this very special month.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE
UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRAGEDY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article from Roseburg, Oregon's News-Review to honor and remember the lives of those who were taken too soon at Umpqua Community College on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

I ask that all Americans pray for the friends and families of these nine victims as they grieve and rebuild from this tragedy.

We must also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who were injured physically and emotionally by this event. It will take time and our support and patience as they grieve and recover.

Roseburg is a strong and tight-knit community. I am heartened, and not surprised, by the acts of kindness and generosity in response to an unthinkable act. We call that "UCC Strong," "Roseburg Strong." It is this strong spirit that will carry everyone through this difficult time.

[From the News-Review, Roseburg, Oregon, Oct. 2, 2015]

VICTIMS' FAMILIES: 'OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN
SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR'

The victims who died in Thursday's Umpqua Community College shooting were far more than a list of names. Five of the nine people who died were under 21 years old.

They were youth with bright futures, a teacher who loved the river, older students getting a fresh start.

Their families, friends and community are devastated by their loss.

TREVEN ANSPACH

Treven Anspach's close friend Danny Gil said Anspach loved playing soccer and basketball, and he was good at it because he was taller than everybody else. He also liked just hanging out with friends.

"He always had a smile on his face, I don't know. He was just like the type of guy that was always cheerful to be around," Gil said.

Gil was devastated when he heard from his roommate that a mutual friend had seen Anspach get shot. He believes Anspach was the victim who was brought to Mercy Medical Center and died there.

"I wasn't ready to let him go. I just wasn't ready for it. I just cry about it and talk to my friends about it and my family," Gil said.

Gil said Anspach had his whole life ahead of him.

"He was doing good in college. He had a girlfriend. He was engaged, and he was ready for life to just begin," he said.

In a statement, Anspach's family described him as "one of the most positive young men, always looking for the best in life. Treven was larger than life and brought out the best in those around him."

According to his parents, Anspach was "a perfect son."

Anspach played basketball for the Sutherlin Bulldogs and at UCC.

Umpqua Riverhawks basketball coach Dan Leeworthy wrote on Facebook that Anspach wanted to "marry his high school sweetheart, be a firefighter like his Dad, and to serve others."

"To me he was a friend and a coach's dream. He was a friend to everyone," Leeworthy wrote.

LARRY LEVINE

Larry Levine was an assistant English professor at Umpqua Community College. He was an avid fisherman, a member of the Steamboaters fishing group and a former fly fishing guide.

Levine was teaching an English class just before the shooting, and it was his classroom the gunman entered when the terror began.

Friend and fellow Steamboater Dale Greenley remembered Levine as an "easy-going, kind of quiet, laid back" man. Greenley had known Levine since the 1970s. He said Levine did whatever it took to stay by the river so he could keep on fishing.

"He could have gone off somewhere and probably made good money, but he loved the Umpqua and he stayed here and he finally got that job at the UCC and that was really nice," he said.

Greenley doesn't have a television set, so he didn't know about Levine's death until he was called by a reporter with a national news outlet.

"That's when I found out. It was kind of a shock. I'm still kind of processing it," he said.

Greenley said Levine was fun to talk to. They shared fishing stories together. Levine was a great writer who loved to describe the North Umpqua River he loved, Greenley said.

"He was just part of the river," Greenley said. "Larry loved the river. He committed his life to it."

He was also popular with students.

"If you ever had any questions or problems or anything else, he was Johnny-on-the-spot to help you out," said Taylor Gunn, 21, of Myrtle Creek who took her first ever community college class from Levine last spring.

KIM DIETZ, 59, ROSEBURG

Kim Dietz was a strong and compassionate woman, whose love of animals defined her, said Carolyn Whitehorn, Dietz's mother-in-law.

Dietz owned two Great Pyrenees dogs.

Whitehorn recalled Dietz setting out to befriend a local feral cat who was determined to stay wild.

"Feral cats are not easy to tame," she said through tears. "But she had him tamed in what seemed like no time at all. She would sit outside when he was around and just talk

to him and offer him food until he came close enough to pet."

Eventually, the cat became the family pet who lived with Dietz for many years.

"She was such a strong and powerful woman," Whitehorn said. "She will be missed greatly."

LUCAS EIBEL, 18, ROSEBURG

Lucas Eibel's family said they have been "trying to figure out how to tell everyone how amazing Lucas was, but that would take 18 years."

Eibel was an FFA member and a volunteer with Wildlife Safari and Saving Grace. He was a Ford Family Foundation scholarship recipient and was studying chemistry.

He and three of his siblings were quadruplets. They were nicknamed The Quad by their friends at Roseburg High School.

In 2014, Lucas Eibel told News-Review reporter Kate Stringer it's "always funny to see people's reactions" when they find out the four are fraternal quadruplets.

Eibel was studying chemistry in his first year at UCC. It was his favorite subject in high school.

The family has asked that donations be given to Roseburg High School FFA and to the injured victims.

QUINN GLEN COOPER, 18, ROSEBURG

Quinn Glen Cooper was in his fourth day of college.

"We are shocked this has happened," his family's statement said.

Cooper was funny, smart and compassionate. He was the kind of guy who stood up for other people, according to family members. He was going to take his brown-belt test in karate next week.

"I don't know how we're going to move forward with our lives without Quinn. Our lives have been shattered beyond repair," the family statement said.

"I can't actually believe you are gone," wrote Cooper's friend Andrew Phillips on Facebook. "You always made me laugh and we always finished each other's sentences."

Former classmate Luke Counsell wrote on Facebook about a time that Cooper was the only one to follow him to the changing room to comfort him when he broke down while rehearsing for a play.

"He wasn't just a 'friend,' he was a brother," Counsell wrote.

REBECCA ANN CARNES, 18, MYRTLE CREEK

Rebecka Carnes had just started both a new job and her college career, according to her cousin Lisa Crawford. She was studying for a job in a health care field.

"She had people in her life that loved her fiercely and are devastated," Crawford wrote on Facebook.

Carnes was a relative of U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley—his cousin's great-granddaughter. Merkley called Carnes a "beautiful spirit," according to The Oregonian.

She graduated South Umpqua High School in June. She played softball.

Kristy Westbrooks, an English teacher said, "Going to UCC was always her plan A she worked really hard to earn scholarships last year."

"Everybody said she was a sweet person and very well thought of," said Jim Howard, superintendent of the South Umpqua School District.

LUCERO ALCARAZ, 19, ROSEBURG

Lucero Alcaraz was in the UCC Scholars program and studying to become a pediatric nurse. Friends called her beautiful and kind-hearted.

Friend Brittany Eggers said Alcaraz was a talented artist and a great person.

"She was probably the sweetest person I know, probably the most genuine too," Eggers said. "She never once said anything bad about anybody."

Eggers said she is confused and angry about what happened to her friend.

"I just don't understand," she said.

Alcaraz's sister Maria Alcaraz, heartbroken, wrote on Facebook that she never got the chance to tell her how proud she was of her accomplishments.

"You were going to do great things love," she wrote.

JASON JOHNSON, 33, WINSTON

Jason Johnson spent the last few months of his life fighting.

A part of The Salvation Army's rehabilitation program to battle addiction, Johnson went from being beat up and physically ill to being a role model, said close friend Chuck Bellinger, who described their friendship as a brotherhood.

"He was always right there," said Bellinger who was in the program along with Johnson. "His room was right next to mine and every night I'd go to bed and before that boy would get into his bed, he'd come pop my door open and tell me good night and that he loved me."

"We have to carry the torch. His torch is a bright one and probably very difficult to go on with," he said.

But Bellinger said that Johnson's death was not in vain.

"Our brother was following his dream and sobered up and was becoming a productive member of society," he said. "He died a sober and upright man—a dude that was loving his family and an example for everyone."

He was attending UCC and his family said Johnson had found the right path and they were proud of him for enrolling in school.

SARENA DAWN MOORE, 44, MYRTLE CREEK

Sarena Moore was a Seventh-Day Adventist who loved animals, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

According to the online Adventist magazine Spectrum, Moore was a firm believer of prayer, a single mother with few possessions but a big heart. She attended Reno High School and had recently moved to Myrtle Creek from Grants Pass to attend UCC.

Her pictures on Facebook are of dogs and horses, suggesting she was an animal lover.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, in Aniston, Alabama.

The church was founded in March 1890 by four local reverends, when it was then known as the Galilee Baptist Church. During the first 10 years of the church's existence, the congregation held services under a tent in what is now a local park in Lincoln, Alabama.

In 1900, the church moved into their first building. Sadly, this burned down in April of 1905. The congregation again met under a

tent for services, doing so until 1910 when they built their own church, a wooden structure. With a significantly expanding membership, Reverend W.L. Maddox ordered the construction of a red brick building on the site in 1921, which still stands today.

The church has had four pastors since then, and seen significant expansions, such as the construction of a family life center. The current pastor, Reverend Carlton L. Phillips, has served since 2010.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on their 125th Anniversary.

TAIWAN'S DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, as the people of Taiwan celebrate their national holiday, Double Ten Day, on October 10th, I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to them.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a longstanding relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free enterprise. Taiwan is a strong national security and economic partner. The island is now our 10th-largest trading partner. Also, Taiwan is the 5th largest export market for Asia in my home state of Tennessee.

In recent decades, Taiwan has created a democracy which conducts direct presidential elections every four years and has witnessed the peaceful passage of power from one political party to another on two occasions. This serves as a powerful example to other nations in the region and beyond who aspire to democracy. Taiwan is a regional and global economic force, and they make global contributions culturally in many diverse fields. Through our shared security partnership, the island also contributes to the security of the Asia-Pacific and is a humanitarian force around the globe.

I would like to congratulate Taiwan on the occasion of Double Ten Day, and I look forward to many more years of friendship between our two countries.

IN HONOR OF THE HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ON THEIR 37TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heritage Fellowship Church of Reston, Virginia. Heritage Fellowship Church, initially named Christian Community Fellowship, began in 1978 as the town of Reston's first African-American church. In the church's

early stages, it moved around, having its services in different high schools. Howard University's School of Divinity and the Washington DC Community of Faith provided pastors to lead the church and the church's first pastoral advisor was Dr. Harold Hunt of Howard Divinity School, who served from May of 1978 to January of 1979. Dr. Earnest W. Armstrong, Sr. was next to give pastoral leadership to Heritage Fellowship Church, serving from January of 1979 to March of that same year. Over the years, Heritage Fellowship Church has had many distinguished advisors from the religious community, attesting to its deep community ties. In 1995, on the first Sunday in November, Reverend Dr. Norman A. Tate began his 20 year tenure at Heritage Fellowship Church as an Interim Pastor. Three dedicated years later he rose to the office of Senior Pastor. In June of 2012, a 73,000 square foot building was finished, the result of a years-long capital campaign. This building houses a youth center, staff offices and many other rooms that benefit the entire community. This year, on Saturday, October 10th, they will celebrate two significant events. The first is the 37th anniversary of Heritage Fellowship Church and the second is the 20th anniversary of Reverend Dr. Tate's leadership at Heritage Fellowship Church. Heritage Fellowship Church and Reverend Dr. Tate have both made a great impact on our community, and for that, we are all grateful.

104TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the 104th National Day of the Republic of China approaches on October 10th, I rise today to commemorate that historic event and to congratulate the people of Taiwan. October 10th, 1911 marked the beginning of the Wuchan Uprising, which led to the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912. Today, Taiwan is one of the world's most developed economies, a consolidated representative democracy, and a great friend of the United States of America.

Taiwan is there to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever there is a natural disaster or other humanitarian tragedy. When the World Health Organization declared the Ebola outbreak an international public health emergency, Taiwan stepped up preparatory measures to protect its citizens while collaborating with the international community to mount an effective response. Taiwan's Center for Disease Control set up an emergency response team and organized expert consultation meetings for more than 100,000 public health professionals.

Additionally, under the leadership of President Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan made a significant donation to the CDC Foundation's Global Disaster Response Fund, pledged all necessary measures to prevent the spread of Ebola in Taiwan, and agreed to donate 100,000 sets of protective equipment for the Ebola workers in West Africa. Taiwan seeks to become a member of important international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Given Taiwan's proven success in international healthcare and peaceful operations, we should do all we can to support Taiwan's participation in those key international organizations.

Taiwan is also a responsible member of the international community and constantly works for the peaceful resolution of disputes. Taiwan has achieved a remarkable reduction of cross-strait tensions, and I believe that Taiwan deserves to be a member of international organizations so that it can more effectively work for peace, harmony, and civilized conduct by all nations throughout the world.

It was my privilege to visit Taiwan in July of this year. I personally witnessed Taiwan's vibrant democracy, advanced development and women's right promotion. I encourage my colleagues to visit Taiwan, support of our friends there, and support their bids for entrée into international organizations.

SENATE—Wednesday, October 7, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our Strength, thank You for Your providential love. Today give our Senators the wisdom to do what is right. Enlighten their minds with Your truth as You warm their hearts with Your love. Lord, fill their lives with Your power that they may accomplish Your purposes. Make them so aware of Your presence that they will remember that wherever they are and whatever they do, You see them. May they feel nothing but to grieve You and seek nothing except to please You.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2146

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2146) to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ADOPTIVE FAMILY RELIEF ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, before I speak on the legislation the Sen-

ate will consider this afternoon, I want to say a few words about S. 1300, the Adoptive Family Relief Act. I spoke on this bill in July after it passed the Senate with unanimous consent. Now I would like to praise the House of Representatives for passing this important piece of legislation just yesterday.

The issue this bill addresses is of particular importance to me, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the legislation. More than 400 American families, approximately 20 of them from Kentucky, have successfully adopted children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or the DRC. However, due to the DRC Government's years-long suspension of exit permits, many of these families have been unable to bring their adoptive children home to the United States.

To make matters worse, families have been financially burdened by the cost of continually renewing their children's visas while they wait for the day the DRC decides to lift its suspension. In an attempt to help these families, the Adoptive Family Relief Act would provide meaningful financial relief by granting the State Department authority to waive the fees for multiple visa renewals in these and other extraordinary adoption circumstances.

This bill builds on Congress' bipartisan efforts on the adoption issue, including my amendment to this year's budget resolution to encourage a solution to the situation as well as numerous bipartisan congressional letters sent to Congolese officials.

Later today I will have the opportunity to meet with the Brock family from Owensboro. I was grateful to assist in the return of their medically fragile child from the DRC last Christmas. However, their other adopted son still remains in the country.

For this Kentucky family, and for many others still waiting, I again strongly urge the Government of the DRC to resolve the matter expeditiously and in a way that provides for the swift unification of families. Until then, I want to praise the bipartisan action that led to the passage of the Adoptive Family Relief Act. I hope families see this as a message that Congress is supporting them.

This bill will now go to the President for his signature. It is my hope it will bring needed assistance to so many loving families, like the Brocks, who want nothing more than to open their homes to a child in need.

Allow me to also thank the sponsors of this bill, Senators FEINSTEIN and JOHNSON and Representative TRENT FRANKS, for all their hard work. That

thanks extends as well to the 78 other cosponsors in both Chambers and both parties, along with the Senate and House judiciary committees for their hard work and truly bipartisan commitment to solving this heartbreaking issue.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter before the Senate this afternoon, I was glad to see the Senate come together yesterday to advance the bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act. This bipartisan Defense bill will support our men and women in uniform in many, many ways.

The bill attacks bureaucratic waste, authorizes pay raises, and improves quality-of-life programs for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. It will strengthen sexual assault prevention and response. It will help wounded warriors and heroes who struggle with mental health challenges. Most importantly, it will equip the men and women who serve with what they need to defend our Nation.

The chairman of the Committee on Armed Services was unrelenting in his work across the aisle to craft a serious defense bill with input from both parties. Senator MCCAIN can and should take pride in yesterday's 73-to-26 vote to advance this bill. He should take heart in today's vote to send it to the President as well.

That is where this legislative process should end—with the President's signature, with a win for our forces, and with a win for our country at a time of seemingly incalculable global crises. But the White House has issued threats that the President might actually veto this bipartisan bill for unrelated partisan reasons. That would be more than outrageous—truly outrageous, Mr. President. It would be yet another grave foreign policy miscalculation from this administration, something our country can no longer afford.

Just a year ago, the President announced a strategy to degrade and destroy ISIL. Today, the threat remains as versatile and resilient as ever. ISIL has consolidated its gains within Iraq and within Syria. Russia is now deploying troops and attacking the moderate opposition forces in Syria. Iran is reportedly sending additional forces to the battlefield. Civilians are dying and refugees are fleeing.

John Kerry calls the situation “a catastrophe, a human catastrophe really unparalleled in modern times.” He is right.

According to news reports, this is all forcing the President to reconsider his strategy in that region and craft a new one. Regardless of what he decides, it is going to be a protracted area of struggle. It has been profoundly challenging already. That is to say nothing of the countless other mounting global threats, from Chinese expansion in the south China Sea to Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan.

Many Americans would say this is the worst possible time for an American President to be threatening to veto their national defense bill, and especially to do so for arbitrary partisan reasons. I wish I could say it surprises me that President Obama might, for the sake of unrelated partisan games, actually contemplate vetoing a bipartisan defense bill that contains the level of funding authorization that he actually asked for. Let me say that again. This bill contains the funding authorization the President asked for. So I am calling on him not to, especially in times like these, but if he does, it will be the latest sorry chapter in a failed foreign policy based on campaign promises rather than realistically meeting the threat before us.

The President's approach to foreign policy has been nothing if not consistent over the past 7 years. I have described this in detail many times before. From repeatedly seeking to declare some arbitrary end to the war on terror, to discarding the tools we have to wage it, to placing unhealthy levels of trust in unaccountable international organizations, the President's foreign policy has been as predictable as it has been ineffectual.

Take, for instance, his heavy reliance on economy-of-force train-and-assist missions. This has been the primary tool of the President to cover our drawdown of conventional forces. The train-and-equip concept is to train indigenous forces to battle insurgencies in places such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. These forces ideally partner with U.S. capabilities, but under the President's policy, they have been left to fight alone as we continue to draw down our conventional forces.

The essence of this was captured in a speech he delivered at West Point just last May. In that speech the President described a network of partnerships from South Asia to Sahel to be funded by \$5 billion in counterterrorism funds. By deploying Special Operations Forces for train-and-equip missions, the President hoped to manage the diffuse threats posed by terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Boko Haram, the al-Nusrah Front, the Taliban, Libyan terrorist networks that threaten Egypt, and, of course, ISIL.

The President never explained the strategy—beyond direct action such as unmanned vehicle aerial strikes—for those cases when indigenous forces

proved insufficient, as we have seen in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. Nevertheless, this concept of operations suited the President because it allowed him to continue with force structure cuts to our conventional operational units. It allowed him to continue refusing to accept that leaving behind residual forces in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan might represent a means by which this Nation could preserve the strategic gains made through sacrifice. It also allowed him to continue refusing to rebuild our conventional and nuclear forces.

This was never, never an approach designed for success. Today it is clear this is now an approach that has also reached its limits.

The New York Times is hardly an adversary of this administration, but it recently ran a story titled "Billions From U.S. Fail to Sustain Foreign Forces." Once again, this is the New York Times. Here is what it said:

With alarming frequency in recent years, thousands of American-trained security forces in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia have collapsed, stalled or defected, calling into question the effectiveness of the tens of billions of dollars spent by the U.S. on foreign military training programs, as well as a central tenet of the Obama administration's approach to combating insurgencies.

Without rebuilding the force, we cannot deter China's efforts to extend its conventional reach in the South China Sea. Without rebuilding the force, we cannot deter Russian adventurism in places such as Crimea. Without rebuilding and deploying the force, we cannot hope to deter Russia's gambit to increase its Middle East presence or its air campaign in Syria. And under this strategy, when the host nation militaries we trained and equipped proved inadequate to defeat the insurgency in question, the strategy allowed for a persistent, enduring terrorist threat in those countries. That is just what we have seen with Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, with the Taliban, and now with ISIL.

I thought the growth, advance, and evolution of ISIL last year would have presented a turning point for the President. I thought the fall of Anbar Province and the threat posed to allies such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey would have provoked a reconsideration of his entire national security policy, but it didn't. If the latest stories of White House efforts to revise its ISIL strategy are to be believed, then perhaps the President now finally realizes the threat from terrorist groups like ISIL and Al Qaeda have outpaced his economy-of-force concept. He may even be accepting the reality that withdrawing arbitrarily from Afghanistan is neither consequence-free nor is it a good idea.

One year after the President's ISIL speech, it is time to reverse the withdrawal of our military from its forward

presence. It is time to lay the groundwork for the next President to rebuild America's credibility with friend and foe alike. That is true of ISIL and it is true of dissatisfied powers such as Russia, China, and Iran, who are all looking to exploit American withdrawal in pursuit of regional hegemony and dreams of empire.

To paraphrase the President: Russia is calling, and it wants its empire back. Russia wants its empire back. China is calling, too, and so is Iran. They have watched as both our economy-of-force efforts to mask American withdrawal and as other U.S. commitments have proven quite hollow—like the announcement of a strategic pivot to Asia, without the investments to make it meaningful. The next President, regardless of party, will need to craft plans, policies, and programs to balance against expansion. Signing the bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act we pass today—and of course matching the authorization with its corresponding funding—would represent a good first step along that path. If the President is serious in his just-restated commitment to taking all steps necessary to combat ISIL, then he will know that signing this bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act is anything but the waste of time some of his allies might pretend it to be. In fact, this bill is essential.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL AND BENGHAZI SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the bill before the Senate this afternoon, in spite of all the statements of my friend the Republican leader, is another piece of political theater. Everyone knows the President is going to veto this. Everyone knows this. The House, if they are called upon first to sustain the veto, will do it. If we are called upon first to sustain the veto, we will do it.

Republicans are trying to paint Democrats as being soft on defense. Based on what we have heard from my friend today, I don't know where he doesn't want American troops—China, Iran, Russia, all over the Middle East. It is stunning to listen to what he has said. We have spent a lot of money training foreign troops. I was in Iraq. Who was training the troops then? General Petraeus. I don't know what my friend wants, but I do tell everyone the gimmick we have in this bill today; that is, having this funny money funding and that is what it is—I can't imagine my Republican friends who have in the past been so supportive of not doing things that deal with funny

money, that their—Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the committee, has acknowledged that sequestration will destroy the military—that is my word—but will badly damage the military. He has said that many times.

So we have a lot of problems here, but the gimmick my friend is so touting today does nothing to support the security we need at home: The FBI, homeland security, border protection. I say to my friend, the Presiding Officer, today: You voted the way I thought Republicans should vote when this matter came before the body yesterday.

It has been a week since it happened, but the American people are still reeling from House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY's admission that the so-called Benghazi Select Committee is nothing more than a political hit job on Hillary Clinton. That is what he said. Speaking about this committee, he told FOX News:

Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping.

It doesn't take much to figure out the point he was making; that this was nothing more than a hit job on Hillary Clinton. According to Mr. MCCARTHY, the so-called Benghazi Select Committee was orchestrated with one goal in mind—to weaken Hillary Clinton's Presidential campaign. Of course that is shameful. House Republicans have used the tragic deaths of four Americans as political fodder to win an election. Don't the victims deserve better? Don't their families deserve not to have their deceased loved ones pulled into a political inquisition?

Even more shocking, this political farce continues now. House Republicans are showing no signs of bringing this charade to an end. Consider the facts. These are a number of the select committees that have been going on that we have had in the Congress in recent years: Hurricane Katrina, Pearl Harbor, Warren Commission, Iran-Contra, Watergate, and the Benghazi Committee. This big red line sitting here shows this committee has spent far more time than any committee except Watergate. Look at that. It is hard to believe. For 16 months now we have used the tragic deaths in a way that is not what we should be doing. They have spent almost \$5 million of taxpayer money on this so-called select committee, and the number continues to climb as I speak. Not only do they have a select committee, they have had six other committees that have held hearings on this. What a waste of taxpayer dollars. The select committee has investigated Hillary Clinton for 17 months, 517 days—longer than the investigations that I mentioned: Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy assassination, and even, timewise, Watergate—close but still more time than on Watergate, and

it is still going on. What have they accomplished? What have they achieved after all that time and money has been spent? What have they accomplished for the American people? Nothing. And they have held three hearings in 17 months. Not one American is safer today because of the select committee, not one terrorist attack has been thwarted because of the committee's work, and Republicans are fine with that. They hail the Benghazi committee as a success because it was never the panel's intention to get to the truth. This committee's only real objective was to hurt Hillary Clinton—exactly as Congressman MCCARTHY said. The evidence makes that clear. In 17 months, the committee has interviewed or deposed eight Clinton campaign staffers. They are obsessed with Hillary Clinton and her campaign status. Yet, stunningly, Chairman GOWDY and Republicans have little interest in questioning intelligence and defense experts. They have held only one hearing with an expert from the intelligence community. They have never held a single hearing with anyone from the Department of Defense. The Republican chairman and his colleagues have abandoned their plans to interview Defense officials and instead have gone after Secretary Clinton and her staff. The evidence is clear. The Benghazi Select Committee is a sham. Democrats have known this for 2 years, but now we have the man who is going to be—I understand after tomorrow at noon—running the House of Representatives come November 1. He has acknowledged it is a witch hunt. That is why the Democratic leadership of the Senate wrote to Speaker BOEHNER asking him to disband the select committee. That is why I will not stop reminding Republicans of Congressman MCCARTHY's admission.

If it were up to me, the House Democrats on that panel would nail this quote on the committee room doors as a reminder to everyone that Republicans have manipulated a true American tragedy and turned it into a political circus:

Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping.

He is so proud of himself. Until House Republicans do the right thing and disband this committee, I will continue to tell the American people about the disgrace that is the House Republicans' Benghazi committee.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce what we are going to be doing today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 1 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Utah.

THE RIGHT TO EXTENDED DEBATE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 2 months ago I came to the Senate floor in my capacity as President pro tempore to speak to my colleagues about the importance of maintaining decorum and respect in this body. I reminded them that decorum is essential to the proper functioning of the Senate and to its unique role in our constitutional structure. The Framers designed the Senate to be an institution of deliberation and reason, where Members would work to promote consensus and the common good rather than their own narrow, partisan interests. Today I rise once more in my capacity as President pro tempore, this time to discuss another defining feature of this body—the right to extended debate.

The Framers designed the Senate to serve as a necessary fence against the fickleness and passion that drives hasty lawmaking—what Edmund Randolph called the turbulence and follies of democracy. James Madison in turn described the Senate as a bulwark against what he called the transient impressions into which the people may from time to time be led. Senators were to refine the popular will to wisdom and sound judgment, reaching measured conclusions about how best to address the Nation's challenges. It is no accident that passing bills through this body takes time. The Framers intended the Senate to be the cooler, more deliberate, more reasoned branch. As Madison once said, the Senate was to “consist in its proceedings with more coolness, with more system, and with more wisdom than the [House of Representatives].”

Key to the Senate's deliberative nature is its relatively small size, which enables a much more thoroughgoing debate and greater opportunity for individual Members to improve legislative proposals. Longer, staggered terms also give Members flexibility to resist initially popular yet ultimately unwise legislation, and statewide constituencies require Senators to appeal to a

broader set of interests than do narrow, more homogenous House districts. To these constitutional characteristics, the Senate has added a number of traditions—some formal, others informal—that have enhanced its deliberative character. Foremost among these traditions is the right to extend debate—what we today call the filibuster.

For many years—indeed, for the first 130 years of this body's existence—there was no formal way to cut off debate. Senators could, in theory, speak as long as they wanted, on whatever subject they wanted. In 1917, the Senate adopted the first cloture rule, which required a two-thirds vote to end debate. Filibusters remained rare, although they were used from time to time to delay legislation. In 1975, under the leadership of Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, the Senate lowered the cloture threshold from two-thirds to three-fifths, where it has remained ever since, with the notable exception of Senate Democrats' unilateral decision last Congress to lower the cloture threshold for most nominations to a simple majority vote. The cloture threshold for legislative filibusters remains three-fifths.

Now, one may wonder why a device that allows a minority of Senators to delay or block legislation is a good thing. My friends and colleagues, the junior Senator from Oregon and the senior Senator from New Mexico spoke on the Senate floor last week about the importance of majority rule and the need to allow legislation to proceed. I do not deny that obstructionism can be a serious problem. Obstinate refusal to allow any legislation to move forward or requiring complete capitulation by opponents is not statesmanship, and it is not what the Framers had in mind. But when exercised properly, the right to extended debate can measurably improve policy.

The filibuster furthers two of the Senate's key purposes. First, it helps to guard against intemperate impulses that may from time to time infect our political order. Second, it facilitates the process of refining the popular will.

The way in which the filibuster guards against intemperate impulses is obvious. By requiring a supermajority to pass major legislation, the filibuster ensures that a narrow partisan majority swept into office through a fluke election does not go about unravelling vast swaths of America's legal architecture. The filibuster also ensures that the same narrow majority does not run riot with new, pie-in-the-sky ideas that cost billions of dollars while producing little discernible benefit.

I would point my colleagues to two major, extremely controversial measures that passed the House in 2009 but went nowhere in the Senate: the cap-and-trade energy tax and the so-called public option for health insurance. Speaker PELOSI was barely able to ram

through cap and trade by a vote of 219 to 212. The public option passed by an even slimmer margin of 220 to 215. These two pieces of legislation received little consideration in this body because there were nowhere near enough votes for cloture. Absent the filibuster, however, it is likely both would have passed the Senate and become law. Had that occurred, a temporary electoral victory would have wrought fundamental changes to American energy policy and put our Nation even more firmly on the path to government-run health care.

Many on the left may point to the failure of cap and trade and of the public option in 2009 as reasons to eliminate, not preserve, the filibuster. After all, it prevented progressives from achieving two of their most sought-after policy goals. But consider what happened a mere 2 years later, in the very next election: Voters delivered President Obama and the Democratic Party a sharp rebuke, voting out of office the highest number of Democratic officeholders in generations. Voters disapproved of the Democrats' policymaking, and registered their disapproval at the polls. Note, too, that the Democrats lost their majority in the House—the body that passed cap and trade and the public option—but retained their majority in the Senate—the body that never even took up either proposal.

The filibuster prevented a transient Democratic majority from enacting far-reaching reforms that a majority of voters ultimately opposed. It didn't prevent all reforms. After all, the Democratic majority still managed to enact many of its policy priorities. But the filibuster prevented other extreme measures from becoming law and stopped a short-lived congressional majority from running roughshod over longstanding principles of federalism, free enterprise, and limited government.

To my friends from Oregon and New Mexico and to others who argue that the filibuster is anti-democratic, I would say that it is in fact the opposite. The filibuster ensures that fundamental change comes only through sustained victories at the ballot box. It typically takes two or three successive victories at the polls to build a filibuster-proof majority. This multiyear window gives the public time to evaluate the majority's platform and to determine whether it is in fact the better course of action.

If by democracy one means to win at all costs, perhaps one could say the filibuster is anti-democratic. But if democracy, as I believe, instead means the system for transforming the people's preferences into law, then the filibuster is not anti-democratic at all. Rather, it preserves the people's preferences until they decide emphatically, and with the benefit of review, that it is time for significant change.

I have also said that the filibuster facilitates the process of refining the popular will. It does this in two ways. First, it gives opponents of a particular piece of legislation additional time to explain why the legislation is misguided or how it could be improved. It also gives proponents of the legislation additional time to explain why the objections are unfounded. This helps to increase understanding on both sides and also offers opportunities to correct problems with particular provisions.

Second, by requiring 60 votes in order to proceed on controversial issues, the filibuster ensures increased buy-in. The process of refining the public will works only if Senators actually pay attention to legislation and devote their resources to examining it. By requiring 60 Senators to assent to legislation rather than a bare majority, the filibuster ensures that no bill passes this body without first garnering broad support. The process of getting to 60 requires more scrutiny, more investigation, and more consensus than the process of getting to a bare majority. It also decreases the likelihood of deeply flawed legislation making it to the President's desk because more Senators have to agree that the legislation warrants passage.

To the extent there are problems with the filibuster, they are not problems with the filibuster itself but with how it has sometimes been used in recent years, as a matter of fact. In April of this year, I spoke on the floor about the need for mutual restraint in the Senate, about the need for both sides to exercise discretion in wielding the powers of the majority and the minority. Yes, the filibuster can be a tool for improving legislation and winning important promises from the Executive, but it can also be abused for narrow partisan ends. It can be used to bring business to a halt for irrelevant or unimportant purposes or merely to make a point. It can be used to win an unsavory favor for a particular individual or constituency, and it can be used to create false narratives about the majority's ability to govern.

From time to time we hear calls—including by Members of this body—to strip the minority of certain rights. Lately, there have been calls by some in the media, on the campaign trail, and on the other side of the Capitol to eliminate the filibuster. Though these calls to abolish the filibuster may be instinctively appealing, we should reject them. Without the filibuster and other important minority rights, the Senate would lose its unique character. It would become less a body marked by deliberation and reasoned debate and more a body where the majority gets whatever it wants. Indeed, stripped of minority rights, the Senate would merely duplicate the work of the House

of Representatives. That may be advantageous for the current Senate majority, but it would not fulfill the constitutional design in creating a second House of Congress where the popular will would be refined through prudent judgment.

Those who call on the Senate to abolish the filibuster should keep in mind that this is not the first Congress to face institutional challenges. Indeed, I would urge my colleagues to recall the example of Mike Mansfield, the late Senator from Montana, whom I referenced earlier. Senator Mansfield served as Senate majority leader from 1961 to 1977, longer than any other Senator in history. During Senator Mansfield's time as majority leader, the Nation confronted a number of difficult, divisive issues. Chief among these were debates over school integration and civil rights, which deeply split the Democratic caucus. Near the beginning of his tenure, when a determined minority stalled President Kennedy's legislative priorities, Senator Mansfield faced great pressure from within his own party to exert the majority's power more assertively. In an act of great courage, Senator Mansfield resisted the calls of his colleagues to bend Senate rules. Though tempted by the prospect of important political victories, he instead counselled that the remedy to gridlock "lies not in the seeking of shortcuts, not in the cracking of nonexistent whips, not in wheeling and dealing, but in an honest facing of the situation and a resolution of it by the Senate itself, by accommodation, by respect for one another, [and] by mutual restraint."

Senator Mansfield was absolutely right. For the Senate to function effectively, Senators of all stripes must practice mutual restraint—Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal, majority and minority alike.

The solution to our current strife is not to change the rules but to follow them and to wield them only as necessary to improve legislation. Cooperation, not going nuclear, is what will restore this body to proper functioning. Going nuclear will only hollow out this institution and infect more of what we do with puerile partisan poison.

I wish to close by quoting two great statesmen who loved the Senate and who truly understood its unique role in our constitutional system. The first quote is from the first Adlai Stevenson, who served as Vice President from 1893 to 1897. In his farewell address to the Senate, Vice President Stevenson said the following:

In this Chamber alone are preserved without restraint two essentials of wise legislation and good government: the right of amendment and of debate. Great evils often result from hasty legislation; [but] rarely from the delay which follows full discussion and deliberation.

Vice President Stevenson understood that deliberation and reasoned debate

lead to better policy outcomes than the headlong rush to action. Delay rarely causes great evils. More commonly, it helps to avoid them.

The second quote comes from a man familiar to all of us, the late Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia. Senator Byrd, who served in this body longer than any other Senator in history and who spent the vast majority of his 51 years in the Senate in the majority, said this about the filibuster and minority rights: "[A]s long as the Senate retains the power to amend and the power of unlimited debate, the liberties of the people will remain secure."

Senator Byrd recognized that the Senate's cooling function serves as a crucial check on transient majority impulses and on the often misguided desire to act quickly and to act at all costs.

The filibuster is a key bulwark against error and against the ability of short-lived political majorities to work fundamental changes to our Nation. Although it can be deeply frustrating—particularly when misused and overused by an intransigent partisan Senate minority—the filibuster is an important element of the Senate's character and institutional structure. I urge my colleagues to resist calls to abolish the filibuster. Whatever we might win in the way of short-term political gain would be overwhelmed by the enduring, irreparable damage we would do to the Senate as an institution.

I knew Mike Mansfield. I visited with him in Tokyo when he was the Ambassador to Japan. He was a great leader. He was a great human being.

I also knew very well Senator Robert C. Byrd. There were times when I led the fight against labor law reform in 1977, 1978, where I was hard-pressed to like Senator Byrd because he used every tool at his disposal—procedural and otherwise—to try to put that bill forward, which would have changed the whole character of America for the worse.

I was young. I didn't realize how important that man really was. But as I continued to serve in the Senate and saw his devotion to the Senate, his devotion to the Senate rules, his fairness when he dealt with both sides, I got to really respect his understanding of the procedural votes.

I venture to say I don't know that anybody has ever had that full capacity as much as he did, with the possible exception of Senator Allen of Alabama, who I greatly admired also. He stood right over there on that side of the floor and took on his own party time after time. The filibuster was a very important instrument at that time, especially since Mr. Byrd was a very strong personality. The longer I served in the Senate, the more I appreciated Senator Byrd and his devotion to the

rules, the Constitution, and the Senate itself. He cared for the Senate.

I can remember him sitting right here in this chair. I went up to him and I said: Bob, I love you. This was right before he died. He looked like he was going to cry, and he said: ORRIN, I love you too. That meant so much to me because in the early days we were principal adversaries. He had more power than I could dream of.

We ended up winning on labor law reform through a miraculous sixth cloture vote. It was a great loss to Senator Byrd. He was not particularly enamored with me for the first number of years. But as we served together, fought together, and worked together, I gained tremendous experience from him and from his ability. I gained a great appreciation for Senator Byrd and his abilities and his dedication to the rules of the Senate and his dedication to not changing them and keeping those rules alive, and those rules have existed for almost a century.

Nobody I know of felt more sad when he had to leave the Senate than I did. Keep in mind, that was after a lot of blood and guts fighting here on the floor where I, as a young freshman Senator, had to take it on the chin regularly because he knew the rules better than I did and he had power that was much stronger than anybody on this side of the aisle. He had a very forceful presence.

I will just say this: He believed in the rules, and he lived by the rules. Even when he lost, he was a gentleman. I think that man did more for the Senate in many ways than very few other Senators did.

Let's not get so rambunctious about passing anything we want to pass around here. Let's think these rules through. The more you think, the more you realize these rules are here for a reason, and they have been here a long time for a reason and have functioned amazingly well and stopped the majority from running over the minority.

Every once in a while, the Democrats are in the minority, although not very often. Over the last number of years, they had the majority around 22 times and we had it maybe 6 times. I can say this: There are Democrats on the other side who really know these rules are very important, and I hope they prevail as we move on to even more difficult problems and processes in the future and in the time to come. This is a great body. It remains great in large measure because of its rules and because of the people who serve here. We should all respect the rules, and we should all respect each other for the privilege of serving in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CUBA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today, as I have in the past, in defense of the Cuban people, who long for the day when they are free of the iron fist of the Castro regime, a day when we can honestly say "Cuba es libre" and mean it. I rise with great concern over the trajectory of the policy towards Cuba that President Obama announced on December 17 of last year.

In executing this new policy, the Obama administration has spared no generosity towards the dictatorship in Cuba. It commuted the sentences of three convicted Cuban spies, including one serving a life sentence for murder conspiracy against Americans who died while flying a civilian aircraft in international airspace that was struck down by Cuban MIGs. It eased a host of travel and trade sanctions in spite of the purpose and intent of U.S. law. It removed Cuba from the state sponsors of terrorism list, while it continues harboring fugitives from the U.S. justice system and members of foreign terrorist organizations.

Among those people who are in Cuba is Joanne Chesimard, who killed a New Jersey State trooper. She was convicted of doing so, escaped, and is on the FBI's top 10 most wanted terrorist list. Yet we took them off the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

It negotiated an agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba that falls far short of international legal norms in terms of what the people at our Embassy can and cannot do inside of Cuba. It upgraded Cuba in the trafficking in persons report, despite its continued slave labor and human trafficking practices. It even acquiesced to shunning dissidents from attending the U.S. Embassy's flag-raising ceremony in Havana.

Yet Cuban dictator Raul Castro refuses to reciprocate any of these concessions. To the contrary, Castro has emphasized that he "will not cede 1 millimeter." In his speech at last month's United Nations General Assembly gathering, he demanded even more, namely for President Obama to evade U.S. law as regards sanctions, to shut down Radio and TV Marti, which is, in essence, the equivalent of our Voice of Democracy so that the Cuban people can get free and unfettered information, to end democracy programs, to return the military base at Guantánamo, and to pay \$1 trillion—not \$1 million, not \$1 billion, \$1 trillion—in damages to his regime.

So today, 10 months later, the metrics of this new policy show it is clearly headed in the wrong direction. The Castro family is poised for a gener-

ational transition in power. The Cuban regime's monopolies are being strengthened. Courageous democracy leaders are being relegated to obscurity, their voices muffled by the actions of the United States and foreign nations alike.

Political repression has exponentially increased. The number of Cubans desperately fleeing the island is rising, and the purpose and intent of U.S. law is being circumvented. The trajectory of our policy is unacceptable, and I urge President Obama to correct its course.

While speaking recently to a business gathering in Washington, President Obama argued how he believes this new policy is "creating the environment in which a generational change in transition will take place in that country." But the key question is this: a generational change in transition towards what and by whom?

Cuban democracy leader Antonio Rodiles has concisely expressed his concern. He said: "Legitimizing the [Castro] regime is the path contrary to a transition." CNN revealed that the Cuban delegation in the secret talks that began in mid-2013 with U.S. officials in Ottawa, Toronto, and Rome, and which led to the December 17 policy announcement, was headed by Colonel Alejandro Castro Espin. Colonel Castro Espin is the 49-year-old son of Cuban dictator Raul Castro. In both face-to-face meetings between President Obama and Raul Castro this year, the first at April's Summit of the Americas in Panama City, a summit that is supposed to be a meeting of democracies within the Western Hemisphere—Cuba in no way can qualify under those set of circumstances—and just last month at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Alejandro was seated next to his father with a wide grin.

Now, Alejandro holds the rank—this is him standing next to Raul Castro—of colonel in Cuba's Ministry of the Interior. Now, Cuba's Ministry of the Interior is, in essence, the state security that oppresses its people, with its hand on the pulse and the trigger of the island's intelligence services and repressive organs. It is no secret that Raul is grooming Alejandro for a position of power.

Sadly, his role as interlocutor with the Obama administration seeks to further their goal of an intrafamily generational transition within the Castro clan, similar to the Assads in Syria and the Kims in Korea. We know how well those have worked out. To give you an idea of how Colonel Alejandro Castro views the United States, he describes its leaders as "those who seek to subjugate humanity to satisfy their interests and hegemonic goals."

But, of course, it also takes money to run a totalitarian dictatorship, which is why Raul Castro named his son-in-

law, General Luis Alberto Rodriguez Lopez-Callejas, as head of GAESA, which stands for Grupo de Administracion Empresarial, S.A., or, translated, the Business Administrative Group.

GAESA is the holding company of Cuba's Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Cuba's military. It is the dominant, driving force of the island's economy. Established in the 1990s by Raul Castro, it controls tourism companies, ranging from the very profitable Gaviota, S.A., which runs Cuba's hotels, restaurants, car rentals, and night clubs, to TRD Caribe, S.A., which runs the island's retail stores. GAESA, this holding company of Cuba's Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, controls virtually all economic transactions in Cuba.

According to *Hotels Magazine*, a leading industry publication, GAESA, through its subsidiaries, is by far the largest regional hotel conglomerate in Latin America. It controls more hotel rooms than Walt Disney Company. As *McClatchy News* explained a few years back, "Tourists who sleep in some of Cuba's hotels, drive rental cars, fill up their gas tanks, and even those riding in taxis have something in common: They are contributing to the [Cuban] Revolutionary Armed Forces' bottom line."

Now, GAESA became this business powerhouse thanks to the millions of Canadian and European tourists who have and continue to visit Cuba each year. But these tourists—going over a decade and a half, maybe two—have done absolutely nothing to promote freedom and democracy in Cuba. To the contrary, they have directly financed a system of control and repression over the Cuban people, all while enjoying cigars made by Cuban workers paid in worthless pesos and having a Cuba Libre, which is an oxymoron, on the beaches of Varadero.

Yet, despite the clear evidence, some want American tourists to now double GAESA's bonanza—and, through GAESA, double the regime's bonanza. An insightful report this week by *Bloomberg Business* also explained how:

[Raul's son-in-law, General Rodriguez] is the gatekeeper for most foreign investors, requiring them to do business with his organization if they wish to set up shop on the island. . . . If and when the U.S. finally removes its half-century embargo on Cuba, it will be this man—

Castro's son-in-law—

who decides which investors get the best deals.

Of course, it is those investors in the company that ultimately is the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, Cuba's military. In other words, all the talking points about how lifting the embargo and tourism restrictions would somehow benefit the Cuban people are empty and misleading rhetoric. It

would only serve as a money funnel for Castro, Inc.

Now, here is what over a dozen of Cuba's most renowned prodemocracy leaders, including the head of the Ladies in White—the Ladies in White are a group of women, composed of mothers, wives, daughters, and other relatives of Cuban political prisoners. These are political prisoners who basically have languished in Castro's jail, not because they did anything violent, not because they broke the common law, as we would understand it here in the United States, but because they sought to create peaceful change.

They march every Sunday, dressed in white, holding a gladiola, peacefully to church. They are beaten savagely and arrested. And yet they do this every Sunday.

Berta Soler, shown in the middle, former prisoner of conscience Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez," and Sakharov prize recipient Guillermo Farinas, who are all pictured here, warned in an open letter to the U.S. Congress, dated September 25, 2015:

The lifting of the embargo, as proposed by the [Obama] Administration, will permit the old ruling elite to transfer their power to their political heirs and families, giving little recourse to the Cuban people in confronting this despotic power. . . .

Totalitarianism communism will mutate into a totalitarian state adopting minimal market reforms that will serve only to accentuate the existing social inequality in the midst of an increasingly uncertain future.

These are the people inside of Cuba languishing as they try to create change in their country toward peaceful moves toward democracy.

It is very interesting, as you can see, that despite the talk about the Cuban regime creating greater equality, these pro-democracy movers in this picture who wrote this letter to Congress are all Afro-Cubans. So much for the equality that the regime created and this mysticism or romanticism that some have about the regime.

From an economic perspective, the very concept of trade and investment in Cuba is grounded in a misconception about how business takes place on the island. Right now, the Commerce Secretary of the United States is there talking about business. With whom are you talking business? With the regime.

In most of the world, trade and investment means dealing with privately owned or operated corporations. That is not the case in Cuba. In Cuba, foreign trade and investment is the exclusive domain of the state; for instance, the Castro family. There are no exceptions.

In the last five decades, every single foreign trade transaction with Cuba has been with the Castro regime or an individual acting on behalf of the regime. The regime's exclusivity regarding trade and investment is enshrined in article 18 of Castro's 1976 Constitution. He changed the Constitution and

gave exclusivity to the state as it relates to trade and investment. That has not changed.

Moreover, there is no real private sector in Cuba. We often hear the Obama administration and the media refer to Cuba's small "self-employment" licenses as private enterprise, which implies private ownership. Yet Cuba's self-employed licensees have no ownership rights whatsoever—be it to their artistic or intellectual outputs, commodity that they produce or personal service that they offer.

Licensees have no legal entity to transfer, sell or leverage. They don't even own the equipment essential to their self-employment. More to the point, licensees have no right to engage in foreign trade, seek or receive foreign investments.

Effectually, licensees continue to work for the state. When the state decides such jobs are no longer needed—and we have seen this experiment before—licensees are shut down without recourse, which has happened several times in the past. Why? Because when you permit somebody to have a little barbershop and people congregate at the barbershop and begin to talk, that is a threat to the regime. When you permit people to assemble legally under the law, even if it is for the purposes of getting, for example, a haircut or eating at a restaurant—although that is normally for foreigners, not for locals—the bottom line is that when that gets out of hand, the regime, as it has in the past, will stop it. So this suggestion that there is this private enterprise is such a huge false fact.

The fact is, we already know what expanded U.S. trade with Cuba would look like. Since the passage of the 2000 Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act, over \$5 billion in U.S. agricultural and medical products have been sold to Cuba. It is, however, an unpleasant fact—and facts are stubborn—that all those sales by more than 250 privately owned U.S. companies were made to only one Cuban buyer: the Castro regime.

Don't believe me. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture itself: "The key difference in exporting to Cuba, compared to other countries in the region, is that all U.S. agricultural exports must be channeled through one Cuban government agency, ALIMPORT."

Exporting to Cuba is not about trading with small- or mid-sized farmers, private businesses and manufacturers around the island, as some of my colleagues would have Americans believe. So it should be no surprise that U.S. products end up on the shelves of regime-owned stores that accept only what? Hard currencies. Meaning what? The U.S. dollar or a euro—with huge price markups.

Shoppers at these "dollar stores" are mainly tourists or those Cubans who

happen to have U.S. families who will send them money, but at the end of the day, those stores have these huge markups. And where does the money go to? Not a private enterprise but the regime.

Little imported food or medicine ever makes it into stores where Cubans shop. Neither is it available on ration cards. It requires a tremendous leap of faith or belief in some extreme and unprecedented economic model—call it dictator-down economics, from my perspective—to argue or theorize that current or more U.S. sales to Castro's monopolies have or can ever benefit the Cuban people.

The facts prove otherwise, as has been the case with sales of U.S. food and medicine. So what makes us believe expanded trade with the United States would be any different? As a matter of fact, since December 17 of this past year—when the agreements between the United States and Cuba were announced and despite the Obama administration's efforts to improve relations with the Castro regime, which have included an increase in travel and eased payment terms for agricultural sales—U.S. sales to ALIMPORT, that Cuban regime company which they control, during the same period have plummeted by over 50 percent. So the question is, Why would even more concessions make this manipulation by the Castro regime's monopolies any different?

Let's stop talking about the embargo in vague terms. The embargo, as codified by the U.S. Congress into law, simply requires the fulfillment of some very basic conditions which are consistent with the democratic and human rights standards of 34 out of the 35 nations in the Western Hemisphere—Cuba remaining the sole exception and, of course, ironically Venezuela heading into a downward spiral with a lot of influence by the Castro regime.

When President Obama or some of my colleagues call for lifting the embargo, they are asking Congress to unilaterally discard these conditions. So I want to ask them, which of these conditions—codified in U.S. law—do they disagree with or oppose that they are willing to unilaterally discard them? Which one are they willing to live without?

Is it, for example, the condition that Cuba "legalizes all political activity" or the condition that Cuba "releases all political prisoners and allows for investigations of Cuban prisons by appropriate international human rights organizations"? As I understood part of this agreement, the Red Cross—I think it was the International Red Cross—was going to be able to go into Cuban prisons. The regime said: Not interested in that.

Is it the condition that Cuba "dissolves the present Department of State Security in the Cuban Ministry of the

Interior, including the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. . . .”? What is the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution? It is a block-watch entity in every neighborhood, in every village, in every hamlet inside of Cuba whose only job is to spy on their neighbors, and when their neighbor says something critical of the regime, they get rattled out.

Is it the rapid response brigades? What are those? Those are state security dressed as civilians who go take people such as the Ladies in White—people like these three pro-democracy individuals—and arrest them so it seems as if the populace is the one doing it when it is state security.

Is it the condition that Cuba “makes a public commitment to organizing free and fair elections for a new government” or the condition that Cuba “makes public commitments to and is making demonstrable progress in establishing an independent judiciary; respecting internationally recognized human rights and basic freedoms as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Cuba is a signatory nation; allows the establishment of independent trade unions as set forth in conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization” among others.

Is it the condition that Cuba give “adequate assurances that it will allow the speedy and efficient distribution of assistance to the Cuban people” or the condition that Cuba is “effectively guaranteeing the rights of free speech and freedom of the press, including granting permits to privately owned media and telecommunications companies to operate in Cuba”?

Is it the condition that Cuba is “assuring the right to private property” or “taking appropriate steps to return to United States citizens (and entities which are 50 percent or more beneficially owned by United States citizens) property taken by the Cuban Government from such citizens and entities on or after January 1, 1959, or to provide equitable compensation to such citizens and entities for such property”?

Is it the condition that Cuba has “extradited or otherwise rendered to the United States all persons sought by the United States Department of Justice for crimes committed in the United States”?

Which one of these conditions do they not agree with? Are they all willing to just throw them all out, require nothing?

If President Obama, as media reports indicate, takes the unprecedented step of abstaining from voting against a Cuban resolution in the United Nations General Assembly criticizing our own Nation’s law—which is what the Cuban embargo is—he would be disavowing these basic conditions because these basic conditions are what is written

into the law. I know. At the time, I was one of the authors who wrote the law in the House of Representatives.

Think about the horrible message that turning a blind eye to these basic conditions in U.S. law would send to the Cuban people about the priorities of the United States. Think of the horrible message it would send to Cuba’s courageous democracy leaders.

Since December 17, scores of foreign dignitaries, businessmen, and Members of the U.S. Congress have descended upon Havana to meet with Raoul Castro and his cronies, while sidelining Cuba’s courageous dissenters.

As independent journalist and blogger Yoani Sanchez lamented, “A true shower of presidents, foreign ministers and deputies has intensified over Cuba without daily life feeling any kind of relief from such illustrious presences.”

Sadly, as the AP reported, “more than 20 U.S. lawmakers have come to Cuba since February without meeting with opposition groups that once were an obligatory stop for congressional delegations.”

The reason U.S. lawmakers don’t meet with human rights activists and political dissidents is because if they do, then they don’t get a meeting with Raoul Castro. So I guess the photo op with Raoul Castro is more important than meeting with human rights activists and political dissidents.

Perhaps the biggest affront was during the flag-raising ceremony during the opening ceremony of the U.S. Embassy in Havana—to which no Cuban dissidents were invited. The Secretary of State said publically this was due to “a lack of space” and that it was a “government-to-government” function. Yet images clearly showed there was plenty of space and lots of nongovernmental figures on the invitee list.

Can you imagine what the world would be like today if this had been the attitude of the United States toward Sakharov, Solzhenitsyn, Vaclav Havel, Lech Walesa, and Nelson Mandela?

Meanwhile, adding insult to injury, Cuba’s courageous dissident leaders—now neglected by the administration and congressional supporters of the new policy and even further neglected by foreign dignitaries and unscrupulous businessmen searching for a profit at whatever cost—are facing a dramatic increase in repression. Since December 17, when President Obama announced his new policy, Raoul Castro’s dictatorship has exponentially increased the number of political arrests, beatings, and detentions. Just between January and March of this year, politically motivated arrests increased nearly 70 percent, from 178 arrests in the former month to 610 in the latter.

According to the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation—an internationally recognized human rights watchdog—the

total number of political arrests during the first 9 months of this year were 5,146. In just 9 months, these 5,146 political arrests surpassed the year-long tallies recorded for 2010, which was 2,074; 2011, which was 4,123; and 2015 is tragically on pace to become one of the most repressive years in recent history.

The official number of September arrests alone—the month just passed—was 822, the most in 15 months. They include Danilo Maldonado, a 31-year-old artist known as El Sexto who was imprisoned on December 25 of this past year, one week after the new policy was announced. El Sexto was arrested for painting the names Fidel and Raul on two pigs, which was considered an act of “contempt.” He remains imprisoned without trial or sentence or any justice. Amnesty International has recognized him as a prisoner of conscience.

They also include Zaqueo Baez Guerrero, Ismael Bonet Rene and Maria Josefa Acon Sardinas, a member of The Ladies in White. These three dissidents sought to approach Pope Francis during his recent mass in Havana to ask for his solidarity with Cuba’s political prisoners and democracy movement. They were dragged away and arrested under the eyes of the international media. They have been on a hunger and thirst strike since September 20 and are being held at the infamous secret police center for “investigations” at Aldabo and 100th Street in Havana. I am very concerned about their well-being.

They also include the case of Digna Rodriguez Ibanez, an Afro-Cuban member of The Ladies in White in Santa Clara, who was attacked by Castro regime agents and pelted with tar. That is right, with tar. Also included is Eralisis Frometa Polanco, another member of The Ladies in White, who was pregnant and forcefully aborted due to the violent blows to the stomach she received during a beating for her peaceful activism, and Daisy Cuello Basulto, also a member of The Ladies in White, whose daughter was arrested, stripped naked, and forced to urinate in front of male state security officers as a means of tormenting her mother.

For 24 straight Sundays in a row, Cuban dissidents have tried to peacefully demonstrate after Mass under the slogan “Todos Marchamos”—we all march. And for 24 Sundays in a row they have been intercepted, violently beaten, and arrested.

This image is of Cuban dissident leader Antonio Rodiles, a 43-year-old intellectual, after having his face literally shattered during one of those peaceful Sunday marches. Yet, despite the tremendous indignities at the hands of the Castro regime, they remain undeterred in their struggle for freedom and democracy for all Cubans. Rather than shunning these courageous

individuals, the United States should be embracing them.

On the same day the news hit that 882 political arrests were made in September alone by the Castro regime, Secretary Kerry was in Chile talking about some marine life agreement with Cuba. What about the human lives in Cuba suffering under this oppression? The Obama administration's policy seems to be bringing little comfort to the Cuban people generally, as they continue to flee by land, by air, and the perilous journey by sea across the Florida straits, where countless Cubans have lost their lives in search of freedom.

Nearly 32,000 Cubans entered the United States in the first 9 months of the fiscal year that ended on September 30, up from about 26,000 migrants who entered last fiscal year, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Fewer than 7,500 Cubans came in 2010.

Finally, Mr. President, as one of the authors of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996, known as the Libertad Act, and having served as a manager in the conference committee, I am concerned that the recent regulations and actions being taken by the Treasury and Commerce Departments contravene the purpose and intent of the law. As the final conference committee report of the Libertad Act made clear, "It is the intent of the committee of conference that all economic sanctions in force are March 1, 1996, shall remain in effect until they are either suspended or terminated pursuant to the authorities provided in section 204 of this (requiring a Presidential determination that a Democratic transition is under way in Cuba)."

Those are the conditions I had previously addressed. The report also states that "the explicit mandates in this legislation make clear congressional intent that U.S. law be enforced fully and, thereby, provide a basis for strict congressional oversight of executive branch enforcement measures henceforth."

In furtherance of this intent, the prohibition on U.S. assistance and financing of agricultural sales to Cuba, the prohibition on additional imports from Cuba, and the prohibition of travel relating to tourist activities in the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 are explicit, clear and leave no room for exceptions.

These provisions were precisely written to deny U.S. funds to the Castro regime's repressive machinery and prohibiting them from being funneled through Castro's monopolies. Yet that is the direction—perhaps unintended—the new regulations are headed in, with the tragic, repressive consequences on full display.

Any hope that President Obama's goodwill would elicit a different tone

from Raul Castro was further diminished by the Cuban dictator's speech to the U.N. General Assembly last month. Castro dedicated his 17-minute speech almost entirely to bashing the policies of the United States from Latin America to Eastern Europe to the Middle East. He praised Latin American autocrats in the mold of Hugo Chavez, sided with Putin and Assad, criticized representative democracy, and dismissed human rights as a "utopia." While President Obama referred to the concessions he has already made in his remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, Raul Castro audaciously demanded even more.

So let me close by saying we all remember the message President Obama sent to the foes of freedom in his first inaugural speech. He said, "[W]e will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." I urge the President to follow his own doctrine and reconsider some of the unmerited and unreciprocated generosity in this new policy, for Raul Castro's fist clearly remains clenched, yet the President's hand is still fully extended.

The President claims those who don't agree with his Cuba policy are stuck in the past, but it is the Castro regime that is stuck in the past, still living their misguided Cold War dreams in a world that hasn't insisted they move forward. And when you own everything in the country—which the regime does—why would you be willing to give it up after 50-some-odd years? Instead, we are rewarding them for their intransigence. Unless we challenge them, we will not see change.

The fact is that hope and change do not come easily. They do not just happen. Like any parent with a child, they won't change unless you challenge them and give them a reason. Like Congress, it needs to be challenged to change. And so with Cuba the world needs to challenge the regime or change will never come—not give in and give everything. To do so only strengthens their resolve to hold on to their dictatorship and prolong the day when we can truly say to the world that "Cuba es Libre"—Cuba is free.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, while he is still on the floor, I want to thank the Senator from New Jersey for his remarks. He is clearly one of the institution's experts on Cuba and the Castro regime, and I think we need to pay attention to what he is saying.

Unfortunately, we seem to be dealing with other countries and other regimes as we hope they will be, not as they are in reality. That was an important set of remarks, so I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, yesterday the United States Senate voted to advance the National Defense Authorization Act—

what we call the NDAA. I worry sometimes we talk in Senate-speak, and we don't actually communicate what legislation is, so I want to talk a little about what this defense—or national security—legislation is and why it is so important that it passes.

After passing both the House and the Senate earlier this summer, colleagues worked in a conference committee led by MAC THORNBERRY from Texas, chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, and Senator JOHN MCCAIN, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. I know they had a tough job in reconciling those two different versions of the legislation, but now they have come forward with strong bipartisan legislation that supports our military and our families.

My dad served for 31 years in the United States Air Force. He flew B-17s in World War II in the Army Air Corps. I proudly grew up as an Air Force brat, so this is personal to me, as I know it is to the Presiding Officer, who has served in the Marine Corps for a long time and for whom this is a very personal issue as well.

In my State of Texas we are very proud of our connection with the military. We claim—I am not sure it is exactly true but we make this claim—that one out of every ten persons in uniform calls Texas home. I think that is probably roughly correct, but we want to make sure that through this legislation we do our job to make sure our military gets the equipment and the training they need in order to perform the dangerous missions we ask them to perform here in the United States and around the world. That is what this legislation does.

For example, the bill authorizes funding for the Corpus Christi Army Depot. This installation is a true national treasure because what it does is to refurbish the rotary-wing aircraft that come from overseas. After they are battered and beaten up, they come back and make them like new. So when these army helicopters serve overseas, they come back for a pit stop in Corpus Christi at the depot, and they make sure they are ready for the next challenge our military faces. This legislation we will be voting on at 2 p.m. this afternoon authorizes funding for the construction of a new facility at the depot where helicopter engines and transmissions can continue to be repaired, and we can continue to equip, as we should, our military.

This Defense authorization bill also authorizes critical military construction, such as the barracks at the Air Force basic training program at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, where thousands of airmen start their service to this Nation every year.

That was the first assignment for my dad, at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX, when I was a freshman in high school. I have had the privilege of

attending some of the graduation ceremonies there, and they are really an inspiration. You see this whole football field full of trainees learning, through their basic training, how to become airmen and to serve our country in the U.S. Air Force.

The real people and real installations are dependent upon this authorization bill becoming law. This defense legislation is integral to ensuring our military is well resourced, well trained, and ready for action when called upon. Importantly, this legislation also helps clarify the United States' long-term defense priorities and authorizes funds to equip our military to handle the multiple evolving conflicts around the world.

I am reminded that in August I visited the Pacific Command with some of our colleagues here in the Senate, where we asked Admiral Harris, the four-star commander of the Pacific Command, what keeps him up at night. What are you most concerned about? At the top of his list was North Korea, governed by a volatile dictator with nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles. I know General Dunford, the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the former Commandant of the Marine Corps, had a little different ordering. He put Russia at the top, I think, then China, North Korea, and then ISIL, if I am not mistaken. But regardless of the exact order, we know there are numerous threats to world peace and regional security.

We learned the lesson on 9/11 that what happens overseas doesn't stay overseas. It directly affects our security right here at home too. That is why this legislation is so critical.

This Defense authorization bill also includes provisions that fund efforts to counter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, where Vladimir Putin is trying to intimidate and coerce countries that are part of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and threatening them with the kind of aggression we have seen in Crimea and Ukraine. This bill helps counter that aggression. It also provides resources to help train and assist our partner nations in the Asia-Pacific, it provides help for Israeli missile defense and anti-tunneling defense, and it supports our partners in Afghanistan and throughout the Middle East to combat rampant terrorist activity.

So what we do here in the Senate and in this Congress and here in Washington, DC, is important to our national security and the safety of our Nation. That is why for over 50 years Congress has made passing the Defense authorization bill—what we sometimes refer to as the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act—that is why we have always made that a priority. All of us, regardless of political affiliation or ideology, believe it is fun-

damentally important to make sure our men and women in uniform, who are fighting on our behalf or standing ready to fight when called upon, faced with unprecedented threats around the world—we need to make sure, as a moral obligation, that they have what they need and that they know we are solidly behind them. That is what signal this legislation sends.

Now we have a chance to send this to the President—after we vote on this legislation—send it to him for his signature. But here is where I am troubled. President Obama has indicated he may well veto this legislation. And what, we might ask, would be his reason? Is there some provision of the legislation that he finds so repugnant or difficult that he wants to veto the legislation? Frankly, what the President and the White House have said is—they claim the funding levels outlined in the Defense authorization bill are “irresponsible.” But get this: These same funding levels are reflected in the President's own budget request. So we gave the President what he asked for, and he calls them “irresponsible.” What kind of hypocrisy is that?

I hope the President and his counselors at the White House will reconsider playing fast and loose with support for our troops and this important piece of legislation. This bill is bipartisan. We can have our fights over all sorts of things—and Heaven knows we will—in this polarized political environment, but if there is one thing on which we all ought to agree on a bipartisan basis, it is that this legislation needs to pass.

This support for our troops in an ever-dangerous world should be a priority. Fortunately, many of our Democratic friends understand this, and they have worked with us, and that is the way it should be. So I hope they aren't tempted to block this legislation in order to give cover to the President and to prevent him from being held accountable for his own decisions. This is not a time to play games, particularly with our national security and our men and women in uniform at stake.

Today our Armed Forces face a world with growing challenges in almost every corner of the world. As a matter of fact, I think the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, said he doesn't remember a time in his long career in the Air Force and now in the intelligence community where the world has faced more diverse threats and challenges. And, like it or not, the United States is the point of the spear in addressing those challenges. If the United States doesn't step up and lead, there is a vacuum created which does nothing but encourage these tyrants, these thugs, the dictators and other people who will take advantage of that void.

We can't tie our own hands behind our backs while asking our troops to

fly into harm's way to support efforts against ISIS and Syria and Iraq or sail to the edges of the Pacific to keep Chinese ambitions in check or to accompany Afghan soldiers in deadly fire-fights against a resurgent Taliban. Right now, as I stand in this Chamber, we have Americans—soldiers, sailors, and marines—who are putting their lives at risk to defend this Nation. By definition, when they are deployed overseas, they are far away from home, separated from their loved ones and their families. We ought to always remember that for every man or woman who wears the uniform, there is a family back home who is serving our Nation as well who deserves our gratitude and our support. The last thing our military needs is a reason to question the strength of our convictions, and they need Congress to support them.

Our adversaries watch this sort of thing, too, because what they read into political dysfunction—particularly when it comes to something as important as our national security—is they see encouraging signs that maybe they can push the envelope a little further. Maybe they can challenge the United States and our allies a little more. Maybe they can grab a little more property, real estate. Maybe they can plant a flag someplace they otherwise would not because they see in our actions—particularly on something as important as this—a certain reticence, perhaps not a willingness to lead but, rather, an America retreating from our international responsibilities, and that is dangerous. That is dangerous.

I encourage all of our colleagues to simply vote once more in support of this legislation so we can send it to the President's desk. What he does is his responsibility. This legislation passed last June with more than 70 votes. If we can send this bill to the President with that same sort of overwhelming bipartisan support, the President won't be able to veto this legislation because he knows his veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in the House and the Senate.

So let's do our part together to show our men and women in uniform that our support for them will never ever waiver.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I appreciate the words of my friend from Texas. I just want to point out that our military is fully funded and that some of us believe our military is so important that it ought to be funded by real dollars, not make-believe smoke and mirrors.

I have a press release from the ranking member, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, who said he opposes using budget gimmicks to fund the Pentagon, and he declined to sign the NDAA, which is very unusual.

If we really care about our military, and everyone does, we ought to fund with real dollars, not make-believe money—this one called OCO.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this press release be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REED OPPOSES FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED
NDAA

TOP DEMOCRAT ON ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPPOSES USING BUDGET GIMMICKS TO FUND
THE PENTAGON & DECLINES TO SIGN NDAA
CONFERENCE REPORT

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee announced that he will not sign the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Reed opposes the Conference Report because it uses an inefficient budget gimmick that underfunds the Pentagon's base budget while inflating the emergency war spending account known as the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, which is exempted from Budget Control Act spending caps. As a result, about one out of every six dollars in this year's NDAA, nearly \$90 billion, is counted off the books. "There are many needed reforms in the Conference Committee Report, but the use of emergency war funds does not realistically provide for the long-term support of our forces," said Senator Reed. "I cannot sign this Conference Report because it fails to responsibly fix the sequester and provide our troops with the support they deserve." "I remain committed to working toward a more balanced, responsible way to fix the sequester so our defense and domestic needs are met. Achieving that goal is essential to the security and financial well-being of the American people. The Department of Defense is critical to national security, but so are the FBI, Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and many other federal agencies that help keep Americans safe," Reed concluded.

HIGHWAY BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I came over here because the American people keep hearing: Government shutdown. Government shutdown. What is going to happen?

The opinion of Congress is the lowest of all times because we are not doing our job. We are not doing our work.

We are facing three possible shutdowns.

The first one is the possible shutdown of our entire transportation program, and that has 22 days left. On this one, I want to praise the Senate because we stepped up, Democrats and Republicans together, and we said: We are not going to let this happen; we are going to work together and get a bill. I am going to talk about that in a bit.

The second date we face is in early November, when, if we don't raise the debt ceiling so we can pay for the programs everyone here voted for, the government will shut down and we will become, frankly, the people who have overseen for the first time a bankruptcy. We have to raise the debt ceiling. As Ronald Reagan said very elo-

quently—I don't have his exact quote, but he said something like this: Even the thought of not paying our bills, even the thought of not raising the debt ceiling should be avoided. But we face that made-up crisis.

The third one is December 11, where all of our budget has to be looked at and we have to come to some agreement on the fair level of spending for both defense and nondefense and all the things we do.

I am here to talk about the first deadline because I am intimately involved with this as the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee. I want to start off by praising my chairman, JIM INHOFE. He and I don't see eye to eye on a lot of things, but we sure do when it comes to transportation.

One hundred days ago—my colleague knows this—the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously approved the DRIVE Act. It has been 68 days since the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 65 to 34—that is an overwhelming vote in a bipartisan way—and now we are down to 22 days before we shut down. People can say: Why are we going to shut down when the Senate has done its job? Because the House hasn't done its job. It is inexcusable.

If we can find the bipartisan will to work together to pass a long-term transportation bill that increases funding for roads and bridges and transit projects, certainly they can find it in the House, and they should find that consensus there. We are up against this deadline. We keep hearing that the House—or I did—is going to act. Now, as far as we know, they have put off the markup of the bill until the day before we have a shutdown. That is ridiculous.

I call on Republicans and Democrats over there to come together, just as we came together. It is painful here on so many issues, but we found the political will to do the right thing. Where is the House bill?

In September, 68 organizations sent a letter to the House calling on the House to pass the Transportation bill. Look who signed this. I will mention a few: the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Associated General Contractors, the Travel Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Laborers International Union, the American Bus Association, the AAA, the American Trucking Association, the Society of Civil Engineers, the American Public Works Association, the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association. This is pretty amazing. This goes on and on.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this list be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned organizations representing every sector of the U.S. economy urge all members of the House to pass a six-year reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program in 2015 that increases investment in highway and public transportation improvements.

America's transportation infrastructure network is the foundation on which the nation's economy functions. American manufacturers, industries and businesses depend on this complex system to move people, products and services every day of the year. It is also a direct contributor to enhanced personal mobility and quality of life for all Americans.

The Senate passed a multi-year surface transportation bill with substantial bipartisan support in July. It is now incumbent on the House of Representatives to keep the reauthorization process moving forward to ensure a six year bill is enacted before the latest short-term program extension expires October 29.

The U.S. economy and all Americans require a surface transportation infrastructure network that can keep pace with growing demands. A six-year federal commitment to prioritize and invest in our aging infrastructure and safety needs is essential to achieve this goal.

Temporary program extensions and eight years of recurring Highway Trust Fund revenue crises do not provide a path to future economic growth, jobs and increased competitiveness. We urge you to end this cycle of uncertainty by advocating and voting for a six-year surface transportation program reauthorization bill during 2015.

Sincerely,

National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, Associated General Contractors of America, U.S. Travel Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, International Union of Operating Engineers, Laborers International Union of North America, Building America's Future, AAA, National Retail Federation, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, American Public Transportation Association, American Trucking Association, American Society of Civil Engineers.

American Public Works Association, American Highway Users Alliance, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), Associated Equipment Distributors, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, American Association of Port Authorities, Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors, National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, Industrial Minerals Association—North America, Auto Care Association, National Recreation and Park Association, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc., American Concrete Pavement Association, North American Equipment Dealers Association, American Bus Association.

Transportation Intermediaries Association, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA), Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago, American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), American Concrete Pipe Association, Institute of Makers of Explosives, National Safety Council, National Precast Concrete Association, The National Industrial Transportation League, Corn Refiners Association, Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association, National Asphalt Pavement Association, Construction & Demolition Recycling Association, American Council of Engineering Companies.

Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, Governors Highway Safety Association, North America's Building Trades Unions, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Traffic Safety Services Association, The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC), Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association, Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association, International Slurry Surfacing Association, Airports Council International-North America.

American Rental Association, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRCMA), Motorcycle Riders Foundation, Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association, NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truckstops, National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA).

Mrs. BOXER. All of these extraordinary organizations are behind the Senate bill—the Governors Highway Safety Association, American Concrete. This is America together. They are calling on us. And this is not a partisan issue.

It is incumbent on the House to keep the reauthorization process moving forward and not wait until October 29 when we are on top of the deadline and we have to do another extension. We are all sick of it. Let me just say it doesn't work.

If you went to the bank and wanted to buy a house and they said, "I have great news from you, Mr. and Mrs. America: You have been approved for a loan, but it is only for a year," you are not going to buy the house. It is the same way with our State highway people. They are not going to build a new highway or fix a road or invest in a transit program if they only have a few days of an extension that they can rely on. They want us to have a long-term bill. We passed the 6-year bill here with 3 years of pay-fors.

We have seen the organizations. I am saying that our people who drive on roads are Democrats, Republicans, Independents, liberals, conservatives, rightwing, leftwing, "middlewing." It doesn't matter. This is one issue where we can come together, and the Senate proved we can come together. So our words—and I really speak for everyone. I know. I talked to Senator INHOFE, and he knows I am speaking today. The words we have for the House: Just do it. Just do it. If we can do it, you can do it. Short-term extensions don't work.

I gave the example of going for a mortgage. You are not going to invest in a house if you can only get a year's mortgage. The same thing is true if you want to buy a new car. If you go to the bank and they say, "Great news: You are approved, but it is only for 3 months, or 90 days," you are not going to buy the car. It is the same way for our States.

I have a chart—I don't have it with me now—that shows how much the States rely on the Federal Government. I don't have it blown up, but I am going to go through this. It is so interesting. We have States that rely on the Federal Government highway program for anywhere from 30 percent all the way up to 100 percent. Many States rely on the Federal Government for over 70 percent. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this list of the percentages by State be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Federal Share of Each State's Capital
Outlays for Highway & Bridge Projects

State	Percentage
Rhode Island	102
Alaska	93
Montana	87
Vermont	86
South Carolina	79
Hawaii	79
North Dakota	78
Wyoming	73
South Dakota	71
Connecticut	71
New Mexico	70
Idaho	68
Alabama	68
New Hampshire	68
Missouri	65
Mississippi	65
Colorado	64
Minnesota	64
Oklahoma	63
Arkansas	62
Georgia	62
Tennessee	62
West Virginia	61
Iowa	59
Ohio	58
Virginia	57
Maine	57
Wisconsin	55
Oregon	54
Indiana	54
New York	54
District of Columbia	52
California	49
Nevada	49
Arizona	49
Nebraska	49
Kansas	49
Louisiana	48
North Carolina	48
Maryland	48
Texas	47
Pennsylvania	46
Washington	45
Kentucky	44
Michigan	41
Delaware	41
Florida	39
Illinois	39
Utah	38
Massachusetts	37
New Jersey	35

We know Delaware is 41 percent reliant on the Federal Government; Rhode Island is 100 percent reliant on the Federal Government; Vermont, 80 percent; Hawaii, 79 percent; Alaska, 93 percent.

This is something that is a partnership. This is a partnership. We work together with the States, but we are so disadvantaging our States. In my

State, it is about 50–50. We raise our resources about 50 percent. But do you know what the other 50 percent means to California, because we have almost 40 million people? It is \$4 billion a year. We can't do our program on our own.

As my friend JIM INHOFE says, it is a need that he feels as a conservative he can support. When you read the Constitution, we are one Nation; we are connected. We need to build these roads.

There are over 61,000 bridges that are structurally deficient. We know this. We have worked together to fix this problem, because we know, in a way, it is a moral issue. Once you know something is dangerous, you have to fix it. We did with the Senate bill. We call on the House to do the same. Now, 50 percent of our roads are in less than good condition. This is not news to most of our people. They understand it. They drive on these roads. It takes a toll on their cars. I forget the exact amount, but I think it is about \$1,000 a year of costs for people who use their cars a lot from roads that are not in good condition.

Every day, there are over 215 million crossings by motorists on structurally deficient bridges in every single State in our great Union. Let's show you a list of some of these bridges that are in need of repair: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California—our Golden Gate Bridge, our famous, incredible bridge. I crossed that bridge when I lived in Marin County every day for work. Seriously, the bottom line is that we need to act. Connecticut, District of Columbia, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa—these are bridges in great need of repair. Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York—the Brooklyn Bridge, that iconic bridge, is dangerous and in need of repair. In North Carolina, there is a Greensboro bridge. Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania—the Benjamin Franklin Bridge—Pennsylvania is the home of the chairman over there. In Oregon—the ranking member—there is the Columbia River Crossing. The Columbia River Crossing and the Benjamin Franklin Bridge are in the homes of the chairman and ranking member of the committee who have the obligation to get this done. There is South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

I have rushed this, but I don't want to spend the time naming every bridge. But this is where we are. A multiyear surface transportation bill is going to solve these problems, and we are going to start the work that needs to be done. We know there are still 1.3 million fewer construction workers today than in 2006, when the recession started. According to the Associated General Contractors, 24 States and the District of Columbia lost construction

jobs between July and August. No wonder people look at Congress and they don't think we are doing a good job. We know all this.

The Senate has passed a good bill, bipartisan. All we are asking is what construction industry officials want us to do, and that is to stop the uncertainty about future Federal funding levels for highway and transit repairs. We know that the bill we passed in the Senate is a good bill. It is not as big as a lot of us wanted, and it is not as small as other people wanted. We found a sweet spot.

I am going to conclude by saying this. The reports I have heard indicate that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may well take action at the end of this month. That is so late. Let's go back to the 22 days chart. We are 22 days away from a transportation shutdown. They are going to mark up on the very day that we lose the authorization to spend funds.

We know the writing is on the wall. They are going to send us some short-term legislation. I want to say I am not going to allow that because I will oppose any short-term extension that pulls pieces out of our bill and takes the pressure off of passing a bill, such as positive train control. We have taken care of positive train control in our bill. I am not going to pull it out and put it on a short-term extension—no. They will get nothing.

They have to do their job. That is why they are here. We know we can do it. We proved it over here. We have really serious problems over here, but we did it. We did it. When you have 65 votes for something over here and you pull equally from both parties, you have a good product. We have serious issues, and they have to be addressed. We are not going to pull out special favorite pieces out of the highway bill and stick it on a short-term extension or have some stand-alone bill that solves positive train control or any other of the special issues that we have addressed in the bill. Everyone knows we have to act.

I know my friend is waiting patiently to make a few remarks. I simply want to conclude with this. We passed a good bill—over \$55 billion for 6 years. There are two new programs, including a formula freight program that provides funds for all States to improve goods movement. We have included the McCaskill-Schumer rental cars bill so rental cars will be safe. We have the first-ever commuter rail fund for positive train control.

These are some of the good things we have done. Let's not throw it all away and get it all glommed up into the other problems we are facing, which are the date on the debt ceiling and the December 11 date on funding the budget. We don't have to do it. This is a special fund. It is the highway trust fund.

It should not get enmeshed in the end-of-budget-year issues. We should take that crisis off the plate. We did it in the Senate. They should do it in the House. That is our message today to the House: Please, Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, moderates, everyone in between, come together for the good of this country and pass a highway bill. Let's get to conference. Let's get the best bill we can get and be done with it and, at least then, send a signal to the people of this country that we are doing our job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise to discuss the legislation before this body, the National Defense Authorization Act. Before doing so, I want to take a minute and address the DRIVE Act. I strongly support the DRIVE Act. It is very important that we have a 6-year highway bill for our country and that we get it in place. It was passed in a bipartisan basis. I think there are many provisions in it that will be very helpful, not only to our country but to each and every one of our States. We have worked on that legislation; we have passed it through regular order. It is vitally important.

When I go home and talk to my constituents in North Dakota, as I know is the case for all Members of this body, they express how important it is that we get not only a highway bill passed but a 6-year highway bill, a long-term highway bill passed so that these multiyear projects can go forward. We do need to get that done and get it done now so that we don't have an interruption in the Federal highway program.

To my esteemed colleague, I want to express my support as well for this important legislation. I appreciate both the work of the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee and of the ranking member—my colleague who is the ranking member on EPW. This is important legislation. We need to continue to work in a bipartisan way in both Houses—the Senate and House—and get this legislation done.

Mrs. BOXER. Would the Senator yield so I could thank him for a minute?

Mr. HOEVEN. I will.

Mrs. BOXER. Through the Chair, I want to thank the Senator so much because he was one of those people who really helped us. In addition, every member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, on both sides of the aisle, was terrific on this. In addition to the chairman, Senator INHOFE, I also want to single out Senator DURBIN and Senator MCCONNELL, because they stepped up from both sides of the leadership when it really looked as if it would never happen. We proved that we

could do it. I am so grateful to my friend for showing his support because we have so many contentious issues. This is not one of them. I want to thank him very much for his comments.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, again, I thank the Senator from California. This is important bipartisan legislation, and we need to continue to work to get it done.

I rise today to discuss the NDAA—the National Defense Authorization Act. It is likewise incredibly important legislation, in this case for our military—for our military and for the defense of this great Nation. I want to begin by commending the members of the Armed Services Committee, and especially Chairman MCCAIN, but all of them for their diligence. That means Members of both the Senate and the House, working together in conference committee after both Houses passed this legislation, passed the legislation through regular order. I emphasize that because it is so important that we follow regular order in this body and in the House, where we bring forward the legislation from the committees, bring it to the floor, have the debate, have the opportunity to offer amendments, debate those amendments, vote on those amendments, and then vote on the legislation. Let these bodies work their will. Send the legislation to the President. He makes his decision and we move forward.

I emphasize this right at the outset because it is so important that we work in this way through regular order so that we get to the important work of this country. I use this legislation as a great example—the National Defense Authorization Act, the defense of our Nation. We are moving forward because we are following regular order. We are working in the way I just described in both the Senate and the House, and that is what we need to do.

It is hard to overstate the importance of this legislation for our men and women in uniform and for the security of our Nation. I am pleased that we are now debating this conference agreement, and I look forward to moving to final passage. In just a few hours, at 2 p.m. eastern time today, we will be voting on final passage on this legislation.

There are several features of this bill that I want to highlight, and I am going to talk about a few of them. There are many important provisions, but I do want to highlight some of them here over the next few minutes. The first is in the area of personnel and benefits, taking care of those who put on the uniform—men and women who wear the uniform and put it all on the line for us and for our country.

This bill represents a continuing commitment to the well-being of our service men and women. It makes significant improvements to the benefits

we offer to those who serve, particularly, by allowing military participation in the Thrift Savings Plan, as recommended by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

We recognize that we need to reward those who stay in the military for 20 years with a strong retirement package. We also recognize through this legislation that those who serve less than 20 years deserve something in retirement as well. The Thrift Savings Plan provides a great mechanism to do that. I am very glad that we are able to include that in this legislation.

Let me touch for a minute on international security assistance. We face an incredible array of threats to our security and to the security of our allies. Those threats require immediate and careful attention, and this legislation points us in that direction and provides important tools. Because of the serious concerns many of us have about the efforts to fight ISIL, the National Defense Authorization Act increases congressional oversight of the effort to support the fight against ISIL in Syria.

We should not wait to pass this legislation. There is too much at stake in critical regions of the world, and we need to move forward. We should pass this legislation immediately, and the President should sign it right away so that our military has all of the authorities it needs to address threats such as ISIL as soon as possible.

I will talk for a minute about some of the critical defense programs. Of course the military needs the best tools available in order to meet the security threats of today and tomorrow.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 provides authorization for a number of key weapon systems, including the Air Force's new long-range strike bomber and the aerial refueling tanker programs, missile defense, and a wide range of other procurement priorities. Delaying these programs now will harm our national security in the future, so it is important to keep them on track by passing this legislation and getting it signed into law.

I am also very pleased that the fiscal year 2016 legislation provides full authority for the Air Force's nuclear forces, including the B-52 bomber and the Minuteman III ICBM as well as the Global Hawk unmanned aircraft. Our Global Hawks provide incredible intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. In North Dakota, we are proud to host the capabilities that make such vital contributions to the defense of our Nation—two of the legs of the nuclear triad—the intercontinental ballistic missiles and the B-52 bombers, as well as the unmanned Global Hawk.

I also want to say another word about remotely piloted aircraft, RPAs. The Air Force has been squeezed by the

demand for the capabilities we have in the Predator and the Reaper, and it has been difficult to meet those demands and still have the capacity to train new pilots for these RPAs, remotely piloted aircraft.

I wish to commend the members of the conference committee for a very strong section in this legislation that requires the Air Force to consider all of its options to train additional RPA pilots. I have been advocating using the private sector to increase our capability to train those pilots. That is a step that can be done in the short term without drawing down our ability to support commanders in theater.

Right now the commanders in theater want those remotely piloted aircraft for the mission. That is a very high operations tempo. That doesn't leave pilots available here at home to train new pilots to fly these aircraft. That is why a private sector solution can be so helpful to our Air Force, and that is the language I worked so hard to include in this legislation.

I also have language in the report that goes along with the fiscal year 2016 Defense appropriations bill. The companion bill to the authorization bill is the appropriations bill. I included language in the appropriations bill that instructs the Air Force to look at private sector-led training. My hope is that between that language and what we are passing in this authorization bill, the Air Force will find a way to leverage the private sector to enhance what the Air Force can do with its RPA fleet, meaning a higher ops tempo, and at the same time train new pilots and bring them into the system to fly unmanned aircraft.

Finally, I will highlight a couple of items that are important to North Dakota specifically. One is an amendment I offered during floor consideration of the NDAA in the Senate. This language directs the Air Force to determine the feasibility of partnering the Air National Guard with the Active-Duty Air Force to operate and maintain the Global Hawk. Similar to what it does in support of the Predator and Reaper missions, I believe the Air National Guard can provide a valuable contribution to the Global Hawk missions. I am very grateful that the conferees retained this amendment in the bill, and I hope that it will prove to be valuable not only in North Dakota but will set an example that can be followed with other aircraft and the Air National Guard units in other States across the country.

I also wish to thank the conferees for including a \$7.3 million authorization to construct a new Intelligence Targeting Facility at Hector Field in Fargo. Our Air National Guard is taking on an exciting new targeting mission and this much needed facility will give them the space required and the capability—the facilities and resources

necessary—to do that job right. They are already doing an outstanding job, but they need this secure facility as part of this highly specialized and highly important mission.

I worked on this project through the military construction appropriations subcommittee, and I look forward to completing the authorizing and appropriating legislation so we can get construction started on this new facility in Fargo.

The bottom line is that this legislation includes many provisions that are important for our men and women in uniform, that are critical to our national security, and that are vital to each of our States. The bill is well crafted, and it has received bipartisan support. It is absolutely necessary that we move forward and pass it and that it becomes law, so I will touch on that aspect of the legislation for just a minute as well.

The President has indicated that he intends to veto this legislation. So he intends to veto legislation that is passing through this body with very strong bipartisan support. The irony is that he is vetoing this legislation because we included additional funding in the legislation for our military that is incredibly important and is very much needed. But he is saying, nope, that is not what he wants done and has indicated that he will veto the legislation.

It is very important today that we have strong bipartisan support to send a clear message that if this legislation is vetoed, this body and the House will override that veto. We have to stand strong on a bipartisan basis. We have to make sure that we get this legislation passed, not just for our men and women in uniform but for the good and for the security of our country.

This is vitally important legislation. This is about making sure that we join together in a bipartisan way and get it done for our men and women in uniform, and then there is still more to do.

This is the authorizing legislation. Then we have to pass the appropriating bill that goes with this legislation so that we fund the authorizations provided in this legislation, and not until all three things are done have we stepped up and got the job done for our military. We need to pass this authorization. We need to make sure that we override any veto—should the President decide to veto this very important legislation—and then we need to stand strong, come together, and make sure we do not have a filibuster of the companion bill, the Defense appropriations bill, which goes with this authorization. Then, and only then, will we have the job done that we need to do for our men and women in uniform. That is the task before us, and that is what we need to get done. We need to keep our eye on that ball very clearly, and we need to make sure the American people

understand that we have to pass this legislation, override any veto, and then pass the companion Defense appropriations bill. Only then have we got the job done for our men and women in uniform who put it all on the line for us.

With that, I yield the floor.

SECTION 1045

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I want to thank Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED for their efforts to include an anti-torture provision in the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, H.R. 1735. As a coauthor of this provision—Section 1045 of the conference report—I am pleased that there will now be clear limits on interrogation techniques so that the United States can never again conduct coercive and abusive interrogations or indefinite secret detentions.

Section 1045 applies the restrictions on interrogations in the Army Field Manual under current law to the entire U.S. Government. The provision therefore extends to the whole of government what Congress did in 2005, by a vote of 90-9, with the Detainee Treatment Act, which banned the Department of Defense from using techniques not authorized by the Army Field Manual. The Detainee Treatment Act also banned across the government the use of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment.

Section 1045 also requires prompt access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to any detainee held by the U.S. Government.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator MCCAIN, to provide clear legislative history as the co-authors of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I would like to start by asking the distinguished Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, a question concerning this anti-torture provision, Section 1045.

Some have raised the concerns about the exemption in this provision for Federal law enforcement agencies. The concern is that this new provision might supersede other laws, rules, and guidance that apply to Federal law enforcement agencies. The language in the Senate-passed bill made clear that Federal law enforcement agencies could use interrogation techniques outside of the Army Field Manual if those techniques are authorized, noncoercive, and “designed to elicit voluntary statements and do not involve the use of force, threats, or promises.”

Does the absence of this language in the conference report somehow open the door to the use of coercive interrogation techniques by those agencies? Is that the intent of the law enforcement exception in Section 1045?

Mr. MCCAIN. No. I assure the Senator from California that this is not the case and that I would not have agreed to any such provision if it were. The conferees decided that the requirement that all U.S. interrogations be conducted in accordance with the Army Field Manual on interrogations should not apply to Federal law enforcement officials for two simple, straightforward reasons.

First, Federal law enforcement agencies already have an extensive and well-established set of rules and procedures concerning interrogations because law enforcement interrogations are by definition conducted to produce statements that are voluntary and admissible in court. Those rules and procedures strictly prohibit the use of coercive techniques.

Second, the U.S. Army Field Manual was not written with law enforcement circumstances in mind, and it is unnecessary to ask law enforcement agencies to use or adapt the Army Field Manual when they already have their own rules and procedures for noncoercive interrogations.

Since at least 2004, it has been the policy of the FBI that “no attempt be made to obtain a statement by force, threats, or promises,” according to the Legal Handbook for FBI Special Agents, as publicly recounted by the FBI general counsel in July 24, 2004, congressional testimony. This and other such rules and applicable restrictions are unaffected by this provision.

In short, we did not “open the door” to coercive techniques by law enforcement in any way. We left the existing law enforcement rules under current law and Executive order in place. Indeed, as the joint explanatory statement of managers in this conference report states: “The conferees recognize that law enforcement personnel may continue to use authorized non-coercive techniques of interrogation, and that Army Field Manual 2-22.3 is designed to reflect best practices for interrogation to elicit reliable statements.”

Also, it should go without saying that the exemption for “Federal law enforcement entities” does not apply to the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, and the like, but rather includes entities like the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security, as specified.

It is false to suggest that the conferees in any way agreed to allow the use of coercive interrogations by law enforcement agencies. We have banned coercive interrogations because they are a stain on our national character, ineffective, and counterproductive to our foreign policy goals.

I did not work for more than a decade to preclude coercive interrogations only to agree to permit them so long as they are carried out by a different set

of agencies. I did not, and this provision does no such thing. The rules and strictures on coercive interrogations by Federal law enforcement agencies are completely unaffected by this provision. I say that as the coauthor of the Senate amendment and as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who negotiated the agreement on the final language.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I want to thank Chairman MCCAIN for explaining the legislative intent of the provision and for making clear that this legislation does not allow the use of coercive interrogations by Federal law enforcement agencies.

I would also like to ask the Senator for his view on one additional change made to the anti-torture provision in the conference process. The Senate bill required the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with other specified officials, to review the Army Field Manual for update and revision. The Senate bill required this to be completed within a year from the date of enactment and once every 3 years thereafter. The conference report changes the timeline for that review, so that it occurs not sooner than 3 years from the date of enactment, and then every 3 years thereafter. Can the chairman of the committee clarify the reasoning behind that change?

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Senator for the question. There was a concern among the conferees that the Senate provision would not allow adequate time for the mandatory review, especially given the broadening of the application of the Army Field Manual to the rest of government. In light of this change, and the importance of the review, the conferees decided that 3 years was a more appropriate timeline.

I would also like to clarify one point, as there has been some confusion. It has been pointed out that the conference report requires the mandatory review of the Army Field Manual to be completed “not sooner than” 3 years from the date of enactment. This should not be read as allowing the review to be done far in excess of 3 years or potentially not at all. This language appears under the heading “Requirement to Update,” and it is the conferees’ view that this review must be completed on or shortly after 3 years from the date of enactment.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Again, I thank the chairman and congratulate him for his very important legislative achievement.

Madam President, I want to thank Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED for their efforts to include an anti-torture provision in the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, H.R. 1735.

Section 1045 of the conference report establishes clear limits on interrogation techniques so that the United

States can never again conduct coercive and abusive interrogations or indefinite secret detentions.

Section 1045 applies the restrictions on interrogations in the Army Field Manual under current law to the entire U.S. Government. The provision therefore extends what Congress did in 2005, by a vote of 90–9, with the Detainee Treatment Act, which banned the Department of Defense from using techniques not authorized by the Army Field Manual, and also banned across the government the use of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment.

Section 1045 also requires prompt access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to any detainee held by the U.S. Government.

Both of these provisions are consistent with U.S. policy for the past several years, but Section 1045 will now codify these requirements into law.

President Obama banned the use of coercive and abusive interrogation techniques by Executive order in his first few days in office, on January 22, 2009.

That Executive order, No. 13491, formally prohibits—as a matter of policy—the use of interrogation techniques not specifically authorized by Army Field Manual 2–22.3 on human intelligence collector operations. Section 1045 places that restriction into law, which is long overdue.

What this means is that a future President can't simply rewrite the policy—these limitations are now a matter of law and can't be undone without a future act of Congress.

Section 1045(a)(2) states that an individual in custody or otherwise detained “shall not be subjected to any interrogation technique or approach, or any treatment related to interrogation, that is not authorized by and listed in the Army Field Manual.”

Section 1045(a)(2)(B)(i) makes clear that the ban on interrogation techniques not authorized by the Army Field Manual applies to all individuals “in the custody or under the effective control of an officer, employee, or other agent of the United States Government,” whether during or outside an armed conflict.

This is a very important change. Unlike the Executive order, which only applies to armed conflict, we are saying with this law that coercive interrogations will never again be used, period.

Section 1045(b) codifies a separate section of President Obama's January 2009 Executive order, requiring access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to all U.S. detainees in U.S. Government custody—which has been historically granted by the United States and other law-abiding nations and is needed to fulfill our obligations under international law, such as in the Geneva Conventions.

I know my colleagues are well aware of the executive summary of the study released by the Intelligence Committee in December 2014 on the deeply flawed detention and interrogation program carried out by the CIA beginning in 2002.

During my floor speech on the study in December 2014, I described how the interrogations of CIA detainees from 2002 onward were absolutely brutal and ineffective.

In August of 2014, President Obama said what many of us have known for years: that the CIA's now-defunct interrogation program amounted to torture.

CIA Director John Brennan has clearly stated he agrees with the ban on interrogation techniques that are not in the Army Field Manual. Director Brennan wrote the following to the Intelligence Committee in 2013 about the President's 2009 Executive Order:

“I want to reaffirm what I said during my confirmation hearing: I agree with the President's decision, and, while I am the Director of the CIA, this program will not under any circumstances be reinitiated. I personally remain firm in my belief that enhanced interrogation techniques are not an appropriate method to obtain intelligence and that their use impairs our ability to continue to play a leadership role in the world.”

More recently, in a September 11, 2015, letter to me, Director Brennan wrote that “CIA strictly adheres to Executive Order 13491, 3 C.F.R. 199 (2009), and fully supports efforts to codify key provisions of the executive order in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2016.”

As a result of the anti-torture statute (18 U.S.C. §2340A) and passage of the Detainee Treatment Act in 2005, current law already bans torture, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

However, the provision in this bill is still necessary because the CIA was able to employ brutal interrogation techniques based on deeply flawed legal theories that those techniques did not constitute “torture” or “cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.”

Opinions written by the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, OLC, which could not withstand scrutiny and have since been withdrawn, managed to twist legal reasoning beyond all recognition and find that waterboarding, sleep deprivation up to 180 hours at a time, stress positions, slamming a detainee into a wall, and other similar techniques were not torture.

OLC reached these erroneous legal judgments by ignoring the inherent brutality of the CIA's so-called enhanced interrogation techniques. While ignoring that fact, OLC claimed CIA's techniques were a necessity to keep Americans safe and OLC mistakenly

found the CIA program was managed and implemented with great care, which it was not.

This stood in stark contrast to the clear language of the anti-torture statute in the U.S. Code, and the Convention against Torture, which the U.S. Senate ratified in 1994.

That convention, clearly and absolutely, bans torture. It says: “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.”

And yet so-called enhanced interrogation techniques—not allowed by the Army Field Manual, were approved, used, and abused by the Bush administration.

Section 1045 will serve as an additional bulwark to prevent similar techniques from ever be used again by imposing—on all of the U.S. Government—the same restrictions that apply to the U.S. military today under the Detainee Treatment Act.

In order to make sure that the legislative history is clear, I'd like to describe the minor changes that were made to the language of this anti-torture provision during the conference.

As described in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of the conference, the following two minor changes were made to the amendment.

First, regarding the applicability of this new provision to law enforcement interrogations, Section 1045 makes clear that the new limitations “shall not apply to officers, employees, or agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, or other Federal law enforcement entities.”

The version that passed the Senate and this final version both have an exemption for law enforcement because law enforcement agencies do not use the Army Field Manual and are already required to use noncoercive interrogation methods in which officers question suspects in order to elicit voluntary statements.

This exemption is consistent with and reinforces the relevant requirements of Executive Order 13491 on “Ensuring Lawful Interrogations,” which allows law enforcement agents to use only “authorized, non-coercive techniques of interrogation that are designed to elicit voluntary statements and do not involve the use of force, threats, or promises.”

For example, since at least 2004, it has been the policy of the FBI that “no attempt be made to obtain a statement by force, threats, or promises,” according to the Legal Handbook for FBI Special Agents which was publicly recounted by the FBI general counsel in July 24, 2004, congressional testimony.

As the conferees to the defense bill wrote in their joint explanatory statement: “The conferees recognize that

law enforcement personnel may continue to use authorized non-coercive techniques of interrogation." The absence of this language in the final bill text should not be interpreted as any authorization for law enforcement to use any coercive interrogation techniques.

The second minor change to the anti-torture amendment that was made in the conference committee is that the timing for the completion of the required update to the Army Field Manual—after the specified "thorough review"—was changed from "[n]ot later than one year" to "[n]ot sooner than three years" in subsection (a)(6)(A) of Section 1045.

This change does not alter the importance of the required review, the imperative that it be initiated in the immediate future, and that it be completed in 3 years' time.

The language of the provision is clear: the conferees wanted the Secretary of Defense to be thorough and gave him 3 years to complete the review. But the amendment says that he "shall complete" a thorough review after 3 years, not that he "shall initiate" a thorough review after 3 years.

It is also important to point out that, regardless of the timing of this statutorily required review, this administration or the subsequent administration may at any time revise portions or the entirety of the Army Field Manual.

As Section 1045(a)(6)(A) states, revising the Army Field Manual is not optional; it is a "requirement to update." Moreover, the provision makes clear that this requirement must be undertaken every 3 years. Therefore, it would be inconsistent with the title, structure, and purpose of this subsection to suggest that the initial review following enactment can be postponed indefinitely.

Also, as the amendment notes, revisions to the Army Field Manual may be necessary to ensure that it complies with the legal obligations of the United States, a requirement that the executive branch is obligated to adhere to at all times.

In addition, no matter when the updates to the Army Field Manual are made, the manual "is designed to reflect best practices for interrogation to elicit reliable statements," as the conferees also wrote their joint explanatory statement. America's best and most experienced interrogators have consistently and emphatically stated that best practices for eliciting reliable, actionable intelligence solely involve noncoercive techniques that elicit voluntary statements.

Let me now turn briefly to part (b) of Section 1045, which codifies part of President Obama's Executive order of January 2009 requiring access by the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, to all U.S. detainees in U.S. Government custody.

This requirement—which is based on our obligations under international law—has had bipartisan support in previous Congresses.

As we know from our own history and from the experiences of detainees around the world, closing the door to the ICRC opens the door to torture and other forms of mistreatment. Providing ICRC access is also necessary for our moral standing and critical to our efforts to defend human rights abroad.

Finally, our troops depend on the promise of ICRC access should they be taken prisoner. Now is the time to ensure that we live up to the values—in practice and in law—that we expect will be accorded to our own members of the military.

I have been opposed to coercive interrogations and the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques since I first learned of their use at Abu Ghraib and by the CIA. This bill, at long last, puts the end to them. I am very proud to have been part of the process to author and support this provision and very much thank the bill managers for their insistence that it remain in the final legislation.

Whatever one may think about the CIA's former detention and interrogation program, we should all agree that there can be no turning back to the era of torture. Coercive interrogation techniques do not work, they corrode our moral standing, and ultimately, they undermine counterterrorism policies they are intended to support.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

YOUTUBE KIDS APP

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, a few weeks ago I brought to the attention of the Senate the continuing new challenges that we have with the Internet and the fact that so much material is available to all of us, including our youngest citizens, indeed, our toddlers.

The question is: What is appropriate content for our toddlers? Google has put up a YouTube application for kids. They call it YouTube Kids. I have some pictures here that show some of the content on that application. First of all, I think this picture is self-explanatory. It says: How to open a beer with another beer. Mind you, this is a YouTube Kids application. Toddlers can access this information. It says: How to open a beer, and it goes through the sequence. This is another fairly graphic picture of how to open a beer with a beer.

Is that appropriate for young children? It is readily available and promoted by Google. I doubt that we would conclude that it is. Here is another one.

This one has wine-tasting tips. What is tannin in wine? Identifying acidity in wine.

Here is the cutest baby song in the world, "Everybody Dance Now." That

doesn't look too bad. Here is Alvin and the Chipmunks. This has nursery rhymes for babies, but when you play it, there are some unusual words in there, and so forth and so on. You get the picture. This is for children. This is for little ones.

Now here is a picture that shows how to make sulfuric acid two ways. Is that appropriate for toddlers?

I have another example. This shows how to make toxic chlorine gas. Is that appropriate for young children? I don't think so.

I wrote to Google, and fortunately Google responded. I wish to share with the Senate what I believe are steps in the right direction, but not enough. For example, I asked: What policies and procedures govern the inclusion of the videos on this app?

The answer in the Google letter is that Google uses algorithms that govern the automated system. Parents can notify Google of problem videos. Google will be informing parents on how to change its settings to allow parents to be more restrictive with the range of videos their kids can access.

Well, why should parents have to intercede when their algorithms—if you type in a search for beer—come up with what I showed you? It shows us how to open a beer with another beer. That seems contrary to common sense.

Then we ask: What factors determine whether content is suitable for children?

Google's answer is: An automated system and parental complaints.

I ask in my letter: For what age range must content be suitable?

Google did not answer that question.

I additionally ask: What steps, such as filtering, does Google take to ensure unsuitable content does not appear in search results on YouTube Kids? Do these steps apply to new content uploaded to YouTube Kids?

Google's answer was: Google uses algorithms in the automated system. Google will soon be informing parents on how to change settings and restrict the range of videos. That is the same answer that applied to a previous question.

So I ask: How long after content is flagged does Google assess its suitability?

The answer is quite unclear. The statement in this letter was: Google personnel quickly manually review any videos that are flagged.

So I additionally ask: How does Google remove content that is deemed unsuitable for YouTube Kids and ensure that it continues to be inaccessible to YouTube Kids?

The answer from the letter is: The video is manually removed by Google employees. That is the automatic way of what is deemed unsuitable to ensure that it continues to be inaccessible.

So I ask: What policies and procedures govern how Google determines

the suitability of advertisements and whether they can appear on this app?

The answer is: Advertising must abide by three core principles which include that ads maintain an appropriate viewing environment, that they not be based on data tracking, and that they are formatted to enable exclusive YouTube Kids control.

That is nice. How do we get those beer advertisements off of there?

Then I ask: What policies and procedures does Google use, if any, to distinguish advertisements and paid content from unpaid content on YouTube Kids?

The answer is: Paid advertisements are clearly labeled.

We have constantly had this tension with any publication as to what is appropriate content. The movie industry years ago went through this with the rating system. But now we are in the age of the Internet and, as such, it is ubiquitous and it is available to very small children who want to know how to use a device that they see everybody else using. On an application that is specifically designed for children, if we allow this kind of stuff to go on, then where are our commonsense values? We don't want to be teaching a toddler about beer and wine and about how to open a beer bottle with your teeth, and we certainly don't want to be throwing out pictures such as these for toddlers to see. Maybe there is a time and place for that under parental discretion and guidance—but not available on an app for children.

I want to thank Google publicly for making a first step, but it is only that. It is a first step. Since this is an app by Google for small children, Google has a responsibility. If there is a privilege of doing an app like this, then there must be accountability, and Google has to accept that responsibility to be accountable.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I rise today to speak in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act. I strongly urge my colleagues in this body to vote for the NDAA and send it to the President's desk for signature. Let's move to fund our military.

The threats to our Nation have never been greater or more complex in my entire life. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am given daily briefs of what I believe is an emerging global security crisis.

This administration just completed a nuclear deal with Iran that stokes the fears of our friends and allies in the re-

gion and releases tens of billions of dollars in sanctions relief to a regime that is the world's worst state sponsor of terrorism. We have had to bolster our support to allies in the region in an attempt to mitigate the impact of further Iranian spending to support Assad in Syria, the Houthi rebels in Yemen, Hezbollah, Hamas, and terrorism worldwide. We have seen the astonishing rise of ISIS as they have taken advantage of the power vacuum we left behind by prematurely withdrawing our troops from Iraq. I would hate to see history repeat itself in Afghanistan, which is actually being discussed as we speak today.

Meanwhile, traditional rivals are aggressively posturing on two other fronts. China is antagonizing our allies in the Pacific Rim, and Russia is testing the resolve of our NATO alliance, blatantly grabbing sovereign territory in Ukraine, Crimea, and injecting troops and war materiel into Syria.

At the same time we see an increase in symmetric and asymmetric threats, we are headed in a direction where we are about to have the smallest Army since World War II, the smallest Navy since World War I, and the smallest Air Force ever.

Meanwhile, the Chinese alone are rapidly expanding their investment in their military and their forces in the Asian Pacific region and are set to double their defense budget by 2020. As a matter of fact, I was recently briefed at U.S. Pacific Command headquarters on the developments of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific in comparison directly to those of China. This is very alarming. In 1999, the U.S. military had a dominant and protective position in the Asia-Pacific and was totally capable of protecting our interests in the region. Today, however, China has reached military parity in the region. What is really troubling are the projections for 2020, however, in which China's relative combat power and presence in the region will be significantly more dominant than that of the United States.

That is why we need to ensure that we continue funding our military at the appropriate level. We need to ensure that our brave service men and women have the tools, training, and technology they need to meet the current threats we face on a daily basis but also to tackle what is coming in the future.

This year's NDAA reinforces the mission against ISIS and Operation Inherent Resolve. It provides assistance and sustainment to the military and national security forces of Ukraine, including the authority for lethal aid to Ukraine for defensive purposes. This NDAA fills critical gaps in readiness, ensuring that our service men and women meet their training requirements and have mission-capable equipment.

The convergence of our fiscal debt crisis and our global security crisis is

indeed a sobering reality, and they must be resolved simultaneously. In order to have a strong foreign policy, we have to have a strong military, and to have a strong military, we have to have a strong economy. We have to solve our debt crisis at the same time that we continue to dominate militarily.

As former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mullen once said, "The most significant threat to our national security is our [Federal] debt." That fact still rings true today.

Having recently visited our troops and military leaders in the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific regions, I can tell you that the very best of America is in uniform around the world in our military, putting their lives in jeopardy every day to protect our freedom here at home. Our military is made up of some of the finest, smartest, and bravest people I have ever met. They are true American heroes committed to defending our freedom. They deserve our unwavering support.

One of the 6 reasons—only 6 reasons—why 13 Colonies came together in the beginning of our country to form this Nation, as enshrined in our Constitution, was to provide for the common defense. As George Washington said, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." Indeed, as we have learned over and over, maintaining a strong national defense can actually deter aggression. We absolutely must maintain a military force so strong that no enemy in its right mind would challenge us and those who dare have no hope in defeating us.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the time until 1:30 p.m. will be controlled by the Democratic manager or his designee and the time from 1:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. will be controlled by the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise once again to speak about the fiscal year's national defense authorization conference report. Yesterday I spoke at length about the OCO funding issue, and that, to me, is the most critical issue in the bill and one that has caused me to reluctantly not support the conference report. But this time I will discuss the conference report in its entirety.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman MCCAIN, Chairman THORNBERRY,

and Ranking Member SMITH for a very thoughtful and cooperative process which allowed us to reach agreement on some very difficult issues. I also thank in particular the staff of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, who worked tirelessly over several months to resolve differences on over 800 different provisions.

As I stated yesterday, in many respects this is a good conference report which supports our men and women in uniform and establishes many much needed reforms and, with the exception of the OCO position, would be something that would have widespread support.

There are many provisions in the bill that are commendable. This conference report authorizes a 1.3-percent pay raise for servicemembers and reauthorizes a number of expiring bonuses and special pay authorities to encourage enlistment, reenlistment, and continued service by Active-Duty and Reserve component military personnel.

Significantly, it includes much needed reform of the military retirement system and brings the military retirement system into the 21st century for a new generation of recruits.

It also deals with the need to begin to bring into better control personnel costs at the Department of Defense because, as we all recognize, there is a huge trendline of personnel costs that would outstrip at some point the training and equipment that are necessary to the vitality and agility of the force.

One example is the pilot program to test approaches to the commissary and exchange system to see if there are ways in which that can be handled more efficiently without preventing military personnel from enjoying that benefit they have earned.

The report also includes a commitment to seriously consider reforms to military health care in the coming year. All told, these personnel authorities and reforms will serve tomorrow's servicemembers and their families, and they will save the Department of Defense annually in its discretionary budget, allowing that funding to be re-applied to readiness and modernization or even to maintaining a larger force.

The conference report includes roughly 60 provisions on acquisition reform. I commend in particular Chairman MCCAIN for his efforts in this area. It is a long history and a proud history. He worked with Chairman LEVIN. Previously he has worked with so many others. He has made this a personal area of not only concern but of notable action. The provisions will help streamline acquisition processes, allow DOD to access commercial and small businesses, and improve the acquisition workforce. They build on the success of the reforms led by the chairman in the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009.

The report also includes a number of provisions that will strengthen DOD's ability to develop next-generation technologies and weapons systems and maintain our technological superiority on the battlefield. The report strengthens the DOD laboratories and increases funding for university research programs and STEM education. It also contains a number of provisions that will make it easier for the Pentagon to work with high-tech small businesses, bringing their innovative ideas into the defense industrial base.

With respect to cyber security, this report includes multiple provisions, some of which I sponsored and all of which I support. These include a requirement for biannual whole-of-nation exercises on responding to cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, independent assessment of Cyber Command's ability to defend the Nation against cyber attack, comprehensive assessments of the cyber vulnerabilities of major weapons systems, and the provision of limited acquisition authorities to the commander of Cyber Command.

The conference report also has over \$400 million in additional readiness funding for the military services—across all branches: Active, Guard, and Reserve. It fully authorizes the programs for modernizing our nuclear triad of sea, ground, and airborne platforms. There are also specific recommendations on many procurement programs that will help the Department improve management and cope with shortfalls. All of these provisions will ensure that our military personnel have the equipment and training they need to succeed in their mission.

For the various overseas challenges facing the United States, and they are considerable, this conference report provides key funding and authority for two major U.S.-led coalition operations: the mission in Afghanistan and the counter-ISIS coalition in Iraq and Syria. It also includes additional funding for initiatives to expand the U.S. military presence and exercises in Eastern Europe, reassuring allies and countering the threat of Russian hybrid warfare tactics, and authorizes additional military assistance, including lethal assistance for Ukraine. I had the privilege of visiting Ukraine recently and being with the paratroopers of the 172nd Airborne Brigade who are training Ukrainian forces. They are doing a commendable job and it represents a tangible commitment by the United States to support friends across the globe.

The conference report also includes, very notably and very importantly, the Senate provisions codifying the current policy that interrogations of detainees in the custody of any U.S. Government agency or department must comply with the Army Field Manual on Interrogation. These provisions, sponsored

by Senator MCCAIN, Senator FEINSTEIN, and I, will ensure that detainee interrogations are conducted using noncoercive techniques that do not involve the threat or use of force, consistent with our values as a nation. I know how important this was, particularly to Chairman MCCAIN and Senator FEINSTEIN. It represents our best values and also from the testimony we have heard over many years, the most effective way to obtain information in circumstances as we have witnessed in the last few years.

All of these provisions are commendable. They are the result of significant effort by Chairman MCCAIN, Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH, and the staff who worked tirelessly. However, there are provisions that do in fact cause some concern. Let me first talk about the issue of Guantanamo Bay. The report continues the restrictions on the President's authorities relating to the Guantanamo detention facility.

In previous Defense authorization bills, we had made progress in giving the President greater flexibility in streamlining the process of making transfers from Guantanamo to other locations, bringing us closer to the goal of closing Guantanamo. The Guantanamo provisions in this year's conference report, however, are in a sense a step backward. They continue to maintain the prohibitions on the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the United States and on the construction or modification of a facility in the United States to hold such detainees.

This deprives the President of a key tool for fighting terrorism, the ability to prosecute Guantanamo detainees in Federal court. To make matters more complicated, the conference report proposes additional hurdles on the transfer of Guantanamo detainees overseas, requiring the Secretary of Defense to complete a checklist of certifications for overseas transfers and prohibiting such transfers to certain specified countries altogether.

Further, the conference report does not include a provision from the Senate bill that authorized the temporary transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the United States for medical reasons in the event of life-threatening emergencies. As the Guantanamo detainees get older, there is an increasing risk of a detainee suffering serious harm or death because the military is legally prohibited from bringing that person to the United States to receive necessary medical care.

Both President Bush and President Obama have called for closing Guantanamo Bay. Our military leaders have repeatedly said that Guantanamo harms our national security and serves as a propaganda and recruiting tool for terrorists. This is an issue we have been wrestling with for over a decade, and I regret that we are no closer to resolving it with this conference report.

This conference report also does not contain many of the cost-saving proposals that the Department of Defense requested. For example, the retirement of many aging aircraft and ships is prohibited and a BRAC round was not ever considered. Without such authorities, we in Congress are making it even more difficult for the Department of Defense to acquire and maintain the things they need because we are forcing them to keep what they consider no longer cost- or mission-effective.

Finally, as I have said it many times consistently throughout this process, the one item that I find is most objectionable, and indeed reluctantly forced me to argue against the conference report, is the fact that it shifts \$38 billion requested by the President in the base military budget, in the routine base budget—it shifts it to the Overseas Contingency Operations account or OCO.

Essentially, it skirts the BCA. This transfer from base to OCO raises several concerns. First, it violates the consensus that was agreed to when we passed the BCA that both defense discretionary spending and domestic discretionary spending would be treated equally. Now, we find a way to avoid that consensus. In fact, that was one of the premises many of us found persuasive enough to support the BCA, but the concerns that are raised are many.

First, adding funds to OCO does not solve—it actually complicates—the Department of Defense's budgetary problems. Defense budgeting needs to be based on our long-term military strategy, which requires DOD to focus at least 5 years into the future. A 1-year plus-up to OCO does not provide DOD with the certainty and stability it needs when building its 5-year budget. This instability undermines the morale of our troops and their families who want to know their futures are planned for more than 1 year at a time and the confidence of our defense industry partners that we rely on to provide the best technology available to our troops.

Second, the transfer does not provide additional funds for many of the domestic agencies which are also critical to our national security. We cannot defend our homeland without the FBI. In fact, we just heard reports today of FBI activities disrupting a potential smuggling of nuclear material in Eastern European, headed—the suggestion is—toward ISIL or other radical elements. We need the FBI. Yet they remain subject to the Budget Control Act.

We need to fund the Justice Department, other aspects of their activities, the TSA, Customs and Border Protection, and the Coast Guard. These later agencies are funded through the Department of Homeland Security. Without adequate support for the State Department, the danger to our troops increases. In addition, failing to provide

BCA cap relief to non-DOD departments and agencies would also short-change veterans who receive employment services, transition assistance, and housing and homeless support.

Third, moving funding from the base budget to OCO has no impact on reducing the deficit. OCO and emergency funding are outside the budget caps for a reason; they are for the costs of ongoing military operations or to respond to unforeseen events, such as the flooding we are witnessing in South Carolina. To transfer funds for known day-to-day operations into war and emergency funding accounts to skirt the law is not fiscally responsible or honest accounting.

The OCO was designed for the contingencies that were non-routine and would not be recurring. In fact, we have seen OCO funds go up dramatically as our commitments both in Afghanistan and Iraq went up and then go down as you would expect. Suddenly that curve is beginning to shift up and go up, not because of the increased number of military personnel deployed—in fact, there are fewer military personnel deployed in these areas today—but because we have found a way—at least we think we have found a way—to move around the BCA for defense and defense alone.

Many have argued: Well, that might be true, but this is not the place to talk about this issue. I disagree. This is not a debate about which appropriations account we put the money in; it is a fundamental debate about how we intend to fund the workings of the government today and in the future, all parts of the government, because if we can use this technique for defense, it, frankly and honestly, relieves the pressure to take the constraints off other agencies. It sets the whole table, if you will, for our budget for every Federal agency.

So this is not a narrow issue of appropriations, whether it is the committee on housing and urban development or the committee on interior and environment; this is a fundamental issue. The BCA is a statute, not an appropriations bill, *per se*. It came to us as an independent statute. We have a responsibility to respond to the challenge it poses to the defense budget and to every other budget.

This is just not a 1-year fix. If this were a bridge that we knew would take us from this year to next year, well, we might do these things in a different way. Unfortunately I think this conference report is going to be replicated in the future, because if we rely on this approach this year, there is huge pressure next year to do the same thing, unless we can resolve the underlying problems of the Budget Control Act.

I believe it is essential for us to do this for the best interests of our country, for the best interests of our military personnel. I don't think by stand-

ing up and casting a vote in this light we are disrespecting or not recognizing the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. In fact, it has not been uncommon over the years that because of issues, this bill has been objected to by both sides.

Indeed, since 2005 my colleagues on the Republican side have cast votes against cloture on the NDAA 10 times and successfully blocked cloture 4 times over such issues as Senate rules and procedures, the repeal of don't ask, don't tell, and in one case gasoline prices. So to argue today that the only reason we should vote for this bill is because it is procedurally not appropriate to discuss this, well, was it procedurally appropriate to use the Defense bill to essentially register anguish about gasoline prices?

This goes to the heart not just of this bill but every bill. Therefore, I don't think it is something we have to shy away from. In fact, I think we have to take it on. If we cannot fix this Budget Control Act straightjacket we are in, it will harm our national security. If we don't have the FBI agents out there trying to disrupt smuggling of uranium and other fissile materials, that hurts us. It hurts our national security. If we don't have the Department of Energy laboratories that are capable of doing research, helping us and working with foreign governments about detection of radioactive material, that hurts our national security. This is about national security, and I think we have to consider it in that light.

So we are here today, and we are dealing with an issue of the authorization act in the context of the continuing resolution because we have not resolved the Budget Control Act. These are all roads coming together: the conference report, the continuing resolution, all of them in the context of trying to respond to the Budget Control Act. I think we should step up and deal with the Budget Control Act.

We have had many months to try to find the answer. We haven't. When we considered this legislation previously in the Senate, it was summer time, and it appeared that there might be a coming together on a bipartisan basis and a thoughtful basis, trying to provide the relief so we wouldn't have to rely on OCO when the conference report arrived, but we are here today and OCO is still staring us right in the face.

I think we have to ensure that we stand and say that is not the way we want to go forward for the defense of our country in the broadest context and for the support of our military personnel.

There is one other issue I do wish to raise, too, because it has been brought up; that is, the suggestion that if this bill does not pass today, then our military will not receive their pay raises and bonuses. The provisions in this bill go into effect January 1, 2016. We still

have time. I would hope we would use that time not only to make some changes—technical here and there—but also to deal with the central issue which I hope we all agree is driving everything; that is, fixing the Budget Control Act in a way that we can provide across-the-board support for our Federal agencies, particularly our national security agencies which go beyond simply the Department of Defense.

I think the time is now. This is a moment to deal with the issue, not defer it and hope something happens in the future. We have to resolve the Budget Control Act.

I urge, for that reason as much as anything, that my colleagues would vote against this conference report as an important step in the process and a necessary step, in my view, in the process of resolving the great budget crisis we face in terms of the Budget Control Act.

In fact, one of my concerns is that if we do in fact pass this conference report and it subsequently becomes law or just the simple fact that we pass it, it gives some people the excuse of saying: Well, we have fixed the only problem that we think is of some significant concern, the Department of Defense, so we don't have to do anything else.

Again, we have to fund the FBI, we have to fund Homeland Security, and we have to fund a vigorous State Department. All of those agencies, if we do nothing on BCA, will see sequestration arise, diminish their capacity, and in some way diminish our national security.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today, in about half an hour, the Senate will vote on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, and I hope that an overwhelming majority of my colleagues will understand the importance of this legislation in these very turbulent and difficult times.

The Constitution gives the Congress the power and the responsibility to provide for the common defense, raise and support armies, provide and maintain a navy, and make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces. For 53 years, Congress has fulfilled its most important constitutional duties by passing the National Defense Authorization Act.

It is precisely because of this legislation's critical importance to our national security that it is still one of

the few bills in Congress that enjoys bipartisan support year after year.

Indeed, this year's NDAA has been supported by Senators on both sides of the aisle. The Senate Committee on Armed Services overwhelmingly approved the NDAA in a 22-to-4 vote back in May. The full Senate followed by passing the NDAA in a partisan vote of 71 to 25.

In recent weeks, some of my Democratic colleagues and the President have threatened to block this legislation because of disagreements about broader spending issues that are totally unrelated to defense and totally unrelated to authorizing. Everything to do with their problems has to do with appropriations spending, not authorization.

The President made it clear that he will "not fix defense without fixing nondefense spending." In this day of multiple crises around the world—as these crises and wars and conflicts and refugees unfold—the President's priority seems to be the funding mechanism, which has nothing to do with the defense authorization.

Henry Kissinger, as well as many of our most respected national security leaders, has called it the most diverse and complex array of crises around the world since the end of World War II, and there are more refugees in the world than at any time since World War II.

The President is threatening to veto this legislation, which contains vital authorities—not just authorities but the ability of our men and women who are serving in uniform to defend this Nation—so he can prove a political point. The President is threatening to veto this bill to defend the Nation in order to prove a political point.

As I mentioned, the threats we confront today are far more serious than they were a year ago and significantly more so than when the Congress passed the Budget Control Act in 2011. That legislation arbitrarily capped defense spending and established the mindless mechanism of sequestration. As a result, with worldwide threats rising, we as a nation are on a course to cut nearly \$1 trillion of defense spending over 10 years with no strategic or military rationale whatsoever for doing so.

Every single military and national security leader who has testified before the Committee on Armed Services this year has denounced sequestration and urged its repeal as soon as possible. Indeed, each of our military service chiefs testified that continued defense spending at sequestration levels would put American lives at risk—I repeat: would put American lives at risk.

Unfortunately, the Defense bill does not end sequestration. Believe me, if the Defense bill were capable of that, I would have done all in my power to make it happen. But the simple reality is that this legislation cannot end se-

questration and it cannot fix the Budget Control Act.

This legislation does not spend a dollar. It is not an appropriations bill; it is a policy bill. It provides the Department of Defense and our men and women in uniform with the authorities and support they need to defend the Nation.

This legislation fully supports President Obama's request of \$612 billion for national defense. Let me repeat that. The legislation gives the President every dollar of budget authority he requested. Yet the President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are threatening to oppose this bill because it authorizes—not spends—\$38 billion in funding for readiness and training of our troops in the overseas contingency operations, known as the OCO account.

Democrats believe that by placing these funds in the OCO account, the legislation would minimize the harm sequestration would do to our military but fail to do the same for domestic spending programs. This complaint fails to understand a basic fact: The only legislation that can stop sequestration, whether for defense or non-defense, is an appropriations bill. In fact, Republicans and Democrats are engaged right now in negotiations to find a bipartisan budget deal that would provide sequestration relief. I hope they succeed. But the idea that the precise location in the NDAA of certain funds for our troops will have any impact on the substance or outcome of these negotiations is ludicrous.

The choice we faced was between OCO money and no money. When I have asked senior military leaders before the Armed Services Committee which of those options they would choose, they have said they would take the OCO. So do I.

With global threats rising, it simply makes no sense to oppose a defense policy bill—legislation that spends no money but is full of vital authorities that our troops need and need badly—for a reason that has nothing to do with national defense spending, and it certainly makes no sense when the negotiations that matter to fixing sequestration are happening right now. That is where the President and Senate Democrats should be focusing their energy, not on blocking the Defense bill and denying our men and women in uniform the authorities and support they need to defend the Nation. Unfortunately, that has not been the case. In fact, the White House has doubled down and vowed that the President will veto this legislation.

So let's be clear. The President isn't threatening to veto because of the existence of an overseas contingency account, which the Pentagon has been using for years—for years—to fund everything from readiness and training for our troops to Israeli missile defense, all without a word of protest

from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle or a veto threat from the President. This veto threat is about one thing and one thing only, and that is one word: politics.

The President wants to take a stand for greater domestic spending, and he wants to use the vital authorities and support the men and women in uniform need to defend the Nation as leverage. At a time of increasing threats to our Nation, this is foolish, misguided, cynical, and dangerous. Vetoing this legislation will not solve the spending debate happening right now in Washington. That is something which can only be done through the appropriations process—not a defense authorization bill, not a defense policy bill. Vetoing the NDAA will not solve sequestration. Vetoing the NDAA will not solve the Budget Control Act. Rather than fixing the Budget Control Act, vetoing the NDAA would repeat its original sin by continuing the disturbing trend of holding our military men and women hostage to the whims of our dysfunctional politics.

So let's be absolutely clear on what a vote against or a veto of this legislation really means. This is what it really means, my friends. If you say no, you will be saying no to urgent steps to address critical shortfalls in fighter aircraft across our military. You will block 12 F-18 Super Hornets for the Navy and 6 F-35Bs for the Marine Corps.

If you say no, you will be saying no to \$1 billion in accelerated Navy shipbuilding, including an additional *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer.

If you say no, you will be saying no to upgrades to Army combat vehicles deploying to Europe to deter Russian aggression against our allies.

If you say no to this legislation, you will be saying no to \$200 million to strengthen our cyber defenses as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea attack our government and our companies relentlessly and with impunity.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to significant steps to improve the quality of life of the men and women serving in the All-Volunteer Force and the needs of our wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to over 30 special pays and bonuses that are vital to recruiting and retaining military doctors, nurses, nuclear engineers, and language experts.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to greater access to urgent care facilities for military families and steps taken in the bill to make military health care plans more portable.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to making it easier for our veterans to get the medicines they need. You will be saying no to the provision in this legislation that would ensure that servicemembers are able to

get the same medicines for pain and other conditions when they transition from the Department of Defense to the Veterans' Administration.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to new steps to improve sexual assault prevention and response. You will be saying no to additional tools to enhance support of victims of sexual assault, including needed protections to end retaliation against those who report sex-related offenses or who intervene to support victims. You will be saying no to provisions that strengthen and protect the authority and independence of the special victims' counsel for sexual abuse.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to some of the most significant reforms to the Department of Defense in a generation. You will be saying no to the modernization of an outdated, 70-year-old military retirement system—a system that excludes 83 percent of all those who serve in the military from receiving any retirement assets whatsoever, including veterans of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, some of whom have served two, three, four tours of duty but left the military with nothing because they retired before reaching 20 years of service.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to a modern military retirement system that would extend better, more flexible retirement benefits to more than 80 percent of servicemembers; a system that would give servicemembers the choice to use a portion of their retirement benefits when they leave the military to help them transition to a new career, start a business, buy a home, or send their kids to college; a new system that not only improves life for our servicemembers and future retirees but does so while also saving the taxpayers \$12 billion once it is fully implemented.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will also be saying no to the most sweeping reforms to our defense acquisition system in 30 years. You will be saying no to reforms that are essential to preserving our military technological superiority as our adversaries develop and field more advanced weapons. You will be saying no to reforms that would hold Pentagon leaders more accountable for the decisions they make. You will be saying no to reforms that would improve the relationship between the Pentagon and our Nation's innovators, helping to ensure that our military can gain access to the most cutting-edge technologies.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will be saying no to significant reforms to defense management. A "no" vote is a vote to stand in the way of important steps to reduce the amount of money the Department of Defense spends on bureaucracy and overhead, even as it cuts Army soldiers, Air Force fighter aircraft, and Navy ships. A "no" vote is also a vote to continue a backwards

personnel system that judges our Pentagon's civilians not based on their talent but their time served.

If you say no to the NDAA, you will squander a historic opportunity to ban torture once and for all, to achieve a reform that many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—especially the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN—have sought for a decade or more: making the Army Field Manual the uniform interrogation standard for the entire U.S. Government. Voting no will squander an opportunity to stand up for the values that Americans have embraced for generations, while still enabling our interrogators to extract critical intelligence from our enemies. By vetoing legislation that bans torture forever, the President would be vetoing his own legacy. Worst of all, if you say no to the NDAA, you are saying no to vital authorities in support that our Armed Forces need to defend our Nation as we confront the most diverse and complex array of crises in over 70 years.

As we speak, there are nearly 10,000 American troops in Afghanistan helping a new Afghan Government to secure the country and defeat our common terrorist enemies. But since President Obama hailed the end of combat operations in Afghanistan last year, ISIL has arrived on the battlefield and Taliban fighters have launched a major offensive to take territory across the country.

So what message would it send if the President and some of my colleagues say no to \$3.8 billion for the Afghan Security Forces to fight back against terrorists that wish to destroy the progress achieved at so costly a sacrifice?

In the Asia-Pacific region, China's military buildup continues with a focus on countering and thwarting U.S. power projection. At the same time, China is asserting vast territorial claims in the East and South China Seas. Most recently, China has reclaimed nearly 3,000 acres of land in the South China Sea and is rapidly militarizing these features, building at least three airstrips to support military aircraft. With the addition of surface-to-air missiles and radars, these new land features could enable China to declare and enforce an air defense identification zone in the South China Sea and to hold that vital region at greater risk. Our allies and partners throughout the region are alarmed by China's behavior and are looking to the United States for leadership.

So what message would it send if the President and some of my colleagues say no to \$50 million to assist and train our allies in the region to increase maritime security in the maritime domain awareness in the South China Sea?

Last year, Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea

forced us to recognize that we are confronting a challenge that many had assumed was resigned to the history books—a strong, militarily-capable Russia that is hostile to our interests and our values and seeks to challenge the international order that American leaders of both parties have sought to maintain since the end of World War II. Russia continues to destabilize Ukraine and menace our NATO allies in Europe with aggressive military behavior. And now, in a profound echo of the Cold War, Mr. Putin has deployed troops and tanks and combat aircraft to Syria, and they are conducting operations as we speak to shore up the Assad regime—the Assad regime—which has slaughtered 240,000 of its citizens and driven millions into refugee status. And who are Mr. Putin's forces bombing most of all? ISIL? No. Moderate opposition groups backed, trained, and equipped by the United States of America.

So what message would it send if the President and some of my colleagues say no to \$300 million in security assistance for Ukraine to defend its sovereign territory, say no to \$400 million in lethality upgrades to U.S. Army combat vehicles deploying to Europe to deter Russian aggression, and say no to \$800 million for the President's own European Reassurance Initiative, which seeks to reassure allies of America's commitment to their security and the integrity of the NATO Alliance?

In the Middle East, a terrorist army with tens of thousands of fighters has taken over a vast swath of territory and declared an Islamic State in the heart of one of the most strategically important parts of the world. Yet more than a year after the President declared that we would degrade and destroy ISIL, it appears that nothing we are currently doing is proving sufficient to achieve that strategic objective. The United States and our partners do not have the initiative. ISIL does, and it is capitalizing on our inadequate policy to maintain and enhance our initiative, as they have for the past 4 years. Indeed, the situation on the ground is now taking yet another dramatic turn for the worse, as several recent events have made clear.

So what message would it send if the President and some of my colleagues say no to \$1.1 billion of security assistance and cooperation for our allies in the region to help us fight ISIL? What message would it send to our ally Israel to say no to hundreds of millions of dollars of vital support for our common efforts in missile defense and countering terrorist tunnels? These capabilities are more important than ever for Israel and the United States in the wake of the President's nuclear agreement with Iran, and this legislation fully authorizes those programs. Saying no to the NDAA means saying no to this vital security cooperation with Israel.

For 4 years, Bashar al-Assad has waged war on the Syrian people. The United States has stood idly by as well over 230,000 have been killed, 1 million injured, 8 million displaced, and 4 million forced to seek refuge abroad. The Syrian conflict has now created the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. Now Russia has stepped in to prop up the murderous regime and kill more Syrians. With Syria descending deeper into chaos, and the world more unstable than ever, what message would it send if the Commander in Chief and some of my colleagues see this as a good time to say no to the National Defense Authorization Act?

This is the same conclusion that some of the major military service organizations have also reached, and they have written open letters to the President urging him not to veto the NDAA. Their message should be heeded by all of my colleagues as we prepare to cast our votes. The Military Officers Association of America wrote:

[T]he fact is that we are still a nation at war, and this legislation is vital to fulfilling wartime requirements. With multiple contentious issues remaining for Congress to tackle this year, and very little legislative time to complete those crucial actions, this is not the time to add the already extremely daunting burden of legislative challenges by vetoing the defense authorization bill.

The Reserve Officers Association wrote:

[The NDAA] contains crucial provisions for the military, nation's security, and the welfare of those who serve. [The Reserve Officers Association] has a membership of 50,000 former and currently serving officers and noncommissioned officers [and] represents all the uniformed services of the United States who would be favorably affected by your signing this bill into law.

I also want to read from a recent Washington Post editorial:

American Presidents rarely veto national defense authorization bills, since they are, well, vital to national security. . . . Refusing to sign this bill would make history, but not in a good way. Mr. Obama should let it become law and seek other sources of leverage in pursuing his legitimate goals for domestic sequestration relief.

Time and again, President Obama has failed to do the right thing when it could matter most—in Afghanistan, in the Pacific, in Ukraine, in Iraq, and in Syria. Vetoing the NDAA would be yet another of these failures, and it would be reminiscent of a bygone day, when the fecklessness of those days were so accurately described by Winston Churchill. On the floor of the House of Commons, he said:

When the situation was manageable it was neglected, and now that it is thoroughly out of hand we apply too late the remedies which then might have effected a cure. There is nothing new in the story. It is as old as the sibylline books. It falls into that long, dismal catalogue of the fruitlessness of experience and the confirmed unteachability of mankind. Want of foresight, unwillingness to

act when action would be simple and effective, lack of clear thinking, confusion of counsel until the emergency comes, until self-preservation strikes its jarring gong—these are the features which constitute the endless repetition of history.

My colleagues, for 53 years Congress has passed a National Defense Authorization Act, and at perhaps no time in the past half century has this legislation been more important. Everywhere we look around the world there are reminders of exactly why we need this National Defense Authorization Act. I understand the deeply held beliefs of many of my colleagues about the spending issues that have divided the Congress for the last 4 years. But this is not a spending bill. It is a policy bill. It is a reform bill. It is a bill that accomplishes what the Constitution demands of us and what the American people expect of us. It is a bill that gives our men and women in uniform, many of whom are still in harm's way around the world today, the vital authorities and support they need to defend our Nation. And it is a bill that deserves the support of the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the bill before us is not fiscally responsible. Our troops deserve real funding, not budget gimmickry. This bill does not do the job. My Republican friends like to talk about the deficit and the debt and the need to get our fiscal house in order, but their actions speak louder than their words. Now they are supporting legislation that increases deficit spending and increases the burden on our children and grandchildren. As a result, this bill violates the budget law.

Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending measure violates section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to waive.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 71, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—71

Alexander	Feinstein	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Murphy
Barrasso	Flake	Murray
Bennet	Gardner	Perdue
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Hatch	Portman
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cantwell	Heller	Sasse
Capito	Hoeven	Scott
Casey	Inhofe	Sessions
Cassidy	Isakson	Shaheen
Coats	Johnson	Shelby
Cochran	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Sullivan
Corker	Kirk	Tester
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—26

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Leahy	Sanders
Brown	Manchin	Schatz
Cardin	Markey	Schumer
Carper	Merkley	Warren
Coons	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Nelson	Wyden
Franken	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Roberts	Rubio
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 71, the nays are 26.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to and the point of order falls.

The question occurs on adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alexander	Fischer	Murphy
Ayotte	Flake	Murray
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Sasse
Cantwell	Hoeven	Scott
Capito	Inhofe	Sessions
Casey	Isakson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Cochran	King	Sullivan
Collins	Kirk	Tester
Corker	Klobuchar	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Feinstein	Murkowski	

NAYS—27

Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Booker	Gillibrand	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Leahy	Sanders
Cardin	Manchin	Schatz
Carper	Markey	Schumer
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Cruz	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Nelson	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Roberts	Rubio
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The conference report was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The Senator from Utah.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the recent developments in U.S. trade policy and their implications for the future. Over this past weekend, officials from the Obama administration, along with 11 other countries, reached what they believed will be the final agreement on the terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP. If enacted, the TPP would be the largest trade agreement in history, encompassing approximately and roughly 40 percent of the world economy and setting standards for one of the most dynamic parts of the world, the Asia-Pacific.

I will repeat what I have said many times before. I believe a strong TPP

agreement is essential for advancing our Nation's economic and strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region. However, while I have often touted the potential benefits of the TPP, I have also been very clear that I will not support just any TPP agreement. The United States has only one chance to negotiate, consider, and implement the TPP. We have to get it right. Under our system of government, both the executive and legislative branches play essential roles in developing and implementing our trade policy.

While the administration has the power to reach agreements with other countries, no such agreement can go into force without Congress's approval. Congress is not just a rubberstamp in this process. We have an obligation to evaluate every trade agreement and determine if it advances our Nation's interests and serves the needs of our constituents. Toward that end, as I continue to review the deal that was struck in Atlanta, three important considerations will determine whether I can support this agreement.

First, the deal must be balanced to meet the U.S. negotiating objectives established under our trade promotion authority or TPA statute which Congress passed earlier this year with strong bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate. Second, I must have confidence that our trading partners will actually live up to the commitments they have made under the agreement by implementing the terms and obligations included in the deal. Third, the agreement must be subjected to a thorough and rigorous congressional review, including in-depth consultation with the administration.

Before I talk about these factors in more detail, I want to acknowledge the many years of hard work officials in the administration, particularly those at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, have put in to get the agreement this far. I particularly want to acknowledge the hard work of the lead negotiators at USTR who have sacrificed for years to bring this agreement to conclusion. I also want to acknowledge that over time they made a great deal of progress on a variety of fronts, but now that the administration says it has reached an agreement, it is time for Congress to intensify its review of TPP.

The primary standards by which I—and I would hope all of my colleagues—will judge this trade agreement are set forth clearly in our TPA statute. As one of the original authors of the current TPA law, I worked hard to ensure that it did not just represent my priorities for trade agreements but those of a bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate.

The congressional negotiating objectives that we included in the statute spell out in detail what must be included in a trade agreement in order

for it to get Congress's approval. The negotiating objectives we included in our TPA law are not just pro forma, they are not suggestions or mere statements of Members' preferences. They represent the view of the bipartisan majority in Congress as to the rights and obligations a trade agreement must contain when it is finalized and submitted for our consideration.

I have to say no one in Congress worked harder and longer than I did to get that TPA bill across the finish line. I was joined by many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who put in significant time and effort as we drafted the bill, got it through the committee, and passed it on the floor. In fact, if you will recall, in the Senate we ended up having to pass it twice.

Since the day we passed the bill, I, as well as many of my colleagues in both the House and Senate, have been urging officials and the administration to do all they can to conclude a TPP agreement that a majority in Congress can support. Unfortunately, when we look at some of the outcomes of the final round of negotiations, it is not clear if the administration achieved that goal.

For example, it is not immediately apparent whether the agreement contains administrable and enforceable provisions to protect intellectual property rights similar to those found in U.S. law. As you will recall, this was a key negotiating objective that we included in our TPA law and a necessary component if we want our trade agreements to advance our Nation's interests in the 21st century economy.

I have serious concerns as to whether the administration did enough to accomplish this objective. This is particularly true with the provisions that govern data exclusivity for biologics. As you know, biologics are formulas that are on the cutting edge of medicine and have transformed major elements of the health care landscape, thanks in large part to the effort and investment of American companies. I might add, it is one of the principal industries where we might not only be able to find treatments but also cures. It is one of the three or four things that I think can bring down health care costs immeasurably.

I am not one to argue that parties to a negotiation should refuse to compromise. In fact, I have come to the floor many times over the years and espoused, sometimes at great lengths, the merits of being able to find a compromise. But—and this is an important point—a good compromise usually results in something of greater overall value for all the parties involved, and, at least according to the information now available, it is unclear whether this administration achieved that kind of an outcome for American innovators.

Aside from biologics, there are other elements that, according to initial re-

ports, may have fallen short of Congress's negotiating standards. For example, there are issues with some of the market-access provisions on agriculture, the inclusion of product—and sector-specific carveouts from some of the obligations, as well as some potential of overreaching on labor commitments. While we can't make final determinations on any of these issues without seeing the final text of the agreement, initial indications are that these items could be problematic when the agreement is submitted to Congress for approval.

In the end, Congress will need to take a good look at the entire agreement and judge whether the agreement satisfies the standards we have put forward in our TPA law.

Beyond the negotiating objectives, we need to have confidence that key elements of a TPP agreement will be implemented and respected by our trading partners. There are a number of important elements to consider when we talk about enforcement and implementation but, for now, I will speak once again about the intellectual property rights.

For too long—indeed, for decades now—American innovators and investors haven't been able to take full advantage of our trade agreements because, quite simply, many of our trading partners either refuse to enforce intellectual property obligations or fail to implement them all together. All too often, this administration has looked the other way as other countries steal U.S. innovation and intellectual property.

If countries want to trade with the United States, we should demand that they respect and enforce the intellectual property rights of American businesses and individuals. That means including strong provisions protecting intellectual property in our trade agreements and a requirement that intellectual property rights commitments be implemented before allowing the agreement to enter into force for our trading partners.

Unfortunately, implementation of these types of commitments is one area where this administration has come up short in the past. Before Congress can approve an agreement as vast as the TPP, we need to be sure this has changed. We need to have detailed assurances that our trading partners will live up to all of their commitments and a clear roadmap as to how the administration intends to hold them accountable.

Finally, I expect that pursuant to both the letter and the spirit of TPA, the administration will communicate and work closely with Congress over the coming weeks and months. In the short term, that means deep and meaningful consultations before the President signs the agreement.

Under our TPA law, the President must inform Congress of his intent to

sign an agreement at least 90 days before doing so. This period is an essential part of congressional consideration of the deal. Congress reserved this time in the statute to ensure that we would have ample opportunity to review the content of a trade agreement before it is signed by the President.

In order for that review to take place, Congress must have access to the full text of the agreement, including annexes and any side agreements, before the President provides his 90-day notice. This is a vital element of TPA. The law was designed specifically to give Congress all the necessary tools to conduct an exhaustive evaluation of any and all trade agreements and to ensure that the administration is fully accountable both to Congress and to the public.

There are a number of provisions and timelines in the law that help us achieve these goals. I will not list them all on the floor today. Instead, I will just say that I expect the full cooperation of the administration in meeting all of these mandates.

The American people demand no less. There are no shortcuts. Let's be clear. Our Nation could clearly benefit from a strong TPP agreement, and I hope that in the end that is what we get—and these other nations can too. In the end, I hope this agreement meets all of these challenges that we have thrown out.

Unfortunately, I have real reservations as to whether the agreement reached over the past weekend meets the high standards set by Congress. I will not make a definitive statement on the overall merits of the agreement until I have a chance to review it in its entirety. For now, I will just say that I am worried. I am worried that we didn't get as good a deal as we could have. I am worried that the administration didn't achieve a balanced outcome covering the congressional negotiating objectives set out in TPA. And, ultimately, I am worried there won't be enough support in Congress for this agreement and that our country will end up missing out on important opportunities.

I hope I am wrong. I will continually scrutinize this agreement as details emerge. Before I can support the TPP deal struck in Atlanta, I must be convinced that the TPP is a balanced agreement that complies with the TPA law and that it has clear, implementable rules that our trading partners will follow.

The TPP is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to define high-standard rules for the Asia-Pacific and to gain real access to overseas markets that our businesses and our workers need. I intend to do all I can to ensure that the agreement meets these goals.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the floor today to express my support for the final conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act, what we need to do as a Congress to authorize the work that can be done to defend the country. I urge the President to sign this bill.

For 54 straight years the Senate has done its job in authorizing the things that need to be done to defend the country. We have passed the bill. This fulfills part of that responsibility to defend the country. It is the first responsibility of the Federal Government to defend the country. This is something that can't be better done somewhere else. It is something that has to be done by us, and two things have to happen for that to be done. We have to authorize the spending in the way this bill does and then we have to appropriate the money once that spending has been authorized.

The majority voted several weeks ago to debate the appropriating bill, but we couldn't get even six Democrats to join us to debate that bill. Well, now this bill has passed. So maybe the next move is to pass the bill that funds what has just been authorized. It has passed the House, it has passed the Senate, and the Commander in Chief of the United States is saying he would veto the National Defense Authorization Act?

The President apparently believes the defense of the country is a legitimate bargaining chip in how we spend all other money. The President somehow has latched onto this idea that he proposed a few years ago that all spending be equal, that you take all of the discretionary spending in the country and half of that would be for defense and half of that would be for everything else that is discretionary—an increasingly small part of the budget, because mandatory spending is what continues to grow. The discretionary spending, the spending that people think about when they think about the Federal Government, gets smaller every year.

But even with that challenge in front of us, the President apparently has the position that no matter how dangerous the world is, no matter what is happening in Ukraine or no matter what is happening in Crimea, no matter what is happening in Syria, no matter what is happening in response to the Iranian agreement, you have to have more money for everything else if you are going to have more money for defense. Somehow more money for the EPA and more money for the IRS are equal to

the responsibility that the Federal Government has to defend the country.

We saw a little of that, again, just a few weeks ago when the appropriators brought the Defense appropriations bill to the floor with a vote of 23 to 7. That means many Democrats and many Republicans voted for that bill, but when we got it to the floor, we couldn't get the number it took to bring it up.

This bill, the authorizing bill, just passed the Senate with 70 votes. It passed the House with 270 votes. This bill fully supports the number the President said we needed to defend the country. This is like not taking yes for an answer. When the President says this is how much money we need to defend the country, the Congress appropriates the money the President says we need to defend the country, and then the President says: Well, but we need a lot of money for a lot of other things too, and I am only going to be for what I was for—this is the President's number—the amount of money I was for to defend the country if I get the amount of money I want to do everything else.

That is not a very good formula for either democracy or making the system work. This has the base funding for the Department of Defense. It has the defense funding and the national security funding for the Department of Energy. It has money involved for the overseas contingency fund that was created for when things are happening outside of the country that we didn't anticipate. And surely that is the case.

The President was just saying 3 years ago that the Russians weren't a problem. That was a Cold War idea that the Russians could be a problem. He was saying 3 years or 4 years ago that Assad must go.

Clearly, things are not working out as we thought. So it is probably time to use the overseas contingency fund, as this does. This provides money for the intelligence-related programs. I am on the Senate committee that the CIA, the Director of National Intelligence, and others report to. They are publicly not at all shy about saying that more things are coming at the country from more different directions with more potential danger than ever before and so they need to be funded. The activities have stressed those agencies in a lot of ways, but another way you can stress them is not to let them know whether they are going to have the money necessary to do their job.

Our allies are constantly confused by the lack of resolve on our part. In fact, when you are looking at this from some other country and you say that the President got the amount of money he wanted in a defense bill that met the needs that the President proposed, but he doesn't want to sign the authorization bill now because he is not happy with all the other spending, that is a pretty confusing message.

It is like the confusing message when the President draws a redline in Syria but it doesn't mean anything. But when you don't enforce the redline, then not just Assad is emboldened but all of our adversaries are determined at that point that there may be new ways to test the United States and its allies they hadn't thought of before. So, before you know it, the Russians are in Crimea, the Russians are in Ukraine, and now the Russians are in Syria. What we are watching unfold in Syria—and I would want to emphasize “watching unfold” as if we were spectators in an area of the world that since World War II the United States of America has done what was necessary to see that there wasn't a Russian presence there—is clearly the result of a strategy that is confusing, but it is also pretty darn confusing when the President says he is going to veto the Defense authorization bill.

We see China moving in the South China Sea in ways that we wouldn't have anticipated, taking a 5-acre island and turning it into a 3,000-acre military base.

We see Iran spreading its bad influence with the new resources that it now has.

When the United States leaves a leadership vacuum in the world today, bad things rush to fill that vacuum. And when that happens—when there is less U.S. leadership, when there is less U.S. presence, when there is less positive U.S. encouragement in the world—that almost always produces the wrong kinds of results, and it almost always produces hasty decisions that cost America more in lives and international respect than we would have had otherwise.

The President can take a positive step here by just saying: OK. I am going to sign this bill because 70 Senators and 270 House Members voted for this bill. If the President wants to have a fight, there is still a fight to be had. We shouldn't be having a fight about authorizing the money that would then be appropriated, but there is still a fight to be had because, remember, this bill doesn't spend one dime. It just creates the authorization to spend money if that money is appropriated.

This is a good bill. It is a responsible bill. It eliminates waste and unnecessary spending. It trims down bloated headquarters and administrative overhead at the highest levels of the military so that more money goes to the places where the fight is and more money goes to the families and the troops that defend us. It contains the most sweeping defense acquisition reforms in a generation. It helps sustain the quality of life for the people who serve and their families.

By the way, yesterday I introduced a bill along with Senator GILLIBRAND—a bill that focuses on family stability. When we were doing that, I was able to

quote the recently retired Chief of Staff of the Army, General Odierno, who said the strength of the military is in the families of the military.

This bill does things that move in the right direction. It authorizes a pay raise for those people serving below the grade of colonel. It requires the Department of Defense and the Veterans' Administration to establish a joint uniform formulary to ensure our troops have timely access to the medicines they need.

The bill authorizes commonsense reforms in a 70-year-old, outdated retirement system. Currently, 83 percent of the people who serve in the military don't benefit from the retirement system. If this bill would pass, service-members exiting the military have more choices, resulting in about 80 percent of the people who leave the military getting a retirement benefit instead of 80 percent not getting a retirement benefit.

The bill keeps in place restrictions that bring detainees to Guantanamo and keep them there. It prohibits the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to places such as Yemen, Libya, Syria and Somalia. Six and a half years after taking office, the President has never produced a plan to close Guantanamo. The Congress and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services are still waiting to hear what his plan might be. As terrorism spreads across the globe, we also don't appear to have a plan to do what needs to be done with the law of war detainees that are brought under our control and the control of our allies around the country.

The challenges faced by the intelligence community are unlike any past challenges we have seen—cyber security, maybe it is more cyber insecurity than cyber security—from defending the critical infrastructure of the country to too much information on too many people in too many places. Previously, people who wanted to get our information had to be pretty close and were likely to be detectable. Now our adversaries can be in the middle of the desert, somewhere in Syria or anywhere around the world, using satellite technology to hack into us—as it turned out recently our U.S. Government personnel records. One has to hope the military, the dot-mil, is more secure than the dot-gov, but that doesn't happen if we don't provide the money.

There are a number of priorities in my State that are reflected in this. We have a great training base at St. Joseph, MO, where C-130 aircraft pilots from all over our country and from 16 of our allied countries trained last year. This bill would provide the aircraft upgrades for that C-130 training.

It provides the necessary resources for geospatial intelligence activities in the country.

The bill includes military construction funding for a new consolidated nu-

clear stealth and deterrence facility at Whiteman Air Force Base. Missouri is proud to have Whiteman Air Force Base as the home of the B-2 bomber, the stealth bomber system, where dedicated airmen stand by at a moment's notice to let our allies know we can reach anywhere, anytime from that base, and they are unlikely to know we are there until we get there.

Finally, this bill includes critical funding to keep the Army ready, equipped, and trained. At Fort Leonard Wood the Army trains approximately 80,000 soldiers every year. While I was disappointed with the announced reductions at Fort Leonard Wood, which are scheduled to occur in 2017, the number of uniformed positions at that installation will still be higher than they were in 2001. The Army's decision to minimize reductions at Fort Leonard Wood was a decision that I think anybody who understands the Fort would agree with.

In summary, I want to say to the President of the United States that this bill provides for our common defense. That is his No. 1 responsibility as Commander in Chief. Blocking this bill will keep us less safe and less secure. So Mr. President, sign this bill.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, it is not uncommon for me when I am at home in Oklahoma to have a mom approach me at a townhall meeting or in conversations or even at a store or restaurant. What she will want to talk to me about is very interesting. Almost always the moms who approach me lately want to talk to me about national security. They want to talk to me about the fear they have that the world is spinning out of control, and they are very concerned about their kids. They are concerned about terrorism coming to the United States. With a lot of moms in Oklahoma, there is a sense of a loss of trust that this is a safe world and a safe place.

I can't say that is isolated. As I have talked to other Members in this body, I seem to find the same theme coming up over and over again. As I talk to people at home, they want to know: Is the American government performing its primary responsibility of maintaining security and protecting American citizens around the world?

I would love to be able to tell them yes, but quite frankly this has become a very chaotic world, and the challenges we face need clear messaging about what we plan to do and our in-

tent to actually follow up on that plan. We need to have a national policy plan for defense, and then we need to follow through on that.

That seems straightforward and simple. Well, the national defense authorization is one of those areas where Congress and the President have for decades agreed on a national policy for defense. They have laid out that perspective, and then it is the President's responsibility as Commander in Chief to fulfill. That is the primary responsibility of the U.S. Government. The challenge is, our world is in utter turmoil and that primary responsibility is not being fulfilled.

Passage today of the National Defense Authorization Act by 70 to 27—which is a rare vote in the Senate, to have that much bipartisan agreement on something—is a significant next step. It has passed the House already, it has now passed the Senate with a veto-proof majority, and it is headed to the President's desk, and he has threatened a veto, of all things, for a national plan for defense.

There is a sentiment, an emotion from Americans: Please get a clear national policy. We feel like the world is on fire, and somebody needs to provide a clear path. That is what this is, and I am astounded by the conversation about a possible veto threat from the President of the United States, even when it passes the Senate by a veto-proof majority.

Where are we and what is really going on right now? Let's take a look at the world and what is happening in real time. The Middle East is absolutely rocked to its core with violence, and there is this perception that the United States is disconnected from it. I would say that is untrue. We are just not providing clarity in the plan.

At a time when we have men and women in harm's way across the entire Middle East, I am astounded that the President is talking about a veto, which will provide even more instability. Let me give an example. When I talk about men and women in harm's way, there are many Americans who don't hear about the ongoing battle happening now in Iraq and Syria and how our sons and daughters are already very engaged in what is happening there. There is this belief—I believe fostered by the President—that we are really not there because we never talk about it.

So let's talk about yesterday. This is yesterday over Iraq and Syria and what happened. Near Abu Kamal, there were three strikes from the Americans on two separate ISIL crude oil collection points. That was in Syria yesterday. In Iraq, one strike destroyed two ISIL rocket rails. Near Kirkuk, two strikes struck two separate ISIL tactical units and destroyed two ISIL heavy machine guns and an ISIL fighting position. Near Kisik, three strikes suppressed

two ISIL rocket positions, an ISIL mortar position, and an ISIL sniper position. Near Makhmur, one strike suppressed an ISIL heavy machine gun position. Near Mosul, three strikes struck an ISIL tactical unit and destroyed three ISIL heavy machine guns and three ISIL fighting positions and suppressed an ISIL rocket position and an ISIL mortar position. Near Ramadi, five strikes struck four separate ISIL tactical units and destroyed three ISIL fighting positions, three ISIL weapons caches, two ISIL buildings, an ISIL bunker, and denied ISIL access to terrain they were pursuing. Near Sinjar, one strike struck an ISIL tactical unit and destroyed an ISIL heavy machine gun and two ISIL fighting positions. Near Sultan Abdallah, one strike suppressed an ISIL rocket position. Near Tal Afar, two strikes destroyed an ISIL fighting position, an ISIL trench, and an ISIL berm, and suppressed an ISIL mortar position. Near Tikrit, one strike destroyed four ISIL obstacles. That was yesterday.

Americans have this belief that we are disconnected. We are a nation that is engaged, but the challenge is that there is no clear plan, there is no end game that is being laid out. In a moment when we have this many strikes that are happening in Syria and in Iraq—and I can go on and on about what is happening with our Special Forces in Afghanistan and across the rest of the region, as I will describe in a moment, but at this moment, with this going on, the President is going to veto a national defense authorization with this kind of bipartisan support, when the whole Nation is saying: Give us a plan because we feel insecure.

Currently, we are trying and failing to train and equip moderate opposition forces against ISIL in Syria. Currently, we are trying to give Kurds all the equipment they need to hold the line against ISIL. There are millions of displaced people who are fleeing across Europe, who are trying to find some place of respite.

In Yemen, we are supporting the Saudi-led coalition as the Iranians are causing a coup to become a reality in Yemen by the Houthi rebels.

In Libya, there is still an unbelievable vacuum left by the incomplete campaign, which resulted in ISIS getting a foothold in Libya and a bloody civil war in a very divided Libya. They have not been able to form a central government in several years now.

Egypt is facing a growing terrorist threat in Sinai. There are all kinds of tit-for-tat violence happening right now in Israel between the Palestinians and Israelis.

In Africa, we are still hunting Joseph Kony—a despicable madman—but with no success. AFRICOM is also trying to assist forces working to kick al-Shabaab out of Somalia. Bloody sectarian violence is breaking out in the

Central African Republic. South Sudan has an extremely fragile peace agreement. Boko Haram continues to rapidly grow in West Africa.

In Mexico and other parts of Latin America, drug thugs are running rampant, and they are pushing drugs into the United States in record amounts, destabilizing many of our cities.

In Afghanistan, a new offensive by the Taliban threatens to roll back the progress we have made.

DNI Clapper testified that the world is still facing an emerging and rapidly growing cyber threat. It is not just a cyber threat to the American Government, it is a threat to every American citizen, as many American citizens have personally experienced in recent days.

Let's look to the future and some of the plans that are ongoing.

Iran. We heard from Secretary Kerry and this administration that a nuclear deal with Iran would lead to a more peaceful Middle East. Since the agreement was announced, we have seen Iran continue to arm the Houthi rebels in Yemen, continue to support Hezbollah and their expansion, and continue to aggressively prop up the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad. Some of us have stated quite blatantly our suspicion that this deal would make the region less stable. Indeed, in just 5 years Iran could begin importing large amounts of conventional weapons under this deal. So an Iran that is already supporting large amounts of terrorism will only become better equipped in the days to come.

China. They had a state visit here recently with lots of broad promises about cooperation. Meanwhile, we know that much of the cyber threat emanates from China. They are building islands in disputed waters—airfields capable of hosting military assets there. They are beginning to build a world-class navy that could threaten our closest allies in the region. China continues to be one of the world's leaders in human rights violations.

Russia. We have heard several of our top military commanders say there is a long list of threats, but the threat they are most concerned about is a growing Russia. Putin walked into Crimea, and the world watched. He continues to threaten eastern Ukraine, and the world watches. He is now expanding Russian adventures into the Middle East, supporting Iranian-backed Bashar al-Assad in Syria, and attacking the moderate opposition forces attempting to defend their own families. This is not a new vanguard against terrorism; this is an expansion of the "Russian Bear."

So what are we doing about it? We are trying to actually put out a clear plan. Where are we going in national defense? What are we going to do to stop terrorism and the expansion of terrorists around the world? Instead of

the White House cooperating with us, they are threatening to veto the NDAA. It is unbelievable. It is astounding that the White House is spending more time trying to make a deal with Iran than they are trying to actually support our own military. What does this do? What does this agreement really accomplish?

For those who aren't familiar with the national defense authorization, let me share a few things that are in this national defense authorization that the President is now saying he is going to veto.

Here is one: personal carry of firearms. Post commanders are empowered to permit a member of the Armed Forces to carry appropriate firearms on our posts or bases. After the attack that happened in Chattanooga, this is something the American people have called out for. It is included in this bill, to allow it.

It provides for stronger cyber operations capabilities and looks to safeguard our technological superiority.

It ensures that military intelligence analysis remains a priority at the national level.

The NDAA extends vital authorities for our forces in Afghanistan as we try to deal with what is happening on the ground there. It authorizes the Iran military power report for 10 additional years, reflecting Congress's view that Iran's illicit pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability and its malign military activities constitute a grave threat to regional stability and U.S. national security interests. The NDAA reinforces the mission against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL.

Congress authorizes through this the European Reassurance Initiative to address Russia's employment of conventional and unconventional warfare methods to counter U.S. and Western interests, whether it be in the Ukraine or across the area—bicameral, bipartisan efforts to provide assistance and sustainment for the military forces in Ukraine.

The NDAA allocates \$30 million for DOD-unique capabilities to address the threatening levels of violence, instability, illicit trafficking of drugs, and transnational organized crime in Central America.

Dealing with the Pacific region, this conference remains concerned about America's strategy in the Indo-Pacific region, and the NDAA requires the President to make a clear strategy for this "pivot to Asia."

The Defense Department has also placed greater emphasis—under this agreement, the NDAA—on security cooperation with all parts of the world to make sure we have a consistent strategy.

If we want to talk about individual members of the military, this NDAA changes how retirement is done. Now, 83 percent of the individuals who serve

in our military don't receive any kind of retirement at the end. This allows those individuals to actually be able to participate in retirement benefits, in their retirement from the military, even if they don't make it all the way to 20 years. This is a dramatic shift not only in supporting the warfighter but in actually setting a strategy for where we need to go to provide some clarity to individuals at home and to our troops in the field.

The President's statement that he is going to veto this has come under two areas. He said he is going to veto this because the funding mechanism comes from the Overseas Contingency Operations Fund, OCO. Because the funding is coming from OCO, he is going to veto it. The second thing he said: I am going to veto it because I don't like what it says about Gitmo—about Guantanamo—and keeping those individuals who are terrorists who have attacked our Nation at Guantanamo.

The ironic part is that when I started to pull this to be able to look at the figures—let me just give the last several years. In 2013, the OCO funding was \$89 billion. The President signed that. In 2014, OCO funding was \$81 billion. The President signed that. In 2015, OCO funding was \$64 billion. The President signed that. This year's OCO funding is \$89 billion, which is right there in the same range as the previous 4 years, but this year he is saying: I can't sign it; it has OCO funding. Can somebody tell me the difference on this? This is very similar to what has been done the last 4 years.

His statement about Guantanamo Bay and preventing funding—moving the terrorists from Guantanamo Bay to the United States—I can tell you that in my State people are adamantly opposed to moving the terrorists from Guantanamo Bay to the United States. Going all the way back, let's say, to 2011, that NDAA prevented moving prisoners from Guantanamo; 2012, prevented it; 2013, prevented it; 2014, prevented it; 2015, prevented it. All of those, the President signed, but for some strange reason, this year the President has said: It has OCO funds and it deals with Guantanamo—just like every other year in the past.

This is the season when we need to bring clear voices and a clear mission, not politics. This is the primary mission we have as a federal government: Take care of our national defense and provide a clear messaging.

I am proud of this Senate for finishing the conference report on the NDAA and sending it to the President's desk. Now I would ask the Commander in Chief to stand with the troops, to sign this, and let's get on to providing some clarity in the days ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, first, I want to commend my colleague, my

partner on the Senate Intelligence Committee, for his recent remarks delivered here on the floor.

It was our Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Clapper, who said that in all of his 50-plus years of serving in intelligence functions—first in the military and now as the Director of National Intelligence—he has never seen a world so troubled, he has never seen such a proliferation of threats, threats to our way of life, threats to our country, threats to our allies, threats to world order. And my colleague from Oklahoma, Senator LANKFORD, just laid out in specific detail the multitude of threats, the multitude of dysfunction and chaos that exists not just in the Middle East but throughout the world. I won't repeat any of it, but I thank him for bringing attention to the fact that we live in very uncertain times, times which require decisive leadership, and that leadership—over the years and over the centuries, world nations have pointed to the United States as the democratic leadership absolutely necessary to deal with these types of issues and provide directional leadership to our allies and to the world, as well as show strength to our adversaries that has restrained some of their actions. That is missing.

There is a huge void being left by the lack of any kind of sensible policy—if there is a policy at all—coming out of this particular White House and from this President. This vacuum that has been created has allowed the opportunity for those who seek to do us harm, to do others harm, and those who seek to use power to achieve their means—literally, a blank check and a free hand, knowing there is no order here in terms of addressing this in a successful way.

So I thank my colleague for defining this on the floor, and I certainly want to support—and hopefully my colleagues will pay attention to this serious challenge that America faces with the lack of a coherent strategy and lack of decisive leadership that is coming to us from the White House.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. President, today we face something far less consequential but still consequential from the standpoint that it is a contributor to another major threat that Americans face.

I have been engaged in everything from major programs—done in a bipartisan way, with support from the President, all of which have failed—to address this and bring us to the small, sometimes almost ridiculous and embarrassing, spending that has taken place here for those who are looking at it from bottom up instead of from top down. It is something I have tried to identify every week—now for 23 weeks—called the waste of the week, hopefully it will provide the kind of embarrassment to my colleagues and knowledge of the fact that we simply

cannot keep spending money that we do not have.

These waste of the week sums are substantial, into the tens of billions of dollars. Some are there to show the American people or describe to the American people the fact that there is a significant amount of unneeded spending, of waste, fraud, and abuse that occurs on an almost daily basis throughout all of our agencies and throughout Federal spending. People are saying: Given the kind of debt crisis we are looking at, why are we spending hard-earned tax dollars to address this or that or whatever?

Today I want to address one small but yet another example of unnecessary Federal spending, and it involves the role of robots replacing humans for certain functions. Those who have watched "The Jetsons"—I don't really tune in, but my grandkids do—perhaps wish that they, too, could have a Rosie the maid, the robot that cooks, cleans, and tells jokes to the Jetson family. This obviously is a cartoon presentation, but it reflects a role for robots that provides us interesting entertainment or perhaps the robot from "Lost in Space" that played the electric guitar and exhibited human emotion or Michael Knight's trusted robot sidekick KITT on "Knight Rider."

This is a little bit beyond my generation, but I am told robots are now part of the entertainment scene. While this makes for good television and draws viewers, we all know robots can never replace the care of a human being, the care of a parent, the efforts of a teacher, those who are reaching out to provide support and encouragement for young people. Yet the National Science Foundation is currently spending \$440,855 trying to do that with robots. The agency recently awarded a taxpayer-funded grant to develop the use of "autonomous, personalized social robots" in the classroom.

The first thing that came to my mind was what in the world does a personalized social robot look like and how do you personalize a robot to provide social interaction with children? The purpose of this grant, which began last month and continues until August 2017, is to create robots that can tell stories to children.

This might be a cute thing to do. I don't know. Is this something the Federal Government, at a time when we are in the middle of deficit spending, evermore borrowing, should ask the taxpayer to send out their hard-earned tax dollars for—this kind of thing? If private industry wants to do this and can sell the product to schools, more power to them, but why do we have to go to the Federal Government to do a test case to see if this works? We know we do basic research here. We support that through NIH and the National Science Foundation. This is not basic research. I am questioning this.

Let me quote from the grant description. This will “offer unique opportunities of guided, personalized and controlled social interaction, whatever that means, during the delivery of a desired curriculum. They can play, learn and engage with children in the real world—physically, socially, and emotively.”

Maybe the effort here is to build a robot that can physically, socially, and emotively connect with children. That might work on “The Jetsons.” That might work on television. I can’t believe how that works in real life.

What parent wants a preschooler to be read to by a so-called social robot instead of a teacher or a parent? And why are we spending taxpayer dollars on reading robots? Actual human teachers provide what robots cannot. They relate to our children. They understand their individual needs, and they tailor their instruction to bring out the very best in our children and on a personalized basis. I don’t think a robot can adjust emotively and socially to different children in the classroom. Yet obviously the teacher is trained to do that.

Even the most advanced robot can’t sense when a child is going through a rough time or provide the right touch to ensure a child’s learning. Should the Federal Government, which is over \$18 trillion in debt, be spending any money, let alone \$440,000, on this research? Is this something the private sector could be conducting instead? Certainly, if that is what the goal is.

My purpose throughout the Waste of the Week Initiative is to drive home the point that the Federal Government should be stewarding taxpayers’ dollars for essential functions and in a way that truly helps people.

Let me be clear. I am not criticizing all Federal research spending or the National Science Foundation. The government does play an important role, as I have said, in promoting basic science research that cannot be done elsewhere, but there are many private companies that offer products that use technology to help children learn. Is it the role of the government to also perform this sort of research? Just because something is interesting to do doesn’t mean it rises to the level of priority, particularly at a time when we are continuing to spend more money and go deeper into debt each and every day.

Families and small businesses have to prioritize all the time. The Federal Government needs to do the same. So let’s pull the plug or take out the battery and short circuit this funding for this grant.

Today I am marking more money on our ever-increasing amount of waste, fraud, and abuse. We are adding \$440,855 to the nearly \$117 billion that over the last 22 weeks we have brought to this floor.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRISPUS ATTUCKS CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. President, while I am here, let me switch and for a couple of minutes speak to something that I think speaks well of our State; that is, celebrating an important anniversary.

In Indiana, few things better personify the Hoosier spirit of hard work and overcoming adversity, persistence, and sportsmanship more than high school basketball. It is rabid in our State, and it always has been. It defines our State.

Every year the high school basketball season culminates in February and March with what we call Hoosier Hysteria—the postseason tournament. Half a century ago, the height of Hoosier Hysteria was before school consolidation and before the advent of class basketball. At that time we had one single athletic class and crowned one high school basketball team State champion each year. For the final game of the tournament, fans would fill Butler University’s historic Hinkle Fieldhouse to standing-room-only capacity. Throughout those weeks of tournament, as the small, medium, and large-sized schools worked their way through the system to that championship game, it captured the hearts and minds of Hoosiers in a way that nothing else does.

This phenomena was immortalized by the award-winning 1986 movie “Hoosiers”—one of my personal favorites—and based on an improbable but true story. Back in the 1950s, hundreds of small high schools existed across our small State, but no small school had ever won the basketball State championship. In 1954, Mylan High School—a rural school with an enrollment of only 161 students in all four grades—faced a much larger school, Muncie Central High School, whose enrollment was 2,200 students in the State championship game. The Mylan Indians defeated the Muncie Central Bearcats to win the State title. It has been immortalized through the movie “Hoosiers,” which any Hoosier, and hopefully people outside the State, watched more than once. I watch it on a regular basis. It is a great story.

Even today, Mylan’s incredible accomplishment is widely admired and discussed by Hoosier basketball fans. Indiana high school basketball in this era produced not only this “David and Goliath” episode but also another truly inspirational team. This is their 60th anniversary.

En route to winning the 1954 State championship, Milan defeated the Crispus Attucks Tigers in the semi-State. That is no small accomplishment. That was a large school with an exceptional team. At that time, Crispus Attucks was an all-Black high school in Indianapolis. Despite their loss to Milan in 1954, the Tigers were back the next year. On March 19, 1955—

60 years ago—Crispus Attucks won the State title by defeating Gary Roosevelt High School 97 to 74 in that championship game.

The next year Crispus Attucks went undefeated, riding a 45-winning streak to State title. The Tigers finished the 1950s with a third championship in 1959.

Crispus Attucks High School’s 1955 State title was one of several firsts. Not only were they the first team from Indianapolis to win the State title, they were the first African-American school in the Nation to win an open State tournament.

Through the perseverance and leadership of their coach, Ray Crowe, the players learned not just the game of basketball but also valuable lessons about discipline, patience, and perseverance. These lessons resulted in back-to-back State titles, as I have said.

On the court, the Crispus Attucks teams of the mid-1950s were led by a future professional all-star, champion, and Hall of Famer named Oscar Robertson. Oscar Robertson said of those Crispus Attucks teams: “The way we played and won, we did it with a lot of class.”

The Tigers’ success on the basketball court helped tear down many lingering racial barriers of that time. This team inspired the State of Indiana with their hard work, graciousness, and sportsmanship. Today I join my fellow Hoosiers in marking the 60th anniversary of this milestone and honoring this team of champions.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 10 minutes; that following my remarks, Senator SCHATZ be recognized for up to 10 minutes; and that following his remarks, Senator WHITEHOUSE be recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, the evidence and impacts of climate change are clear and they are undeniable. Scientists can measure the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They can measure the rising temperatures. They can measure the increasing level of the sea. They can measure the increase in extreme rainfall. All of this increases the risk for extreme weather events that threaten people and the economy. While addressing the challenges of climate change will take a comprehensive approach, we have many of the policies, the workforce, and the technologies we need to address the problem already.

To illustrate that point, I want to tell you a tale of two tax policies—one for wind and solar and one for oil, gas,

and coal. Let's look at the last decade of our tale of two tax policies.

In 2005, we, the United States, installed 79 total megawatts of solar in the United States. Seventy-nine megawatts was a teeny amount back in 2005. Last year we deployed nearly 100 times that amount—7,000 new megawatts in the year 2014. Look at that. We have nearly 100 times more solar.

Well, what happened? First, technology costs plummeted. Everybody has heard of a Moore's law for semiconductors. It told us that today's iPhones would be more powerful than last generation's supercomputers. We all know Moore's Law. We knew we would move from this pocket phone to an iPhone because the technology keeps getting more powerful.

There is a Moore's law for solar as well. Every time solar panel deployment doubles globally, the cost of solar falls by 18 percent. It is predictable. It is why we are seeing the cost of a solar panel drop 70 percent since the year 2010, and it is why costs will continue to fall.

Next, 30 States enacted renewable electricity standards. Yes, now more than half of the States in our country have a standard to get a sizable portion of their electricity from renewable sources, and finally, and most importantly from a national policy perspective, we passed an 8-year extension of the Solar Investment Tax Credit in 2008. We gave this industry and these companies certainty. We now have more than 20,000 megawatts of installed solar capacity in the United States. More than 60 percent of it was added in just the last 2 years, and we are projected to double that installed solar capacity over the next 2 years. We are forecast to add 8,000 megawatts this year and 12,000 megawatts next year, and that is because we put smart tax policies on the books 7 years ago.

Look what happened. If we go from the beginning of the American Revolution until 2005, we were still only installing 79 megawatts—just a teeny, tiny amount of solar energy. But when we started putting State renewable electricity standards on the books and a new tax policy, it started to explode 100 times—1,000 times more solar in America, by the way, with all the experts saying: This can't happen. Solar isn't real. Wind isn't real. You Senators, you House Members, you have to get real. Well, this is the proof that bad policies had stopped this explosion of these technologies.

By the way, the same thing is true for wind power. We are projected to add 9,000 new megawatts of wind power in our country this year, and we are projected to add another 8,000 megawatts of wind power next year. We can see what is happening with the combined totals of wind and solar once we put the new policies on the books. It was basically an era where almost no elec-

tricity in the United States was generated by wind and solar to the next year having 5 to 6 percent of all the electricity in America coming from wind and solar. It is like the explosion of cellphones that turned into smartphones. People didn't have anything in their pockets just 20 years ago—it was like the wind and solar industry—but we changed policies in the United States. We said: We can do it. We can untether ourselves from a telephone line in our living rooms. We can let people walk around with their phone, and we began to make the same decisions on wind and solar. We can untether ourselves in the United States from coal-generated electricity that emits greenhouse gases that dangerously warm our planet, and we are now doing it. It is accelerating, and that is the beautiful part of the story.

By the end of next year, there are going to be 300,000 people employed in the wind and solar industry in the United States. Right now, there are 73,000 people building these wind turbines. Steel and iron workers are out there doing this work right now, and it generates clean, renewable, nonpolluting energy. We can do this. We are the United States of America. We are the innovation giant on the planet. We can solve this problem.

What has happened with the wind industry? Well, their tax break has now expired. Has the tax break for the oil industry expired? Oh, no. Has the tax break for the coal industry expired? Oh, no.

Those tax breaks have been on the books for 100 years. They will never expire—never. There are too many people who want to help the fossil fuel industry here in the Senate and over in the House of Representatives, but the tax breaks for the wind and solar industry—the ones that are showing the tremendous growth, innovation, and capacity to develop new technologies that we can export around the planet—are expiring.

If we look at the green generation—young people within our society—which technology do they want us to invest in? Do they want black rotary dial phones and coal-burning powerplants or do they want the new technologies of the 21st Century, their generation? Do they want the past dirty carbon pollution or do they want future clean energy? It is not even close. This is a choice that has to be made by this generation. The green generation expects us to be the leaders on this issue.

The oil and gas industry get \$7.5 billion a year in tax breaks. The oil industry doesn't need a subsidy to drill for oil any more than a bird needs a subsidy to fly or a fish needs a subsidy to swim. They are going to do it anyway. What they do though is lobby to take away the tax breaks for solar and wind because they know that will displace

them. Our goal, of course, should be to have a massive ramping up of these energy technologies.

Do you want to hear an incredible number? The Chinese government, while the Pope was in town here in Washington, announced that China was going to deploy wind and solar and other renewable technologies by the year 2030 that would equal the total of all electrical generation capacity in the United States of America. They are going to deploy all their coal, natural gas, hydropower, wind, and solar. Again, I said earlier that every time there is a global doubling of the deployment of solar on the planet, the price of solar drops by 18 percent. China is going to be doing that.

Last week India announced that they are going to have a massive increase in their renewable energy resources as well.

Unfortunately, the tax breaks in our own country have already expired or are going to expire for the wind and solar industries. Our country is supposed to be the leader. We are supposed to be the technological giant on this planet.

All I can say is, if we want the jobs, this is the sector where the jobs are being created. There will be 300,000 jobs in this sector by the end of next year. If we want to reduce greenhouse gases, this is the sector that can make it possible for the United States to be the leader.

If we want to be the leaders to ensure that we are acted on the message that Pope Francis delivered to the Congress just 2 weeks ago, we have to move toward these technologies. The Pope asked us to use our technological capacity in order to solve this problem. The Pope pretty much said three things. No. 1, the planet is warming dangerously, and the science is clear. No. 2, the cause of the warming is largely by human beings, and the science is clear. No. 3, we have a moral responsibility.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a huge day because we have Members coming out to the floor to talk about this revolution and how we can find a solution so we can deal with this issue in a positive, affirmative job-creating way. We can engage in massive job creation in order to save all of God's creation. We can do it, but we have to decide that we are going to be the leaders in this sector, and all I can say is that in the end we are going to win because technology always triumphs—always. You can hold it back for a while, but in the end it is going to ultimately change our world. By the year 2100 people will look back and wonder why we ever did generate electricity by the use of fossil fuels on our planet.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I see that Senator SCHATZ and Senator WHITEHOUSE have arrived.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for explaining to the public and this body what we are all becoming increasingly aware of. The technology is there. This is no longer pie in the sky. This is not hopeful ecological utopia thinking. This is real stuff. These are real jobs that are being financed by banks and financial institutions. This is already upon us.

I wish to tell the story of Hawaii's clean energy transformation. Of course the clean energy transformation is taking place across the country, but it is especially true in Hawaii. For decades—since the demise of the sugar plantation—Hawaii relied on imports of fossil fuel for our energy needs. As recently as 2010, we derived nearly 90 percent of our electrons from burning oil. In just 4 years we have driven this number down to around 80 percent, and we are on our way to a 100 percent clean energy target.

Hawaii's reliance on imported fuels isn't just bad for the climate, it is also bad economics. We have the highest electricity rates in the country. Our rates are three times higher than the national average. For the privilege of burning LSFO, low sulfur fuel oil, we are paying higher prices than anywhere in the Nation, and so something had to give.

In order to bolster our own energy security and economic prospects, we made the decision to transition away from fossil fuels to solar, wind, and geothermal. Clean energy is Hawaii's future, but it is important to point out that in the beginning we had naysayers on the left, right, and center, much like the current debate in the Congress. There are those who think that what we do in the clean power plan or with the carbon fee will not be nearly enough, and there are those who think that we are doing too much too fast.

I remember having this exact conversation in Hawaii in 2001. In 2001, we started small and passed a voluntary renewable portfolio goal that encouraged utilities—didn't mandate—to generate 9 percent of their electricity from clean energy by the year 2010. The target, frankly, was unambitious. It was voluntary and it was unenforceable, but it was important because it was a start. For some it was little and for others it was too radical, but it was a start. So we kept pushing.

In 2004, we replaced the original goal with a requirement of 20 percent clean energy by 2020. Two years later, we added incentives for compliance and established penalties for noncompliance.

In 2008, Hawaii partnered with the USDOE to identify the technical, regulatory, and financial barriers preventing the State from reaching its clean energy potential. This partnership, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initia-

tive, was crucial to helping Hawaii realize that a 100 percent clean energy goal was actually realistic.

A year after starting this partnership, the State increased its Clean Energy Standard to 40 percent by 2030, establishing an energy efficiency standard of 30 percent and enshrining into law the requirement to reduce emissions from the power sector by 70 percent by the year 2030.

I want to give context here. People thought this was totally unrealistic and that we would even at the first 2- or 3-year increment already miss our goals, but what happened was the opposite. We started exceeding our interim targets, and then we ratcheted up our goals. Progress toward these goals demonstrated that an even more ambitious, audacious goal of 100-percent clean energy was a real possibility.

So this year Governor Ige in Hawaii signed the law requiring utilities to generate all of their electricity from renewable sources by 2045. We are currently meeting or exceeding our interim targets, thanks in large part to big increases in wind power and in distributed generation, especially solar rooftops.

It is important to say that progress towards our clean energy goals hasn't impeded economic growth. Hawaii's unemployment rate is among the lowest in the Nation and 1.5 percent below the national average.

Strengthening this law required consistent efforts by advocacy groups, businesses, and government agencies to bring about the change. It also showed the importance of taking those first steps down the road to a low-carbon economy. Whether they seem too small to make a difference or too large to be possible, we have to start. Once we do, ambitious goals are more within reach than they may have originally seemed.

Now, Hawaii is blessed in a number of ways, including with ample sunlight, steady winds, and volcanic energy. But Hawaii is not unique in its ability to generate substantial quantities of electricity from clean renewable resources.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory analyzed clean energy potential across the country and found that "[r]enewable electricity generation from technologies that are commercially available today . . . is more than adequate to supply 80 percent of the total U.S. electricity generation by the year 2050."

That is with technologies available today. As these technologies improve and the cost of clean energy continues to fall, wind and solar power will be increasingly competitive with electricity generated from fossil fuels in States across the country. As my home State of Hawaii illustrates, we just have to start.

This is a lesson that we must take to the international context as well. As the world meets in Paris later this

year, I urge representatives from all countries to think of Hawaii's experience moving towards a zero carbon energy system. The climate negotiations in Paris are shaping up to be at least a moderate success. But whatever agreement emerges from Paris will likely be a political Rorschach test, which is to say that some will say that we are promising too much and others will say that we should be offering more. Whatever one's predisposition about climate, Paris will prove it to the world.

But what truly matters is not exactly what the particulars of each agreement in Paris are but what happens next. It is doing the work. It is power purchase agreements. It is public policy. It is tax incentives. It is permits. It is public utilities commissions. It is actually getting the work done across the country and across the planet.

When something as consequential as climate change is on the table, it is going to require global capital, technological breakthroughs, and political will. That political will will only occur if people understand that, yes, this is a problem. It is real. Yes, it is urgent, and yes, it is caused by humans. But, most importantly, we can, in fact, fix it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues from Massachusetts and Hawaii to talk about the tax credits for wind.

We have had a remarkably exciting new thing happen in Rhode Island this summer. From time to time, I am able to get out on Narragansett Bay and, over and over, whether driving on the bridges over Narragansett Bay or actually out on Narragansett Bay, we saw the sites of these enormous barges traveling down the bay, bringing these huge structures that were carried out, located off of Block Island, and sunk to the ocean floor to provide the platforms for the first steel-in-water offshore wind energy in the country.

Now, we can go over to Europe and see wind energy all over the place. We are behind them in developing it, but Rhode Island is the start. And whether we saw these enormous structures that were the legs—the frames for the pylon and the turbine—or whether we saw enormous pilings that get carried out there and in the same way that you drive a nail through the hole for a hanger and put it through wall, they take these enormous pilings that reach way up into the sky and drive them through the hollow legs of the framework and down to anchor them in the ocean floor.

So this is under construction right now. It is big. We see these barges coming by and they are enormous. The structures run hundreds of feet in the air. It is exciting to see this happening,

and it is part of the wind revolution that Senator MARKEY and Senator SCHATZ talked about.

So there is a conflict in my mind between this exciting sight in Rhode Island—these big yellow structures coming down the bay in the bright light—and then coming to the darker Halls of Congress and moving from that exciting sight to the tedious fight that we have over and over to protect the wind production tax credit. Over and over we have to go through this fight. Why? I will tell my colleagues why. It is because opposition to the wind tax credit is one more little wriggling tentacle of the fossil fuel industry. They have huge tax subsidies, tax credits, and tax advantages baked permanently into the Tax Code, and they sit on those and they defend them and they are merciless about anybody who tries to take those away. But let a little wind come along and try to get a competing tax credit of its own, and they try to crush it, over and over and over.

Nobody runs for office to come to the Senate and says: The thing that drives me, the thing that motivates my candidacy is to make sure that our wind energy in the United States gets knocked down; let's take their little tax credit away. Nobody runs on that. In fact, if I recall correctly, the Presiding Officer ran for office with a picture of a wind turbine in Colorado. So it is not as if there aren't friends to wind in this Chamber.

But once someone gets here, the oil and fossil guys are very powerful. They are very remorseless. They have made immense threats to squash any action on climate change. And as a little sidebar, they always try to beat the little wind energy subsidy. They will never give up their own, and their own are much bigger. We have probably \$50 billion over 10 years in cash tax benefits going to these companies, which are the most profitable companies in the history of the planet. They are the last companies that need any help.

If we look at people such as the International Monetary Fund—not exactly a liberal, green group—the International Monetary Fund estimates that if we put in all of the subsidies that fossil fuel gets around the world, it adds up to more than \$5 trillion—trillion. I am from Rhode Island. I think \$1 million is a lot of money. I am starting to get used to talking about billions of dollars being here. Trillions is what the fossil fuel subsidy, in effect, is around the world, and just in the U.S. it is \$700 billion in a year. Yet, greedy, big corporations that sit and defend that benefit to the last trench also want to crush the poor little wind benefit. It is just not fair and it is just wrong.

But I think we are going to be able to prevail. We have seen some real progress here. Bloomberg just published an article that wind power is

now the cheapest electricity to produce—cheaper than anything else—in both Germany and in the United Kingdom. It is a powerful industry in States such as Colorado and in Wyoming, where they have so much wind that they export wind energy to other States. Iowa is probably our leader. Iowa generates nearly 30 percent of its electricity from wind. TPI Composites is a Rhode Island company. It builds composite materials in Warren, RI. They have a facility in Iowa where they manufacture wind turbine blades and, in the last decade, they have manufactured 10,000—10,000—wind turbine blades. There had been a Maytag factory in a town called Newton, IA, and the Maytag factory went bust because, of course, we are offshoring jobs to China. But guess what. They came in and started building these wind turbines. They are really too big to ship from China, so it has been a boom industry. It has put little Newton back on its feet.

If we don't pass the wind production tax credit, then States such as Wyoming and Colorado and Iowa that depend on this are really going to be hurt. This is bipartisan in these States. I don't know why the fossil fuel industry primarily runs its mischief through the Republican Party here in Congress, but it doesn't work in Iowa. In Iowa, a year ago, the Iowa State Senate unanimously passed a resolution supporting extension of the production tax credit—unanimously.

So we have a really strong case to make that this is the technology of the future. We have a fairness case to make that the great big brutal fossil fuel lobbyist organization shouldn't be allowed to hold on to all of its subsidies—depending on how we measure, they are measuring into the hundreds of billions of dollars—and, at the same time, try to squash poor little wind when it wants to get some subsidies in order to compete with this massive and malevolent incumbent.

Then I think we have the practical politics of this, which is that in State after State after State, wind has become real enough that it is going to be very hard for some of our colleagues on the Republican side to go home and say to their home State industry: Sorry, we put you under the bus. We put you under the bus. We protected your competitors in oil and gas; we absolutely would never touch them. We protected them. They are sacrosanct on our side. But we put you under the bus. That is going to be a little hard to explain.

So I very much hope that as we come together and pull together the continuing resolution or the omnibus—that avoids, I pray, another shutdown and that puts our country on a sensible budgetary footing going forward—this tax credit is a part of it, because we need these jobs. People are working in Rhode Island, and I will tell my col-

leagues this: When you are building a giant, enormous, big frame offshore, you are paying good wages. You are paying good wages to the people who operate the barges. You are paying good wages to the ironworkers, the steelworkers, and the electrical workers. You are paying good wages to the stevedores who are helping to load it up. These are really strong economic businesses, and we want to support them.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the issue of the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill—the bill that, in fact, is now before the Senate.

We just voted at 2 o'clock this afternoon on the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act. That is very important because we need to pass that legislation for our military. In fact, we did, and we passed it with 70 votes. That is incredibly important because the President has threatened a veto on the National Defense Authorization Act.

This is legislation that has passed the House, and now it has passed the Senate and it is going to the President. If he vetoes it, we have to have the votes to override because we have to get that legislation done for our men and women in uniform. Not only, as I spoke earlier on the floor, is it about making sure we are doing our job on behalf of our military but also on behalf of our Nation's defense.

The other thing I mentioned in regard to that legislation is we also need to pass the companion bill, which is the Defense appropriations bill. So very soon we will be taking up the Defense appropriations bill, which is the funding that goes with the National Defense Authorization Act. We authorize those military programs and then we have to fund them. That is why the Department of the Defense appropriations bill has to be passed along with the Defense Authorization Act in order to get the job done for our military. I make that point because until we have done both of those things, we have not funded the military the way we need to. I make that point as part of a bigger point and that is this: The Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member, has passed all 12 appropriations bills out of committee, and they are awaiting action on the floor of the Senate. Those bills have been passed with strong bipartisan votes. Instead of having each and every one of those

bills filibustered, we need to take those bills up and debate those bills. People should offer the amendments they have, we can debate those amendments, and then we can vote. That is our job. That is how the Senate works. That is what the people of this great country send us to do. That is the work of the Senate. That is regular order.

As we talk about authorizing programs for men and women in uniform, we also have to pass the Defense appropriations bill. That will be coming before this Senate. I make that point because what we have been facing is a filibuster of all these appropriations bills. We will have another test. We will have another test now this week, and this is on the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. This is energy, Corps of Engineers, vital fundamental infrastructure for this great country. So we will see if our colleagues will join us. Can we join together in a bipartisan way and advance through this appropriations bill, have the debate, offer the amendments, and get this work done? I hope the answer to that is yes. We will find out over the course of today and tomorrow if our colleagues would join together and get this work done for the American people and then on we go.

We may have to deal with a Presidential veto on the National Defense Authorization Act. If so, let's do so. Let's do so in a bipartisan way. Then let's take up the appropriations bill that goes with that Defense authorization. Let's make sure all 12 of these bills, all of these appropriations bills are brought to this floor, people have their opportunity for the debate, people can offer their amendments, and we will have our votes. If something can get 60 votes, it passes. That is the work of the Senate. That is the work of the Senate. If it is not done, the reason it will not be done is because there will be an ongoing filibuster. It is very important that the American people understand that because this is the work of the Senate, this is the work of the Congress, and we need to be clear about whether we are getting that work done or whether we continue to face a filibuster that does not allow us to bring this legislation forward to debate it in an open, transparent debate. Put it out there in front of the American people, make the argument, offer the amendments, and vote. That is how it is done. That is how it is done in this democracy. That is how it is done in this Senate.

So I rise to talk about the merits of the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. This measure appropriates funding for the U.S. Department of Energy, including national nuclear security and energy research and development, as well as critical infrastructure projects administered by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Senate Appropria-

tions Committee approved this bill in May. I am a member not only of this Appropriations Committee but this subcommittee, and we voted out of committee 26 to 4. So there are 30 members on the full Appropriations Committee, Republicans and Democrats, and by a vote of 26 to 4 we voted in favor of this legislation. That is about as bipartisan as it gets. It was supported by all of the Republican members of the committee and 10 of the Democratic members.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, I thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN. They have crafted a bipartisan bill within our budget framework that balances our energy priorities and our national security preparedness.

I also commend Senate Appropriations Chairman COCHRAN and Ranking Member MIKULSKI. They brought the measure up in regular order, allowing amendments and debate, and they advanced this bill, as I said, with a very strong bipartisan 26-to-4 vote. The fact is, this is the first time in 6 years the Appropriations Committee has passed all 12 appropriations bills. All 12 have been passed in a bipartisan manner, awaiting action on the floor.

As I said, this legislation is within the budget guidelines. The Senate Energy and Water bill includes \$35.4 billion in overall funding, which is \$1.2 billion more than last year's funding level.

The Energy Department's nuclear security program is funded at \$12.3 billion, which is \$856 million more than last year. The Department of Energy programs receive an additional \$270 million. This is important because our Nation has significant infrastructure needs, and that is what we are addressing, basic infrastructure needs of this kind. The longer we wait to improve America's infrastructure, particularly our waterways, the higher the cost will be. So it is very important that we get this legislation moving.

One of the ways we can cost-effectively improve the Nation's infrastructure is by using public-private partnerships, P3s, to fund water projects. I worked closely with Senator ALEXANDER, the chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee to include support for P3-style projects in this legislation.

I see that our chairman has joined us. Again, I commend him for not only the overall legislation but for his support for the P3s, public-private partnerships. By leveraging the resources of the private sector, we can accelerate construction and reduce overall project costs. This creates a win for citizens who benefit from the project and a win for taxpayers who save money on projects that are constructed on a more cost-effective basis. I look forward to passing this legislation so we can advance this P3 concept.

In fact, we have a project in Fargo, ND, that is perfectly suited for this type of approach. A P3 project can save the government hundreds of millions of dollars in construction costs, but we need to get this legislation passed so the Corps has the ability to start these types of projects and get them constructed for our country.

I am also pleased the legislation permits the Army Corps of Engineers to get a handful of new feasibility studies. Mother Nature doesn't wait on the Senate or Congress, so we have to keep looking at areas where we need to upgrade infrastructure and respond to things as they occur; for example, some of the recent events, as the Presiding Officer knows, which occurred in Colorado, the Animas River. One area I am very familiar with that needs better protection is Minot, ND, where we had a devastating flood in 2011. We need to do a feasibility study to determine how best to make sure that flood protection is put in place.

Finally, I am strongly supporting funding included in the legislation for improvements to water infrastructure across this country. Whether it is our ports or whether it is large or small, this is basic infrastructure we need for quality of life in this country. This is a long-term investment for the future of our country, the quality of life, the welfare of our people, and the ability to grow our economy.

Let me touch on a couple of areas before I turn over the floor to our chairman. In addition to the Corps of Engineers, this legislation provides funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration, the agency that develops and maintains the Nation's nuclear warheads. NNSA relies on the funding provided every year in the Energy and Water bill to preserve the Nation's nuclear deterrents. It is critical that this legislation moves forward. I am particularly pleased the legislation meets the fiscal year 2016 budget request for funds needed to refurbish the W80 warhead, which is the warhead that goes on our nuclear cruise missiles.

The W80 warhead is aging and needs to be refurbished so it can move to the new cruise missile being developed by the Air Force. The W80 is critical to the air leg of the Nation's nuclear triad. I am glad this legislation provides the funding to help keep our triad intact and in fact modernized.

The bill also makes advances in our energy security priorities. It increases funding for the Energy Department's energy research and development, which will help provide the research for technologies that will advance coal, natural gas, oil, and other fossil energy resources and innovations. This is important in order to pursue a true "all of the above" energy policy that enables our country to produce both traditional and renewable energy with better environmental stewardship.

The bill also provides support for the coal Advanced Energy Systems Program to research the efficiency of coal-based power systems and enabling affordable, commercially viable CO₂ capture technologies.

It continues funding for many other research and development programs that will strengthen our energy future, not only by enabling us to produce energy more cost-effectively and more dependably but also with better environmental stewardship.

I will start to wrap up and turn the floor over to our esteemed colleague from the other side of the aisle and the outstanding Senators who are members of the committee who are here and looking to speak in support of this very important legislation, but I want to finish on the aspect I started on earlier.

We have passed all 12 appropriations bills out of committee. This is the fundamental work of the Senate, making sure we fund the government, we fund the enterprise we are talking about, and we do so within the budget that was duly and properly passed by this Senate and by this House—by the Congress. This is the work we need to do. That means we have to proceed to these bills, that we have to offer the opportunity for debate, the opportunity for amendments, debate those amendments, and vote. That is our job. That is our responsibility. That is how we get the work done for the American people who sent us to do just that.

This is good legislation. These bills were passed with bipartisan support. As I said in the case of this bill, 26 in favor, only 4 opposed. Let's get going. Let's get the work done we were sent to do.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The Senator from Michigan.

WISCONSIN-LAKE MICHIGAN NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, this week I was pleased to hear some good news about a very special place in the Great Lakes. On the bottom of Lake Michigan, right off the shores of Wisconsin, lies an incredible collection of shipwrecks. People across the Great Lakes region, especially in Wisconsin but also in my home State of Michigan and elsewhere, recognize that this stretch of Lake Michigan is a national treasure because of its historical significance and its great beauty.

Through a bottom-up community-driven process, many people teamed up to put together a proposal to protect this area as a National Marine Sanctuary. The Obama administration listened, and this week they announced they will be moving forward to establish a Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary.

A National Marine Sanctuary designation, as Michiganders know from

firsthand experience, helps to improve access and resources for special maritime places in order to enhance visitor access and preserve irreplaceable resources for future generations.

The Wisconsin-Lake Michigan sanctuary proposal would preserve an 875-square-mile area of Lake Michigan with waters extending from Port Washington to Two Rivers. As Michiganders watch a pure Michigan sunset over Lake Michigan on beaches from Ludington south to Muskegon, the Sun would set over the new sanctuary directly across the lake. The new sanctuary has 29 known shipwrecks, 15 of which are listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, with many of those wrecks almost completely intact—a very rare occurrence. Research shows the proposed sanctuary includes 123 reported vessel losses, so there are many more wrecks to discover in these waters.

Local community leaders in Wisconsin deserve much of the credit for building the support needed to move this proposal forward, but it would not have made it to this point without the tireless work of my friend and colleague Senator BALDWIN of Wisconsin.

In 2013, Senator BALDWIN urged the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, to reopen the public nomination process for the first time in 20 years, and she continues to advocate for additional funding for national marine sanctuaries through her role on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Earlier this year, I was pleased to introduce a bill with Senator BALDWIN and my good friend Senator STABENOW called the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Assessment Act, which would require NOAA to review maritime heritage resources in the Great Lakes and suggest areas worthy of designation.

In addition, I teamed up with Senator BALDWIN to introduce the Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act, which can work hand in hand with marine sanctuaries to boost the local economies of waterfront communities across the Great Lakes and the country. The bill would improve areas along the water to increase access to public space, grow business development, and create a new vision for waterfronts that can boost tourism, recreation, and small business.

The administration also identified another new potential sanctuary, the Mallows Bay—Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary, which is a 14-square-mile stretch of the tidal Potomac River with the largest “ghost fleet” of World War I wooden steamship wrecks and one of the most ecologically valuable waterscapes and landscapes in Maryland.

These two sanctuary proposals, if finalized, would be the first sanctuaries established since 2000 and would be just the 15th and 16th additions to the na-

tional marine sanctuaries network. The last addition to the network was in 2000, and that was Michigan's very own Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, located in Lake Huron, with the main NOAA office based in the great city of Alpena. The Thunder Bay sanctuary is a remarkable maritime treasure. It is known as Shipwreck Alley. Throughout history, it has been one of the most highly traveled and dangerous parts of the Great Lakes system. Nearly 100 shipwrecks have been discovered within the sanctuary, with a wide range of vessel types that makes the collection nationally significant.

The cold, clean, fresh water of the Great Lakes keeps shipwrecks in excellent condition, and the archaeological research that is conducted at Thunder Bay is world class.

Pictured here is the helm of the *F.T. Barney*, a two-masted schooner located at a depth of 160 feet near Rogers City. On October 23, 1868, the *F.T. Barney* was en route from Cleveland to Milwaukee with a cargo of coal when it was run into by the schooner *T.J. Bronson*. The ship sank in less than 2 minutes in very deep water. The wreck is one of the most complete you will find anywhere, with masts and deck equipment still in place.

Another impressive wreck, lying at a depth of only 18 feet near Alpena, is the wooden steam barge *Monohansett*. On November 23 of 1907, the ship burned at the water's edge at Thunder Bay Island. Today, the *Monohansett's* wreck lies in three sections. The stern portion has hull features, propeller, and shaft all in place, and the boiler is nearby.

You can still go up to Alpena and take a glass-bottom boat to tour these wrecks and see the crystal waters of Lake Huron, and you can even snorkel or scuba dive amongst some of the most well-preserved ships. It is truly a one-of-a-kind and once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Not only is Thunder Bay the only freshwater marine sanctuary among the 14 marine-protected areas—at least until these two new proposals—but it is unique in that it is also a State underwater preserve. It is jointly managed by NOAA and the State of Michigan. A joint management committee makes major policy, budget, and management decisions, and an advisory council represents the community's interests. It is part of the local community up north, and it is refreshing to see local, State, and Federal officials all working together to protect a national treasure.

The Thunder Bay sanctuary is a major tourist draw and economic driver for the area, and the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena attracts out-of-State visitors and educates school groups.

Over the last decade or so, the benefits of preserving Thunder Bay were widely recognized, and a process was

set in motion to expand the boundaries of the sanctuary. In September of 2014, after holding many meetings and completing a thorough environmental impact statement, Thunder Bay was expanded from 448 square miles to 4,300 square miles, driven by strong public and congressional support. This map shows the original boundaries and the new expanded boundaries. The process was successful in part because of the work of Senator STABENOW, and, of course, my predecessor, Senator Carl Levin, who was a champion for the Great Lakes every day of his long service here in the Senate.

As we move forward to protect the Great Lakes and other valuable marine resources in the Great Lakes and across the country, we must devote robust resources to these deserving places. Many agencies, including NOAA, are operating on shoestring budgets. While their work is impressive as they stretch their funding, the benefits these designations bring to communities such as Alpena and the surrounding area are sustainable and provide a foundation for the local economy.

As a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, with jurisdiction over NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuary System, I am committed to working every day on protecting the Great Lakes and the fantastic waters and marine places within the boundaries of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is an immigration program that is out of control and not conforming to the reason the program was put into effect in the first place. It needs to be reformed or it needs to be eliminated. So I come to the floor to talk about this immigration program known as the EB-5 regional center investment program and the serious concerns I have about continuing this program without reforms. The program was just extended in the continuing resolution to keep the government funded, but I want to talk about changes that need to be made before and if it is extended again.

The EB-5 program was created in 1990. A foreign national under this program can invest \$1 million in a new commercial enterprise that creates 10 full-time jobs, and then, in turn, that person receives lawful permanent residence and then, if they want to, citizenship. The required investment amount is only \$500,000 if the investment is made in what is called a targeted employment area, defined to be a rural area or an area with high unemployment. The EB-5 program allows investors to pool their investments for a project, and they can meet the job-cre-

ation requirements by providing evidence of not direct jobs but evidence of indirect jobs.

In previous speeches on the floor, I have talked about the national security and integrity issues associated with the program. I have detailed the risks, and I have expressed concern about the lack of oversight by the administration. Today, I will focus on one particular abuse of the program and how this program does not fulfill the intent of the law passed in 1990.

Perhaps the greatest violation of congressional intent that has evolved over the years is the manner in which so much of the investment money coming into targeted employment areas has been directed toward lavish—and I mean lavish—building projects in well-to-do urban areas, not in the areas of high unemployment and not in rural areas, as the 1990 law implied. Four-star hotels and commercial office buildings are being built with foreign investment dollars in very affluent urban neighborhoods rather than the high-unemployment and rural areas which Congress intended to benefit. This has been done by gerrymandering the boundaries of the targeted employment areas to include at one end the affluent census tract in which the building project is located and at the other end, perhaps many miles away, a census tract with high unemployment.

In other words, the word “gerrymandering” is the word that is used in forming some congressional districts that are very strangely arranged so somebody can be reelected to office. The same approach is being used here to form a targeted employment area to get all of this money into urban areas that are very affluent.

One of the most notorious examples of this gerrymandering, to push the boundaries, is the Hudson Yards project, a group of luxury apartment buildings and office towers in Midtown Manhattan—in midtown Manhattan, meaning New York.

Even the Wall Street Journal, which never met a business project it did not like, reported on how this program has been abused. The Wall Street Journal explained how the Hudson Yards project qualifies for the lower investment threshold despite the affluent Midtown location of the project because the boundaries of the targeted employment area were manipulated—or let me say gerrymandered—to include a public housing project in Upper Manhattan.

Another project that flies in the face of congressional intent—meaning the intent of the 1990 law—is located in Lower Manhattan near Wall Street. As the New York Times reported, the Battery Maritime Building has been classified as being located in a targeted employment area based on a gerrymandered area that “snakes up through the Lower East Side, skirting

the wealthy enclaves of Battery Park City and TriBeCa, and then jumps across the East River to annex the Faragut Houses project in Brooklyn.” In other words, the developers did everything they could to include the Faragut Houses project, which is a public housing community, to come in at the lower investment level. The New York Times went on to say that “the small census tract that contains the Faragut Houses has become a go-to-area for developers seeking to use the visa program: its unemployed residents have been counted towards three projects already.” That is the New York Times.

Watchdog.org, a national watchdog group that has followed abuses of the program closely over many years, has also identified another problematic, gerrymandered targeted employment area. They reported that a 21-story residential building project, which included trendy restaurants and shops, was built with foreign investments despite its location in an upscale neighborhood with only 0.8 percent unemployment.

These are just a few examples, yet they point to a clear problem with this program.

When it was created by Congress, we set two different investment levels and clearly tried to steer foreign capital to high-unemployment and rural areas. Obviously, I am showing you that has not been fulfilled by the way this program has finally evolved.

The Wall Street Journal reports that at least 80 percent of program money is going to projects that wouldn't qualify as being in targeted employment areas without “some form of gerrymandering.” Meanwhile, the article adds, people wanting to raise money for projects in rural areas and low-income parts of cities say they find it increasingly hard to compete.

Even the Washington Post has become fed up with the way in which the intent of Congress has been violated. In a September 6 editorial, after discussing the program's numerous economic and integrity failings and suggesting that the program lapse, the Post writes: “The EB-5 program is supposed to favor distressed economic areas, but the definition of a needy zone has been stretched to include nearly the whole country, including hot downtown real estate markets.”

I wish to end by saying, again, that the program is in need of reform. In June, Senator LEAHY and I introduced S. 1501, a bill that would substantially reform the program by improving program oversight, addressing national security vulnerabilities and restoring the program to its original intent. I hope my colleagues will look at this very bipartisan bill and will take an opportunity to understand how this program is being used and abused and review the proposal that Senator LEAHY and I have put out there.

Mr. President, I refer my colleagues to the Wall Street Journal article "U.S. Visa For Cash Plan Funds Luxury Towers—Program to spur jobs in poor areas supports projects in well-off neighborhoods," dated September 10, 2015, by Eliot Brown; the Watchdog.org article "Upscale Dallas project cashes in on EB-5 visa program," dated September 24, 2015, by Kenric Ward; an article from the Washington Post "It's time for the corporate visa giveaway to go away," dated September 6, 2015; and the New York Times article "Rules Stretched as Green Cards Go to Investors," dated December 18, 2011, by Patrick McGeehan.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

ARKANSAS AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL RICE MONTH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, the rare blend of soil type, environment, and availability of water make Arkansas an ideal location for rice to thrive and grow, making Arkansas the Nation's largest producer of rice.

Last year, production in the Natural State accounted for more than 50 percent of rice produced in the country. Farmers in more than half of Arkansas' counties grow rice; 96 percent of those are family owned and operated.

As the No. 1 producer of this crop, Arkansas has a unique role in the industry. That is why I am proud to recognize the 25th anniversary of National Rice Month. I am also proud to promote policies that enable our farmers to manage risk and ensure that high-quality U.S. rice remains a staple on tables throughout the globe.

This industry is not only contributing to a nutritious and balanced diet, it is also an economic engine. Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, California, and Texas all produce rice. Nationwide, this industry accounts for 125,000 jobs and contributes more than \$34 billion to the economy. In Arkansas, it accounts for more than 25,000 jobs. The rice industry stands to benefit from a change in policies toward Cuba because it is a staple of the Cuban diet.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that U.S. rice exports could increase up to \$365 million per year if financing and travel restrictions were lifted. Arkansas's agriculture secretary recently said that the economic impact on the Natural State's rice industry could be about \$30 million. Rice production is efficient. More rice is being produced on less land, using less water and energy than 20 years ago. As great stewards of the land, rice farmers are committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources.

Arkansas' location on the Mississippi Flyway makes it a duck-hunting capital of the world and draws hunters from around the globe.

I am proud to support our rice industry and celebrate 25 years of recognizing National Rice Month.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Democratic Senators for their courtesy. We are running a little behind, and they have allowed me to go on and make my remarks.

I ask the Chair to let me know when 12 minutes have expired of my 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will be so notified.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tomorrow we will be voting on the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. I come to the floor to make two points about that very important legislation.

No. 1: if our Democratic friends would allow us to vote on it, allow us to debate it, amend it, pass it, send it to the President, and do the same with the other 11 appropriations bills that our Appropriations Committee has reported, we could easily say that this year in the Senate is one of the most productive years in a long, long time.

No. 2: the other point I wish to make is the importance of this bill. Ben Bernanke, the retired Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board wrote an article in the Wall Street Journal this week in which he said that you cannot rely on the Federal Reserve Board to create jobs in a growth economy in the United States, and that what you need to do is have better educational opportunities, more research, and you need supercomputing. I would add to this that you need to have infrastructure. This bill, the Energy and Water bill, has all of those things. It is a pro-growth bill for the United States of America.

Let me take the first point first. This is the first time in 6 years that the Appropriations Committee has reported all 12 appropriations bills. You might find that unusual because that is the Appropriations Committee's basic job. As much as it is for the Grand Ole Opry to sing, our job is to pass appropriations bills. That is article I of the Constitution. It is the first time in 6 years. The bills are all sitting there waiting. Most of them passed in a bipartisan way.

The one that we are bringing to the floor tomorrow passed 26 to 4 on May 2. Senator FEINSTEIN and I worked on it with most of the Members of this body. It is a very good bill, passed in a bipartisan way.

What would usually happen in a properly functioning Senate is that we would spend the two months of June and July dealing with those 12 appropriations bills. That would mean that not just the members of the Appropriations Committee would have a chance to vote on them. It would mean that

the Senator from Utah, who is not on the Appropriations Committee, would have a chance to make his points about the appropriations bills, which is part of his job here, yet he is shut out of that.

Why? Because Democrats say: We won't even let you bring them to the floor.

It is an extraordinary thing to do.

But despite that, I want you to know what this body has accomplished. In the last 7 months or 8 months we passed the Keystone Pipeline. The President vetoed it. We overruled the ambush elections rule from the NLRB, and the President vetoed it.

But listen to all the things we accomplished with the cooperation of Democrats on the other side of the aisle. Then, as I said, if we could add the appropriations bills, we would have the most productive Senate in many, many years. There is the trade authority law. It passed, and it is law.

We fixed No Child Left Behind, and we ended the common core mandate.

We reversed the trend of the national school board, and we did it with 81 votes in the Senate. It was a bipartisan bill.

We passed a long-term highway bill after we had 34 short-term highway bills.

There was a permanent fix of what we call the doc fix—the way we pay doctors for Medicare payments. A long-term permanent solution passed this body. It is now the law after 17 short-term fixes. This law changed the way we pay for doctors so that we pay them more for quality rather than fee-for-service.

We have dealt with what happens when a terrorist calls from Afghanistan to Nashville on the phone. That is the USA FREEDOM Act. It is now the law.

We passed the Defense authorization bill, terrorism risk insurance, and the Iran review act. Waiting in the wings is the chemical safety bill, which has bipartisan support, and—believe this—it is 39 years since it has last been touched. And there is a cybersecurity bill right after that.

That is an impressive list of accomplishments for this Senate. Think of what we could say if we had spent June and July, as we should have, debating the appropriations bills.

Now let's move to the Energy and Water appropriations bill. On May 21, it was approved by the Appropriations Committee. The Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and I recommended it, and 26 Senators voted for it and 4 voted against it. It stays within the law. The law that we passed and the President signed tells us what we have to spend.

Yet Democrats said: Well, we are not going to let you bring it to the floor because we think you should spend more than that.

Well, maybe we should, but the law says we should spend what we spent. So we followed the law.

When you block our bill and don't allow it to be brought to the floor, what do you do? You cut 70 Senators out of having a say on the Energy and Water appropriations bill. And what does that mean? They don't have a say over it. They don't have a say over nuclear weapons.

Half of our bill is about national defense. Are we properly funding nuclear weapons? They don't have a say over National Laboratories, the laboratories where we are inventing new ways to manufacture that will help grow jobs. They don't have a say over how much money we are going to spend on the Missouri River floods. They don't have a say over how much money we are going to spend on the locks and the dams that we have. The Panama Canal is widening, and if we don't deepen our harbors, the ships are going to go to Cuba. So we want them to go to Savannah, Mobile, and to other places like that.

They don't have a say over nuclear waste. Where do we put nuclear waste? So the Democrats, by blocking the bill from coming to the floor, have cut their own Members out of having a say about this. Half of the Energy and Water bill funds national defense activities, and the other half of it funds other essential non-defense items. And all the Democrats asked for was 3 percent more funding than what we're already spending in the bill.

What I said in the Appropriations Committee was this: You know, this is really a pretty good way to budget. Let's appropriate it as if we had 97 percent of what you want, and if we get 3 percent more in the discussion at the end of the year, then we will add it. That shouldn't be hard to do. We could do it in 24 hours.

The way the Senate is supposed to work is the Energy and Water bill is supposed to come to the floor. We are supposed to debate it, we are supposed to amend it, and we are supposed to send it to the President. If he doesn't like it, he can veto it and send it back. That is what should happen.

If Senators don't like the bill now, they can block it. They can vote against it after we amend it. They can vote against it after we conference with the House. That takes 60 votes too. If the President vetoes it, it takes 67 votes to override the President's veto.

My friends on the other side said: Well, that takes too much time.

What do you mean it takes too much time? That is what we are here to do. We are elected to have a say on these issues. This is \$1 trillion in funding for the national defense of the United States of America and for its essential services—locks, dams, national laboratories, and where we put the nuclear

waste—and the Democrats are saying: We don't even want to vote on the appropriations bills. We don't even want to have a say about them. We don't even want to send them to the President for him to consider.

Let's take an example. The bill includes funding for inland waterways. Those are the avenues that carry the commerce that creates the jobs in America. They need to be in good shape. We have agreed on that in a bipartisan way. We have even asked the barge owners to pay more to go through the locks, to which they have agreed, and our bill matches what the barge owners are paying and increases the funding for inland waterways in Kentucky—Olmsted Locks and Dams, and Kentucky Lock—and Chickamauga Lock in Tennessee.

It also provides \$1.254 billion from the harbor maintenance trust fund. That means we will be spending more to deepen harbors in Savannah, Charleston, Texas, Memphis, Jacksonville, Mobile, and Louisiana, in Pascagoula, Big Sandy Harbor, Cleveland Harbor, Anchorage Harbor, and Wilmington Harbor. Do Senators not want to have a say about that? Do you not want to support that or oppose that if you think it is too much?

What about the National Laboratories? The National Laboratories are the source of the research that produces the jobs that gives us our family incomes. One of them is in Tennessee, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. I was there the other day. They have a new thing called additive manufacturing, where they are 3-D printing automobiles. Let me say that again: 3-D printing automobiles or parts of automobiles. It may revolutionize manufacturing in America and the world as much as unconventional gas and oil has revolutionized our national energy policy.

Do other Senators—the other 70 who are not on the Appropriations Committee—not want to have a say about how much we spend on our National Laboratories?

What about how much we spend for nuclear weapons? We had a big debate in this body over the proper level of spending for nuclear weapons. We had a big debate over something called the START treaty, which regulated the weapons that we were getting rid of. We agreed at the time that we would spend a certain amount of money to make sure we could defend the country. Do Senators not want to have a say about that?

So why do we not pass appropriations bills that were ready in May, debate them in a day or two, and send them to the President? If the President doesn't like them, under the Constitution he can veto them and send them back.

If we are spending 97 percent of what he thinks he should spend and he wants to veto it for that reason and then send

it back to us and if we decide after negotiations to spend 3 percent more, we can add 3 percent in 24 hours, send it back to him, and that is the end of the result.

This is not the way the Senate is supposed to operate.

I hope that my friends on the Democratic side will recognize that they would like to have a say in our nuclear weapons policy, and that they would like to have a say in how much we spend on our National Laboratories.

This bill has a record level of funding for the Office of Science—as written, the highest ever in this bill. You don't want to vote on that? You don't want to support that? You want to cut that? You want to stop that?

I don't want to stop it. I want us to support research. I want to support our national laboratories. I want to support national defense. I want deeper harbors all around our coast. I want inland waterways that aren't broken down. I want us to move ahead in this country.

This bill is a pro-growth national defense bill. It came out of the Committee on Appropriations with 26 votes for it, 4 votes against it. Senator FEINSTEIN and I worked with almost every Senator in this body for it. Why should we not consider an appropriations bill that has that kind of support?

Now, if we get on that path every time we change majorities here—let's say the Democrats win the next election and Republicans say: Well, look at what you did to us in the last election. We are going to block all your appropriations bills because we would like to spend less. We won't ever do any appropriations bills again in the Senate because one body or the other blocks the amount of money. We are supposed to vote on that.

In the last Congress the Democrats were in control, and they wouldn't bring the appropriations bills to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 12 minutes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Chair. I will conclude within the next 3 minutes, and I thank my Democratic friends for their courtesy.

In the last Congress, when Democrats had the majority and Republicans had the minority, the Committee on Appropriations completed its work in a bipartisan way on most bills, but the majority wouldn't bring the bills to the floor last year. Or when it did, it wouldn't let the Republicans offer amendments to it. They were afraid Senators might have their say.

This year we are in the majority for the first time in 6 years. In a bipartisan way we produced 12 appropriations bills out of 12. We would like to bring them to the floor, but they are saying no. We are not even going to vote on them. We are not even going to amend them. We are not even going to

debate, even though if they do not like the bill at the end of that process, they can kill it with 60 votes. They can kill it after it comes out of conference with 60 votes. And if the President vetoes it, it can take 60 votes to override.

We don't have time to do appropriations bills here? Traditionally, we have always consumed June and July for the 12 appropriations bills. Previous Congresses have had time to do it. We should have time to do it.

Let me conclude where I started. This has been a very productive Senate. Most of that work has been because of bipartisan cooperation, whether it was the trade bill, the bill to fix No Child Left Behind, the highway bill, the doc fix—paying doctors for quality instead of fees—the USA Freedom Act, the Defense Authorization Act, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, or the Iran review act. And we have chemical safety and cybersecurity waiting. That is all the result of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans. Why can we not do that on appropriations bills, which is our most basic responsibility?

We did it in committee. I couldn't have a better person to work with than Senator FEINSTEIN. That vote was 26 to 4. It involves our national defense, it involves our growth, and it involves our security. I would hope every Senator would want to have a say on those issues tomorrow when we vote. So I hope they will vote yes on the Energy and Water bill tomorrow—yes to considering it; and then after we have considered it and debated it, we can send it over to the House, come up with a conference, and we can see what they think.

That is the way the Senate ought to work. I am eager to see the Senate get back to that, and I think the American people are as well.

I thank the Chair and my colleagues for their courtesy, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor tonight to talk about something I would like to see done in the United States Senate—passage of reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Definitely the Senate and Congress have disappointed us in not passing the Export-Import Bank reauthorization—which is something I am a big proponent of. And now, here we are with the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

For the first time in 51 years since this program was created, it has expired.

My colleagues are here on the floor to join me—I thank the Senator from Montana and the Senator from New Mexico—to talk about why this is such a vital program to all of our States and why we should have it reauthorized immediately.

The bill creating the Land and Water Conservation Fund was championed by Senator Scoop Jackson at the request of then President Kennedy. Why? Because the American population was growing and there was a need for outdoor recreation, open space, and public lands.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created to help protect some of our most popular national parks, forests, public lands, and iconic places.

For me, this is an incredibly important program because it has provided opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreational uses that so many people use when traveling to the Pacific Northwest for vacation or for their livelihood.

Those of us who are from States with large amounts of public lands recognize the importance of outdoor recreation.

Nationwide outdoor recreation supports more than 6 million jobs. This is an economy in and of itself. In the State of Washington, outdoor recreation contributes more than \$11.7 billion annually to Washington's economy. It is clear that protecting our public lands is good for both our environment and our economy.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been credited each year with funds from outer continental shelf oil and gas revenues. The success of that program has helped us authorize and make these investments for the American people, as I said, for more than 50 years.

We are here to remind our colleagues that we are going to put up a fight until we get the conservation fund reauthorized. And to make sure that people in our states and all across the Nation that enjoy public lands have access to them.

The issue is important to us, and in the energy bill we passed out of the Senate Energy Committee, I worked with my colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, on a bipartisan basis to include a permanent reauthorization of the LWCF.

And I was joined by 31 Senators to introduce the American Energy Innovation Act that also permanently reauthorized and fully funded the LWCF.

So you can see from these two pieces of legislation that there was a lot of support from our colleagues for maintaining this vital program that is used by cities, counties, and jurisdictions in my State and in my colleagues' states and many others across the nation and that it is a vital tool for helping us to thrive in our outdoor economy. We want to see this legislation reauthorized as soon as possible.

I thank my colleagues again from New Mexico and Montana again for being here and for their leadership on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senators CANTWELL and HEIN-

RICH for not giving up on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I need to point out that while there are three of us Democrats standing here, we speak for our entire caucus. We believe that the LWCF is something that needs to be reauthorized and, quite frankly, needs to be fully funded.

We are not going to play games with this issue. We are working to get this bill passed—not for show, not for politics, but because it is good for our economy. And I will get into that in a second.

There was a Republican gentleman who served in the Presidency of this great country some time ago—Teddy Roosevelt—who called on Americans to cherish our Nation's vast natural resources and to ensure that we safely pass them on to future generations. After all, they are the birthright of every American. That is what the Land and Water Conservation Fund is all about.

We take special pride in our public lands in Montana. They are a part of our way of life. We have just over 1 million people in our great State, but we lead the Nation in the percentage of residents who hunt, fish, hike, and enjoy our public lands. And the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a big reason for that.

Montana's outdoor economy brings in nearly \$6 billion a year. Let me say that again. The outdoor economy, supported by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, brings in nearly \$6 billion a year.

Last week, when I flew out of Montana, there were several fishermen who were flying out with me. They didn't live in Montana. All the money they brought into the State while they were fishing was outside dollars that wouldn't have been there otherwise. They probably used some of the fishing access—some of the 150-plus fishing access the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped developed—when they enjoyed the great outdoors in Montana.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund also supports over 60,000 jobs. We talk about economic development all the time. We talk about how if we tweak our Tax Code or if we build this piece of infrastructure or if we make this education program more affordable, it can have an incredible impact on our economy. But the fact is, if you want to talk about economic development, if you want to talk about dollars invested for a return, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is an incredible investment.

To help preserve these lands and create these accesses, Montana has received some \$540 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund—money that has been very well spent. Montanans used this Land and Water Conservation Fund to preserve more than 8,000 acres of elk habitat in Meagher County, known as the Tenderfoot.

Montanans used the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect some of the most pristine habitat in the lower 48, from conservation easements in the Rocky Mountain Front to acquisitions in the Crown of the Continent.

While Montanans certainly benefit from the fund, there are Land and Water Conservation Fund projects in nearly every county of the United States. Yes, this fund is responsible for protecting prime hunting and fishing, but it is also responsible for building trails and improving parks, playgrounds, and ball fields in every State in the country. That is why Congress must reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund—to protect our best outdoor places and to reestablish this critical tool to build our communities in a way that will make future generations proud.

With that, Mr. President, if it is appropriate, I would like to ask my good friend from New Mexico a question.

I thank Senator HEINRICH for being here today. My question is, As he comes from New Mexico, is the Land and Water Conservation Fund something Senator HEINRICH hears about from his residents?

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague from Montana. I think one of the great things about New Mexico and Montana is that we are both from States that absolutely cherish the outdoors, and we have a lot of constituents who care about the activities that generate so much income from the outdoors.

Obviously, I hear from an enormous number of my constituents asking us to reauthorize and permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund—to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In fact, recently there was a letter which was sent to me but was also sent to the chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—to the chair and to the ranking member, the good Senator from Washington. It was signed by dozens of businesses saying: Hey, this is important to our bottom line. Please extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Please continue to support this bipartisan legacy of standing up for our natural resources in this country.

My good friend from Montana mentioned the scale of what that means in his State, and it is not a dissimilar story in New Mexico. In fact, over \$6 billion annually comes from outdoor recreation activities, and 68,000 jobs in our State are directly related to outdoor recreation.

In fact, when I go home this weekend, we are going to be celebrating the Valles Caldera National Preserve and its management by the National Park Service. That was a property that for decades my constituents could not access. They could not hunt; they could not fish. It was private property. It was because of the Land and Water Con-

servation Fund that this place, which had really been on the radar screen of the National Park Service since the early part of the last century—probably since the 1930s—could come into public ownership and now be one of the true gems in the entire Nation of our public lands.

We are going to be celebrating that with our constituents on Saturday. The Secretary of Interior is coming. There are literally 100,000 acres of some of the most spectacular high-elevation grasslands and conifer forests and trout streams and elk habitat that we have ever seen, and there are businesses that rely on that. Tourism is an enormous part of our economy in New Mexico. So this is something which has been absolutely crucial to our State's economy, especially in the midst of the last decade and the challenges we have had economically. I know one of the groups who will be there on Saturday are the sportsmen, who care about utilizing the outdoors.

I would ask my colleague from Montana if in Montana he hears from people who hunt and fish, as I do in New Mexico, about the importance this particular legislation has had in protecting habitat and protecting access to the places that regular, blue-collar folks can go to hunt and fish.

Mr. TESTER. Absolutely. We hear from sports men and women nearly every day, if not every day.

Here is where the problem is, and this is why we need to get the Land and Water Conservation Fund authorized and funded—and funded at \$900 million, I might add. If you want to go hunting and fishing today in this country, things have changed from the way they were 30 or 40 years ago. You used to be able to access private lands and go hunting and fishing, and you still can, but there are many fewer acres. So the real opportunity to go hunting and fishing in this country is on our public lands, whether those are State or Federal, and this Land and Water Conservation Fund allows access to those public lands.

There are some in this body and there are some in this country who don't think the Federal Government should own one stitch of land. Well, without those opportunities and our outdoor economy, No. 1, our way of life would change forever in States such as Montana, and No. 2, our economy would be severely distressed.

So, you bet, I hear from sports men and women, because when they want to go hunting and fishing, they go to those Federal public lands. That is where the good habitat is that they can access, and that is where the good fisheries are that they can access.

So this is very important. For those in this body who want to see this program go away, they are literally driving a nail in the coffin of rural America's economy.

Mr. HEINRICH. I would ask my colleague from Montana—we have heard a lot about reform. When we had the hearing in front of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we heard people on both sides of the aisle talking about how well this program works.

Does the Senator think the opposition that is holding this up, that is holding back the majority of this body—a bipartisan majority, I would add—does the Senator from Montana think that reform is really what this is about or is it about a more basic, more ideological opposition to public lands and the current efforts to either sell off or transfer those public lands that our constituents rely on for access to go camping, to go hunting, to go rock climbing, to recreate, to spend time with their families?

Mr. TESTER. It is hard to say what the agenda is. I do know that earlier this year there was a proposal put out to use the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fighting forest fires. Now there is a proposal put out to use the Land and Water Conservation Fund to manage forests.

The fact is, the Land and Water Conservation Fund works. It works to create habitat, and it works to access that habitat. It also works for playgrounds and parks and ball fields all across this country.

If we take a look at our overall budget and what we spend on a lot of stuff around here, \$900 million for a nationwide program that impacts so many people, that impacts our economy in such a very positive way—there must be some agenda out there that I cannot see to do away with this fund. It makes no sense to me. And it is particularly frustrating to see folks on the other side of the aisle come down here to the floor and bring their friends in and say: I am going to make this glorious speech about this Land and Water Conservation Fund, and then I want you to stop the unanimous consent.

The bottom line is that things get done in here when we work in the middle. As I told some folks the other day in Montana, we need to bring these folks around who think this is just excess government spending because, quite frankly, there are a lot of places where there is excess government spending in our budget. This is not one of them. This is a good program that helps promote a great way of outdoor life and also helps promote our economy.

Mr. HEINRICH. Ironically, the money in the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not tax dollars. It is literally a deal that goes back five decades now where we opened up large swaths of our natural resources, our oil and gas offshore, and took a percentage of that and invested it back into protecting our natural resources. Obviously, those are natural resources that

are one-time. You only get to drill for oil and produce natural gas one time. So the idea was that we would invest that in something to protect our environment, to protect our conservation lands, and to make a permanent contribution to that level of conservation.

Mr. TESTER. That is absolutely correct.

One of the things that makes this moment in time so important when it comes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund is that we are losing habitat, we are losing fisheries every day. There will be limited opportunities to keep these pristine lands available for hunting and fishing in the future, but the habitat will be gone if we don't deal with it. That is why it is very important not only to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund but to fully fund it so we can take care of these landscapes that help support incredibly great elk and deer and trout fisheries. It is very important. Plus, there are a lot more opportunities in our great outdoors, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund really helps people enjoy life and have quality of life. And I am not just talking about the folks who have incredibly thick wallets; I am talking about everyday, average Americans who work for a living and work darned hard for a living and want to be able to enjoy some of the great things this country has to offer.

Mr. HEINRICH. That is absolutely right. I hear from constituents all the time who will never be able to afford one of those \$5 or \$10,000 elk hunts on private land but who can enter the lottery every year and who do and often-times rely on that to get their family through the winter and to also just pull their family together in a tradition they have had as a part of who they are for years and years.

On Saturday, when we go to celebrate the Valles Caldera National Preserve, I am going to be taking my fly rod, and I am looking forward to spending the dollars that will go back into our State's game and fish coffers to make sure that resource is there again and again and again. That is what this Land and Water Conservation Fund is all about.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, a few weeks ago I inaugurated a series of speeches about religious freedom. In the first speech, I said that the rights of conscience and religious exercise go to the very heart of who we are as human beings and how we make sense out of this world. No decisions are more fundamental to human existence than those regarding our relationship to the Divine, and no act of government is more invasive of individual lib-

erty than compelling a person to violate his or her sincerely chosen religious beliefs. This is why religious freedom in and of itself is so important and must be specially protected.

Last week I spoke about religious freedom in practice here in America. At no time in world history has religious freedom been such an integral part of a nation's origin and character. As Congress said when we unanimously enacted the International Religious Freedom Act in 1998, the right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States.

Professor Michael McConnell, director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford, describes how, by the time the Bill of Rights was ratified, America had "already experienced 150 years of a higher degree of religious diversity than had existed anywhere in the world."

Together, those two speeches told some of the story of religious freedom in America. Today I will build on that foundation and examine the status and the substance of religious freedom. More fully understanding these three aspects of religious freedom—its story, its status, and its substance—will help us better evaluate where we are today and inform where we should go in the future.

The status of religious freedom can be summarized as inalienable and preeminent. James Madison repeatedly identified the free exercise of religion according to conviction and conscience as an inalienable right. To America's Founders, as they expressed in the Declaration of Independence, inalienable rights have two dimensions. They come from God, not from government, and these rights are endowed—that is, they are inseparable from us and part of our very humanity. Government did not provide them, and government cannot take them away.

When Virginia developed its Constitution in 1776, George Mason's draft of a declaration of rights said that the exercise of religion should receive the fullest toleration by government. Madison objected and offered language that became section 16 of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, setting what one scholar calls a new standard for freedom of conscience. Here is Madison's language. He said:

That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience.

This understanding of religious freedom did not end with America's founding generation. In 1853 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a resolution asserting that in treaties with foreign nations, the United States should secure for our citizens residing abroad "the right of worshipping God,

freely and openly, according to the dictates of their own conscience." The committee report on this resolution described religious freedom as fundamental, allowing the "utmost latitude and freedom of conscience" so that each individual "is absolutely free to act in conformity to his own convictions."

The fact that religious freedom is inalienable leads to another aspect of its status. In his 1785 "Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments," Madison explained that religious exercise "is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of civil society." Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg once wrote that to America's Founders, religious freedom was preeminent among fundamental rights.

Presidents and Congress have similarly identified the status of religious freedom as preeminent among rights. In his 1941 State of the Union Address, for example, President Franklin Roosevelt included religious freedom as one of four essential human freedoms. Just 4 years later, the United States signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which asserts that religious freedom is an inalienable right universal to all members of the human family.

The last several Presidents have issued annual proclamations declaring January 16 to be Religious Freedom Day. Those proclamations, by Presidents of both parties, have said that religious freedom is a core value of our democracy, that it is essential to our dignity as human beings, and that no freedom is more fundamental than the right to practice one's religious beliefs.

Turning to Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 1955 approved a resolution "reaffirming the rights of the people of the world to freedom of religion." The committee said that this resolution "recognizes that the basic strength of the United States is spiritual and that all races, people, and nations of the world share with us a dependence on such strength."

I mentioned earlier that Congress in 1998 unanimously enacted the International Religious Freedom Act. This body passed it by a vote of 98 to 0. Twenty-one Senators serving today—12 Republicans and 9 Democrats—voted for this legislation. So did Vice President JOE BIDEN and Secretary of State John Kerry when they served here. That law declares religious freedom to be a universal human right, a pillar of our Nation, and a fundamental freedom.

In subsequent speeches, I will explore the responsibility of government regarding an inalienable and preeminent right such as religious freedom, but I want to note two things at this point. First, as the Declaration of Independence asserts, government exists to secure inalienable rights. Second, if a

right is preeminent, it must be properly accommodated when government takes actions such as enacting legislation and issuing regulations.

The status of religious freedom is that it is inalienable and preeminent. Let me turn now to exploring the substance of religious freedom in terms of both its depth, or what religion freedom is, and its breadth, or those to whom religious freedom belongs.

First, depth. Starting in the early 17th century, religious freedom in America has been understood to be grounded in the individual right of conscience. Roger Williams established a settlement in 1636 for those he described as the distressed of conscience, and subsequent town agreements and ordinances restricted government to civil things and protected the liberty of conscience.

This liberty of conscience encompasses not only what an individual believes but also how an individual acts on that belief. The Maryland Toleration Act of 1649, for example, provided that no person shall be troubled "in respect of his or her religion nor in the free exercise thereof."

The Virginia Declaration of Rights was the model for the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution. The free exercise of religion is the first individual right listed in the First Amendment. That phrase, the "free exercise of religion," is very important—extremely important. The First Amendment protects not simply certain exercises of religion or the exercise of religion by certain parties but the free exercise of religion itself.

Religious freedom is more than religious speech, which would be otherwise protected by the First Amendment, or attending a worship service on the Sabbath. It is, as Madison put it, the freely chosen manner of discharging the duty an individual believes he or she owes to God.

This robust substance of religious freedom is described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United States signed in 1948. Article 18 states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

That is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United States signed the Helsinki Accords in 1975. Section VII declares the signatories "will recognize and respect the right of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience." Such rights derive from "the inherent dignity of the human person and are essential for his full and free development."

In 1992, the United States ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 18 echoes the same robust definition of religious freedom as the right, individually or in community with others, in public or in private, to believe and to practice one's religion. This robust description expresses the depth of religious freedom.

The second dimension to the substance of religious freedom is its breadth or its application across society. Earlier I mentioned the Maryland Toleration Act of 1649, which protected the free exercise of religion. It did so, however, only for Trinitarian Christians. The Puritans of Massachusetts Bay Colony outlawed the Quakers and punished heretics. In fact, Roger Williams went to what would become Rhode Island after being banished from Massachusetts because of his religious beliefs.

In those days, religious freedom had depth but not much breadth. Yet seeds were being planted. In 1657, residents of a community known today as Flushing, NY, signed a petition called the "Flushing Remonstrance." This petition protested a ban on certain religious practices that prevented the Quakers from worshipping, and the signers stated they would let everyone decide for themselves how to worship.

America's Founders were the ones who asserted most directly that religious freedom is inalienable and, accordingly, established its breadth in the First Amendment. Rather than being limited to adherents of a particular faith, this protection applies to anyone acting according to the dictates of conscience.

The status and substance of religious freedom became concretely reflected in Supreme Court decisions in the 20th century. In *Sherbert v. Verner*, a woman was fired from a State government job for refusing to work on Saturday as required by her Seventh-Day Adventist faith. The Supreme Court affirmed that the door to government regulation of religious belief was "tightly shut" and set a standard that only barely opened the door to government regulation of religious behavior.

The Court said that government limitations on religiously motivated conduct could be justified only by "the gravest abuses, endangering interests." Therefore, the Court said, Government must have more than a mere rational reason for restricting religious practice. In 1981, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the *Sherbert* standard by holding that government may "justify an inroad on religious liberty by showing that it is the least restrictive means of achieving some compelling state interest."

This holding was consistent with the path of American history regarding religious freedom. The protection of something, after all, goes hand in hand with that thing's value. If religious

freedom is inalienable and preeminent, then it must be properly protected by law.

All of that changed in 1990. In a case titled "*Employment Division v. Smith*," two Oregon State employees were fired for using peyote, a controlled substance, in their Native American religious ceremonies. The law did not single out religious use of this drug, but its application to these individuals seriously inhibited the practice of their religion. The Court should have applied the *Sherbert* standard and required the State to show a compelling justification for applying this law against religious adherents.

Instead, the Court turned the *Sherbert* standard on its head. The Court did exactly what it had rejected in *Sherbert* less than 30 years earlier, holding that the government needs nothing more than a rational reason for a general law or regulation that restricts the practice of religion. In other words, so long as the government is not explicitly targeting religion, the First Amendment provides no protection at all for the free exercise of religion, as that case held. The Court effectively demoted religious freedom from a fundamental right to little more than an optional fringe benefit.

In my opening statement at the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing in September 1992 on a legislative response to this decision, I said the *Smith* standard is "the lowest level of protection the Court could have afforded religious conduct."

In *Smith*, the Court made it sound as if the *Sherbert* decision had spawned an epidemic of people using religious objections to obeying laws. The truth is that Courts had not applied the *Sherbert* standard strictly at all but with what the Congressional Research Service has described as a light hand. In the years between the Court's decision and *Sherbert* establishing the compelling interest standard and its decision in *Smith* abandoning that standard, Federal courts rejected more than 85 percent of religious exercise claims.

Government today compromises, burdens, and even prohibits the exercise of religion not by overt assault but by covert impact. Zoning ordinances can restrict where churches may meet, whether they may expand their meeting places, and what services they may offer; religious institutions may be forced to hire individuals who do not share their faith; and regulations may prohibit individuals from wearing items required by their faith or require employees to work on their Sabbath.

If government exists to secure inalienable rights such as religious freedom, it must properly respect and accommodate that right even as it becomes more and more intrusive. In fact, it is the increasing reach of government that makes vigilance about

protecting religious freedom more, not less, important. Requiring a compelling reason to restrict religious practice identifies religious practice as important. Requiring only a rational reason to restrict religious practice identifies it as worth very little.

It is hard to overstate the impact of the Smith decision. It stopped dead in its tracks the long and steady progress toward real protection for religious freedom. Government has its greatest impact on religion today not by direct suppression but by indirect restriction. If the status of religious freedom as inalienable and preeminent compels its protection, then reducing that status, as the Court did in Smith, opens religious freedom to restriction and prohibition.

Congress responded to the Smith decision by enacting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA. We were motivated by the very understanding of religious freedom that the Supreme Court had abandoned; namely, that religious freedom is inalienable and preeminent. RFRA does by statute what the First Amendment is supposed to do. Under RFRA, government may substantially burden the exercise of religion only if doing so is the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling governmental purpose.

Congress enacted RFRA for one simple reason. While the First Amendment protected the free exercise of religion itself, by changing what First Amendment means, the Supreme Court in Smith put the free exercise of religion itself at risk. The Court made every exercise of religion by everyone vulnerable to governmental restriction, interference, and even prohibition. RFRA restored religious freedom by setting a standard of protection that reflects the true value of what it protects and applies that standard across the board.

This principle is so powerful that RFRA not only passed Congress almost unanimously, but it was supported by a coalition of unprecedented ideological breadth. That consensus existed because we rejected numerous requests to go beyond setting the standard and dictate how it should be applied in certain cases. We refused to do that in RFRA because the First Amendment does not do that. We set the right standard and left its application to the courts in individual cases.

In a 1994 religious exercise case, Justice David Souter urged the Court to reconsider its decision in Smith and described what is truly at stake. He wrote: "The extent to which the Free Exercise Clause requires government to refrain from impeding religious exercise defines nothing less than the respective relationships in our constitutional democracy of the individual to government and to God."

Properly understanding the status and substance of religious freedom naturally puts those relationships in

order. Misunderstanding or distorting those principles interferes with these relationships and imperils this fundamental human right.

In 1997, the Supreme Court held that RFRA applies only to the Federal Government because the Congress did not have authority to extend its protection to State and local government. As Smith had done, this decision made every religious practice by everyone vulnerable to government restriction. By these two decisions, the Supreme Court ensured that no one in America had either constitutional or statutory protection to practice their faith.

I introduced the Religious Liberty Protection Act in June 1998 to reestablish the religious freedom that the Supreme Court had again taken away, having been an author of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Like RFRA did, this legislation set a tough legal standard reflecting the true status and substance of religious freedom and left it to the courts to apply this standard to individual cases. Unfortunately, although it had bipartisan support, consideration of this bill stalled in the 105th Congress.

I next introduced a Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act to protect religious freedom for as many and as completely as possible. It set the same rigorous standard for government interference in the practice of religion, requiring that such actions be the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling government purpose. Within 2 weeks both the Senate and House had passed this legislation without objection. As he had done with RFRA, President Bill Clinton signed this legislation into law.

It is shocking how little it took—just two Supreme Court decisions—to stall America's centuries-long journey of religious freedom. As a result, the law today does not adequately protect religious freedom. You and I can claim the First Amendment's protection only if the Federal Government explicitly targets our religious practice. The First Amendment is not available at all when State and local governments restrict or even prohibit religious practice altogether. Even the legislation passed unanimously by Congress is unavailable when State and local governments restrict religious freedom.

We live in troubled times, and many things we once took for granted are being challenged and even attacked. Today the rhetoric about religious freedom does not match the reality.

In his 1810 State of the Union Address, President James Madison said that a well-instructed people can alone be a free people. The more we understand how religious freedom is inalienable and preeminent, how it is deep in substance and broad in application, the better equipped we are to promote and defend it. Only then will government not only pay lipservice to the funda-

mental right to religious freedom but will provide for and properly accommodate it so that it will be a reality for all of us.

These remarks are very important because a lot of people don't realize that religious freedom is not as free as the original Founding Fathers expected it to be. Even though we have had some very interesting cases, not the least of which was the Religious Freedom Restoration Act case, we are not there as far as true and noble protection of religious freedom throughout this country.

Fortunately, most States do respect this, and fortunately, hopefully, most governmental people respect this as well. But that is not enough. We need to change these things and get religious freedom the preeminent position it really holds as the first clause of the First Amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Oklahoma.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON CARBON EMISSIONS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we are a little more than a month away from the United Nations climate conference in Paris. The countries continue to roll out their international pledges to reduce carbon emissions in an attempt to control global warming. I can't believe it, but this is the 21st year they have done this.

I wrote a book once about this, and the last chapter is the longest chapter. It talks about the motivation and why the United Nations wants to get into this thing and what is in it for them.

I think we all know that every time the United Nations does something, it is contrary to the interest of the United States. We write a letter, which is usually a threat to withhold funding, and that really gets them upset. Of course, what they really want is to have something there that they can draw on so that they don't have to be obligated to any of the countries that are participating.

Anyway, this is not the time to get into that, but I am just saying that this is the 21st year they have had this conference, and every year the same thing happens: The 192 countries get in there and they follow the lead of the United States by saying that they are going to be reducing their emissions, and of course it doesn't happen.

In 2009, Copenhagen hosted such a meeting. I remember going over there, and some of the people who attended at that time were Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John Kerry—Clinton and Kerry were in the Senate at that time—BARBARA BOXER, and NANCY PELOSI. They all went over to assure everyone in Copenhagen that the United States was going to pass cap-and-trade legislation.

So I waited until they had all finished their business, and I went over. It was the shortest trip to Europe I had

ever taken. I was there 3 hours. I was the one-man truth squad. I said: You have been hearing from all of these leaders, but it is not going to happen. We are not going to pass it. And of course we didn't.

We are going through the same thing now. While the verbal commitments are creating positive press coverage for a lot of people who want to believe this stuff—and the President is seeking to solidify his legacy—most of these pledges are empty and only place the United States in a position of economic hardship, while other countries continue on their current trajectory with CO₂ emissions.

Let's start with India. On Friday we received a report from India. I didn't see it personally until 2 days ago. It was the most recent country to submit its domestic global warming plan. India's plan will cost—and I am stating what they have in the plan they have presented—\$2.5 trillion over the next 15 years. Do the math. That is approximately \$160 billion a year in costs in order for them to do what is expected of them as a developing country. Their pledge is based on a premise that developed countries—that is us, the United States, always picking up the bills—will pick up these costs by financing the Green Climate Fund.

President Obama has pledged \$3 billion to go to the Green Climate Fund, but the Senate and House appropriators have pledged zero, nothing, no money. If you stop and look at one country, such as India, with an estimated cost of \$2.5 trillion, \$3 billion is such a minuscule fraction, it is not even measurable. That isn't going to happen, and so the President cannot deliver on that promise.

India's approach to addressing its carbon emissions is a continuation of the rich-poor country divide that has plagued the United Nations process in achieving climate agreement from the very start. That is what prompted the Byrd-Hagel resolution of 1997. I remember it so well. I was sitting in this Chamber. I had only been here for 3 years at that time. We all agreed to it. It passed 95 to 0. It was unanimous. Everyone who was in the Chamber at the time voted for it. It said: We are not going to come back. They were really addressing this to Clinton and Gore during their administration. Gore had gone down to see his friends in Central America, I guess it was—I am not sure—to put this thing together. He said: We are going to join you in this commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Well, that sounded good until they came back and they had the Kyoto Convention. They never submitted it to this body because no treaty can be ratified unless it is ratified by the Senate. We never even saw it. What is the reason for that? The reason is they knew it wouldn't pass because the Byrd-Hagel amendment—and several of

us were cosponsors of that—said that we won't agree and ratify any convention that comes to us and doesn't treat the developing countries like the developed countries. Unless it does one of two things, we will reject it: one, if it hurts us economically—of course they all do—and two, if China doesn't have to do the same thing we have to do. Well, that is what happened, and of course none of these things have passed.

Now the President is trying to do with regulations what he failed to be able to do through legislation, and we are seeing that every day in the committee that I am fortunate enough to chair, the Environment and Public Works Committee. All of these rules are coming before us, and these rules are a result of things they tried to do legislatively, but they couldn't do—the WOTUS rule.

If you talk to farmers and ranchers in America, they will say that of all the regulations that come from the EPA that are the most damaging to farmers and ranchers, it is the WOTUS rule, and that is the waters of the United States. The Chair is certainly very familiar with this. That means that while we have had State jurisdiction over our water for many years, it had one exception, and that is for navigable waters.

I think all of us who are conservatives would agree that the Federal Government should have jurisdiction over navigable waters because that affects a lot more than just States. So they tried to do that with legislation. That legislation was offered 6 years ago by Senator Feingold of the Senate, who is from Wisconsin, and Congressman Oberstar, who is from Minnesota. Not only did we overwhelmingly defeat their legislation, but we defeated them at the polls in the next election, so it gives you an idea of the unpopularity of this. Since the President was not able to do it with legislation, he tried to do it with regulation. Well, that is the way it is with CO₂ emissions.

So India sent their plan over. They are the third largest CO₂ emitter, only behind China and the United States. Its demand for coal is expected to surpass U.S. consumption by the end of the decade unless the United States helps front India the cash it needs to execute its trillion-dollar climate plan, but that is not happening. As a Member of this body, we will do everything we can to stop it, and we will be successful. We know for a fact that is not what America wants to do.

Now we have China. It has pledged to peak its carbon emissions around 2030 and increase its renewables to 20 percent of the primary energy use. Subsequent to its commitment, China also announced a nationwide cap-and-trade system alongside a newfound partnership between U.S. cities. While all of these commitments—that is, they have

partnership cities that say “We will do it in our State if you do it over there”—they sound good to the media, but the facts don't pan out because it is nothing more than business as usual. At the end of the day, the country gets to increase its emissions for the next 15 years. Here is what they call an agreement that is in the best interest of reducing CO₂ worldwide. Yet they are committing not to reduce but to increase their emissions for the next 15 years, until 2030.

When they first made their commitment—I called it a nonbinding charade because as China's economy has grown, so has its demand for electricity. China is the largest consumer and importer of coal in the world, accounting for 50 percent of global consumption. Fifty percent of the global consumption of coal is in one country—China.

Over the next decade, China is expected to bring a new coal-fired powerplant online every 10 days to give it the electricity it demands. Unlike the United States, China does not have other inexpensive energy sources. Where we in the United States are benefiting from cheap natural gas, China doesn't have the technology and resources to do it, so they can't do that. Even though we have this huge shale revolution in this country where we are producing oil and natural gas—which brings up the other thing we need to do, and that is to do away with the export ban on natural gas and oil. But China doesn't have the technology to do that, so all they can use is coal. And to continue to support the world's largest economy, which China is, China will have no choice but to break its promise of hitting its emission peak by 2030, and that is not going to happen.

Russia has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions between 25 and 30 percent by 2030. Here is the sticking point. Russia made this projection based on its carbon emissions baseline of 1990. By playing with numbers, Russia's commitment will actually allow it to increase emissions between 700 and 900 tons in 2030.

Then there is Mexico, South Korea, and South Africa. All of them will have made pledges not cut emissions but to slow the growth—not to cut emissions but slow the growth. In other words, these countries are committing to increased emissions through 2030. In the meantime, President Obama is committing the United States to cut—not slow the growth but cut—its emissions from 26 to 28 percent by 2025. Nobody knows how they came to those years. There is no plan that we have seen that would do that. But this promise is also just as hollow as what we have been hearing from these other countries that I previously mentioned.

Not only does the President not have the backing of the Senate and the American people, but outside groups are finding that the President's methods to achieve these reductions

through climate regulations—primarily the Clean Power Plan—are faulty. According to a recent analysis by the U.S. Chamber, the President's intended nationally determined contribution is about 33 percent short of meeting its stated target. So that is not going to work.

On July 8, David Bookbinder, former Sierra Club chief climate counsel, testified before the committee that I chair about his own analysis that has found an even greater gap. It was in this same hearing where it was stated that to close the gap in the President's climate commitment, the United States would likely have to consider regulating other industrial sectors, including agriculture. So it is not just oil and gas and some of these emitters. It is everybody, and it is not going to happen because it can't happen. It doesn't work.

After that committee hearing, I led a letter with 10 other Senators to the President requesting a detailed response for just how the United States intends to meet the pledge of 26- to 28-percent emissions reduction by 2025. It has been 3 months, and we still haven't received a response. So they have been saying this. We are saying: How are you going to do it? Three months have gone by, and we still don't know how he plans to do it.

When we go to these other countries, they assume that America is like they are; if the President says it, he means it, and he is going to try to make it happen. With his pledge to the international community, the President is setting up the American economy to suffer great pain for no gain.

Now, his Clean Power Plan lacks credibility. The EPA does not even bother to assess the minuscule environmental benefits associated with the Clean Power Plan and with the cost of the plan. We are talking about something that would be upwards of \$400 billion a year. That is very similar to when they tried to do this with cap-and-trade legislation.

I had the occasion and I do this: Every time I hear a big number, I go back to my State of Oklahoma and I do a calculation. I find out how many families in my State of Oklahoma filed a Federal tax return, and then I do the math. As it turned out, that would cost about \$3,000 per family. Now, to some people who believe the world is coming to an end and global warming is causing it, that might sound like: Well, \$3,000 a family is not that big a deal. But let's remember—and I would remind the Chair—that it was just a short while ago when Lisa Jackson, who was the President's nominee and eventually became the Director of the EPA, was asked by me on live TV in our committee: If we do pass any of these things, either by regulation or by legislation, will that have the effect of reducing CO₂ emissions worldwide? She

said: No, because this isn't where the problem is. It is in China. It is in India and in these other countries that I mentioned before. So we would be doing that. Even if you are a believer in the doom philosophy, we would be doing it in a way that is not going to work.

So despite all the costs they have, the President's climate regulations would only reduce CO₂ concentrations by 0.2 percent. Global average temperature rise would be—would be, I say, not will be but would be—reduced only by .0016 degrees Fahrenheit. It could not even be measurable. And the sea level rise would be reduced by 0.2 millimeters, which is the thickness of two human hairs.

So it is no wonder the President is working so hard to circumvent Congress's role in committing the United States to the agreement.

I only say this because we are now getting close to December and we have been through this so many times before, and this isn't going to be any different. There is going to be a difference, and that is that they are not going to attempt to do it by passing legislation. They want to circumvent Congress because they know Congress reports to the people and the people don't want this.

I can remember when global warming—when they had their annual Gallup poll every March. It used to be that when asked what were the critical concerns about America, global warming was always—in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005—between first and second place of the greatest concern. Do we know what it is today? Out of 15, it is number 15. So the people have caught on. They know it will be the largest tax increase in history and that it will not accomplish anything.

Mr. President, what is our timing situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are no time limitations.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to make some other comments because something very good happened, and it is not normally the case. We passed the Defense authorization bill. Here we are in the midst of over two decades of wars and we are being challenged on all fronts—from national states to terrorist organizations and extremists to cyber and lone-wolf attacks. Our military is directly engaged in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and the demands that this country is placing on them continues to increase. It is greater than anything I have ever seen in the years I have been here and probably the greatest in history in terms of the numbers of threats to America from different countries.

Yesterday we voted to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, or the NDAA, for the 54th consecutive

year. I have been worried. The last few years we ended up passing it not this early but passing it in December. If we had gone to December 31 in those years or even in this year, all of a sudden our people wouldn't get hazard pay and they wouldn't get reenlistment bonuses and we couldn't let that happen. So I am glad we did it earlier this year. I think it is the most important bill we pass every year.

It is our constitutional duty to provide oversight over the President and his administration. There is an old wornout document that nobody reads anymore. It is called the Constitution. If we read article I, section 8 of the Constitution, it tells us what we are supposed to be doing—No. 1, defending America, and No. 2, roads and highways. I am very glad we passed the highway bill. It is over in the House, and I am optimistic they will be able to pass it over there as well.

So the Constitution says the most important thing we do is defending America. It is our constitutional duty to do it.

The NDAA contains provisions that take care of military men and women—the pay, the benefits, the bonuses, the new starts, the reenlistment bonuses, military construction, and all of this stuff. This bill addresses things such as additional protections for victims of sexual assault. It is a good bill, and most of the members of this committee have been to the floor today and have talked about.

I just wanted to mention a couple of things that may have been overlooked by some of the other speakers. They should be focusing on accomplishing their missions instead of wondering if this bill authorizes spending priorities critical to our national security and supports the resources requirement of the Department of Defense. While this bill does not contain every provision that the Senate wanted, that I wanted, that the House wanted, and that the President would like to have, the final language is overall good policy for our national defense. It provides authorizations in a timely manner. This vital piece of legislation sets the course for our national security and provides for our Nation's nearly 2.1 million all-volunteer force.

I was a product of the draft many years ago. I have often said that is one of the things that this country probably ought to go back to. We wouldn't have a lot of the problems today if we had to have kids go through the discipline and the appreciation for our country. But nonetheless, this is an all-volunteer force, and it has worked beautifully.

I make it a point, when I go to Afghanistan or Iraq or Africa and these places where we have troops stationed, to sit down in the mess halls, to go out in the field and eat with them or listen to the problems they have and try to

boost them up a little bit because they know that under this administration, which I have called the disarming of America, defending America is not the high priority that it should be. This is a time when each service chief, secretary, and combatant commander has testified that no service will be able to meet the wartime requirements under sequestration.

The President and many people in this body wanted sequestration to take place but only for domestic purposes as well as military, and we are saying this is where the problem is. Let's look at Secretary Carter, our Secretary of Defense. He said recently:

Readiness remains at troubling levels across the force. Even with the fiscal year 2016 budget, the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps won't reach their readiness goals until 2020 and the Air Force until 2023.

At a time when former Secretary Hagel says—listen to this. I don't know why more people in America didn't hear this. This is the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Hagel, who said: "American dominance in seas, in the skies, and in space can no longer be taken for granted." This is America, and people are thinking that the President might even veto this bill.

Admiral Winnefeld, who is Vice Chief of Staff, said: "There could be for the first time in my career instances where we may be asked to respond to a crisis and we will have to say that we cannot."

General Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says we are putting our military on a path where "the force is so degraded and so unready" that it would be "immoral to use it."

General Dempsey labels it "unlike any in his lifetime."

So the passage of this legislation is absolutely necessary. We have passed it. We have done the responsible thing. And I think we need to be sure that we use full pressure to make sure the President does not veto this bill, because he is toying with a veto.

We have never seen anything like this in the history of this country. We have a level of threat to America, and we are going to have to make sure that we pass this bill. I am very proud that it was passed by the majority in the Senate.

I know I am the last speaker tonight. I suggest the absence of a quorum, just to see if there is any last message that has to be given.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING COASTAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commend Coastal Ridge Elementary School in York, ME, on being named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This year, Coastal Ridge Elementary was one of only 335 schools across the country and one of only two schools from Maine to receive this prestigious recognition of high accomplishment by the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes Coastal Ridge Elementary as a model of excellence and high achievement. The students' success can be attributed to the school's focus on creating a healthy climate where adults model respect and selflessness. Principal Sean Murphy noted that while the award is based on exemplary test scores in math and reading, the school's emphasis on the arts, sciences, and social development has contributed to the students' overall achievement.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Coastal Ridge Elementary School for this well-deserved honor and congratulate not only the students, but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents on this outstanding achievement. Together, they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students by helping them become energetic learners and engaged citizens.

RECOGNIZING MINOT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commend Minot Consolidated School in Minot, ME, on being named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This year, Minot Consolidated was one of only 335 schools across the country and one of only two schools from Maine to receive this prestigious recognition of high accomplishment by the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools award honors schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

With just 240 students from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade, Minot Consolidated takes pride in a strong sense of community that contributes to the success of its students. Staff, families, and community members have come together to create a welcoming school environment where students are challenged, motivated, and rewarded for good work. Self-confidence and personal responsibility are strongly encouraged and have produced positive results for Minot Consolidated's high-achieving student body.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Minot Consolidated School for this well-deserved honor and congratulate not only the students, but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents on this outstanding achievement. Together, they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students by helping them become energetic learners and engaged citizens.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL LA ROCK AND ANDREW KIM

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Ethel La Rock and Andrew Kim, two Montana veterans who are also the first two individuals set to be interviewed as part of our office's participation in the Veterans History Project.

The Veterans History Project's mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American wartime veterans, resulting in an incredible resource for researchers, educators, and future generations to hear directly from veterans and to better understand the realities of past wars.

Ethel La Rock retired from the United States Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1976 after 24 years of service. She served as a nurse in Korea and Vietnam. She was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 1967 for meritorious service in Vietnam, which I had the honor to present to her in August.

Andrew Kim retired from the United States Navy after 25 years of service in 1969 as a chief boatswain's mate. As a 15-year-old, he watched the bombing of Pearl Harbor and then enlisted as soon as he turned 17. His tours of duty included WWII, the Korean conflict, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam war.

Thank you to Ethel and Andy for their service to our Nation and for sharing their stories with the people of Montana.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA ANDERSON

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Jessica Anderson, an outstanding educator at Powell County High School in Deer Lodge, MT.

Ms. Anderson is the epitome of “leading by example.” With experience in teaching both prekindergarten through eighth grade and now high school, she has developed a unique teaching style that has inspired countless students.

Her technology-based teaching style has led to her classroom’s collaboration with students on opposite sides of the world. She is also a cofounder of #MTedChat on Twitter, where educators can come together to share, collaborate, and challenge each other to improve.

Ms. Anderson’s instruction of students both in the classroom and online through the Montana Digital Academy has truly underscored the importance of universal education in our increasingly digital age. Not only am I proud to recognize her today, but also congratulate her on recently being awarded the title of 2016 Montana Teacher of the Year.

I thank her for promoting the educational ideals that Montanans hold so dear and look forward to watching the continual positive influence she will have on Montana’s future leaders.●

RECOGNIZING LOCAL MONTANA BREWERIES

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the achievement of three local Montana breweries. Montana Brewing Company in Billings, Madison River Brewing Company in Belgrade, and KettleHouse Brewing Company in Missoula received medals for their excellent beer this year at the Great American Beer Festival, one of the largest beer festivals in the Nation. Out of more than 6,000 entries, these three great breweries were recognized as having the best beer in a certain category. Madison River Brewing Company received a gold medal in Scottish-style ale for their Cold Smoke, and KettleHouse Brewing Company followed with a silver medal in the same category for their Copper John Scotch Ale. Montana Brewing Company received a bronze medal in Irish-style red ale for their Hooligan’s Irish Red Ale.

I would also like to recognize that Montana Brewing Company has received 16 medals since 1998, and KettleHouse Brewing Company has received 3 medals since 2009 at the Great American Beer Festival. The dedication and excellence of all three breweries are an example of Montana as a whole. I applaud their achievements.●

TRIBUTE TO EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding devotion of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., who has worked tirelessly to preserve Maine’s rich heritage throughout his career. After more than four decades with the Maine Historic Preservation

Commission, Earle stepped down as director on October 1, 2015. Despite his retirement and to the delight of the people of Maine, Mr. Shettleworth will continue to hold the esteemed position of Maine’s State historian.

Mr. Shettleworth’s interest in historic preservation was sparked when he was just 13 years old, after witnessing the destruction of Portland’s Union Station. Shortly after this defining event, Mr. Shettleworth became the youngest founding member of Greater Portland Landmarks and has had a distinguished career in public service ever since. Throughout his life, Earle has greatly appreciated architecture and art, which have added to his passion and devotion to preserving Maine’s history.

Mr. Shettleworth has served on a wide range of historical commissions and societies, including the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. During his years with the commission, Earle helped designate over 1,500 properties in Maine as historic places in the National Register, and by the time he retired, he was the longest serving State historic preservation officer in the United States.

Mr. Shettleworth holds a bachelor’s degree from Colby College and a master’s degree from the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University. He has published dozens of articles and authored numerous books. As a reporter at the Portland Evening Express, Mr. Shettleworth authored a series of 52 articles called “Portland Heritage,” which explored the history of the city’s notable buildings. Mr. Shettleworth has received honorary doctorates of humane letters from Bowdoin College and the Maine College of Art for his scholarship in the fields of history, historical preservation, and art history.

I would like to join the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the people of Maine in recognizing and thanking Mr. Shettleworth for his tireless work and dedication to the great State of Maine. Earle not only preserved Maine’s history, but also inspired greater public interest in our State’s rich heritage. The State of Maine owes Mr. Shettleworth immensely for all his hard work, and we cannot begin to thank him enough. I wish him all the best in his retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER MIKEL S. COOK

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize yeoman CPO Mikel S. Cook, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy.

In his 22-year career in the United States Navy, yeoman Chief Petty Officer Cook has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices to our country. I commend him for his

service and extraordinary dedication to duty and the United States of America.

Yeoman Chief Petty Officer Cook graduated from boot camp in 1994 from Recruit Training Command in Orlando, FL. Following graduation, he attended Yeoman “A” School in Meridian, MS. He reported to his first sea assignment with the Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7. He later reported to the USS Rainier, AOE-7, participating in Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom and earning his enlisted surface and air warfare pins. His final sea assignment was with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 2 out of Whidbey Island, WA.

Yeoman Chief Petty Officer Cook also served with distinction in a variety of assignments ashore: as executive assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff—Operations and Intelligence, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium; and as a naval analyst with the special liaison detachment, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium.

After completing his last sea tour, yeoman Chief Petty Officer Cook reported to his current assignment as congressional liaison in the Navy Appropriations Matters Office, where he helped the Department of the Navy achieve their financial and legislative goals. For 5 years, yeoman Chief Petty Officer Cook has demonstrated exceptional leadership and foresight, engaging Members of the Appropriations Committee and its staff to provide information essential to resourcing the Navy for its role as the world’s dominant sea power. In an increasingly difficult budget environment, he provided essential support in shepherding four Navy budgets through the appropriations process, serving our Navy with insight and dedication.

I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to yeoman CPO Mikel S. Cook for his extraordinary dedication to duty and steadfast service to this country throughout his distinguished career in the U.S. Navy. We wish him; his wife, Robyn; and his daughter, Norah, “Fair Winds and Following Seas” in his well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BRUBAKER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Mr. James Brubaker, director of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional offices in Sioux Falls, SD, and Fargo, ND, since 2010. Mr. Brubaker will be retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs on October 30, 2015, after an accomplished career.

Mr. Brubaker graduated with a bachelor’s degree in financial administration from Michigan State University in 1982. He joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1987 and has diligently served veterans in offices throughout the Nation. As the director of the Dakotas Veterans Affairs regional offices,

he administered benefits for nearly 156,000 veterans in South Dakota, North Dakota, and 15 counties in Minnesota. Under Mr. Brubaker's leadership, the Sioux Falls and Fargo regional offices have maintained an excellent compensation rating related claim-based accuracy of over 95 percent, one of the best ratings in the Nation. This significant achievement demonstrates Mr. Brubaker's management ability and his dedication to serving our Nation's veterans.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Brubaker for his fine work. I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1300. An act to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

S. 2078. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1525. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to specify which smaller institutions may qualify for an 18-month examination cycle.

H.R. 1839. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2091. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards.

H.R. 2168. An act to make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes.

H.R. 3102. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3510. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity strategy for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, October 7, 2015, he has signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 2835. An act to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 6:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1300. An act to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

S. 2078. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1525. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to specify which smaller institutions may qualify for an 18-month examination cycle; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1839. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2091. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2168. An act to make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3102. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3510. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity strategy for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2146. A bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2116. A bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 2147. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to participant votes on the suspension of benefits under multiemployer plans in critical and declining status; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2148. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent an increase in the Medicare part B premium and deductible in 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2149. A bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to add disclosure requirements to the institution financial aid offer form and to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make such form mandatory; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2150. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical improvements to the Net Price Calculator system so that prospective students may have a more accurate understanding of the true cost of college; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2151. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2152. A bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2153. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require applicable manufacturers to include information regarding

payments made to physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other advance practice nurses in transparency reports submitted under section 1128G of such Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2154. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for certain hardrock mines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2155. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2156. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for launching drones that interfere with fighting fires affecting Federal property or responding to disasters affecting interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2157. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for operating drones in certain locations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 2158. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2159. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2160. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, relating to enlistment and consequences of certain service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2161. A bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2162. A bill to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress; considered and passed.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2163. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduits be installed as a part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2164. A bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-determination program and to make permanent the payment in lieu of taxes program and the land and water conservation fund; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 280. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2015 as "National Women's Small Business Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 281. A resolution designating the week of October 5 through October 9, 2015, as "National Health Information Technology Week" to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the healthcare system for all people in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. Con. Res. 23. A concurrent resolution supporting the establishment of a bipartisan Museum Study Commission to study the establishment of a National Museum of the American People to tell the immigration and migration stories of all people of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 208

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 208, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to gain and maintain operational control of the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Wis-

consin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 502, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 520

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 520, a bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, a bill to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 1493

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1493, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1766

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1766, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1945, a bill to make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to direct the Chief of Engineers to transfer an archaeological collection, commonly referred to as the Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1979, *supra*.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2034, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2068

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2068, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2142

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2142, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

S. RES. 237

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 237, a resolution condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for continuing to perpetrate crimes against humanity, war crimes, and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government, the African Union, and governments and regional organizations in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield and promote protection and recovery of affected communities.

S. RES. 278

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 278, a resolution welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2161. A bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act along with Senators WHITEHOUSE, KLOBUCHAR, WARREN, and FRANKEN.

This bill, which I have introduced every Congress since 1999, seeks to provide a path to citizenship for qualifying Liberian refugees who came here decades ago to escape Liberia's civil wars. Since this time, they have been in our country legally through short term extensions of Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure. After years of uncertainty about whether they will be able to stay in their communities or whether their families will be split up, this bill give eligible Liberians the chance to apply

for legal permanent residency, and begin the process of finally becoming citizens.

Similar safeguards were included in the last Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that the Senate passed, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide this critical and long overdue support for our Liberian community.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2163. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduits be installed as a part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as a fifth generation Montanan, I have seen firsthand the struggles rural America faces when it comes to broadband connectivity. I worked in the cloud computing industry for 13 years, so I also know the opportunities created by technology and connectivity.

Not only does access to broadband connect rural Americans and tribal communities to the rest of the world, but there are many farming applications that will enable farmers in Montana to be more efficient and equip them to feed the growing population. Despite the importance of connecting these communities, Montana remains ranked among the worst States for broadband connectivity and there are too many instances where the Federal Government stands in the way of broadband infrastructure deployment. This is especially important for States like Montana where 29 percent of the State is federally owned. Every Federal agency has their own set of requirements for siting infrastructure on Federal lands, and the process can take up to 10 years in some cases. This burdensome, bureaucratic process is driving industry away from serving rural America and tribal lands.

That is why I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Streamlining and Investing in Broadband Infrastructure act with my colleagues Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator GARDNER. The bill implements a dig once policy that incorporates broadband conduit installation into new highway projects. It also directs the Federal Government to further consolidate and streamline siting on Federal lands by establishing a fee schedule for the grant of property interests and by developing a master application form for communications construction on all Federal lands. Making effective use of existing resources and streamlining these processes are essential to continue broadband deployment in rural America. By making it easier for providers to lay the groundwork for broadband, we take an important step toward connecting our unserved communities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015 AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH”

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 280

Whereas the Small Business Administration has declared the month of October 2015 to be “National Women’s Small Business Month” along with the celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-533; 102 Stat. 2689) that established the National Women’s Business Council and the Women’s Business Center program;

Whereas there are over 9,900,000 women-owned small businesses in the United States;

Whereas women-owned small businesses collected \$1,600,000,000,000 in total receipts in 2012, which is an increase of 35 percent since 2007;

Whereas the rate of growth for women-owned employer firms is 3 times that of men-owned employer firms;

Whereas, since 2007, the number of women-owned small businesses in the United States has increased by 2,100,000 and women-owned small businesses have added nearly 1,500,000 more jobs;

Whereas Congress continues to support the National Women’s Business Council and the focus of the National Women’s Business Council on alleviating obstacles faced by women small business owners and women entrepreneurs; and

Whereas the celebration of “National Women’s Small Business Month” would honor women small business owners and women entrepreneurs and recognize the significance of their contributions to the small business community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2015 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(2) honors the vital role of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs in the United States during “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(3) recognizes the significant contributions of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs to the small business community;

(4) supports and encourages young women entrepreneurs to pursue their passions and create more start-up businesses;

(5) recognizes the importance of creating policies that promote a business-friendly environment for small business owners that is free of unnecessary regulations and red tape; and

(6) supports efforts to increase awareness of the value of women-owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 281—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2015, AS “NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSFORMING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 281

Whereas 2015 celebrates the 10th anniversary of National Health Information Technology Week;

Whereas Congress has emphasized that the use of health information technology is essential to providing coordinated care, expanding access to care, and improving the quality and safety of the mental and physical health of all people in the United States;

Whereas health information technology is essential for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing healthcare costs;

Whereas Congress has recognized that the convergence of medical advances, health information technology, and high-speed broadband networks are transforming the delivery of care by bringing the healthcare provider and patient together virtually, especially those in disadvantaged populations and geographies;

Whereas by 2020, the market segment for the healthcare-related Internet of Things, which allows data to move among people, sensors, and machines, is expected to approach \$120,000,000,000;

Whereas personalized medicine is an important emerging healthcare topic that includes the tailoring of medicines and treatments to the unique genetic blueprint and lifestyle and environmental data of each patient and comparing that information to the information of other individuals to predict illness and determine best treatments;

Whereas Congress has recognized and taken action to modernize regulations so as to grow the health information technology market, improve the health of all people in the United States, create high-demand jobs, and stimulate market innovation; and

Whereas it is necessary to continue activities that are foundational to the transformation of healthcare delivery in the United States, including—

(1) innovation in health information technology;

(2) opening interoperability between systems and devices; and

(3) the exchange of health information confidently and securely among different providers, systems, and insurers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 5 through October 9, 2015, as “National Health Information Technology Week”;

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming healthcare for the people of the United States;

(3) encourages all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the healthcare system of the United States; and

(4) calls on all people to be engaged in their mental and physical health through the use of health information technology.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23—SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIPARTISAN MUSEUM STUDY COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO TELL THE IMMIGRATION AND MIGRATION STORIES OF ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. CON. RES. 23

Whereas the United States was founded and built by people from every country who made the United States the economic, military, scientific, and cultural leader of the world;

Whereas as of October 2015, there is no national museum in Washington, DC, that—

(1) celebrates the making of the people of the United States; or

(2) tells the migration history of any group of people to or within the United States;

Whereas a National Museum of the American People would—

(1) recount the history of all groups of people who came to the United States and the contributions of those people to the United States;

(2) have the theme *E Pluribus Unum*, the original motto of the United States;

(3) celebrate every ethnic and minority group in the United States;

(4) foster a sense of belonging to the United States;

(5) contribute to a common national identity as people of the United States;

(6) highlight the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the founding documents of the United States;

(7) explore the ways in which those documents shaped the character of the people of the United States and infused the people of the United States with common values; and

(8) be a resource for State, local, and ethnic museums throughout the United States that present exhibits that celebrate the heritage of the people of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States do not have a comprehensive and accurate picture of the history of all of the people who founded and continue to build the United States;

Whereas people from every ethnic group in the United States would visit a National Museum of the American People to learn their own history and the history of every other ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas a National Museum of the American People would attract foreign visitors and dignitaries because few foreigners know the story of the individuals who—

(1) became citizens of the United States at the founding of the country; and

(2) migrated to the United States from other countries;

Whereas a museum that tells the story of the making of the people of the United States and celebrates all individuals who migrated and settled in the United States and the territories of the United States belongs near the National Mall in Washington, DC;

Whereas Canada and Mexico have major popular museums in, or adjacent to, the cap-

ital cities of those countries that tell the story of the making of the people of Canada and Mexico, respectively;

Whereas the goals of a National Museum of the American People would be—

(1) to be the best storytelling museum in the world;

(2) to recount 1 of the most amazing stories in human history;

(3) to celebrate all of the people who have become people of the United States; and

(4) to foster learning at the museum and throughout the United States;

Whereas non-Federal funding sources will be sought to defray the costs of a Museum Study Commission to study the establishment of a National Museum of the American People and the funding will commence on the date on which the President signs an Executive order creating the bipartisan commission;

Whereas no Federal appropriations will be sought to provide funding for—

(1) the design, construction, or operation a National Museum of the American People; or

(2) the exhibitions or components of the museum; and

Whereas the National Museum of the American People will benefit all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports the establishment of a bipartisan Museum Study Commission to study the establishment of a National Museum of the American People to tell the immigration and migration stories of all people of the United States, if none of the funding to plan, construct, or operate the museum is from Federal appropriations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, "Removing Barriers to Wireless Broadband Deployment."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 11 a.m., in room SR-428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Protecting Seniors from Identity Theft: Is the Federal Government Doing Enough?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 7, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "S. 2102, The 'Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015'."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 7, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Assessing the North Korea Threat and U.S. Policy: Strategic Patience or Effective Deterrence?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 232, S. 32.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 32) to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 32) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 32

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL IMPORTATIONS.

Section 1009 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 959) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “It shall” and all that follows and inserting the following: “It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in schedule I or II or flunitrazepam or a listed chemical intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that such substance or chemical will be unlawfully imported into the United States or into waters within a distance of 12 miles of the coast of the United States.

“(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a listed chemical—

“(1) intending or knowing that the listed chemical will be used to manufacture a controlled substance; and

“(2) intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that the controlled substance will be unlawfully imported into the United States.”.

SEC. 3. TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS OR SERVICES.

Chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2318(b)(2), by striking “section 2320(e)” and inserting “section 2320(f)”; and

(2) in section 2320—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) traffics in a drug and knowingly uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with such drug;”;

(B) in subsection (b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “counterfeit drug” and inserting “drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug”; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) the term ‘drug’ means a drug, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).”.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 234, H.R. 623.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 623) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

H.R. 623

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a social media working group (in this section referred to as the ‘Group’).

“(b) PURPOSE.—In order to enhance the dissemination of information through social media technologies between the Department and appropriate stakeholders and to improve use of social media technologies in support of preparedness, response, and recovery, the Group shall identify, and provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on, the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a natural disaster or an act of terrorism or other man-made disaster.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Membership of the Group shall be composed of a cross section of subject matter experts from Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and nongovernmental organization practitioners, including representatives from the following entities:

“(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

“(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

“(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

“(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(F) The American Red Cross.

“(G) The Forest Service.

“(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(I) The United States Geological Survey.

“(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) CHAIRPERSON; CO-CHAIRPERSON.—

“(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall serve as the chairperson of the Group.

“(B) CO-CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson shall designate, on a rotating basis, a representative from a State or local government who is a member of the Group to serve as the co-chairperson of the Group.

“(3) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The chairperson shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

“(A) be equal to or greater than the total number of regular members under paragraph (1); and

“(B) include—

“(i) not fewer than 3 representatives from the private sector; and

“(ii) representatives from—

“(I) State, local, tribal, and territorial entities, including from—

“(aa) law enforcement;

“(bb) fire services;

“(cc) emergency management; and

“(dd) public health entities;

“(II) universities and academia; and

“(III) nonprofit disaster relief organizations.

“(4) TERM LIMITS.—The chairperson shall establish term limits for individuals appointed to the Group under paragraph (3).

“(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the extent practicable, the Group shall work with entities in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection (b).

“(e) MEETINGS.—

“(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Group shall hold its initial meeting.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet—

“(A) at the call of the chairperson; and

“(B) not less frequently than twice each year.

“(3) VIRTUAL MEETINGS.—Each meeting of the Group may be held virtually.

“(f) REPORTS.—During each year in which the Group meets, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

“(1) A review and analysis of current and emerging social media technologies being used to support preparedness and response activities related to natural disasters and acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters.

“(2) A review of best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media technologies during the response to natural disasters and acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters that occurred during the period covered by the report at issue.

“(3) Recommendations to improve the Department’s use of social media technologies for emergency management purposes.

“(4) Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through social media technologies, and how to access such information, during a natural disaster or an act of terrorism or other man-made disaster.

“(5) A review of available training for Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial officials on the use of social media technologies in response to a natural disaster or an act of terrorism or other man-made disaster.

“(6) A review of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.

“(g) DURATION OF GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Group shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section unless the chairperson renews the Group for a successive 5-year period, prior to the date on which the Group would otherwise terminate, by submitting to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on

Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a certification that the continued existence of the Group is necessary to fulfill the purpose described in subsection (b).

“(2) *CONTINUED RENEWAL.*—The chairperson may continue to renew the Group for successive 5-year periods by submitting a certification in accordance with paragraph (1) prior to the date on which the Group would otherwise terminate.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following: “Sec. 318. *Social media working group.*”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 623), as amended, was passed.

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS SUCCESSION MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2162, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2162) to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2162) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SERVICE OF LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The President shall appoint the Librarian of Congress, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) *TERM OF SERVICE.*—The Librarian of Congress shall be appointed for a term of 10 years.

(c) *REAPPOINTMENT.*—An individual appointed to the position of Librarian of Con-

gress, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, may be reappointed to that position in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—This section shall apply with respect to appointments made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

The first paragraph under the center heading “LIBRARY OF CONGRESS” under the center heading “LEGISLATIVE” of the Act entitled “An Act Making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and for other purposes”, approved February 19, 1897 (29 Stat. 544, chapter 265; 2 U.S.C. 136), is amended by striking “to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

NATIONAL DYSLLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 275.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 275) calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed and designating October 2015 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 275) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 1, 2015, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 280, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 280) recognizing the month of October 2015 as “National Women's Small Business Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 280) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 281.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 281) designating the week of October 5 through October 9, 2015, as “National Health Information Technology Week” to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the healthcare system for all people in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 281) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS TO THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1735

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 81, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 81) providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1735.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution

be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 81) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the

two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 10:45 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 10:45 a.m., the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028; that the time from 10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. be controlled by the majority, that the time between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. be controlled by the Democrats, and that the time between 12:15 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, that notwithstanding

the provisions of rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028 occur at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 8, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, October 7, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEWART).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.
October 7, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRIS STEWART to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRESS SHOULD FOCUS ON FIXING OUR PROBLEMS HERE AT HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the recent news about Afghanistan is, at best, distressing. Soon Congress will be debating an increase in the debt ceiling so we can borrow more money to pay our bills. The sad part is that some of that money will go to Afghanistan.

Three recent headlines are most discouraging:

One from the Fiscal Times, September 23, "U.S. Wasted Billions of Dollars Rebuilding Afghanistan."

The second headline from the New York Times, October 1, "Afghan Forces on the Run."

The third headline, "U.S. Soldiers Told to Ignore Sexual Abuse of Boys by Afghan Military Leaders."

I am so outraged about the third headline story that I am demanding answers on the Pentagon's policy of permitting Afghan men to rape young boys on U.S. military bases. I have written a letter to the chairman of the

House Armed Services Committee and asked him to hold hearings on this issue. We need to get to the bottom of this.

Afghanistan is the graveyard of empires. We are headed to the graveyard. We need to borrow money just to carry on the needless war. We need to borrow money just to pay our bills.

We are over \$18 trillion in debt, and President Obama signed us up for 8 more years in Afghanistan, 8 more years of wasted money. No one even listens to John Sopko, the Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, who has testified before Congress many times. He releases report after report detailing the waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan, and no one in Congress seems to care.

According to Sopko, we have spent more in 14 years trying to shape Afghanistan into a functional country, which is a fool's errand, at best, than we did on the entire Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II.

In the next fiscal year, we will spend \$42.5 billion in Afghanistan, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that we will spend \$30 billion a year for the next 8 years. We are committed to staying in Afghanistan. This is the longest war in the history of America.

History has proven that we will never change this tribal nation and we should stop trying. Instead, let's focus on fixing our problems here in America.

The little girls beside me, Mr. Speaker, Eden and Stephanie Balduf, their daddy was training Afghanistan citizens to be policemen, and they were shot and killed by the man they were training. Poor little girls represent so many families whose loved ones have died in Afghanistan for nothing but a waste.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless America, and, God, please wake up the Congress before it is too late on Afghanistan.

UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday another horrific episode of gun violence—the seemingly unrelenting stream of tragedy and horror—only this time it was visited on Oregon, in a modest mill town of Roseburg.

The scene of the carnage was a picturesque, some would say idyllic, com-

munity college campus just north of town, where a shooter burst into a classroom at Umpqua Community College and started methodically killing nine people, wounding seven others.

On the 274th day of 2015, this was the 294th such episode. President Obama made an impassioned, forceful, and poignant response—at once fierce and sad, as eloquent as anything I have heard him say throughout his political career.

And who could blame him? Not a single calendar week has passed during his second term without another mass shooting.

The core of his message was the question for all Americans, especially the apologists for gun violence: Why is the United States the only developed country in the world that cannot protect our families from gun massacres? No other country comes remotely close to this carnage. Why should we lose 15 times as many as our family members as Germany every year?

When other countries like Canada, Britain, and Australia—that are probably more similar to our country than any others—why were they able to respond not just with outrage or moments of silence, but with action after mass shooting events, to make a difference, to make their families safer, 10 times safer in Australia than in the United States? It is past time that people who claim to be leaders in both parties answer this question.

I am pleased that the response from my party was not one of hopelessness, resignation, or "stuff happens," but instead calls to action with simple, commonsense steps that are widely supported by the American public.

I am pleased that Hillary Clinton was first and foremost with a strong call to action. I am pleased that Senator BERNIE SANDERS appears to be changing his attitude and policies on gun safety.

It is interesting that two Democratic Senators running for re-election last year, Mark Begich and Mark Pryor, who cast what I can only describe as a craven vote against universal background checks, lost anyway. It ought to be a message about our values and our direction. I am hopeful that there will be greater accountability for both parties to supply solutions.

There is no excuse for ours to be the only developed country that cannot protect our children. The American public should demand answers from everyone who pretends we can't protect our children. Ours is the only country, for instance, where leaders prohibit the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

government from even investigating gun violence, its causes, and solutions.

The President exhorted us to not be numb to gun violence. One is hopeful in the midst of this unprecedented bizarre Presidential nominating process, already in full swing, with more than a year yet to go, that perhaps we have the opportunity to make sure this doesn't leave the national political stage.

With comments like Republican candidate Ben Carson condemning President Obama's decision to visit and console the families in Roseburg in a private meeting, that somehow he would wait for the next one, it is stunning.

I was in Springfield, Oregon, when President Clinton visited those families, consoling them, demonstrating compassion and the concern of the country. It was a sign of respect and was moving to all who witnessed it. I can't imagine a more callous, heartless remark than that of Dr. Carson, who would wait until the next one.

Reasonable people should ask reasonable questions about reasonable solutions and demand from politicians their answer to the question: When stuff happens, why can't we protect our families from this slaughter, and what are they prepared to do to change it?

HONORING ERCELLE S. CARTER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ercelle S. Carter of Institute, West Virginia, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on October 25, 2015.

Ercelle was born on October 25, 1915, in Fayetteville, West Virginia. She is one of two children of John Saunders and Harriet Agee Saunders.

Growing up, she attended Levi Elementary, Boyd Junior High School, and graduated from Garnet High School in 1933. She enrolled at West Virginia State College and graduated with degrees in home economics and elementary education in 1937.

On April 27, 1940, she married Ulysses Grant Carter. They were married for 53 years, until his death in 1993.

Ercelle was a homemaker and a stay-at-home mom until 1959, when she began her professional career as a teacher at Shawnee Elementary School and retired from Mound Elementary in 1979.

Ercelle has led an outstanding life, highlighted with her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING EVANS ELEMENTARY OF
JACKSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate

Evans Elementary of Jackson County, West Virginia, for the honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2015.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program was created in 1982 under President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell. The program was designed to celebrate achievements of both public and private elementary, middle, and high schools which have excellent performance or have substantially reduced the performance gap for disadvantaged student populations.

This is a tremendous honor given to only two schools in West Virginia and only 335 schools nationwide this year. I am proud of the hardworking teachers, faculty, and students that achieved this honor. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope their success can be replicated across our State.

UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday Americans witnessed yet another tragedy with the fatal shooting of nine people in Roseburg, Oregon, five young kids who had so much more life left to live, three adults who had gone back to school to better themselves and their families, and an assistant professor of English who used his writing talents to teach others, all gone too soon.

Their lives are lost in tragedy, the kind of tragedy that our Nation has suffered with increasing regularity. There have been more mass shootings this year than there have been calendar days, 294 mass shootings in less than 280 days.

In 2015 alone, there have been nearly 40,000 gun violence tragedies, with nearly 10,000 people killed and 20,000 wounded. Yet, sadly, each gun violence tragedy is met with another tragedy here in Congress, the tragedy of inaction.

People are dying. People are dying from gun violence every single day in America, and this Congress does nothing. As President Obama said last week, "We collectively are answerable to those families who lose their loved ones because of our inaction."

I have been a Member of the House of Representatives for nearly 7 years. In that time, tens of thousands of lives have been lost, but this body has refused to hold even one hearing addressing the gun violence epidemic that is plaguing our country.

In that time, not even once have we had a vote on the floor on anything, anything related to gun violence, and it is not for lack of ideas. We know from other countries what works.

Other countries, not much different from ours, have tackled this issue with remarkable results.

More than 90 gun-related bills offering various ways—large and small—for us to lessen the death toll are just sitting in committee waiting for action; yet, we refuse to even try.

And forget about new gun laws. Congress has made it harder for law enforcement to carry out current laws. It has gotten so bad that Congress refuses to allow Federal agencies to even study this issue because they are afraid of what doctors and scientists will tell them.

□ 1015

In June, during the Labor-HHS-Education markup and just 1 week after the tragedy in Charleston, an amendment to end the 20-year prohibition on Federal funding on research related to gun violence was defeated by a unanimous Republican majority. Congress refuses to act and stands in the way when others try.

Why is this issue different than others? What is it about these lives that matter less than those lost to terrorism or car accidents or cancer? Unless the status quo in Congress changes, we will continue to lose American lives to gun violence.

In June, I urged my colleagues to break the silence, stop the violence, and start the conversation about gun violence in America. We were reeling from the tragedy in Charleston, and I recounted the other lives we had lost to guns in the Navy Yard, Northern Illinois University, Virginia Tech, Columbine, Aurora, Roanoke, Sandy Hook, Tucson, and Fort Hood.

I asked my colleagues when will enough be enough? When will we realize and acknowledge that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries? When will we finally be able to have a national discussion about gun violence?

The answer by House leadership has been a resounding silence.

The first tragedy of last week was the loss of nine American lives. The second tragedy is the continuing inaction of Congress to do anything about it.

No legislation will stop every tragedy, but passing commonsense gun laws will at least stop some. It is the least we can do to honor the memory of those we have lost to gun violence and prevent the list of lives lost from growing.

RED LAND LITTLE LEAGUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to extend my sincere congratulations and express my profound pride

and admiration to the players and coaches of Red Land Little League in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, who recently returned home from the Little League World Series as the 2015 United States champions. I am privileged to represent these fine young players and their coaches, families, and supporters.

This team's perseverance and determination on the road to the Little League World Series and subsequent championship makes them, among a myriad of other things, outstanding role models. The team's core values provide the foundation for their success:

"Red Land Little League Baseball is committed to the purpose of implanting firmly in the youth of the Red Land area the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that our children may be well adjusted, stronger and happier and grow to be decent, healthy and trustworthy adults."

These values served the team well as they won the 2015 Little League Baseball Mid-Atlantic Region Tournament with a 3-0 record. Throughout the tournament, Red Land outscored their opponents 36-5, and they continued their momentum with an 18-0 victory over Midwest Little League.

As we all know all too well, a great sign of strong character is how you handle adversity. Red Land faced that challenge and persevered in its next two games with a 9-8 victory over the Southeast team and a 3-2 victory over the Southwest team to earn the U.S. Championship. Despite a truly impressive and valiant effort, the team came up short on the world championship with a loss to Japan. However, Red Land's character, resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship will be remembered long after the final results of that one game.

The team motto, "#whynotus," became the rallying cry for a team that first inspired their community and went on to inspire our Commonwealth, our Nation, and the world.

One of our Fourth District residents summed it up perfectly: "We were a little-known town that nobody even knew existed. Now, everyone around the world knows where we are."

I am privileged and honored to recognize these players and coaches of the U.S. Champion Red Land Little League here today:

Adam Cramer
Jake Cubbler
Jaden Henline
Braden Kolmansberger
Chayton Krauss
Kaden Peifer
Ethan Phillips
Dylan Rodenhaber
Zack Sooy
Cole Wagner
Camden Walter
Bailey Wirt
Jarrett Wisman

Manager Peifer

Assistant coaches J.K. Kolmansberger and Bret Wagner.

I know I speak for my colleagues when I express our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our U.S. champions today. The values they have demonstrated in earning this title are the values that make America the greatest country in the world. We need young people like them, with strong character and leadership, to ensure these values are passed to future generations. I, for one, am excited to see what else these guys will accomplish as they move forward with their lives and future adventures.

Lest we forget, such achievements require the support of countless others behind the scenes. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the families and friends who devoted countless amounts of time, effort, and support on Red Land's path to the U.S. Championship. This team was away from home for many weeks as they took this journey, and this kind of triumph doesn't happen without exceptional devotion and teamwork from all spokes on the wheel.

Finally, I truly commend the citizens of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, its surrounding community, and the people across Pennsylvania and the United States who mobilized behind this team to drive and push their momentum.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize our 2015 Little League World Series United States Champions, Red Land Little League, joining us in the balcony here this morning.

Today, we join the team's rallying cry, which is, "We are Red Land."

GUN VIOLENCE ACROSS MARYLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, in 280 days, Maryland has lost 301 lives to gun violence. That is 301 families that have lost mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters to domestic violence, mental health, and just plain old violence with a gun.

It is time for my colleagues to stand up to listen, to take on the National Rifle Association, and to stop the flood of gun violence that is ravaging our communities in Maryland and across the country.

Let's do that in the names of:

Stefon Donnell Powell; Leon Fleming; Karim Bonner; Josphat Kobia; Matthew Thomas; Everett Thomas; John David Walsh; Troy R. Preston; Robert Durham Thomas; Darius White; Jamal Allen; Anthony Richardson; Seydina Oumar Soumagel; Donte Downer; David Hall; Harry Smith; Tyrone Archer, Jr.; Jason Ballard; Donald Gaff.

Ashanti Lynnae Ballard-Velez; Jason Ballard; Davon Johnson; Stephen Forman; James Smith; Stephen Vaise; Victor Underwood Black; Marvin Barrett; Edward Donnell Bright, Sr.; Derrick Dargan; Tavares Swinson; Allan Bartlett Poole; James Maurice Edward, Jr.; Malik Fuller; Jawan Goode; Own Crayton; Christopher Hagerman; Anthony Reese; Dwayne Reid; Markez Jones.

Djuan Tillet; Tiesha Rogers; Terry Garnett, Jr.; Terrell Walston; Dayonte Matthew; Jonathan Lopez; Alton Wallace III; Johnnie Green; Mary Green; Mark Green; Antwon Marque Coleman; Richard Anthony Jackson; Sterling Day; Daniel Brooks; Jarrell Hicks; Victor Gwaitney; Andre Robinson; Kemontay Mitchell; Jeremy Ward; Ricky Shawatza Hill.

Keaway Lafonz Ivy; Jamar Green; Steven Jackson; Eugene W. Tolley; Thomas Peterson; Linda Ota; Tywaun Short; Lawrence Buckner; Gilbert Mendoza; Vedrana Mendoza; Molly Mendoza; Rondal Metzger; Mary J. Glacken; Kevin Hill; Jamal Roseborough; Mark Nicholson; Carvell Jones; Mark McKenna; Reanna Lynn Greene; Daquain Tate.

Martin Brooks; Ricky Chambers, Jr.; Andre Hunt; Davon Williams Johnson; James Maurice Johnson; Yogesh Sheth; Bryon Showell; Levi Buck; Khai Hebron; Elliot B. Cheston, Jr.; Cornelia M. Cheston; Robert Scott Slaughter; Keith Watts; Rodney Vandette Johnson; Melissa Anne Bingham; Paul Smith; Armand Parrine; Ivan Anthony McBroom; Matthew Hughes; Odell Stewart.

Lionel Young; Harry Davis; Louis Hicks; Anthony Donnell Minick; Reginald B. Brown III; Shawn Scott; Tiffan Chisholm; Tahil Yasin; Deangelo Green; Rashard Jackson; Wade McKinley Purvey; Eric Diggs, Jr.; James Skinner; Shawn Hickman; Kelvin Warfield; Rupert Everton Samuels; Michael Smith; Craig Deshields, Jr.; Jarmar James; Darell Alston, Jr.

Robert Michael Mange; Lamont Scurrey; Charles Adams; Tyrin Diggs; James Mckoy; Hassan Fields; Bruce Fleming, Jr.; Umika Smith; Charles Jackson, Jr.; Shaquil Hinton; Charles Dobbins; Keith Leon Booze; Jennifer Jeffrey Browne; Kester "Tony" Browne III; Justin Mensuphu-Bey; Eladio Bennett; Pierre Rafael Edwards; Terrell Patterson; Marie Shade Adebayo; Gerald Smith.

Tony Moody; Davontay King; Kevin Jones; Ronnie Walden; Arnesha Bowens; Elery Hudson; Antoine Johnson; Jamon Corprew; Curtis Mitchell; Jerome Grant; Eric Bernard Talbert; Brandon Brown; Michael S. Montgomery; Bruce Wayne; Bernard Dorsey; Allen Durant Gilbert; Henry McArthur; Tommy David Thomas; Spencer Lee McCain; Terrence Demond.

Brian Augins; Ivan J. Cox, Jr.; Lonnie Bernard Paye, Jr.; Nathaniel

Wheeler; Edward Burroughs; Craig Ivan Corbin, Jr.; Derwin Jones; Gerald Thompson; Jacqueline Parker; Lamont Randall; John F. Davis; Eric Renard Forrester; Gary Jackson; Steven Justin Lewis; Darrius Johnson.

Tyrell Hardy; James Ricardo Smith; Dante Barnes; Gregory Higgins; Tyrone Johnson; Marvin Coston, Jr.; Frederick Samuel Taylor; Daryl Sylvester King; Ronald Davon Penn; Robert Lee Jackson; Damon Tisdale; Delvin Trusty; Terron Singleton; Julian Roary Sr.; Julian Roary Jr.; Ian Roary.

Adrian Kinard; Hudson Bhagwat; Albert Mullen; Jefferson Bolden; Daquan Mason; Clerow Myers III; Damon L. Ramsey; Cody Lacey; Charles Diggs; Marcus Downer; Jaswinder Singh; Michael Polston; Lorod C. Warner; William Hasenei; Robin Hasenei; Donte Dixon, Jr.; Gregory Tynes; Terrence Boy; Alvin Phillips.

Dommeir D. Deshields; Shakina Marie Perkins-Moody; Christopher Lowel Giles; Joseph Titus Abariko; Sandeep Bhulai; Jerome Smith; Steven Frank Krug; Kelly Lorraine Shortt-Hamilton; Daniel Ray Shortt, Sr.; David Lamont Nolan; Marquis Caldwell; Franklin Morris; Tyrik Adams; Melvin Heckstell; Asshams Pharoah Manley; Tyrone Anthony Creighton; Christopher Allen Garrett; Kevin Carey; Felix Nazas; J.R. Reid Franklin.

Paul Hilroy Passley; Brandon Smith; Angelo Yancy; Jajuan Mcrae; Charles S. Hall; Karlyn Serane Ramirez; Ryan Mims; Michael Thompson; Tryonte Worrell; Keith Gale; Kason Williams; Taurean Beard; Stonie Baker; Joshua W. L. Hodge, Sr.; Romel Simms; Kirk Butler; Michael Nichols; Thomas Meehan; Troy Midder; Darris Darnell Davis.

Darius Edward White; Tonyado Johnson; Pierre Epps-Hamilton; Dante Lamont Barnes; Michael John Compton; Antonio McNeil; Cecil Harris; Kevin Cannady; Rayshawn Jones; Javon Langston; Amir Billings; Keith Harrison McLeod; Tayvon Wilson; Jumanito Mosquita; Brian Johnson; Ernest Lott; Garland Johnson; Deyquawn Charvez Cooper; Tylque Proctor; Gordon Williams; James Gaylord; Harry James Smith, Jr.

It is time to end the violence. It is time to end the silence. It is time for this Congress to do something.

AMULYA GARIMELLA—2015 DISCOVERY EDUCATION 3M YOUNG SCIENTIST CHALLENGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding student scientist in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, Amulya Garimella. She is one of 10 finalists from across the Nation in the 2015 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge.

The challenge posed to student scientists across the country was to develop an invention that positively impacts the community. Amulya's proposal for a distraction-monitoring sys-

tem that alerts users to distraction by measuring EEG brainwaves earned her a place as a finalist, and her selection is well deserved.

Amulya worked directly with a 3M scientist during a summer mentorship program to transform her concept into an actual prototype. She will present her invention during the competition's final event, which will take place next week at the 3M Innovation Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

As an ardent supporter of STEM education in western Pennsylvania, I am very glad that one of our own students is representing us in this exciting competition.

I know Amulya has made her family and teachers proud, and Pennsylvania can be proud of her as well. She stands out as one of tomorrow's brightest leaders in science and technology. Her accomplishments serve as an inspiration for other young people.

It is students like Amulya that will help keep America a leader in scientific and technological innovation in a global economy.

I wish Amulya all the best in the rest of the competition and congratulate her again on everything she has already achieved.

WORLD-RENOWNED ROCK CLIMBER SASHA DIGIULIAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Sasha DiGiulian, a constituent and world-renowned rock climber. She is the first woman in the world and the first American to free-climb one of the most difficult routes up the north wall of the Eiger in the Swiss Alps.

I have known Sasha for a long time. She is a family friend and a schoolmate of my daughter. She began climbing at just 6 years old at Sportrock in Alexandria, Virginia, and has since become the top female climber in the world. She is small, slender, lithe, and incredibly strong. Sasha has the uncanny ability to defy gravity.

□ 1030

Sasha was the overall female world champion in 2011, is the reigning Pan-American champion since 2004, and is a three-time U.S. national champion. She is the only North American woman and the third woman in the world to climb the grade 9a, 5.14d, the hardest sport climbing grade ever achieved by a woman, doing so in Kentucky's Red River Gorge.

In August, at age 22, Sasha climbed the north wall of the Eiger, a massive 1-mile vertical rock face in the Swiss Alps. This is one of the most difficult and deadliest mountains in the world. Sixty-four people have died attempting the Eiger since 1935, earning it the Ger-

man nickname "Mordwand" or "Murder Wall."

It took Sasha and her climbing partner, Carlo Traversi, nearly a month to make the climb, facing constant rock-fall, rain, ice, and snowstorms throughout their ascent. Sasha became the first woman and the first American to climb the face via the Magic Mushroom route, one of the most difficult paths to the summit.

As if her accomplishments were not impressive enough already, Sasha is also a third-year student at Columbia University, where she is studying non-fiction writing and business. She has been published in National Geographic and several other outdoor publications, and is an athlete representative on the board of the International Federation of Sport Climbing.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sasha on her outstanding achievements. She is a shining example of how hard work, determination, and dedication can lead anyone to unprecedented heights. I wish Sasha all the best in her future ascents as she continues to make us proud. To paraphrase Maurice Herzog: There are other Eigers in the lives of women and men.

NEW LOCAL VA CLINIC IN PLANO, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our veterans are our protectors and defenders of our democracy. For their faithful service and sacrifice, I believe that, when our veterans return home, as a grateful Nation, we must provide these men and women with good health care.

Now, the Third District of Texas, which I represent, is a deeply patriotic community, and it is home to many veterans. To help these folks have better access to care, for several years I have been pushing for a local VA clinic to be established in our neck of the woods. Well, exactly one week ago we got our good news that a location was finally chosen.

Our new community-based outpatient clinic will be at 3804 West 15th Street in Plano, Texas. The new Collin County VA Clinic will make a huge difference for veterans because they will finally be able to receive high-quality care closer to home. It is a huge win for north Texas, and I couldn't be happier for our community and our hometown heroes.

It was the right thing to do, and our hard work is paying off. We are looking forward to the clinic finally opening its doors in the spring. I want to thank all the folks who have helped make the local VA clinic a reality.

I especially want to thank our veterans because they are the reason this

is happening. They deserve this clinic. They deserve our support. Rest assured, I will continue to be a champion for our veterans to see that we take good care of them. God bless our veterans. I salute them all.

WE SHOULD STOP TRYING TO RUN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the same people that got us into a very unnecessary war in Iraq are now clamoring for military action in Syria. These same people that have opposed us getting out of Afghanistan, even though our troops have been there more than three times longer than World War II, now demand action in Syria. These same people seem to want us to be at war in almost every country in the Middle East, even though things are worse now than when we started fighting there many years ago.

Surely we have learned a very costly lesson after spending trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars and losing thousands of American lives, that we cannot run the Middle East. President Eisenhower certainly knew the horrors of war. He brought us home from Korea and kept us out of all the conflicts and little wars during his time in office.

He did not have to prove that he was tough or that he was a great military leader. Too many of our leaders or would-be leaders seem to be falling all over themselves trying to show that they are tougher than anyone else.

With our national debt now totaling more than \$18 trillion, we simply cannot afford to intervene in every hotspot or conflict all around the world. This is not isolationism, this is common sense.

We should have trade and tourism with other countries and cultural and educational exchanges, but we should not be eager to go to war or send troops or drones or bombs in mainly to prove that we are great world leaders.

We have too many officials and candidates who want to be seen as new Winston Churchills. They try to turn every two-bit dictator into new Hitlers. President Eisenhower, in his most famous speech near the end of his Presidency, warned us against the military-industrial complex. Now some people say we have a security-industrial complex as well.

Most of the threats against us have been greatly exaggerated by people and companies which make big money from all of our foreign interventions.

If we would stop trying to run the Middle East, we could make our own country stronger from both a financial and security standpoint. While our intentions have been honorable, our foreign policies in the Middle East have created much hatred and resentment for us.

It was not an American bomb that went astray killing 131 people at the wedding in Yemen a few days ago, but all the reports said it was a U.S.-led coalition. So we are getting the blame.

The air attack on the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Afghanistan that killed 22 in what the Pentagon described as inadvertent was another public relations disaster for the U.S.

We need to stop trying to run the whole world. We have enough problems of our own right here at home, yet many of our leaders seem to feel more important if they are concentrating on foreign issues.

It is not the fault of the American people, but it is the fault of our liberal elitist foreign policy establishment that there is so much hatred for America in the Middle East.

This liberal elitist establishment wanted us to go to war in Syria 2 or 3 years ago, but the public outcry from ordinary American citizens was so strong against it that their plans had to be abandoned.

Now these same interventionists have figured out a way to accomplish their goal by resurrecting a Russia that no longer exists. Even the disgraced General Petraeus said at a hearing last week that Putin's foreign reserves are less than \$200 billion. With his economy at home in shambles, in part, due to low prices for oil and natural gas, he cannot afford to run Syria for long, even if it were possible to do so.

If Putin wants to pursue this folly, we certainly should not try to do the same, as if it were a competitive advantage to take over a failed state. It would be especially foolish to try to take over a messed-up place like the Syria of today. Businessmen compete to take over very profitable businesses. They generally don't fight over businesses that are going under.

While the neoconservatives hate to admit it, both Assad in Syria and the leadership in Iran are allies in the fight against ISIS. ISIS has strength for two main reasons: One, resentment for our interventions in the Middle East; and, two, billions of dollars' worth of U.S. equipment abandoned by security forces that we spent billions to train who cut and run at the first sign of danger. We should not send more young Americans to fight and die for people who are not willing to fight for themselves.

Dr. Daniel Larison, a contributing editor of the American Conservative magazine, wrote a few days ago that "the U.S. keeps stumbling ahead with a war in Syria that it doesn't need to be fighting. All of this comes ultimately from our political leaders' inability to recognize that there are many conflicts that the U.S. should avoid all together." Eisenhower recognized this. We desperately need a leader like him again.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, columnist Pat Buchanan summed it up best: "If America's elites continue to assert their right to intervene in the internal affairs of nations . . . then we are headed for endless conflict."

He said: "There was a time, not so long ago . . . when Americans accepted a diversity of regimes abroad. Indeed, a belief in nonintervention abroad was once the very cornerstone of American foreign policy."

HONORING CAPTAIN MATTHEW D. ROLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero: U.S. Air Force Captain Matthew D. Roland from Lexington, Kentucky. Captain Roland gave his life in service to his country when he was killed in Afghanistan on August 26, 2015.

Captain Roland graduated in 2006 from Lexington Catholic High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and ran cross country. He was recognized as a born leader, motivated and dedicated to all that he did, demonstrated by his achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in high school. He earned an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 2010.

Captain Roland was an officer in the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron. He deployed 3 times in his 5 years of service, serving in many locations around the world. The tragic loss of this brave, young man, a patriot to his country, is felt by all who knew him.

Along with a grateful Nation, I honor his legacy, embrace his family, and to Captain Roland say thank you for your ultimate sacrifice for American freedom.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We give You thanks that You have given to us the goals of justice and the

designs of freedom, and that these are our heritage as Americans.

Bless the Members of the people's House with the understanding that it is their work to develop the strategies and the plans for achieving those goals, and the trust to know that Your spirit is with them in their work.

Grace this assembly with the resolve to be faithful in its tasks, responsible in its actions, and fervent in its desire to serve a nation which, so many hope, will live beyond any current difficulties into an ever greater realization of both justice and freedom.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, took the lives of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and former Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty;

Whereas the events leading up to and in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi were rightfully and thoroughly examined to honor the memory of the victims and to improve the safety of the men and women serving our country overseas;

Whereas the independent Accountability Review Board convened by the U.S. State Department investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas five committees in the U.S. House of Representatives investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas four committees in the U.S. Senate investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas in each fiscal year, more than \$4 billion is appropriated to run the Congress, with untold amounts of this taxpayer money expended by nine Congressional committees to investigate the events in Benghazi, none of which produced any evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas after the exhaustive, thorough, and costly investigations by nine Congressional committees and the independent Accountability Review Board found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing, Republican leaders in the House insisted on using taxpayer dollars to fund a new, duplicative "Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi," (hereafter the Select Committee) to re-examine the matter;

Whereas this taxpayer-funded committee was given broad powers to pursue its investigations, including an unlimited, taxpayer-funded budget and granting the Chairman the legal authority to subpoena documents and compel testimony without any debate or a vote;

Whereas the ongoing Republican-led investigation into the events in Benghazi is now one of the longest running and least productive investigations in Congressional history;

Whereas a widely-quoted statement made on September 29th, 2015 by Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY, the Republican Leader of the House of Representatives, has called into question the integrity of the proceedings of the Select Committee and the House of Representatives as a whole;

Whereas this statement by Representative MCCARTHY demonstrates that the Select Committee established by Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was created to influence public opinion of a presidential candidate;

Whereas the Select Committee has been in existence for 17 months but has held only three hearings;

Whereas the Select Committee abandoned its plans to obtain public testimony from Defense Department and Intelligence Community leaders;

Whereas the Select Committee excluded Democratic Members from interviews of witnesses who provided exculpatory information related to its investigation;

Whereas information obtained by the Select Committee has been selectively and inaccurately leaked to influence the electoral standing of a candidate for public office;

Whereas such actions represent an abuse of power that demonstrates the partisan nature of the Select Committee;

Whereas the Select Committee has spent more than \$4.5 million in tax-

payer funds to date to advance its partisan efforts;

Whereas this amount does not include the costs of the independent Accountability Review Board; the hearings and reports by nine Congressional committees; the time, money, and resources consumed by Federal agencies to comply with Select Committee requests; or the opportunity cost of not spending this money elsewhere, such as improving security for our diplomatic officers abroad;

Whereas it is an outrage that more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds have been used by Republicans in the House of Representatives, not to run the government, but to interfere inappropriately with an election for president of the United States;

Whereas the use of taxpayer dollars by the House of Representatives for campaign purposes is a violation of the Rules of the House and Federal law;

Resolved, That: (1) this misuse of the official resources of the House of Representatives for political purposes undermines the integrity of the proceedings of the House and brings discredit to the House; (2) the integrity of the proceedings of the House can be fully restored only by the dissolution of the Select Committee; and (3) the Select Committee shall be dismantled and is hereby directed to make public within thirty days transcripts of all unclassified interviews and depositions it has conducted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from New York will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California's water-year starts each year on October 1. The 2016 California water-year started last Thursday, and we

come into that year with the six main reservoirs of the Central Valley Project at only 24 percent of their total capacity, or a combined 200,000 acre-feet below where they started the water-year in 2015, just 1 year ago.

That represents enough water supply, 200,000 acre-feet, to supply the city of Sacramento for 2 years. Half of the reservoirs don't even have 20 percent of their capacity. The San Luis Reservoir has less than 10 percent of its Federal water capacity.

El Nino, though welcomed if it happens, will not stop the drought in California because the State has not invested nearly enough in additional water storage for our State and its people. Congress and the California State government need to act now to open new water resources so we don't fallow more farms and thirst more cities, or we will risk doing irreparable harm to California's \$1 trillion economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take action now.

COUNTING THE COST OF GUNS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, when the American Public Health Association totaled the cost of gun violence in the United States for 1 year, it amounted to \$174 billion, about \$363 for every American. And if you consider just the loss of life, more Americans have been killed by guns since 1968 than have died in all the wars this country has ever fought.

Now, once more, in the wake of another mass shooting, too many leaders have responded with indifference. Just move on. But when 32 Americans are killed with a gun every single day, we cannot afford to stand still. We cannot just move on.

So far in this Congress, the House has held not one single hearing on gun violence, not one chance to evaluate ways to curb this epidemic of gun violence. Mr. Speaker, we cannot go on like this. Not one more American should die because Congress has failed to act.

HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on October 3, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau implemented a new rule to streamline disclosure requirements during the home buying process.

Helping consumers better understand their mortgage terms is a worthy goal. No one is arguing that. However, this rule makes considerable changes to the forms used by consumers when applying for a loan, and anyone with sense can see that will lead to unforeseen issues. That means American home

buyers will have less flexibility to buy and close on a home on their terms in the coming months.

Fortunately, this week the House will consider the Homebuyers Assistance Act, which creates a temporary safe harbor from enforcement of this new rule as long as a good faith effort was made to comply. The legislation will give the CFPB the necessary time to address implementation hurdles with stakeholders. It is the right move for America's housing recovery.

TREAT ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, every day more than 60 Americans die due to an overdose of prescription drugs. The death rate from heroin overdose, an epidemic fueled by addiction to opioid painkillers, quadrupled from 2002 to 2013.

A person suffering from opioid addiction needs access to medication therapy. In many cases, treatment limited to rapid detoxification and abstinence can lead to an overdose during the first month of treatment.

Effective medications to treat opioid addiction exist, but Federal regulations restrict the number of patients a physician can treat. This is a dangerous limitation, considering that 877,000 physicians can prescribe opioids, but only 29,000 can prescribe treatments for opioid addiction.

Tomorrow, the Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on the TREAT Act, legislation I introduced to increase the number of patients to whom a physician can prescribe treatments for opioid addiction. It would also expand the authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

I thank the committee for considering my bill and will work across the aisle to bring it to the floor.

In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to weigh in with the Department of Health and Human Services to address this problem as well.

PATTI FLOOD—ANGELS IN ADOPTION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patti Flood, a Centre County resident who is being recognized tonight as an Angel in Adoption. Angels in Adoption is a program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and honors those who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of families.

Patti is the executive director of Family Intervention Crisis Services,

which helps children in Centre County, Pennsylvania, and the surrounding area connect with foster homes and adoption, along with reuniting their biological parents whenever possible.

Mr. Speaker, Patti Flood has impacted the lives of countless children. Through her work, she has pushed for the development of new programs in Centre County dedicated to helping children find permanent homes as quickly as possible. In addition to her professional role, Patti serves as a trainer for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program, passing on the knowledge gained over her nearly 30-year career.

Helping children in need of adoption is a service which demonstrates real selflessness and a strong dedication to community. I thank Patti Flood for her service to our area's children.

□ 1215

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE IS IN CHAOS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives, the people's House, is in chaos. Last week, just hours before a government shutdown, we only managed to pass a 6-week CR to keep the government open. I voted for this bill because I refuse to shut down government and to do it over partisan politics because our Nation deserves better.

It is time for the GOP dysfunction to end. If we work together, Mr. Speaker, today with bipartisan support, we could reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, restore voting rights lost in the wake of the Shelby v. Holder decision, and fund the highway trust fund in a sustained way.

But none of this seems to be happening because of Republican chaos and the inability to govern effectively. Republicans in Congress need to join Democrats and just get back to the issues that hardworking American families care about: jobs, voting rights, and the economy.

WE SHOULD PASS THE EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the Constitution. I rise today to stand for the Fourth Amendment and the right against unreasonable searches and seizures without probable cause.

The Email Privacy Act, the House's most cosponsored bill to not have a vote, this week got its 300th cosponsor. My friend from New York, LEE ZELDIN, became the latest Member of Congress to join this bipartisan legislation.

With a majority of Republicans and a majority of Democrats now supporting this bill, this is a bill whose time has come. Americans who use digital communication in texts, emails, and social media are being governed by a 1986 law, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which was written long before the Internet, as we understand it today, existed.

Americans overwhelmingly agree that our email should have the same Fourth Amendment protections as our paper documents. We should require a warrant to read the content of Americans' emails, and we should pass the Email Privacy Act, H.R. 699.

With 300 cosponsors and growing, it is time to act. It is time to show the American people that Congress will protect them and defend the Constitution.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO AVOID A DEFAULT

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of President Obama's announcement on Friday that he will not negotiate with the Republican Congress over raising the debt limit.

This is the right decision because there is nothing to negotiate. There is only one simple path forward: to pass a clean debt limit extension that protects our Nation's full faith and credit.

Unfortunately, last week the majority leader and the presumptive next Speaker of the House went on national television and committed to fight to the end to defund the ACA and the President's immigration executive actions while trying to stop the debt limit increase. I fear—as we all should—what this might mean.

Are he and the House Republicans going to threaten to shut down the government to pursue this extreme agenda? Are they going to hold our Nation's full faith and credit hostage?

Mr. Speaker, for 5 years now, House Republicans have hurtled the Congress and the country from one manufactured crisis to another. This must stop and must stop now. With only 30 days left before we hit the debt limit, the Republican Congress should act immediately to take the prospect of a catastrophic default off the table.

OUR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM IS BROKEN

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for the more than 11 million Americans who suffer from severe mental health illness.

As we recognize Mental Illness Awareness Week, we have the opportunity to discuss this complex issue and the impact it has on both families and society. We must continue to identify ways we can help those who are suffering.

Our mental health system is broken. Many are going without treatment, and families often struggle to find appropriate care for their loved ones. As vice chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I know this is an issue especially important to our veterans, our true heroes.

My COVER Act, which was approved by the House earlier this year, helps provide alternative therapies for our veterans dealing with mental health issues.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce's Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, actually sponsored by Representative MURPHY from Pennsylvania, further works to address the shortage of treatment options, lack of access to mental health services, and the lack of communication within the system.

We must continue our efforts to improve mental health care and remove the stigma associated with mental illness.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD HELPS THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, early detection of breast cancer can be the difference between a life saved and a life lost, but too often women are forced to forgo critical screenings because of lack of access to affordable preventative care. By opening their doors to so many medically underserved communities, Planned Parenthood is working to address those gaps.

As this is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we should be applauding the doctors and nurses who work tirelessly to detect breast cancer at its earliest stages. We should be thanking them for providing 500,000 breast exams every single year, helping to identify cancer and other serious illness in nearly 90,000 women.

We should be replicating their efforts to educate women on the warning signs and symptoms of breast cancer. But, instead, my Republican colleagues are focused on creating a politically motivated select committee with the ultimate goal of defunding the organization.

It is time to move past these partisan attacks and focus on working together to expand the access to preventative care that will help treat breast cancer.

OCTOBER IS AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as American Pharmacists Month. This month it is important to recognize those who wake up every morning to ensure that Americans have access to important and possible lifesaving medications.

I know the passion and dedication of a pharmacist because I am one. Pharmacists work every day to ensure that patients' prescription drugs are accurate, safe, and effective. We provide education to customers on possible treatments, and we are trusted and knowledgeable healthcare providers in our communities. In fact, pharmacists are in the top three most trusted professions by Americans, and I am proud to be one.

As pharmacists, we all have the common goal to assist in providing quality and affordable health care. We ensure that pain is managed, headaches are relieved, and hearts stay healthy.

This month I would like to acknowledge all pharmacists who continue to provide their service in support to Americans across the country. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

SUPPORT THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the wind energy industry, the workers that it employs, and the clean energy it produces.

My home State of Iowa leads the Nation in the amount of electricity consumers get from wind, with around 30 percent of our electric power coming from wind. It also supports some 80,000 jobs across the country and over 6,000 in Iowa alone.

My district is a manufacturing powerhouse, with several major manufacturing facilities, including Siemens, TPI Composites and Trinity Structural Towers. I was happy today to be able to meet with representatives from these companies to discuss the need for Federal policy stability, specifically an extension of the production tax credit.

It is my hope that this body will take up a tax extenders bill soon which includes an extension of the renewable energy production tax credit. Please join me in supporting these American manufacturing companies and all the hard-working Americans that they employ.

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this October marks the 10th annual National Bullying Prevention Month, and with it comes an opportunity to bring visibility to an issue that negatively impacts thousands of students in our schools and communities every day.

Instead of being a safe haven for learning and growth, some classrooms can become places of torment, of despair, of exclusion, for those suffering the emotional and physical repercussions of bullying. With the advances of the Internet and social media, bullies have found a medium to further perpetuate their abusive ways.

As a member of the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, I am reaching across the aisle and working with my colleagues to shed light on the realities of bullying and the dire consequences that it can have both online and offline.

While October may be designated as National Bullying Prevention Month, our work, Mr. Speaker, must not stop when the calendar turns. Together we can establish bullying-free schools so that our children can grow to be successful and thriving members of our society.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC LEADERS FROM OMAHA

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to recognize two true Hispanic leaders in my home district of Omaha, Nebraska.

Two remarkable women, Linda Garcia Perez and Magdalena Garcia, have been instrumental in the preservation and advancement of the Latino arts and culture in our area.

Linda Garcia Perez has spent 40 years creating, teaching, and exhibiting Mexican/Latino traditions and customs. She incorporates Mexican folk art with basic art instruction to teach English and Spanish-speaking children and adults.

She has broadened my community's knowledge and understanding of the Hispanic heritage, as has Magdalena Garcia, the founder and executive director of Omaha's El Museo Latino. The museum is a resource center for Latino studies throughout the Midwest.

Of special note, however, are the museum's educational programs, which enlighten students from kindergarten through college as well as adults.

The contributions of Linda Garcia Perez and Magdalena Garcia have es-

tablished a robust environment for the Latino arts and culture in Omaha. It is with great honor that I recognize these two outstanding women.

THE TIME FOR SILENCE IS OVER

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Members of this House gathered once again for a moment of silence. This time it was for the nine Americans killed last week in the mass shooting in Roseburg, Oregon.

Yet, our brief moment of silence pales in comparison to the never-ending silence that the families who lost loved ones are to endure today and every day from now on. What they wouldn't give to hear the voices of their loved ones again. What they wouldn't give to hear their laughter once more.

My friends, a moment of silence that lasts 30 seconds is, quite literally, the least that we can do. It is not enough. I know I can't speak for the House, but I can speak for myself. I will do everything I can—everything I can—to prevent more of our loved ones from being silenced by gun violence.

If we want to prevent more gun violence moments of silence on this House floor, then we must speak out. We must call out the gun industry and the groups that represent it on Capitol Hill for blocking every meaningful attempt to stop this gun violence. The time for silence, Mr. Speaker, is over.

HONORING HARVEY B. GANTT

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Harvey B. Gantt. Mr. Gantt has dedicated his life to being an advocate and fearless voice for the voiceless. When he was a teenager during the civil rights movement, he participated in sit-ins.

Even in the face of adversity, Mr. Gantt persevered. In 1961, he sued to enter then racially segregated Clemson University. He won, and he went on to become Clemson University's first African American student graduating with honors.

In later years, he took on leadership roles, serving for 9 years on the Charlotte City Council. In 1983, Harvey Gantt made history as the first African American mayor of Charlotte, serving two terms. During his terms, he focused on preserving and sustaining Charlotte's neighborhoods and the City Center.

Throughout his life, he has used his background as an architect to evoke positive change in urban communities.

In the coming days, Mr. Gantt will be honored with the North Carolina Hu-

manities Council's highest award, the John Tyler Caldwell award, for his outstanding lifelong achievements.

Mr. Gantt never ran away from challenges. He always put his community and its people first. For that, I thank him. I congratulate him on receiving this award.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. SYBIL MOBLEY

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. Sybil Mobley, the founding dean of Florida A&M University's School of Business and Industry. Dr. Mobley first worked at Florida A&M as a secretary in 1945. She then went on to study at the Wharton School of Finance and earned her doctorate from the University of Illinois.

After graduating, Dr. Mobley returned to Florida A&M, and in 1974, she became the founding dean of the university's School of Business and Industry. She held that position for 29 years, during which time she worked tirelessly to build the business school into a nationally recognized institution. Her rise from working as a secretary to sitting on the boards of Fortune 500 companies and leading a business school serves as an inspiration to all of us.

Today, we mourn Dr. Mobley's passing and celebrate her life. She was a treasure to FAMU, Tallahassee, to the State of Florida, and our Nation.

CYBERSECURITY THREATS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, American companies are facing a growing threat from cybersecurity attacks that aim to disrupt business, access personal information, and steal intellectual property. With October being National Cyber Security Awareness Month, we need to focus on ensuring our systems are safe, both in the private and public sectors.

At a congressional hearing not long ago, the head of the FBI said there are two types of companies: those that have been hacked and those that do not know they have been hacked. We have seen numerous companies in the past few years that have been the victims of massive cyber attacks. The Federal Government cyber breach recently at the Office of Personnel Management has also put the personal information of millions of Americans at risk.

The House has taken action by passing the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act that protects

critical information from hackers and ensures more cooperation between the businesses and the government to thwart cyber attacks.

Mr. Speaker, we know the vulnerability of our information systems. We need a cybersecurity framework that ensures Americans' information is protected.

AIRPORT SECURITY ACT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of commonsense legislation. Common sense means the use of good judgment in making decisions. Common sense is passing legislation that will keep our airports safe.

It is frightening that in 2015 it is legal in America to openly carry a fully loaded semiautomatic weapon with a high-capacity magazine strapped to your chest and parade through your local TSA-protected airport. This is precisely what happened at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, the world's busiest airport.

In June, I introduced the Airport Security Act of 2015, which would make it illegal to carry loaded guns onto airport property—openly or concealed—unless properly packed for shipment, and with an exception provided to law enforcement.

The Homeland Security Committee has been proactive in passing legislation that preserves transportation safety in this session. I urge that committee to review my legislation to keep our airports safe, and vote to move this legislation to the floor. It is just common sense.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 7, 2015 at 11:05 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 34.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3116.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con Res. 22.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3192, HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 462 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 462

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3192) to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from October 12, 2015, through October 19, 2015—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act. H. Res. 462 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 3192. The resolution provides 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The resolution also provides a motion to recommit for the bill. In addition, the rule provides the normal re-

cess authorities to allow the chair to manage pro forma sessions during next week's district work period.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution and the underlying legislation.

For more than 30 years, Federal law has required lenders to provide two different disclosure forms to consumers applying for a mortgage. The law also has generally required two different forms at or shortly before the closing on the loan. Two different Federal agencies developed these forms separately under two different statutes: the Truth in Lending Act, or TILA, and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, or RESPA.

The Truth in Lending Act provides meaningful disclosure of credit terms to enable consumers to compare credit terms available in the marketplace more readily and avoid the uninformed use of credit.

The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 exists to ensure that consumers are provided with greater and more timely information on the nature and costs of their residential real estate settlement process and are protected from unnecessarily high settlement charges caused by certain abusive practices that Congress found and made sure that we got rid of.

On November 20, 2013, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau finalized the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure rule, or TRID, which combined these two forms that had been separated for 30 years so that consumers can receive uniform information on one form on both their TILA and RESPA information. The new disclosures are generally referred to as the "combined" or "integrated" disclosures.

The Integrated Disclosure rule requires loan originators who receive an application to provide consumers a loan estimate form that combines the initial TILA disclosure and the Good Faith Estimate.

While intended to streamline the current duplicative disclosure regime under TILA and RESPA, the Integrated Disclosure rule poses significant implementation and compliance challenges. It makes significant changes to the origination, processing, and closing of mortgage loans; requires business decisions at all stages of the transaction; and includes difficult to understand timing and delivery requirements and other practical implementation issues that go beyond the form and content requirements.

Mr. Speaker, the rule we are discussing today is very substantial. In fact, it is in front of me. It has 1,888 pages of new requirements. This is a massive regulatory change, and there needs to be time to adjust to its implementation. I think we all agree on that. I heard yesterday, in the Rules Committee, the ranking member of the

Financial Services Committee agree that there does need to be time to adjust to the implementation.

In fact, just this last week, I was in Chillicothe, Ohio, visiting the offices of a real estate company that had a title agency next door, a closing agency, and they were very concerned about the potential harm to home buyers that might see their closings delayed or, in fact, the whole process just seized up if we don't figure out how to implement this regulation in a thoughtful way and allow time for transition.

As I said, everyone agrees that less paperwork and more streamlined processes are positive steps for Congress and the regulators to encourage. However, given the complexity of the Integrated Disclosure rule, I believe Congress must also give those affected by this rule time to implement the changes in a thoughtful way.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I, along with the gentleman from Massachusetts and over 250 of our colleagues in the House, signed a letter in May asking the Director of the CFPB, Richard Cordray, to implement a "hold harmless" period for parties affected by the rule as they attempt to comply with the new regulations. I will submit a copy of that letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2015.

Hon. RICHARD CORDRAY,
Director,

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

DEAR DIRECTOR CORDRAY: The undersigned Members of Congress acknowledge that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB or Bureau) has done significant work on the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure (TR-ID) regulation. Nevertheless, this complicated and extensive rule is likely to cause challenges during implementation, which is currently scheduled for August 1, 2015, that could negatively impact consumers. As you know, the housing market is highly seasonal, with August, September, and October consistently being some of the busiest months of the year for home sales and settlements. By contrast, January and February are consistently the slowest months of the year for real estate activity. We therefore encourage the Bureau to announce and implement a "grace period" for those seeking to comply in good faith from August 1st through the end of 2015.

Even with significant advance notice, understanding how to implement and comply with this regulation will only become clear when the industry gains experience using these new forms and processes in real-life situations. As the TRID regulation does not provide lenders an opportunity to start using the new disclosure form prior to the August 1st implementation date, market participants will not be able to test their systems and procedures ahead of time, which increases the risk of unanticipated disruptions on August 1st. That is why we believe that a grace period for those seeking to comply in good faith from August 1st through the end of 2015 would be particularly useful in these circumstances. During this time, industry can provide data to the CFPB on issues that arise so that the Bureau and industry can work together to remove impediments to the effectiveness of the rule.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If we may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ralph Abraham; Alma Adams; Robert Aderholt; Pete Aguilar; Rick Allen; Mark Amodei; Lou Barletta; Andy Barr; Joe Barton; Joyce Beatty; Dan Benishek; Donald S. Beyer; Gus Bilirakis; Sanford Bishop; Mike Bishop; Marsha Blackburn; Madeleine Bordallo; Charles Boustany; Brendan Boyle; Kevin Brady.

Dave Brat; Jim Bridenstine; Mo Brooks; Susan Brooks; Julia Brownley; G. K. Butterfield; Bradley Byrne; Lois Capps; Michael Capuano; Tony Cardenas; John Carney; Earl L. "Buddy" Carter; Kathy Castor; Steve Chabot; David Cicilline; Katherine Clark; Emanuel Cleaver; Mike Coffman; Tom Cole; Chris Collins.

Doug Collins; Barbara Comstock; Gerald E. Connolly; John Conyers; Paul Cook; Jim Costa; Ryan Costello; Joe Courtney; Kevin Cramer; Henry Cuellar; John Culberson; Diana DeGette; John Delaney; Mark DeSaulnier; Scott DesJarlais; Ted Deutch; Debbie Dingell; Bob Dold; Sean Duffy; Jeff Duncan.

Keith Ellison; Renee Ellmers; Tom Emmer; Eliot Engel; Anna Eshoo; Elizabeth H. Esty; Stephen Fincher; Michael Fitzpatrick; Chuck Fleischmann; John Fleming, M.D.; Randy Forbes; Jeff Fortenberry; Bill Foster; Virginia Foxx; Trent Franks; Rodney Frelinghuysen; John Garamendi; Scott Garrett; Bob Gibbs; Chris Gibson.

Bob Goodlatte; Trey Gowdy; Gwen Graham; Kay Granger; Garret Graves; Tom Graves; Al Green; Morgan Griffith; Glenn Grothman; Frank Guinta; Brett Guthrie; Richard Hanna; Gregg Harper; Alcee Hastings; Denny Heck; Jaime Herrera Beutler; Jody Hice; Brian Higgins; French Hill; Jim Nimes.

Ruben Hinojosa; George Holding; Mike Honda; Richard Hudson; Tim Huelskamp; Jared Huffman; Bill Huizenga; Randy Hultgren; Robert Hurt; Steve Israel; Evan Jenkins; Lynn Jenkins; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Bill Johnson; David Jolly; Walter Jones; John Katko; William R. Keating; Mike Kelly; Joe Kennedy.

Dan Kildee; Derek Kilmer; Ron Kind; Peter King; Steve King; Adam Kinzinger; John Kline; Ann McLane Kuster; Raul Labrador; Doug LaMalfa; Leonard Lance; Rick Larsen; John B. Larson; Robert Latta; John Lewis; Ted Lieu; Dan Lipinski; Frank A. LoBiondo; Dave Loebsack; Zoe Lofgren.

Mia Love; Frank Lucas; Ben Ray Lujan; Michelle Lujan Grisham; Cynthia Lummis; Stephen Lynch; Sean Patrick Maloney; Carolyn Maloney; Kenny Marchant; Tom Marino; Thomas Massie; Betty McCollum; James P. McGovern; Patrick McHenry; David McKinley; Mark Meadows; Patrick Meehan; Luke Messer; John Mica; Jeff Miller.

Gwen Moore; Mick Mulvaney; Patrick Murphy; Grace Napolitano; Dan Newhouse; Kristi Noem; Richard Nolan; Rich Nugent; Pete Olson; Bill Pascrell; Erik Paulsen; Donald M. Payne, Jr.; Steve Pearce; Ed Perlmutter; Chellie Pingree; Robert Pittenger; Mark Pocan; Ted Poe; Bruce Poliquin; Mike Pompeo.

Bill Posey; David Price; Tom Price, M.D.; Charles Rangel; Tom Reed; Dave Reichert; Jim Renacci; Reid Ribble; Kathleen Rice; Tom Rice; Cedric Richmond; Scott Rigell; Martha Roby; Mike Rogers; Harold Rogers; Todd Rokita; Peter Roskam; Dennis Ross; Keith Rothfus; David Rouzer.

Ed Royce; Bobby Rush; Steve Russell; Tim Ryan; Matt Salmon; David Schweikert;

David Scott; Bobby Scott; Jim Sensenbrenner; Pete Sessions; Terri Sewell; Brad Sherman; Bill Shuster; Mike Simpson; Kyrsten Sinema; Albio Sires; Louise Slaughter; Jason Smith; Adrian Smith; Chris Smith.

Jackie Speier; Steve Stivers; Marlin Stutzman; Mark Takano; Mike Thompson; Glenn "GT" Thompson; Pat Tiberi; Dina Titus; Paul Tonko; David Trott; Michael Turner; Fred Upton; Chris Van Hollen; Juan Vargas; Filemon Vela; Ann Wagner; Tim Walberg; Mark Walker.

Jackie Walorski; Maxine Waters; Randy Weber; Daniel Webster; Peter Welch; Brad Wenstrup; Bruce Westerman; Lynn Westmoreland; Ed Whitfield; Roger Williams; Joe Wilson; Robert J. Wittman; Rob Woodall; John Yarmuth; David Young; Todd Young.

Mr. STIVERS. Yet here we are today, just a couple of months later, and some of my friends on the other side of the aisle are going to argue that we shouldn't institute that very same hold harmless period by passing this bill. As I said, I think they agree with it. There may be other things in the bill that we can talk about that they have a problem with, but we all need to pass this bill, because we have to have a hold harmless period to make sure that people that want to close and buy a house and people that want to provide them that service can do so as we implement this new regulation.

Almost half the Democrats on the Financial Services panel agree that this hold harmless provision should be in place. The vote on the Financial Services Committee was 45-13.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, the Financial Services Committee held a hearing entitled, "The Semi-Annual Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection," at which Director Cordray testified and fielded several questions about these new rules. When asked by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) whether he would implement a grace period that would allow folks to find their way through this—Realtors and title agents—so they could count on not being the focus of enforcement, Director Cordray responded:

"Look, I don't think it is appropriate for me to say I won't enforce the law when my job is to enforce the law, but I think what I have said says to them that we are going to be diagnostic and corrective, not punitive, in that early period. I think if they read between the lines, they will understand that we are trying to allow them the latitude that they have asked for. And I think people should be able to take 'yes' for an answer."

The problem is that is not "yes" for an answer, it is unclear, and that is why this bill is so important—because it is clear. This will make sure that we provide an implementation period that allows a hold harmless period for industry participants.

Just 2 days later, in fact, in a letter sent by some industry groups asking for this same request of a hold harmless period, Director Cordray refused to

say he would institute a hold harmless period. So even though what he said to the committee sounded like he is going to try to do it, he said to them that he would not be able to institute a hold harmless period.

I think there are clearly some inconsistencies there that mean that we need to pass this bill. This bill will ensure we hold harmless almost everybody who does this instead of doing it with a wink and a nod.

□ 1245

Sixty percent of the House, I believe, is supportive, and we will see. Obviously, we have a vote to take on this. But we signed a letter that asked for this. So I believe that you will see a pretty good bipartisan vote today.

This massive regulatory undertaking needs to be implemented in a thoughtful way. That is all this two-page bill does, is create a safe harbor for enforcement until February 1 of 2016.

It also includes a good faith exception to ensure that, if somebody acts in good faith, they also will not be subject to legal action, just like they won't be subject to enforcement action.

And let me be clear. That only applies to somebody that acts in good faith. The courts have dealt with good faith exceptions on many other issues. It is clear that the courts understand what good faith is, and that will be litigated case by case, whether somebody was acting in good faith.

If they were acting in good faith, there won't be any legal action. If they weren't acting in good faith, there will still be the right of private action.

You will hear that from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that this somehow relieves the right of private action. It does not. It just ensures that there is a good faith exception.

If somebody was just trying to do everything right, but missed a comma or a period or accidentally did something in trying to comply, then they will have that defense in court and be able to ask the case to be withdrawn.

This hold harmless provision ensures that borrowers and lenders and realty agents and others won't be forced to delay closings as they figure out how to deal with almost a 1,900-page rule.

I look forward to debating this bill with my colleagues on the other side.

I urge support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very, very strong opposition to this closed rule which provides for the consideration of H.R. 3192, the so-called Homebuyers Assistance Act.

Today's rule marks the 42nd closed rule we have considered during the 114th Congress, the 42nd. More than half of all the rules we have reported out of the Rules Committee have been closed, completely closed, and a majority of the bills the Rules Committee has sent to the floor have drawn a veto threat. This bill is no exception.

I will insert into the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy saying: "If the President were presented with H.R. 3192, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto this bill."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, October 6, 2015.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 3192—HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

(Rep. Hill, R-AR, and one cosponsor)

Americans deserve clear and easy to understand disclosures of the cost of buying and financing a home, which is why the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act directed the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to streamline conflicting disclosures that were required under the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. The Know Before You Owe regulation issued by the CFPB almost two years ago fulfills this mandate by requiring mortgage lenders and settlement agents to provide homebuyers with simpler forms that explain the true cost of buying their home at least three days before closing. This summer, the CFPB extended the effective date for these requirements by two months, to last Saturday, October 3, 2015, to provide for a smooth transition and avoid unnecessary disruptions to busy families seeking to close on a new home at the beginning of the school year.

H.R. 3192 would revise the effective date for the Know Before You Owe rule to February 1, 2016, and would shield lenders from liability for violations for loans originated before February 1 so long as lenders made a good faith effort to comply.

The CFPB has already clearly stated that initial examinations will evaluate good faith efforts by lenders. The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3192, as it would unnecessarily delay implementation of important consumer protections designed to eradicate opaque lending practices that contribute to risky mortgages, hurt homeowners by removing the private right of action for violations, and undercut the Nation's financial stability.

If the President were presented with H.R. 3192, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Mr. McGOVERN. When the Republicans took the majority in 2011, Speaker BOEHNER and the entire Republican leadership promised the Democrats a right to "a robust debate in open process." He promised us the opportunity to "make our case, offer alternatives, and be heard."

Instead, the Speaker has presided over the most closed Congress in the history of the United States of America, and Democratic alternatives are often prevented from coming to the floor.

By the way, not only are Democratic alternatives prevented from coming to

the floor, Republicans can't even bring amendments to this bill because it is totally closed.

Now, I know my friends on the other side of the aisle are meeting as a conference tomorrow to choose a nominee to become the next Speaker and have other leadership battles ahead.

I hope that they are able to have an honest discussion about the ability to work through regular order and an open process that allows the House of Representatives to work its will and for both parties to be heard.

Now, maybe my friend from Ohio can help me understand why an amendment offered by the ranking member of the committee of jurisdiction, Ms. WATERS, an amendment that would protect consumers, was not made in order.

I mean, we would have preferred an open rule. We would have preferred that many amendments would be made in order. But the ranking member of the committee of jurisdiction had an amendment that is germane to this bill, and it wasn't made in order.

I don't quite understand it. One amendment, just one. Maybe it was an oversight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we amend this rule and that the Waters amendment be allowed so that we can debate it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Ohio yield for the unanimous consent request?

Mr. STIVERS. I do not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. McGOVERN. Just one amendment. That is it. Just one. I am not asking for two. I am just asking for one.

Mr. STIVERS. Will the gentleman yield me time to respond to his question?

Mr. McGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. STIVERS. I thank the gentleman.

I happen to serve on the Financial Services Committee with the ranking member, and that idea was not offered in the committee. So it was a new idea.

I will tell you that it sort of conflicts with the good faith exception because what her amendment said was that nothing would get in the way of somebody's private right of action.

The whole point of the good faith exception in the bill is to ensure that judicial proceedings happen the same way as administrative proceedings.

Mr. McGOVERN. Reclaiming my time, so the excuse is that this was not made in order because the ranking member did not offer this in committee.

Who cares? We have a debate on the House floor. This is supposed to be a deliberative body. We are supposed to be able to debate these things.

The gentleman did not say it was not germane. The gentleman did not say it needed special waivers to be made in order.

He just said: Hey, she didn't bring it up in the full committee. So we decided in the Rules Committee to say no, you don't have the right to be able to offer this and debate it.

Please. I mean, come on. This place is becoming a place where serious issues are not even allowed to have a debate. I am not even asking you to vote for it. I am just saying to allow there to be some debate.

When I travel to my district, Mr. Speaker, I hear from constituents who are fed up with this Congress. They are fed up with the process. They always want to know: Why can't you at least debate important issues that are relevant to our lives?

It is hard to explain that the Republicans just want to shut everything out, and this bill is no exception.

I talk to people who think this place is no longer a serious legislative body, and they have a point because we don't really debate serious things anymore.

We have things like this Benghazi commission that has cost the taxpayers millions of dollars, that the Republican majority leader admitted, on a very conservative TV station, that it was nothing but a political ploy to try to get Hillary Clinton's poll numbers down.

I guess it didn't come as any surprise to me. It came as a surprise that he was so candid in his admission of what this was all about.

There is time to debate a special select committee to yet do another investigation of Planned Parenthood. We don't even know how much that is going to cost because, when it was brought before the Rules Committee last night, there was no amount of money that was provided or told they would need.

So that will be millions and millions of more dollars that the taxpayers will have to come up with in order to fund another political witch hunt.

There is time for these political maneuvers, but there is no time for serious debate on serious issues? It is just wrong.

We are not focusing on priorities that matter to people. My constituents want to know what we are doing to make college more affordable. Are we doing anything to help create jobs, to create economic opportunity?

But we are not working on these priorities. We have become kind of an arm of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, where everything is politically charged, everything has to be a wedge issue.

Here we are today bringing to the floor legislation that is going nowhere, bills that will likely not be taken up by the Senate and, as I mentioned, will be vetoed by the President of the United States. So this is business as usual.

The Dodd-Frank financial reform law required the CFPB to combine the disclosure forms required under the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act into a single unified form.

On October 3 of this year, the final TILA-RESPA rule took effect, giving consumers a clearer understanding of the costs of buying and financing a home.

The underlying bill establishes a hold harmless period through February 1, 2016, where lenders would not be liable for violations of the rule requirements so long as they made a good faith effort to comply.

But the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, comprised of the prudential regulators, has already agreed to restrained supervisory authority during the initial implementation of the rule, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has implemented a restrained enforcement period.

So what are we doing here, Mr. Speaker?

Throughout this process, CFPB has demonstrated its desire to get this rule right. They have worked with us. They have responded to the letters that we have signed. They have listened. They do what we want them to do.

The Bureau has engaged with industry to ensure smooth implementation of the rule and has been responsive to the concerns addressed by stakeholders and all of us.

In fact, last May, as the gentleman pointed out, 250 Members of Congress joined together on a bipartisan basis to urge the CFPB to announce and implement a grace period for those seeking to comply in good faith from August 1 to the end of 2015.

If the regulators have promised to carefully consider an entity's good faith efforts to comply with the new rule while monitoring for compliance, why do we need a legislative fix? Why do we need to micromanage the CFPB?

But, to be honest with you, this bill—and this is where the problem is—it goes beyond more than redundancy. If my colleagues have nothing better to do but pass things that are basically redundant, I can go along with that. But this goes beyond redundancy.

Unfortunately, this bill goes beyond simply providing good faith actors a grace period. This bill also strips borrowers of the opportunity to seek legal recourse under the Truth in Lending Act during this period. It would shift to the consumer the burden of proving a lender acted in bad faith and prevent consumers from even having the opportunity to have their day in court.

So let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. We support a grace period for lenders acting in good faith. And if that is what this was all about, you could have brought this up under suspension and it would have just sailed through.

Director Cordray of the CFPB also supports a grace period and has agreed to one. The regulators have responded to requests from industry and have outlined their policy for examination and supervision during this transition period.

But I am very concerned with the road that we are traveling down. Home buyers should have access to the courts if a lender acts in bad faith. I can't understand why my friends on the other side of the aisle are so intent on taking this critical consumer protection away.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, my friend, the ranking member of the committee of jurisdiction, MAXINE WATERS, offered an amendment last night in the Rules Committee to improve this bill, to restore the private right of action under the Truth in Lending Act that is suspended by H.R. 3192.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't think that her amendment has merit, they could debate that and they could vote against it. Instead, what they have done is brought a rule to the floor that prohibits Ranking Member WATERS from even offering that amendment.

It is germane. It is relevant. It is a serious concern for those of us who care about consumers. But we don't have that opportunity. We don't have that opportunity. Totally closed rules. Totally closed process.

So the Republicans have prevented that important amendment from reaching the floor, and we are not going to have an opportunity to debate that today.

So I would urge my colleagues to join me in voting "no" on this rule and "no" on the underlying legislation.

I would especially make an appeal to some of my Republican friends on the basis of process. I know a lot of my Republican friends are getting sick and tired of this kind of heavy-handed approach to important bills when the Rules Committee just shuts everybody out. If you want that to stop, then we need more votes with us opposing these closed rules.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To the gentleman from Massachusetts' remarks, Mr. Speaker, I agree with him that we should have more time to debate serious issues. In fact, this bill should have been on the suspension calendar, but the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee refused to sign off on putting it on the suspension calendar. If it would have been on the suspension calendar, we would have had more time to discuss and debate other issues.

I would like to read from the bill, since we deemed the bill read, and I will start in the middle of line 9.

"Regulations issued under such sections may not be enforced against any

person until February 1, 2016, and no suit may be filed against any person for a violation of such requirements occurring before such a date, so long"—this is the key part—"so long as such person has made a good faith effort to comply with the requirements."

So the arguments that the gentleman from Massachusetts just made about somebody deeming in bad faith, they would not be covered by that part of the bill. It is black and white. It is really clear.

And I am curious if the gentleman from Massachusetts would enter into a colloquy with me.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Massachusetts to enter into a colloquy with me because I have a question.

If the CFPB did indeed institute a grace period for individuals, yet those same individuals chose to file suit without the language on a grace period for lawsuits with good faith compliance, would there indeed be a grace period at all?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STIVERS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Yes.

Mr. STIVERS. Reclaiming my time, no, there would not, because if they can file lawsuits that the law—we haven't changed the law. In fact, all we have added is a good faith exception that allows somebody to defend themselves and get a lawsuit dropped. So there is nothing in this bill that would protect anybody that acts in bad faith.

Mr. MCGOVERN. This bill shifts to the consumer the burden of proving a creditor acted in bad faith, and that puts more of the burden on the consumer. If that is what the gentleman wants to do, fine. We have a disagreement. We want the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) to be able to have her amendment so we can debate that issue.

Mr. STIVERS. I would disagree with you. It does not shift the burden. The individual has to have the burden of proof that they acted in good faith. It does not say anything about the consumer showing somebody acting in bad faith. The individuals defending themselves have to prove to the court that they acted in good faith. There is no shift of the burden here.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The burden is on the consumer here.

If we have a disagreement here, let's have an amendment; let's have that debate, and let's vote on it. That is all I am asking.

We disagree. I think I am right, and I think you are wrong, but let's have that debate.

Mr. STIVERS. The problem with the amendment was it would have conflicted with that good faith language.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Then vote against it.

Mr. STIVERS. And somebody could have pointed to that section and said: See, nothing can take away my right to sue. This good faith exception takes away my right to sue. Even though they acted in good faith, that denies me a right. So it was conflicting language.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I disagree with your analysis, but we should have a debate on the amendment.

What is wrong with bringing this amendment up and debating it? That was the question.

Mr. STIVERS. I hear your point there, but I can tell you that if we would have debated the amendment, I believe that it would have been defeated.

Frankly, the problem with it was, if it would have been narrowly crafted to keep the good faith exception, I would have been okay with it.

I do believe that we should be debating serious issues. I do believe that the private right of action is kept in tact.

There is only a good faith exception. And the burden is on the individual who the lawsuit will be brought against to prove that they acted in good faith. That is how it works.

Nobody is going to have to prove that they acted in bad faith. They are going to have to prove they acted in good faith. Nobody is going to give them a wink and a nod and the benefit of the doubt. The individuals who are being sued will have to prove that they acted in good faith.

And you made the regulatory accommodations for a grace period but not the accommodations in the legal system; there is no grace period at all. It just takes away the entire grace period, because anybody that wants to sue just goes ahead and sues. It doesn't matter that there is a grace period administratively; there is a grace period in the law. That is why the good faith exception is so important.

I wanted to address those issues.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to be more orderly in the process of yielding and reclaiming time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, we have some serious disagreements with the gentleman over how this bill, in our opinion, adversely impacts consumers. This good faith exception is not in the current law as it stands. This is new ground that this bill is moving us toward, and there are some real serious concerns for consumers.

All we are saying is, again, our priority is the consumers. If that is not the priority of my Republican friends, fine; you can defend the language that you put into this bill. But there is controversy over this, and we ought to be

able to debate it. To simply say, you know, "Oh, if we made it in order, it would fail anyway," is that going to be the new kind of standard for making amendments in order, that we are only going to allow amendments to come to the floor that we absolutely know will pass? Boy, that is a whole new standard that the Rules Committee and the Republican majority are now going to try to enforce.

Again, one amendment, one by the ranking member of the committee of jurisdiction—one. That is it, one. Give her 10 minutes.

I mean, I don't get why this had to be completely closed. But in any event, you are in charge. You can do whatever you want. And this place is being run under the strictest, most closed process, as I mentioned before, in the history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, whose amendment was germane and was deliberately not made in order by the Republicans on the Rules Committee last night.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), a member of the Rules Committee, for the defense that he is putting up relative to my amendment.

Yes, I went to the Rules Committee, and, yes, I attempted to have an amendment that would protect our consumers. So it is clear that the opposite side of the aisle did not want the public to know about this amendment.

Why didn't they want this amendment debated? It is because they know that our consumers need to have the kind of protection that would allow them to go into court and raise questions about whether or not they are being defrauded, they are being misled, they are not being told the truth when they close on these mortgage deals.

Because the Rules Committee decided that we could not have a debate on my amendment, we have to take every opportunity to try to unveil why they are keeping this amendment down, why they don't want to debate it. As a matter of fact, I am so surprised that my colleague on the opposite side of the aisle tried to make this sound as if the Democrats didn't want a grace period, that we didn't want a hold harmless period. That is absolutely not true.

We agreed with Mr. Cordray, who heads the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, that there should be a grace period. We understood when the industry talked about the fact that they had a lot of work to do to make sure that they got the right forms, that they trained their people, that they came in compliance with the new rules that were created under Dodd-Frank. So we agreed.

Okay, Mr. Cordray said, I will not implement enforcement. I understand what you are saying. And Democrats agreed. We will set a grace period. It is okay.

You keep trying to debate this bill about the grace period. That is not an issue. That is not an issue at all. We agree to the grace period. Go, do your work; get your papers all worked out; get your staff all trained. But that is not what this issue is about.

This issue is about, where do you stand with consumers? Are you willing to say to consumers that if, in fact, you believe that you have been harmed in this closing, that all of a sudden the estimated costs are highly different, they are so different from what the final costs are—if you want to say to the consumer you don't have a right to go into court and raise that question, then you are against the consumers. The consumers should have a right to have their day in court despite the grace period.

The grace period should not be a period where you simply are getting your papers in order and you are training your staff. It should be a period where you still have a guarantee that you are not going to be tricked at closing time, that you are not going to be misled, that you are not going to be undermined in any way.

If you want this to be a grace period where folks can say, "Ah, I have an opportunity now," the lender can say, "I have an opportunity to get a little more money out of this deal," and then you would say if they misled the consumer that the consumer does not have a right at all to raise a question about it, I don't think so. So we on this side of the aisle, we stand with consumers.

When consumers decide to purchase a home, it is the biggest purchase of most people's lives, and they should be afforded the broadest recourse available under the law.

Many errors can occur in this complicated process, some made in good faith, some that are not. For example, a lender might fail to properly disclose key loan terms, such as annual interest rates, finance charges, and other critical information associated with purchasing a home. If a borrower feels that they have been harmed, they should have an opportunity to have their day in court without limitation.

I fully support the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's announcement that it would engage in restrained enforcement actions against lenders under their new mortgage disclosure rules. The Bureau made similar assurances in response to the mortgage underwriting and servicing rules that went into effect last year. And I fully expect the Bureau to do the same with these new disclosure rules that they have always done, to be responsive to Congress, industry, and other relevant stakeholders, and to make thoughtful

decisions on the best way to proceed in protecting consumers. I have no reason to believe that they will not be as thoughtful in their approach to the new mortgage disclosures as they were with the mortgage underwriting and servicing rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. While I also support the provisions of H.R. 3192 that are consistent with the CFPB's action to date, my support ends when the vital consumer protections, like the private right of action afforded to consumers under the Truth in Lending Act, are weakened or, worse, completely eliminated.

Under current law, consumers that feel that a lender provided an inaccurate or misleading mortgage disclosure can file suit under the Truth in Lending Act, and lenders are forced to prove that the disclosures they provided were consistent with the act. The burden of proof is properly placed with the lenders, as they have the resources to prove their good faith intent, and consumers often have limited information at the time they file suit. H.R. 3192, however, would shield the lenders from liability if an error was committed in good faith even if a consumer relied on this information to their detriment.

The act or the effect of the good faith provision is that it requires that consumers prove from the onset of an action filed against a lender that an error was not made in good faith, a burden of proof that a borrower simply lacks the means to make. As a result, the good faith requirement in H.R. 3192 operates as yet another hurdle for consumers and is a harmful departure from current law.

So I offered the amendment. And the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is correct. Why couldn't we have a debate on it? It is a very simple amendment.

This would help provide clarity to the marketplace while also protecting consumers. The amendment would simply restore a consumer's existing rights under TILA to bring an action during the temporary safe harbor period established by H.R. 3192 even if the action was filed in response to an error made by a lender in good faith.

Let me just say, whose side are you on? Are you on the side of consumers who expect you to protect them?

We have gone through a crisis in this country. We had a subprime meltdown. We discovered that consumers had been tricked. People buying homes had been misled. We discovered that they had loans that, well, they didn't even understand. We don't want to go back there. We want to protect consumers, and we have a right to do that. This amendment would have helped clarify that. You did not afford us that.

Mr. STIVERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of things I want to make clear.

Earlier in my remarks, I acknowledged that the other side of the aisle agrees with us on an administrative grace period. The problem is, if they don't agree to both an administrative grace period and a grace period with regard to lawsuits for people acting in good faith—the key words here are "good faith"—then there is no grace period because people will just choose to go sue during the grace period, and there will be no grace period.

It was good to hear the gentlewoman from California acknowledge that this is only a temporary good faith exception. It only lasts until February 1, 2016. It is just like the administrative grace period, and it only protects people in good faith.

Mr. Speaker, I will just ask the gentlewoman from California whether she believes somebody can act in good faith and also deceive and mislead at the same time, because her remarks imply that you can act in good faith while misleading and deceiving people.

□ 1315

I am not an attorney, but I would argue that good faith is really clear, and you are not acting in good faith when you deceive and mislead. Again, this bill should have been on the suspension calendar.

We shouldn't even have to be wasting time—valuable time—that we should be dealing with really important issues, as the gentleman from Massachusetts acknowledged earlier. But I did want to correct the RECORD on a few of those things.

Mr. Speaker, I think the key difference we have here is about whether good faith means anything. I would argue that the courts have found good faith means something. Every American knows what good faith is. This does not shift the burden. Those people being sued have to prove they acted in good faith.

So I think this is a really clear bill that provides a grace period for a limited amount of time, through February 1, 2016. But you have to provide both an administrative grace period and a grace period in the courts or there is no grace period at all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), a distinguished member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I applaud and thank my colleague from Ohio and my colleague from Arkansas for their leadership on this issue.

On May 22, I sent a bipartisan letter with my colleague, Congresswoman MALONEY, to CFPB Director Richard Cordray requesting a grace period for compliance with the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure rule, or TRID. The

letter was signed by 254 Members of Congress. Of those, 92 were Democrats.

TRID is a complex rule and compliance term requiring new, untested software to harmonize data from realtors, mortgage brokers, lenders, land title agents, and others involved in the closing process. All that our letter requested was a grace period for those making good faith efforts to comply with the rule. No delay in the rule, no reproposal, just a grace period.

We have listened to our constituents, and what they tell us is that innocent mistakes are inevitable as the disclosure software is tested in the real world for the first time. In fact, CFPB cited a mistake as the reason to delay implementation of the rule from August 1 until this past Saturday, October 3.

However, that delay and promises of sensitive enforcement do nothing to provide certainty that honest mistakes during the early days of TRID, when these untested systems are used in real transactions, will not be punished with fines and lawsuits. If the Bureau is allowed to make mistakes, then our constituents should also be allowed to make innocent mistakes without penalty for a brief period of time to establish the systems necessary to reliably comply.

The Bureau, however, has proven unwilling to act. So today we consider a bill that implements the grace period requested in that letter. The Homebuyers Assistance Act simply provides a grace period until February 1, 2016, to ensure that home buyers and sellers can be assured their transaction will not be delayed and industry participants won't need to fear enforcement actions or frivolous lawsuits over data issues or typos.

It is what 92 of our Democratic colleagues requested just 5 months ago. But today, faced with a legislative solution to the problem, our colleagues are balking. The President has issued a veto threat. Leader PELOSI is whipping her members against the bill.

This is quite baffling. It seems to me that the interests of trial lawyers are trumping those of consumers trying to buy or sell their homes. Make no mistake. Allowing immediate legal liability under TRID only benefits litigious attorneys and overzealous bureaucrats.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying bill and hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

In closing, let me just address the response that we should be on the side of consumers. That is absolutely correct. We should be on the side of consumers. What my constituents tell me back home is that, unfortunately, this new regulation doesn't make home buying simpler.

In fact, the number of pages are the same. Look at the regulation. Is this pro-consumer? This is the regulation

from Washington. This is complex. This is not simplification for consumers. This makes the home buying process more difficult.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this makes the home buying process more difficult for consumers. But at the end of the day, even if we are going to go forward with this new, complicated regulation, 1,800 pages or so, at least—at least—give the participants—the closing attorneys, the title insurance agents, the Realtors, the advocates for the home buyers, and the advocates for the consumers—let them have a brief period of time where they can get up to speed with the complexity of this rule so that innocent mistakes are not punished and that home buyers are not punished.

Let's set the politics aside on this. This is not about Democrat or Republican here. We have got a big bipartisan letter. This is something that protects our constituents. This is what our constituents are telling us they need to come into compliance with this new, complex law.

Isn't buying and selling a home, isn't moving from home to home, complex enough? Let's not let the bureaucrats make it even more difficult.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say to my friend, the gentleman from Kentucky, I signed his letter. I agree with him. There should be a grace period. If that is what we were talking about right now, I don't think there would be much of a debate. We got what we wanted.

But "yes" is not a good enough answer for some of my friends on the other side of the aisle. So you bring something that might be a redundant bill. But I would be less exercised over voting for a redundant bill if that is all it was. But you expanded it. You added something that wasn't in the letter. Basically, you added something that we strongly believe jeopardizes consumers.

Now, what makes us even more exercised over here is that the Rules Committee reported out a rule that denied the right of the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, Ms. WATERS of California, to bring an amendment to remedy that to the floor—a totally closed rule.

The one real controversy about what we are doing here today is this provision that we think hurts consumers, and we can't have a vote on it.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment was germane. She is the ranking member. We are only asking for 1 minute. We are not doing anything else here of any consequence. We are not trying to figure out our long-term budget problems. So you could give us another 10 min-

utes to debate an amendment, and you have chosen to not do that.

I will just say one other thing. Everybody holds up that prop, the 1,800 pages of regulations. But let's just help break it down because we are into a lot of props in this place. We ought to also understand what the facts are.

First, the 1,800 pages are contained in the double-spaced document. The text in the Federal Register is actually not 1,800 pages, but 634 pages, roughly one-third of that. The rule itself, the regulatory text, is only 26 pages—only 26 pages.

Mr. Speaker, 171 pages are sample and model forms which my friends on the other side of the aisle say we want the agency to help provide industry with concrete guidance. So there are 171 pages of sample and model forms in there. We have further breakdown here if my friends are interested.

Let's be clear. None of us here object. In fact, we all support the grace period. That is not what is contentious about this debate.

It is this anti-consumer provision that has been inserted in this bill by my Republican friends that have us concerned. At a minimum, the Rules Committee ought to have allowed for there to be a debate where that could be voted up or down. If my friends don't like it, they can vote "no."

Instead, we hear excuses, Oh, no, it wasn't offered in the full committee, as if that somehow is a reason to deny a Member the right to offer an amendment to the floor; Oh, we can't make it in order because, oh, it won't pass anyway, a new standard now by the Rules Committee in terms of what will be made in order.

Just give us the amendment. Let's have a real debate. Let's actually be deliberative for a change here.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STIVERS. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) yield for the purpose of a colloquy?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. STIVERS. I am curious if you are arguing—because it sounds to me like the gentleman from Massachusetts is arguing that we only want to give people protections from administrative actions; we don't want to give them equal protection in the courts that they are getting from administrative regulations when they are acting in good faith.

Is that what you are arguing?

Mr. MCGOVERN. What I am arguing—

Mr. STIVERS. If they are acting in good faith, they should still be allowed to be sued and they should still have all the penalties for a wrong comma—

Mr. MCGOVERN. What I am arguing—

Mr. STIVERS.—even if they are acting in good faith? I will yield the gentleman some time in a second.

But is that what you are arguing? If there is a comma misplaced or they accidentally tried to comply, but in good faith made an accident, you think they should suffer all the slings and arrows in court, even though they wouldn't suffer any slings and arrows from regulators?

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) to answer that question.

Mr. MCGOVERN. What I have argued is that the burden shouldn't be on the consumer. Your legislation adds a whole new dimension to this debate that, quite frankly, has us concerned. At a minimum, it deserves a debate on this floor.

This is the rule. We are debating how we are going to debate the underlying legislation. I have not yet heard one reason why we can't have an amendment to try to correct what we think is an injustice and a potential harmful impact on our consumers.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear an answer there. But the point is people deserve equal protection during a grace period in the courts if they acted in good faith. The key here is good faith. It is written right into the bill.

They deserve the same protections in court if they act in good faith that they deserve from administrative action from the regulators. They deserve the same help and remediation to get their deficits corrected as opposed to punitive action.

The problem is, without that provision—and let me add this is a temporary provision until February 1, 2016. The good faith protections don't even last past February 1. It is the same protection for the same time period in the courts as from administrative action.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, just briefly in response to my colleague from Massachusetts and the analysis that this 1,800-page regulation is just a prop and he blames about 171 pages on explanations and guidance and suggests that, well, that is a good thing, we want explanations and guidance from the bureaucrats to explain how this works, let me tell you what my constituents back in Kentucky are telling me what happens in the real world.

In the real world, how closing attorneys—this is a closing attorney in Kentucky who says this interprets this stack of paper, and he says, "I am going to have to do two closings, a TRID-compliant closing and then another closing that actually informs my client what is going on in the transaction."

Now, is that simplifying things for consumers? Does that make things

easier for a home buyer and a home seller to have two closings, one that is TRID-compliant, compliant with the bureaucracy, and one that actually helps the home buyer with a HUD settlement statement? I don't think so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, the point here is that we should be making things easier. If it is so doggone complicated that you have to have two closings, at least give us 6 months to figure this thing out, 6 months of a grace period for good faith efforts to come into compliance where innocent mistakes happen.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I would request how much time each side has remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time, and I would inform my colleague I am prepared to close.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me again say we have no objection to a grace period. In fact, we support it. I signed the gentleman from Kentucky's letter. That is not the controversy here. It is what we think is language that could do potential harm to consumers.

Let me just say to the gentleman, in the real world, we have seen consumers get a raw deal time and time again, in large part because of the lack of oversight and the lack of defense they get in this Chamber.

So, yes, we are standing up for consumers because we don't want to see them continue to get a raw deal. That is what we are concerned about.

If you want to disagree with me on that, fine. But that is no reason to not allow there to be a debate on an amendment that is germane to this bill that would correct what we think is a flaw in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS from California. Mr. Speaker and Members, we have to keep saying over and over again that this is not about the grace period. They keep arguing that somehow they favor a grace period, and we do not.

We have made it clear that is not what the debate is about. We support a grace period. Not only that, Mr. Cordray at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau supports a grace period. That is not the argument here.

The argument is what you don't want to talk about, my amendment that I attempted. You came to this floor with a closed rule to keep us from talking

about an amendment that would protect the consumers. My amendment would allow that consumers have a right to have their day in court.

When you talk about good faith and the way that this bill is written, of course. In my opinion, when a consumer in this grace period takes a look at the documents and if it is simply a comma, as one has indicated, well, that could be a mistake in good faith, and the lender will be okay.

□ 1330

But when the interest rates change, when there are more fees than were anticipated, when the cost of that mortgage goes up and the consumer says, "Hey, this is not what I really intended. This is not what I agreed to," and the lender says, "Sorry, that is it. That is what you signed up for," then the consumer has a right to go to court. And even though you would place the responsibility on the consumer to have to prove that the lender did not act in good faith, different from what the law is now, that consumer should have the right to go to court and make his or her case.

That is what this amendment is all about, and you know it. It is not about bringing your props in trying to say this is the bill. That is not the bill. You have all of the comments and everything else that is associated with the bill. So let's get some truth out here and have people understand what the amendment is and not just props showing that you have thousands of pages of a bill.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD a letter signed by a number of civil rights organizations, all opposed to this bill because of the provision that Ms. WATERS and I have been talking about now for close to an hour.

OCTOBER 5, 2015.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 3192, which insulates lenders from accountability when they make misleading disclosures to homeowners. The bill, which suspends liability to individuals and government for the first four months after the new mortgage disclosure rules take effect, undermines compliance with the new rules by letting lenders off the hook even where homeowners have been harmed. Homeowners who would receive false or misleading mortgage cost disclosures during such a period would have no remedy. Moreover, it sets a dangerous precedent by suspending liability where legal rules apply.

The mortgage industry, after having had approximately two years to implement the new disclosure requirements, was given an additional reprieve when the effective date

was extended to October 3, 2015. Moreover, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has repeatedly demonstrated its responsiveness to concerns about implementation of this rule and to mortgage rules generally. Director Cordray announced in June that the Bureau would be sensitive to good faith efforts to implement the new rule, and recently the Bureau and the prudential regulators offered greater detail on how initial examinations for compliance with the rule will take into account systems adopted to promote compliance. The Bureau successfully used a similar approach for implementation of the ability to repay rule and also demonstrated its responsiveness to lenders by adjusting the small creditor definition for that rule.

The time has now come to let the combined TILA/RESPA disclosures take effect. The disclosure form will give consumers expanded information before making the biggest purchase of their lives. A carve-out will provide an opportunity for some to evade the rules and will generally inhibit incentives to comply promptly. A rule without enforcement is no rule at all.

H.R. 3192 seeks to establish a “good faith” standard for exemption from the rule. However, the CFPB already has the authority to take into account good-faith efforts to comply with regulations. In contrast, a homeowner who receives false or misleading disclosures would face significant hurdles in overcoming a good-faith requirement. Even if a lender acted in good faith, the homeowner would still have agreed to the loan based on incorrect information and would have no recourse.

It would be dangerous to set a new precedent of suspending private enforcement for violations of a law that is in effect. The ability of consumers to protect themselves is essential to the efficacy of legal requirements. An individual homeowner, however, is not in a position to prove whether the lender operated in good faith. While few homeowners ever bring a legal case, those who do generally have faced substantial harm and have a right to redress.

Lenders are not subject to any liability at all under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) for violations of the disclosure requirements because the law does not allow for private rights of action for such cases. In addition, the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) already includes provisions protecting creditors from errors made in good faith (such as timing of disclosures). For TILA errors involving numerical disclosures, Congress already has allowed creditors to overstate the actual amount without penalty, and the CFPB’s rule for the new disclosures permits third party fees to exceed the earlier estimates by up to ten percent. As a result, homeowners who seek redress have received markedly inaccurate disclosures.

Litigation is a last resort and rarely undertaken. Few consumers seek out attorneys even when they are injured. Moreover, TILA provides for payment of attorney fees only if the lawsuit is successful, so attorneys are reluctant to take on cases unless violations are clear.

The incidence of private litigation under the Truth in Lending Act is fairly rare, especially in comparison to the volume of mortgage loans and credit generally outstanding in the United States. Even during a financial crisis that rivaled the Great Depression, only a tiny fraction of mortgage loans became the focus of TILA litigation.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 3192, which would remove key incentives for lenders to

comply with the new mortgage disclosures and leave homeowners who have been misled with no recourse.

Sincerely,
Americans for Financial Reform
California Reinvestment Coalition
Connecticut Fair Housing Center
Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)
Empire Justice Center
Homeownership Preservation Foundation
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
NAACP
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Fair Housing Alliance
North Carolina Justice Center
U.S. PIRG
Woodstock Institute.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is clear we have a disagreement here, and it ought to be resolved in an open and fair fashion with a debate and a vote on an amendment. We are not going to have that.

So I am just going to close by saying to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle I have got a radical idea for what I think is the greatest democratic institution in the world, the United States Congress. That radical idea is that we ought to allow a little democracy to happen here. We ought to not be afraid of debate. We ought to not be afraid of allowing at least one amendment—that is all, one amendment—to come to the floor so that the concerns that we have voiced on our side of the aisle, a worry that consumers will once again become victims and get a raw deal, could be avoided. We ought to have that debate, and we ought to vote up or down on it.

This grace period is, as I said, supported by everybody. It is supported by the CFPB. We are all on board on that. That is not the controversy. The controversy is this added stuff. And the way the majority has decided to handle this—to shut the whole process down—that is, I think, beneath what this institution should be about.

So I would urge my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to please vote against this rule. Send a message to the leadership here that we need to do this better. We need a better process. This process is lousy, and we all should be fed up with it.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address the thing that the gentleman has continued to talk about: good faith.

Good faith is known in all 50 States. It has been enacted in the Uniform Commercial Code. It is kind of interpreted two ways.

And, by the way, the defendants are the ones who have to prove they acted in good faith, not the litigants, not the people who bring the lawsuit, but the defendants have to meet one of two standards to prove they acted in good faith.

Number one is a reasonableness standard. In general, they relied on something. They were reasonable in their dealings. The plaintiff does not have to prove anything, just the defendant.

The second also uses reasonableness, but it is about intent. If they intended to comply with the standard, that is the other thing that the defendant brings forward.

I want to be clear here. Nothing changes the standard for a plaintiff in this. So this whole argument about whether somebody can act in good faith and yet deceive people, any court in the land would say that can’t happen. You can’t deceive somebody and say you acted in good faith. That is not good faith.

So we stand with consumers who want to close on their homes for the American Dream in a timely way. We also stand by those who are trying in good faith to comply with 1,886 pages of regulation. It is important to note that this is a temporary standard through February 1, 2016, to give people a grace period from both administrative actions and legal actions. You have to give them a grace period in both categories.

If you only give an administrative grace period, as the other side of the aisle has argued, everyone will simply run to the courts and there is no grace period there for good faith efforts. Good faith is important. It means something. We stand with consumers. We do not stand with trial lawyers.

This bill allows a transition period to occur and ensure that buyers and sellers can have closings during that period, and those that are acting in good faith will be protected from both regulation and litigation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Whereas the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, took the lives of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith, and former Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty;

Whereas the events leading up to and in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi were right-fully and thoroughly examined to honor the memory of the victims and to improve the safety of the men and women serving our country overseas;

Whereas the independent Accountability Review Board convened by the U.S. State Department investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas five committees in the U.S. House of Representatives investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas four committees in the U.S. Senate investigated the events in Benghazi and found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas in each fiscal year, more than \$4 billion is appropriated to run the Congress, with untold amounts of this taxpayer money expended by nine Congressional committees to investigate the events in Benghazi, none of which produced any evidence of deliberate wrongdoing;

Whereas after the exhaustive, thorough, and costly investigations by nine Congressional committees and the independent Accountability Review Board found no evidence of deliberate wrongdoing, Republican leaders in the House insisted on using taxpayer dollars to fund a new, duplicative "Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi," (hereafter the Select Committee) to re-examine the matter;

Whereas this taxpayer-funded committee was given broad powers to pursue its investigations, including an unlimited, taxpayer-funded budget and granting the Chairman the legal authority to subpoena documents and compel testimony without any debate or a vote;

Whereas the ongoing Republican-led investigation into the events in Benghazi is now one of the longest running and least productive investigations in Congressional history;

Whereas a widely-quoted statement made on September 29th, 2015 by Representative Kevin McCarthy, the Republican Leader of the House of Representatives, has called into question the integrity of the proceedings of the Select Committee and the House of Representatives as a whole;

Whereas this statement by Representative McCarthy demonstrates that the Select Committee established by Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was created to influence public opinion of a presidential candidate;

Whereas the Select Committee has been in existence for 17 months but has held only three hearings;

Whereas the Select Committee abandoned its plans to obtain public testimony from Defense Department and Intelligence Community leaders;

Whereas the Select Committee excluded Democratic Members from interviews of witnesses who provided exculpatory information related to its investigation;

Whereas information obtained by the Select Committee has been selectively and inaccurately leaked to influence the electoral standing of a candidate for public office;

Whereas such actions represent an abuse of power that demonstrates the partisan nature of the Select Committee;

Whereas the Select Committee has spent more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds to date to advance its partisan efforts;

Whereas this amount does not include the costs of the independent Accountability Review Board; the hearings and reports by nine Congressional committees; the time, money, and resources consumed by Federal agencies to comply with Select Committee requests; or the opportunity cost of not spending this money elsewhere, such as improving security for our diplomatic officers abroad;

Whereas it is an outrage that more than \$4.5 million in taxpayer funds have been used by Republicans in the House of Representatives, not to run the government, but to interfere inappropriately with an election for president of the United States;

Whereas the use of taxpayer dollars by the House of Representatives for campaign purposes is a violation of the Rules of the House and Federal law;

Resolved, That:

1) this misuse of the official resources of the House of Representatives for political purposes undermines the integrity of the proceedings of the House and brings discredit to the House;

2) the integrity of the proceedings of the House can be fully restored only by the dissolution of the Select Committee; and

3) the Select Committee shall be dismantled and is hereby directed to make public within thirty days transcripts of all unclassified interviews and depositions it has conducted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would entertain argument on whether the resolution qualifies as a question of the privileges of the House.

Does any Member seek recognition?

If not, the Chair will rule.

The gentlewoman from New York seeks to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX. The resolution alleges that a select committee established by order of the House has misused House resources for a political purpose and proposes to dismantle the select committee.

In evaluating the resolution under rule IX, the Chair must determine whether the resolution affects "the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings." In addition, Cannon's Precedents, volume 6, section 395 cites the precedent of September 24, 1917, for the proposition that "the presence of unprivileged matter destroys the privilege of a resolution otherwise privileged." That ruling is the foundation for the principle that either the entire resolution is privileged, or none of it is.

Section 706 of the House Rules and Manual documents several precedents holding that a resolution alleging a question of the privileges of the House may not collaterally challenge a rule of the House.

One such precedent occurred on January 23, 1984. On that date, Speaker O'Neill ruled that a resolution directing a change in political ratios of committee membership did not qualify as a question of privilege because that issue could be otherwise presented to the House in a privileged manner. The

Speaker noted that the resolution itself did not constitute a change in the rules of the House, but nevertheless held that the resolution did not qualify because it presented a collateral challenge to an adopted rule of the House.

The Chair would also note the events of January 31, 1996, when a resolution directing the Speaker to withdraw an invitation for a foreign head of state to address a joint meeting of Congress was held not to present a question of privilege because it proposed a collateral change in a previous order of the House.

In each of these cases, the crucial question was whether the resolution presented a collateral challenge to an existing rule or order of the House.

The resolution offered by the gentlewoman from New York proposes to dismantle the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi, which was established in the 114th Congress by section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, adopted by the House on January 6, 2015. The resolution presents a collateral challenge to that order of the House. As such, the resolution does not constitute a question of the privileges of the House.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on adoption of House Resolution 462.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 183, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 536]

YEAS—240

Abraham	Bridenstine	Cook
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Costello (PA)
Allen	Brooks (IN)	Cramer
Amash	Buchanan	Crawford
Amodei	Buck	Crenshaw
Babin	Bucshon	Culberson
Barletta	Burgess	Curbelo (FL)
Barr	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Barton	Calvert	Denham
Benishek	Carter (GA)	Dent
Billirakis	Carter (TX)	DeSantis
Bishop (MI)	Chabot	DesJarlais
Bishop (UT)	Chaffetz	Diaz-Balart
Black	Clawson (FL)	Dold
Blackburn	Coffman	Donovan
Blum	Cole	Duffy
Bost	Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Boustany	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Brady (TX)	Comstock	Ellmers (NC)
Brat	Conaway	Emmer (MN)

Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood

LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver

Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny F.
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster

Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Dingell
Granger
Hinojosa
Hudson

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott, David

NOT VOTING—11

Lummis
Payne
Scott (VA)
Sinema

□ 1413

So the motion to table was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3192, HOMEBUYERS AS- SISTANCE ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 12, 2015, THROUGH OCTOBER 19, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 462) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3192) to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from October 12, 2015, through October 19, 2015, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 238, nays 181, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 537]

YEAS—238

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei

Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek

Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn

Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)

Smith (TX)
Walorski
Williams

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield

Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers

Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger

NAYS—181

Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger

Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.

Duckworth	Lawrence	Rangel
Edwards	Lee	Rice (NY)
Ellison	Levin	Richmond
Engel	Lewis	Roybal-Allard
Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Ruiz
Esty	Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Farr	Loeb	Rush
Fattah	Loftgren	Ryan (OH)
Foster	Lowenthal	Sánchez, Linda
Frankel (FL)	Lowe	T.
Fudge	Lujan Grisham	Sanchez, Loretta
Gabbard	(NM)	Sarbanes
Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray	Schakowsky
Garamendi	(NM)	Schiff
Graham	Lynch	Schrader
Grayson	Maloney,	Scott, David
Green, Al	Carolyn	Serrano
Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean	Sewell (AL)
Grijalva	Matsui	Sherman
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Sires
Hahn	McDermott	Slaughter
Hastings	McGovern	Smith (WA)
Heck (WA)	McNerney	Swalwell (CA)
Higgins	Meeks	Takai
Himes	Meng	Takano
Honda	Moore	Thompson (CA)
Hoyer	Moulton	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Murphy (FL)	Titus
Israel	Nadler	Tonko
Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Torres
Jeffries	Neal	Tsongas
Johnson (GA)	Nolan	Van Hollen
Johnson, E. B.	Norcross	Vargas
Kaptur	O'Rourke	Veasey
Keating	Pallone	Vela
Kelly (IL)	Pascarella	Visclosky
Kennedy	Pelosi	Walz
Kildee	Perlmutter	Wasserman
Kilmer	Peters	Schultz
Kind	Peterson	Waters, Maxine
Kirkpatrick	Pingree	Watson Coleman
Kuster	Pocan	Welch
Langevin	Polis	Wilson (FL)
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Larson (CT)	Quigley	

NOT VOTING—15

Dingell	Lummis	Speier
Forbes	Payne	Velázquez
Granger	Scott (VA)	Walberg
Hinojosa	Sinema	Walorski
Hudson	Smith (TX)	Williams

□ 1421

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE ADOPTION OF MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON H.R. 3192, HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 3192 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 462, I call up the bill (H.R. 3192) to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in

Lending Act, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 462, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3192

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Homebuyers Assistance Act”.

SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT SAFE HARBOR.

The integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under section 4(a) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2603(a)), section 105(b) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1604(b)), and regulations issued under such sections may not be enforced against any person until February 1, 2016, and no suit may be filed against any person for a violation of such requirements occurring before such date, so long as such person has made a good faith effort to comply with such requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act. It is a very modest act, and it also happens to be a very bipartisan act, that would bring some temporary relief to mortgage market participants who are attempting to secure financing and close on their homes. It will help allow there to be a transition period for a very complicated rule that has been promulgated by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that went into effect Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that hardworking Americans do not lose out on the opportunity for their portion of the American Dream, including home ownership, as this new rule is brought to bear.

Now, let me be the first to say that as a Member of this body who finds very little good to be found in the

Dodd-Frank Act, directing the CFPB to try to make disclosures more simple and more easily and readily understandable is a good thing. But the problem, Mr. Speaker, is in trying to integrate something called TILA, the Truth in Lending Act, disclosures with something called RESPA, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, two different acts.

To try to reconcile those two, the CFPB promulgated a 1,888-page rule, complete with guidance. So now those who are involved in the marketplace trying to help finance homes are left with this behemoth to try to put into their computer systems, their IT systems, into training. Being able to streamline disclosures is a very, very important thing to do, but it is fairly difficult to do when there are almost 2,000 pages of complex, compound, complicated language.

We know that when these new systems are put into place, Mr. Speaker, there can be glitches. There can be temporary setbacks. Sometimes the software doesn't quite work as intended. Just ask those in charge of the ObamaCare rollout. ObamaCare was on the books as law for many, many years before the rollout came, and it was a disastrous rollout. I have no doubt people were operating in good faith, but they rolled it out and it failed.

So all over America, title agencies and mortgage lenders are having to change their software, having to change their process and procedures. We don't want low- and moderate-income people who finally put enough money away for a down payment to be set back in their attempt to get their mortgage.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who is the author of the bill. It is, again, a very, very bipartisan bill. I want to thank him for his leadership. And before that, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) had been very, very engaged in this issue. I want to thank them for their leadership, because without it, again, what we are looking at here is people losing out on the opportunity to close on their homes.

And so the bill is a simple bill. It says: You know what? For 4 months let's create a temporary, trial period and safe harbor for those who act in good faith in trying to implement this new 1,888-page behemoth rule. Let's allow a little bit of a transition period to hold these people harmless if they act in good faith.

Again, Mr. Speaker, if they are acting in good faith.

Yes, I assume the CFPB, which promulgated the rule, acted in good faith. But guess what, Mr. Speaker, they violated the law in rolling out this rule, and yet they were held harmless in their so-called trial period. Can't we do the same for those who are trying to make the American Dream of home ownership come true?

If we do not pass this bill, I am afraid what we will hear is what I have heard from different people back in my home State of Texas. What I heard from one Texas land title man is:

No question, more conservative lending in sales volumes will result. This will impact both buyers and sellers. And the new rules could have a cost impact. Lenders may decide to raise fees to cover potential exposure.

□ 1430

Another real estate individual in Texas went on to say large lenders have already announced they are not going to do one-time closings anymore due to the uncertainty.

We are hearing all kinds of language, and that is one of the reasons that 255 Members of this body, Mr. Speaker, including 91 Democrats, wrote to the head of the CFPB asking him to do exactly what this bill would do.

It is not just limited to the House side. Forty-one Senators signed almost an identical letter asking the CFPB director for this very short period of time for people who operate in good faith to be held harmless and not to be sued, not to be fined, not to be persecuted, so that the American people can enjoy their right of home ownership.

It is a modest bill. It is a bipartisan bill. It is for the homeowner. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes for an opening statement.

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3192, a proposal that I believe erodes consumers' ability to have their day in court and that undermines efforts to comply with the CFPB's new TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure act.

When I say TILA and RESPA, I am talking about the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in full support of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's decision to engage in restrained enforcement of the new disclosure rules until 2016, and I support the FFIEC's recent announcement that prudential regulators' supervision of financial institutions' compliance with the new rules will recognize the scope and scale of the changes necessary for financial institutions and other affected entities to effectively comply.

Simply speaking, when the business community and Democrats and Republicans all basically said, "We believe that these integrated rules are complicated. It is going to take industry time to get up to speed," they have got to change their paper. They have got to train their employees, et cetera, et cetera. We all agree that there should be a grace period.

So, with that, my support for a temporary period of restrained administrative enforcement and supervision re-

flects the recognition of the massive undertaking that lenders and other settlement providers have undergone in preparation for the new disclosure rules.

Now, given the administrative liability that lenders would face under both the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act and the Truth in Lending Act, I fully understand the real concerns that affected entities have, given the scale and scope of the changes called for under the new disclosure rules.

Mr. Speaker, industry requests to date that the Bureau and other Federal regulators take a more thoughtful approach with respect to their enforcement and supervision is reasonable.

My support for the actions taken to date by regulators to consider good faith compliance efforts by lenders and other entities affected by the new disclosure rules does not, however, extend to suspending, even temporarily, one of the more important consumer protections available to the Truth in Lending Act, which is a consumer's right to bring an action protecting themselves in the event that a lender makes an inaccurate, untimely, misleading disclosure.

Basically, what we are talking about now is who is going to protect the consumer in all of this. We are saying that there is a need to protect consumers. Those who oppose the amendment that I tried to bring to the floor to do just that are saying they are not on the side of the consumer.

While the good faith provision in H.R. 3192 does allow consumers to bring actions in response to egregious violations of the Truth in Lending Act, consumers can still rely on inaccurate or misleading disclosure errors that are made in good faith.

Under current law, borrowers can bring an action where a disclosure is inaccurate or misleading, even if the error is made in good faith, and the burden under current law is on the lender to prove that their disclosure is consistent with the Truth in Lending Act.

Now we have a change. In contrast, under H.R. 3192, this legislation, the burden is placed on the consumer to demonstrate from the onset of an action that the error was not made in good faith, a bar that is virtually impossible for most consumers to overcome. That is a drastic departure from current law.

The private right of action under the Truth in Lending Act serves two important purposes:

First, it allows consumers to protect themselves from inaccurate, untimely, or misleading mortgage disclosures.

Second, through the act's provision of statutory and class-action damages, as well as attorneys' fees and court costs, TILA also provides clear incentives for lenders to ensure that the disclosures they provide are timely and accurate.

I just want to take a look at what the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure would require. Let us take a look at what we are talking about.

In this document, they identify the amounts for the loan, the interest rates, the monthly principal and interest, whether or not there are prepayment penalties, whether or not there is a balloon payment, on and on and on. It gets down to exactly what is being disclosed to the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds just to say that, if the ranking member is supportive of a safe harbor, she has a funny way of showing it.

I would remind her that there is no private right of action under RESPA. There is one under TILA. But under TILA, there is an exception, a safe harbor for unintentional violations and bona fide errors, which will be found in section 1640 of title 15.

There is another safe harbor for good faith compliance with rule regulation and interpretation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me some time on this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, this commonsense, bipartisan bill which will provide certainty for the short transition period for the real estate industry, preventing costly market disruptions and delays for American homebuyers.

I thank Mr. SHERMAN for his help in design and leadership. I also thank my friends, Mr. VARGAS and Mr. PEARCE, who worked on this bill as well.

This straightforward measure will provide a temporary hold harmless period from enforcement action and litigation during the initial implementation of this new TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure form. This rule, by the way, became effective this past Saturday.

Companies out in the real world are trying to get this closing regime right and have spent billions of dollars in updating their systems and hundreds of man-hours training employees to comply with this 1,800-page rule.

Again, I remind my colleagues that, at the height of the Depression, in rewriting all of America's banking laws, the Banking Act of 1933 consumed only 37 pages.

There is no opportunity to test. This is a bright-line rule that just turns on. You have to have new forms and new, substantive changes, and these compliance challenges are many.

This temporary grace period will allow the industry to work with the CFPB to ensure a smooth transition. As previously noted, 300 bipartisan

Members have urged this grace period, including the ranking member.

We are here today by the inadequate response of the CFPB to a lot of concerns across our Nation, from Realtors, mortgage lenders, title companies, people in the appraisal business.

Mr. Cordray could have provided this certainty, just like HUD did for the revised RESPA disclosures back in 2010. But statements from Mr. Cordray like the industry can “read between the lines” doesn’t constitute certainty in the real world.

It might here in the Beltway. But as a Member of Congress who until the end of 2014 was CEO of a community bank, I can assure you that kind of “read between the lines” certainty doesn’t work in the real world.

A recent survey by the American Bankers Association indicated over 40 percent of institutions have not yet received compliance software needed to implement TRID. It is very frustrating to Members on both sides of the aisle, particularly after the number of years that we have talked about a new TRID form. But, nonetheless, it is a fact. Ninety percent of institutions were still testing the incorporation into their lending platforms.

I can tell you this is more complicated than it looks to someone who is a bureaucrat in Washington. You have got a loan operating system and a loan doc prep system typically from two different vendors. Both require software changes.

Three-quarters of those surveyed in the mortgage banking industry said they needed an additional 3 weeks to 4 months for additional debugging and testing. So this commonsense bill will allow them to perform that task, not disrupt closings, and allow people to have a safe harbor from potential litigation or enforcement penalties.

One bank in Arkansas called me Monday, 2 days after TRID went live, to say they are still not expected to get the final fix from their software providers until Thanksgiving.

In addition to these kinds of operating implementation issues, many are still out there waiting for clarification from the CFPB on certain issues.

The chairman mentioned one-time close. One of the most popular products in banking today, particularly among community banks, is a construction-to-permanent mortgage closing, where one can build their home and go to a permanent loan closing all with one application and one set of forms and a single closing.

But because of confusion over how to properly disclose information under the new TRID form, I think this is a problem. Several banks, as noted, are going to cease one-time construction-to-permanent loan making, again, one of the most popular products in community banking.

I want to emphasize that this temporary protection only applies to those

making a good faith effort to comply to this very complex rule. It in no way alters the underlying rule.

While I disagree with much of Dodd-Frank, I support the general purpose of this rule, which is to attempt to streamline and simplify mortgage disclosures for consumers, albeit, comparing the forms side by side, I don’t know if that was accomplished or not. But it is absolutely a worthy objective.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HILL. Our title companies, bankers, and others in the industry who are earnestly trying to comply with these new TRID rules need to have the confidence and certainty that they can go into this closing regime giving excellent customer service, and not be looking over their shoulder for an inadvertent penalty or civil litigation.

Mr. Speaker, we are pro-consumer. 400,000 consumers buy a home every month in this country, and over 230,000 consumers refinance a mortgage. All will be positively impacted by this temporary measure. I urge its consideration.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and for her leadership as ranking member on the Financial Services Committee.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 3192. The Democrats have worked very hard to protect consumers and, in fact, in Dodd-Frank, created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has already returned \$11 billion to 25 million consumers in just the first 4 years of its existence. Their goal is to protect consumers, and that is what they have done in the new rule that they came out with.

Democrats believe that consumers deserve easy-to-understand disclosures of the cost of buying and financing a home. So, in response to the mortgage crisis, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has proposed to streamline and combine the disclosures that consumers get when they are buying a home so it is easier for them to understand.

□ 1445

They used to get multiple disclosure forms, some under the Truth in Lending Act and some under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, or RESPA. Now the CFPB has streamlined them into a new Integrated Disclosure, which is important because it will make it far easier for Americans to understand the loan terms and the fees that they are paying when they buy a home.

But implementing a brand-new Integrated Disclosure form will also be

complicated, and it will take the industry some time to adjust to the new rules. And industry raised those concerns to us.

This bill would give lenders a safe harbor from the CFPB’s Integrated Disclosure rule until February 21, 2016.

While I think that this bill addresses an important issue because implementing the new Integrated Disclosure forms will be complex, the truth is that the CFPB has already given the industry significant relief on the rule. They have already done it.

Along with my colleague and very good friend from Kentucky, Mr. BARR, we led a bipartisan letter which was signed by 254 Members of this body, including Ranking Member WATERS, requesting a grace period on the Integrated Disclosure requirement.

I include for the RECORD the letter that the gentleman from Kentucky and I circulated with all 254 signatures, as well as the letter we received in response.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 20, 2015.

Hon. RICHARD CORDRAY,

Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

DEAR DIRECTOR CORDRAY: The undersigned Members of Congress acknowledge that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB or Bureau) has done significant work on the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure (TRID) regulation. Nevertheless, this complicated and extensive rule is likely to cause challenges during implementation, which is currently scheduled for August 1, 2015, that could negatively impact consumers. As you know, the housing market is highly seasonal, with August, September, and October consistently being some of the busiest months of the year for home sales and settlements. By contrast, January and February are consistently the slowest months of the year for real estate activity. We therefore encourage the Bureau to announce and implement a “grace period” for those seeking to comply in good faith from August 1st through the end of 2015.

Even with significant advance notice, understanding how to implement and comply with this regulation will only become clear when the industry gains experience using these new forms and processes in real-life situations. As the TRID regulation does not provide lenders an opportunity to start using the new disclosure form prior to the August 1st implementation date, market participants will not be able to test their systems and procedures ahead of time, which increases the risk of unanticipated disruptions on August 1st. That is why we believe that a grace period for those seeking to comply in good faith from August 1st through the end of 2015 would be particularly useful in these circumstances. During this time, industry can provide data to the CFPB on issues that arise so that the Bureau and industry can work together to remove impediments to the effectiveness of the rule.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If we may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

SIGNED: 254 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL
PROTECTION BUREAU,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2015.

Hon. ANDY BARR,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES BARR AND MALONEY: Thank you for your letter about implementation of the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure Rule, which we finalized nineteen months ago to carry out the law enacted by Congress. We share your desire for a smooth and successful implementation of the Rule, and we continue to work closely with all stakeholders to support that goal. Like you, we recognize that successful implementation poses challenges to industry and benefits both industry and consumers, but in any event requires close collaboration between industry and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

As you may know, the Bureau has taken many steps to support industry implementation and to help creditors, vendors, and others affected by the Rule to better understand, operationalize, and prepare to comply with the Rule's new streamlined disclosures. Since the Rule was first published in November 2013, we have made it a point to engage directly and intensively with financial institutions and vendors through a formal regulatory implementation project. The Bureau's regulatory implementation project for the Rule includes the following:

Inter-agency coordination. In-depth exam procedures were approved by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council in February 2015 and published by CFPB on April 1, 2015. The Bureau's own examination procedures incorporating the FFIEC exam procedures were published on May 4, 2015.

Publish "readiness guide," plain-language guides, and other resources. The "readiness guide" includes a broad check-list of things for industry to do prior to the Rule's effective date. The Bureau has also published a compliance guide, a guide to the new integrated disclosure forms, and an illustrative timeline.

Publish amendments and updates to the Rule in response to industry requests. In January 2015, after extensive outreach to stakeholders, the Bureau adopted two minor modifications and technical amendments to the Rule to smooth compliance for industry.

Provide unofficial staff guidance. Bureau staff attorneys have provided oral guidance in response to over 750 regulatory interpretation inquiries, received from trade associations and through the CFPB_RegInquiries@cfpb.gov email address since the Rule was issued.

Engage with stakeholders. Bureau staff have provided remarks and addressed questions about the Rule and related implementation matters at over 40 formal events and over 50 informal stakeholder meetings since the Rule was issued.

Conduct webinars. The Bureau has conducted a series of five free, publicly available webinars, available for viewing through the Bureau's website, that provide guidance on how to interpret and apply specific provisions.

Clarify misunderstandings. Today we are releasing a fact sheet explaining the limited circumstances when the Rule requires that the consumer be provided an additional three-day review period. Only three specific changes require an additional three-day review period: (1) an increase in the APR of greater than 1/8 of a percentage point for a fixed-rate loan or 1/4 of a percentage point

for an adjustable-rate loan (decreases in the APR based on a decrease in the interest rate or fees charged do not trigger a delay); (2) the addition of a prepayment penalty; and (3) changes in the loan product, from a fixed-rate to an adjustable-rate loan, for example. Importantly, no other changes require a delay for re-disclosure.

Your letter raises a further important matter. As you have suggested, the Bureau's work to support the implementation of the Rule does not end on the effective date of August 1, as we continue to work with industry, consumers, and other stakeholders to answer questions, provide guidance, and support a smooth transition for the mortgage market. As we do so, and in response to considerable input we have received from you and your constituents, I have spoken with our fellow regulators to clarify that our oversight of the implementation of the Rule will be sensitive to the progress made by those entities that have squarely focused on making good-faith efforts to come into compliance with the Rule on time. My statement here of this approach is intended to ease some of the concerns we have heard about this transition to new processes in the coming months and is consistent with the approach we took to implementation of the Title XIV mortgage rules in the early months after the effective dates in January 2014, which has worked out well.

As always, thank you for your strong interest in the Bureau's work, and I personally appreciate your oversight efforts. I hope you can see, here again, that we listen closely and consider carefully how we can best address the issues that you raise as we all pursue this important advance in consumer protection and disclosure authorized by Congress. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or Bureau staff can meet with your staff, should that be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

RICHARD CORDRAY,
Director.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Within 2 weeks, we received a letter back from the CFPB, promising that they would do a grace period.

I thank Director Cordray for responding so quickly to the gentleman from Kentucky's concerns and my concerns.

The grace period that the Bureau did for the qualified mortgage rule, which they gave earlier, was very successful, and I have no doubt that the grace period for the Integrated Disclosure rule will be just as successful.

In fact, the Integrated Disclosure rule took effect last Saturday, which means that the grace period that Director Cordray promised—which this bill would codify—is already in effect. The grace period is happening right now, and that is why this bill is just absolutely not necessary.

It is also important to note that the bill would prohibit consumers from suing for improper disclosure during the grace period. Now, that is of deep concern to me because that takes a right away from consumers.

I certainly did not come to Congress to vote in any way to limit or roll back consumer protections. So this was something that I am incredibly uncomfortable with because I don't think it is

a good idea to suspend both public enforcement and private enforcement through lawsuits at the same time. I don't think that is good policy because it takes away all the guardrails for consumers during this grace period.

This is also something that the White House strongly opposes. In fact, they have issued a veto threat on this bill because they feel so strongly about maintaining consumers' private right to sue.

And I will place into the RECORD a statement from President Obama's White House, stating that he is opposed to rolling back any rights of consumers.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, October 6, 2015.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 3192—HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT
(Rep. Hill, R-AR, and one cosponsor)

Americans deserve clear and easy to understand disclosures of the cost of buying and financing a home, which is why the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act directed the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to streamline conflicting disclosures that were required under the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. The Know Before You Owe regulation issued by the CFPB almost two years ago fulfills this mandate by requiring mortgage lenders and settlement agents to provide homebuyers with simpler forms that explain the true cost of buying their home at least three days before closing. This summer, the CFPB extended the effective date for these requirements by two months, to last Saturday, October 3, 2015, to provide for a smooth transition and avoid unnecessary disruptions to busy families seeking to close on a new home at the beginning of the school year.

H.R. 3192 would revise the effective date for the Know Before You Owe rule to February 1, 2016, and would shield lenders from liability for violations for loans originated before February 1 so long as lenders made a good faith effort to comply.

The CFPB has already clearly stated that initial examinations will evaluate good faith efforts by lenders. The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3192, as it would unnecessarily delay implementation of important consumer protections designed to eradicate opaque lending practices that contribute to risky mortgages, hurt homeowners by removing the private right of action for violations, and undercut the Nation's financial stability.

If the President were presented with H.R. 3192, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. So while I am very sympathetic to the concerns that motivated this bill, I have to oppose the bill because I believe it is unnecessary.

They say the purpose is to codify it. Mr. Cordray responded to Congress' request. They responded to industry's request, and they granted the grace period. We have it. So this bill does nothing but roll back consumer protections.

I would urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. I applaud my colleagues that signed the letter that led to the relief we have today.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to say we certainly don't see a grace period from Mr. Cordray. We see "I am going to be sensitive and read between the lines."

So the worst charge here is this bill is redundant. This bill does nothing to constrain consumer rights, but what it does do is constrain trial lawyers who are going to take away home ownership opportunities.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the chairman of the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I guess we have a new definition. We just heard that the CFPB has streamlined things for local banks. I guess this is Washington's version of streamlining regulations: 1,888 pages. My gosh.

So I come to the floor today to commend the chairman of the committee and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for moving this legislation before us, H.R. 3192, and for Members on both side of the aisle who have supported this type of legislation as well.

Let us understand what this legislation does not do. It does not remove any authority from the CFPB to take enforcement actions against bad actors under the new Integrated Disclosure rules. Secondly, it does not remove any kind of incentives for lenders to comply with the new rule.

So I think it is important that we recognize what it does not do, despite some of the claims that we are hearing from the other side of the aisle.

So what does the bill do? It simply provides a grace period, if you will, for lenders, your local bankers, if you will, who act in good faith to comply with this 1,888-page simplification of the new rules that the CFPB has put out there.

I think it is ironic that the CFPB took over 1,800 pages of rulemaking authority and analysis and all the time, yet the agency is unwilling to provide the lenders—your local banks, if you will—a brief period in order to comply with all the rigamarole, the red tape, the technology, the compliance for them to get up to speed on this.

Clearly, the length of the rulemaking suggests it was a complicated project for the CFPB. It took them a long time to complete it. So why are they not willing to in writing basically say: Here, you folks, you local bankers, you also will have the same leniency as well?

This is a very straightforward and simple bill. It is intended to provide a brief, 4-month grace period for your banks, lenders that act in good faith to comply, nothing more, nothing less.

At the end of the day, who are we really helping here? No. It is not the bankers. It is not the lenders. Really, who we are really helping is all the American people who are trying to get

a loan, who are trying to go and get financing. Those are the people that this legislation would help.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3192 to protect Americans' investment in their homes.

The new TILA-RESPA disclosure rules are critical consumer protections that will provide consumers with expanded information before buying a home.

What we are doing today with this legislation is to use dilatory tactics to prevent CFPB from doing their job in protecting consumers.

This legislation, however, is a solution in search of a problem. Just last week, before a Financial Services Committee hearing, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Cordray indicated that the agency will implement a hold harmless period so that the industry could implement rules without risk of enforcement.

H.R. 3192, which will further extend the grace period, is, therefore, unnecessary. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has already indicated a willingness to work hand in hand with the industry. But I guess that is not enough.

If this bill is enacted, the private right of action will be blocked, denying consumers their basic right to a day in court. That is not right, and this body should not stand for it. This will undermine the intent of the Integrated Disclosure, which is to provide clear, straightforward information to consumers regarding their mortgage.

How could you call this piece of legislation "Protect Americans' Investment in Their Homes" and, yet, use all these dilatory tactics to prevent consumers from having their right in court and from having the information that they need in order to make a wise decision?

We are trying to make the process better for consumers, and there is already a path before us that strikes a balance between the needs of industry and millions of homebuyers.

I am confident that CFPB Director Cordray will not deviate from this course. If he does, then we can hold the agency accountable. For these reasons, I urge the Members of this House to oppose this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I would be happy to yield to any of my Democratic colleagues who would show me where Director Cordray has ever used the words "hold harmless," where he has ever used the words "grace period."

I continue to hear these words bandied about. But he has appeared before

the House Financial Services Committee, the Senate Banking Committee. He has written letters, conducted interviews. He has never said this, never said this.

So, at worst, again, Mr. Speaker, the bill is redundant. If so, if my colleagues will yield back their time, I will be happy to yield back my time. We will have the vote, and we will get on with the other business of the House if the worst they can say is this bill is redundant.

Mr. SHERMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

You said you would yield to a Democrat who could quote Mr. Cordray.

Mr. HENSARLING. I said I would yield to a Democrat who can give me the Cordray quote where he says he will "hold harmless" or uses the term "grace period."

So if the gentleman has the quote, I would be glad to yield to him.

Mr. SHERMAN. I am so close to that, you should yield to me.

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. SHERMAN. He has responded to my question and said of this grace period, so it will "be diagnostic and corrective, not punitive, and there will be time for them to work to get it right."

Mr. HENSARLING. Reclaiming my time, so I continue to hear "diagnostic" and read between the lines. So, again, at worst, the bill is redundant.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), the chairman of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the distinguished chairman for his work on this important piece of legislation as well as my good friend from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. Speaker, for a good portion of my life before Congress I was in the housing business and had the opportunity to help a lot of American families buy their first home and sometimes their second home. I had the opportunity to buy my first home.

I was thinking earlier today that, when you look at the history of the closings over the years since I have been in the housing business, the first house I bought was in 1973.

I came away with six pieces of paper: a copy of the note that I signed that said I would promise to pay monthly payments of x; the deed of trust, which gave the bank security for the loan that I was taking out; a copy of the closing statement, which was on one page.

And over the years, I watched that grow and grow and grow until today—and I wish I had had an opportunity to do that—that, in many cases, the families walked out of closings with hundreds of pages of closing documents because we have gotten more and more new regulations and nuances into the buying a home process.

But let me talk about what I hear a lot of my colleagues on the other side say that this bill does.

Let me tell you what it doesn't do. It doesn't do one thing that inhibits the protections that are in TILA and RESPA for home buyers in this country. It does nothing.

What it also does not do is it does not give anybody safe harbor if they are not acting in good faith. Basically, what this bill says is: Look, we have got a new process.

And I think it was a good idea. I have supported it. In fact, I worked on working together to see if we could come up with one disclosure statement because two are sometimes confusing to the home buyer. So one made a lot of sense.

What didn't make sense was to take 1,888 pages to describe what we ought to do on one form, a combined form.

But what this does do is it says: We have got a very sophisticated process now because we have added all of these documents to closings and all of these disclosures. What it says is: Now, effective Saturday, we are going to implement a new system, and that new system is complicated. It has a lot of moving parts.

And buying a home can have a lot of different parts because each borrower, each buyer of a home, has different circumstances and different verifications that are needed and different transactional pieces of that. And trying to bring those all together in a new environment with new software is very difficult.

So what we said is: Look, if you are trying to act in good faith and you are trying to implement this and you are working on all the glitches in your processes and in your computer system possibly and you are doing that and if, for some reason, you missed one of the guidelines in this combined statement, we are not going to give you a penalty.

□ 1500

I think that makes sense. The American people are tired of an oppressive government. They are tired of the government being the enemy. What we need for the CFPB to be doing in this circumstance is working with the financial industry to make sure that this process is smooth. If there are nuances or glitches in the system, hey, it makes the system better when we share those.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3192 and encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker and Members, my friends on the opposite side of the aisle keep making the argument about the grace period. That should not even be discussed here because we have agreed, Mr. Cordray from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has agreed and everybody has agreed, that there

should have been a grace period. That is not what my amendment was about that they would not allow me to take up on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment is about consumer protection. They know it, and they are trying to keep people misled by coming in here with their props and saying that this bill is 1,800 pages when, in fact, it is not. So I want everybody to be clear that this is not about the grace period, and this is not about not giving the industry an opportunity to get its act together. Really, the debate should be about whether or not they protect consumers, and they don't.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, back in the old days, this bill would have just passed on suspension. It is bipartisan, it is small, and it is temporary. Both sides have praised the CFPB's efforts in coming out with this rule. Both sides believe in a grace period, and the question before us is whether we should codify that grace period and apply it to trial lawyer enforcement, or whether we should have it be more vague than the chairman would want, and whether this grace period should apply to private enforcement or only government enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, 91 Democrats called for this grace period. Half the Democrats on the committee voted for the bill. The bill applies only until the end of January. It is small, it is temporary, and it applies only to lenders who operate in good faith. I said until the end of January. Some would say it applies until February 1. Either way, it is a temporary bill.

I know the pressure the Democrats are under. Anybody who shows up at Democratic club meetings, they are thinking that any bill, no matter how small, temporary, or practical, that is favored by the financial services industry must be a complete sellout to banks. Well, as one of the leaders against the \$700 billion TARP bill, I can go to any Democratic club holding my head up high even if I vote for bills that are practical and yet may clash with some ideology.

The CFPB recognized the importance of this grace period, saying in the letter of October 1:

We recognize that the industry needs to make significant systems and operational changes.

They document all those changes and review them. That is why they provide for a grace period which they have indicated may last longer than 4 months. So why are smaller participants in the industry, small escrow companies and small lenders, backing away, abandoning consumers to only the biggest who know how to comply with this complicated 1,888-page regulation without worrying about a period of a shake-

down cruise to get organized? Why? Because although they have got the restrained administrative enforcement that has been praised, they don't have the restrained trial lawyer enforcement.

This bill effectuates what the CFPB is trying to do: let people go, do a shakedown cruise, make sure that things operate correctly, and do so knowing that if they act in good faith, they won't face retribution. But the CFPB can do that only with regard to governmental enforcement. It is up to this Congress to make sure that it applies to private enforcement. That is the purpose of this bill.

Let us achieve the purpose that the CFPB had when they issued their letter of October 1. Let us make sure that those who act in good faith will not face retribution. Let us make sure that the smaller mortgage lenders and smaller escrow companies can continue to operate if they try to do so in good faith. Let us not hand a huge competitive advantage to those players in the industry that have the most lawyers and the most sophisticated computer programmers.

If we are going to have a grace period, it needs to apply to both private enforcement through lawsuits as well as public enforcement through the CFPB. That is why I hope that Members will vote for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I enter into the RECORD this letter of October 1.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL
PROTECTION BUREAU,

Washington, DC, October 1, 2015.

Re Your inquiry regarding supervisory practices.

FRANK KEATING,
President and CEO, American Bankers Association, Washington, DC 20036

DEAR MR. KEATING: Thank you for your letters of August 12th and, with the trade associations copied below, September 8th regarding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Know Before You Owe TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure Rule (the Rule). The letters request that the FFIEC articulate its policy for its member agencies' examination and supervision of financial institutions for the initial months after the Rule becomes effective on October 3, 2015.

The member agencies of the FFIEC recognize that the mortgage industry has needed to make significant systems and operational changes to adjust to the requirements of the Rule, and that implementation requires extensive coordination with third parties. We recognize that the mortgage industry has dedicated substantial resources to understand the requirements, adapt systems, and train affected personnel, and that additional technical and other questions are likely to be identified once the new forms are used in practice after the effective date.

During initial examinations for compliance with the Rule, the agencies' examiners will evaluate an institution's compliance management system and overall efforts to come into compliance, recognizing the scope and scale of changes necessary for each supervised institution to achieve effective compliance. Examiners will expect supervised entities to make good faith efforts to

comply with the Rule's requirements in a timely manner. Specifically, examiners will consider: the institution's implementation plan, including actions taken to update policies, procedures, and processes; its training of appropriate staff; and, its handling of early technical problems or other implementation challenges.

As you may recall, this is similar to the approach the member agencies took in initial examinations for compliance with the mortgage rules that became effective at the beginning of January, 2014. Our experience at that time was that our institutions did make good faith efforts to comply and were typically successful in doing so.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD CORDRAY,
Director, Consumer Financial
Protection Bureau.

cc: American Land Title Association; American Escrow Association; The Appraisal Firm Coalition; Appraisal Institute; Collateral Risk Network; Consumer Bankers Association; Community Home Lenders Association; Consumer Mortgage Coalition; Community Mortgage Lenders; Credit Union National Association; Housing Policy Council; Independent Community Bankers of America; Mortgage Bankers Association; National Association of Home Builders; National Association of Mortgage Brokers; National Association of REALTORS; Real Estate Services Providers Council, Inc.

Mr. SHERMAN. I do want to quote out of it. The CFPB recognizes that "the mortgage industry has needed to make significant systems and operational changes to adjust to the requirements of the Rule."

It goes on to set forward why we need this grace period; and we need to make sure the grace period applies to both private and public enforcement.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), the chairman of the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3192.

Madam Speaker, just to reinforce what my colleague from California was just talking about, this is a period here where we are going to be moving forward to make sure what the CFPB is doing with its 1,888-page—sorry, that is me straining trying to pick all that up—rule is moving forward.

I would ask what is more pro-consumer: moving forward with a clarified rule that grants certainty to those businesses and those individuals like Realtors—I am a former Realtor, and mortgage folks like myself, I used to be in the business—or not doing the deal and not doing the closing. Because that is what is going to happen. That is what is going to happen is you are going to see these companies say: Wait a minute. We are not sure what our legal exposure is here.

Mr. Cordray, the head of the CFPB, has said that he will give a certain grace and understanding and, I believe the word was "sensitivity" to this moving forward. That is not a grace period. That is not clarity. Anybody who

has a lawyer advising them or a CPA or anybody else who has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that their client understands what is happening in the intent would not say that that is going to stand up in court.

I also know as a former Realtor that the home-buying process, buying or selling, can be one of the most challenging, confusing, and stressful times, especially for a first-time home buyer. The three most stressful points in life are marriage, death, and changing where you live. That is a very difficult time.

As we are moving forward on this, there often has to be this domino effect of homes closing to then get that closing settled, to then move beyond to the next deal, and you will have two, three, four, five, sometimes five or six homes all lined up, five or six families waiting for this one closing to happen. What that is going to do is just cause more confusion.

Madam Speaker, I support the intent and the spirit of the rule because I have sat at that closing table having to go through form after form after form. Everybody gets writer's cramp signing their name on all of these different forms. This was a good thing about Dodd-Frank, and combining these various forms and these various legal documents that have to be signed makes total sense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, as I was saying, the intent and the spirit of the rule makes a lot of sense. Having something that is going to negatively impact those home buyers, especially those first-time home buyers, is not pro-consumer. It is not pro-growth. What we are trying to do with this particular bill—and I applaud my new colleague for this—is to allow the stakeholders, which is the buyer, the seller, and the companies that have the legal responsibility to do this closing properly to move forward and make sure that this is done in the proper way for those consumers.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our distinguished leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and salute her for her relentless championing of the rights of consumers in our country as our ranking member on the Financial Services Committee.

I come to the floor on this legislation because it is something that runs deep in terms of our commitment and our responsibility to the consumers in our country.

It is very curious to me that this is called the Homeowners Assistance Act because it is exactly the opposite of that. I say that with regret because I think that there could have been some good features of this bill—and there had been that we all agreed on, that if there is legislation, as there has been, Dodd-Frank, and the regulations that spring from it, as there must be, that we have adequate time for the regulations to be implemented, to listen to the private sector, to say: What are the ramifications of these regulations, and do you need more time? We all subscribe that a certain amount of time, not an amount of time that is going to deter ever implementing the regulations, but a good faith attempt to come to terms.

What is unfortunate about this legislation, though, Madam Speaker, is that in taking that goodwill and turning it into a bill, what the Republicans have decided to do is to take away the right of private action for a homeowner, for a consumer. They are trying to destroy homeowners' rights to be heard in court when they think they have been tricked or misled in any kind of a transaction.

This is so really important. It was in September of 2008 when we had a meeting in my office then at the time, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, to talk about what was happening to the financial institutions in our country. There was a meltdown of such seriousness as was described by the Secretary of the Treasury that when I asked the chairman of the Fed, who was in the room, Mr. Bernanke, did he agree with that characterization of the situation we were in, he said: If we do not act immediately, we may not have an economy by Monday.

This was Thursday night.

So we went forward, largely with Democratic votes, to support a Republican President, President Bush, whose administration put forth legislation, and we worked together to make it something that we could pass on the floor, overwhelmingly Democratic votes supporting a Republican President in order to protect our economy.

What we couldn't do in that legislation or since was include the ability for a homeowner to declare bankruptcy—not that we wanted them to, and not that we hoped they ever needed to, but they had the leverage, they had the leverage in a negotiation with their lender to do so. Many of them were seriously abused by bundling and all kinds of other things that had happened that it was no longer my home loan from my neighborhood banker or my community banker or something like that. These notes, these mortgages, were sold and sold and sold, so nobody even knew who their lender was. But we, the Congress, refused to give them the right of bankruptcy.

Here we are again, Madam Speaker, these years later since September of

2008 to October of 2015, 7 years later. We have passed that bill that pulled back the financial institutions from their serious meltdown, helping Main Street as well as our financial institutions necessary for our economy. We passed the TARP bill, and we passed Dodd-Frank to make sure that the abuses that occurred that caused that meltdown in 2008 would not happen again because of what it did to our economy, to our working families, and to our financial institutions in our country.

So with Dodd-Frank, we had something that was really a breakthrough to protect the consumers, that Financial Consumer Protection Agency, and there is something really important, to protect average people, consumers. So when the regulations are released and the private sector said they needed more time, take more time. The administrator of the agency said: Okay, take more time. Then our Republican friends said: Oh, no, let's bring it to the floor and turn it into a bill to take more time. But then, to put this, like a Trojan horse, this bill comes in here with this underbelly of taking away the right of private action for a consumer.

□ 1515

How many people have we heard from, one reason or another engaged in a contract, a financial transaction, where not the devil was in the details, hell was in the details. Terrible for them, and they had no right of private action. This just isn't right.

So we may have our differences of opinion as to the amount of regulation or the timing of regulation. That is a legitimate debate for us to have, and to listen to the private sector in our public-private discussions to make sure that the intent of Congress and the intent of protecting the American people is intact. I don't paint everyone in the private sector with the same brush as I come out against those who say let's take away that right for consumers to have their day in court.

So I ask my colleagues, think about the consumer, what it means to the consumer to have his or her day in court. We are not supposed to be constricting leverage for the consumer in our country; we are supposed to be expanding opportunity for them so that when they engage in a transaction, they are respected because they have leverage at the table. Don't diminish their leverage by passing this legislation.

I am so pleased that the President's staff has said that they would recommend a veto should this bill come to the President's desk. Remove all doubt in the consumers' mind. We are not here to deter them, but to empower them.

I thank the gentlewoman again for her leadership and the members of the

committee who have been so protective of America's consumers, because do you know what? The consumers are the lifeblood of our economy. We are a consumer economy. And until consumers have the consumer confidence to invest, to spend, to buy a home, to inject demand into the economy, our economy will never turn around.

We are a middle class economy. We are a consumer economy. Let's strengthen that by voting "no" on this bill and saying "yes" to consumers. We want them to be as strong at the negotiating table as they can be.

With that, I commend the gentlewoman from California, Ranking Member WATERS.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds just to say, I know it is the custom of my friends on the other side of the aisle to want to vote on a bill before they read a bill, but I would suggest if they actually read H.R. 3192, they will discover the private right of action is preserved. There is merely a hold harmless section for those who act in good faith. I would commend to the distinguished minority leader and all Democrats they actually read the bill and they might discover that.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the chairman of our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the sponsor of this bill, Mr. HILL, for his good work and our chairman for driving this legislation. It is bipartisan.

Listening to the remarks that just took place from the minority leader, I know there is a comment, Madam Speaker, about consumers, but I think this is more of a play for the trial bar. Because if this 4-month hold harmless doesn't move forward, it is the consumers who are going to get hurt. It is the divorcee who needs the proceeds from the sale of her home from her husband to actually work on putting her life back together that now won't have that sale go through.

In communities like mine in rural America where you don't have really large lenders and large title companies and large Realtors, we have small institutions. It is those communities that are going to be hurt the worst if we don't have this 4-month hold harmless. You have given up your lease. You expect to close on a house, and that closing is not going to happen. Or you are getting a new job and you are moving to rural America and you didn't secure a lease because you are buying a house, but you can't buy a house be-

cause you have the whole sector of this base that is not willing to take the risk.

We are beating a horse here of 1,800-plus pages. It is a significant rule. It is very complex, and it baffles me that we wouldn't make sure that, as the system is implemented, we have a hold harmless provision, as long as those folks who are imposing new systems are making a good faith effort to comply.

I think you were listening to the debate. We are all saying the same thing. We want to make sure we protect consumers. We want to make sure the private sector can actually implement the rule effectively.

Mr. Cordray has come forward and indicated he is in support of a hold harmless, but I think the gentleman from California made a good point. It is not just the exposure that you have on the governmental side. It is also the exposure that you have the private side from private litigation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DUFFY. And so I am concerned that we will have consumers who are set to buy a home who won't have that sale go through, and it is those families who are hurt the worst.

There is a lot of stuff that we have to fight about that we disagree on, but it seems like we are so close on this one. Let's just go forward and do what is right for the consumers and right for the private sector and make sure that we have a 4-month hold harmless provision.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the committee for her hard work on this.

I urge Members to vote "no," and the reason why is that we have been considering and considering and trying to implement Dodd-Frank for such a long time. Every step of the way we have seen delay. Every step of the way we have seen things that just couldn't happen now for all these good reasons. But the fact of the matter is that what brought us to Dodd-Frank were serious abuses in the financial industry, and this bill and all the rules associated need to be implemented.

Now, the Know Before You Owe rule is a huge victory for home buyers. It is a good thing for home buyers to know exactly what is going on before they execute on a home loan. Anyone who has bought a home remembers the anxiety of wondering if they are going to have enough cash to close, to cover all the expenses. They also remember feeling bewildered by all of the various fees of \$100 or \$200, all these surprises. Home buyers need access to clear disclosures in plenty of time to comparison shop and challenge junk fees.

The bill we consider today would remove the legal right of homeowners to seek legal redress if they do not receive accurate disclosures until February 2016. The consumer protections are already in place now. We shouldn't postpone them.

If we really want to "assist" home buyers—and this bill is ironically called the Homebuyer Assistance Act—don't postpone what is already in the law today. Home buyers should get a clear home estimate when they apply for the loan. Home buyers should get their actual closing costs 3 days prior to settlement. And if a home buyer is mistreated in the closing process, the home buyer should retain the right to go to court and seek a remedy.

I remain concerned that home buyers are overcharged at closing. Not all; I am not one of those who paints with a broad brush. I believe many of our folks in the industry are excellent, but there are enough exceptions to that to concern all of us.

I strongly oppose a lot of lenders, mortgage brokers, builders who receive a financial benefit for a referral. Affiliated business arrangements and reverse competition are not good for home buyers. Consumers need information to protect themselves from overcharges and kickback schemes.

Please stand up for home buyers and vote "no" on H.R. 3192.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman HENSARLING.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for introducing this very important and significant piece of legislation.

H.R. 3192 acknowledges the learning curve that accompanies implementation of any new Federal regulation.

The TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure rule has been in effect now for 4 days. At this early stage, agencies are unable to protect the industry from liability risk that will follow during the early days of compliance, and Director Cordray has acknowledged that compliance would be difficult during these days of implementation. The loss should take into account Director Cordray's statement and protect home buyers, sellers, and the industry from regulatory and civil liability as they make good faith efforts to comply with the latest CFPB requirements.

I met with New Hampshire bankers, credit unions, and Realtors in September. They shared their concerns about what could happen if, misinterpreting the new rules, they made an unfortunate or unintentional error.

Compliance costs from other CFPB rules currently in effect have hobbled New Hampshire's financial institutions. The risks of this new rule could even lead some to quit the residential

lending business, and that has already happened in one circumstance in my district. That means less consumer choice and fewer options for home buyers in a shrinking real estate market, inevitably raising the price for the very consumer we try to protect.

Madam Speaker, I want to remind everyone that the private right of action is preserved in this piece of legislation and that this bill passed the House Financial Services Committee on a strong bipartisan vote of 45-13.

I want to thank Mr. HILL and Mr. SHERMAN for this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it to prevent frustrating and costly delays for the American consumer.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think it is important for us all to really understand what is taking place here today.

First of all, I want to warn against misleading information. When we keep hearing that those stack of papers represent the bill—that the bill is 1,800 pages long—that is not the case. As a matter of fact, the chairman of the committee knows that 171 pages are simply sample model forms to say to the banks: These are the kind of forms that you need, and you can take these samples and use them: 63 pages are description of the rationale behind the rule, why do we have this rule; 15 pages are summarizing the rulemaking process; 308 pages with section-by-section analysis.

So that is not the bill, those pages that you see, the props that are being used.

If we go to the beginning of this, you have to understand that it was Dodd-Frank that decided they wanted to make this process more easily understood by the consumers. Out of the Dodd-Frank legislation, they are the ones that combined both TILA and RESPA into this integrated disclosure form to make it simpler.

So despite the fact that the banks and the industry have—particularly the big banks—thousands of employees, millions of dollars, doing big trades, et cetera, et cetera, they said: We really can't get our act together in the length of time that is given us with this rule.

So for some of us who thought, well, you know, they are very well-staffed, they have a lot of money, they could really do this, but we will take them at their word. And not only that, some of us on the Democratic side said we would take them at their word, Mr. Cordray led the effort in saying, all right, there should be a grace period.

I don't care what my chairman said. If Mr. Cordray did not say it in the exact words the way that he wanted him to say it, that is just too bad; but the fact of the matter is he did say it, that he would support a grace period, and that is what we have all done.

So given that he has said that, given that we have support for it on the Democratic side and the Republican side, really, there is no need for the bill. This is just taking up precious time and energy for something that is not needed.

I think I know why there is such a fight for this legislation. Because it includes in it something that would protect the lenders even when they make a big mistake.

□ 1530

We talk about good faith, but I want to tell you what is included in this Integrated Disclosure. People are talking about real issues here.

Will the loan amount be the same that the consumer has agreed upon? Will the interest rate be the same? Or will somehow there be a little mistake; instead of 3.8 in interest rates, it is going to end up 4.2 or 4.3? If that happens, what can the consumer do if you don't give them the right to go into court? Basically, they can do nothing, and the lender can say "too bad about that."

We cannot treat consumers that way. We have to give them the right to have their day in court. And even with the burden being on the consumer to have to prove that the lender acted in good faith, the consumer needs to have the right to go and make the case.

And so my amendment that was not allowed in the Rules Committee and we did not get a chance to come to the floor and debate it because they closed down the rule simply means that my friends on the opposite side of the aisle said: We don't care what you are saying about protecting the consumers. We know that there could be some mistakes. However, we say, if those mistakes are made, it was in good faith. They didn't really mean to do it and, no, the consumer doesn't have a right to go into the court and make the case.

That is not right. It should not happen.

As our leader has said, we have gone through a period of time where this country almost had a depression. We certainly did have a recession because the big banks and too many of the banks and financial institutions in this country came up with all of these exotic products. People were misled. They signed on the dotted line for mortgages that many of them could not afford. These mortgages reset, and people ended up paying higher interest rates 6 months or a year after they signed on the dotted line. They didn't know. They didn't understand.

So you can say that the banks who treated the consumers this way were acting in good faith and they didn't intend to do it, but we know enough now that we cannot depend on representations of "I didn't mean it." If you didn't mean it, you shouldn't have done it. And if you did it, you need to

be able to be dealt with in a court of law.

So here we are with this legislation. And if you had not put that part in the legislation, there would not even have to be a discussion. You are absolutely right; it could have been on suspension or there could not have been a bill at all.

But, no, the concern about the consumer is not what appears to be foremost in the minds of those who would dismiss their opportunity to go to court. We should not treat our consumers that way. We should have learned our lesson. We should have learned our lesson.

Folks who are buying a home maybe for the first time and this is the biggest decision and this is the biggest credit action that they are going to make in their lifetime, they need to have some assurances that they are being treated right.

Why do you think we have all of these disclosure laws? Before these disclosure laws were developed, people were misled. They ended up with balloon payments, prepayment penalties, on and on and on.

We are saying, yes, let's have a grace period; let's allow the banks to use this time to get their house in order. They can train their staff. They can get their papers together. We agree to all of that. That is not an issue, and we say it over and over again because we don't want anybody to be misled that somehow we are standing in the way of the great spirit. We are not doing that. We agree to that. What we are standing in the way of is abuse of our consumers.

We created this Consumer Financial Protection Bureau because our consumers did not have the protection that they needed. Our regulators didn't pay attention to consumers. They were supposed to be there, not only to deal with the possible risks in the system, et cetera, and the consumers, but nobody was looking out for the consumers.

So this is the centerpiece of Dodd-Frank reforms, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The centerpiece of Dodd-Frank is to protect consumers and not allow them to be tricked, not allow them to be misled, not allow them to be prevented from going to court. You can describe it any way that you want to describe it, but the fact of the matter is you are either with the consumers or you are not.

We on this side of the aisle, for the most part, are telling you over and over again that we are with the great spirit. We are not with your actions and that part of the bill that will not allow our consumers to be protected.

And you can protest all you want. You cannot tell me if Ms. Jones, in signing on the dotted line, ends up with a higher interest rate than she thought she was getting and if she does not

have the right to go into court, what happens. Who is going to protect her if she does not have the right to go into court and make the case and show that this is not simply an error of a comma or a period? This is an action that does not show good faith. This is an action that will cause me to pay hundreds of more dollars for my loan that I had not anticipated.

Consumers should not be treated that way. Consumers should be protected in every possible way that we can because, in the final analysis, that is why they send us to Congress, to be able to be their voice, to speak for them. We on this side of the aisle will continue to do that in spite of the tricks of the trade that are being employed by others.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, is bipartisan. Half of the Democrats on the House Financial Services Committee supported it. Over 200 Members of this body wrote to the head of the CFPB asking for a hold harmless period.

So what we have is a modest, bipartisan bill that says, you know what? For 120 days—actually, fewer than 120 days now, Madam Speaker—for those who in good faith are trying to implement the most dramatic changes in our disclosure laws in a decade, if they act in good faith, you know what, for 120 days we are going to let you get your systems in. We are going to hold you harmless as long as you are acting in good faith.

If you purposely violate the law, if you intentionally violate the law, that is something different. But if you are acting in good faith, you know, during this transition period, during this rollout, we are going to hold you harmless because we want to help people close their homes.

We want people to be able to partake in that portion of the American Dream, which is home ownership. And whether you call it rule, guidance, forms, there are 1,888 pages of text from the CFPB that must be digested by all kinds of very expensive attorneys that have to be integrated into the information technology systems. There are 1,888 pages, courtesy of the CFPB, in order to simplify forms.

Madam Speaker, it is a good idea to simplify forms. I am not sure the CFPB got it right. The bottom line is the CFPB prevented people in the industry from even having a trial of their systems. They were not allowed to go live before October 3. So this is the first time they have had to do it.

If anything, the Federal Government ought to know something about failed

rollouts. Look at ObamaCare. Yet, somehow, those people were held harmless for the mistakes they made on rolling out something that was very complex.

What is going to happen here if we don't pass this bill? Again, I have talked to people in Texas involved in the industry. What I heard at a workshop dealing with this Integrated Disclosure rule, a gentleman from El Paso indicated their institution was going to stop residential mortgage lending for a time "until they could get a good feeling for how the regulations were going to be officially interpreted."

I know my friends on the other side of the aisle keep talking about this grace period from Mr. Cordray. I don't see it. He appeared before our committee just days ago and said, "I don't think it is appropriate for me to say I won't enforce the law when my job is to enforce the law." I didn't find the words "grace period" anywhere there, Madam Speaker, so it doesn't exist. And if it did, the worst they can say about this bill is it is redundant.

People who have been wronged by those who act purposely have a right to private litigation, but that doesn't appear in RESPA; it only appears in TILA. And you can't tell me, in these new forms, which is which. You can't tell me, and so it is completely confusing.

So it comes down to this, Madam Speaker: Whose side are you on? Are you on the side of the wealthy, litigious trial lawyers who are looking for their next big class-action payday? Are you looking to help low-and moderate-income people who have worked hard to put together a nest egg to finally save for their piece of the American Dream? Who are you for?

Well, I am happy that at least half of the Democrats on this committee that serve with the ranking member have said: You know what? We want to be with the homeowner. We don't necessarily want to be with the litigious trial attorneys. So that is really the choice we are making here. It is, again, Madam Speaker, such a modest bipartisan bill.

I have heard the ranking member say it is a waste of time. Well, then, why didn't she yield back her time?

This should be on what we call the suspension calendar. Something that is bipartisan and modest should have been on the suspension calendar and should have already been taken care of. But somebody wishes to protect the wealthy trial attorneys.

So you have got to make a choice, Madam Speaker, and I hope that the House today comes down thoroughly on the side of the American home buyer and enacts H.R. 3192 from the gentleman from Arkansas.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, there is no doubt reform of TILA and RESPA

is needed. Change has been advocated by all parties, and by Members on both sides of the aisle.

Like many of you, I continue to hear from lenders, real estate professionals, and title insurance companies in my district that third parties were not fully prepared for the October 3rd implementation of TRID. This is particularly true for small businesses with fewer resources.

Beyond preparedness issues, there remain questions over TRID processes and associated liability. Countless concerns have also been raised over the lack of a formalized restrained enforcement period. A hold harmless period would allow a better understanding of the changes associated with TRID, and help to ensure consumer confidence and stability in the housing market.

In addition to a wide array of financial services industries, a bipartisan group of lawmakers has expressed the need for a hold harmless period like the one included in H.R. 3192. In fact, more than 250 Members of Congress, 92 of whom were Democrats, expressed strong support for the idea in a letter led by Mr. BARR of Kentucky and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

CFPB Director Richard Cordray indicated in an April 22nd letter that the Bureau "expects to continue working with industry . . . to answer questions, provide guidance, and evaluate any issues . . .", but that he would not use his authority to institute a grace period.

This summer, a bipartisan group of Financial Services Committee members met with Director Cordray to make an appeal for a commonsense approach to implementation of this rule. The request was reiterated at a Committee hearing just last week. In both instances, Director Cordray indicated that he would institute a hold harmless period; and in both instances, despite assurances, he failed to do so.

The changes to the home-buying process in TRID will affect millions of Americans. We owe it to consumers to ensure that the rule put in place serves its purpose without causing unintended consequences.

The practice of buying or selling a home is confusing. Buyers and sellers put pen to paper on pages they've not read and don't understand. Make no mistake, we all believe the procedure needs to change; but, on something this important, CFPB needs to move slowly and deliberately, taking into account concerns from consumer groups and industry alike.

It's my sincere hope that implementation of this rule moves forward without complication; however, the unfortunate reality is that a change of this magnitude will create issues for consumers, lenders, and the CFPB alike.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. HILL, and the gentleman from California, Mr. SHERMAN, for their work on this legislation, as well as the many other Members, including Mr. PEARCE of New Mexico, for their leadership on this front.

This is not a partisan issue; it's a consumer issue, a small business issue. I ask my colleagues for their support of H.R. 3192.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, which would delay, until February 1, 2016 enforcement of

the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) integrated rule regarding disclosures that mortgage lenders must provide to homebuyers.

I oppose this legislation for two principal reasons.

First, H.R. 3192 contains a provision that hurts homeowners by removing their private right of action for violations of the CFPB's Truth in Lending Act—RESPA Integrated Disclosure (TRID) regulations.

Second, I oppose the legislation because it is unnecessary since the CFPB has previously announced its intention to take into account good faith efforts by lenders in evaluating compliance by lenders with the TRID regulations.

Madam Speaker, it should be noted that CFPB gave the mortgage industry approximately two years notice to implement the new disclosure requirements, and this past summer extended that deadline until October 3, 2015.

H.R. 3192 would revise the effective date for the Know Before You Owe rule to February 1, 2016, and would shield lenders from liability for violations for loans originated before February 1 so long as lenders made a good faith effort to comply.

In extending the effective date of the Know Before You Owe rule by an additional 4 months, H.R. 3192 unnecessarily delays implementation of important consumer protections designed to eradicate opaque lending practices that contribute to risky mortgages and hurt homeowners by removing their private right of action for violations, and undercuts the Nation's financial stability.

The delay of enforcement harms consumers by encouraging some lenders to attempt to evade the new rule and reduces the incentive to comply promptly.

Having witnessed the economic and financial devastation inflicted on the economy, businesses, and households in 2008 resulting from inadequate oversight of the financial industry, we simply cannot afford to repeat that mistake.

I urge my colleagues to vote to protect consumers and homebuyers from predatory and unfair lending practices by voting against H.R. 3192.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to consolidate and streamline the disclosures that a lender is required to make to a homebuyer under the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA). The CFPB has crafted a rule that will ultimately make it easier for borrowers to understand the terms of a mortgage and provide them with additional protections at each step of the process.

But mortgages are complicated instruments, and the procedures for home loans have been established for a long time. There is no question that the new rules are complex and will ultimately result in some unintended violations during implementation. The CFPB has extended the timeline for compliance once, and I agree that it is reasonable to extend that compliance period again, as this bill does, until February of 2016.

I also agree that lenders who inadvertently fail to comply because these rules are new and unfamiliar should not be subject to public enforcement actions during the implementation period. And indeed CFPB has given its assurance that it will grant very wide latitude to lenders during this period.

If that were all this bill did, I could support it. But in the bill is a troubling section that I cannot support even though I agree with the rest of its provisions. Unfortunately this bill suspends until next February the private right of action that allows aggrieved borrowers to recover damages when lenders violate the law in bad faith. This means that consumers who borrow during that period of time have absolutely no recourse whatsoever, even if the lender has engaged in blatant violations of the law. That isn't right, and it isn't fair for our constituents who are buying homes in the next four months to have to face that risk.

Although I agree that lenders acting in good faith who inadvertently violate the new rules should be given a reprieve over the next few months, I cannot endorse letting all violators off the hook for any action they take that harms borrowers. I hope we can continue to work to improve this bill, and I hope that we will soon consider a better version on the House floor to provide relief to lenders without also harming borrowers.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose the bill in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 462, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Moulton moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3192 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following new section:

SEC. 3. PROTECTING SERVICEMEMBERS AND OTHERS.

The safe harbor provided by section 2 shall not apply to private suits filed by servicemembers, veterans, seniors, students, and family members of servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not kill the bill or send it back to

committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage as amended.

We all agree that the men and women who serve in our Nation's military should be afforded every opportunity to live the American Dream that they risked their lives to defend. Unfortunately, too often our servicemembers, veterans, and their families fall victim to unfair and abusive financial practices.

In 2014 alone, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau received more than 17,000 complaints from servicemembers, veterans, and their families on a variety of issues, from deceptive subprime auto lending to troublesome credit card fees and predatory mortgage loans. That same year, the CFPB was able to return more than \$1.6 million to these families. The CFPB is a vital watchdog for American consumers.

□ 1545

The bill before us today would delay the enforcement of the CFPB's rule regarding disclosures that mortgage lenders must provide to home buyers. Additionally, the bill would permanently eliminate a borrower's ability to enforce his or her legal rights if a lender fails to disclose or obscures important information for all loans originated over the next 5 months so long as the error is made "in good faith," a term that the bill does not define and that substantially narrows existing protections for consumers afforded under the Truth in Lending Act.

The mortgage industry has had nearly 2 years to implement these new disclosure requirements and was given an additional grace period this year. Despite assurances from the CFPB Director that the agency would implement a restrained enforcement process that takes into account the industry's good faith effort to comply, this legislation could leave millions of American home buyers without the legal protections to which all citizens are entitled.

The amendment I am offering today would allow our servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and students—some of our Nation's most vulnerable populations—with the opportunity to seek their day in court if a mortgage lender acts in bad faith.

As we learned following the 2008 financial crisis, far too often the people with the fewest resources pay the heaviest price when they are deceived by bad actors in the financial marketplace.

While reasonable people can disagree on the merits of the underlying bill, I hope we can all agree that our servicemembers, veterans, students, and seniors deserve the consumer financial protections the CFPB offers.

That is what this amendment would help to achieve, and I urge your support.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, again, this underlying bill, H.R. 3192, modest, bipartisan. Grace period for those who act in good faith in trying to implement the most dramatic changes in our real estate disclosure laws in a decade, 1,888 pages worth.

We know, Madam Speaker, if we do not enact this bill, people are going to be denied homeownership opportunities. We have already heard within our committee. We have heard from our constituents already. For example:

Large lenders have already announced they are not going to do one-time closings anymore due to the uncertainty.

That comes from an individual in Tyler, Texas.

I quoted earlier one from El Paso, who stated:

Presented in El Paso, an institution is going to stop residential mortgage lending for a time until they can get a good feeling on how the regulation is going to be officially interpreted.

Americans are being denied homeownership opportunities, and all the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the author of H.R. 3192, says is: Let's have, for those who operate in good faith, a temporary grace period in trying to roll this out.

So what the motion to recommit does—and I know this is not the gentleman's purpose, but what his motion to recommit does, if adopted by the House, is actually discriminate against the very people that he says he wishes to help because now, all of a sudden, it is going to be our servicemembers, our veterans, our seniors, our students, and family members of servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and students who are going to be denied their homeownership opportunities.

Now, maybe in the gentleman's district they prefer the lawsuit. In my district, in the Fifth District of Texas, they prefer the homeownership opportunity. Any bad actors can still be sued under TILA in a private right-of-action, but when we are trying to ensure that people are not denied their homeownership opportunities, why would we want to discriminate against our servicemembers and veterans? Because all of a sudden, then, there is extra liability.

So everybody will know now that if you are going to lend on a home mortgage to a veteran, you are going to have extra liability. Are you going to make that loan? Are you going to charge them more? This House should reject any discrimination against our servicemembers, veterans, seniors, students, and family members of servicemembers, veterans, seniors, and stu-

dents, and reject this motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A SELECT INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 461 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 461

Resolved, That there is hereby established a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (hereinafter "select panel").

SEC. 2. (a) The select panel shall be composed of not more than 13 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner appointed by the Speaker, of whom not more than five shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader. Any vacancy in the select panel shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) Each member appointed to the select panel shall be treated as though a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce for purposes of the select panel.

(c) No member may serve on the select panel in an ex officio capacity.

(d) The Speaker shall designate as chair of the select panel a member elected to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

SEC. 3. (a) The select panel is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study and issue a final report of its findings (and such interim reports as it may deem necessary) regarding—

(1) medical procedures and business practices used by entities involved in fetal tissue procurement;

(2) any other relevant matters with respect to fetal tissue procurement;

(3) Federal funding and support for abortion providers;

(4) the practices of providers of second and third trimester abortions, including partial birth abortion and procedures that may lead to a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion;

(5) medical procedures for the care of a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion; and

(6) any changes in law or regulation necessary as a result of any findings made under this subsection.

(b) The chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce shall cause any such report to be printed and made publicly available in electronic form.

SEC. 4. Rule XI and the rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce shall apply to the select panel in the same manner as a subcommittee except as follows:

(1) The chair of the select panel may authorize and issue subpoenas pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI in the investigation and study conducted pursuant to section 3, including for the purpose of taking depositions.

(2) The chair of the select panel, upon consultation with the ranking minority member, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena, by a member of the select panel or a counsel of the select panel. Such depositions shall be governed by the regulations issued by the chair of the Committee on Rules pursuant to section 3(b)(2) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and printed in the Congressional Record. The select panel shall be deemed to be a committee for purposes of such regulations.

(3) The chair of the select panel may, after consultation with the ranking minority member, recognize—

(A) members of the select panel to question a witness for periods longer than five minutes as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(B) of rule XI; and

(B) staff of the select panel to question a witness as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(C) of rule XI.

SEC. 5. Service on the select panel shall not count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2)(A) of rule X.

SEC. 6. The select panel shall cease to exist 30 days after filing the final report required under section 3.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 461 provides for the creation of a select investigative panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The resolution ensures the House exercises one of its most fundamental constitutional responsibilities: oversight of the use of Federal funds and compliance with Federal law.

Undercover investigations have revealed that an organization that receives hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars annually, Planned Parenthood, has also been taking the remains of unborn children and selling them to tissue collection firms.

Its staff has reportedly even altered their medical procedures to more effectively dismember unborn children, with one abortionist saying: “We have been very good at getting heart, lung, liver . . . because we know that, so I’m not gonna crush that part, I’m gonna basically crush below, I’m gonna crush above, and I’m gonna see if I can get it all intact.”

There are also allegations that children may have been born alive and left to die in order to harvest their tissue.

How can we in Congress ignore these charges? It is clear that a full investigation is not only warranted, but imperative, into these issues. Even if these abortion providers somehow managed to comply with all Federal laws while dismembering children, it is clear we need to learn more about their barbaric tactics so we can amend those laws and ensure practices like these never happen again, particularly by organizations receiving millions from U.S. taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, in order to effectively continue the oversight that the House has begun into these issues, H. Res. 461 would establish a select investigative panel at the Committee on Energy and Commerce to provide a full investigation and study into these allegations. This panel would be made up of 13 members appointed by the Speaker, 5 of which will be by the recommendation of the minority leader and chaired by a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Its operations will not require any additional appropriations of funds.

The investigation will be focused on medical procedures and business practices of entities involved in fetal tissue procurement; Federal funding and support for abortion providers; practices of providers of second- and third-trimester abortions, including partial birth abortions; medical care provided to children born alive as a result of an attempted abortion; and necessary changes in law or regulation identified by this investigation.

□ 1600

This type of investigation or special panel is far from unprecedented. When in the majority, my colleagues across the aisle formed the Select Intelligence

Oversight Panel under the Appropriations Committee as well as a Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

The creation of a select investigative panel on the issues surrounding the sale of unborn children’s tissue is clearly within precedent, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will agree that we must get to the bottom of this.

We have seen video evidence of children being dismembered to facilitate the sale of their hearts and other organs. Few issues can make us come together like our children. It is my hope that our partisan battles will cease for a brief moment to enable us to have a full investigation into the fate of children at the most vulnerable time of their lives.

Even for those who support abortion on demand, it should be simple to unite behind the principle that organizations receiving hundreds of millions in taxpayer funds are subject to congressional oversight, particularly when their divisive practices may violate Federal law and are, frankly, barbaric.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the resulting investigation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, creating a select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood is a journey with no end, a solution in search of a problem.

Congressman CHAFFETZ, who is chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, held a hearing 2 weeks ago that lasted over 5 hours and relentlessly badgered the president of Planned Parenthood, the only witness. Cecile Richards comported herself so well. But despite that, we are going to do this again.

Mr. CHAFFETZ was asked by CNN’s Wolf Blitzer after the hearing, “Is there any evidence, in your opinion, that Planned Parenthood has broken any law?” Mr. CHAFFETZ responded, “No, I’m not suggesting they broke the law.”

So if they haven’t broken the law, what are we doing here? Why do we investigate over and over? There are three committees in the House right now investigating Planned Parenthood.

We have spent the day trying to get our colleagues to stop putting on these select committees, which do not comply with the way things have always been to be fair to both sides of the committee and let Democrats have the same kind of benefit of information as they have.

This one, though, I think is even worse because it gives subpoena power to the head of what is basically a subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee that is unilateral. We have never seen that before.

So why do we spend time and funds and resources investigating an organization that we know has done nothing wrong? Because we are dealing with a majority obsessed with taking constitutionally protected health care away from women, many of whom, I may add, are poor.

If you add that to the 54, 55 votes to do away with a healthcare bill called ObamaCare, apparently, the major obsession of the majority is to take health care away from people. That is a little hard to comprehend, since we all represent about 750,000 constituents who I don't think would be happy about that.

So every time we attack Planned Parenthood, remember that you are attacking one in five American women who have used Planned Parenthood.

Whether it is a select committee or intentionally misleading data, this majority will use any tactic necessary. In fact, the tactics Mr. CHAFFETZ used a week ago were resoundingly discredited. His hearing materials—one chart in particular—was so misleading that the press called it words that I am not allowed to say on the floor of the House.

Is that what we expect from this select committee? Let me say, for one, it is certainly what I expect. A flippant disregard for truth goes against what we have come here to Congress to do. We came to govern, uphold the Constitution of the United States, and to do our best domestically.

We are not doing our best domestically. We have no budget. As a friend of mine said today, this is a majority that can't build bridges, roads, or highways, but can sure build select committees.

This House majority decides to spend the time, money, and resources of the taxpayers attempting to cut funding for the same idea that has not happened for 39 years. Remember, this has not happened for 39 years.

Since the appearance of the Hyde amendment, not a single Federal dollar has been spent on abortion, except in very, very rare cases to save the life of the mother. That is right.

Contrary to what the majority would have the American public believe, Planned Parenthood spends zero Federal dollars on abortions today. That is what the majority select committee will investigate. For 39 years, that law has never been broken.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 461. This resolution would create a select panel to investigate a number of claims related to Planned Parenthood's activities involving abortion and fetal tissue procurement.

Like many Americans, I was horrified by the recent videos which depicted Planned Parenthood employees callously discussing the trafficking and sale of aborted babies' tissues and organs.

As a mother of four, I know that nothing is more sacred than the gift of human life, and any organization that puts a price on unborn children must be held accountable.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I am actively involved in the House investigation examining the atrocities committed by Planned Parenthood. While we are continuing to gather information and determine the exact nature of the organization's actions, one thing is certain. These practices represent a blatant disregard for innocent life, and they must be stopped.

By establishing a select panel, we can ensure that we have the proper tools and time needed to uncover the truth, bring accountability to the organization, and justice to the most innocent among us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. I urge my colleagues to support this measure and to stand with me in the fight to defend innocent human life.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as well as the Select Benghazi Committee.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

As the ranking member of the Select Committee on Benghazi and the House Oversight Committee, I rise in strong opposition to this proposal by House Republicans to establish yet another new select panel to ramp up their baseless and politically motivated attacks against Planned Parenthood.

Last week two senior Republicans, both of whom are now competing to become the next Speaker of the House, made stunning admissions on national television within 24 hours of each other.

First, Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY admitted that House Republicans established the Benghazi Select Committee to use millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to damage Hillary Clinton's bid for President.

The next day the chairman of the Oversight Committee, Chairman CHAFFETZ, admitted on national television that there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood has violated any laws, despite months of investigations.

Let me repeat that. The chairman of the chief investigative committee that has been investigating Planned Parent-

hood for months admitted on national television that there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood violated any laws. His admission is consistent with the findings of multiple State investigations in Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and South Dakota, all of which have cleared Planned Parenthood of wrongdoing.

I ask my colleagues, if the top investigator in the House of Representatives says there is no evidence against Planned Parenthood, why in the world are we considering a proposal to set up a new select panel? I think the answer is the same here as it was with Benghazi. It is simply politics.

These stark Republican admissions obviously argue against continuing with these taxpayer-funded political attacks. Yet, House Republicans are proposing exactly the opposite.

They have already squandered more than \$4.5 million on the Benghazi Select Committee in one of the longest, least productive, and most partisan congressional investigations in history.

Now they want to use the same terrible model to attack the rights of millions of women across the country who rely on Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, breast exams, and other critical healthcare services every year.

Planned Parenthood has cooperated with every aspect of the congressional investigations to date. They have produced tens of thousands of pages of documents. Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards testified voluntarily for nearly 5 hours before the Oversight Committee. Even Chairman CHAFFETZ conceded that she has been "very cooperative with the investigation."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CUMMINGS. So, again, why do we need this new panel? Based on Planned Parenthood's exemplary record of cooperation, the tens of thousands of pages of documents the organization has produced in response to congressional requests, and the lack of any evidence that the group has violated any laws, there is simply no legitimate basis to adopt this proposal.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is those Members across the aisle who raise the issue of Benghazi that are playing politics by trying to distract Americans from the actual issue we are debating today.

The purpose of this resolution is to establish a select panel consistent with past precedent under Democrat majorities to ensure that this House conducts a thorough investigation into the practices surrounding fetal tissue procurement and federally funded organizations that participate in these practices.

Taxpayers deserve to know what their hard-earned dollars fund. It is incumbent upon us, as Representatives, to ensure that Federal funds are directed only to organizations that operate fully within the law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for allowing me to speak on the floor today during this rule debate.

As a sitting member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am proud to see my committee taking the lead on the investigation of Planned Parenthood. As a woman, a nurse, and a mother, I have fully supported the decision to defund Planned Parenthood. But as a representative of the people, our responsibilities are more than that. We have a responsibility to ask questions that will produce answers.

Our constituents deserve to know how this organization is using Federal funds, and they deserve to know which medical services they are actually providing to women. In forming this panel, we will begin finding the facts and hold Planned Parenthood accountable.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution.

As a member of the Benghazi panel, I think what we have learned from the Benghazi panel is that this House majority is not to be trusted when it comes to forming special investigatory panels. Basically, they form them for purely partisan reasons, as Representative McCarthy admitted just last week.

The second point here is one that has been made repeatedly. There is no evidence whatsoever that Planned Parenthood has violated the law.

So what exactly is it exactly that we are investigating? Even the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight has admitted there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood has violated the law.

Third, there is a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In fact, just about every committee in Congress has an oversight function.

So why don't we use that instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on something like the Benghazi Committee, which is admittedly breaking all kind of records in terms of wasting taxpayer dollars? But we don't need to pile on with another wasteful committee.

□ 1615

If you want to investigate this, do it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Do it through the existing committees.

Lastly, it is incredibly important to point out that Planned Parenthood performs enormously important services to women in this country. They provide much-needed health care to poor women and much-needed family planning to poor women.

You should have a family when you want a family. If you are not prepared to take care of children, then family planning makes an enormous amount of sense. In fact, what it does is it prevents abortions. It stops women from getting pregnant when they are not ready to have children. It goes after precisely the issue that the majority is most concerned about, to prevent abortions.

Planned Parenthood deserves our support, not another wasteful, taxpayer-funded, partisan investigation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the House committees who have investigated this issue thus far have done good work, but it is clear that much remains to be done. At Energy and Commerce in particular, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations has the task of conducting meaningful and necessary oversight of several other matters within the jurisdiction of the committee.

Given the large number of expected documents to be reviewed and interviews to be conducted, the select investigative panel will permit this necessary investigation to continue without impairing the other important work of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee at the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her leadership on this issue.

She spoke a little bit earlier about the structure and the organization of the investigative panel, and I want to go back to that and help to make the point because sometimes I think, in our passion and the emotions as we talk about bills, we begin to attribute to legislation jurisdiction that may not be there.

This is a small bill. It is very explicit in how the energy of the investigative panel is going to be utilized. There are six items that they are being tasked to investigate.

Number 1, medical procedures and business practices used by entities involved in fetal tissue procurement. We know there are questions that surround this, whether it is a not-for-profit or a for-profit entity.

Number 2, any other matters with respect to fetal tissue procurement.

Number 3, Federal funding and support for abortion providers.

Number 4, the practices of providers of second- and third-trimester abor-

tions, including partial-birth abortion procedures that may lead to a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion.

Number 5, medical procedures for the care of a child born alive as a result of an attempted abortion.

And number 6 will be any changes in law or regulation necessary as a result of any of the findings which are there from the committee.

I want to clearly state this is about getting answers of how we treat and protect life in this country.

The select panel will act to centralize the investigations that are at the Energy and Commerce Committee, Judiciary and Oversight Committees, and bring it all under one umbrella.

Over the past several weeks, we have had lots of serious questions. They are troubling questions that have been asked. I think that the investigations we have had have raised a lot of those questions.

It is imperative that we centralize these operations and bring it together under one umbrella.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume because I have some important information that I got recently that I want to bring to my colleagues' critical attention.

The chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Congressman JASON CHAFFETZ, has in his possession right now a computer hard drive that contains videos produced by David Daleiden, the head of the group that tried to entrap Planned Parenthood.

Those videos are official committee records, but Chairman CHAFFETZ is refusing to give the Democratic Members a copy of those videos.

On September 22, Chairman CHAFFETZ issued a subpoena to Mr. Daleiden, who is the Executive Director of the Center for Medical Progress. The subpoena demanded that Mr. Daleiden provide all of his unedited video footage.

We believe that the videos will show how Mr. Daleiden deceptively edited his videotapes to distort the truth, but those tapes are being hidden away. It appears that the Republicans do not want the Democrats to be able to see these videos.

Chairman CHAFFETZ's subpoena explicitly required that a copy of the videos be provided to both the Republicans and Democrats. Specifically, paragraph 18 of the subpoena's schedule instructions stated, "Two sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff, and one set to the Minority Staff."

On Friday, September 25, 2015, Mr. Daleiden delivered those videos to the committee, but provided them only to the Republicans. He did not provide a copy to Democrats, a direct violation of the subpoena.

Chairman CHAFFETZ and his staff members then refused to open the package until today, two weeks later, and now the chairman's staff is refusing to allow Democrat Members to have a copy of the videos that are only in his possession.

So I have a couple of questions I need to ask here. On what authority are the Republicans refusing to provide the Democrat Members of the body a copy of the videos?

And we know that Republicans actually have no authority to do that.

By the chairman's own subpoena, Democrats are entitled to a copy. That is explicit in his subpoena.

Another question that we must ask of our colleagues is: Last night at the Rules Committee, Representative MARSHA BLACKBURN said the intent of establishing a select committee is "to bring all the work under one panel."

Now, we know that Energy and Commerce has a hearing scheduled for tomorrow, according to one of the members. What we need to know is: Will Chairman CHAFFETZ be permitted to continue his investigation of Planned Parenthood if the select committee is in existence?

And how will that bring all the work under one panel if he is allowed to continue his own investigation if the Energy and Commerce Committee are allowed to bring theirs?

I would like to know if the chairman would assure Members of this body that he plans to immediately provide a copy of these videos to Democrats, as required by his own subpoena, so that all Members of the committee have equal access.

And I also need to know whether the chairman will be required under this resolution to immediately provide the videos to the new select panel today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for bringing those troubling revelations to the attention of the House. It shows what a sham process this has been from the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a lot of work to do in this Congress. We have got to come together with a budget agreement to keep the government open, to invest in our economy, to deal with modernizing our transportation infrastructure in this country.

Yet, what are Republicans bringing to the floor? Another measure to create another so-called select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood, when, as we have heard today, three other House committees have already done that. And what has been the sum total of that investigation?

Well, the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee

told us on national television when he was asked if Planned Parenthood had broken any laws, "No, I'm not suggesting they broke the law."

So when you don't get the answer you want, what do you do? Create another special committee.

Rather than creating a special committee, the Government and Oversight Committee owes an apology to Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood, for dragging her through a committee process that was disrespectful, where the chairman of the committee began with a chart that PolitiFact determined was a pants-on-fire misrepresentation. That is the most untrue ranking you can get from PolitiFact, Pants on Fire.

That was the gist of that hearing. And now we are learning today possible nondisclosure of certain documents. So what is happening here?

As the late Yogi Berra would say, "This is deja vu all over again."

They had many committees investigating Benghazi to try to get to the bottom of a tragedy in the House and the Senate, and all those committees concluded there was no wrongdoing.

And so what did our Republican colleague do? Spent \$5 million on a special committee on Benghazi, which, the Majority Leader just announced the other day on national television, was simply about politics, simply about hurting Secretary Clinton. So that is what this is all about.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman another 1 minute.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I want to thank the ranking member.

So that is what this all boils down to. When committees in the House and the Senate investigated Benghazi—and not just any committees—the Defense Committee, the Intelligence Committees in the House and the Senate—they all concluded that the allegations were false, that it was a terrible, awful tragedy in Benghazi, but nobody was involved in any wrongdoing.

When they didn't get the answer they wanted then, Special Committee on Benghazi, which, as we heard, turned out to be all about politics. And that is exactly what is happening now with Planned Parenthood.

Mr. CHAFFETZ just announced the results of all the hearings on Planned Parenthood. No violation of the law.

And so what do you do when you don't get the answer you want? Let's spend more taxpayer money on another special committee. This is a kangaroo court. This is a misuse of public funds.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's get on with the business of the House. Let's focus on the economy. Let's come together with a budget agreement to keep the government open.

Let's do the real work of the American people and not run a McCarthy-

like hearing against Planned Parenthood and women's health. Let's do what we should be doing, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

This summer 10 videos were released that showed high-level executives at major organizations, including Planned Parenthood, StemExpress, Advanced BioResources, speaking candidly about the activities that violate Federal law.

They speak of using "less crunchy abortion techniques" to preserve organs, of "crushing" certain body parts in order to spare others, and of children killed after they "fell out," that is, after being born alive.

It is interesting to hear people criticize the videos that haven't even watched the videos. These 10 videos constitute sufficient grounds for probable cause that criminal activity has occurred.

Subsequently, thanks to the leadership of the Judiciary Committee, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Energy and Commerce Committee, the House has begun to investigate the scope and prevalence of these activities.

Congressional discovery has already yielded important and revealing testimony. This House, as a body, has already voted to stop giving taxpayer funding to abortion providers and to ban late-term abortions, which are the abortions that yield the highly developed organs sought for medical experimentation.

Deniers of the unborn child's humanity or their human right to life have tried to ignore the clear evidence already uncovered about fetal organ procurement. The deniers have tried to discredit the videos that they are too horrified to watch. The videos speak for themselves.

The deniers have tried to create distractions. They insult pro-life Americans. They make excuses. No wonder, then, that the deniers oppose this panel. They don't want the truth to come out.

Whether you consider yourself pro-life or pro-choice, you should want the truth to come out. This debate ought to be settled by the facts.

It is Congress' duty to the American people that we find out the truth, especially as it pertains to the deaths of millions of innocent Americans and half a billion dollars in annual taxpayer funding. That will be the task and purpose of this select committee.

We, as a legislative body, rely on good information. We ought to base our actions on the facts.

I urge support for the resolution.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a copy of a letter to Speaker JOHN BOEHNER from Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSA DELAURO, and myself on this issue.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: We are very concerned about the hearing that House Republicans conducted in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee involving Planned Parenthood on September 29, 2015. Notwithstanding the absence of any wrongdoing, its President, Ms. Cecile Richards was cross-examined and accosted with personal questions and accusations for 4½ hours while constantly being interrupted. This hearing was not “oversight” it was a witch hunt against her personally and an ideological attack on a critical provider of women’s health care.

It became apparent that the Republicans’ intentions were not to investigate Planned Parenthood’s receipt of federal dollars when shortly after her opening remarks Ms. Richards was questioned about her compensation which had no relevance to the hearing. Never before has a witness had her salary attacked, not even when the Committee has questioned the CEOs of companies that have actually been found guilty of breaking Federal law.

We sincerely believe that the Committee should extend an apology to Ms. Richards and refrain from such ideologically based personal attacks of its witnesses in the future particularly because there was no basis to the allegations from the outset.

In fact, Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz, who conducted the hearing, admitted that he had identified no evidence that Planned Parenthood has violated any laws during a recent appearance on CNN’s Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.

On October 1st, the Pulitzer Prize winning PolitiFact News Service awarded Chairman Chaffetz, a rating of “Pants on Fire” for springing a highly misleading chart on Planned Parenthood head Cecile Richards during her testimony at the recent hearing. The chart falsely suggested that Planned Parenthood performs more abortions than cancer screenings and prevention services.

PolitiFact found that Chaffetz’s chart “suggests a conclusion that’s flat wrong.” It cited numerous experts who concluded that his chart is “a damn lie,” “ethically wrong,” “purposeful deception,” “scandalous,” “propagandized,” “an egregious example of using a chart to mislead,” and “absolutely misleading, and intentionally so.”

Republican attempts to defund Planned Parenthood are clearly political and greatly misguided. The majority of Americans recognize that Planned Parenthood is an organization that plays a vital role in providing health care to women across the country. One in five women will use Planned Parenthood for primary and preventative care in their lifetime, and in 103 counties with Planned Parenthood centers, Planned Parenthood is the sole provider of these services. Republicans would eliminate the ability for those women across the country to get basic preventative care that over a lifetime can be life-saving.

After a two month investigation, conducted by three different House Committees, considering tens of thousands of pages of documents and multiple hearings, there is no evidence to substantiate Republican claims of illegal activity by Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood has been the victim of an entrapment scheme conducted over three years in which an opposing political organization actively lied and used deceptive tactics against Planned Parenthood’s employees. Clearly Planned Parenthood, and its

President, was the subject of a hostile hearing in the absence of evidence of any wrongdoing.

We sincerely hope that you direct the Chairs of House Committees to refrain from conducting this type of hearing in the future and to abandon any thoughts of establishing a Subcommittee to pursue these allegations that the Chairman of the Oversight Committee admitted have not been substantiated.

Sincerely,

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN,
Member of Congress.
ROSA DELAURO,
Member of Congress.
LOUISE SLAUGHTER,
Member of Congress.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

□ 1630

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, which is just another political stunt to put the government between a woman and her healthcare provider. This is yet another instance where the House majority is exploiting their position to use hard-earned taxpayer dollars to fund partisan, baseless smear campaigns. Today we are asked to vote to do it again.

Despite finding no evidence of wrongdoing through multiple congressional committee hearings, including those conducted by the Energy and Commerce Committee, despite numerous State-level investigations that have cleared Planned Parenthood of these charges, and despite reports from outside experts that there is no evidence of illegal activity, the House seems insistent on doubling down on this bad idea to waste taxpayer money and time on yet another fabricated investigation.

It is time to say “no more.” There are far too many real issues facing our country that Congress should, instead, be addressing. Vote “no” on this resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last month, Pope Francis admonished a joint session of Congress to follow the Golden Rule, to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” and said that the Golden Rule compels us to “protect and defend human life at every stage of development” and that “it is wrong to remain silent and look the other way.”

Establishing this select committee is the right thing to do. We simply can’t remain silent or look the other way. Instead, Congress needs to thoroughly investigate profoundly disturbing conduct by top-level Planned Parenthood officials. Caught on tape—and I have

watched all the tapes, Planned Parenthood’s top leadership, not interns or lower level employees, showed callous disregard for children’s lives while gleefully calculating the financial gain derived from the sale of baby body parts.

We already know that every day Planned Parenthood dismembers or chemically poisons to death approximately 900 unborn babies. Since 1973, more than 7 million children have been violently killed in Planned Parenthood clinics.

Now, because of the CMP videos, Planned Parenthood’s involvement in trafficking in baby body parts has been revealed. In one clip, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Medical Services says on camera: “We have been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, and because we know that, I am not going to crush that part. I am going to basically crush below, I am going to crush above, and I am going to see if I can get it all intact . . . I would say a lot of people want liver; and for that reason, most providers will do this case under ultrasound guidance, so they will know where they are putting their forceps.”

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, this is a dismemberment abortion—arms, legs, torsos, decapitation—but the prized body part is preserved, pulled out intact, and then sold to brokers.

This needs to be done. We haven’t lost our sense of being shocked.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this wasteful maneuver by Republicans in Congress to establish yet another investigative committee at a cost of untold millions of taxpayer dollars.

It is unconscionable to establish such a committee without any basis to do so and at a time when Congress should be focused on higher wages, modern infrastructure, and the basic responsibility to pass an appropriations plan for America. But no, action on all of these pocketbook issues for American families and businesses is being shoved aside by Republicans in Congress for a witch hunt based upon false YouTube videos that are full of distortions and misinformation.

Republican attacks on Planned Parenthood and women’s health care is part of an unfortunate pattern of assaults over the last two decades. But this latest maneuver borders on an abuse of power. At best, it is an attempt by Republican leaders to distract the American public from their failure to do their job.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill and get back to the business of hardworking Americans.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, what is unconscionable is the callous disregard for unborn babies that has been exhibited for far too long in our culture and which has been brought home to us full force by these videos that we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, the organizations and providers to be investigated by this select panel maintain a culture with a callous disregard for life.

Recently, a series of undercover videos have exposed in horrifying detail what Planned Parenthood values. They show the organization's leaders admitting to haggling over the prices for the limbs and organs of aborted children; callously recounting the harvesting of a brain from a fully intact, aborted child; admitting that clinics collect "specimens" without informed consent and that abortionists will alter the procedure to keep intact in-demand organs.

These videos make clear that neither women's health nor the well-being of their tiny victims will stand between Planned Parenthood and profit.

Since the release of these videos, the big money behind the pro-abortion political machine has kicked into high gear to obfuscate what services organizations like Planned Parenthood truly provide.

We hear about breast cancer screenings, but not a single Planned Parenthood clinic has a mammogram machine. We have heard repeatedly that abortions account for only 3 percent of Planned Parenthood services. The Washington Post Fact Checker assigned this data point, along with others pushed by Planned Parenthood, three Pinocchios. It is also clear from Planned Parenthood's own annual reports and testimony to Congress that a significant portion of its annual non-governmental revenue comes from abortion.

The undercover videos alone would merit full investigation and review, but the problems at Planned Parenthood are not limited to those discussed in the series by the Center for Medical Progress.

We know that Planned Parenthood clinics in several States have failed to report sexual abuse of young girls, enabling and empowering those who would exploit them:

Just this year, the Alabama Department of Public Health found that a clinic in Mobile performed two abortions on a 14-year-old girl in a single 4-month period without reporting suspected sexual abuse.

Just last year, an Arizona Planned Parenthood counselor intentionally miscoded the sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl by a serial predator as a consensual encounter.

Also last year, a Denver clinic failed to report the rape of a 13-year-old girl by her stepfather, who brought her to the clinic for an abortion.

Mr. Speaker, the list of outrageous acts by these abortion providers goes on and on. It is past time that we investigate and understand just what type of organizations our tax dollars are subsidizing.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say what any woman in this room could say: your doctor determines whether you need to go to a radiologist to get a mammogram. None of us get that in our doctor's office, unless it is a most unusual place, and I know you gentlemen wouldn't know that.

I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), an Energy and Commerce Committee member.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the creation of a select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood.

Let's be clear: this is just another political witch hunt, this time targeting women, their trusted organization, and women's health.

Now, let's talk about the Republican vision for women of America. Just look at their record. First, they passed a budget that completely eliminated title X—that is contraception—the only Federal grant program dedicated to family planning, and slashed funding by 80 percent for the teen pregnancy initiative by over 80 percent.

Then we find that last week the Republicans proved that this witch hunt is not just aimed at Planned Parenthood. They passed a bill that threatened funding for every doctor, clinic, and hospital that dares to participate in abortion services. They also want to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which requires insurance companies to cover maternity care. They don't want to expand Medicaid, which currently covers one out of every three births and more than 43 million children. In fact, they want to turn Medicaid into a block grant program. And Republicans have proposed huge cuts to education.

I want to say to my Republican friends: Be careful what you wish for. The women of America are watching.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have the memory of the back alley abortions and the many dead young women who cried alone without any help. None of us want that. None of us want women to have to make that choice. But we know the Supreme Court has established as the law of the land *Roe v.*

Wade as a matter of choice, and that this procedure is a medical procedure.

Planned Parenthood does not sell body parts. Planned Parenthood has a very infinitesimal amount of fetal research. Planned Parenthood is not the person who ganged up on them and planned these horribly disorderly, if you will, videos and stole the ID of his high school friend to do these horrible videos.

Abortions have gone down. And so we come again to another Benghazi-like committee where we are ignoring the law. We are allowing unilateral subpoena, even if they are consulting, where we are looking at abortions that are done, but are not done by Federal money.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to vote against this bill that is doing nothing, Mr. Speaker, but politicizing a Presidential candidate and attacking women—attacking women, attacking health care.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 461, which would establish a Select Investigative Panel of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The ostensible purpose of this Select Investigative Panel is to investigate and report on all issues related to medical procedures and practices involving fetal tissue donation and procurement; federal funding and support for abortion providers; and late-term abortions.

But make no mistake, the Republican majority's real purpose in establishing this panel is (1) to open another front in their ongoing War Against Women, (2) impede women in the exercise of their right to make their own choices when it comes to their reproductive health, and (3) to persecute, smear, and demonize Planned Parenthood.

We know this from our experience with the so-called "Benghazi Committee," which the Republican leadership claimed was a non-partisan inquiry into the facts and circumstances surrounding the 2012 tragedy in Libya which claimed the lives of four brave and heroic Americans.

We know now, as confirmed by the Majority Leader and the Speaker-apparent, that the Benghazi Committee was in reality part of politically motivated strategy to disparage and damage the former Secretary of State and leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination that has wasted \$4.5 million of the taxpayers' money.

The Chairman of the Benghazi Committee sent to Committee Members an investigative plan that set out monthly hearings with all the different agencies involved in preparing for and responding to the attacks in Benghazi, including the State Department, the Defense Department, and the Intelligence Community.

But after the New York Times' email story broke on March 2, however, the Chairman completely abandoned this plan and began focusing almost exclusively on Hillary Clinton.

Since then, the Committee has not held any of the hearings on his schedule, and his upcoming hearing with Hillary Clinton is the only hearing now scheduled.

Abandoned are plans for hearings that were to have been held in April with former Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary Leon Panetta.

The Committee has never held even one public hearing with anyone from the Department of Defense.

The only hearing the Committee has held with an intelligence official, was with the CIA's head of Legislative Affairs regarding the status of document production.

Mr. Speaker, with so many pressing challenges facing our nation, wasting time and taxpayer money on another partisan witch hunt is a luxury we simply cannot afford.

The structure and powers to be given the Select Investigative Panel does not inspire any confidence that it will operate in a fair and impartial manner.

For example, the composition of the committee is lopsided in favor of the majority (8 Republican; 5 Democrat), instead of more equally divided as select committees usually are comprised.

Second, H. Res. 461 gives the chairman of the select panel subpoena power and deposition authority, including the authority to order the taking of depositions by a member of the select panel or the panel's counsel.

Third, the resolution authorized the chairman to recognize members to question witness for periods longer than the traditional five minutes and to recognize staff to question witnesses.

Taken together, these unusual powers are susceptible to abuse and are valued tools to any party wishing to conduct a fishing expedition as opposed to a dispassionate search for facts.

Mr. Speaker, let me save our Republican colleagues some time by pointing out the facts that an objective, fair-minded inquiry would reveal.

In 2011, approximately 1.06 million abortions took place in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.21 million abortions in 2008, 1.29 million in 2002, 1.31 million in 2000 and 1.36 million in 1996.

Based on available state-level data, an estimated 984,000 abortions took place in 2013—down from an estimated 1.02 million abortions in 2012.

Fetal tissue research has been scientifically accepted since the Reagan Administration.

In 1988 the Human Fetal Tissue Transplantation Research Panel (or the Blue Ribbon Commission) sought to separate the question of ethics of abortion from the question ethics of using fetal tissue from legal elective abortions for medical research.

The report of this commission laid the foundation for the NIH Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (which passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support), prohibits the payment or receipt of money or any other form of valuable consideration for fetal tissue, regardless of whether the program to which the tissue is being provided is funded or not.

The law contains a limited exception that permits reimbursement for actual expenses (e.g. storage, processing, transportation, etc.) of the tissue.

These fees generally amount to less than \$100.

Less than 1% of Planned Parenthood chapters participate in this area of research.

Planned Parenthood reports revenue by source (either government or non-government) rather than the manner of disbursement (income versus grants and contracts).

Payments from Medicaid managed care plans are listed as "Government Health Services Grants and Reimbursements" to reflect the ultimate source of the funds.

Planned Parenthood spends about \$1.1 billion annually on 11.4 million services, 83% of which is spent on research, client services and education.

Client services are divided into six categories: Cancer Prevention and Screenings, STI Testing, Contraception, Abortion Services, Other Women's Health Services & Other Services.

According to Planned Parenthood financial statements from 2009–2014, 86% of Planned Parenthood's Services fall under the categories of Cancer Prevention and Screenings (12–16%), STI Testing for men and women (35–41%), and Contraception (32–35%).

Only about 3% of its services fall under the Abortion category nationally.

Additionally, Planned Parenthood is already prohibited from spending federal funds on abortion services anyway.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 461 is an irresponsible diversion from tackling and addressing the following critical challenges facing this Congress and the American people, and if unresolved pose grave threats to our economy and communities across the country:

The Highway & Transit Trust Fund expires on October 29, endangering good paying jobs and critical construction projects throughout America;

Treasury Secretary Lew has notified the Congress that the debt limit is expected to be reached on November 5 and action must be taken to raise the limit to protect the full faith & credit of the United States and prevent interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards and car payments soaring;

Funding to keep the government open expires on December 11 and Congress must find a way to keep the government open in the face of irresponsible opposition from 151 Republicans who voted to shut down the government rather than allow women access to affordable family planning and life-saving preventive health care.

In addition, American small businesses and manufacturers continue to suffer from Republicans' refusal to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. Speaker, we have far more important things to do than waste more time and taxpayer money on another partisan attempt to deprive women of their right to make their own decisions regarding their reproductive health that has been recognized as constitutionally guaranteed since 1973 by the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

I oppose H. Res. 461 and urge all Members to join me in voting against this wasteful and irresponsible measure.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this charge laid about subpoena powers is a red herring. Every House committee holds subpoena power, though the structure differs depending on the committee. Granting this standard authority to the select panel ensures its ability to

investigate thoroughly the issues within its scope. It would make little sense to convene a select investigative panel with limited investigative power.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is left on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 10 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 11 minutes remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank my friend for yielding and for her great leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 461, to create a select committee on investigating Planned Parenthood.

I take very seriously the congressional responsibility to investigate wrongdoing and improve transparency, but this panel is not at all about due diligence. It is about purely partisan politics, an attempt to "Benghazi" Planned Parenthood.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, six States have investigated Planned Parenthood and found nothing. Four committee hearings have found nothing. Planned Parenthood has handed over tens of thousands of pages of documents to Congress, and there has not even been a whiff of wrongdoing. Even the chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has said he has no evidence of anything unlawful.

This panel would be a waste of Congress' time and taxpayers' money. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and stop this relentless crusade attacking access to health care for women who desperately need it and cannot afford it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear about the budget for the select panel. The resolution does not authorize or appropriate additional resources for this panel. It will use existing funds solely.

Further, one of Congress' most important duties is oversight of how scarce funds are spent, and that oversight is a proper use of the limited budget the House and its committees receive.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, here we are again with Republicans attacking women and Planned Parenthood on the House floor. But now the attacks are taking the form of yet another politically inspired committee.

As with the Benghazi committee, Republicans are not seeking out truth or better policy. Instead, they want to use taxpayer-funded resources for a political witch hunt.

Here are the facts: Abortion today is protected by our Constitution, and we have found no wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood so far in the three House investigations that are already taking place.

Another fact: Planned Parenthood helps women. Every year Planned Parenthood provides 2.1 million patients with family counseling and contraception. They are trying to prevent unwanted pregnancies from occurring in the first place, something that my Republican colleagues should support. Let's not use lies and edited tapes to unfairly color and bring down this organization. We should be better than that.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this committee. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution to create a select committee to investigate Planned Parenthood. Well, here we go again. Planned Parenthood is the new Benghazi.

Under the ruse of saving lives, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would use the resources of the United States Government to pursue their extreme agenda. The targeting of Planned Parenthood is a gross abuse of political power to punish a trusted organization because it provides a full array of health services that includes abortion, and it sends a chilling message to anybody who would dare to give women choices.

Mr. Speaker, to quote a well-known political thinker, "There is no greater tyranny, than that which is perpetrated under the shield of law and in the name of justice."

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution 461. This resolution supposedly establishes a select panel to investigate Planned Parenthood and fetal tissue procurement.

Now, what do we know already, Mr. Speaker? What facts do we know? We know that these videos have already been entirely discredited and debunked by a team of independent forensic experts. What do we know? We know that women have a legal right to a safe and legal abortion.

What do we know already, Mr. Speaker, while we are investigating Planned Parenthood? We know that fetal tissue procurement signed into

law by the venerated Ronald Reagan provides lifesaving research for diseases like Parkinson's, ALS, and others.

No, Mr. Speaker, you are not trying to find the facts. Instead, this is just another pathway to deny a woman a right to a safe and legal abortion.

We already know that the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee said that there is no "there" there. We don't need to get to the bottom of this. Mr. Speaker, we are already at the bottom of this.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Let me thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for your tremendous leadership on this vital issue and so many issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to House Resolution 461, which really is nothing more than a politically motivated bill. It would establish a select Energy and Commerce Committee to so-call investigate Planned Parenthood.

How outrageous. Let's be clear. This is nothing more than yet another attempt to attack Planned Parenthood and undermine a woman's right to choose.

There have already been multiple hearings and committee investigations, none of which have resulted in any evidence of wrongdoing, and this shameful resolution is the fourth anti-choice vote we have had to take in the last month alone.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We know that Planned Parenthood centers are critical to the health of women all across the country. One in five women have used Planned Parenthood services at some point in her lifetime for vital services like birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and STI screenings.

Continuing attempts to restrict access to these health services would hurt our most vulnerable women, including low-income women and women of color.

You want to restrict access to family planning, and you want to restrict access to safe and legal abortions. Come on. It is time to stop this war on women.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my good friend from New York.

Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time in less than 1 month that I have been compelled to voice my opposition to a measure attacking women's health care.

This is just what Congress does not need, another polarizing battle in Congress. I have been on the Energy and

Commerce Committee for 20 years, and this is the wrong thing to do. This is just absolutely the wrong thing to do.

The American public wants to see us pass a budget, a transportation bill, keep the government open, do the Export-Import Bank and other things that are important.

What are we doing, getting into another political brawl? We don't need another committee like Benghazi, which should be abolished.

The Washington Post reported last week that more Americans have supported continued Federal funding for Planned Parenthood than opposed it in every single public survey taken this year.

I don't want to infringe on women's rights to choose whatever is right between them, their doctor, their family, and their God, and I don't think Congress should either.

My friends on the other side of the aisle talk about wanting smaller government. I don't want government to be so big that it intrudes on women's privacy and women's health. This is ill-thought and should be defeated.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. It is beneath the dignity of this Chamber to participate in an ideological witch hunt, especially one based on entirely false allegations.

The chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee spent hours last week cross-examining Planned Parenthood's president about these claims, and even he has publicly admitted that they have no merit. So let us call this proposed committee what it really is, the select committee to attack women's health.

The majority wants to kill Planned Parenthood. If they succeed, many low-income women will have nowhere left to go for breast cancer exams, Pap smears, and a range of other lifesaving services. So this resolution tells these women flat out: We do not care about your health care. We do not care if you die.

The hypocrisy of the majority is breathtaking. One minute they condemn all government spending—even on health care for some of our poorest families—and now they plan to spend millions of taxpayers' dollars on a politically motivated witch hunt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this disgraceful resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), our colleague.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I was in my office watching the debate, and I thought,

well, if I really thought I was innocent, if I really thought there was nothing that really went with what the other side is claiming, if I really thought I needed to wipe the slate clean, if I really thought that sunlight is truly the best antiseptic.

Forget about the organization. Let's talk about the act. This is one of the most repulsive things you can watch. It turns your stomach to see our unborn—our born—listen, little boys and little girls being dissected and being sold. It is a criminal activity.

So my question comes down to—and if you read “Rules for Radicals,” the best way to counteract a charge against you is to go after those who are attacking you and make them the bad person.

I don't understand. In America's House, when we want to have a debate, when we want everybody in America to look and say that this was fair, we are talking about an investigation that, if we are false, if the claims are false, it would wipe the slate clean.

Most people who think they have been wrongly accused of something say, “Bring the facts out. Let everybody see them. Let's have the conversation. Let's have the debate. Let's really determine if this is really going on.” Only someone who is afraid it may go against them would say, “No. No. No. You can't do this.”

I want to tell you, as far as women are concerned and a war on women, I am the father of four children, three boys and one girl. But I have ten grandchildren, six girls and four boys. There is not one of them that, when it comes to how much I love them, it is gender-selective. I love them all in the same way.

In a country that has always stood for human rights, in a country that has always stood for others, for the most vulnerable—and I will not disguise it and say it is not what I am. I am from conception to natural death. I am in favor of life. I will always be in favor of life.

But to have this debate today and to say that you can't possibly do this because it is driven, it is a Republican agenda, because it is a war on women, if anything, this is a war for women.

We have got to protect these people. If there is anything that is a preemptive strike in the war on women, it is gender-selective abortion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask all Members, not as Republicans and not as Democrats, but as members of the human race, and for a House that just abhors what is going on around the world and saying that this is horrible what is going on and we won't ever let

this happen in our country, why would we be having this debate today?

If you really want the slate to be clear, if you really want the world to see that there is nothing going on here, then let's have an open investigation so, at the end of the day—I don't care what organizations—they can walk away and say, “See, we proved that we aren't who they say we are.”

Mr. Speaker, this is just so simple. Why would you argue against it? It actually works to their advantage if it is not true. If it is true, then why in the world would we use hard-earned American taxpayer money to fund illegal and criminal activity? That is just not who we are as Americans.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, since a series of deceptive and highly edited videos taken at Planned Parenthood facilities were released to the public, three separate congressional committees have leapt to conclusions, holding hearings and investigations along the way.

However, on the subcommittee on which I serve as ranking member and which has primary jurisdiction over this matter, we did extensive research. We found out that Planned Parenthood broke no laws according to an extensive memo prepared by the Democratic committee staff.

So now what are we going to do? We are going to spend millions of taxpayer dollars having another sham committee. That is a ridiculous waste of money.

I have a proposal for all of my colleagues. Let's spend our time talking on the things that our constituents want their hard-earned taxpayer money spent on: reauthorizing the highway bill, addressing the looming expiration of our debt ceiling, not to mention an overdue bill for funding the Federal Government. That is what they care about.

I just want to say once again, for the umpteenth time, for the RECORD, there is no public money spent on abortion. There is no Federal money spent on abortion. So what we are talking about right here is a totally useless and expensive investigation.

□ 1700

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

A sure sign that the Republican Planned Parenthood hearing failed is that they are now embracing their de-

fault, the much-discredited Benghazi Select Committee strategy. But, the Government Reform Planned Parenthood hearing left Planned Parenthood as strong as ever. The majority is trying to do to the Nation's women what they have done to D.C., now deprived of the right to spend even local funds on abortion. But no Federal funds go to abortion, so what is left? Women's health care.

All that this witch-hunting select committee will do is highlight the new GOP war on women.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are being told by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we should be comforted by the fact that the Democratic committee staff did an investigation of Planned Parenthood and found nothing wrong. I think I can say very well with tongue in cheek that is truly like putting the fox to guard the henhouse.

Mr. Speaker, in a few moments I will offer an amendment to the resolution. The amendment will make several changes to the resolution that have been requested by the minority. The amendment will change the ratio on the panel to eight Republicans and six Democrats, giving Democrats an additional one member on the panel. The amendment will also make sure that the select panel's subpoena authority is consistent with existing Energy and Commerce Committee rules.

We have no objection to the requested changes, and we hope this will encourage our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to participate fully in this important investigation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, if we have heard anything this entire day, it is the misuse of public tax money for useless select committees overdoing investigations that everybody that has investigated before has already said that there is no “there” there.

We don't need to take the word—although I am happy to do it—of Mr. PALLONE last night saying that the Democratic staff on Energy and Commerce had found there was nothing wrong here. Let's take Mr. CHAFFETZ's word for it. He spent 5 hours delving into what Planned Parenthood does and does not do, and he said, no, they have not broken any law.

But that is not good enough because everybody is doing so well here making political points and attacking a Presidential candidate. That is not our job. In fact, I am pretty sure that is against Federal law for us to use public money for that kind of action. We did it not once, we are going to do it twice, and who knows how many more times before the end of this year.

The big disgrace that is going on is the misuse of tax money of the American people in a House and a Congress

that has no budget, no highway bill, no way out, and people who sit at home trying to figure out how they are going to educate their children, put food on the table, keep their job, and even drive on roads that are unfit to get to work.

I would really appreciate it if we would stop this select committee and stop trying to take health care away from American citizens and get to work on their behalf.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the opponents of this resolution would have Americans believe that this oversight is unnecessary and political. Nothing is further from the truth.

Oversight into entities' use of Federal funds and compliance with Federal law is a fundamental responsibility of Congress and one exercised by both parties, frequently on a bipartisan basis.

It is unfortunate that my colleagues across the aisle are refusing to join with us on this particular issue, but charges that it is a politically driven investigation are false. The investigation to be continued by the select investigative panel at the Energy and Commerce Committee is prompted by allegations that abortion providers that receive Federal funds are dismembering children to sell their body parts, possibly while violating Federal laws.

The most fundamental right our government was formed to protect is life; and when taxpayer dollars are being used by organizations flagrantly violating that right, we are morally compelled to investigate and respond in accordance with our Constitution.

The select investigative panel formed by this resolution is consistent with precedent, including two panels formed by my colleagues across the aisle when they were in the majority. It is laser-focused on the issues raised by the videos and subsequent investigation into Planned Parenthood of fetal tissue collection, abortion procedures, and the Federal laws surrounding those practices. Its existence as a separate body will allow it to complete the full investigation these allegations deserve without shortchanging the important other issues under consideration by the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the full House.

It is disappointing that some Members do not want the full truth to come out. When Federal taxpayers have legitimate concerns that their hard-earned dollars are flowing to organizations that sanction the dismemberment of unborn children and that our system of laws have loopholes allowing these atrocities to continue, we as their elected representatives are responsible for ensuring these concerns are heard and responded to.

If we as elected representatives of our great Nation can't shed our callousness toward the most vulnerable lives in our society and heed the moral cause of this issue, I have a great fear for our Nation's future and the cruelties we may someday allow other lives to be subjected to. Our freedom rests on the cornerstone right we all have to life, and I fear we have lost sight of that.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. FOXX

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 1, line 7, strike "five" and insert "six".

Page 1, line 5, strike "13" and insert "14".

Page 3, line 12, insert ", consistent with the notification, consultation, and reporting requirements of rule 16 of the rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce," after "select panel".

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and expose the truth about these outrages through a thorough investigation. We must have the courage to follow the facts wherever they lead in order to strengthen our laws to end these barbaric practices and ensure that unwanted children are no longer discarded in the bins of parts for sale by profit-hungry abortion providers.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 461, legislation to establish a select panel to investigate the matters that were brought to the forefront in a series of shocking and disturbing videos recently released by the Center for Medical Progress.

These videos, which show Planned Parenthood officials engaging in the sale of aborted baby body parts, must be fully investigated with the utmost detail and attention.

Ten videos so far have been publicized depicting Planned Parenthood engaging in fetal tissue trafficking. These actions are despicable, unspeakable and barbaric.

This select committee will also, investigate, the practices of businesses involved in the second and third trimester abortions, including partial birth abortions and procedures that lead to babies being born alive in attempted abortions.

It's a national disgrace that taxpayer dollars account for 41 percent of Planned Parenthood's revenues, which also serves as the nation's largest abortion provider.

The creation of this investigative panel is an important step in getting to the truth and holding the recipients of taxpayer dollars accountable for what they do.

It is wrong to take money out of the wallets of hardworking Americans and hand it over to organizations like Planned Parenthood.

This select committee will investigate this issue thoroughly—a responsibility that the Obama Administration has refused to do.

I look forward to the panel's findings.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to the establishment of the panel to investigate Planned Parenthood. The panel's clear partisan aim is to take down

Planned Parenthood, an organization providing quality, affordable health care to millions of Americans.

Every person has the right to make informed, independent decisions about their health, sexual activity and family planning. Yet, women's reproductive rights continue to come under constant attack at both the state and local levels. For all the rhetoric we have heard about how the government should not be in the business of providing health care, the Majority is all too eager to step in and regulate women's access to health services.

It is unconscionable that the Majority continues funneling taxpayer dollars to support purely political agendas. Millions were spent defending DOMA after the Justice Department decided it was no longer prudent policy. Even more money is being spent suing President Obama over the Affordable Care Act, even after the Supreme Court upheld the ACA's constitutionality not once, but twice. Most recently, more than \$4 million has been spent politicizing the terrorist attack in Benghazi. The Majority now demands we use even more taxpayer dollars to attack an organization providing health care to those who need it most, ignoring Congressional committees that found no wrong-doing on the part of Planned Parenthood.

Women's access to health care is challenged over and over again, despite America's high maternal death rate. Women in the United States face a one in 1,800 risk of maternal death, the highest risk of any developed country. In 2014, the overall U.S. health care system ranked last among industrialized nations for the fifth time and is still the most expensive system in the world. The health disparities among our nation's racial and ethnic groups are a disgrace. We should focus our attention on these issues.

Let's call this exactly what it is, a partisan attack against a single, reputable organization. An attack based on highly edited, unsubstantiated statements and videos. This is a waste of time and taxpayer funded resources. We must get back to doing the people's work and put a stop to the constant attempts to roll back women's rights.

I strongly oppose this Resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the amendment and on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the order of the House today, this 15-minute vote on adoption of House Resolution 461, as amended, will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motion to recommit on H.R. 3192 and passage of H.R. 3192, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 184, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 538]

YEAS—242

Abraham	Griffith	Palmer
Aderholt	Grothman	Paulsen
Allen	Guinta	Pearce
Amash	Guthrie	Perry
Amodei	Hanna	Peterson
Babin	Hardy	Pittenger
Barletta	Harper	Pitts
Barr	Harris	Poe (TX)
Barton	Hartzler	Poliquin
Benishek	Heck (NV)	Pompeo
Bilirakis	Hensarling	Posey
Bishop (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Price, Tom
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Ratcliffe
Black	Hill	Reed
Blackburn	Holding	Reichert
Blum	Huelskamp	Renacci
Bost	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Boustany	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Rigell
Brat	Hurd (TX)	Roby
Bridenstine	Hurt (VA)	Roe (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins (KS)	Rogers (KY)
Buchanan	Jenkins (WV)	Rohrabacher
Buck	Johnson (OH)	Rokita
Bucshon	Johnson, Sam	Rooney (FL)
Burgess	Jones	Ros-Lehtinen
Byrne	Jordan	Roskam
Calvert	Joyce	Ross
Carter (GA)	Katko	Rothfus
Carter (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Rouzer
Chabot	Kelly (PA)	Royce
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Russell
Clawson (FL)	King (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Coffman	Kinzinger (IL)	Salmon
Cole	Kline	Sanford
Collins (GA)	Knight	Scalise
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Schweikert
Comstock	LaHood	Scott, Austin
Conaway	LaMalfa	Sensenbrenner
Cook	Lamborn	Sessions
Costello (PA)	Lance	Shimkus
Cramer	Latta	Shuster
Crawford	Lipinski	Simpson
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Smith (MO)
Culberson	Long	Smith (NE)
Curbelo (FL)	Loudermilk	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Rodney	Love	Stefanik
Denham	Lucas	Stewart
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Stivers
DeSantis	Lummis	Stutzman
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Thompson (PA)
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Thornberry
Dold	Marino	Tiberi
Donovan	Massie	Tipton
Duffy	McCarthy	Trott
Duncan (SC)	McCaul	Turner
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Upton
Ellmers (NC)	McHenry	Valadao
Emmer (MN)	McKinley	Wagner
Farenthold	McMorris	Walberg
Fincher	Rodgers	Walden
Fitzpatrick	McSally	Walker
Fleischmann	Meadows	Walters, Mimi
Fleming	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Flores	Messer	Webster (FL)
Forbes	Mica	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Miller (FL)	Westerman
Fox	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Franks (AZ)	Moolenaar	Whitfield
Frelinghuysen	Mooney (WV)	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Mullin	Wittman
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Womack
Gibson	Murphy (PA)	Woodall
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Yoder
Goodlatte	Newhouse	Yoho
Gosar	Noem	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Nugent	Young (IA)
Graves (GA)	Nunes	Young (IN)
Graves (LA)	Olson	Zeldin
Graves (MO)	Palazzo	Zinke

NAYS—184

Adams	Becerra	Bonamici
Aguilar	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Ashford	Beyer	F.
Bass	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)
Beatty	Blumenauer	Brown (FL)

Brownley (CA)	Hahn	Pallone
Bustos	Hastings	Pascarell
Butterfield	Heck (WA)	Payne
Capps	Higgins	Pelosi
Capuano	Himes	Perlmutter
Cárdenas	Honda	Peters
Carney	Hoyer	Pingree
Carson (IN)	Huffman	Pocan
Cartwright	Israel	Polis
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Quigley
Chu, Judy	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Cicilline	Johnson, E. B.	Rice (NY)
Clark (MA)	Jolly	Richmond
Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Clay	Keating	Ruiz
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Clyburn	Kennedy	Rush
Cohen	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Connolly	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda
Conyers	Kind	T.
Cooper	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Costa	Kuster	Sarbanes
Courtney	Langevin	Schakowsky
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Schiff
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Cummings	Lawrence	Scott (VA)
Davis (CA)	Lee	Scott, David
Davis, Danny	Levin	Serrano
DeFazio	Lewis	Sewell (AL)
DeGette	Lieu, Ted	Sherman
Delaney	Loeb sack	Sires
DeLauro	Lofgren	Slaughter
DelBene	Lowenthal	Smith (WA)
DeSaulnier	Lowe	Speier
Deutch	Lujan Grisham	Swalwell (CA)
Doggett	(NM)	Takai
Doyle, Michael	Lujan, Ben Ray	Takano
F.	(NM)	Thompson (CA)
Duckworth	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Edwards	Maloney,	Titus
Ellison	Carolyn	Tonko
Engel	Maloney, Sean	Torres
Eshoo	Matsui	Tsongas
Esty	McCollum	Van Hollen
Farr	McDermott	Vargas
Fattah	McGovern	Veasey
Foster	McNerney	Vela
Frankel (FL)	Meeks	Velázquez
Fudge	Meng	Visclosky
Gabbard	Moore	Walz
Gallego	Moulton	Wasserman
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	Schultz
Graham	Nadler	Waters, Maxine
Grayson	Napolitano	Watson Coleman
Green, Al	Neal	Welch
Green, Gene	Nolan	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Norcross	Yarmuth
Gutiérrez	O'Rourke	

NOT VOTING—8

Dingell	Hudson	Walorski
Granger	Sinema	Williams
Hinojosa	Smith (TX)	

□ 1735

Mr. CURBELO of Florida changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 538, I am not recorded as voting because of prior commitments in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted “Aye.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF THE C-130J CRASH AT JALALABAD AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Six air-

men assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing perished on Friday, October 2, 2015, when their C-130J aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan. Five civilians also died in that crash.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who lost loved ones in this tragedy.

Today we honor the sacrifice of these airmen who served at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas, and Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts. They are:

Captain Jordan Pierson, 28, of Abilene, Texas. I had the honor of nominating Jordan to the Air Force Academy;

Captain Jonathan Golden of Camarillo, California;

Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond of Moundsville, West Virginia;

Senior Airman Quinn Johnson-Harris of Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

Senior Airman Nathan Sartain of Pensacola, Florida;

Airman 1st Class Kcey Ruiz of McDonough, Georgia.

I ask all my colleagues to stand and join me in a moment of silence.

HOMEBUYERS ASSISTANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 3192) to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 185, nays 240, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 539]

YEAS—185

Adams	Butterfield	Connolly
Aguilar	Capps	Conyers
Ashford	Capuano	Cooper
Bass	Cárdenas	Costa
Beatty	Carney	Courtney
Becerra	Carson (IN)	Crowley
Bera	Cartwright	Cuellar
Beyer	Castor (FL)	Cummings
Bishop (GA)	Castro (TX)	Davis (CA)
Blumenauer	Chu, Judy	Davis, Danny
Bonamici	Cicilline	DeFazio
Boyle, Brendan	Clark (MA)	DeGette
F.	Clarke (NY)	Delaney
Brady (PA)	Clay	DeLauro
Brown (FL)	Cleaver	DelBene
Brownley (CA)	Clyburn	DeSaulnier
Bustos	Cohen	Deutch

Doggett	Langevin	Quigley	McKinley	Reed	Stefanik	Davis, Rodney	King (NY)	Renacci
Doyle, Michael F.	Larsen (WA)	Rangel	McMorris	Reichert	Stewart	DeFazio	Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble
Duckworth	Larson (CT)	Rice (NY)	Rodgers	Renacci	Stivers	Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)
Duncan (TN)	Lawrence	Richmond	McSally	Ribble	Stutzman	DelBene	Knight	Rice (SC)
Edwards	Lee	Roybal-Allard	Meadows	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)	Denham	Kuster	Rigell
Ellison	Levin	Ruiz	Meehan	Rigell	Thornberry	Dent	Labrador	Roby
Engel	Lewis	Ruppersberger	Messer	Roby	Tiberi	DeSantis	LaHood	Roe (TN)
Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Rush	Mica	Roe (TN)	Tipton	DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)
Esty	Lipinski	Ryan (OH)	Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Trott	Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Farr	Loebsack	Sánchez, Linda T.	Miller (MI)	Rogers (KY)	Turner	Dold	Lance	Rohrabacher
Fattah	Lofgren	Sanchez, Loretta	Moolenaar	Rohrabacher	Upton	Donovan	Larsen (WA)	Rokita
Foster	Lowenthal	Sarbanes	Mooney (WV)	Rokita	Valadao	Duffy	Latta	Rooney (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Lowey	Schabowsky	Mullin	Rooney (FL)	Wagner	Duncan (SC)	Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen
Fudge	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Schiff	Mulvaney	Ros-Lehtinen	Walberg	Duncan (TN)	LoBiondo	Roskam
Gabbard	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Schrader	Murphy (PA)	Roskam	Walden	Ellmers (NC)	Loebsack	Ross
Gallego		Scott (VA)	Neugebauer	Ross	Walker	Emmer (MN)	Long	Rothfus
Garamendi	Lynch	Scott, David	Newhouse	Rothfus	Walters, Mimi	Esty	Loudermilk	Rouzer
Graham	Maloney	Scott, David	Noem	Rouzer	Weber (TX)	Farenthold	Love	Royce
Grayson	Maloney, Carolyn	Serrano	Nugent	Royce	Wenstrup	Fincher	Lowenthal	Ruppersberger
Green, Al	Maloney, Sean	Sewell (AL)	Nunes	Russell	Westerman	Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Russell
Green, Gene	Matsui	Sires	Olson	Ryan (WI)	Westmoreland	Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (OH)
Grijalva	McCollum	Slaughter	Palazzo	Salmon	Whitfield	Fleming	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Ryan (WI)
Gutiérrez	McDermott	Smith (WA)	Palmer	Sanford	Wilson (SC)	Flores	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Salmon
Hahn	McGovern	Speier	Paulsen	Scalise	Wittman	Forbes		Sanford
Hastings	McNerney	Swalwell (CA)	Pearce	Schwilkert	Womack	Fortenberry	Lummis	Scalise
Heck (WA)	Meeks	Takai	Perry	Scott, Austin	Woodall	Foster	MacArthur	Schiff
Higgins	Meng	Takano	Sensenbrenner	Sensenbrenner	Yoder	Fox	Maloney, Sean	Schrader
Himes	Moore	Thompson (CA)	Sessions	Sherman	Yoho	Franks (AZ)	Marchant	Schweikert
Honda	Moulton	Thompson (MS)	Shimkus	Shuster	Young (AK)	Frelinghuysen	Marino	Scott, Austin
Hoyer	Murphy (FL)	Titus	Simpson	Smith (MO)	Young (IA)	Garamendi	Massie	Scott, David
Huffman	Nadler	Tonko	Pompeo	Smith (NE)	Young (IN)	Garrett	McCarthy	Sensenbrenner
Israel	Napolitano	Torres	Posey	Smith (NJ)	Zinke	Gibbs	McCaul	Sessions
Jackson Lee	Neal	Tsongas	Price, Tom			Gibson	McClintock	Sherman
Jeffries	Nolan	Van Hollen	Ratcliffe			Gohmert	McHenry	Shimkus
Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Vargas				Goodlatte	McKinley	Shuster
Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke	Veasey				Gosar	McMorris	Simpson
Jones	Pallone	Vela	Dingell	Hudson	Walorski	Gowdy	Rodgers	Sires
Kaptur	Pascarella	Velázquez	Granger	Sinema	Webster (FL)	Graham	McSally	Smith (MO)
Keating	Payne	Visclosky	Hinojosa	Smith (TX)	Williams	Graves (GA)	Meadows	Smith (NE)
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Walz				Graves (LA)	Meehan	Smith (NJ)
Kennedy	Perlmutter	Wasserman				Graves (MO)	Messer	Stefanik
Kildee	Peters	Schultz				Griffith	Mica	Stewart
Kilmer	Pingree	Waters, Maxine				Grothman	Miller (FL)	Stivers
Kind	Pocan	Watson Coleman				Guinta	Miller (MI)	Stutzman
Kirkpatrick	Polis	Welch				Guthrie	Moolenaar	Takai
Kuster	Price (NC)	Wilson (FL)				Hahn	Mooney (WV)	Thompson (PA)
		Yarmuth				Hanna	Mullin	Thornberry
						Hardy	Mulvaney	Tiberi
						Harper	Murphy (FL)	Tipton
						Harris	Murphy (PA)	Titus
						Hartzler	Neal	Torres
						Heck (NV)	Neugebauer	Trott
						Heck (WA)	Newhouse	Tsongas
						Hensarling	Noem	Turner
						Herrera Beutler	Nolan	Upton
						Hice, Jody B.	Norcross	Valadao
						Hill	Nugent	Vargas
						Himes	Nunes	Veasey
						Holding	O'Rourke	Wagner
						Huelskamp	Olson	Walberg
						Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo	Walden
						Hultgren	Palmer	Walker
						Hunter	Paulsen	Walters, Mimi
						Hurd (TX)	Pearce	Walz
						Hurt (VA)	Perlmutter	Weber (TX)
						Issa	Perry	Webster (FL)
						Jenkins (KS)	Peters	Wenstrup
						Jenkins (WV)	Peterson	Westerman
						Johnson (OH)	Pingree	Westmoreland
						Johnson, Sam	Pittenger	Wilson (SC)
						Jolly	Pitts	Wittman
						Jones	Poe (TX)	Womack
						Jordan	Poliquin	Woodall
						Joyce	Polis	Yoder
						Katko	Pompeo	Yoho
						Keating	Posey	Young (AK)
						Kelly (MS)	Price, Tom	Young (IA)
						Kelly (PA)	Quigley	Young (IN)
						Kildee	Ratcliffe	Zeldin
						Kilmer	Reed	Zinke
						Kind	Reichert	
						King (IA)		

NOT VOTING—9

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1745

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 303, nays 121, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 540]

YEAS—303

Abraham	Curbelo (FL)	Hice, Jody B.	Abraham	Bost	Chabot
Aderholt	Davis, Rodney	Hill	Aderholt	Boustany	Chaffetz
Allen	Denham	Holding	Aguilar	Boyle, Brendan F.	Clawson (FL)
Amash	Dent	Huelskamp	Allen	Brady (TX)	Coffman
Amodei	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)	Amash	Brat	Cole
Babin	DesJarlais	Hultgren	Amodei	Bridenstine	Collins (GA)
Barletta	Diaz-Balart	Hunter	Ashford	Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)
Barr	Dold	Hurd (TX)	Babin	Brooks (IN)	Comstock
Barton	Donovan	Hurt (VA)	Barletta	Brownley (CA)	Conaway
Benishek	Duffy	Issa	Barr	Buchanan	Connolly
Bilirakis	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (KS)	Barton	Buck	Cook
Bishop (MI)	Ellmers (NC)	Jenkins (WV)	Benishek	Bucshon	Cooper
Bishop (UT)	Emmer (MN)	Johnson (OH)	Bera	Burgess	Costa
Black	Farenthold	Johnson, Sam	Beyer	Bustos	Costello (PA)
Blackburn	Fincher	Jolly	Bilirakis	Byrne	Courtney
Blum	Fitzpatrick	Jordan	Bishop (MI)	Calvert	Cramer
Bost	Fleischmann	Joyce	Bishop (UT)	Cardenas	Crenshaw
Boustany	Fleming	Katko	Black	Cuellar	Culberson
Brady (TX)	Flores	Kelly (MS)	Blum	Curbelo (FL)	
Brat	Forbes	Kelly (PA)	Blumenauer		
Bridenstine	Fortenberry	King (IA)			
Brooks (AL)	Fox	King (NY)			
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	Kinzinger (IL)			
Buchanan	Frelinghuysen	Kline			
Buck	Garrett	Knight			
Bucshon	Gibbs	Labrador			
Burgess	Gibson	LaHood			
Byrne	Gohmert	LaMalfa			
Calvert	Goodlatte	Lamborn			
Carter (GA)	Gosar	Lance			
Carter (TX)	Gowdy	Latta			
Chabot	Graves (GA)	LoBiondo			
Chaffetz	Graves (LA)	Long			
Clawson (FL)	Graves (MO)	Loudermilk			
Coffman	Griffith	Love			
Cole	Grothman	Lucas			
Collins (GA)	Guinta	Luetkemeyer			
Collins (NY)	Guthrie	Lummis			
Comstock	Hanna	MacArthur			
Conaway	Hardy	Marchant			
Cook	Harper	Marino			
Costello (PA)	Harris	Massie			
Cramer	Hartzler	McCarthy			
Crawford	Heck (NV)	McCaul			
Crenshaw	Hensarling	McClintock			
Culberson	Herrera Beutler	McHenry			

NAYS—121

Cohen
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett

Doyle, Michael F.	Langevin	Roybal-Allard
Duckworth	Larson (CT)	Ruiz
Edwards	Lawrence	Rush
Ellison	Lee	Sánchez, Linda T.
Engel	Levin	Sanchez, Loretta
Eshoo	Lewis	Sarbanes
Farr	Lieu, Ted	Schakowsky
Fattah	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Frankel (FL)	Lowey	Serrano
Fudge	Lynch	Sewell (AL)
Gabbard	Maloney,	Slaughter
Gallego	Carolyn	Smith (WA)
Grayson	Matsui	Speier
Green, Al	McCollum	Swalwell (CA)
Green, Gene	McDermott	Takano
Grijalva	McGovern	Thompson (CA)
Gutiérrez	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
Hastings	Meeks	Tonko
Higgins	Meng	Van Hollen
Honda	Moore	Vela
Hoyer	Moulton	Velázquez
Huffman	Nadler	Visclosky
Israel	Napolitano	Wasserman
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Schultz
Jeffries	Pascrell	Waters, Maxine
Johnson (GA)	Payne	Watson Coleman
Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Welch
Kaptur	Pocan	Wilson (FL)
Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Kennedy	Rangel	
	Richmond	

NOT VOTING—10

Dingell	Kline	Whitfield
Granger	Sinema	Williams
Hinojosa	Smith (TX)	
Hudson	Walorski	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1752

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 540, I am not recorded as voting because of prior commitments in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye."

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

OCTOBER 7, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146), I am pleased to recommend the following individual to the Commission on Care.

Ms. Lucretia M. McClenney, Locust Grove, Virginia

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

U.S.-KOREA RELATIONS

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the U.S.-Korea partnership and to welcome President Park Geun-hye to Washington next week.

Having chaired the U.S.-Republic of Korea Parliamentary Exchange for over a decade, I have long championed closer ties between our two countries. Our alliance is one that was forged in bloodshed 65 years ago, when U.S. and Korean forces fought and died together. Our own colleagues, Sergeant CHARLIE RANGEL, JOHN CONYERS, and SAM JOHNSON, fought there.

Over 215,000 South Korean soldiers were killed and over 1 million civilians lost their lives. Seoul was leveled, but it has risen from the ashes to become one of greatest cities in the world.

The U.S.-Korea relations have been a linchpin of security for us. We have partnered in deepening our trade ties through KORUS, in our condemnation of Japan's use of Korean women as sex slaves during the war, and, more recently, our committee unanimously passed a resolution to help Korean Americans meet their long-lost relatives separated by the war.

Colleagues, let us take this partnership with South Korea to a new level.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTBREAK
OF KOREAN WAR

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this marks the 65th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war. As Korea has transformed itself in six decades from a war-torn basket economy into the 13th largest economy in the world, it represents one of America's greatest foreign policy success stories in the post-World War II era.

The Republic of Korea has been a strong and steadfast economic and strategic partner of the United States. Both countries are not only bound by history together, but by their shared commitment to democratic values.

Back home, California has an incredibly vibrant Korean American community that contributes to all facets of our society, from thriving businesses to our local churches.

Next week, the President of the Republic of Korea, the Honorable Park Geun-hye, will be making her second visit to Washington, D.C. I hope we will take this opportunity to discuss the rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, the continued threat North Korea's nuclear program imposes on the region, and the regional concerns regarding the East Sea dispute.

□ 1800

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Mr. SALMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to stand up here today and welcome President Park Geun-hye next week coming to Washington, D.C., because the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been one of the linchpin of peace, security, and prosperity in northeast Asia for more than 60 years, and we are united against the threat of a rogue regime in North Korea.

About 28,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in South Korea stand with their Republic of Korea counterparts in defense of the south.

We support President Park's principled vision for peace, prosperity, and a democratic, unified Korean Peninsula. Our alliance today has grown far beyond this single threat, though. We also have strong alliances in economic development and many, many other issues.

We are very, very excited about this wonderful relationship, and we welcome President Park next week.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in welcoming the distinguished President of the Republic of Korea to the United States of America to confer with our great President.

In 1950, I visited Korea for the first time as a combat infantryman. When I left, it was a nightmare, and I thought I would never want to go back to this place ever again.

To see this country now; to see what, out of the ashes, it has become; to see, from a very poor country, what a great democracy it has; to see the leadership of this great President; to see what a friend we have in that region when we are having a horrible time in economics and peace and in war, that this country always has our back; the great contributions Korea has made to this country, those that have become citizens, makes me proud to be an American.

So when she comes here, the Congress is so proud that some of us were able to make just a small contribution to keep her from falling into the hands of the Communists and then becoming our seventh great trading partner, a leader of the region and a leader of the world.

CONGRATULATING ELISE WARDEL

(Mrs. LOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elise Wardel, who became a U.S. citizen last week in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Like many others, Elise came to Utah to attend one of our quality universities. She has now worked hard, paid taxes, and contributed to Utah's close-knit society and a thriving economy for more than 11 years. She has worked through some difficult processes, becoming naturalized, for more than 2½ years.

She and her husband, Adam, are expecting their first child this coming April and are grateful to raise their child here in the land of the free and the land of opportunity. I am grateful to count her among my newest constituents and extend her and Adam my best wishes.

People like Elise enrich our Nation. I am proud of them for taking the required steps to become U.S. citizens. I believe that Congress must do its job so that Elise and many others, like my father, can enter our Nation through the front door.

As the child of immigrant parents, I welcome all of Utah's new American citizens and pledge to work hard so that they can have access to the American Dream like I have.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the President of the Republic of Korea, President Park, on her arrival in Washington, D.C., next week.

I had the honor of meeting with President Park during my last visit to Korea last December, where we discussed the synergistic partnerships and opportunities between the U.S., Silicon Valley, and South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, we must look to build new bridges and reinforce the connectors that have already contributed so much to our mutual benefit.

As President Park said when she addressed the joint meeting of Congress in 2013: "Looking forward, our precious alliance is setting its sights on a better world—a brighter future."

I wish President Park a very successful and fruitful visit to the U.S. and summit with President Obama. No doubt, our two nations' very special alliance will grow even stronger in the coming years.

MAY GOD BLESS THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, many of you know South Carolina was inundated with a historic rainfall. They call it a 1,000-year rain event. The rivers have not crested yet. The floods continue. Many South Carolinians are displaced. Many are hurting.

I just want to ask the House and America to continue to lift my home State up. But let me remind you then, in the 24th Psalm, it is written: "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein, for He hath founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods."

Thank you for your prayers, and may God continue to bless the Palmetto State of South Carolina, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, our neighbors in the Senate have introduced and agreed to a resolution that recognizes Thursday, October 8, as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day. I invite my colleagues to support this commemoration and affirm our resolution to bettering our Nation, our economy, and, certainly, our environment.

As the planet's most abundant natural resource, hydrogen has a critical role to play in the way we think about renewable energy. It is already powering homes and vehicles across our Nation and has the potential to do even more if we recognize that energy efficiency should be our fuel of choice.

Businesses are already reporting success stories about their use of hydrogen fuel cells and the elimination of carbon emissions. The once pricey and seemingly unfeasible source has now become a practical avenue for America's energy demand, and it is because we invested in that unique American innovative spirit and made it so. We should learn from this and apply that attitude to other corners in our energy sector.

Our Nation is projected to increase its energy consumption through 2040, and climate change is certainly a reality. We have no choice but to face that head-on. Please join me as we strive to make America the leading nation for renewable energy, a goal we can advance right now by recognizing this day as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to commend my colleagues in the House and Senate for passing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 and to call on the President to sign this vital bill into law.

It is the constitutional responsibility of Congress to provide for the common defense of this Nation. Right now, our country faces growing and very serious threats. Unrest continues to escalate in the Middle East, and our troops are fighting terrorism around the world. Yet the President has threatened to veto this legislation, which provides our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to defend themselves and America's national security at home and abroad.

The President's veto threat is dangerously irresponsible. We must fulfill our duties to support our troops and their families who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation.

Congress has acted in a bipartisan fashion to pass this legislation, equip our military, and bolster national defense. Instead of putting our national security at risk, the President should sign this bill into law so we can keep our military strong and Americans safe.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome President Park Geun-hye to the United States for her state visit next week. The United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a warm friendship built on a commitment to security, joint economic development, cultural exchange, and the democratic process.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war. Korea has transformed itself in six decades from a war-torn economy into the 13th largest economy in the world, and it represents one of America's greatest foreign policy success stories.

President Park's visit will reaffirm our strong bilateral relationship at an important time, as our countries work together to address mutual security threats and improve regional security.

President Park's approach to North Korea and her focus on reuniting families who have been separated by the Korean war has given renewed hope to many Korean Americans in the United States. I am sure her visit will lead to new areas of cooperation between our countries.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Korea Caucus here in Congress, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I extend my warm greetings to President Park on her second official visit to the United States.

The U.S. and the Republic of Korea share deep ties, an alliance forged in blood and sweat and toil. Out of the Korean war emerged one of the great miracles of economic development the world has ever seen, the Republic of Korea.

The ROK has emerged as an economic juggernaut with a vibrant democracy and a strong alliance with us, the United States. During the President's visit, I think she will be glad also to find that those ties are familial. We have a deep and vibrant community, Korean American community here in the United States, including right here in the national capital region and in my district in northern Virginia.

Alliances are often defined by military or economic ties. Our ties go even deeper. Those family ties are what connect us with the Republic of Korea and the Congressional Caucus.

I wish the President well, look forward to a successful trip, and look forward to continuing to work with her and her government as the co-chairman of the Korea Caucus.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL PIANTANIDA

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce that Al Piantanida passed away on August 31.

He was a veteran but, more importantly, a good American. Al is what I would call the perfect constituent, the perfect friend, and the perfect neighbor.

Al would come to his elected officials' offices all the time and let us know what was going on in the community and what was going wrong in the community, but never once—never once—did Al complain. He always said: How can I be part of the solution?

To me, that is not only a good person, but that is what makes America great: human beings who have the time and the resources to give of themselves and are not there to complain but are there to make sure that their neighborhood, their community, and their country are a better place.

We are going to miss Al. He was a selfless individual and someone who was always giving of himself, and he always was creative in making sure that he was part of the solution and was always there for his community in every way possible.

Al was a personal friend. I met him through my responsibility as an elected official in the community, but I grew to love him as a person and to appreciate him very much.

We are going to miss you, Al, but you will never be forgotten.

□ 1815

FUTURE FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to kick off the Future Forum Special Order hour. Today we will be bringing attention, once again, to the issue of college affordability and student loan debt. We also have a few surprises in store today, as I will be joined by my Future Forum colleagues.

I first want to report that just earlier this week, on Monday, the Future Forum, which is a group of about 16 to 17 of the youngest members in our caucus, went out to Seattle. Congressman KILMER, who represents the Seattle area, was joined by myself and RUBEN GALLEGOS of the Phoenix, Arizona, area.

We went across the Seattle area. We talked to college students, community college students, college graduates, a millennial workforce, and also folks in the tech sector in Seattle.

We went to the University of Washington Tacoma and met with veterans. We went to the University of Puget Sound and talked to students. We went to an SEIU training center and talked to the next generation of their workforce.

We were also able to go to Amazon. We went to amazon.com and had a town hall there with their millennial workforce, and we were able to listen to them and their concerns about the future.

We heard a common thread through all of these diverse groups, America's largest generation, millennials, 80 million people. They are concerned about their future.

They are concerned about their ability to afford and have access to go to college. They are concerned about how much it is going to cost them when they get out and the student loan debt that they are going to be burdened with.

It was another successful Future Forum trip. It was the eighth one we have taken this year, ranging from New York, Boston, New Hampshire, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, and now Seattle.

I encourage anyone watching to engage with us on Twitter. I will be a part of the conversation. I will read and respond to any questions as we go along.

First, today I am joined by a colleague of mine, a Future Forum member from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Congressman MARC VEASEY.

Congressman, we are encouraging a conversation around these issues at #futureforum.

I have been to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. I have seen the way you engage with young people in your district.

I want to know just what are you hearing out there about your constituents and their ability to go to college, your constituents and their ability to pay for college? And, once they get out, how is student loan debt affecting their opportunities?

Mr. VEASEY. Congressman SWALWELL, thank you very much. I really appreciate your leadership on Future Forum and bringing up important issues like student debt. It is a real issue that so many of our young people struggle with when they graduate from college.

In one of the articles that I was reading about student debt, a national magazine put some Instagram photos up of young people and the problems and the issues that they have with student debt. Some of the kids put up some really creative things.

One of the graduating students, on their graduating hat, instead of "Game of Thrones," it said "Game of Loans." Another sign that I saw at one of the college graduations said, "I will soon be joining millions of other young people that are graduating from college, and I will be consumed with thousands of dollars in debt."

But while these Instagram photos are cute and funny and I am sure are a way for young people to take their minds off of what is going to be facing them in thousands of dollars of debt, we know that this is a very serious issue.

Our young people that are graduating from college are putting off buying a house. They are putting off buying that new car. Those sorts of things play a role in how well our economy does.

And I think, more importantly, you hear a lot of young people that are graduating from college saying that they are putting off starting a family.

That is one of the most important things that we do as young people as we graduate from college and make our way into the world, is that we start that next generation.

And in order for us to start that next generation with confidence, kids need to know that when they graduate from college, they are not going to be burdened with all of this debt.

We know that college is becoming less and less affordable each day, and it negatively impacts the lives of thousands of Americans across our great Nation, including many of the constituents that I represent in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Right now we have about 40 million young people in this country that have over \$1.3 trillion in debt.

In the State of Texas, the average debt per student is over \$25,000, with over 70 percent of bachelor's degree recipients graduating with a student loan. About 16 percent of students in Texas have defaulted on their loans. These numbers can easily create an economic crisis for an entire generation.

While the cost of higher education continues to rise, grants are not going up on the same per-student basis. We have seen the Federal Pell Grant funding levels remain stagnant despite House Democrats urging Republicans to do something, to step in and help these kids, and let's increase Pell Grant funding levels. But we have seen absolutely no action from the Republicans on this.

Mr. Speaker and Congressman SWALWELL, I think it is important that we do work together on commonsense proposals that provide grants to the most needy and to make Federal loans affordable so that young people can obtain a degree, contribute to our economy, and keep our country going strong without the burden of insurmountable student debt.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Congressman VEASEY, part of what the Future Forum has tried to express across the country to young people has been, first, our members, we understand you, we hear you, because we know the struggle you have gone through.

Personally, I have over \$100,000 today in student loan debt. Half of my college was paid through an athletic scholarship, and I still had that much student loan debt that I racked up because of tuition going up every single year.

Could you tell us just a little bit about your personal story or those of any family members or friends and how you have personally seen this debt affecting people.

Mr. VEASEY. Absolutely. When I graduated from college, paying back my student loans was very, very difficult. And I will tell you that one of the things that I lucked into when I was still in my twenties was that I became a congressional aide. I worked for a Member of Congress.

And there was a student loan program for young people that worked on Capitol Hill for them to be able to have some of their student loan debt repaid. Had it not been for that, I don't know what I would have done because the student debt was eating into my discretionary income.

Again, we want young people to contribute to our economy. We want young people to go and buy that car that they couldn't afford in college. We want young people to start a family, buy a home.

I mean, the American Dream is being able to start a family and buy that home and be able to raise your kids in that home and be able to provide for your family.

But, unfortunately, more and more of our young people are saying, "You know what. I am going to put off getting married. I am going to put off buying that home. I am going to put off putting money into our local economy. I am going to not buy so much for Christmas for my siblings and my parents and other people. I can't afford to because I have thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of student debt."

We have to figure out some way to do something about this, Representative SWALWELL, or we are going to have an entire generation of young people that just has absolutely nowhere to turn.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. You know what was interesting? We have had these conversations with people.

A story I will never forget: We were in the Boston area, and we went to Thermo Fisher. We had this town hall with about 200 young people at their workforce, talking to us about student loan debt. I was with Congressman MOULTON.

Once we started getting into the back-and-forth of the questions with the participants, a woman in the back who was around 55, 60 years old raised her hand and said kind of jokingly, "You know, I know I am not supposed to be here. This is a millennial town hall." And we told her, "No. No. It is a mindset. It is not an age."

But she said, "I think you are missing the fact that student loan debt doesn't just affect millennials," and she told a story about her daughter who had gone to college, which is also a part of that American Dream where we want our young people to go to college, educate themselves.

But she said that she has found that her daughter has come home from college, has over \$30,000 in student loan debt and, because of that debt, is not able to even rent near where she works. So what her daughter has done is she has come back home. We are becoming the boomerang generation.

So that reinforced for me that this issue affects the 40 million millennials that you talked about. But, actually, it is a family matter. It affects everyone in the household.

Have you heard stories like that or seen examples of that?

Mr. VEASEY. Yes. I have absolutely heard so many stories like that.

And it is really interesting. I think, when we are all in our twenties, we never think that we are going to get older.

I have been working in politics now since I have been in my twenties, starting off as a congressional aide and spending 8 years in Texas State Legislature and now as a Member of Congress.

When you meet kids that are in their teens, kids that are in their twenties, they never ask you about Social Security. They don't ask you much about

what is going on with the national defense. And, for years, I can tell you that young people in their teens and twenties never asked me a lot of questions, as an elected official, about many of the issues that affect our country.

Most of the questions that I would get from individuals were usually from people that were baby boomers and older that were concerned about Social Security, concerned about the high cost of food or goods or whatever it may happen to be.

But let me tell you something. For young people in this country, this issue is getting their attention, not being able to pay back their student debt.

And I can tell you that, when I am at townhall meetings, when I am out doing the different events throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, the one issue that young people come to me about—and I know that, if someone is in their twenties or early thirties and they are approaching me about an issue, it is probably going to be about student debt. It has really galvanized them like I have never seen before.

Again, they are going to social media like some of the examples that I have talked with you about earlier. They are going to social media. They are going to Instagram and Facebook, talking about student debt, begging the Congress to do something about providing more grants.

Again, we want our country to be well-educated. That is how we are going to be able to compete with the rest of the world.

But guess what. More and more young people are hearing, you know, "Why go to college? Why go to college and be burdened with student debt?"

And guess what. If more and more young people hear that, it is going to make us less competitive in the world at a time where we need to be more competitive in all sectors, whether it is in technology, whether it is in manufacturing. We need an educated workforce.

I can tell you that young people are being discouraged because of a lack of action specifically, really, by Republicans in Congress. So we have to keep raising this issue.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Again, I appreciate you being with us today, Congressman VEASEY of Texas.

You are right. It is about solutions and who is acting. I think we all would welcome the bipartisan approach to this. But right now the silence is deafening, and it is affecting a whole generation that is just stuck in financial quicksand.

One of the solutions that the Future Forum has put out there is this idea: Hey, you can refinance an auto loan. You can refinance your home loan. Why shouldn't our students who are in this financial quicksand be able to refinance their student loans at the lowest

available rate? We have got legislation on that, and I hope it becomes bipartisan legislation. But I agree with you on a call to action on this.

Mr. VEASEY. Thank you, Representative SWALWELL. I appreciate that.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Well, the Future Forum is a group that has evolved since April, and we are quite interested in engaging with millennials.

Again, I would invite people tonight to engage with us on #futureforum, and we will take questions.

But this idea of reaching out to a generation that is not necessarily yet engaged in new, innovative ways is older than the Future Forum. It actually started about 10 years ago.

And today we have a little bit of a surprise for our Future Forum followers. We are going to welcome some of the original members of the Future Forum who 10 years ago on this House floor redefined what it meant to reach out and talk to the next generation of leaders.

So it is my honor, it is my privilege, to first welcome Congressman TIM RYAN of Ohio. TIM said it best in 2005, 10 years ago, when he led the 30-Something Working Group and they took questions on this House floor, as we take them now from Twitter. Congressman RYAN took them via email.

He said, "Being the 30-Something Group, we are trying to take our communications to the next level, trying to reach out to the American people, because we have said for quite some time that if we are going to solve problems in this country, that we have to engage the best and brightest talent that is out in the country in order to do this."

□ 1830

Does that sound familiar to the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I don't remember that, but that sounds like something I would have said. That is great.

Well, thank you. This is bringing back a lot of memories. I look at some of our friends that staff the House of Representatives, and we had a lot of long nights where we would come to the House floor sometimes once or twice in an evening back in 2003, 2004, 2005, and then going into 2006 and really used the House floor. There wasn't Twitter back then, and so a lot has changed with the ability to communicate and organize.

We had key issues at that point that we were working on with DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Congressman Kendrick Meek from Miami. We were kind of the three Members that would come in here every night. It helped us communicate with not just young people who may or may not be watching C-SPAN, because there weren't a lot of them, but we were on later at night, and so we did get some college students

who were paying attention to what was going on. We were also talking to their parents, and we were also talking to their grandparents.

I think what you guys are doing now with the Future Forum is having a conversation with everyone about what the future needs to look like. I think that is critically important. You talk about student loans, student debt, and all the rest. I think one issue, too, that we are talking about that doesn't get a whole lot of coverage is how we create an economy for these young people to go into and what that looks like. I believe that there is an opportunity for us to kind of bring the whole thing together.

We talk a lot about the environment because we are concerned with global warming and what direction we are going in as a country. If you look at places like Iowa and other places, you will see that they have 25 or 30 percent of their energy coming from renewable sources.

I represent a district in northeast Ohio, heavily manufacturing, lost thousands and thousands of manufacturing jobs over the last couple of decades. When I look at what we need to do to reduce our carbon footprint, to move away from fossil fuels, and to move into a more renewable economy, to me, wind and solar are an opportunity to do that. But it is also an opportunity for us to bring manufacturing back.

So not everyone is going to be a Ph.D. and not everyone is going to be a STEM graduate, but if we can get enough of those graduates to figure out how we move the country forward, how we manufacture things again here in the United States, when you think about a windmill that consists of 8,000 component parts, hundreds of tons of steel, gearshifts, bearings, hydraulics, all kinds of component parts that need to be fabricated, to me, if we are going to resuscitate manufacturing in the United States, moving into a renewable economy with wind and solar and all the component parts it entails is an opportunity for us to re-create the middle class.

So when we talk about what the future is, yeah, maybe the college students are going to be graduating from the STEM college and they may be engineers, but we have got to deal with the grid. We have got to deal with battery storage, and we have got to do research and development to figure out how to do it, how to store the energy and all the rest, but we also need to resuscitate manufacturing.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. What colleges do you have in your district?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. In my district, I have three. We have Youngstown State University, which had the first STEM college in the entire State of Ohio, and Akron University, which does a ton of work converting. It used to be the rub-

ber capital of the world. Now they are doing polymers, which has a really bright future as well. And we have Kent State University, which is focused on liquid crystal. So we have these universities.

But, to me, at the end of the day, if you don't get into manufacturing, it needs to become a bigger and bigger part to where we are exporting our products, high-end, high-end manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, and additive manufacturing to the rest of the world. We know we are going to lose some manufacturing, of course, to the lower cost countries, which is a natural evolution of the global economy. The Future Forum and what you are talking about has to be about and is about how we create an economy for these young people, and you are in the process of doing that.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. So, in your district, say Youngstown, or my district, Cal State, East Bay, what I have found talking to young people, when we talk about this renewable economy and young people hear that, we are actually in this Congress, under Republican leadership slashing the amount of money we invest in renewables and increasing the amount that we spend on fossil fuels, I find that young people, their reaction is: Wait. What? You guys, the rest of the world is going forward in this renewable economy. Germany has 30 percent of its energy from renewables, and the United States is still stuck around 10 to 11 percent?

I found it generationally, Republicans and Democrats, millennials, they don't understand why we are kind of stuck in the mud on this issue. I don't know what you have heard.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Definitely in agreement across generations, across party lines. Being young, you kind of understand it. I think if we can move the conversation away from kind of the dark, the world is going to end, globalization, global warming talk, and more into, okay, how do we become sustainable and what is the path forward, and how is that going to benefit everyone moving forward—and I am a kind of an all-of-the-above guy. I think natural gas can be a transition for us, and I think there are a lot of opportunities to do that.

I will tell you this, and I don't want to get into a deep discussion because a lot of people are not in agreement on this. But when you look at the hydraulic fracturing which allowed a lot of the natural gas to come up and for us to access it, which is fairly controversial in some quarters, but the technology was a partnership between the Department of Energy and the private sector for 30 years, starting in the Carter administration, that allowed us to be able to go in and then access this natural gas that is there.

The same concept as what you were talking about is putting the money

into the renewables, driving the costs down, having the tax credits in place over a long-term period so that we can bring the costs down and incentivize some investments. At the end of the day, that is how you move forward with creating new sectors of the economy.

I see the gentleman from Georgia, and I thought he was just hanging on every word I was saying here, and you were so enthralled, and yet you were here to file a rule.

Mr. WOODALL. I say to my friend, you had me at all of the above. You had me at American manufacturing. You had me at jobs for the next generation, and you had me at looking forward instead of backwards, not doom and gloom, but how we can work together to solve problems.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Look at what just happened here on the House floor.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. We will talk. We will send over some ideas, and we will take some of yours.

Mr. WOODALL. I will look forward to that.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Congressman RYAN, one of my favorite things to do in the spirit of what you and Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ did is you went out and engaged people in new, inventive ways. We do what is called a word cloud. We go to these townhalls, and they can text in answers to questions we pose. One that we often ask them is: What would you spend your money on if you had more money at the end of the month that wasn't going to student loans? You can see in the word cloud here, which was taken from a recent event, it ranges from rent, house, buy a house, groceries, mortgage, and savings.

Have you heard this out in Ohio?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Same deal, and that is what every one of those words references is a stronger economy because you have people who are putting money in buying a car or renting a house or buying a house or doing any one of these things. And there they are. There they are.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I have the privilege of having both of you on the floor now, and you can see it is the 10-year reunion of the 30-Somethings. The two of you really charted the path forward for us to do this as the Future Forum.

We are now joined by the gentlewoman from Florida, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

I went back and I saw many of the different, inventive, and creative ways that you guys engaged our young people. I was hoping you could just talk about back then, because some of the issues you talked about—rising gas prices at the time, the war in Iraq, and privatization of Social Security—you brought attention on this House floor of these issues to the next generation.

Maybe you could just talk about how you did that and then how we can do that today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding, and I say to my friend from Ohio that it is good to get the band back together.

It is really incredible that it has been 10 years. I don't really want to think about the birthday that I just had and where that puts me. I guess a few years after we started the 30-Something Working Group at least I and our former colleague Kendrick Meek from Florida passed the status of being 30-something, and we were 30-somethings in spirit while we were doing that for a little while.

I am a little longer past being a 30-something now, but it is absolutely critical that we have an opportunity now to pass the torch, Mr. RYAN, to the next generation of 30-somethings who are focused on making sure that, as we go from generation to generation, as Democrats, we are focused on making sure about those cornerstones of a middle class life that we talked about 10 years ago, making sure that you don't have to choose between buying your groceries or filling your gas tank so you can get to work, which then, if you can't, would cause you not to be able to afford your groceries.

Now, 10 years later, Mr. SWALWELL—I had young children back then. Mr. RYAN was single, and now he has young children. My twins are actually 2 years from going to college, so the student debt crisis that has been looming and has existed and has overly burdened so many Americans is now something that my family has trepidation about. So it is incredibly timely that we relaunch this working group and make sure that the issues that are important to that next generation get the attention and the focus on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. We talk a lot about the next generation, and Congressman RYAN and I were talking about how this affects millennials—and I invite my colleague from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) to take the other podium.

I don't know if you have heard this in your district, but this issue of college access and affordability is actually a family matter. We just got a tweet from @SKAU61, and she said that she wants to get a BA in accounting, and at 53 she can't afford to do it. So we are hearing that it is multigenerational, this access.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. In response to your question, whether I have heard this in my district, absolutely. The average debt that an indi-

vidual carries in student loan debt is about \$29,000. That is crushing debt for years to be burdened with. Even President Obama, not long prior to becoming President, he and the First Lady had both talked about how they only just had paid off their student loan debt just before he took office.

Imagine into your not even late fifties, late forties, still paying off your debt from college and postgraduate school. It is just outrageous. Yet Republicans—and let's make sure that we zero in on brass tacks here—Republicans have consistently denied Americans the opportunity to reform the student loan program so that we can ensure that when they are paid a salary that it is in line with how much they have to actually pay back out of their monthly paycheck to actually make sure that they can make ends meet.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Reclaiming my time, I don't know if either Mr. RYAN or Mr. JEFFRIES has heard constituent casework like this, but we have constituents in our district who are having their Social Security checks garnished because of student loan debt.

So I yield to Mr. RYAN or Mr. JEFFRIES, if you heard about this multigenerational challenge.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I feel like we are here to provide a little historical context. So when we, back in the day, and that was 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, before the Democrats took over the House a few years back, we had a student loan system that the banks would do the loans, and the rates were 7, 8, and 9 percent. Then, the Federal Government would back the loan if someone defaulted. So I loan you \$100, and if you default, the gentleman from California will pay me. What a great business to be in. No lose. Right? So they were covered, regardless. We came in and made some serious reforms to limit the amount of monthly payments and for how many years if you are in the public service.

□ 1845

So we made some reforms that I think were really, really important. But as the gentlewoman from Florida said, that is the difference. We are aggressively trying to pursue ways of fixing the problem, and if we do a piece, we come back and then we try to get to the next piece. In the last few years since 2010, we keep running into a brick wall where we are not getting the kind of cooperation.

But these are the kind of things that the government is supposed to do. I think we are pretty clear about that. That is why it is important, as DEBBIE said, for you to keep coming out here night in and night out, because every night somebody is listening to you, some nights more than others. Some nights we weren't sure if anyone was listening.

But somebody is listening. You have to just keep pounding and pounding

and pounding that message because this is what is best for the economy, for families, and everyone else that really is going to make a difference. So it is good you are out here pounding away.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman, first, from California for his leadership and for all that you have done to make sure that issues of importance to the next generation of Americans, such as the one that we are discussing here today, get prominence on the House floor, this great vehicle for communicating to the American people, and, of course, to be here with the still young pioneers of this wonderful effort, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congressman RYAN. It is just a great honor.

Clearly, we have a student loan debt crisis that commands the attention of the American people and should command the attention of people here in the House of Representatives and on the other side of the Capitol, but does not always do so, which is why communicating the urgency of the situation is so significant, just the notion.

I have got constituents just shocked by the fact that, collectively, we have got over \$1 trillion of student loan debt here in America. That is a very real number in terms of its implications, as you pointed out, Congressman SWALWELL, for the capacity of younger Americans to robustly pursue the American Dream.

When you are saddled with that level of debt burden, it makes it far more difficult to start a family, far more difficult to purchase a home, far more difficult to be part of the next generation of great American entrepreneurs and innovators, because you are less likely to take a risk if you have got this monthly student loan bill that you are unsure as to how you would pay if you were to take some time off to start a business, to invent the next Google or Facebook or Twitter.

And so this is really an issue of great significance to us, as Americans. And it is a shame. I will make this last observation.

I sat on the Budget Committee for the previous 2 years in the 113th Congress, and the same is the case this year, that Republicans continue to put forth a budget that is not designed to alleviate the problem of higher education affordability. It is designed to make the problem worse.

It will cut over \$220 billion over a 10-year period in Federal Government assistance in a variety of ways to younger Americans who are struggling to get a college education and pursue the American Dream.

That is something that we have got to be able to address moving forward or move in a different direction in terms of who the American people send to this Congress to do their business.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I am wondering, especially for our pioneers

here tonight, if it would surprise you to hear that, since 2004, when you started this effort, student loan debt has increased from \$346 million collectively for the country to the \$1.2 trillion that it is today. That is an increase of 235 percent.

What has happened or what hasn't happened?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Well, what hasn't happened is a focus in a bipartisan way on making sure that we make college affordability a top priority.

I will tell you that I know my husband and I are at the intersection in our family of wanting to make sure that, as we send our twins, two at once, off to college 2 years from now, we will be able to, one, be able to supplement as much as possible their college education so that, knowing what we know about the potential for them to have that debt burden when they graduate, we can relieve that possibility, and trying to figure out how the heck we are going to add that double-whammy expense when they start college and at the same time being pretty panicked about how much debt they will have to go in themselves if we can't really make sure—and families all across—less about me and more about the sort of average middle class family that is trying to make sure that they can make ends meet for their whole family and make sure that they can send their kids off to start their lives, which is why President Obama and congressional Democrats have proposed that the first 2 years of college be free.

I will tell you that I have a lot of folks at home in south Florida who have said to me, "You know, if I only had to worry about my kid's junior and senior year and how we were going to pay for that and we knew that at least they could get an AA degree."

Over 100 years ago, when we established free universal access to public education in elementary grades and eventually secondary grades, no one would question. That was considered controversial back then. No one today would consider universal free public education, except maybe some of our friends on the other side of the aisle. Actually, I take that back. But you wouldn't question, you wouldn't think, that universal access to public education should be free.

We are at the point now in the 21st century where there shouldn't be any question that the first 2 years of college should be free, and we need our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in that.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And part of this is not just the first 2 years of college free, but Democrats are also pushing initiatives like how do you streamline and get high school kids into community college classes early while they are still in high school to start taking and reducing some of those costs.

We have programs in Canton at Stark State where you can get 13 credit hours towards a welding certificate. Thirteen of 30 hours can be done before you even graduate from high school. So that reduces and it is free because it is part of your high school public education. So now you are already starting.

So it is not just about reducing student loans and reducing debt and Pell Grants and streamlining the first 2 years. But we also, I think, have an obligation to streamline the current system that is K-12 or K-14 and make sure we narrow that down.

I have got to step out, but I just want to say thank you. You have got another Irish guy here to carry the flag.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Another Floridian, too.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Another Floridian. I do want to say just keep pounding away. This is a great way to communicate. You guys are doing it. We have to get more and more from your classes to be up here. So keep up the good work. And I am out.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I am glad this reunion happened. You inspire us to continue going forward.

I want to ask the gentleman from New York—I have been to Manhattan. It reminds me a lot—Manhattan and Brooklyn and Queens and Harlem—reminds me a lot of what we see in Silicon Valley and San Francisco, just the young entrepreneurial minds.

But when we go to these startup spaces or these incubator hubs, I constantly hear how much student loan debt affects their ability to invest in themselves and their businesses, and we are finding that our generation is the least entrepreneurial generation America has ever known at our time.

I am wondering if you have heard stories about that and how it is limiting investment.

Mr. JEFFRIES. That is absolutely correct. I think what we have to do is really work on changing the equation to facilitate the great minds that we have got in this current generation of younger Americans to be able to go out and be innovators and entrepreneurial in the context of a vastly changing economy as well as a changing dynamic in terms of the affordability of college education.

I am troubled by the fact, one, if you look at the productivity of the American worker, what we have seen, of course, since the early 1970s is that it has increased dramatically, in excess of 275 percent in terms of American worker productivity.

At the same time, wages during that period from the early 1970s to the present have remained largely stagnant, less than 10 percent. So the equation for the American worker has changed.

So what we have is that we have got younger Americans entering into a

workforce where the fundamental equation in terms of their compensation has changed dramatically for the worse, the cost of a college education has increased, the amount of financial assistance relative to the cost of that college education has remained stagnant, if not declined in real dollars, and the expectation in terms of the student debt loan burden one is expected to shoulder upon graduation has exploded exponentially.

You add all those things together and it is no surprise that you are going to find yourself in a situation where people don't have the same capability of being entrepreneurial as prior generations.

FDR, of course, brought forth the New Deal. What we need for this current generation of Americans is just a fairer deal in the context of giving them the same opportunities to robustly pursue the American Dream, start great companies, innovate as prior generations, so we can continue to be great.

I would also note that downtown Brooklyn, interestingly enough, which I represent in the wonderful Eighth Congressional District—

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Is that where Silicon Alley is?

Mr. JEFFRIES. That is part of Silicon Alley. I am so glad that you are familiar with our East Coast lingo.

But it also has more college students in downtown Brooklyn than Boston and Cambridge combined. So there has been a great number of young people who have come to Brooklyn who are contributing to our fantastic innovation culture, but who are struggling with the fundamentals of today's economy and higher education structure that is working against them.

That is why we are here on the floor of the House of Representatives fighting to change that.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Here on the floor any Californian would be nervous when he or she is outnumbered by Floridians.

We are joined by the gentleman from Florida who represents West Palm Beach, Jupiter/Martin County area.

What are you hearing in your district about student loan debt?

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from California for putting this together and, really, your leadership. You have been at this for years now, talking to other Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, reminding them about what a critical issue this is.

Whether I am talking to constituents in my district throughout the State of Florida or people here in the House, we have to do more to help more people get access to quality and affordable education at all levels, but certainly higher education.

When you look at what I would argue is one of the biggest problems in our

country right now—and that is the disappearing middle class and this growing divide we have in our country—unfortunately or fortunately, depending on how you look at it, as economies continue to evolve and progress, education becomes more and more of a critical component of that.

Yet, you look at the policies and you look at really what is holding so many people back, just listening to the gentleman from New York here talking about that lack of opportunity and the debt that is holding so many people back from taking that risk to go ahead and become that entrepreneur, to be that innovative spirit that made America so great because they might have \$100,000 of debt, they might have a family, they might have some kids, and they are so concerned about this debt, they don't want to take that risk.

That is not what America is about. America is about taking that risk with having education to do it and then turning it into something great. And understanding that not every risk is going to always pay off, but you have to have that background, that education, to get you there.

And if you are saddled with hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt and overly complex methods to repay them, not being able to refinance, et cetera, then you have a problem.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Because I want to engage as we used to do. And I know that you do this as well. But I just want to follow up on what you just said because the gentleman from California posed the question and stated the fact that millennials today really aren't starting new businesses. You would think—and we envision them to be the start-up generation. They are living in a start-up era, but, yet, they can't see it.

To use the vernacular of the gentleman of Florida, Congressman MEEKS, when we were throwing things around on the House floor 10 years ago, let's put the cookie on the bottom shelf here.

If, as you just said, they are saddled with the burden of significant debt coming out of college when they get a degree, it is very difficult for them to see a pathway to develop that small business, to envision being a pioneer of the next great industry.

So we are literally saddling them with a heavy burden as they leave what is supposed to be the jumping-off point for the next phase of their lives. We are supposed to be passing them the baton so that they can move America forward. It is just not fair. It is not right. And our friends on the other side of the aisle are part of the problem.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Millennials are very collaborative. They

are, I would believe, a problem-solving generation.

What is so frustrating when we talk to them at college campuses or at their work sites is they ask, "Well, what are you doing about it?" And I believe my colleagues here would be happy, thrilled, to work with our colleagues across the aisle on solutions on this.

But I am just curious. Do you know how many bills we voted on to address student loan debt this Congress? Zero. Zero bills.

□ 1900

At the end of the day, it is not just the least entrepreneurial. We are the least home owning. We are more likely to delay starting a family by about 5 years. So everything that the generation before us had, we are delaying: buying a home, starting a family, starting a business. As the gentleman from New York pointed out, it is affecting the economy.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I wanted to share my own personal story very briefly.

You know, I happened to get married fairly young at 24 years old. Graduating from a public university, the University of Florida, without debt, the progress I was able to make at the beginning of my adult life, at the beginning of my professional life, enabled me to have a much longer ramp and see many more possibilities because I didn't have that debt.

My husband and I were able to buy our first house right after we got married, and we have been able to make sure that we can make choices that will maximize our opportunities to ensure that our children, when we had them and now are raising them, have opportunities.

It is so sad that the millennial generation really doesn't see it, doesn't believe it, and that is because there is obstacle after obstacle being thrown in their way right from the start of their most formative years.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. On an issue you would never imagine to be partisan.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Unbelievable.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Well, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for joining us. I hope to see her back.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the gentleman from New York heard, but in 2012, the New York Fed reported that for the first time in a decade, 30-year-old student borrowers were less likely to take out a home mortgage than other young people.

Are you seeing in the New York area or hearing from your constituents about how student loan debt is affecting their ability to buy a house?

I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely the case. Certainly in Brooklyn, which has become now an attractive place for so many people to reside, not just from the city, the region, all across the country and, indeed, the world, yet many of the young people who have moved to Brooklyn who are starting a life in Brooklyn are renting in Brooklyn. They are unable to purchase a home.

Some of that has to do with the significant appreciation in home value that we have witnessed over the last decade, but a lot of that has to do with the fact that they can't see their way to either a downpayment on a home or carrying a monthly mortgage, given the student loan debt burden that they have been forced to shoulder as a result of the structure that has been put in place in terms of higher education in America.

You made an important observation earlier in referencing the President's plan for free community college education. If we can just dwell there for a second, what is important to note is it used to be the case, for prior generations who started the great American middle class after helping to liberate the world coming back home to America after World War II, that if you just had a high school diploma, for many individuals, that was a pathway into the middle class. That is no longer the case in today's 21st century economy.

You can get a high school diploma at a high-quality public school for free without any debt. So, at that point, as you entered into the workforce, you could think about starting a family, purchasing a home, and doing other things consistent with what it means to be part of the great American middle class. That is no longer the case. A high school diploma is not a pathway into the middle class. You have got to at least go to college, if not get a graduate degree.

Given the high cost of a college education, it has changed the equation for younger Americans in terms of their entry into the middle class. That is why looking at bold proposals, such as dramatically reducing, if not eliminating, the cost of public higher education at the community college level, if not beyond, is something that we have got to put front and center on the agenda here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, adding on to what the gentleman from New York said, not only should we be looking at those sorts of proposals, but we should be looking at some of the existing programs we have, like Pell grants. The numbers that we have been talking about, this skyrocketing cost of education has increased 200-some percent over the last decade. That is unsustainable.

Yet look at what Pell grants have done. The maximum Pell grant has not

gone up ratably in the same amount of time. So let's talk about expanding these programs.

I think we need to really change the dynamic of the conversation to your point where it is really about return on investment. You know, we need to look at this from a business perspective: What is the best ROI of taxpayer money?

I look at some of the bills that we have all worked on together here. One bill that comes to mind is called the SAVE Act. It is a bill where we identified \$479 billion of wasteful, duplicative, fraudulent government spending. Let's start implementing and start finding those savings and putting that into education, ensuring that that return on investment for taxpayer money is truly there. We all know a dollar spent on education is going to come back in droves for future generations in this economy.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Congressman MURPHY, your district, the State of Florida, has a lot of veterans. People always ask: What is the biggest surprise you have found since going to Congress?

I don't know if you guys have had that question posed to you.

For me, the biggest surprise I have found since coming to Congress is just how poorly our veterans have been treated. Something that is even more surprising, which I found doing these Future Forum tours—I don't know if you have heard about this—but a GI Bill doesn't even cover the full cost of college anymore.

So the veterans who have served our country, fought abroad, risked their lives, saw their friends and sometimes family members killed, when they come back home, the GI Bill can't even get them all the way through college. That is how expensive college has become, and we can't even take care of our veterans.

So when you talk about Pell grants, I am wondering if you have talked to veterans and heard about the gaps in funding that they are experiencing as they try and advance their skills when they get back home.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have, and I think it is a great topic to talk about, and one that we should be able to find bipartisan support on.

Because of some of the conversations I have had with some veterans and folks in my district, we introduced some legislation that would help veterans with their application costs. It's not just the cost of education. Sometimes it is just getting there. And these application costs getting into college can be \$200, \$500, and it could be even more than that.

So when you are coming back and you are thinking about a decision, you

might only have a couple of hundred bucks and you might have to make a decision, I am only going to apply to one school. That is not, I don't think, the intent. You should be able to have some options and see what options come back to you where you get accepted, et cetera.

So, in this legislation, the intent is to waive some of these fees for application costs for these veterans to help them get onto that higher education.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, if I can add to that observation that was made by my good friend from the Sunshine State, the three of us had a wonderful opportunity to visit Israel together, along with several other members of our class and, of course, STENY HOYER, who led the delegation in August of 2013.

I was struck in our conversations with some of the members of the Israeli society how well those individuals who had served in the IDF and then matriculated into society were treated. Their service in the IDF was highly valued—not just via words, but through deeds—and it enabled them to really build a successful career. They were treated with reverence.

Congressman SWALWELL, one of the things that perhaps was most disconcerting about my first few years in this institution is there is a lot of rhetoric—I guess I shouldn't be surprised that this is a place where there is a lot of hot air often spewed—that is devoid of substance. And in the area of veterans, in particular, what we find is that there is a lot of talk about treating veterans appropriately in terms of the sacrifice that they have made, their service, but we haven't really filled in the blanks in terms of substance.

One of the areas that clearly is problematic is the fact, though we are promising to enable them once they leave their service to assist with furthering their educational goals, we are not providing them with the financial assistance and the resources necessary to actually make that happen. So I embrace efforts by Congressman MURPHY and others to try to fill in the blanks in that regard, but a whole lot more needs to be done. We should be treating our veterans with the same reverence and respect, not just rhetorically, but substantively, as is done in Israel, our good friend and ally, and many other places in this world.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, it was an unforgettable trip. We learned a lot about their innovation economy, but we also saw firsthand how they valued the service of those who stood on the front lines for their country.

So we are hitting the end of our hour here.

The gentleman from Florida, any parting thoughts or actions?

Our generation, we are an action-oriented generation. We are not very patient. We are a little stubborn. We like to see results.

And you come to Congress under the leadership of this House across the aisle, and we don't see many results. I think we collectively want to work with anyone who is willing to work with us on our Republican colleagues' side to find results.

Any thoughts on what can we do to help a whole generation that is in financial quicksand right now?

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind those watching and our friends on the other side of the aisle that this is, I think, a great opportunity for bipartisanship.

When I talk to voters, whether it is around the district or around the State, they are tired of seeing the nonsense. You know, they look at their jobs and they haven't seen a raise in 10 years. They look at their children who either maybe haven't gotten into college or do get into college and graduate and they have got hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt. When they turn on C-SPAN, they see us bickering and arguing about nonsense.

This is a serious problem. This is something that has to be addressed soon. It should have been addressed years ago. Let's stop the rhetoric and let's start talking to each other and solving these problems and making sure that, not only are we bringing down the cost of higher education, but we are making sure that those who do have the student loans are on an orderly repayment structure, one that makes sense, one that is reasonable per their income. Let's make sure that the dream of America is still alive for future generations.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for participating in this.

I invite anyone at home to follow along, follow the conversation at #futureforum. Engage with these Members and others.

I yield to the gentleman from New York. Any parting thoughts on what we can do as a Congress to unite and solve this problem?

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from the Golden State for his leadership and for putting forth this effort, bringing in younger Members of Congress to be able to speak to issues of relevance, not just to the entire body of the American people, but specifically to the next generation of Americans that will continue to make this country great as long as we provide them with the tools and the opportunity.

I agree with my good friend from Florida that this is an issue that should not be partisan in nature. This is an issue that impacts people from

north to south, to the east and the west, from urban communities, suburban communities, rural communities, red States, blue States, all over America. I think what we are saying here today is that we extend out our arms, our olive branch of friendship and partnership on behalf of the American people to try to solve this problem together.

It is clear that there is a problem, it cannot be denied, and it is one that requires urgent intervention in order to make sure that we can continue to preserve the American Dream for the greatest number of younger Americans possible. Right now, the dream is being suffocated in ways that threaten our economic vitality moving forward, and that is a tragedy. But I remain optimistic. We were sent here all collectively to get things done, and I look forward to working together in that regard.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, that is right. We were sent here to do our job, to be problem solvers and really be voices, I think, for all generations of Americans, but especially this generation which is the largest generation America has ever known. It is the most diverse generation America has ever known, and I think it is one of the most aspirational generations America has ever known. They are waiting for anybody in this body to help them get out of this financial quicksand and start being able to be empowered and really realize their own American Dream.

So I thank the gentlemen for participating today. I thank our pioneers from the 30-Somethings and invite them to come back for a 10-year reunion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 538, NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 702, ADAPTATION TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKETS

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. SWALWELL of California), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-290) on the resolution (H. Res. 466) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 538), to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 702) to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. GRANGER (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A Concurrent Resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 22. Concurrent Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the White House Fellows program; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1300. An act to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

S. 2078. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 8, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3071. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Chemical Demilitarization Program Semi-Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1521(j); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3072. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Environmental Policy Act; Environmental Assessments for Tobacco Products; Categorical Exclusions [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-1282] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3073. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — 2015 Edition Health Information Technology (Health IT) Certification

Criteria, 2015 Edition Base Electronic Health Record (EHR) Definition, and ONC Health IT Certification Program Modifications (RIN: 0991-AB93) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3074. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Technology Transitions [GN Docket No.: 13-5]; Policies and Rules Governing Retirement of Copper Loops by Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers [RM-11358]; Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers [WC Docket No.: 05-25]; AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services [RM-10593] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3075. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final NUREG — 17.5 Quality Assurance Program Description — Design Certification, Early Site Permit and New License Applicants (NUREG-0800) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3076. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-032; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3077. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-069; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3078. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Secs. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-062; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3079. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's combined reports on "U.S. Assistance for Palestinian Security Forces" and "Benchmarks for Palestinian Security Assistance Funds", pursuant to the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (Division J, Pub. L. 113-235); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3080. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting agreements prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements, other than treaties entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3081. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Overtime Pay for Border Patrol Agents (RIN: 3206-AN19) received September 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3082. A letter from the Chairman and Members, United States Capitol Police Board, transmitting the Board's letter commending

the United States Capitol Police and a number of Senate, House and Congressional support offices for their tireless work over the past six months to plan, coordinate, choreograph and execute the Papal visit to the United States Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

3083. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Reliability Standard [Docket No.: RM15-4-000; Order No.: 814] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3084. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE183) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3085. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish; July Through December Season [Docket No.: 141107936-5399-02] (RIN: 0648-XE004) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3086. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 120328229-4949-02] (RIN: 0648-XE095) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3087. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XE126) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3088. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; 2016 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs; and Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Size Limit [Docket No.: 900124-0127] (RIN: 0648-XE164) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3089. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in

the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE203) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3090. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140117052-4402-02] (RIN: 0648-XE096) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3091. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's modification of fishing seasons — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #22 through #29 [Docket No.: 150316270-5270-01] (RIN: 0648-XE121) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3092. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140117052-4402-02] (RIN: 0648-XE162) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3093. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE152) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3094. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE170) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3095. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0586; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-255-AD; Amendment 39-18256; AD 2015-17-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3096. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0753; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-18270; AD 2015-19-08] (RIN:

2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3097. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0126; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-236-AD; Amendment 39-18267; AD 2015-19-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3098. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1071; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-204-AD; Amendment 39-18264; AD 2015-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3099. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0127; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-237-AD; Amendment 39-18265; AD 2015-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3100. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0194; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-022-AD; Amendment 39-18266; AD 2015-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3101. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions on Certain Categories of Archaeological Material From the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of Nicaragua [CBP Dec. 15-13] (RIN: 1515-AE05) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3102. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Filings for Electronic Entry/Entry Summary (Cargo Release and Related Entry) [USCBP-2015-0045] (RIN: 1515-AE03) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3103. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Request for Comments on Definitions of Section 48 Property [Notice 2015-70] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3104. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2015 Marginal Production Rates [Notice 2015-65] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3105. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2015 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment [Notice 2015-64] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3106. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rules — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Electronic Health Record Incentive Program — Stage 3 and Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 through 2017 [CMS-3310-FC and CMS-3311-FC] (RIN: 0938-AS26 and 0938-AS58) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 466. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 538) to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 702) to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions (Rept. 114-290). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3442. A bill to provide further means of accountability of the United States debt and promote fiscal responsibility (Rept. 114-291). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3696. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent Medicare part B premium and deductible increases for 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3697. A bill to modernize and improve the program for economic opportunities for low-income persons under section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 3698. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the enlistment in the Armed Forces of additional persons who are residing in the United States and to lawfully admit for permanent residence certain enlistees who are not citizens or other nationals of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 3699. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require an annual report from the Financial Management Service within the Department of the Treasury regarding amounts paid or payable by Federal agencies to the judgement fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 3700. A bill to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 3701. A bill to require that the Secretary of the Treasury make available an Internet platform for Form 1099 filings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.R. 3702. A bill to provide for additional space for the protection and preservation of national collections held by the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3703. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend qualified zone academy bonds for 2 years and to reduce the private business contribution requirement with respect to such bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 3704. A bill to clarify that nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity can accept donated mortgage appraisals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 3705. A bill to require certain financial regulators to determine whether new regulations or orders are duplicative or inconsistent with existing Federal regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 3706. A bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 3707. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Groundwork USA national office, to provide grants to certain nonprofit organizations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

142. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 10, requesting that the Congress of the United States take immediate action to extend the federal investment tax credit in Sections 48 and 25D of Title 26 of the United States Code; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

143. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17, urging the President and the Congress of the United States to enact Senate Bill 664, known as the Foster Care Tax Credit Act, which would provide tax relief to short-term foster parents by helping to cover the actual costs of caring for a foster child; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

144. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 54, urging the President and the Congress of the United States to consider imposing tariffs on imported anthracite coal in order to preserve American jobs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

145. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 136, condemning the International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and its activities in Pennsylvania for seeking to undermine the Jewish peoples' right to self-determination, which they are fulfilling in the State of Israel; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

"The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . ."

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 3698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 14 states that "Congress shall have the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces." This Act amends the enlistment rules to include selected individuals who are not natural citizens or legal permanent residents.

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 4 states that "Congress shall have the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization." Congressional power over naturalization is an exclusive power and this power is the only one free from constitutional limitations on its exercise. Citizenship by naturalization is a privilege to be given, qualified or withheld as Congress may determine and an individual may claim it as a right only upon compliance with the terms Congress imposes.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 3699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 3700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 3701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution as well as Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the authority to lay and collect taxes and duties. It is the inherent duty of elected members of Congress to protect U.S. taxpayer information from misuse.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17, giving Congress exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia. That clause was cited as the authority for the government's ability to accept the original Smithsonian donation and the creation of the Smithsonian Institution via the Act of August 10, 1846.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper clause, which provides the power to enact legislation necessary to effectuate one of the earlier enumerated powers, such as the authority granted in Clause 17 above.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 3703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 7, CLAUSE 1

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 3704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:

Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 3705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 3707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 140: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 167: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 223: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 224: Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. LEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 226: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 241: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 244: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 257: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 346: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 390: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 410: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 482: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 539: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 546: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 592: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 711: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 748: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 775: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 823: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 842: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 851: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 921: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 953: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 985: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1062: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 1078: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1090: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 1093: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1094: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1192: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1217: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. BERA, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1218: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 1220: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. VELA, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1233: Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MICA, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 1258: Mrs. WAGNER and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1292: Mr. ROSS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1309: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LONG, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 1356: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1405: Mr. FOSTER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1421: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1475: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1479: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 1559: Mr. HURD of Texas and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1586: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1594: Mr. HILL and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1603: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. YODER, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1608: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1610: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 1655: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1666: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1671: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 1716: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 1736: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1737: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1784: Mr. YODER and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 1786: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Ms. BASS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1859: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1877: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 1942: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SALMON, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2017: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2043: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 2046: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2067: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2083: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 2090: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2114: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2156: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 2172: Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 2205: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2216: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2248: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2255: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 2315: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2327: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2342: Ms. MOORE and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2350: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 2368: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2400: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KNIGHT, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2404: Mr. MOULTON and Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 2406: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 2450: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2451: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2463: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2494: Mr. KATKO and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 2553: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 2597: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 2639: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2646: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 2652: Mr. FLEMING.

H.R. 2654: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2671: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2672: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2673: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2674: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2675: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2680: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2698: Mr. HANNA and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 2699: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 2713: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 2726: Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 2732: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 2759: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 2805: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2847: Mr. BERA and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 2867: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 2896: Mr. MICA.

H.R. 2901: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 2903: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2911: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 2918: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2922: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 3024: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 3033: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 3036: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3048: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 3051: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3052: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3084: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3094: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 3099: Mr. AMODEI and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3108: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3132: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 3136: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 3187: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 3221: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3222: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 3286: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3294: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3304: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3309: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3314: Mr. YODER and Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 3326: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BOST, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 3339: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 3459: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 3463: Mr. LATTA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3466: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3471: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3480: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 3484: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3531: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 3532: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 3539: Mr. REED.

H.R. 3542: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 3564: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3568: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3573: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 3589: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 3611: Mr. DENT and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3616: Mr. JONES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. COOK, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3621: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3626: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 3632: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3640: Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 3641: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 3648: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3665: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3679: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 3687: Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 3690: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.J. Res. 59: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUM, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.J. Res. 60: Mr. KIND.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. HAHN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. TORRES.

H. Res. 54: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. ASHFORD.

H. Res. 210: Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 218: Mr. RIBBLE.

H. Res. 377: Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 393: Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H. Res. 396: Mr. KIND.

H. Res. 428: Mr. PETERS and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H. Res. 431: Mr. RIBBLE and Mrs. WAGNER.

H. Res. 443: Mr. KING of New York.

H. Res. 445: Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 451: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. LAMALFA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff
benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF ALASKA
The amendment filed to Rules Committee
Print 114-30 for H.R. 538 by me does not con-

tain any congressional earmarks, limited tax
benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined
in clause 9 of House rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the people of Taiwan celebrate their national day, Double Ten Day, on October 10th, I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to them.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free enterprise. Not only an important security partner, Taiwan is also a strong economic partner—in fact, our 10th—largest trading partner now almost two years running. In 2014, Colorado's exports to Taiwan reached \$191.5 million, a 32.6% increase from 2012. Taiwan is Colorado's 7th largest export market in Asia, and 14th largest export market in the world. Colorado companies have substantial opportunities to expand their business and cooperation with Taiwan. These accomplishments have been greatly aided by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office and I am proud that it now calls Denver home. Equally important are the Taiwanese-Americans living in Colorado and the wealth of knowledge and entrepreneurial energy they bring to Colorado. The Taiwanese-American community has thrived in the Centennial State and has served as an economic engine for the 6th Congressional District. Furthermore, our students represent a bright future and it has been my honor to work closely with the Colorado Chinese Language School, which is organized by the Taiwanese community, by presenting certificates to excelling students at their "Year-End" celebration.

Given the increasing importance of Taiwan's trade with the rest of the world, it is in our best interest to see Taiwan and its 23 million people enjoy a balanced trade partnership that is fully integrated in global and regional trading regimes. Taiwan should be allowed to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), as it is a close ally and an important economic engine of Asia-Pacific. Additionally, I support a Bilateral Investment Agreement between the United States and Taiwan to provide greater protections for investors, while fostering confidence and encouraging movement in other items on the trade agenda.

I believe the United States should continue to enhance our friendship with Taiwan and we in Congress must to do everything in our power to enrich this valuable relationship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH ANTHONY "TONY" NAPOLET

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear friend and mentor. A devoted family man, a respected teacher and coach, Anthony "Tony" Napolet, passed away Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015, at the age of 77, surrounded by his loving family. Tony was born July 4, 1938, in Warren, the son of Harold and Lucy (DiPaolo) Napolet.

Tony was a 1956 graduate of St. Mary's High School. Tony also received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Marquette University in Milwaukee, where he played and lettered in football. Following graduation, Tony coached the freshman squad at Marquette while attending Marquette University's School of Law. Tony returned to the Warren area, where he would begin an illustrious coaching career that would span five decades.

Tony coached football for more than 50 years with over 35 years as a head coach. He took pride in all his teams and his kids. His overall record was 214–104–3. Tony won many championships, to include two state runner-ups, three regional championships, five state semi-finals, and a 1991 state championship.

Coach Napolet was recognized with many honors from countless organizations which included Coach of the Year in 1991, the 1995 John F. Kennedy Golden Eagle Award, the 2004 Mahoning Valley Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame Man-of-the-Year, the 2006 Associated Press Coach of the Year, the 2011 Kennedy Sports Hall of Fame, Warren Sports Hall of Fame, and the 2013 Ohio High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was a past member of the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association and Trumbull County Coaches Association.

Although Coach Tony Napolet's football career is impressive, his greatest success is the impact he has made on his family, friends, players, fellow coaches, and community. You will never find a more compassionate, generous, and loving person than Tony Napolet, a proud Italian American, a loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Tony always lived by his lifelong mantra, God, family, Catholic education, and football.

Tony was a man of strong faith. He was an active member of St. Mary's Church in Warren.

Tony will be deeply missed by his two sons, Harold J. and Mario R. (Paula) Napolet of Pickerington; and his loving daughter, Natalie A. (Greg) Hosoi; his beloved grandchildren, Aarika and Anthony Napolet, Mario, Olivia, and Ella Napolet, and Ambrose, Ava and Gennaro Hosoi.

Tony is also survived by his two sisters, Norma Napolet and Marie Guanciale; his brother-in-law, Manlio Guanciale; and his nephew and niece, Christopher and Joanna Guanciale. He is also survived by his former wife and dear friend, Mary Jo Napolet.

Tony was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Lucy (DiPaolo) Napolet.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MARK ISAACS

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Isaacs and his work on behalf of Delaware farmers. This weekend, Mr. Isaacs' work was acknowledged by the Sussex County Farm Bureau with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Mr. Isaacs is a lifelong resident of Delaware—born and raised in Sussex County. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Clemson University, and a Doctorate from Virginia Tech.

In 1986, Mr. Isaacs began his career at the University of Delaware. Since then, he has contributed to UD, and Delaware's agriculture community, in innumerable ways. Mr. Isaacs now serves as the Director of the Elbert N. & Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center. He oversees, directs, and supports research in addition to teaching students in several subject areas.

Mr. Isaacs not only plays an active role at UD, he also has given back to our community in many other ways. He has worked with high school students on special projects and with local high schools to improve their agriculture and environmental programs. He has also served on boards of education, agriculture task forces, and policy and scholarship committees.

I want to thank Mr. Isaacs for his dedicated service to the Delaware farm community, and commend him on his well-deserved Distinguished Service Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSE M. TORRES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Jose M. Torres. Jose Torres was a son of Guam and a member of our greatest generation who suffered the occupation of Guam during World War II. Jose passed away on September 28,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2015 at the age of 88. He was also an author, radio show host and medical researcher who shared his deep love for Guam and our people.

In February of 2015, Jose's memoir of his World War II experiences was published by the University of Guam Micronesia Area Research Center. His book, "Massacre at Atâte", tells the story of a brave battle he fought in against the Japanese during the Japanese occupation of Guam.

Jose wrote the story and had it published to preserve a very important part of Guam's history and have it shared with future generations. He had joined a group of men from the village of Merizo who lost their families when Japanese soldiers massacred them in nearby caves. Jose was the youngest of the group and joined the men in helping the U.S. Navy by providing intelligence on the Japanese occupiers and giving updates on the situation facing the Chamorros. The battle demonstrated the strength and perseverance of the Chamorro people, especially during such a difficult time and with barely any weapons.

Jose also served the island as a medical researcher with the National Institutes of Health. Jose's team studied the high rates of Parkinson's disease, Dementia, and Lou Gehrig's disease on Guam. Additionally, Jose will be remembered fondly for his love of classical music which he demonstrated through hosting the two-hour radio program "Classical Concert" on Guam's public radio.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Jose M. Torres, and I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and recognizing his dedicated service to Guam. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones and friends. He will be missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOYIN YUEN,
MIDDLE SCHOOL ART EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of HoYin Yuen, who was named the Middle School Art Educator of the Year for 2016 by the Massachusetts Art Education Association.

Every year, the Massachusetts Art Education Association recognizes outstanding educators, like Yuen, who set an example in providing quality art education to students while also contributing to their profession. Yuen became an art teacher because he knew it would always be a fulfilling vocation. A native of Cape Cod, Yuen pursued an undergraduate degree at Emmanuel College and a Master's in Art Education from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, but he always wanted to return to his community to teach and impact young minds. He takes particular interest in teaching middle school students, where he finds the age group both challenging yet rewarding.

Yuen employs a variety of creative mediums to teach a broad curriculum over the course of

the school year. His enthusiasm for art and passion for teaching has not gone unnoticed by his colleagues. Many have admired his ability to adapt his assignments to address the needs of all his students and his teaching style leaves his students, parents and other teachers alike at ease.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring HoYin Yuen for receiving this prestigious recognition. I know all my colleagues in the House join me in wishing him nothing but success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE YMCA OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AND THE ROPER FAMILY YMCA COMMUNITY IMPACT

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the YMCA of Central Florida and the good work they do in our community.

With its focus on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility, YMCA of Central Florida is helping us change our approach to community health and chronic disease prevention. Today, I bring to your attention how this is happening on a local level through public private partnerships.

In West Orange County as part of Metropolitan Orlando, the Roper YMCA Family Center is expanding to become the community's destination for healthy living, made possible in partnership with its local healthcare system and healthcare district. Leveraging each organization's strengths and resources, the Roper Y will be making health education more accessible to thousands more residents, offering more Y Diabetes Prevention programs, and helping residents of all ages and incomes start and stick to healthier lifestyles.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I wish to thank and congratulate the Roper YMCA Family Center and its partners, the West Orange Healthcare District and Health Central Hospital—Orlando Health, for their commitment to improving the health of Central Florida.

REMEMBERING LEON FRANKEL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a remarkable hero of the United States and Israel, Leon Frankel. I would like to recognize his heroic efforts and remarkable sacrifice in defending both countries during World War II and Israel's War of Independence.

Leon was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1923 and, at a young age, he was fascinated with the thought of flying. After he graduated high school, he pursued his dream and was accepted into the V-5 Naval Aviation Pro-

gram. After completing the program, Leon joined Air Group 9, and as a pilot in Torpedo Squadron 9 he flew 25 missions while aboard the USS *Lexington* and the USS *Yorktown*. In February of 1945, Leon took part in the first Navy raid on Tokyo.

After the War, Leon returned to his native Minnesota and served in the Navy Reserves. In May of 1948, he was recruited by the newly-founded State of Israel to become a member of their first Fighter Squadron, the 101. He fought bravely for the nascent nation against almost impossible odds, flying 25 missions during Israel's War of Independence.

After returning to the United States, Leon rejoined his Navy Reserve Squadron, and served until 1959 when he was honorably discharged. As a testament to his exemplary service to the United States, Frankel was awarded many decorations including the Navy Cross, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Air Medals and two Presidential Citations.

It is with a heavy heart that I must announce Leon Frankel passed away this week. However, he will never be forgotten and his life will be remembered as one of exceptional service and commitment to both the United States and Israel. Leon Frankel is a true hero.

HONORING BARRY CICERO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Barry Cicero of Western Springs who passed away on October 2, 2015. Barry was known for his remarkable dedication to his family, church, community, and fellow veterans.

Mr. Cicero was a veteran of the United States Army and served as a nuclear weapons storage specialist in Alaska during the Vietnam War era. He was a graduate and active alum of both St. Mel's High School and DePaul University. For many years he worked as Director of Auditing at UFCW Union and Pension Funds.

Barry honorably served the American Legion in Illinois for many years. He held multiple leadership roles including Post Commander at the Robert E. Coulter, Jr. Post, Fifth District Commander, and First Division Commander. Mr. Cicero continued to work as a community relations contact with American Legion even after his term as commander ended. He was consistently engaged in programs to help his fellow veterans and everyone in the community.

Mr. Cicero will best be remembered for his compassion, integrity, and warm spirit. He was active at St. John of the Cross Catholic Church and was a loving family man. Those of us who knew him will miss his thoughtfulness and enthusiastic kindness.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Barry Cicero, a truly admirable man. His leadership and dedication to his community were extraordinary and will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S 104TH
NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with the other co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus—Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART, Representative GERALD E. CONNOLLY, and Representative GREGG HARPER—to commemorate the upcoming 104th National Day of the Republic of China (ROC) on October 10th. Marking this special occasion underscores the critical importance of the United States and Taiwan relationship throughout history.

The pillars of United States cross-strait policy are the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act and the 1982 Six Assurances. The United States supports peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the democratic institutions of Taiwan. Any future evolution in cross-strait relations can only be achieved through the non-use of force and by respecting the will of the people of Taiwan. Further, we hope to continue to work with our colleagues in Congress on providing Taiwan access to meaningful participation in international organizations, such as in the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Mr. Speaker, as we observe the ROC's 104th National Day, we should use this occasion to rededicate ourselves to the tenets of our longstanding and close partnership with Taiwan. The commitment of the United States to provide Taiwan with a sufficient defensive capability under the Taiwan Relations Act is critical to both peace in the Taiwan Strait and regional stability. It also serves U.S. national interests as we continue to re-balance attention and resources to the Asia-Pacific. Our commercial relationship with Taiwan, our tenth largest trading partner, will also be well-served by a framework of peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan are noble, peaceful, and hard-working. We invite our colleagues in the House of Representatives to learn more about our friendship with Taiwan and join the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, the largest nation-based caucus in the House of Representatives. Again, we are honored to rise today to celebrate the 104th birthday to our great friend, Taiwan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE P.
OLIVEIRA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. DAVID VALADAO to pay tribute to the life of our good friend, Joe P. Oliveira Sr. of Lemoore, California who recently passed away at the age of 89. He leaves behind his loving family including his daughters, Marlene Jeung and husband Don, Patty Silva and husband Denny, Debbie Etchebehere and husband Jean, Cheryl Silva

and husband Russ; daughter in law, Pam Oliveira, Son-in-law Darryl Ray, Brothers Jon, Frank, Westley, Leonard, Manuel, Edward, Louie and sister Mary, along with 16 grandchildren; and 29 great grandchildren.

Joe P. Oliveira Sr. was born in Hanford, CA on January 28, 1926 to John P. and Eliza Leal Oliveira he was the fourth born of 12 children. Joe P., as he liked to be called, was a man who dedicated himself to his family and the dairy industry in the San Joaquin Valley and California. He returned to the family dairy after his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army-Air Force in 1947. He bought his own dairy in 1953 and throughout his working years he dedicated his time and efforts to his love of dairy.

He served on the Kings County Creamery Association Board for over 20 years and Challenge Cream and Butter Association Board for fifteen years. This experience and his involvement with the Western Dairyman's Association prompted then Governor Reagan to appoint Joe P. to the Milk Pooling Formulation Committee which resulted in a program that helped all dairymen.

After selling his dairy, he worked full time for Western Dairyman's from 1973 to 1987 and upon his retirement he was presented with a Resolution from the California State Legislature recognizing his contributions to the dairy industry.

Joe P. married the love of his life Adeline Paulo; they were blessed with one son, and five daughters. He was actively involved in the Lemoore Trinity Association for over 50 years. He led the efforts of many, placing calves on dairy farms where his many friends raised them. They were then sold with the donations going towards building a new hall at Lemoore Trinity Association. He also served on the Kings County Grand Jury.

It goes without saying that Joe P. Oliveira Sr. was an honorable man with a commitment to his family and friends and the agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley that will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. His passion for family, education, and his community will be remembered by all who knew him. He was my friend and I will miss him a great deal. He conducted his life with reverence for humanity. It is with great pride that I honor him for all he did on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley and for California.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. VALADAO and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in honoring the life of Joe P. Oliveira Sr., a remarkable Californian. We are honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER J.
ADONIZIO, RECIPIENT OF 2015
ITALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter J. Adonizio who will be

awarded the Italian-American Association's Lifetime Achievement Award on Sunday, October 11, 2015. A native of Pittston, Pennsylvania, Peter has a long history of service to his local community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Peter attended Scranton Preparatory School and is a graduate of St. Leo University in Florida. In 1983, Peter studied at the Simmons Institute of Funeral Service, earning a diploma in Mortuary Science. Upon completing his internship and completing the requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Peter became a licensed funeral director in 1984.

After completing his education, Peter worked for his family's asphalt company until 1991. He then worked as a probation officer for Luzerne County, PA. In 1993, Peter was appointed by Luzerne County as a deputy coroner. Four years later, he was appointed Deputy Court Administrator, also earning his district magistrate certification. In 2000, after a Pennsylvania Supreme Court order and the formation of the Unified Judicial Court System, Peter became a Deputy Court Administrator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. During that time, Peter received a special commendation from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for his service to the judicial system as a member of the Judicial Council's Committee on Judicial Security and Emergency Preparedness. He retired in 2013, after twenty years of service.

In addition to his career in government, Peter also worked as a funeral director. Peter established the Peter J. Adonizio Funeral Home in 2001 in West Pittston. As a result of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, Peter relocated his funeral home to William Street in Pittston. Adonizio is a member of the Luzerne County Funeral Directors Association, Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association, and the National Funeral Directors Association.

It is an honor to recognize Peter for all of his community and state accomplishments, and I extend my congratulations on his award. I wish him the best in all future endeavors and thank him for the contributions he has made serving his fellow Pennsylvanians.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS
QUIGLEY ON HOMETOWN HERO
AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Thomas Clayton Quigley of Bedford, Texas, on his receipt of the City of Bedford's Hometown Hero Award for his service to our nation and outstanding citizenship in his community.

Thomas chose to enlist in the United States Army in 1942, in the midst of World War II. He graduated Officer Candidate School and became a First Lieutenant who served in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment in the 2nd Infantry Division. After training in Scotland and England, Thomas and his unit landed on Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944,

shortly after the first D-Day landings to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany. He was wounded twice in France but ultimately continued to fight, participating in the Battle of the Bulge. He recounts that, in the middle of war, he and his men were often too busy to be afraid, reflecting that, "it was our job, the one we signed up for."

After Germany surrendered, Thomas was stationed at Fort Swift in Texas, awaiting deployment to the Pacific, which was preempted by the Japanese surrender in August, 1945. While at Fort Swift, he met his wife, Barbara, when he and some friends decided to talk to some young women on a porch in Austin. He offered to help her when she brought out some water and she says "He has been helping me ever since." Together they have been married almost seventy years and have three children—Barbette, Kay, and Keith—and three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He says that surviving the war is "one of [his] greatest accomplishments" but that it is his "wonderful family that has made [him] truly blessed."

Thomas took advantage of the G.I. bill and went to study at Michigan State University, bringing his new wife with him. They returned to Texas for the weather (Thomas says, "I survived the Bulge weather but couldn't stand the cold Michigan weather"), and he graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in agronomy. At first, like many returning veterans, finding a job in civilian life was difficult and he was a guard at the gate of a food plant. He eventually became a dispatcher for Central Freight Lines for 28 years, retiring in 1984. Even after retirement, Thomas was engaged and industrious, becoming the owner of a local 9-hole golf course and driving range.

In his later years, Thomas has also become involved in keeping the recorded memories of World War II available for the public and future generations. With two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars, he went with Barbara to the 40th anniversary ceremonies at Normandy in 1984. Since that experience, he has written a memoir book, *World War II, My War*, logged his oral accounts in the National World War II museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, received the French Legion of Honor medal, and been featured recounting the Battle of the Bulge on the History Channel in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Thomas Quigley on the Hometown Hero Award, honoring his valor and strong citizenship, and thanking him for his selfless sacrifice for our nation and freedom in the Second World War.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 519 through 520 due to congressional travel.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on Number 519 and yes on Number 520.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 535, due to an in-district event announcing new funding for displaced coal miners and their families to pay for job retraining and educational opportunities, I was unable to cast my vote on this bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF GREATER BEALLWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH'S 139TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Greater Beallwood Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia as they celebrate a remarkable 139 years. An anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at the church in Columbus. The event will also be an opportunity to welcome Reverend Adrian J. Chester as the church's new pastor.

Greater Beallwood Baptist Church traces its roots back to the post-Civil War era in 1876, when Beallwood Baptist Church was first organized under the leadership of Reverend Boston Miles and Deacon Albert Harper.

Over the years, the church would see many outstanding leaders but perhaps the most noteworthy were Reverend I.S.H. Allen, who served sixteen fruitful years from 1920 until his passing in 1936, and Reverend James Carter Cook, who served for four decades as the church grew and flourished tremendously.

In addition to the achievements of pastors, many laymen have also made significant contributions to the life of the church. In 1905, Deacon Eddie Borders became chairman of the Board of Deacons and served for over fifty years. The church would see many more dedicated citizen leaders, men and women, called to serve all the way into the 21st century.

In 1956, Beallwood Baptist Church became incorporated and the name was changed to Greater Beallwood Baptist Church, Inc. A growing church membership at Greater Beallwood meant pastors had a larger flock to shepherd. In 1975, Greater Beallwood began meeting in worship every Sunday morning, rather than two Sundays out of the month. The church then called upon its first assistant pastor, Reverend Billy J. Carter, to assist in growing pastoral duties.

In January 1987, the church was blessed when the Lord placed Reverend Willie L. Hill over this flock. Much was accomplished during Rev. Hill's twenty-eight years as pastor, including increased participation in the learning programs of the church, especially Sunday School and Bible Study. In 2010, Rev. Hill instituted Children's Church for children ages 5 through 12. Not only did Rev. Hill's leadership

grow the congregation in number and in spirit, but it also was instrumental in the building of a new sanctuary that would accommodate the numerous church services and meetings.

In 2014, God had strategically placed Reverend Adrian J. Chester as the church's first youth pastor. After Rev. Hill's retirement in 2015, Rev. Chester became the seventeenth pastor of Greater Beallwood Baptist Church.

Today, Greater Beallwood is blessed to have numerous ministries and fellowship opportunities. Fellowship at Greater Beallwood is characterized by unconditional love, rich in relationship with God, family, and friends. The members of Greater Beallwood reflect this idea of fellowship throughout the community by serving those in need.

The story of the Greater Beallwood Baptist Church, which began as a small group of people worshipping 139 years ago and has grown into an expansive and successful church, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the membership of the Greater Beallwood Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia for their long history of coming together through good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

104TH COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan approaches the 104th commemoration of the National Day of the Republic of China next October 10th, it is important that we remember a few key points. First, the Republic of China, Taiwan is an extraordinary friend and ally of the United States. This year we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the allied victory in World War II. We must not forget the critical contribution of the Republic of China to freedom's victory over the forces of fascist tyranny. Second, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan deserves to be commended for having consolidated its representative democracy in an extremely challenging regional environment. Finally, people of Taiwan are hard-working and admirable.

The current framework of U.S.-Taiwan relations has developed successfully in large part to the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979. The United States has sold defensive arms to Taiwan, allowing it to remain a respected force in the region. It is extremely important that the transfer of sophisticated defensive weapons such as Perry Class Naval vessels and other weaponry supported in the National Defense Authorization Act, take place soon.

The government of Taiwan has set forth a noteworthy peace-seeking agenda in recent years, and it has accomplished a remarkable reduction in cross-strait tensions. History will certainly note President Ma Ying-jeou's East China Sea Peace Initiative and South China Sea Peace Initiative with deep admiration for

these wise and responsible proposed solutions to critically important regional challenges.

PROVISO EAST CLASS OF 1975—
40TH YEAR REUNION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Proviso East Class of 1975 on their 40th year reunion. As all of us know, we can take great engagement to make use of the lessons learned and skills developed while students at Proviso East.

The Class of 1975 can be proud of the heritage, accomplishments and proud of what being a Pirate has meant. The Class of 1975 can have pride in the accomplishments of the Proviso East graduates who left a great school well prepared to confront the challenges of everyday life. The families have been and continue to be role models of excellence and community engagement.

Best wishes and good luck to the Proviso East Class of 1975.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
FRESNO EOC

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission as they celebrate 50 years of dedicated service to Fresno County. Fresno EOC has spent five decades investing in people and assisting them in becoming self-sufficient. Further this agency administers numerous human services and economic development programs. These programs include pre-school education, vocational training, juvenile and drug abuse counseling, treatment for serious juvenile offenders, youth recreation, and senior citizen hot meal services to name a few.

As one of the largest and most effective poverty fighting organizations in the country, Fresno EOC has touched the lives of more than 145,000 residents of Fresno County. Through programs that make real measurable differences, Fresno EOC continues to give families the immediate help they need and the long-term support that allows them to build better lives.

When Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the goal was to obtain equality of opportunity in education, employment, health and living conditions for every American in our Country and Fresno EOC has done an exemplary job of accomplishing these goals. Over the past 5 decades, Fresno EOC has made countless contributions to our city and the entire San Joaquin Valley. From programs ranging from Head Start, to the Local Conservation Corps, and Fresno CDFI, Fresno EOC has done so much to make our community a better place.

The results of these programs have allowed local organizations like Fresno EOC to leverage nearly \$2.20 in private capital from every dollar that the federal government invests in Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). 90 percent of CSBG funds go directly to local communities to provide critical services such as child care, job training, housing, and financial education that improve self-sufficiency.

Fresno EOC employs over 1,300 full and part time staff members committed to transforming lives. With over 30 programs to serve the community, they bridge the gaps with almost every aspect of the underserved population. There are more than 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the nation offering services every year in 99 percent of U.S. counties. These agencies serve 16 million low-income individuals, primarily members of working families and seniors, and in Fresno we are lucky to have one of the largest Community Action Agencies in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as we celebrate Fresno EOC's 50th year of improving economic opportunities and empowering individuals in the San Joaquin Valley. This agency is making a difference and creating better opportunities for our future generations.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S 104TH
NATIONAL DAY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, Taiwan's 104th National Day will be celebrated, marking the anniversary of the Republic of China's founding. For many years, Taiwan has been a strong ally of the United States, one which shares our interests and values, including an enduring commitment to democracy and the freedom of expression. Approximately one hundred miles from communist China, Taiwan is a beacon of freedom in the Pacific, serving as an inspiration for the world's oppressed and as a model for future democratic transitions.

As we celebrate Taiwan's 104th National Day, we must also think about how we can strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan alliance. Taiwan is increasingly under pressure from an aggressive China that is attempting to assert its dominance in the Pacific and it is crucial that the United States provides the kind of assistance—politically, militarily, and economically—that will allow Taiwan to resist any type of Chinese coercion. China's military buildup, construction of artificial islands, and territorial claims, has greatly escalated tensions in the Asia-Pacific and the risk of conflict with Taiwan. Taiwan's recent successful efforts to reduce tensions in the Asia-Pacific can be used as a model to find further peaceful solutions in maritime Asia.

In order to assist Taiwan, the United States should ensure its meaningful participation in international organizations and entities that it has expressed an interest in participating, including at the United Nations. The United

States should also help Taiwan upgrade its air force and its navy, including assisting in the procurement of diesel-electric submarines, so that Taiwan has the capacity to deter Chinese aggression and act as a force for peace and stability in the region. The United States should also be economically assisting Taiwan, our 10th largest trading partner, in order to help it resist China's economic pressure. By strengthening U.S.-Taiwan trade ties, we can give Taiwan the economic and political flexibility it needs to diversify, reduce its reliance on China, and resist Chinese intimidation.

Taiwan is a vibrant democratic partner and ally that the United States cannot afford to neglect. We must remember that not only is the Taiwan Relations Act the law of the land in the United States but, together with President Reagan's Six Assurances, forms the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations. As Taiwanese all around the world celebrate Taiwan's National Day, we here in the United States stand with our ally, ready to ensure we are supporting her and its people to the best of our ability. Happy Double Tenth Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHERINE R.
O'DONNELL, ESQ., RECIPIENT OF
THE WILKES-BARRE LAW & LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine R. O'Donnell, Esq., who was selected for the President's Award by the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association. The President's Award honors attorneys who display exemplary professionalism, integrity, and ethics throughout his or her legal career. It is the highest award that the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association bestows.

Cathy has been practicing law for over 25 years. She graduated cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh with a joint degree in business and economics and a minor in history. In 1987, Cathy received her Juris Doctor and Master of Business degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a member of the Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Bar. In addition, Cathy is a member of The American Association for Justice and the Pennsylvania Association for Justice.

In October of 2000, Governor Thomas Ridge appointed Cathy as a District Justice. Unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate, Cathy honorably served our state until January 2002. Today, Cathy practices estate planning and administration at the O'Donnell Law Offices. Her skill and knowledge as a lawyer has earned her recognition as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer, ALM Top-Rated Trusts and Estates Lawyer, Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers and Martindale-Hubbell's AV Preeminent Rating from 2002–2015. In 2015, she was named one of Rue Rating's Best Attorneys of America.

Cathy remains an active member of her local community. Cathy is a past president of

the Parent's Associates of Wyoming Valley Montessori School and the Lower and Upper Schools of Wyoming Seminary. She is also a past president of the pastoral council of the former St. Therese's Church in Wilkes-Barre. She is a current member of the Orphans' Court Practice Committee and current Chair of the Religious Outreach Committee of the Wilkes-Barre Law Library Association. Cathy is a board member of Junior Leadership of Wilkes-Barre, a member of the United Way Cabinet, and a board member for Dress for Success of Luzerne County.

It is an honor to recognize Cathy O'Donnell for her many accomplishments, and I extend Cathy my congratulations for being awarded the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association President's Award. I commend Cathy for her service to our community.

HONORING MR. TERRANCE KELLY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Terrance Kelly for his extraordinary contributions to the music industry and to the faith community. Mr. Kelly is currently the Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, where he leads over 100 rehearsals and 50 performances annually.

Mr. Kelly graduated from the Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. He went on to study at Holy Names University with a focus on Vocal Performance. Mr. Kelly began his career working with Jazz Camp West as Choir Director and Voice Teacher.

During his time with Jazz Camp West, Mr. Kelly led the popular All Camp Gospel Choir, helping select the songs, instruct the band, and lead performances. His dedication to music also led Mr. Kelly to begin working with Imani Community Church, where he is currently Minister of Magnification. Mr. Kelly coordinates all musical presentations for the church, as well as leading many different choirs. He also facilitates the Imani Ya Watume liturgical dancers.

Additionally, Mr. Kelly serves as Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. He has composed and arranged music for the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, the Oakland Interfaith Youth Choir, and the Oakland Interfaith Community Choir. The incredible works of music he has worked on have inspired and moved audiences throughout the Bay Area, California, and the world.

In his long career in music and faith, Mr. Kelly received many honors. Most recently, Mr. Kelly taught workshops about gospel music at the International Gospel Music Academy of Denmark. His musical talent has been recognized by many influential people, such as Tramaine Hawkins, MC Hammer, John Lee Hooker, and Former President Jimmy Carter. He has received an Emmy Award for his choral arrangement of PSA for KGO-TV, as well as 2 Gospel Academy Awards for Outstanding Director of the Year and Excellence in Choral Music. The San Francisco Opera had the op-

portunity to work with Mr. Kelly in their rendition of Moby Dick in 2012.

Mr. Kelly has also mentored students of music, many of whom have gone on to attend schools such as the Berklee School of Music, Howard University, and Walt Disney's California Institute of the Arts. Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Kelly has impacted the lives of musicians and fans alike, throughout the Bay Area and the world.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Terrance Kelly, I salute him. I thank him for a lifetime of service and congratulate him on his many achievements. I wish him success as he continues to serve the residents of the East Bay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for a series of votes on June 2, 2015, July 10, 2015 and September 10, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call Vote Number 268 on June 2nd, Agreeing to Rule for THUD and CJS Appropriations, I would have voted aye.

Roll Call Vote Number 269 on June 2nd, Approving the Journal, I would have voted aye.

Roll Call Vote Number 431 on July 10th, Agreeing to Brat Amendment to H.R. 6, 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted aye.

Roll Call Vote Number 432 on July 10th, Agreeing to Lee Amendment to H.R. 6, 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted nay.

Roll Call Vote Number 491 on September 10th, Providing for consideration of H. Res. 411, I would have voted aye.

CONGRATULATING ORATORY PREPARATORY FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oratory Prep School of Summit, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. Oratory Prep was cited as an "Exemplary High Performing" school, as measured by state assessments and national tests. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding work and dedication of the faculty and staff, as well as the efforts and successes of the students in creating a safe and welcoming school where students master challenging content.

The curriculum at Oratory Prep has prepared students to attend some of the finest universities in the Nation and the extra-curricular activities, electives, leadership training and guest speakers offer students a wide array of academic experiences. Oratory Prep's athletic program continues to grow as well, both in scope and success.

This is a prestigious award to receive and Oratory Prep is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 534, due to an in-district event announcing new funding for displaced coal miners and their families to pay for job retraining and educational opportunities, I was unable to cast my vote on this bill. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING ARMY SGT. WILLIAM "WILD BILL" GUARNERE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sgt. William "Wild Bill" Guarnere, who served in the 101st Airborne division of the United States Army during World War II.

Sgt. Guarnere was a Philadelphia native who enlisted in the Army in 1942. His bravery earned him the nickname "Wild Bill" for his passion and perseverance in battle. Sgt. Guarnere's first combat jump was Operation Overlord, in the early hours of the morning of June 6, 1944, hours before the first allied landing craft hit the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. A member of the famed "Band of Brothers" of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment's "Easy Company", Guarnere served in some of the most significant engagements of the European theater, including Operation Market Garden. Ultimately, Sgt. Guarnere's combat service ended when he lost a leg in the Battle of the Bulge. He was eventually awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts for his bravery in the face of the enemy.

On Saturday, September 19, the Delaware County Veterans' Memorial Park will unveil a statue of "Wild Bill" Guarnere to commemorate his service and sacrifice. It's a fitting tribute to a true American hero from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Guarnere's admirable service displayed an extraordinary devotion to his country and his fellow soldiers. I am honored to recognize him today as one of the true heroes of our Greatest Generation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,568,904,537.03. We've added \$7,523,691,855,623.95 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

LEADING A HALL OF FAME BUSINESS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alfred Froberg, Jr. of Alvin, Texas for receiving the 2015 Junior Achievement Hall of Fame award.

Mr. Froberg received this award thanks to his positive impact on the Alvin and Brazoria County business community. He is deeply dedicated to growing and promoting businesses all across his hometown. As a member of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame, Mr. Froberg's efforts serve as a model for other local businesses, helping them grow and succeed. Brazoria County is proud to have such an inspiring business leader.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alfred for being part of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame.

HEROES MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA FLOODING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the past few days have been an extraordinary catastrophe, correctly identified by Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina as a "thousand year rain" causing flooding and damage across South Carolina. Fortunately, Hurricane Joaquin bypassed the state after causing destruction in the Bahamas but, it created a weather anomaly of record rainfall of over 20 inches and flooding. I am grateful to the National Weather Service and senior forecaster John Quagliarello, for monitoring the situation and providing early warnings for our citizens.

Six generations of my family have lived on Wilton Road in Springdale, which was washed away during the storm for the first time ever since construction in 1890. I am grateful that

our home was spared major damage, though thousands were not so fortunate.

Our state officials were true leaders and handled the catastrophe impressively. When visiting the State Emergency Response Center in Pine Ridge, I thanked Governor Nikki Haley, Adjutant General Bob Livingston, and Attorney General Alan Wilson for leading the recovery, as well as South Carolina Emergency Management Division Kim Stinson. I am further grateful for the National Guard's role in aiding the relief efforts—three of my sons, Alan, Julian, and Hunter, were activated for National Guard disaster service.

I visited the world-class Lexington County Emergency Response Center, led by Director Bo Davenport, with Sheriff Jay Koon and County Administrator Joe Mergo where I thanked the dedicated personnel who saved many lives.

In between stops, I appreciated thanking Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin for his leadership and I thanked Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson for coming to tour the impacted areas this Friday with Congressman JIM CLYBURN and myself. Mayor Mike Miller of Wagener assured me his Aiken County community was secure.

Lexington Mayor Steve MacDougall and Town of Lexington Police Chief Terrence Green gave me a first-hand tour of multiple pond dam breaks, including the Mill Pond blocking U.S. Highway 1 of Main Street in Lexington.

I visited the Lake Katherine neighborhood with State Representative Kirkman Finlay of Columbia, where I met homeowners and volunteers already planning the reconstruction of their homes. Sheriff Leon Lott had experienced deputies at critical roadways.

At the Red Cross shelter at A.C. Flora High School, I thanked the A.C. Flora Key Club and other volunteers who distributed bottled water, food, diapers, and clothes to those who had lost everything. I am grateful to Richland School District One Board Member Beatrice King and State Senator Joel Lourie for coordinating such a positive outpouring of donations from the community.

Visiting the Richland County Emergency Center, led by Columbia Deputy Fire Chief Tisdale, there were dedicated personnel thoughtfully handling calls of distress.

At the Seven Oaks Recreation Center shelter, sponsored by the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission, I thanked the organizers: Director Elizabeth Taylor and Park Director John Cantey. I saw first-hand how those who had to flee their homes found people who cared and supported them.

A lesson learned is that in the watersheds of multiple downstream dams, as exist in Richland and Lexington counties, there should be a coordination of lowering water levels to anticipate extraordinary rainfall to reduce the potential for sequential dam failures resulting in catastrophic loss of life and property damages.

Late yesterday, I returned to my Congressional office in West Columbia, where I found that a leak in the roof had caused the ceiling and light fixture above my desk to collapse.

Though the destruction of the 1000-year event was catastrophic, it was a testament to the people of South Carolina working together for the common good.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEHADKEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 141ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church in Roanoke, Alabama as they celebrate a remarkable 141 years. An anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015.

The Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest African-American churches in Randolph County, Alabama. Throughout its 141-year history, the church has been a bridge over troubled waters for the African-American community of Wehadkee-High Shoals-Springfield.

Under the name "Perhaps," the church was established in 1874, just eleven years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The church held its first services in a very small log cabin one mile south of its current location, which is 1216 County Road 310 in Roanoke, Alabama.

Reverend Spy Flag was the founding Pastor of the church, serving from 1874 until approximately 1884. Between 1884 and 1918, ten ministers led the church: Reverend Ben Goss, Reverend Symon Vickers, Reverend Aaron Strong, Reverend Tom Almond, Reverend Charlie Steward, Reverend Spencer Beasley, Reverend A.E. Stitt, Reverend John T. Hines, Reverend A.J. Turner, and Reverend A.J. Green.

From 1918 to 1972, the six pastors who led the church included Reverend S.A. Adamson, Reverend C.C. Terry, Reverend G.W. Sims, Reverend J.P. Madison, Reverend B.O. Phillips, and Reverend R.L. Thompson.

In March 1973, Reverend Elijah Jackson, Jr. was called to lead the flock and in April 1974, the Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church was incorporated. In October of that same year, Reverend Jackson presided over the church's first centennial celebration.

For the past 42 years, Reverend Jackson has led the congregation with distinction as the longest serving Pastor of the church. His spouse, First Lady Farris Jackson, plays an important role in his ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly join President Obama in celebrating the 141st anniversary of the Wehadkee Missionary Baptist Church.

I am pleased to join in celebrating your 141st anniversary.

Throughout our Nation's history, places of worship have brought us together in the spirit of faith and love. Offering space for celebration in times of joy and comfort in times of uncertainty, they help foster a strong sense of community and call on us to meet life's most sacred responsibility—to give of ourselves in service to others.

As you mark this special milestone, I hope you take pride in your community's commitment to faith. May the years ahead be filled with continued blessings.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 28, 2015.

OCTAVIA GEE—BEST IN THE
WORLD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate nine year old Octavia Gee from Sugar Land, Texas for setting a world shot put record.

Octavia, a student at Settler Way Elementary, recently competed at the Texas Vs. The World All Comers Meet with the goal of setting a world record in the nine-year-old division with an 8.8-pound shot put. If Octavia was nervous, she didn't show it, blasting the old record with a throw of 7.28 meters. Even better—she broke the world record on her mom's birthday. Octavia made her family, friends, and community proud. We look forward to seeing her set more records. We'll definitely see Octavia in future Olympic games.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Octavia for setting a world shot put record.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the National Collegiate Honors Council has been enriching the lives and education of honors program students around the country. I rise today to congratulate them on this historic accomplishment. Serving over 325,000 honors students at 800 colleges and universities, the NCHC is dedicated to excellence in education in diverse subject and curriculum areas.

I would like to further honor the University of California, Riverside, in my home district. Since 1988 the University of California, Riverside has provided a world-class honors education to its students.

Founded on the principle of strengthening the involvement of faculty in undergraduate teaching and, through doing so, improve the quality of undergraduate education, the University of California, Riverside's honors program has produced significant results.

With their four-year honors program, the University has a program that provides intellectual growth, personal development, and social responsibility, at its core. The four-year honors program provides guidance and preparation to students, and allows entry portals to select students who demonstrated academic excellence, interest in research, or creative activities, that led to a senior thesis project.

The robust honors program at The University of California, Riverside has proven to be at the pinnacle of education creating the global citizens of today and tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO CLEMENCIA SPIZIRRI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clemencia Spizirri for being named Iowa's Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Department of Education.

Established in 1958, the Iowa Teacher of the Year Award recognizes one teacher each year who displays the ability to motivate, challenge and inspire their students. They must be someone who is respected by their peers and students. The Teacher of the Year must be able to think outside the box and have a positive influence on their students, not only inside the classroom but also outside the classroom.

Clemencia is a shining example of all the qualities this award represents. She has dedicated her career to bettering the lives of her students through effective teaching techniques and a determination to provide high quality education for each and every one of her students. It is clear that Clemencia is uniquely qualified and deserving of this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Clemencia for receiving this award and for her role in molding the leaders of our future generations. Her hard work and dedication truly embodies our Iowa values, and I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Clemencia and in wishing her nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS PERSONNEL

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Firefighter/EMT Michael Dunn of the Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue was chosen to receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Lt. Don Rossow of the Englewood Area Fire Control District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

District Chief/Paramedic Robin Thayer of the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services was chosen to receive the Career Service Award.

Lt. Jason Wilkins, Lt. Jamie Mann, Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Jones, Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Sponable and Firefighter/EMT Clayton Huber were chosen to receive the Unit Citation Award.

Deputy Chief Brett Pollock of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue was chosen to receive the Career Service Award.

Fire Investigator/Inspector Larry Betts of the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District was chosen to receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

IN MEMORY OF GREGORY THOMAS
ALIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tragically Forest Acres, South Carolina, Police Officer Gregory Thomas Alia was killed Wednesday, September 30th at Richland Fashion Mall in the line of duty protecting the people of his community. There was an outpouring of love and appreciation for his services. The following obituary is from The State on October 2nd.

Columbia—A Mass of Christian burial for Officer Gregory Thomas Alia, 32, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 3, 2015, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Final Commendation and Farewell Prayers will be in St. Peter's Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 until 8.00 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2015, at Dunbar Funeral home, Devine Street Chapel.

Officer Alia died in the line of duty Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Born in Columbia, he was the son of Dr. Richard Thomas Alia and Mary Alexis Wade Alia. He was a graduate of Richland Northeast High School and the University of South Carolina with degrees in Criminal Justice and Media Arts. He was a founding father of Phi Sigma Kappa Gamma Triton Chapter. Officer Alia was with the Forest Acres Police Department for seven years. He was an Eagle Scout and a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Kassandra Kugler "Kassy" Alia; son Salvatore David Alia; and his parents; sisters, Christine A. Corby (Brett) of Indian Land, Rebecca Mesnil (Pierre) of Columbia; a niece, Madeleine; father-in-law and mother-in-law, David and Carol Ann Kugler; sisters-in-laws, Kristina Persinger (Brian), Knatalia Kugler, Kara Kugler; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Greg Alia Memorial Fund at www.gofundme.com/rw5b9wbc. Please sign the online guestbook at www.dunbarfunerals.com.

The State further published a thoughtful front page article by Avery G. Wilkes on October 4th reflecting the love and affection for the

Alia family as headlined Officer was 'strong and brave, selfless'.

Hundreds gathered Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church and Elmwood Cemetery to mourn the death and celebrate the life of Forest Acres police officer Greg Alia.

Alia, 32, a seven-year veteran of the Forest Acres Police Department, was shot and killed Wednesday morning by a suspect in Richland Mall. His funeral Mass and burial services were crowded with police officers and law enforcement officials, including Forest Acres Police Chief Gene Sealy, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott and S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson.

Some mourners who packed into the downtown Columbia church, including police from departments across South Carolina, wore blue ribbons in support of police.

Alia on Saturday was recalled as a gentle patient protector who sought to serve others before himself.

Christine Corbly, one of Alia's sisters who spoke at the funeral Mass, said Alia's overwhelming love and happiness were evident in the way he treated his family, friends and those he protected as a police officer.

"This is not the first time my brother rushed into danger, and if things had been different it wouldn't have been the last," Corbly said.

"This is not what made my brother a hero. What made my brother a hero was that every day he got up, put on his uniform, loved his family, loved his son, loved his wife, was full of commitment and happiness and contentment that he poured into everything he did."

"He gave it his all."

Corbly, who is older than Alia, said she used to read to him stories about heroes, warriors and adventure when they were kids. She said Alia wasn't usually drawn to the main character, preferring the sidekicks instead for their loyalty, selflessness and sacrifice.

"It seems that is the man he tried to become—strong and brave, selfless," Corbly said.

"Never the star, never the center, but rather the one who sacrificed himself so the hero could escape and save the day."

Monsignor Richard Harris, who delivered the homily at the funeral Mass, said Alia always looked for the good in others and that even when there wasn't much good to find, he was still patient and understanding.

"We will miss Gregory Alia—his voice, a touch, a smile, and a presence that will be longed for in the weeks, months and years to come," Harris said. "And there is the wish to say just one more, 'I love you.'"

Corbly thanked those in attendance for the outpouring of support the family has received over the past few days, most of all the memories of her brother that friends shared with them.

A GoFundMe set up by Alia's Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity brothers at the University of South Carolina had raised nearly 3500 donations, amounting to nearly \$175,000, as of Saturday afternoon.

That support also was visible on the way to Alia's burial service, said Chris Scott, who grew up with Alia in Forest Acres and went to USC and then California with him before he came back to South Carolina to become a police officer.

Officers and others lined the streets throughout Columbia, the officers saluting the funeral procession as it drove from St. Joseph's on Devine Street to the cemetery on Elmwood Avenue.

"It blew me away," Scott said.

"There were officers at every corner. They saluted every time."

"Outside of every shop on the way, there were people standing there."

Scott said the driver of the hearse he rode said that in the more than 1,800 funerals he had worked, he had never seen anything like that.

"To see this tidal wave of support and people that Greg knew and touched—he was the most magnetic, charming guy," Scott said. "I think his greatest super-power was he could not just make friends, but he could bring people together and form groups of friends and then bring them together."

"I know hundreds of people here, all through Greg, and every single one of them has an amazing incredible story."

A PERSONAL APPRECIATION OF GREG

The Wilson family has a personal appreciation of Greg as in 1999, I joined my third son Julian Wilson accompanying Greg on a trek to the Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimmaron, New Mexico, with Greg's Scout leaders being John Graham, Jim Flynn, Vincent VanBrunt, and Dave Cartledge, Scoutmaster of Troop 100 at St. Joseph Catholic Church of Columbia, South Carolina. Our oldest son Alan Wilson was grateful for Greg's volunteering to put up campaign signs in Alan's successful campaign for State Attorney General. And a dear family friend Adam Piper was fortunate to be a Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity brother at the University of South Carolina.

LOCAL ARTIST WINS BIG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lauren Luna for winning Best in Show at the Pearland Arts League Show.

Lauren's winning painting is called Late Nights (Burgundy St.) and is based on a picture she took last year in New Orleans. Ms. Luna is active in our local art community and shares her passion for art as an art teacher at Mark Twain Elementary in Alvin, Texas. She is a true inspiration to her students by not only teaching them about the importance of art, but also showing them that they can follow their dreams. Ms. Luna's students share her success and also encourage her to never give up. The Alvin community is proud of Lauren's talents both as an artist and teacher.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Lauren Luna for winning Best in Show. Your beautiful art is truly inspiring.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JAMES PROUD

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge James Proud, who is completing his service on the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas.

Judge Proud began his service to our country in 1968 when he entered the United States

Army. Judge Proud soon entered the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Candidate School where he completed the program as a Distinguished Military Graduate, finishing first in his class among 55 other candidates.

Following his military service, Judge Proud received his law degree from Villanova University and continued to serve southeastern Pennsylvania when he was appointed as a Judge of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas in 1996 by Governor Ridge. He served with honor and integrity, earning respect among his colleagues and others in the law enforcement and legal communities. Judge Proud also gave back to his community through his support for the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, the Community Development Committee, and the Delaware County Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Proud has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country, and he leaves the bench with the continuing gratitude of his friends and neighbors. I thank him for his service and wish him the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed several roll call votes due to weather. I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll Call No. 534—Yes

Roll Call No. 535—Yes

RECOGNIZING PARK GEUN-HYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Park Geun-hye, president of the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of her second visit to Washington, D.C.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. As Korea has transformed itself in six decades from a war torn economy into the thirteenth largest economy in the world, as well as an indispensable ally and linchpin of regional peace and stability in Northeast Asia, it stands as one of America's greatest foreign policy success stories of the post-World War II era.

Today Korea is the sixth largest trading partner of the United States, the fifth largest market for agricultural goods, and the third largest destination for U.S. foreign direct investment in the Asia-Pacific region. Bilateral trade between our two nations reached \$101.3 billion in 2013 alone, cemented by the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. Overall, American exports to Korea reached a record level of \$44.5 billion last year. Trade with Korea injects billions of dollars into the U.S. economy, supporting thousands of American jobs.

Next week, Korean President Park Geun-hye will be making her second visit to Washington, D.C. While I regret not being here to welcome her in person, I want to express my heartfelt welcome and convey my best wishes for her every success.

I know that President Park's agenda for her visit will be important and robust. There are many challenges that confront us in the region, as shown by the recent incident along the Demilitarized Zone in which two South Korean soldiers were maimed by land mines laid by the North. Yet we shall remain resolute in countering North Korean provocations, and our iron-clad alliance will only be strengthened by President Park's visit.

In addition, I look forward to hearing about expanded U.S.-Korea cooperation in other areas including energy, space, health and cybersecurity.

Again, I offer my best wishes to President Park on a productive and successful visit and I ask my colleagues to join me with their own expressions of friendship and support.

SWIMMING, BIKING AND RUNNING TO 375

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeff Gill for successfully completing his 375th career triathlon last month.

Triathlons have allowed Jeff to travel the world. Of all the places he's traveled to compete, it was great to see Jeff complete his milestone triathlon in his hometown of Katy, Texas in a race he hasn't missed in over 20 years. Jeff has already completed nine

triathlons just this year and hopes to complete nine more. He is well on his way to number 475.

We all look forward to cheering him along throughout his triathlon career. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jeff for completing his 375th triathlon.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas,

to be Director of the Office of Science, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Energy, and Mary L. Kendall, of Minnesota, to be Inspector General, Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Kristen Joan Sarri, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

OCTOBER 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine agriculture biotechnology, focusing on Federal regulation and stakeholder perspectives.

SD-106

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on Indian energy development.

SD-628

OCTOBER 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine Puerto Rico, focusing on the economy, debt, and options for Congress.

SD-366

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, October 8, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 8, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we take to the floor to deal with the daily reminders of turmoil around the world: the unrest in the Middle East, especially in Syria and ISIS; the sad reality of an unending string of events regarding gun violence.

There is a certain amount of unrest here in the House, as our Republican colleagues right now are trying to chart a path forward to reconcile differences of opinion within their own ranks that have some spillover effects for us. But in the background, there is a critical issue that we should be focused on that may not command the headlines; but it is, nonetheless, a critically important item.

We are faced with arcane formulas that govern dealing with Medicare—the rates that recipients pay for their services—that have a perverse impact on some of the lowest income seniors. Through no fault of their own, 7.7 million senior citizens are going to be

treated very unfairly. These are the 30 percent of Medicare recipients who are going to pay the burden for all Medicare recipients for the cost increases.

We have a provision in place that holds harmless people who get no increase in their Social Security payments, and they are immune from premium increases. But that is not so for the other 30 percent. These are the people who are facing a 52 percent increase in that part B premium, over \$54 a month.

Now, remember, nobody gets an increase in their Social Security, and there is going to be about a \$76 increase per month in the deductible.

A typical Medicare beneficiary pays almost \$5,000 per year for premiums, cost sharing, and other services that aren't covered by insurance. For many, that is not an unreasonable contribution for their health care, but not for everyone.

More than half the beneficiaries have incomes of \$24,150. These 30 percent, the 7.7 million who will pick up the slack for everyone else, are going to be facing a significant impact, given their low incomes. It doesn't actually have to be this way.

There are proposals that are available for Congress to deal with. Representative DINA TITUS, Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and Senator RON WYDEN all have proposals that would eliminate or minimize the impact on these vulnerable senior citizens.

And, bear in mind, it will also impact the States \$2.3 billion in terms of Medicaid programs, which inevitably will translate into service reductions, again, for some of our most vulnerable.

It is time for Congress to empower negotiators in both parties, in both Chambers to act now. If we get involved with these potential solutions, the costs are going to be far less than if we wait until the next year, and we will be shielding some of our most vulnerable citizens from significant increases at a time when they can ill afford it. This is one area where there is overwhelming support on both sides of the aisle.

I would call upon my friends in the Republican leadership to take a break from this strange process they are going through and debate in the acrimony and the churn. Let's take a break and empower people to solve these problems now. Our senior citizens deserve no less.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind us of the importance of the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Like any disease that affects people regardless of race, color, creed, or their status in society, cancer not only tests the mental and physical strength of the person fighting the disease, it has a deep and lasting impact on family, friends, and communities.

Currently, more than 100 different types of cancer exist, but, in my humble opinion, none is more wicked than breast cancer. This is most likely because breast cancer is one of the most common and deadly cancers among women.

In fact, one in eight women in America will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. Breast cancer can be a cruel disease. It tears mothers from their children, wives from their husbands, and daughters from their parents.

In 2015, it is anticipated that, in our country alone, more than 40,000 women will die from breast cancer. While women are most at risk, we must remember that this disease does not just affect women; while less common in the United States, 2,350 men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

In the past 20 years, there have been incredible advances in the research and medicine surrounding breast cancer, but there is much left to be done. We can't rest until we can prevent or cure this horrible disease.

Again, we have already made huge strides in the fight against breast cancer. Death rates due to breast cancer have been declining since 1989, and women younger than 50 are now less likely to get breast cancer than ever before. This is largely due to the awareness that has been raised on the importance of self-exams and yearly doctor physicals.

However, currently, 29 percent of insured women are still not receiving mammograms; and for women without health insurance, the percentage is even higher, with 68 percent not receiving mammograms.

It is extremely important that we continue to place an emphasis on early detection so that we can catch this disease as early as possible and have the best shot at beating it.

While there are factors like genetics and age that can make someone more

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

susceptible to the disease, breast cancer does not discriminate against education, upbringing, or wealth. From CEOs in New York City to a stay-at-home mom in small town Minnesota, this disease knows no bounds.

I expect that just about everyone who walks these halls and too many to count across our country have been impacted by breast cancer in some way. I am no exception. Fifteen years ago, I lost my sister, Bridget, to breast cancer. Bridget was only 38 years old when she left us. She left behind two beautiful daughters and a husband who loved her.

While her life was a lesson on how to get the most out of each second of every minute of every hour and every day, there is not a day that goes by when I don't wish there could have been a cure for her.

For those who have experienced personal loss and pain from breast cancer, and for everyone who is fighting this disease, we join with you this month not only to raise awareness about breast cancer but to sound a call to action, to strengthen our resolve, and to eradicate this disease once and for all.

In Congress, we can absolutely play a role in this effort. To the extent possible within our constitutional authority, we can and should encourage further advancement of medical research.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act of 2015, which will establish a commission to work to defeat this disease. The commission will consist of experts in cancer research who will work to identify opportunities and ideas to advance our quest to prevent and cure breast cancer for future generations.

October is a month to raise awareness. We have made progress, and we are making progress in our fight against this unforgiving disease. Let us use this month to rededicate ourselves to our shared goal of eradicating breast cancer once and for all.

WASHINGTON IS OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, as Donald Trump and Ben Carson have turned up the volume with more and more outrageous statements and policy proposals, Members of Congress have been trying to keep up.

Now, Republicans in the House not only have to play to the small, but extremely vocal, segment of the electorate that feels Washington is "out of step with the American people," but they have another audience to woo—each other—because a lot of our colleagues are currently running for leadership positions.

But is it really Washington that is out of step with America or is it the

most vocal, most active, and most vitriolic elements of the Republican base that are out of step with America?

Last week's NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll was pretty startling. It shows in issue after issue that on the positions adopted by the leading GOP candidates, vast majorities of Americans disagree with Republicans. On abortion restrictions, immigration, LGBT equality, racial diversity, and reproductive health, some in the Republican base demand we go back to the Dark Ages. But it is not, in fact, the direction that most Americans want to go.

For most Americans, "Mad Men" was a good TV drama set before racial integration, before the women's movement really took hold, before gays and lesbians dared come out of the closet, and before we removed racial quotas from immigration. But some in the Republican Party aspire to turn it into a reality TV show.

The latest throw-down from the right has been over Planned Parenthood and reimbursing this respected organization for health services it provides to women across the country.

In many cases, Planned Parenthood is the only source of affordable and accessible reproductive health care, contraception, HIV and STD testing, cancer screenings, and basic health care for women.

Under Federal law, our tax dollars cannot pay for abortions, and there are no credible claims that this is being violated. Under law, abortion is legal in the United States, despite all of the restrictions imposed and proposed by my Republican colleagues. But this goes further than abortion rights and a woman's right to control her own health care and reproduction.

Some Americans here and around the country are, frankly, not too comfortable with the whole family planning thing. In my family, I have two daughters who are brilliant and whom I trust to make decisions for themselves. They were born 8 years apart and not by accident.

My wife and I planned her pregnancies around her career as an investment banker and had our children when we were ready. That is an option that opened the world of opportunity and self-determination to my wife that my mother never had. Puerto Rican women in this country in my mother's day had one thing forced on them by the government, and that was sterilization, period.

So when I hear talk about shutting down the government to appease the far right on Planned Parenthood, I think of the progress we have made from my mother's generation to my wife's generation and now to the world in which my daughters live.

It seems to me that we should not be looking for ways to limit choices women have, to force them into back

alleys or across State lines for health care or to treat them as if only wise men in Washington can make decisions for the women of America.

But that desire to turn the clock backwards, to undo the progress of our lifetimes, and to punish America for evolving over time is basically at the heart of the Republican agenda, as driven by their most active and vocal base. Republicans run for office and legislate as if they want gay people back in the closet, as if they want Latinos and Asians to become invisible, as if they wish women were just in the kitchen or in the bedroom, as if we could go back to those golden days before the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Brown v. Board of Education, when everything was separate and some people were more equal than others.

Well, with all due respect to Mr. Carson and Emperor Trump, every poll indicates that the American people are not with them, and that is especially true of young people in America. Dr. Carson must be nostalgic for the anti-Catholic days before John Kennedy was elected because he is now raising doubts that people of certain religions are qualified to serve their country as President.

Senator CRUZ must look at the old days when we turned away refugees from Europe because of their religion, as we did in the 1930s and 1940s when anti-Semitism gripped this country. Now he wants to send Muslims back to die in Syria.

And now there is Donald Trump. He wants to deport about a quarter of the 50 million Latinos in the United States. If mass deportation was good enough for President Eisenhower, he feels it should be good enough for America today.

□ 1015

I will agree with one leading candidate, Jeb Bush, who recently said that "stuff happens." Stuff does happen. A lot of stuff has happened since the 1950s when I was born and the 1960s when I grew up in America.

Our laws and our culture have evolved to become more inclusive, and we have a more diverse and egalitarian society because of it. Many Republicans call that stuff the problem. I call that stuff progress.

LOSING A GENERATION TO GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am tired. I am tired of, once again, being asked to rise to honor the victims of gun violence.

Not even a month ago, I stood at this very podium on behalf of gun violence victims. With nearly 300 mass shootings in less than 300 days, this Congress

has proven that there is no appetite to end gun violence.

I am tired because we will have more moments of silence in honor of gun victims, and then we will have moments of action from leaders working to stop gun violence.

To my colleagues who came here on the platform of caring about children, to my colleagues who came here for peace, to my friends on the left and right of the aisle, can't we own up to our responsibility to stop this violence? Can't we own the fact that we are losing a generation of Americans to gun violence?

Every year, over 100,000 people are shot in America, more than 30,000 of them fatally. This is a crisis that demands more than a moment of silence from Congress.

With every mass shooting, we hear every excuse in the book for inaction: it is a family problem; it is a mental health issue; it is a people problem. Apparently, it is everything but a gun problem. At this point, even our excuses are tired.

Let me share some headlines from my hometown this week:

From Sunday's Chicago Tribune, "Man Killed, 4 Injured in Shootings";

Monday, CBS Chicago, "One Dead, 11 Wounded in Weekend Shootings Across Chicago";

Tuesday, Chicago Sun Times, "Man and Woman Shot Near Douglas Park on West Side";

Wednesday, Chicago Tribune, "One Dead, Eight Wounded in Shootings in Chicago."

These aren't just headlines. They are deferred dreams and altered realities for countless families. This isn't a Chicago problem, a Newtown problem, or an Oregon problem; it is an American problem.

Today, gun deaths are on pace to be the leading cause of death for Americans aged 15 through 24, not because our kids are leaving the home front for war, but because the home front is becoming a war zone. It is because military-style weapons are flooding our streets. It is because Hadiya Pendleton was in the wrong place at the wrong time, even though she had the right to be in the park. It is because Reverend Pinckney held Bible study, and a journalist and cameraman in Virginia woke up and did their job. It is because a couple of teens wanted to see an Amy Schumer movie.

We have had no votes on legislation to stop this. Mr. Speaker, for all the talk about needing to improve our mental health system, we have yet to take a single vote on a comprehensive mental health bill.

I have had multiple bills that will reduce gun violence; but the simplest one, H.R. 224, will require the Surgeon General to submit to Congress a report on the public health impact of gun violence.

Simple, right? After all, we can't have a conversation about gun violence without data on the death and disability it causes, its mental health effects, its community impact, and its economic costs. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has no appetite for conversations about gun violence. After all, there are A ratings to protect.

The American people are tired, tired of their representatives paying lip-service to tragedies they were elected to help prevent. They are tired of their peace of mind being held hostage by those we should be preventing from ever getting their hands on a gun in the first place.

I am calling everyone out here today. You have talked the talk; it is time to walk the walk. You say that you want to save lives, then do it.

Where is the background check legislation that 90 percent of Americans support, including NRA members?

Bring my bill, H.R. 224, up for a vote, and let the Surgeon General see if gun violence is a threat to public health, which I know it is. Show that you care. Stop pivoting. Stop punting. Start leading.

HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a lighter note, a very positive note because I represent a very beautiful and positive part of the United States: the central coast of California. This is a place where you hear the towns of Santa Cruz, Monterey, Pacific Grove, the beautiful fertile Salinas Valley, and the magnificent Big Sur coastline, which this poster here shows a photograph of.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the House of Representatives, 50 years ago, passed marvelous legislation called the Highway Beautification Act, and that act came about because the States were ruining the aesthetics of America. It was a bill that First Lady Lady Bird Johnson so much supported. In fact, it became known as Lady Bird's bill.

So 50 years ago, this House of Representatives took a bold move to protect and improve our scenic highways. Why are those important?

We sell scenery where I live. This is another picture of a scenic highway in the South, in the Southern States. When you drive through these, you don't see any billboards, you don't see the urban clutter, or, as my friend Ansel Adams said: "You don't see the urban acne that is covering our roads."

It is Big Business that we are fighting, because the billboard lobby in the United States is very powerful. It was powerful then, but the First Lady was more powerful.

I have a personal story in that because my father, who was in the Cali-

fornia State Senate, authored the first legislation to create the California Scenic Highway Program. In 1966, this time of the year, Lady Bird Johnson came all the way to California, not to campaign for a Governor or United States Senator, but to recognize the work that my father, State Senator Fred Farr, had done by dedicating Highway 1 in California, the Big Sur highway, as California's first State scenic highway and perhaps the first State scenic highway in the United States. It was a great day.

What Congress did is they ensured that States would be able to have money to enforce this billboard ban. They would give them more money if they would incorporate in their State, county, and city laws billboard bans.

Now, we have a \$7 billion industry out there, the outdoor advertising industry, and it has been fighting highway beautification for over 50 years. They have been unsuccessful at repealing the Federal law, but they have made incredible progress in being able to find exemptions for it.

They have prevented the 10 percent penalty that States would receive for not adopting highway beautification. They have encouraged localities to change zoning laws in rural areas, calling them commercial or industrial or anything to bypass the act. And they have been able to loosen the rules on repairing old signs, allowing them to remain forever rather than being torn down.

We now have approximately 700,000 billboards in the United States, and yet this is a country that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of our National Park System. We advertise around the world: "Come to beautiful America. See the scenery of America." In many places in America, all you see is billboard scenery.

So as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this act—which is not well known in Congress, nor in the country, yet is a very significant act because of what it did to empower States and local communities to have the ability to prevent billboards from going up and giving them funds for taking them down and to make sure that people are sensitive to why this is important for our scenery—let's recommit to strengthening the program.

As I said, we sell scenery. We sell watchable wildlife. The economy of the central coast depends on the beauty. As long as the beauty is there, people are going to come to the Carmels and Pacific Groves and Monterey, where California history began.

People are spending more money on watchable wildlife. More people are watching wildlife in America than watch all of the sports combined. It is an unbelievable figure: of all the sports, all the football, all the baseball, all the hockey, basketball, you name it, more people look at wildlife.

So let's protect what is really unique to America, something that God gave us and only we can destroy. These hundreds of thousands of signs are robbing America of its scenic view, of its iconic images that once defined the open road.

I would like to quote Ogden Nash, who summed it up wonderfully in a poem, "Song of the Open Road":

I think that I shall never see,
A billboard as lovely as a tree.
Indeed, unless the billboards fall,
I will never see a tree at all.

Let's help protect America's beauty.
Let's ban billboards.

GTMO TRANSFERS TO COLORADO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Obama administration's announcement last week that the President is considering transferring detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into my home State of Colorado.

Closing Guantanamo Bay was an ill-advised campaign promise in 2007 made by the President, a promise made before he began receiving classified intelligence updates.

In fact, as of March 2015, the Director of National Intelligence reported that 29 percent of detainees released from Guantanamo have engaged in or were suspected of engaging in terrorist or insurgent activity. Those who remain in Guantanamo are "worst of the worst." So it is safe to presume that, if released, an even higher percentage of them will remain a threat to our national security.

I struggle to understand why we would close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp only to finance the incarceration of enemy combatants within the United States.

Ever since 2012, Congress has passed and President Obama has signed annual restrictions against the transfer of prisoners at GTMO to the United States. The same restrictions are found in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House last week, despite President Obama's promise to veto that bill.

There is broad bipartisan opposition to President Obama's plans to transfer GTMO prisoners into the United States, both among Members of Congress and the American people.

For our Nation's security, I implore President Obama to sign the National Defense Authorization Act when it reaches his desk and halt his reckless plan to place many of the world's worst terrorists on U.S. soil, where they will have all of the due process protections provided to the American people and, thus, could be released through our court system.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1955 Crispus Attucks men's basketball team, the first all-African American high school athletic team to win a championship, not only in the great Hoosier State, but in the United States.

Although the school was initially constructed out of pressure to segregate Indianapolis high schools, Crispus Attucks High School quickly became a source of pride for the African American community in Indianapolis and across the great Hoosier State.

However, despite its historic championship victory, the Crispus Attucks High School basketball team did not receive the praise and recognition traditionally bestowed upon previous State champions.

After its win, the team took the traditional ride on a fire truck from Butler Fieldhouse to Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis, but the team was not allowed to get off the truck at the Circle for the traditional photo sessions. Instead, the fire truck took one more lap and then headed back into the city's Black neighborhood.

□ 1030

Now, Mr. Speaker, 60 years later I stand along all Hoosiers to recognize these men for their trailblazing efforts in bringing our city together through high school sports. Their win was a major first step for African American athletes across our country, breaking the barriers of segregation and setting the stage for the diversity that we see today.

Mr. Speaker, today I am joining my colleague in the Senate, Senator JOE DONNELLY, to give these men the recognition they deserve. It is long overdue, but I hope it helps to bring some attention to their amazing accomplishments.

I ask that my colleagues join us today in recognizing the 1955 Crispus Attucks men's basketball team and thank them for bringing tremendous pride to the citizens of Indianapolis and to people of all races across our great country.

ZADROGA ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish I could count how many times Members of Congress have come to this floor about the need to "never forget" September 11, 9/11, its victims, and our first responders.

Members have offered resolutions, have given speeches, have come to the

floor with shocking images that are already seared into our minds forever. Through it all, we hear this refrain of "never forget." I know I will never forget. I will never forget the friends and the family member I lost that day.

I have constituents who will never forget. They will never forget the phone call they may have received that day of a loved one lost or the neighbor they saw for the very last time. When I visit a firehouse in Woodside, in Maspeth, in Sunnyside in Queens, or in Throgs Neck in the Bronx, I know they will never forget.

I also know this is not just about my constituents, not just about my city of New York, not just about my State of New York, but this is about the United States of America. I know that Americans will never forget the days, the weeks, the months spent, by the men and women who worked on the pile, trying to rescue and save lives, the recovery, and the eventual cleanup efforts that took place in Lower Manhattan.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the only people I believe who seem in danger of forgetting are my colleagues right here in the House of Representatives. That is the only explanation I can give for why they let the James Zadroga 9/11 Health Act expire last week.

They are forgetting the promise that this Congress, that our country, made to these first responders, the survivors, and other volunteers in the days that followed September 11.

We all made a promise to them that they would not be left behind, they would not be ignored, left to fend for themselves. It took far too long for the Zadroga Act to become a law in the first place.

Those are difficult years to have to keep telling 9/11 heroes: Just wait a little longer. We will get there. But, eventually, we did get it done because it was the right thing to do.

It would be easy for my colleagues to shrug their shoulders and say they did their part, to think that we have wiped our hands of the entire issue. But the need is still there. The pain and the suffering are still there. So we must act and we must act now.

A few weeks ago hundreds of first responders came to Washington, D.C., from all over the country—not just New York—who were affected by 9/11 to look Members of Congress in the eye and ask them to renew this worthy program. They had meetings. They held press conferences. They even brought a celebrity spokesperson to draw attention to their cause.

Toward the end of the day, one gentleman said that he probably wouldn't be coming back to push Congress on this issue in the future. Now, I wish that none of them would have to come back because we would be able to tell them that we took action and permanently established this program.

But the reason he is not going to be coming back is because he has stage 4 cancer, stage 4 cancer as a result of his work on the pile, looking for his friends. He may not be coming back at all. That is what this is about. That is who we are talking about.

Every day first responders, cleanup workers, and volunteers are struggling with health conditions caused by the effects of the attack of 9/11. They have doctors' appointments, tests, treatments, chemotherapy.

And they can't do it alone. That is why we put this program in place in the first place, to help those who can't do it alone, to not just thank them for their service, but to give back to them what they have given to us.

These heroes should be thanked every day for what they have done. They deserve our thanks. They deserve to be honored and applauded and to have floor speech after floor speech given in their name.

But they deserve more than just words. They deserve action by this House, action that we must—not just should—but we must take to ensure that this program will continue to be there for those who need it.

Our heroes deserve better. We hear a lot about “never forget.” I want to suggest that we never use the term “never forget” here on the floor, “never forget 9/11,” until we pass a permanent extension of the James Zadroga Health Act.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I am sick to my stomach this morning because we have just witnessed the 45th school shooting this year. There have been more than 294 mass shootings this year, and we have only had 272 days this year.

I am not going to stand for another moment of silence on this floor unless it is joined with meaningful action. It is a hollow gesture to act like we care for these families when the truth is we don't care enough to act.

Twenty-six times since Sandy Hook we have paused on this floor, we have paused to give our prayers and our sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones. But what are we doing for the next set of families that are going to lose loved ones?

We are going to do nothing, absolutely nothing. In fact, we create more credibility in the fictionalized “death panels” than we do about the actual deaths of innocent schoolchildren, college students, and moviegoers.

This is the truth: In America, more preschoolers are shot dead each year than police officers killed in the line of duty. Ninety-two Americans are shot to death each and every day. Ninety-two will be shot to death today. Do we care enough to do anything?

If there were that many people dying each day due to terrorism, disease, faulty consumer products, you bet we would do something, but not when it comes to guns. When it comes to guns, we can only muster enough to stand up on this floor and be silent. What a tragedy.

Our inaction means we are willing to let thousands of our fellow citizens die so we can prop up the myth that gun violence measures, which the Supreme Court has ruled ironclad under the Constitution, will somehow undermine the Second Amendment.

By refusing to adopt the mental health and background check measures supported by 90 percent of the population and 74 percent of NRA members, we are doing the bidding of the NRA lobbyists and the gun manufacturers. We are not standing side by side with the victims of Umpqua and Charleston and Sandy Hook. We are shrugging and saying, “Eh, stuff happens.”

Stuff does not just happen. As you can see on this chart, gun violence is dramatically down in States that have passed strong gun violence prevention laws. You can see the trends in other industrialized countries that have reacted wisely to gun violence.

Australia had 13 mass shootings over 18 years. But then they put in strong laws to protect against gun violence, and they haven't had one mass shooting since then.

In Canada and Norway, also, they tightened their gun laws in the wake of mass shootings, and gun violence rates are a fraction today of what they were. These countries are our closest allies. They are not Fascist regimes. If they can do it, we can do it.

We need to make mental health reporting laws universal and enforce the ones already on the books. It is shameful that eight States have no mental health reporting laws and 13 States have submitted fewer than 100 mental health records each to the national background check system.

By the way, Senate Majority Whip JOHN CORNYN says that his measure is the solution. He has even introduced his own bill, but he and his Caucus have declined to advance it.

We have to make background checks universal by closing the gun show loophole and the loophole for online sales. These loopholes allow criminals, drug abusers, and mentally ill people who are already banned from having guns to get guns. Finally, we need to lift the ban on NIH and CDC research.

Mr. Speaker, I will not stand for another one of these hypocritical moments of silence, but I will stand up for any effort we make to pass sensible and genuine gun safety laws. Lipservice alone is a disservice to these families and the next families who don't want our prayers, but want the lives of their loved ones back.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CAUSING SUFFERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, today I had the opportunity and the honor to represent my district on the Senate side in a committee to talk about water, and it was to talk about the bill that we passed off this House floor just a few months ago back in June. Obviously, I was very excited to move that forward and excited to see the debate move forward. This is something that I think we need to talk about a little bit more here on the floor, not just in the Senate because I think people need to remember what we are talking about.

I had this picture taken just last week in my district. When people say a picture is worth a thousand words, you look at this picture, and you try to think of just a few different words that this brings to mind. You see houses here in the background, but you obviously see shacks here. You see a child's stroller, a child's toy, cans of food, a box from one of our local food banks.

These are people who are suffering today. This is in the United States of America. These are people who so many in this body claim to represent, so many in this body talk about, but when we see so many in this body sign letters, speak out in opposition to legislation that could help solve this problem, these people are suffering not because of a lack of the will to work but because we are facing a drought, and also because of legislation, because laws are in place that prevent us from delivering water to these communities.

These are people who want to make a difference. A lot of them might be immigrants. Some of them probably are people born in this country, but they are people that want to achieve the American Dream. A couple weeks ago when the Pope was here, he said so many things that both sides agreed with and some things that both sides disagreed with, but what he said was that every man has the right to work, to earn an honest day's wage. These people are being denied that opportunity.

Just beyond these shacks, you see homes. They look relatively new. You see a business here. You see trucks. Those are all people who have the ability to support themselves, but they are also people who right behind, in their own backyard, that don't have the ability to work that honest day's wage, to supply for their family, to buy new toys for their kids, to actually afford food that was grown and produced by their own hands. Some of these food products might even be from other countries.

When we have that conversation here about helping the less fortunate, do we just throw money at a problem? Is that what Washington does? Is that what we

expect to have here? Is that what builds a great society? Or is it people working hard, providing for their families, educating their next generation on what it is like to actually grow food, what it is actually like to put in a hard day's work, to inspire and actually show what it is to work hard and produce something for yourself?

□ 1045

The pride that comes with earning that paycheck and purchasing that house or purchasing those vehicles or purchasing food for your family is what we want to provide for Americans. That is something that I think every single person—immigrant or American citizen by birth or who has been here for 20 generations, whatever it may be—wants to have, the opportunity to provide for their families and for a better life.

When you look at this picture, it is insane that this is going on today. And when people sign and put their names on or trash legislation that can help solve this problem, I think it is an embarrassment for this House and for this country.

There was water flowing through the delta that we had the opportunity to pump earlier this year. Would it have solved all of our problems? No, because we are in a drought. But there was still some water there. We missed out on that opportunity because of laws that are in place today.

These people don't have to be in this position. These people don't have to live like this. Their children do not have to live in those shacks and play with their toys outside of their home. Think of what type of society allows this to happen, by allowing legislation or laws to take effect that have done nothing to actually protect the species they claim to protect, as that species continues to be in decline. We see what is going on here and how it does nothing for these people.

We talk about the environment. Is this an environment to raise a family? How are these children going to be successful in school? I have got three young children of my own. I have nieces and nephews. I would never, ever want to see this happen to them, and I would never want them to see this happen to their friends.

This is something that is happening today because of the laws that this building protects. And we have got to continue to fight and we have got to continue to work together so that we can deliver solutions that actually help these people have that American Dream, just like the rest of us want for our children.

Today, at the end of my speech to a Senate committee, I invited the Senators to come take some time and meet with some of these folks or see what it is like to actually live like this. I extend that invite to every Member of

this House, especially those who speak out in opposition to legislation that can help prevent things like this from happening.

I want them to come, knock on these doors, and talk to these people and see what they want more than anything. Do they want a handout or do they want the ability to produce and to provide for their families and show their children what the next generation should do, which is work hard and help build that American Dream for all of us?

I want every single person who speaks out in opposition to take a good, hard look at this and see what we have created in the United States unless we speak up and do what is right: pass legislation that can help solve this problem so we can deliver water for these families, for these farmers, for our communities, and do what is right for our Nation and do what is right for the American people.

HONORING OUR WWII MERCHANT MARINERS ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, words cannot explain the singular honor it is to stand in the well of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today on a mission of mercy. I believe a brief vignette can best explain what a mission of mercy is as I apply it to the circumstances for which I rise.

Mr. Speaker, prior to coming to Congress, I served for more than a quarter of a century as a judge of a small claims justice court. I can remember an occasion when a mother testified on behalf of her son. Her appeal to me was along these lines. She said: Judge, I am not asking you for justice. I know he was wrong. But he is my son. I know he was wrong. I am not asking for justice. I am asking you for mercy. You have within your power to do justice or you can grant mercy, and I beg that you grant mercy to my son.

That was her hue and cry.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, I rise in support of H.R. 563, sponsored by the Honorable JANICE HAHN. I rise in support of this legislation, which is the Honoring Our WWII Merchant Mariners Act of 2015.

This bill would establish the Merchant Marine Equity Compensation Fund. It would accord each person who served between certain dates—December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946—a sum of \$25,000.

Why should they receive the \$25,000? Well, Mr. Speaker, when they served in World War II, they were not accorded the benefits other members of the various Armed Forces were. In fact, it took litigation to bring them under the

purview of benefits that the other members of the Armed Forces have received and are now receiving.

It was in 1988 that they finally, after litigation, received these benefits, but the benefits were not applied retroactively. As a result of them not being applied retroactively, some of them didn't receive GI Bill benefits. They didn't receive home loans. Many of them, still alive, can be compensated if we grant mercy.

I know that there are those who would say that they already received their just compensation as a result of the litigation and as a result of being brought within the purview of the laws that allow them to receive certain benefits, but they didn't get them retroactively.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, they served honorably. As a matter of fact, approximately 9,500 of them died in service. They served their country. They bled the same blood as others when they were attacked and assaulted and when they lost limbs and their lives.

They are Americans, Mr. Speaker. And I believe we should show some mercy to these Americans. We ought to accord them the opportunity to have these benefits because they were willing to risk their lives so that we could have the quality of life that we have today.

So I make this hue and cry and appeal. I base it upon mercy, not justice. The arguments can be made as to whether just compensation has been accorded; but I believe that, if we show mercy, we will do the right thing for people who have done the right thing for their country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

During these contentious and unsettling days during which an important transition is taking place within the House, we ask Your presence in this assembly.

Imbue each Member with confidence that they are called not to be successful in any one pursuit but, rather,

faithful to the pursuit of the welfare of the United States and faithfulness to its Constitution as they have taken oaths to do.

May they, with confidence, use their abilities to best perform their duties and obligations.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1735.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 623. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

S. 2162. An act to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1301

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence affects people across the Nation, including one in four women and one in seven men who have suffered severe physical violence.

In my district, I want to recognize the efforts of the Clothesline Project, an initiative which features T-shirts decorated by domestic violence survivors. In preparation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, people from across the Clarion County, Pennsylvania, area have participated in this project, decorating shirts which were displayed during last Saturday's Autumn Leaf Parade in Clarion.

Mr. Speaker, this is such an important effort because last year 97 people died as a result of domestic violence in Pennsylvania. It is a wide age range. In fact, one was an infant.

I appreciate the efforts of the Clothesline Project and all the non-profit and community organizations across my district working to bring attention to this critical issue.

RECOGNIZING 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHINEAS BANNING HIGH SCHOOL

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 90th anniversary of Phineas Banning High School in Wilmington. It was named after General Phineas Banning, known as the "Father of the Port of Los Angeles," thus the school's mascot, the Pilots.

Banning has earned a reputation as an athletic powerhouse. The Pilots hold the title for the second-most CIS championships in the entire city of Los Angeles.

Over the past 90 years, Banning High School hasn't lost sight of its core mission: to educate the young people of Wilmington and to prepare them for their future.

It is an impressive alumni that have gone on to be NFL stars, Olympic ath-

letes, actors, CEOs, scientists, and educators. Many of my friends and members of my staff went to Banning High School. They can trace lifelong friendships and some of their fondest memories to their time there.

Tomorrow night Banning will celebrate its milestone at its homecoming football game against the San Pedro Pirates. Both schools are in my district, however; so, I am not taking sides. But I want to wish both teams good luck and wish the Pilots a happy 90th birthday.

LIFTING THE CRUDE OIL BAN

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of lifting the ban on crude oil exports. It means jobs, 500,000 to 1 million jobs across the country and 2,400 jobs in Montana, with a revenue of at least \$120 million.

As a former Navy SEAL commander, I understand the importance of national security. I do not want this Nation to be reliant on foreign energy sources and be held hostage by foreign countries for our energy needs.

It has been a longstanding policy of this country to be energy independent, and lifting the crude oil ban is part of that.

Lowering gas prices: All estimates look at lowering the gas prices by 1.5 to 13 cents a gallon. That is real savings to every American family.

I urge the Senate to take this up. This is not a partisan issue. This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is a national security issue. So I ask the Senate to take it up. I am confident it will come out of the House in numbers that are bipartisan.

Anyone who votes against releasing the ban—there is only one country on the face of the planet that has a ban on crude oil, and that is here. Even Iraq and Iran can export their crude.

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week we experienced the 45th school shooting in 2015. Nearly 10,000 people have been killed by guns this year alone; yet, too many leaders respond with absolute indifference. They tell us that "stuff happens," that we should just move on.

Are the 20 kids killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School just stuff happening? Are the 32 murdered at Virginia Tech just stuff happening? Are the 12 people gunned down in the Aurora, Colorado, movie theater just stuff happening? What about the 9 people killed at Umpqua Community College on Friday?

This stuff has real costs to families, to friends, to our whole community, to our country. It does not have to happen.

Let's make gun trafficking in illegal weapons a Federal felony and have universal background checks.

Let's end the moments of silence on the floor and have, instead, votes on the floor to end gun violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Violence against women is not a partisan problem. It is an American problem. So it demands a bipartisan solution.

As a father, son, and husband, to me, this issue is about protecting families, plain and simple. Unfortunately, debate in Washington is often dominated by the same tired politics, divisive rhetoric, and by the misguided notion that some issues are just too tough to take on.

We can't allow this gridlock to stop us from working to ensure that every woman feels safe and every child lives free from fear.

That is why I helped introduce the Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act. This bill is a commonsense solution to bring Federal law in line with over 30 States that already have protections in place to keep guns out of the hands of abusers, to protect families, and to curb domestic abuse by preventing domestic violence from becoming domestic murder.

Together, we can make our country safer, which is why I encourage my colleagues to join me on this important legislation, supporting safety and security for all Americans.

HONORING DOLORES HUERTA FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER BIRTH

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this Hispanic Heritage Month to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dolores Huerta for a lifetime of service and honor her on the 85th anniversary of her birth.

Living in Stockton, California, she witnessed the unjust exploitation and suffering of migrant workers. Refusing to stay silent in the face of brutal working conditions, Dolores joined Cesar Chavez to co-found what is now United Farm Workers, the leading advocacy voice for the migrant community.

Dolores' actions were essential to pass the 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act. Her tenacity is captured in the resonating chant, "Si, Se Puede" that still gives voice to today's civil rights movement.

In 2012, Dolores received the distinguished Presidential Medal of Freedom. She continues to organize communities to fight for social justice as president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

For her lifetime of service, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dolores Huerta.

LIFTING THE CRUDE OIL BAN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 702, to lift the outdated ban on U.S. crude oil exports.

This 40-year-old ban was enacted during the time of oil scarcity in the 1970s in an effort to preserve domestic oil reserves and discharge foreign imports. Today the ban is driving up the price at the pump while discouraging American energy independence.

The United States is now the largest oil producer in the world, producing more barrels per day than Saudi Arabia or Russia, but we cannot take full advantage of this strength without the ability to export crude oil as the boom in domestic oil production has surpassed the ability for our domestic refiners to process crude oil for export.

The ban on crude oil exports was created in reaction to market conditions at the time. These conditions no longer exist. While the President is opening up oil markets for Iran with a nuclear agreement, U.S. oil producers should have the same access to the global market.

It is time to lift the ban on crude oil exports. I urge my colleagues to support lifting the crude oil ban.

HONORING THE LATE ALMA BEATTY OF NEWARK

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Alma Beatty, a longtime vice president of Community Affairs at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center who passed away earlier this year.

Ms. Beatty was born in Newark, New Jersey, and became one of the city's most beloved citizens through her 45 years of service at "The Beth."

Under Ms. Beatty's leadership, "The Beth" became a model of excellence in protecting the most vulnerable among us. Thanks to her vision, "The Beth" instituted a number of community service programs that continue to this

day, including Adopt a Child Christmas Program.

Last month, I had the honor of participating in a ceremony to change the name of Newark's Osborne Terrace to "Alma Beatty Way." It is a fitting recognition to Ms. Beatty's contributions to the city of Newark, the county of Essex, the State of New Jersey, and the United States of America.

To Ms. Beatty's family I send my thoughts and prayers and continued love for the work that she has done in our community.

RECOGNIZING JERRY HARTZ FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CONGRESS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the leadership of a consummate civil servant, a skilled strategist and an astute adviser for his outstanding service to the Congress for the better of three decades, a proud son of Iowa who is deeply dedicated to our country, to advancing the Democratic agenda on the House floor, and to strengthening our democracy, an exemplary professional whom I have had the privilege to have on my staff for the past 13 years. I speak of—respected on both sides of the aisle—Jerry Hartz.

Jerry is a master of House rules and parliamentary procedure. Over the years, Jerry has managed influential and consequential debates on the House floor. He played a vital role in advancing our Democratic efforts to improve the lives of Americans by moving forward vital legislation.

We simply could not have done without you, Jerry.

On the most challenging and critical legislative issues of our day, Jerry consistently exhibited the wisdom, the creativity, and the fairness needed to improve our world.

Though we will miss his experience and his expertise, I am proud that Jerry will continue to contribute shaping our Nation at the National Democratic Institute.

Thank you to Jerry's wife, Jennifer, who is with us today, and their daughters, Alicia and Evelyn, for sharing Jerry with us all these years.

Earlier this morning we had a huge number of Members of Congress come pay their respects to Jerry and to Jennifer, a large number of staff from both sides of the aisle who recognize Jerry's sense of fairness.

Thank you, Jerry, for your long and excellent service to the Democratic Caucus, to this House, and the United States Congress and, in doing so, to the United States of America. Thank you for your patriotism and your leadership.

□ 1315

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 538, NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 702, ADAPTATION TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKETS

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 466 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 466

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 538) to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-30. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 702) to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments speci-

fied in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-29. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 466 provides for consideration of H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, and H.R. 702, which would repeal the ban on exporting crude oil. H. Res. 466 calls for a structured rule which makes in order 12 total amendments, including 7 minority amendments and 2 bipartisan amendments. Both of these bills deal with easing the regulatory burden when it comes to the energy sector.

Being from coastal Alabama, I have a great appreciation for the impact the

energy sector has on our economy, and I am a strong supporter of an all-of-the-above approach to energy production. Unfortunately, Washington has a bad habit of putting up costly barriers that make it harder for the energy sector to grow and create new jobs. Today is about getting some of these barriers out of the way and unlocking our Nation's energy potential. One of the bills, the Native American Energy Act, would roll back the overregulation of Indian lands and encourage energy development by Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.

From streamlining duplicative Federal processes to increasing tribal control over natural resource development, this bill includes important reforms to unlock the precious energy resources on tribal land and to allow these tribes to take more control of their energy assets. In fact, a 2015 report from the Government Accountability Office found that "Indian energy resources hold significant potential for development, but remain largely undeveloped."

Mr. Speaker, they remain largely undeveloped because the Federal Government is standing in the way. This has resulted in lost revenue for Indian tribes, and it is time we fix this problem.

This commonsense legislation has strong support from tribes across the Nation, including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Intertribal Timber Council, the Navaho Nation, Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota, and the National Congress of American Indians. It is time the Federal Government gets out of the way and allows tribal nations to manage their land how they see fit, without the heavy hand of government getting in the way.

The second bill covered by this rule would end the outdated ban on crude oil exports. The ban was first put in place in 1975 as a response to the Arab oil embargo, but it is clearly no longer necessary, and it is tying our hands both economically and strategically around the world.

Over the last decade, the United States has become the leading producer of oil and natural gas in the world, which is good news for the countless Americans who work in the oil industry, and it is even better news for the American economy.

Mr. Speaker, there is broad, bipartisan support for lifting the 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports. Leading economists, including former Obama economic policy adviser Lawrence Summers, and leading scholars at Harvard University support lifting the ban. Former U.N. Ambassador and Energy Secretary under President Clinton Bill Richardson said that the U.S. needs to export our oil and gas in order to "help

us geopolitically in Eastern Europe against Russia.”

Recently, 135 senior legislative leaders from 40 States and Puerto Rico sent a letter calling on Congress to lift the ban. The letter notes that “the outdated Federal export restrictions on crude oil and LNG are detrimental to American workers, our collective security, and economic recovery in our States.” There were three signers of the letter from Mr. HASTINGS’ home State of Florida.

Numerous editorial boards around the country, including those at *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Detroit News*, *The Denver Post*, *The Washington Times*, and the *Houston Chronicle* have touted the benefits of ending the ban.

Most notably, 69 percent of American people support lifting this ban. Shouldn’t we stand with the American people?

Now, Mr. Speaker, let’s talk about some of the benefits from lifting the outdated ban.

First, it is estimated that this legislation would create 630,000 additional U.S. jobs by 2019. Lifting the ban would also benefit U.S. manufacturers and boost our GDP.

Second, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that lifting the ban would generate \$1.4 billion from oil and gas leases over the next 10 years. That is really a significant number.

Third, the Government Accountability Office found that lifting the ban would lower gas prices by anywhere from 1.5 to 13 cents per gallon. Even President Obama’s own Department of Energy found that increased oil exports would help lower gas prices.

Fourth, lifting the ban will allow the United States to help our allies abroad. For example, Russia has continuously used their control over oil to pressure European countries to comply with Russia’s wishes. If a country refused, Russia would threaten to cut off their energy supply. By lifting the ban, the United States can begin supporting our allies and, in turn, weaken Russia’s grip on many European countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting that this administration has worked hard to open up oil export capabilities for Iran, yet they are refusing to allow the United States to do so. By allowing Iran to export oil, the President has essentially given the Ayatollah a leg up in the global marketplace, placing the strategic interests of Iran over those of the United States. This is yet another example of the President of the United States standing with the people of Iran and the Ayatollah and not standing up for the people of America. These are four very clear benefits for repealing the ban and unlocking our Nation’s energy potential.

Now, the White House has said they believe lifting the oil export ban is a decision that should be made by the

Commerce Department, not by Congress. So let me get this straight: The Obama administration would rather unelected, unaccountable Federal bureaucrats at the Department of Commerce make this decision instead of the democratically elected Congress? I think that speaks to a far larger problem with this White House and how they believe our government should work.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, both of these bills are about empowering the American people and getting the government out of the way. These bills both have broad support, and I urge my colleagues to approve this rule. Let’s move forward on passing these commonsense bills.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of both H.R. 702, legislation to adapt to the changing crude oil market conditions, and H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act.

As we have seen time and again in what can only be described as typical Republican fashion, we have again skirted regular order. As a matter of fact, whatever happened to regular order in this institution? It seems to have gone by the boards. Here we are considering two unrelated pieces of legislation under one grab-bag rule.

What is more, instead of striving to roll back environmental protections, we should be working in a bipartisan manner to avoid a government shutdown in December, address the debt ceiling, pass a long-term transportation bill so that we can rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and put Americans back to work, and reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, the charter of which Republicans allowed to expire 100 days ago.

Mr. Speaker, the 1973 oil embargo sparked a crisis in our country that continues to influence our energy policies today. H.R. 702, the first of the bills we are debating today, makes significant changes to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, the primary statute for restricting the export of domestically produced crude oil that was enacted in the wake of the embargo.

It goes without saying that the energy situation in the United States is far different today than it was in the 1970s when the oil export ban began. Global crude oil prices fell to 6½-year lows in August. We have such a surplus of oil that the number of rigs drilling for oil in the United States dropped to 614 last week, down from 1,609 last October. Based on these facts, it would behoove us to reexamine this export ban.

□ 1330

But, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 702 unwisely repeals the authority of the President to restrict the export of petroleum products or natural gas and prohibits any Federal official from imposing or enforcing restrictions on the export of crude oil.

Last night in the Rules Committee I asked the question whether President Obama deserves any credit for the lower gas prices. Certainly, when gas prices were higher, he received an awful lot of criticism and blame. It would seem to me that, with the increased number of leases that he has allowed, he should get some credit at least.

Moreover, the bill makes it virtually impossible to limit exports of coal, natural gas, petroleum products, and petrochemical feedstocks. Repealing this authority would eliminate our ability to restrict the export of any of these products.

Lifting this ban would provide a gift to oil companies on top of the decades of lucrative subsidies the industry already receives by the American taxpayers. Enough is enough.

I would also note that the term—and I brought it up in the Rules Committee last night and didn’t get a clear answer—the term “restriction” is undefined. Let me quote my good friend FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

He said: Since the term “restriction” is undefined, any Federal action that could potentially impede the efficient exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of energy resources—including fossil fuels—could be considered a restriction.

For instance, an order to shut down a pipeline that has been determined to be a hazard to public safety and the environment under the Pipeline Safety Act could be seen as a restriction.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 538 suffers from similar deficiencies. H.R. 538 has the stated purpose of empowering Native American tribes to utilize and develop energy resources on their lands.

I hesitate because I don’t understand what part of sovereignty with reference to Native Americans in this country we do not understand; therefore, they should not have to be here hat in hand about their own resources.

But tribal lands often hold great potential for domestic energy production; yet, tribes often cannot harness the full economic development potential of their natural resources. But this bill tries to solve this problem by undercutting important environmental protections.

In the name of encouraging energy production on tribal lands, this bill severely restricts public involvement and comment on proposed energy projects, prevents the recovery of attorneys’ fees

in cases challenging these new energy projects, effectively chilling the public's ability to bring bona fide claims to seek judicial redress for environmental harms in their community.

And just for good measure, this legislation blocks any commonsense hydraulic fracturing rules. Instead of undermining the bedrock of our Nation's vital environmental protections, we should focus on real, constructive reforms that will achieve tribal self-determination in energy development without sacrificing commonsense environmental laws.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the esteemed gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act.

Mr. YOUNG, my esteemed colleague from Alaska, I commend him on his efforts over the years. This represents a significant step for tribes across the country, especially in my State of Montana.

I have only been in the seat for a few months, and I can tell you that the Federal Government has infringed on the sovereignty of our tribes to develop their own natural resources.

What is sovereignty? Sovereignty is not going through a labyrinth of rules that are far greater than other Federal lands or State lands. It is not right. It is not right for the Crow people. It is not right for every Indian nation across this land.

The government has infringed. The GAO report examines it and states as much. The Crow tribe, a proud tribe in Montana, wants to be self-sufficient. They want to make sure that they have a prosperous economy and do right by their people; yet, the chairman, Old Coyote, has said a war on coal is a war on the Crow people. And he is right.

There is no better job on the Crow reservation than a coal job. There is no better future than to have access to the 9 billion tons of coal that are locked in the ground that they can't develop and they can't develop in the interest of their own people because the Federal Government is in the way.

This bill doesn't skirt environmental rules or laws. What it does is it streamlines a position, streamlines their sovereignty and their rights, and that is important.

So, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, this is not a Democrat or a Republican issue. This is an American issue, and it is about respect.

I ask all Members to respect the native tribes, respect their right to sovereignty, respect their right for self-determination.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Background checks are the first line of defense to keep guns out of the

hands of criminals. If we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would expand the current background check system to include all commercial sales of firearms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), my good friend, to discuss our proposal. He is the chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule today and in support of bringing the bipartisan King-Thompson background check bill to the floor for a vote.

Let me give you some numbers: 278, the number of mass shootings in our country since Newtown; 275, the number of days this Congress has been in session; 16, the number of gun-related moments of silence Congress has held since the start of last year; and 0, the number of votes this body has taken to help prevent or lessen gun violence.

Just a week ago we endured another mass shooting. This time it was nine people at a community college in Oregon. Six weeks ago it was a news reporter and cameraman in Virginia. Five weeks before that it was two people at the movies in Lafayette. Five weeks before that it was a prayer group in Charleston.

Every single time a mass shooting happens we go through the same routine—thoughts and prayers are sent; statements are made; stories are written; moments of silence are held—and nothing changes. No action is taken. No votes are cast.

It has been said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. The majority leadership has done nothing over and over again. Predictably, the results have been the same: more innocent lives lost, more families forever changed, and more mass gun violence.

The five Republican coauthors of our background check bill notwithstanding, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have done nothing as mass gun violence has become commonplace. No bills have been brought to the floor. No ideas have been brought to the table. No proposals have even been considered.

You have the majority in the House and in the Senate. You have a White House and a Democratic Caucus willing

to work with you. You are presumably here to govern and lead. A big part of that means stepping up when children, students, and families are routinely put in danger.

Gun violence takes the lives of 30-plus Americans every single day. It constitutes a public health emergency that demands action from the public's leaders. We have it in our power to do something. Let's not waste that.

We don't know what laws could have prevented the shooting in Oregon or Virginia or Charleston, but we do know that every day background checks stop more than 170 felons, some 50 domestic abusers, and nearly 20 fugitives from buying a gun. We know they help keep guns from dangerous people, and that saves lives.

This isn't about the Second Amendment. I am a hunter and I am a gun owner. I support the Second Amendment. If the King-Thompson background check bill undermined the rights of gun owners, my name wouldn't be on it.

This is about keeping guns from criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill. It is about taking a simple, commonsense step to keep spouses, kids, and communities safe.

All this bill does is require a background check for people buying a gun online or at a gun show. Why would anyone not want to make sure the people buying guns on the Internet or at a gun show are sane, law-abiding citizens? We do it at licensed dealers, why not for all commercial sales? Why do we want to give criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill a huge loophole through which they can buy guns? It makes no sense.

We can do one of two things here today. We can wait out the new cycle, allow the horror of Oregon to fade into our minds, do nothing, wait for the next tragedy, and then offer thoughts and prayers. That would be nothing new.

It is what the majority did with Newtown. It is what they did with Navy Yard. It is what they did with Isla Vista, Charleston, and Virginia. This time could be different. We could actually pull together and do something to make our country safer.

No legislation will stop every shooting. But passing commonsense gun laws like background checks will at least stop some, and that makes it worth doing. Don't sit here and let America's new normal become mass gun violence followed by thoughts and prayers, but no action. We are here to govern. This is happening on our watch, and it is within our power to save some lives. Let's do it.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUTANY), who is a tireless advocate for the energy interests of his State of Louisiana.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, let's look at the facts. I support this rule and I support the underlying legislation, H.R. 702, which would lift the ban on oil exports for this country.

The United States is the only oil-producing country that has a self-imposed ban, and it makes no sense. It doesn't fit within our own views of open trade, open energy markets.

Why did this come about? It came about because in the 1970s we moved into an age of scarcity with regard to energy. Our producers could not keep up with demand.

American innovation, American technology, has solved that. Now we have moved into an era of abundance. This is a time where we can actually change the entire landscape of energy security not only for the United States, but also for our allies, and reap major economic benefit by lifting the ban.

When we came out of the recession, energy jobs helped lift us out of that recession. The shale revolution was a major factor. What we are seeing now with slack demand and the abundance and a lot of oil sitting that is not being used in refineries has caused slacking in prices and job loss.

We can reverse that by lifting the ban and giving American producers access to the market, just like everybody else that produces oil. Why should the Iranians be able to sell oil on the open market and we have a self-imposed ban on American energy producers? It makes no sense at all.

Secondly, if we lift the ban, this is a first and necessary step, I believe, in building out a whole new energy strategy for the United States that leads to an American view, an American imprint, on energy security, not a Russian and not an OPEC view of this.

Why? Because we embrace open markets, we embrace diversity of sources, we embrace transparency and pricing. That is what we want. Lifting the ban is that first step.

□ 1345

Thirdly, if we couple this with building out more pipelines that help us integrate the Mexican energy market and the Canadian, the North American area can clearly take care of all of our domestic demands collectively and have plenty to export.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, this will then move us in a position of dominating energy strategy globally, putting OPEC and Russia on the defense. They cannot keep up with American energy producers. They don't have the innovation; they don't have the technology; and they are running budget deficits that are harmful to their countries. They will have to change,

and we will dominate the energy sector.

Further, if we integrate this with our trade policies, we then start to eliminate the abusive practices that national oil companies perpetrate and put American open-market companies, multinational companies, back in the driver's seat. But we also help American producers and producers in my home State of Louisiana, small companies that are suppliers, small companies that provide the services: the boat companies, the maritime companies that help facilitate all of this.

This is about job creation. This is about American energy production; it is about American energy security; and it is about having leverage in our foreign policy. That is why I support this first step of lifting this ban on crude exports.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, before yielding, I would like to speak very briefly about process, because a lot of times people don't understand that the base bill that we are discussing today, the two rules, the process allows the minority an opportunity to present a motion. One is a motion to recommit. One of the parts of that process that we are discussing here today has to do with gun violence. Mr. THOMPSON, who just spoke about it eloquently, I add to what he had to say.

Here in Washington, D.C., in the last 6 days, five people have been killed by guns. In Chicago and in my hometown and around this Nation, in addition to the mass killings, there have been a number of killings.

David Satcher was Surgeon General of the United States from 1998 to 2002. In the year of 2000, he was the first person that I know that raised publicly the fact that we have a gun violence epidemic in this country. There were people that wanted to run him out of office because of that. We need to pay attention.

For the purpose of discussing this further, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY), someone who has had a real experience with gun violence.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and in support of the opportunity to vote for common-sense, bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I represent Newtown, Connecticut; and on December 14, 2012, almost 3 years ago, 20 precious children and 6 dedicated educators were ripped from us by gun violence.

After Newtown, America said "never again." But just 2 days ago, we observed another moment of silence in this House, this time for the community of Roseburg, Oregon.

As with every other mass shooting since Newtown, families and first responders in my district are retraumatized. In fact, by my count, we have held 16 moments of silence on the

House floor to honor those Americans taken from us by gun violence since the tragedy at Sandy Hook. Sixteen times we in this House have come together and bowed our heads in silence and then refused to do anything substantial to prevent gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, we can and we must do better. We must be allowed a vote on the bipartisan bill that will close background check loopholes and save lives.

Ninety percent of Americans support background checks. Background checks keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. That is why every gun purchase should be allowed only after a successful background check.

We are not dealing with a natural disaster. This is not an earthquake. This crisis is manmade, and it is up to us to take action to save lives.

The time has passed for moments of silence. We need hours of action. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote today to bring the bipartisan background check to the House floor.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I think what the gentleman from Florida said at the beginning was inaccurate. He said that we brought two things together in this rule that are not related to one another. They are. They are both related to energy production in this country, and that is what the rule is about.

Now, I am standing here today as the grandson of a man who was shot and killed by someone who was mentally ill in 1920. I know the importance of that issue. I know what it means to families who have been victimized by it. There may be a day and a time for us to have this debate, but it is not today.

Today, we are talking about the energy security of our country. Today, we are here to talk about freeing up the American economy and freeing up domestic producers so that they can sell their product abroad, as we are now going to allow Iran to sell their product abroad. I would like for us to get back to the debate on energy. That is what we are here today about.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman doesn't have the prerogative of what the minority has, and that is an opportunity to offer a motion to recommit.

He is correct that there are two bills that are being brought here in this grab-bag rule, but if he says that today is not the day for us to discuss gun violence, then I want to ask him: What day is it that we are supposed to discuss gun violence? People are being killed all over this Nation, and we have an epidemic, and we are constantly not doing anything about it. If it is not today, when? And if it is not us, who?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), my distinguished colleague and good friend.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say I agree with my colleague. If not now, when? We have been asking that for many, many generations.

Because of the mass shootings, American families are demanding Congress to act. They want action, but Congress has not heard any bills. They refuse to hear them. There is nothing. There is no opportunity to have the light of day or to have some transparency to it.

The last meaningful gun violence prevention bill was in 1994, and that was the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

Shootings, as was pointed out, are now an everyday occurrence. It is commonplace, so people are becoming numb, except for those who are immediately affected and are asking us to move and pass legislation, give it the light of day, discuss it, bring it up, start some methodology to be able to understand what this House is looking at doing for our American people, for our children, and for our families.

Now, collective action, we need it. Transparent discussion is necessary and much needed. Enough of skirting this issue. What is more important, gas and oil or the lives of human beings?

Keep guns away from people that should not have them and/or would use them to harm others.

H.R. 1217 mandates universal background checks for all purchases. It is a step in the right direction. It would move our country forward in beginning the process of addressing this epidemic that we are facing.

We need real, constructive legislation. We need to prevent and lessen violence. We must keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, such as the dangerously mentally ill. Now, domestic abusers and people with violent histories also should not have access to them, and they currently do.

Now, without stigmatizing those with mental illness because then you have a problem on your hands, we need to inform, educate, and help young people, families, and educators. We need to help those who are exhibiting emotional disturbances and help them learn how to access information and assistance.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to disrespect in any way the minority's opportunity that they have, but I did come here to talk about the energy bills.

I chose to go last on this side because I would like to address some of the thoughtful concerns that were raised by Mr. HASTINGS from Florida. I call them concerns because I didn't hear real objections. I think they are legitimate concerns that some people have had, and they deserve discussion. We are talking about the rule here.

He made a suggestion that somehow this lifting of the oil export ban bill, H.R. 702, takes the President's prerogative away to deal with a situation at all costs or in every situation. The reality is it does reserve a right for the President to reinstate the ban in some sort of an emergency. I want to make sure that that is clarified.

I also want to clarify that he mentioned we are not in regular order, and perhaps he is referring to the Native American Energy Act. I know we have had a couple of hearings since I have been in Congress on that, perhaps not this Congress. I don't know. I am not on that committee.

I can tell you that the Energy and Commerce Committee has had a hearing on H.R. 702, and two other committees have had hearings on similar bills: the Agriculture Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. So this has been a thoroughly vetted issue. In fact, with the admonition of Speaker BOEHNER, we really did take a long time with this issue to help educate one another, those of us from energy States. So I do think we have had a thorough debate on the topic, and I think it is time to have this discussion.

Coming from North Dakota, I just want to tell you that I come from a State that, prior to the energy revolution, or the Bakken revolution, the shale revolution, we were experiencing outmigration and low personal per capita income. Today, we have the second highest personal per capita income in the country. We can't accept people fast enough to deal with the jobs that are available. We are at a bit of a standstill right now because we are overproducing light sweet crude in this country, which is the type of crude that the global markets are demanding, but our domestic markets, because of our refining capacity, are not.

This is the time to lift this ban, and this is the body to do it. I hope we can get to it this afternoon.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, before yielding, I would like to correct myself.

When I spoke, I spoke about the minority's right for a motion to recommend, which indeed we do have; but in this particular instance, it is the minority's right to offer up the previous question, and that is what we are proceeding under.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), a gentleman I have known a very long time in this institution and care greatly about, a very thoughtful Member.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and in protest to the Republican leadership's failure to bring commonsense legislation to the floor to stem our Nation's tide of gun violence.

In the wake of seemingly endless mass shootings, Americans of all back-

grounds and diverse political beliefs are urging elected officials to stop merely wringing our hands and actually do something that protects our communities.

One measure that has virtually unanimous support is background checks to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill. The problem is that our current background check system is rife with loopholes: background checks are not required at gun shows; they are also not required when individuals purchase weapons online.

The bipartisan King-Thompson background checks bill would close these egregious loopholes. It is an entirely sensible reform that would have a measurable impact on the safety of our schools and neighborhoods without preventing law-abiding citizens from using guns for self-defense or for recreational purposes.

I wholeheartedly reject the defeatist notion that we cannot do anything about our Nation's gun violence. I ask my colleagues: How much longer must we wait? How many more people have to die to get our attention? How many more American towns and cities must be added to the growing list of places like Columbine, Aurora, Charleston, and Newtown?

In the last 3 years, we have had some 20 moments of silence here on the House floor to honor victims of gun violence in the United States. Moments of silence are not enough. Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need action, and I call on my colleagues to bring the background checks bill to the floor for a vote and to do it now.

□ 1400

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER), my good friend and a former member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago I was here for a moment of silence on behalf of the 12 killed and the 70 injured in the Aurora movie theater. Since that time, we have had at least 55 mass shootings where four or more people were killed and we have had at least 22 moments of silence.

How many more senseless acts of violence and hatred must occur before we stand up and take action? How many more young, bright lives are going to be cut short because of loopholes in the law? How many more times must we stand on this floor in moments of silence, solemnly remembering another victim? How many more times must the flags be lowered at half staff in honor of servicemembers gunned down in their own backyard?

As important as these moments of reflection are, they happen with such regularity, we become numb to their

significance. When will this violence end? Why is it we are paralyzed by the very laws that are meant to protect us?

It is incumbent upon us, as Members of Congress, to act and protect our citizens from unnecessary gun violence. I appreciated the gentleman from Alabama mentioning the violence that his own family has experienced.

It is time for a dialogue in the spirit of civility and compassion, bringing all Americans together to have a discussion about peace and safety in our schools, churches, and community centers. We have to begin. We can do this. It requires courage, but we can act to reduce this violence by passing meaningful gun violence prevention legislation that respects the Second Amendment.

Last week I joined 147 other Members of this body in writing to the Speaker, demanding action on gun violence prevention legislation. We demand a vote. Action is needed. I urge the defeat of the rule.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to advise how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), a good friend of mine. He is the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the rule, and in particular I oppose H.R. 702. Apparently, we have learned nothing over the past 40 years because this bill asks that we forget about oil shortages, oil recessions, and painfully high energy bills.

Do we really believe that the days of \$100 per barrel of oil are gone? Do we really believe that our military will never again be called upon to keep vital oil trade routes or production areas open? I wish that were true, but I doubt it.

Until we reduce our dependence on oil, we should retain control over our domestic oil resources. Our Nation is not energy independent. We still use a great deal of oil and other petroleum products.

Our transportation sector is still extremely vulnerable to price increases, whether we are talking about certainly individual drivers, certainly our airlines or freight companies.

Our manufacturing sector is vulnerable, also. China may now be the largest importer of oil, but we are still the world's largest consumer of oil. This policy is not just about whether we open up trade on another commodity. It is a matter of national security and economic security. It is in our national

interest that we can and do export crude oil and refined petroleum products now.

When we export refined products, we gain the extra benefit of jobs in the refining industry as well as those in oil production. This bill eliminates Presidential authority to restrict trade in crude oil.

It allows decisions about oil exports to be made by the oil companies, and they put a higher value on their profits than on our national security, our United States consumers, or our environment.

The oil companies see this window of low global oil prices as the opportunity to lift the ban on crude exports. The advocates for this policy point to the current slowdown in new drilling activity as evidence that our export policy is eliminating jobs in oil production.

The fact remains that oil is a global commodity and the global market price for a barrel of oil is no better than the price here in the United States. When oil is under \$50 per barrel, wells that are marginal or with higher costs will be capped until the price rises. That situation will not change by exporting to any already oversupplied global market.

But what happens when Asia's demand for oil increases, as it surely will, and the global price again climbs into the \$100 per barrel range? That is an excellent opportunity to sell as much as possible on the global market, a windfall for the oil companies and an economic downturn for us.

This policy change benefits a few of the wealthiest companies on this planet. There is no benefit for consumers. We will put our national security at risk, and certainly jobs and infrastructure in the refining industry and other industries as well will be hurt.

Exports of oil, in fact, and any of our strategically important resources should be in our national interest. Big Oil gets more than their share of subsidy from the United States' taxpayers. They do not need this additional windfall, and consumers and taxpayers cannot—simply cannot—afford to provide it.

I urge you to reject this rule and to oppose H.R. 702.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I was listening to the gentleman talk, and he was talking about how this might have a negative impact on American consumers with regard to gas prices. I would remind the House that even President Obama's own Department of Energy found that increased oil exports would help lower gas prices.

The gentleman also mentioned what this might do to the security of the United States. A member of President Clinton's Cabinet has said this will enhance the security of the United States by strengthening our hand in Central and Eastern Europe.

I have listened to the gentleman. I respect his views, but I must say that

I think the evidence that comes to us from Democratic administrations proves that what he said is really not accurate.

Mr. Speaker, we have no additional speakers. So if the gentleman is prepared to close, he may do so. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My Republican friends argue that these bills will encourage growth and investment in our Nation's energy markets, local communities, and economy and are, therefore, important measures that we must address even as we face a highway trust fund that will become insolvent in a matter of weeks as well as another looming government shutdown in December.

All the while, those same individuals refuse to authorize the Export-Import Bank's charter, an entity that has created and sustained 1.5 million American jobs since 2007 at no cost to the taxpayer.

Passing a responsible budget, delivering on a long-term transportation bill, and reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank will encourage the growth and investment that my friends speak of. The time to deliver on our promises to the American people is long overdue.

I call on House Republicans to stop wasting our time with legislation that rolls back long-held environmental protections—and stand almost certain veto threats—and take up the important measures that I mentioned.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to return to this notion of the previous question with reference to gun violence.

I believe in the Second Amendment. I own a gun. When I was a child, at age 7, I had a Red Ryder BB gun. When I was 12, I had a single-shot .22 rifle. I believe in every citizen's right to own a gun, and I believe my colleagues here on this side believe the same thing.

If every man, woman, and child is accounted for in the estimate of guns that are in this country, that would be more than 330 million. There are some people in our society who believe that somebody is going to come and take their guns. I wonder who that person would be.

Would it be a President of the United States? Would it be the military? Are they going to go and take the guns from their moms, their brothers, their sons, their fathers? That is foolish.

We need to stop this madness. Doing nothing in the face of all of this epidemic violence that we are experiencing allows that not only is this House dysfunctional in many of its particulars, but it is frozen in its indifference to the gun violence in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

American technology is a marvel in the world. We Americans figure out how to solve problems by using technology.

Just a few years ago we were struggling with how we were going to get enough energy into this country from other places, and now, because of the changes to the American people, we figured out the technologies it takes to be able to exploit energy resources right here.

It is almost like a miracle. We get to become energy independent where we won't have to get energy from other places. In fact, we found so much energy that we are in a position where we can export it and benefit our economy and people in America with more jobs.

Now, I have got to tell you something: I am proud to be American for a lot of reasons, but there is a great reason right there.

Our ingenuity solved this problem and created opportunities that we couldn't have dreamt of, but the Federal Government is standing in the way. We can't fully do what we need to do here.

There are many things in the way, but we are trying to deal with just two of them today. One of them is the limitations we put on the sovereign tribal nations that my friend from Florida so eloquently spoke about.

We put limitations on them and their ability to develop energy resources on their land. It is their land. Let them develop it. There are a couple good things from that. One of them is all of us in America get the benefit from that. As we develop any part of our energy sector, it benefits all of us.

Secondly, it benefits those people in those tribal nations. They are not asking for the Federal Government to give them something. They are asking for the Federal Government to get out of the way so they can do something for themselves. I think we ought to celebrate that in America and give them that opportunity.

The second bill removes a decades-old ban on oil exports. I am old enough to remember the 1970s. I remember waiting in a gas line and not being able to get gas, but that was then with the technology we had then, not now with the technology and the proven reserves we have now.

I don't want to shoulder my children with limitations based upon technology or technological understanding we had when I was their age. As they tell me all the time: Daddy, we have moved on. We have moved on in a very positive way in this particular aspect.

So it is time to get the dead hand of the past off of our energy industry so it can start doing the things it has so miraculously proven that it can do.

I urge everybody in this House to support this rule. I urge everybody in this House to support both of these underlying bills.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 466 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1217) to protect Second Amendment rights, ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and provide a responsible and consistent background check process. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1217.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 244, nays 183, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 541]

YEAS—244

Abraham	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (IN)
Aderholt	Bishop (UT)	Buchanan
Allen	Black	Buck
Amash	Blackburn	Bucshon
Amodei	Blum	Burgess
Babin	Bost	Byrne
Barletta	Boustany	Calvert
Barr	Brady (TX)	Carter (GA)
Barton	Brat	Carter (TX)
Benishek	Bridenstine	Chabot
Bilirakis	Brooks (AL)	Chaffetz

Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney

Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe

Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaunier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi

Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey

NOT VOTING—7

Cleaver
Connolly
Dingell

Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger

Hudson
Sinema
Vela

Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

□ 1442

Mr. RIGELL changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA FLOOD

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of Congress, the people of South Carolina have faced an unprecedented, catastrophic weather event, also known as a 1,000-year rain, exceeding 20 inches virtually overnight, causing flooding and widespread damage. We are grateful for your thoughts and prayers.

The flooding and rain destroyed homes and roads, collapsed bridges, and broke dams across the State; 400 roads and bridges are still closed. Tragically, to date, the flooding has claimed the lives of nearly 20 citizens across the Carolinas. We ask for your thoughts and prayers for their families.

We are grateful for the strength of the people of South Carolina, led by Governor Nikki Haley and Adjutant General Bob Livingston.

We are inspired by people like Aaron and Amy Dupree, with their four small children, who were rescued by boat from their home in Columbia's Lake Katherine community by their neighbor, Brian Boyer.

You will hear stories of incredible acts of volunteerism, like Kassy Alia, the widow of Forest Acres Police Officer Greg Alia who was murdered last week, leaving her and their 5-month-old son, Sal. Despite her grief, she joined others in distributing food to those in need.

Wherever you go, you will find heroes like these and hear about the service of the first responders, emergency personnel, officials, and State employees who have worked tirelessly to aid our community.

We appreciate that Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson will lead a fact-finding delegation with members of our delegation to our State tomorrow.

I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN). If he is not available, I just want to thank him for his service. We look forward to being on the delegation with him tomorrow.

God bless South Carolina, and I ask my colleagues to stand and join me in a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise for a moment of silence.

Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 185, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 542]

AYES—244

Abraham	Clawson (FL)	Forbes
Aderholt	Coffman	Fortenberry
Allen	Cole	Foxy
Amash	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Amodei	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Babin	Comstock	Garrett
Barletta	Conaway	Gibbs
Barr	Cook	Gohmert
Barton	Costello (PA)	Goodlatte
Benishek	Cramer	Gosar
Bilirakis	Crawford	Gowdy
Bishop (MI)	Crenshaw	Granger
Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Black	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Blackburn	Davis, Rodney	Graves (MO)
Blum	Denham	Griffith
Bost	Dent	Grothman
Boustany	DeSantis	Guinta
Brady (TX)	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Brat	Diaz-Balart	Hanna
Bridenstine	Dold	Hardy
Brooks (AL)	Donovan	Harper
Brooks (IN)	Duffy	Harris
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Buck	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)
Bucshon	Ellmers (NC)	Hensarling
Burgess	Emmer (MN)	Herrera Beutler
Byrne	Farenthold	Hice, Jody B.
Calvert	Fincher	Hill
Carter (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Holding
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Huelskamp
Chabot	Fleming	Huizenga (MI)
Chaffetz	Flores	Hultgren

Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica

Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford

Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—185

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio

DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur

Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross

O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush

Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano

Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Cleaver
Dingell

Gibson
Hudson

Sinema

□ 1456

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill H.R. 538.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 466 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 538.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1458

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 538) to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes, with Mr. ROUZER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

□ 1500

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 538 has been in the works for several years. This is not a bill that came out of nowhere. Its provisions are the result of oversight hearings and consultation with Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations. The bill streamlines Federal permitting for, and increases tribal control over, energy and other natural resource development on Indian lands. It gives tribes options to perform or waive appraisals of their lands and prohibits the Interior Department's hydraulic fracturing from applying to Indian lands without the consent of the tribe.

It also contains provisions to streamline judicial review and deter frivolous lawsuits concerning Federal permitting for Native American energy projects. The judicial review provisions are crucial for Alaska Natives, whose ability to develop their land claims settlement lands has been abused by special interest groups filing lawsuits.

The bill also authorizes a pilot project for the Navajo Nation to handle mineral leasing of its trust lands if Interior approves its tribal leasing program.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, H.R. 538 promotes tribal forest stewardship contracting on Federal lands adjacent to Indian reservation land to provide a full supply of biomass energy for the tribes.

This summer, the GAO issued a report called "Indian Energy Development—Poor Management by BIA Has Hindered Energy Department on Indian Lands." Here a couple of the highlights:

"The BIA does not have comprehensive data to identify ownership and resources available for development, does not have a documented process or data to track and monitor its review and response times, and some offices do not have the skills or adequate staff resources to effectively review energy-related documents."

"In 2012, Interior's inspector general found that weaknesses in BIA's management of oil and gas resources contributed to a general preference by industry to acquire oil and gas leases on non-Indian lands over Indian lands."

This is a jobs bill. It provides energy for America, and more than that, it takes care of the tribal community that has been blessed with resources. In some Indian reservations, where unemployment rates are 50 percent, energy jobs are the only high-wage, private sector jobs available for members. These energy jobs dollars go a long way in supporting families.

The Native American Energy Act is strongly supported by a broad array of Native organizations as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, specifically, the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Intertribal Timber Council, Navajo Nation, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Confederated

Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, and the Ute Tribe of Utah.

I am a little bit surprised that the White House has issued a statement against this bill. Really, it is not anything new. I always listen to this administration's "all of the above but none of the below" as far as energy goes. In other words, the administration promotes only wind and solar, while opposing oil, gas, and coal on Nations' lands—Nations' lands.

In the Dakotas, it takes 15 permits on tribal lands and 2 off of tribal lands. That is a disgrace, and I suggest, with 56 million acres of land, there ought to be the ability to be self-determined, be the first Americans, with the ability to take and produce energy, and help their tribal members out.

Those that oppose this, it is the same old story: don't get too smart; we will give you a side of beef and a blanket. Don't let us help ourselves, let the government tell you what to do.

This is a good piece of legislation. This did not come from me. This came from the Native tribes themselves. It is an example, as we have trust authority, we should let them control their own destiny.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, frankly, we are still not addressing the most pressing needs in Indian Country. Six years later, the Carcieri decision still has not been fixed, despite much lipservice that has been given to it from the majority.

Our colleague Mr. COLE and our colleague Ms. MCCOLLUM both have legislation, bipartisan legislation, that would deal with that immediately. We should call that up. We should have a hearing, and we should deal with this decision that has left so much doubt and confusion in Indian Country.

Sacred sites are in need of identification and protection rather than midnight riders attached to unrelated legislation that violates tribal sacred site protections, as has happened already. Lack of funding from this body coupled with sequestration has left Indian health and education really with no relief in site.

Yes, barriers to energy development on Indian land are among the most pressing needs, both as an economic driver for tribes and for the energy needs of the United States. But this bill does not address the real energy needs on tribal lands, and while we are wasting time on it, these other, and even more pressing needs, just continue to grow more urgent.

The legislation claims to facilitate energy development, but, instead, it short-circuits the review process set up by the National Environmental Policy

Act, NEPA, and limits judicial review of development decisions. Instead of helping tribes develop energy resources on their lands, this approach will lead to less environmental protection on Indian lands and less judicial recourse to those affected.

These proposals are not new. We have seen and debated them before as part of the failed Republican energy bills last Congress, and here they are again. The legislation would amend NEPA, one of the Nation's bedrock environmental laws, to limit review of and comment on proposed projects to members of the affected Indian tribe and other individuals residing within an undetermined affected area. This limitation severely restricts public involvement in proposed Federal projects that may affect the environment, a central tenet of NEPA.

Arbitrarily limiting such review and comment would prevent even other Indian tribes with cultural ties in the so-called affected area from commenting on a proposed project. Limiting the universe of members of the public who can participate in the NEPA process but then failing to actually define that universe is not reform. It is not reform at all.

Additionally, this restriction is not just applicable to energy projects; it applies to any major project on Indian lands. This could mean proposed mining contracts, proposed water development projects, construction of solid waste facilities, and even construction of tribal class III gaming facilities all would slip through this undefined loophole. Nontribal partners would also reap this benefit as well, as long as the project is located on Indian lands.

The legislation also throws up insurmountable barriers to those seeking to hold the Federal Government accountable for its actions in court. It prevents the recovery of attorney's fees in cases challenging energy projects, and it makes a claimant who fails to succeed on the merits of a suit potentially liable to the defendant for attorneys' fees and costs. This makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for members of the public—even tribal members whose homelands may be impacted by a major Federal action of any kind—to seek judicial review.

The other side will say this is in response to frivolous lawsuits that have been filed in these cases in the past, but according to the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office, very few approved energy-related projects have ever been challenged in court. This is truly a solution in search of a problem. It is clear the real intent of this provision is to chill legitimate litigation and to undermine the real teeth of NEPA by making the availability of injunctive relief all but disappear.

Furthermore, this applies even to non-Indian land. If an energy company is developing natural resources any-

where in the United States and they get a tribal partner, they can fall under this provision. This could incentivize energy companies to partner with tribes simply for the benefit of skirting NEPA and profiting from restricted judicial review.

The legislation is opposed by the administration, as well as many environmental and conservation groups. I enter the following letter of opposition to this legislation into the RECORD, which has been signed by the Alaska Wilderness League, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Green Latinos, The Lands Council, League of Conservation Voters, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Sierra Club, Western Environmental Law Center, and The Wilderness Society.

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE, CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, EARTHJUSTICE, GREEN LATINOS, THE LANDS COUNCIL, LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, SAN JUAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE, SIERRA CLUB, WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY,

September 9, 2015.

Chairman ROB BISHOP,
Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA,
House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP AND RANKING MEMBER GRIJALVA: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to express our strong concerns with H.R. 538, the "Native American Energy Act." The bill purports to promote and encourage increased energy production on tribal lands by reducing government barriers and streamlining burdensome procedures. While we are not opposed to the development of energy projects on tribal lands under the law, this bill goes far beyond that by severely limiting public involvement in the development of any major project on tribal lands, as well as by insulating potentially environmentally devastating energy projects on tribal lands (or even projects done in partnership with an Indian tribe on non-tribal lands) from judicial review. It further erodes the public interest by diminishing its full authority to conduct appraisals, especially in the context of land exchanges between the federal government and an Alaska Native Corporation. Given the problems with these provisions, we ask that you oppose H.R. 538.

We are particularly concerned with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of this legislation.

Section 2 would diminish the public interest by allowing state-chartered, for-profit corporations to gain full authority to conduct appraisals, especially in the context of land exchanges between the federal government and an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporation. Many land swaps have been very controversial in Alaska, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Section 4 would amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) by

mandating that Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for any federal action on tribal lands by an Indian tribe “shall only be available for review and comment by the members of the Indian tribe and by any other individual residing within the affected area.” This provision would severely undermine one of the most basic tenets of NEPA: to facilitate public involvement in decision making. Additionally, this limitation is applicable to more than energy projects; it applies to any major project on tribal land by a native community. By its terms, section 4 applies to the lands of Native Corporations transferred under the provisions of ANCSA, or associated land trades. For example, if passed into law, this section would limit public participation in a broad range of EISs: Clean Water Act 404 permits for any purpose; highway projects; energy or any other federal project; or funding of any project on tribal lands by a native community. Furthermore, the provision would allow for significantly limiting the defined “affected area” such that some members of the public would be excluded from commenting on a draft EIS. This would artificially limit what the agency might learn about the potential impacts of its project, leading to uninformed decision making.

Section 5 aims at insulating energy related projects from judicial review by placing severe restrictions on the time in which to file claims and making the pursuit of any legal challenge overwhelmingly cost-prohibitive. In addition to curtailing the amount of time an individual or group has to challenge the decision to only 60 days, Section 5 further restricts judicial review by requiring plaintiffs to pay the attorney’s fees and costs of the defendants if they do not “ultimately prevail.” Furthermore, even where plaintiffs are successful in their challenge, this section precludes them from winning awards typically provided for through the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) and the Treasury Department’s Judgment Fund. EAJA and the Judgment Fund costs are incredibly important in cases which seek non-monetary relief, such as those involving environmental protection and public health issues. These funds make the courts accessible to the individual citizen, non-profit organization, small business, or public interest group that would otherwise lack the financial ability to challenge large corporations or the federal government, who are harming their communities or environment in the name of energy development. For over three decades, the financial backstop provided for under EAJA and the Judgment Fund has meant that access to the courts is not limited to those with deep pockets. By eliminating the ability of parties to utilize EAJA or the Judgment Fund, H.R. 538 prevents such individuals or organizations from bringing cases that challenge harmful or illegal energy related projects. Section 5 creates insurmountable barriers to justice at the expense of the American public and rejects equal access to the courts in favor of a perverse pay-to-play system.

Additionally, Section 5 defines “energy related action” broadly so as to ensure the restrictive judicial review provisions of this section apply equally to projects on tribal land as well as those energy projects on non-tribal lands where at least one tribe is involved. This invites the partnering of energy corporations with native communities for the purpose of limiting judicial review.

Finally, Section 9 of the bill would eliminate health and environmental protections established by the Department of the Inter-

ior in rules regarding hydraulic fracturing. Those living on and near tribal lands would possibly be subjected to heightened risk of spills, underground contamination from toxic chemicals, weakened air quality, reduced well construction standards, and other benefits from DOI’s updates to long out-of-date rules.

We recognize the self-determination framework for federally recognized tribal governments and tribal members, but it is important to ensure that development decisions adequately address all of the impacts of those decisions, some of which occur well beyond the project site, and that the public has the ability to participate. H.R. 538 eliminates broad public participation for projects on tribal land, including ANCSA Corporation lands. Further, it will have a significant chilling effect on the ability of the public (including tribal members) to seek judicial review of a decision related to an energy project on Indian land or proposed by (or done in partnership with) an Indian tribe to ensure that the project complies with the law. For these reasons, we ask that you oppose H.R. 538.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Green Latinos, The Lands Council, League of Conservation Voters, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Sierra Club, Western Environmental Law Center, The Wilderness Society.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, instead of using energy development on Indian land as an excuse to weaken NEPA and judicial review, we should be concentrating our efforts on real reform that would achieve tribal self-determination and energy development. We should be dealing with the disparities in the Tax Code that stymie investments in Indian Country and create an unfair playing field. Tax credits and incentives for energy development that cities and communities have long used to their benefit, these need to be available to tribes as well. We should be encouraging investment in the future of renewable energy on tribal lands.

According to the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy, Indian land contains an estimated 5 percent of all renewable energy resources, and the total energy potential from these resources is almost 14 percent of the total U.S. potential. In my home State of Arizona, there is a great potential for solar, wind, and geothermal energy on Indian land. We just need to fix the real issues that prohibit the investment in these projects.

But this bill doesn’t do that. Instead, the majority is here today to once again attack NEPA and judicial review, this time attempting to use this as a wedge issue, attempting to drive a wedge between people that care about tribal self-determination as well as environmental stewardship.

Picking between tribal sovereignty and responsible energy development is a false choice. We can have both. We

can have successful energy development in Indian Country while retaining the environmental protections that will ensure future generations of Native Americans that they, too, can enjoy the benefits of that economic development.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to abandon this irresponsible proposal in favor of a real tribal energy bill. In the meantime, I would plead with my colleagues to bring legislation to the floor addressing Indian health care, Indian education programs, a codified process for tribal consultation with Federal agencies that respects sovereignty and upholds the trust responsibility that we have to Indian Country, and a fix—finally, a fix—for the current cloud hanging over the status of so many trust lands.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention one thing. I do have an amendment for a future day—I am speaking to the gentleman—on NEPA. We don’t change the NEPA policy at all, other than the fact that only those affected can have comments on how it affects their land, not a bunch of people from New York or Maine or Dallas or Florida. So that is really a red herring that was drug across this bill. This is to help the tribes.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), my good chairman of the full committee.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Alaska yielding.

There are some Native American tribes that do not rely on gaming alone for their source of revenue. They can’t. It is amazing how often we hear, dealing with North American Native tribes, all of a sudden give lip service that we would like to empower them, until they actually have a chance to do so; and then, all of a sudden, we change. We are talking about a lot of tribes who have a great deal of land but very little employment.

This bill, in fact, is based on recommendations that come from Indian Country. By that, I don’t mean the Bureau of Indian Affairs, because they, shamefully, oppose this bill. I do mean groups like Southern Utah Utes, the Confederated Tribes of Colville, the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and community groups like the Chamber of Commerce. All of those people are realizing the importance of this particular bill in empowering Native Americans in this Nation.

I hope we do not turn this into a partisan affair by saying, by voting “no” on this bill, you might get three Democrat callers on C-SPAN to support your vote. But it still does not make that right. We need to do something differently.

In these areas in which the potential employment is based on agriculture, mining, and energy, we don't need more regulations on the Native Americans than there are on everybody else. We don't need duplicative regulations on them more than anybody else. Instead, we need to streamline that so they can be successful in charting their own destiny and making their own choices.

Far too often we have too many people, unfortunately, with titles around this place that still have a paternalistic attitude toward Native Americans. That attitude has to change. This is what this bill does.

It is amazing. Sometimes when this administration says, well, if it deals with marijuana, they are a Native tribe, they are a sovereign country, let them do what they want to; but if it deals with agriculture and mining, well, not so fast. That is public lands. We still need to have some kind of control over that.

That is the problem: pot, yes; energy, no. That doesn't work. We need these people to be able to make decisions for themselves.

I appreciate the chairman of the subcommittee mentioning that he does have an amendment on NEPA which does solve those problems. This is not a NEPA issue. This is an issue on whether we truly believe in empowering Native Americans so they can make decisions for themselves and help their own people.

□ 1515

I had a chairman of a tribe who sat in my room and wisely said: I don't care what game we play. I just want to know what the ball looks like.

This bill gives them a chance to see the ball. It gives the Native Americans a chance to approve the design of the ball. More importantly, it gives them a chance to win.

So, Lucy, please, just before contact, don't pull the ball away. Let the Native Americans win. This bill gives them an opportunity to win and chart their own destiny. That is why they support it, and that is why we should vote for it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The GAO report has mentioned many times about the rationale behind and the catalyst behind this particular legislation; yet, the conclusion, which I agree with, is that we are not living up to our responsibilities as it applies to energy development on Indian land.

But reading the recommendations, nowhere does it say that the solution to the problem is to gut NEPA or to stifle judicial recourse. Instead, the recommendations talk about resources that are needed by Indian Country to successfully fulfill their obligations and responsibilities to their members.

It talks about staffing shortages, outdated mapping systems, and the need to ensure that the BIA can provide support to the tribes on energy programs.

These are things the BIA has asked for in their budget and that the President's budget sent over has requested time and time again. Funding these requests go unheeded by this majority.

So it is disingenuous, as the majority does time and time again, to starve an agency or a program of needed funding and then to complain that that agency program is ineffective.

It is also disingenuous to say that the responsibility to work with and honor our trust responsibility to Indian Country is down to the choice in this legislation whether you vote "yes" or "no."

As I stated in my opening statement, there is a litany of pressing issues that face Indian Country and Native Americans in our Nation, a litany of benign neglect for many, many years, of which all bear responsibility.

But with that responsibility comes also the opportunity to act. The fix is necessary so that fact is quelled on a bad Supreme Court decision. We need the adequate funding so that the trust responsibility that we inherit as Members of Congress is upheld.

We need programs of infrastructure in Indian Country. We need many, many issues to address not only the human need, but the economic needs of Indian Country.

To say that this bill is the watershed moment that is going to turn all that benign neglect and irresponsibility backwards is disingenuous at best.

I would suggest let's talk about a real comprehensive approach to the issue of Indian Country and the support this Congress needs to give to our trust responsibility.

If we do that, I am sure all of us collectively can come to the same conclusion, that we need to do something and that there is before us legislation from both sides of the aisle that begin to address it.

This legislation is not it. It is not a panacea. And to pit the trust responsibility this Congress has and to question whether sovereignty is supported or not by Members that oppose this is not fair.

The fairness in this would have been an energy bill that is comprehensive. The fairness would have been not to gut NEPA, judicial review, and present a bill that is clean and upholds bedrock environmental laws and—and it is not complicated—uphold the trust responsibility that we have when we swear an oath of office to serve in this Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS).

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Native American Energy Act.

Having an all-of-the-above energy policy means all people in all communities. Each community across the country should have the opportunity to unleash the natural resources closest to them to help meet their energy needs. For those of us in the Pacific Northwest, it means encouraging biomass.

We have just had a devastating wildfire season, and the issue of forest health continues to be on the forefront. Fallen trees, overgrowth, and general mismanagement have led to worsening fire seasons.

By encouraging forest products for biomass, we would add and have a benefit of reducing forest fire risk by keeping our lands healthier, in addition to creating a stable energy source.

This legislation allows a pilot project to encourage greater biomass production on tribal forestland. In my district in eastern Washington, it would help the confederated tribes of the Colville Reservation, who already play a very active role in forest management, get new tools at their disposal to maintain the health of the adjacent forest to the reservation. It would help them develop energy and, most importantly, help them protect their homeland.

I am proud to support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to give my voice in strong support for the Native American Energy Act.

I would also like to be able to thank Chairman YOUNG and Chairman BISHOP for their leadership and support of Native American energy development.

Energy resource development on Native American lands is important and becoming increasingly significant year after year. For example, in 2014, responsible conventional energy development on Native American lands alone generated revenues of \$24 billion.

This revenue figure does not include renewable energy development on tribal lands, which is the potential to increase revenues, jobs, and household incomes for Native American communities.

I am privileged to be able to represent the Southern Ute Indian Tribe located in southwest Colorado. Some of my colleagues know that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is a model of tribal governance and economic development. The tribe is widely known as the premier natural gas developer and the largest employer in the region.

I am extremely proud that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe continues to take the lead in demanding that the

Federal Government respect self-determination and tribal decisionmaking when it comes to energy and environmental regulation.

To his credit, Chairman YOUNG continues to hold numerous oversight hearings and legislative hearings to allow tribal leaders to illustrate the challenges they face daily as they attempt to develop their natural resources so that they can provide programs, services, and jobs for their nations.

The result is H.R. 538, which will remove a number of these barriers. The legislation streamlines the appraisal process that must be undertaken by the Department of Interior because the status quo has resulted in delays that have caused the tribe to miss out on royalty payments totaling more than \$95 million.

The legislation also amends the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004, to direct the Department of Interior to enter into agreements with tribes to carry out demonstration projects that promote biomass energy production on Native American forestland and in nearby communities by providing tribes with reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal lands.

It also prohibits the Interior rule regarding hydraulic fracturing from having any effect on land held in trust or restricted status for Native Americans, except with the express consent of the Indian beneficiaries. The Southern Ute's repeated attempts to ensure tribal lands were not included in this misguided rule were completely disregarded by this administration.

Fortunately, H.R. 538 promotes Native American self-determination, strengthens tribal sovereignty, and reinforces our commitment to tribal self-sufficiency.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

Once again, I thank Chairman YOUNG for his leadership and Chairman BISHOP on this issue.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support of this commonsense legislation.

This bill empowers Native Americans to invest in their communities, their people, and their resources as they see fit without the heavy hand of Washington bureaucracy trying to insert itself between them and their own land.

Under current policy, potential resource development on tribal lands face many obstacles that projects on private or State lands do not.

Before entering into a lease agreement with energy developers on their

own land, a tribe must first attempt to navigate the long, slow, and duplicative process of the Department of Interior's approval. This process can be fraught with litigation and delays that chase away potential investments and crush otherwise viable projects.

The Native American Energy Act streamlines many of the duplicative Federal regulatory hurdles that prevent tribes or individuals from profitably developing energy resources on their land.

This will provide tribes with greater control over how they best develop their own natural resources and allow them to do so in ways that will best benefit their communities, not a D.C. bureaucrat's ideology.

Because of the commonsense and empowering reforms it contains, this bill has widespread support from the Indian tribes. It is odd that the only groups on record in opposition to this bill are the Obama administration and some Democratic members of the Natural Resources Committee.

Why does the administration continue to insist that bureaucrats from their comfy leather chairs and marble offices in Washington, D.C., know more about how to manage Indian land than the tribes themselves?

If Congress is actually serious about supporting tribal efforts to generate high-paying jobs and improving the everyday standard of living in American Indian communities, this bill is a real, concrete way to empower them to do so.

I commend the chairman and the committee for their work on this bill. I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Alaska for bringing this legislation forward.

In my hometown of Hobbs, New Mexico, truck drivers are making \$100,000 a year. They don't have to have a college degree, not even a high school diploma. And, yet, we limit this sort of opportunity on tribal lands. This bill is fairly simple. Simply let them free. Let them free to develop their lands in the way they want to.

I heard one of my colleagues say that there are no frivolous lawsuits. Just this week the WildEarth Guardians were found to have filed a frivolous lawsuit on matters such as these, trying to stop development, trying to hold things up. The judge said this is frivolous. It is the WildEarth Guardians v. Kirkpatrick decision that is very recent.

We are told that there are a litany of issues that we should be dealing with.

I will tell you that Native Americans are sophisticated enough to take care of their own problems. They just need the opportunity to have jobs. They need the opportunity for economic development inside their own nations.

Just recently we hosted in New Mexico a gathering of different tribes who are looking at investments in oil and gas. One lady said: My son is working in North Dakota for \$60,000 a year, and he should be working here on the reservation in the oil and gas industry for \$60,000 a year. That is the urgency that I am sensing on the reservations.

The reservations are beginning to build their own houses, and they are doing magnificent work. They are becoming self-determined. But we here in Washington say we know better. Mr. YOUNG's bill says that we don't know better.

Just let them develop what they want. Take the shackles off, take the chains loose, and let the American spirit that is on the reservations live and breathe. It is a very simple concept, but one some have a very difficult time accepting.

I say vote for H.R. 538 and put them free.

□ 1530

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I just want to note that the Democrats on the Natural Resources Committee filed several amendments to this bill. We felt our Members were squarely within the House rules.

Sadly, the majority on Rules failed to make any of their amendments in order. One of these rejected amendments would have fixed the terrible mess created by the decision in *Carcieri*.

If you want to help tribes in a legitimate, coequal way control their own lands and move closer and closer to self-determination, you have to address this problem. It is telling that my friends on the other side have refused to even address the bill or to have a legitimate hearing on the bill.

Let me just in closing address the Statement of Administration Policy.

While the administration supports the need to facilitate energy development in Indian Country, it does not support H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act. This bill would undermine public participation and transparency of review of projects on Indian lands under the National Environmental Policy Act, set unrealistic deadlines, and remove oversight for appraisals of Indian lands or trust assets, and prohibit awards under the Equal Access to Justice Act or payment of fees or expenses to a plaintiff from the judgment fund in an energy-related action.

By foreclosing the judgment fund, this provision would negatively impact the Indian Affairs budget that is intended to serve all tribes. In addition, this bill's changes to mineral leasing loss applicable to Navajo Nations land may adversely affect energy development on these lands.

The bill also stipulates that Indian lands are exempt from the Department of the Interior's hydraulic fracking rule. That rule already contains the provision allowing for variances from the rules requirements when tribal laws meet or exceed the rule standards.

The rule approach both protects environmental and trust resources while also protecting decisionmaking of the tribes. Overall, H.R. 538 would not ensure diligent development of resources on Indian land.

The administration appreciates the committee's efforts to address energy needs in Indian Country. Income from energy development is one of the largest sources of revenue generated from trust lands, and delays in development translate to delays in profits to Indian mineral rights owners.

The administration has been taking meaningful action to update the leasing process for lands held in trust for Indian tribes and is actively working to expedite appraisals, leasing, and permitting on Indian lands, and to provide resources to ensure safe and responsible development.

The administration looks forward to working with Congress to develop the reforms necessary to support this development.

The point is that this legislation is a rush to judgment. It is a gift, in a sense, when you exempt from the judicial review and from NEPA the exploration and production of energy on Indian land. As coequals, these environmental protections and public processes are intended for all.

So rather than be patronizing, as coequals and within our trust responsibility, this bill should be rejected. We should work on comprehensive energy opportunity legislation that truly recognizes self-determination for all members of tribes, provided the environmental, public health, and judicial processes would guarantee them that they would be treated equal under the law.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I suggest one thing. This bill came from the tribes, not from the Sierra Club and not from the friends of this and not from the friends of that. All 28 organizations had nothing to do with the tribes.

I have said all along—and I am pretty well related to the Athabascan Tribe in Alaska—it is time they are given the opportunity to fulfill the self-determination act that we passed. Words do not do that.

This administration has these great conferences, and we invite everybody down and wink, wink, and now have a good time. Nothing happens administratively.

Now, I know there is some legislation and I am working very hard to get legislation, but I can't do it all. I have to do it one little step at a time.

This bill is requested by American Indians to have more control over their land.

I have to remind this Congress that I sit in that we are now ranked in the

nations around the world 20th in the freedom category. We have gone from number 1 to 20th. Think about that. The American Indians, our first people, are 13th in freedom because of our so-called free government. Now, there is something wrong with that.

We are doing an indirect thing, as trustees, by not allowing them to expand their God-given right, their ability, their intellectual capability, to expand their self-worth and keep their identity.

Every time we try to bring a bill to the floor to do that, it is, first of all, "We can do it better administratively." That is why they are ranked 13th in freedom because of our government.

Now, I want everybody to think about this in Congress, from number 1 freest nation in the world to right now 20. That is not a good thing.

In the last 5 years, we have dropped three spaces in that freedom chart, mainly because of overreach, regulation, and dictation by our government. That is what it is based on. Individual freedoms are lost.

Try that as a tribe and have to go through all the other steps that the other person doesn't have to. Well, they dropped down to 13th.

I am asking the people in this body to support this bill if you believe in self-determination, if you believe in self-sufficiency, if you believe in the right to get ahead, especially in nations by this Congress that gave them the ability to be self-determined. They really take it away.

So this is a good piece of legislation, a piece of legislation that should be voted "yes" on. We should give a chance for the American Indian to go forth as I know they have the capability of.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, today I will vote against H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act. The bill makes needed changes to allow tribes to fully manage their lands which I strongly support. Unfortunately, it goes too far by weakening bedrock environmental protections, and makes it difficult for those with legitimate legal grievances to seek justice.

Technically the 2005 Energy Act allows tribes to enter into energy development leases through what are called Tribal Energy Resource Agreements, which must be approved by Interior. I say technically because no tribe has ever been successful in doing so. Tribes have submitted proposals that have sat with Interior for as long as eight years and then were never approved. Interior has never clarified what requirements are needed to gain approval. Potential business partners cannot and will not sit wait to see if the federal government will do its job. They will find partners that are able to move forward.

One of most laudable parts of the bill is the creation of biomass demonstration projects. Our forests are overgrown and are infected with insects and disease. Fuel reduction is

vital to forest health and reducing the severity of fires. Often overgrowth is not suitable for timber production, but can be suitable for energy production. Many tribes are ready to take advantage of these resources; they have their own processing facilities, trained work force and infrastructure in place to discover benefits to improve forest health, maintain fish and wildlife habitat, and create renewable energy.

Tribes, lest we forget, are sovereign nations. Yet they regularly encounter obstacles not experienced by private landowners. The federal government already has the tools to solve this inequity, but refuses to do so. The lack of urgency to correct what amounts to bureaucratic indifference is not acceptable. America's first stewards of the land have the right to manage and develop their lands, and the federal government's inaction to ensure their rights is deplorable.

Because the bill goes beyond necessary reforms by curtailing environmental and judicial review, the president has issued a veto threat. I look forward to the Senate removing those provisions which unnecessarily hinder what could be a good bill and sending it back to the House.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. Foxx). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-30. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 538

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Energy Act".

SEC. 2. APPRAISALS.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 2607. APPRAISAL REFORMS.

"(a) OPTIONS TO INDIAN TRIBES.—With respect to a transaction involving Indian land or the trust assets of an Indian tribe that requires the approval of the Secretary, any appraisal relating to fair market value required to be conducted under applicable law, regulation, or policy may be completed by—

"(1) the Secretary;

"(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

"(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

"(b) TIME LIMIT ON SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND ACTION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal conducted by or for an Indian tribe pursuant to paragraphs (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

"(1) review the appraisal; and

"(2) provide to the Indian tribe a written notice of approval or disapproval of the appraisal.

"(c) FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.—If, after 60 days, the Secretary has failed to approve or disapprove any appraisal received, the appraisal shall be deemed approved.

“(d) OPTION TO INDIAN TRIBES TO WAIVE APPRAISAL.—

“(1) An Indian tribe wishing to waive the requirements of subsection (a), may do so after it has satisfied the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(2) An Indian tribe wishing to forego the necessity of a waiver pursuant to this section must provide to the Secretary a written resolution, statement, or other unambiguous indication of tribal intent, duly approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.

“(3) The unambiguous indication of intent provided by the Indian tribe to the Secretary under paragraph (2) must include an express waiver by the Indian tribe of any claims for damages it might have against the United States as a result of the lack of an appraisal undertaken.

“(e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘appraisal’ includes appraisals and other estimates of value.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall develop regulations for implementing this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving an appraisal.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 note) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title XXVI the following:

“Sec. 2607. Appraisal reforms.”

SEC. 3. STANDARDIZATION.

As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall implement procedures to ensure that each agency within the Department of the Interior that is involved in the review, approval, and oversight of oil and gas activities on Indian lands shall use a uniform system of reference numbers and tracking systems for oil and gas wells.

SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LANDS.

Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) is amended by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before the first sentence, and by adding at the end of the following:

“(b) REVIEW OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LANDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major Federal action on Indian lands of an Indian tribe requiring the preparation of a statement under subsection (a)(2)(C), the statement shall only be available for review and comment by the members of the Indian tribe and by any other individual residing within the affected area.

“(2) REGULATIONS.—The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality shall develop regulations to implement this section, including descriptions of affected areas for specific major Federal actions, in consultation with Indian tribes.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, each of the terms ‘Indian land’ and ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501).

“(4) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in the Native American Energy Act, except section 6 of that Act, shall give the Secretary any additional authority over energy projects on Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands.”

SEC. 5. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.—Any energy related action must be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the final agency action. Any energy related action not filed within this time period shall be barred.

(b) DISTRICT COURT VENUE AND DEADLINE.—All energy related actions—

(1) shall be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such cause of action is filed.

(c) APPELLATE REVIEW.—An interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court in an energy related action may be reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals shall resolve such appeal as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court was issued.

(d) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, no award may be made under section 504 of title 5, United States Code, or under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the United States Treasury to pay any fees or other expenses under such sections, to any person or party in an energy related action.

(e) LEGAL FEES.—In any energy related action in which the plaintiff does not ultimately prevail, the court shall award to the defendant (including any intervenor-defendants), other than the United States, fees and other expenses incurred by that party in connection with the energy related action, unless the court finds that the position of the plaintiff was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust. Whether or not the position of the plaintiff was substantially justified shall be determined on the basis of the administrative record, as a whole, which is made in the energy related action for which fees and other expenses are sought.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term “agency action” has the same meaning given such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian Land” has the same meaning given such term in section 203(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 25 U.S.C. 3501), including lands owned by Native Corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Public Law 92–203; 43 U.S.C. 1601).

(3) ENERGY RELATED ACTION.—The term “energy related action” means a cause of action that—

(A) is filed on or after the effective date of this Act; and

(B) seeks judicial review of a final agency action to issue a permit, license, or other form of agency permission allowing:

(i) any person or entity to conduct activities on Indian Land, which activities involve the exploration, development, production or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity; or

(ii) any Indian Tribe, or any organization of two or more entities, at least one of which is an Indian tribe, to conduct activities involving the exploration, development, production or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity, regardless of where such activities are undertaken.

(4) ULTIMATELY PREVAIL.—The phrase “ultimately prevail” means, in a final enforceable judgment, the court rules in the party’s favor on at least one cause of action which is an underlying rationale for the preliminary injunction, administrative stay, or other relief requested by the party, and does not include circumstances where the final agency action is modified or amended by the issuing agency unless such modification or amendment is required pursuant

to a final enforceable judgment of the court or a court-ordered consent decree.

SEC. 6. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

The Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 is amended by inserting after section 2 (25 U.S.C. 3115a) the following:

“SEC. 3. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, the Secretary shall enter into stewardship contracts or other agreements, other than agreements that are exclusively direct service contracts, with Indian tribes to carry out demonstration projects to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on Indian forest land and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section 2 shall apply to this section.

“(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, the Secretary shall enter into contracts or other agreements described in subsection (a) to carry out at least 4 new demonstration projects that meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (d).

“(d) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or other agreement under this subsection, an Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application—

“(1) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

“(2) that includes a description of—

“(A) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe; and

“(B) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Indian tribe.

“(e) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary—

“(1) shall take into consideration the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(e) of Public Law 108–278; and whether a proposed demonstration project would—

“(A) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

“(B) enhance the economic development of the Indian tribe;

“(C) improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;

“(D) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland; or

“(E) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

“(2) shall exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

“(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that the criteria described in subsection (c) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section; and

“(2) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Indian tribes and appropriate intertribal organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this section.

“(g) REPORT.—Not later than one year subsequent to the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

“(1) each individual tribal application received under this section; and

“(2) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this section.

“(h) INCORPORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.—In carrying out a contract or agreement under this section, on receipt of a request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall incorporate into the contract or agreement, to the extent practicable, management plans (including

forest management and integrated resource management plans) in effect on the Indian forest land or rangeland of the respective Indian tribe.

“(i) **TERM.**—A stewardship contract or other agreement entered into under this section—

“(1) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

“(2) may be renewed in accordance with this section for not more than an additional 10 years.”.

SEC. 7. TRIBAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

Unless otherwise explicitly exempted by Federal law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act, any activity conducted or resources harvested or produced pursuant to a tribal resource management plan or an integrated resource management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), shall be considered a sustainable management practice for purposes of any Federal standard, benefit, or requirement that requires a demonstration of such sustainability.

SEC. 8. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION.

Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(e)(1); commonly referred to as the “Long-Term Leasing Act”), is amended—

(1) by striking “, except a lease for” and inserting “, including leases for”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “25” the first place it appears and all that follows and inserting “99 years.”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of mineral resources, including geothermal resources, 25 years, except that any such lease may include an option to renew for one additional term not to exceed 25 years.”.

SEC. 9. NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES.

No rule promulgated by the Department of the Interior regarding hydraulic fracturing used in the development or production of oil or gas resources shall have any effect on any land held in trust or restricted status for the benefit of Indians except with the express consent of the beneficiary on whose behalf such land is held in trust or restricted status.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 114-290. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF ALASKA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 114-290.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Chair, I have an amendment that was made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, strike lines 9 through 15, and insert the following:

“(1) **REVIEW AND COMMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the statement required under subsection (a)(2)(C) for a major Federal action regarding an activity on Indian lands of an Indian tribe shall only be available for review and comment by the members of the Indian tribe, other individuals residing within the affected area, and State, federally recognized tribal, and local governments within the affected area.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a statement for a major Federal action regarding an activity on Indian lands of an Indian tribe related to gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Chairman, this amendment clarifies who may submit public comments on a NEPA study concerning a Federal permit or land approval for Indian lands. It also preserves current NEPA requirements concerning tribal gaming proposals.

When a NEPA study is done on Federal action, like a mineral lease approval on Indian lands, the agency must consider comments received by any member of the public, regardless of whether they are affected. This is unfair to the tribe because tribal lands are not public land. They are private lands.

Section 4 of the bill limits public comment in these situations to the tribe and individuals who live within the affected area of the project.

Section 4 was drafted. We expected an individual living within the affected area would include State, tribal, and county officials, but no one from New York or San Francisco. It is none of their business.

To address any ambiguity, the amendment would clarify that tribe, States, and county governments within the area affected may have their comments considered along with those of individuals.

Finally, the amendment provides that section 4 will not affect Federal actions related to tribal gaming. Gaming is a unique area of law. Gaming facilities have a significant impact outside the local area.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I rise to claim time in opposition to the manager's amendment, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I just want to tell Chairman YOUNG that I appreciate the lipstick on this particular piece of legislation, but the content is still haphazard.

It does not fix the underlying problem with public review and judicial review. We are not in opposition, but I appreciate the lipstick.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Chair, I hope it is the right color for Ranking Member GRIJALVA.

I yield back the balance of time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 114-290.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Chair, I have an amendment made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 12, after line 6, insert the following:

“**SEC. 4. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

“The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may carry out demonstration projects by which federally recognized Indian tribes or tribal organizations may contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et seq.) through contracts entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of my amendment that allows the Forest Service to establish a pilot program to execute contracts with tribes under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, known as 638 contracts. 638 contracts allow tribes to manage and implement Federal programs in Indian Country.

When I was the New Mexico Secretary of Health, I witnessed how successful and beneficial these contracts can be at efficiently delivering services to tribes. Through these contracts, tribes can operate hospitals, health clinics, mental health facilities, and a variety of other community health services.

Having tribes manage and operate programs in their communities not only recognizes tribal self-determination and self-governance, but it also helps ensure that tribal needs are being met through traditionally and culturally appropriate methods.

Although several agencies have the authority to execute 638 contracts,

such as the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services, the Forest Service does not have this authority. Several tribes have expressed to me that they would like to see the Forest Service have this authority.

Many of the Pueblos in New Mexico have land and tribal forests adjacent to national forests, and we know that wildfires in the past can quickly affect entire regions, regardless of who owns the land.

In fact, the Las Conchas wildland fire, which was one of the largest wildfires in New Mexico history, started on June 26, 2011, in the Santa Fe National Forest and burned more than 156,000 acres in New Mexico, including land belonging to Pueblos of Santa Clara, Ohkay Owingeh, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque Jemez, Cochiti, and Kewa.

So it is imperative that the Forest Service and tribes actively work together to co-manage forests.

This amendment previously passed by voice vote as part of the Resilient Federal Forest Act, which the House passed this July.

I urge my colleagues to once again support my amendment, which will improve the Forest Service's ability to partner with tribes to work on projects that impact tribal lands and forests.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I do not oppose the amendment. I just want to congratulate the lady on backing up what is in the bill, making this correct.

We have had testimony from a lot of the timber tribes on how well they have managed their timber, and right next door will be the Forest Service land that is managed terribly. That is a threat to the tribal timber, too.

I really think, if we want to get back on this track of the freedoms I was talking about, if we allow the tribes to contract with the Forest Service, make it a contract for thinning, encouraging growth, managing growth for future timber needs—you know, the native tribes are doing so much better than the Federal tribes. So I compliment the lady on this deal.

□ 1545

I compliment the gentlewoman on this view, and I accept the amendment. I think the gentlewoman is doing a great job, and I appreciate it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 538) to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 466, she reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico moves to recommit the bill H.R. 538 to the Natural Resources Committee, with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 10. PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF SACRED SITES.

Nothing in this Act shall contravene the authority of the President to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of any site, identified as sacred by virtue of established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion, under Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which does not kill the bill or send it back to committee.

If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer an amendment to protect sacred sites across America. This issue is not a new one. We have been part of many debates here on the floor and in committee on this important issue.

The amendment is straightforward. It reads: "Nothing in this Act shall contravene the authority of the President to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of any site, identified as sacred by virtue of established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion, under Executive Order 13007."

Mr. Speaker, as we come from different faiths, we all have respect for one another. Just as we worship in different places, like churches or temples, so, too, should we have respect for these sacred places. Just as we would honor the sanctity of where our loved ones have been laid to rest, so, too, should we honor the sanctity of tribal sacred sites.

Sacred sites are an essential part of the culture and heritage of tribal communities, and the degradation of these sites means a loss of identity as well as disrespect for the faith and religion and the culture and the history of our tribal brothers and sisters who are connected to these lands. Sacred sites should not be desecrated. They should be protected.

I know it is a sentiment that many of us in this Congress share. Protecting sacred sites is the right thing to do. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in this act that changes the President's authority. I go back to self-determination. These are tribal lands owned by the tribes, controlled by the tribal council, and they will make a decision about the sacred sites; not somebody, again, in Miami or New York that wants to stop the project.

These are tribal sites, and that is the thing I don't quite understand. This affects nothing of the present law. If they decide this is a sacred site, that will be their decision, instead of someone else.

I urge people to reject his motion to recommit, and let's pass this legislation, this one little, tiny step forward for our first Americans. This bill came from them and they support it. They are not worried about these sacred sites because they will control them, not somebody who is an official. We take no authority away from the President.

Very frankly, Mr. Speaker, this is a motion to recommit to slow the bill down. They say it doesn't, but this is an attempt to do so. I urge a "no" on the motion to recommit and a "yes" on the passage for that little, tiny step for the American Indians, our first people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 239, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 543]

YEAS—184

Adams	Ellison	Lujan Grisham
Aguiar	Engel	(NM)
Ashford	Eshoo	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bass	Esty	(NM)
Beatty	Farr	Lynch
Becerra	Fattah	Maloney,
Bera	Foster	Carolyn
Beyer	Frankel (FL)	Maloney, Sean
Bishop (GA)	Fudge	Matsui
Blumenauer	Gabbard	McCollum
Bonamici	Gallago	McDermott
Boyle, Brendan	Garamendi	McGovern
F.	Graham	McNerney
Brady (PA)	Grayson	Meeks
Brown (FL)	Green, Al	Meng
Brownley (CA)	Green, Gene	Moore
Bustos	Grijalva	Moulton
Butterfield	Gutiérrez	Murphy (FL)
Capps	Hahn	Nadler
Capuano	Hastings	Napolitano
Cárdenas	Heck (WA)	Neal
Carney	Higgins	Nolan
Carson (IN)	Himes	Norcross
Cartwright	Honda	O'Rourke
Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Pallone
Castro (TX)	Huffman	Pascarell
Chu, Judy	Israel	Pelosi
Cicilline	Jackson Lee	Perlmutter
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Peters
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Peterson
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Pingree
Clyburn	Jones	Pocan
Cohen	Kaptur	Polis
Connolly	Keating	Price (NC)
Conyers	Kelly (IL)	Quigley
Cooper	Kennedy	Rangel
Costa	Kildee	Rice (NY)
Courtney	Kilmer	Richmond
Crowley	Kind	Roybal-Allard
Cuellar	Kirkpatrick	Ruiz
Cummings	Kuster	Ruppersberger
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Rush
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	Ryan (OH)
DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Sánchez, Linda
DeGette	Lawrence	T.
Delaney	Lee	Sánchez, Loretta
DeLauro	Levin	Sarbanes
DelBene	Lewis	Schakowsky
DeSaulnier	Lieu, Ted	Schiff
Deutch	Lipinski	Schrader
Doggett	Loeb sack	Scott (VA)
Doyle, Michael	Lofgren	Scott, David
F.	Lowenthal	Serrano
Duckworth	Lowey	Sewell (AL)
Edwards		Sherman

Sires	Titus
Slaughter	Tonko
Smith (WA)	Torres
Speier	Tsongas
Swalwell (CA)	Van Hollen
Takai	Vargas
Takano	Veasey
Thompson (CA)	Vela
Thompson (MS)	Velázquez

NAYS—239

Abraham	Graves (MO)	Palazzo
Aderholt	Griffith	Palmer
Allen	Grothman	Paulsen
Amash	Guinta	Pearce
Amodei	Guthrie	Perry
Babin	Hanna	Pitts
Barletta	Hardy	Poe (TX)
Barr	Harper	Poliquin
Barton	Harris	Pompeo
Benishek	Hartzler	Posey
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Price, Tom
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Ratcliffe
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Reichert
Black	Hice, Jody B.	Renacci
Blackburn	Hill	Ribble
Blum	Holding	Rice (SC)
Bost	Huelskamp	Rigell
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Bridenstine	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Issa	Rokita
Buck	Jenkins (KS)	Rooney (FL)
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Ros-Lehtinen
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Calvert	Jolly	Rothfus
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Joyce	Royce
Chabot	Katko	Russell
Chaffetz	Kelly (MS)	Ryan (WI)
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Salmon
Coffman	King (IA)	Sanford
Cole	King (NY)	Scalise
Collins (GA)	Kinzinger (IL)	Schweikert
Collins (NY)	Kline	Scott, Austin
Comstock	Knight	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Labrador	Sessions
Cook	LaHood	Shimkus
Costello (PA)	LaMalfa	Shuster
Cramer	Lamborn	Simpson
Crawford	Lance	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	Latta	Smith (NE)
Culberson	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Curbelo (FL)	Long	Smith (TX)
Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Denham	Love	Stewart
Dent	Lucas	Stivers
DeSantis	Luetkemeyer	Thompson (PA)
DesJarlais	Lummis	Tiberi
Diaz-Balart	MacArthur	Tipton
Dold	Marchant	Trott
Donovan	Marino	Turner
Duffy	Masie	Upton
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy	Valadao
Duncan (TN)	McCaul	Wagner
Ellmers (NC)	McClintock	Walberg
Emmer (MN)	McHenry	Walden
Farenthold	McKinley	Walker
Fincher	McMorris	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	McSally	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Meadows	Webster (FL)
Flores	Meehan	Wenstrup
Forbes	Messer	Westerman
Fortenberry	Mica	Westmoreland
Fox	Miller (FL)	Whitfield
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Williams
Frelinghuysen	Moolenaar	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Mooney (WV)	Wittman
Gibbs	Mullin	Womack
Gibson	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gohmert	Murphy (PA)	Yoder
Goodlatte	Neugebauer	Yoho
Gosar	Newhouse	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Noem	Young (IA)
Granger	Nugent	Young (IN)
Graves (GA)	Nunes	Zeldin
Graves (LA)	Olson	Zinke

NOT VOTING—11

Brat	Hudson	Sinema
Cleaver	Payne	Stutzman
Dingell	Pittenger	Thornberry
Hinojosa	Reed	

□ 1621

Messrs. ROYCE, AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, FINCHER, POMPEO, and RYAN of Wisconsin changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mses. LEE, LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. HIGGINS, CONYERS, DOGGETT, and McDERMOTT changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BRAT. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 543 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 254, nays 173, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 544]

YEAS—254

Abraham	Cook	Graves (LA)
Aderholt	Cooper	Graves (MO)
Allen	Costa	Green, Gene
Amash	Costello (PA)	Griffith
Amodei	Cramer	Grothman
Ashford	Crawford	Guinta
Babin	Crenshaw	Guthrie
Barletta	Cuellar	Hanna
Barr	Culberson	Hardy
Barton	Curbelo (FL)	Harper
Benishek	Davis, Rodney	Harris
Bilirakis	Denham	Hartzler
Bishop (GA)	Dent	Heck (NV)
Bishop (MI)	DeSantis	Hensarling
Bishop (UT)	DesJarlais	Herrera Beutler
Black	Diaz-Balart	Hice, Jody B.
Blackburn	Dold	Hill
Blum	Donovan	Holding
Bost	Duffy	Huelskamp
Boustany	Duncan (SC)	Huizenga (MI)
Brady (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Hultgren
Brat	Ellmers (NC)	Hunter
Bridenstine	Emmer (MN)	Hurd (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Farenthold	Hurt (VA)
Brooks (IN)	Fincher	Issa
Brown (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Jenkins (KS)
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Jenkins (WV)
Buck	Fleming	Johnson (OH)
Bucshon	Flores	Johnson, Sam
Burgess	Forbes	Jolly
Byrne	Fortenberry	Jones
Calvert	Fox	Jordan
Carter (GA)	Franks (AZ)	Joyce
Carter (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Katko
Chabot	Garrett	Kelly (MS)
Chaffetz	Gibbs	Kelly (PA)
Clawson (FL)	Gibson	King (IA)
Coffman	Gohmert	King (NY)
Cole	Goodlatte	Kinzinger (IL)
Collins (GA)	Gosar	Kirkpatrick
Collins (NY)	Gowdy	Kline
Comstock	Granger	Knight
Conaway	Graves (GA)	Labrador

LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer

NAYS—173

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel

Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster

Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—7

Cleaver
Dingell
Hinojosa
Hudson
Payne
Pittenger
Sinema

□ 1630

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

ELECTION DAY IN VENEZUELA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was
given permission to address the House
for 1 minute and to revise and extend
her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker,
last month in Venezuela, the president
of the national association of opposi-
tion mayors issued a message to the
international community—including
here in the United States, obviously—
stating many of the obstacles being
faced leading up to Venezuela's legisla-
tive elections, which are scheduled to
take place on December 6.

According to their statement, Ven-
ezuelan regime employees are obli-
gated and harassed to attend public
events to demonstrate support for pro-
regime candidates. Socialist Party
militants are dispatched to intimidate
voters under the guise of assistance.
And the Maduro regime is using mili-
tary forces to keep citizens from volun-
tarily auditing electoral precincts, as
it is stated by law.

As the Maduro regime continues to
refuse allowing international monitors,
the United States must be even more
vigilant of the threat of the fraud be-
fore and during election day in Ven-
ezuela.

We should also be ready to sanction
any regime official who perpetuates
human rights violations because of this
electoral process.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA NATIONAL
DAY AND HO FENG-SHAN

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend his re-
marks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to celebrate Taiwan's National
Day, or Double Tenth Day, on Satur-
day, October 10.

Taiwan and the United States have
shared a close relationship since pas-
sage of the Taiwan Relations Act in
1979. With deep trade ties and close se-
curity cooperation between our two
countries, Taiwan is going to be an im-

portant regional and global actor and
friend to the United States.

One famous diplomat from the Re-
public of China, Mr. Ho Feng-Shan,
perfectly embodied the bravery and the
heroism of so many in this country.
Mr. Ho, consul general in Vienna dur-
ing Nazi occupation, defied orders from
his superiors and issued hundreds of
visas to Jews who, without his efforts,
would have been forbidden from leav-
ing Austria and would likely have fall-
en victim to Hitler's plans to extermi-
nate the Jews.

For his selfless and courageous ac-
tions, he rightfully earned the title of
Righteous Among the Nations from the
Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Please join me in celebrating Tai-
wan's National Day and paying tribute
to Mr. Ho's sacrifices and actions.

LIFT CRUDE OIL EXPORT BAN

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend his re-
marks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, with
just one change in the law, we could
create nearly 400,000 American jobs, po-
tentially help lower gas prices, and
exert soft power that keeps bad actors
around the world from destabilizing
the price of oil. That change would be
lifting the ban on crude oil exports.

With all of these benefits for Amer-
ica, it makes sense that we should em-
brace that change and put it on the
President's desk right away. The ex-
port ban is a relic of the past that
needs to be lifted to help establish the
United States as a preeminent energy
leader in the world.

The United States is the only coun-
try in the world that has a ban on ex-
porting oil. With countries like Iran
and Russia flexing their muscle on the
world stage, lifting the ban would help
enhance both our energy and our na-
tional security. But even more than
that, removing the crude oil export ban
means helping our economy with more
good-paying jobs for hardworking
Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to lift the
crude oil export ban.

HONORING HO FENG-SHAN

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and
was given permission to address the
House for 1 minute and to revise and
extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speak-
er, I rise today to honor the Republic
of China on Taiwan's National Day and
recognize the heroism of Ho Feng-
Shan, a Chinese diplomat stationed in
Vienna during World War II. At great
risk to his own life, Feng-Shan issued
thousands of Chinese visas to Jews, al-
lowing them to escape Nazi camps. Ho
Feng-Shan's courage is just one exam-
ple of the Republic of China's proud
heritage celebrated on National Day.

A vital U.S. trading partner, Taiwan helps maintain peace and stability in the western Pacific and shares our values for freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights. Rooted in our history of mutual interests and common goals, the U.S.-Taiwanese relationship will continue to flourish.

I pay tribute to Ho Feng-Shan and wish the people of Taiwan a happy National Day.

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, next week marks the 18th annual international Earth Science Week. Today I am introducing a House resolution to recognize Earth Science Week to highlight the importance and broad impact of earth science research.

Geoscientists and researchers in our country continually push the frontier of human knowledge; help develop and incubate the concepts and programs that keep us at the innovative forefront of the world's economy; and inspire future generations of researchers, scientists, and informed citizens. Earth science funding is a stimulant to the American economy and an investment into our future global leadership.

The devastating drought in my home State of California highlights the need for earth science research, which can address major gaps in our understanding of water availability, quality, and dynamics. Having a better understanding of natural systems allows for more informed policy.

I am committed to working with my friend and fellow science advocate, Chairman CULBERSON, to ensure that Federal earth science research is given robust support and is not hindered by misguided legislation that micromanages and places funding caps on these critical fields. It is critical that we study and understand our "pale blue dot," our one and only home.

REMEMBERING SENIOR AIRMAN QUINN JOHNSON-HARRIS

(Ms. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the six servicemembers and five civilians killed in the recent crash of an Air Force transport plane in Afghanistan. Yesterday, the House held a moment of silence to mark their sacrifice.

One of those who died was Senior Airman Quinn Johnson-Harris, whose family now calls Milwaukee, Wisconsin, their home. He and his fallen comrades join the list of the 2,300 heroes who have given their lives in Afghanistan.

As a Member of Congress, there is no more difficult moment in our jobs than this. My heart and prayers go out to family.

There is no question that Quinn made our community in Milwaukee stronger and our Nation safer because of his service. This young man made a difference wherever he went. I hear it in the stories that have come out after his death from his family, his friends, his teachers, and others about his dedication to them and his country.

His mother said: "Quinn dared to be different. He beat by his own drum."

When his family, community, or country called, this young man stood up and did not shrink back. According to his sister, when she heard he was being deployed to Afghanistan, "he was ready to go," and this surprised no one.

He came from a military family. His grandfather served in Vietnam. His older brother was a marine, and another older brother is a 2015 graduate of West Point and is in the Army.

Mr. Speaker, I join his family, his friends, and his fellow servicemen in mourning his life, yet celebrating the life of this young hero, Senior Airman Quinn Johnson-Harris.

MEDICARE PREMIUM FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, without congressional action, Medicare premiums and deductibles will increase in 2016 by 52 percent for an estimated 7.5 million American seniors and people with disabilities. Because these folks will not be receiving a Social Security cost of living adjustment for 2016, 30 percent of beneficiaries will not be held harmless, and their premiums will increase from \$104 to \$159 per month.

To stop rates from increasing, I have introduced the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which will protect seniors and people with disabilities by capping premiums at 2015 levels for a year. I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

Seniors in our communities worked hard all their lives and saw our country through a war, Depression, and dramatic social change. At a time when every dollar counts, this critical legislation will ensure that seniors can put food on the table and buy lifesaving medication.

So let's stand up for America's seniors.

□ 1645

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BABIN). The Chair announces the

Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mrs. BLACK, Tennessee

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DIS- ABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Pub. L. 113-128), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the National Council on Disability:

Lt. Colonel Daniel M. Gade, Ph.D., New Windsor, New York

THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, this past spring Congress passed legislation that authorized the President to negotiate and sign sweeping trade agreements with limited input from Congress.

When I say "the President," I am not just talking about Mr. Obama, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about anyone who sits in the Oval Office from now on.

This body then went on to pass a trade adjustment assistance package that falls far short of what is necessary and, in and of itself, acknowledges the loss of employment that comes from the trade agreement. Those steps set the stage for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the final language of which was announced earlier this week. That deal was built from years of secret negotiations between corporations and trade representatives, with little to no input from the working families who will have to bear the loss of jobs here at home.

Mr. Speaker, back in New Jersey, we know what happens when trade deals don't consider American workers. Factories close, employees are laid off, and whole cities that used to pump out

products for consumers around the world are suddenly faced with stunted economies and incomprehensible unemployment.

While I am not opposed to free trade, our priority can't simply be corporate gains under the guise of economic growth; it must be the welfare of working families. But working families are going to find themselves out of luck if they are forced to compete with salaries of just cents an hour overseas.

TPP is a very bad deal. It lacks prohibitions to address currency manipulation; it lacks environmental standards that will keep manufacturers accountable and ensure we are preventing some of the human causes of climate change; and it lacks labor standards that protect the human rights of workers in places like Mexico, Vietnam, and Malaysia, running against even the most basic human American values. It does all this based on the flawed philosophy that supporting multinational corporations somehow helps the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, let me state for the record that no trade deal is ever crafted to support the American middle class, and any suggestion otherwise is a flat-out, bold-faced lie.

International trade is always marketed as the key to economic growth, but we are told that opening new markets means more opportunities for U.S. businesses. That is true in part. But the businesses that profit most are multinational corporations, and part of that profit comes from sending American jobs overseas. We will allow those same companies to continue to enjoy tax loopholes that maximize their bottom line and allow them to keep much of their profits stashed away elsewhere. If NAFTA and CAFTA are any example, these profits will never make it down the line to Americans striving to get to the middle class.

If we are serious about growing our economy in a way that supports every American, there are plenty of policy changes that we could make:

We could give our workers a living wage that would allow them to support their families;

We could provide better primary and secondary education and more affordable higher education;

We could offer employment through the hundreds of thousands of jobs we could create by investing in infrastructure repairs and upgrades;

And we could do a lot better than TPP.

So before we move forward, my congressional Progressive colleagues and I have come to the floor to urge Members on both sides of the aisle to take what limited time we have to change the course. We have just one last opportunity to fix this deal, to protect American workers, and to ensure a deal that will actually boost our economy, not just the profit margins of multi-

national corporations, and we need to take that time.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to a Member who has been as outspoken as any of us as we talk about the need to reexamine this flawed agreement. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), our ranking member on the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the gentlewoman yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is a debate I seem to have had before. I was here for the NAFTA debate.

Congressional districts throughout this country, including my own of Rochester, New York, will find it very difficult to survive another trade deal that sends our jobs overseas to countries that ignore human rights violations and undermine our laws in public health here at home. During my time in Congress, I have never seen a trade agreement that the United States participated in that benefited either the American manufacturer or the American worker, and everything I know about Trans-Pacific Partnership suggests it will be more of the same.

Despite a bipartisan push by 158 Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives, the trade deal announced this week will do nothing to address the largest trade barrier our manufacturers face, which is currency manipulation. As with past trade deals, a side agreement in the TPP related to currency manipulation is window dressing that is unlikely to be enforced at all, as most of the NAFTA side agreements were not, and will do little to stem the flow of American jobs overseas. As with past trade deals, this will force American manufacturers to compete with foreign companies that receive unfair advantages from their governments. For this reason, Ford Motor Company has come out in opposition to this trade agreement.

The TPP has been negotiated under a cloud of secrecy—by the way, they all are—by multinational conglomerates, and we know from the United States, the financial services industry and the pharmaceutical companies—both have only one priority, their bottom line—were very important in those negotiations. Now that an agreement has been reached, the negotiators will no longer be able to keep the contents of the bad trade deal hidden from the public.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, were any of us to look at the trade bill that they did make available over here, we were not able to take a pencil or paper with us. We had to have somebody with security clearance go with us—our own staff could not go—and we could not speak about it. That is some strange idea, I think, of democracy.

I have been in conversations with parliamentarians from Australia and from Canada who have had the very same problem. As a matter of fact, in

Australia, if any of the parliamentarians wanted to see the trade bill, they had to sign a paper they would not discuss it for 4 years. For three of the greatest economies and democracies in this trade agreement—the United States, Canada, and Australia—to allow their parliamentarians to be put into that kind of restraint is one of the most egregious parts of these trade agreements.

Now that we will be able, since it has been signed, to look at it, negotiators are going to have a lot of explaining to do. Because as Americans learn more in the coming weeks and months about how this agreement will impact their day-to-day lives with things like unsafe food imports—we are pretty certain about that because we already turned around a great number, tons of seafood coming in; 98 percent of the seafood that we eat is imported, and about 2 to 3 percent of it is inspected—the momentum of a bad trade deal will continue to grow.

Let me tell you why we, the Canadians, the Australians, the European Union, and the United Nations are upset about this. There is a thing called the investor-state dispute settlement, and it is onerous. It gives to three corporate lawyers the right to settle disputes.

Any investor-state in this agreement can bring a case against any of the other countries in the agreement if they think that a law or a practice in that country affects their bottom line. We know that everybody is worried about that here because one committee of the House, just in talking about it, did away with country-of-origin labeling.

So, as I have pointed out, both the United Nations and the European Union have done papers on the fact that this is a very bad way to run anything, to let three corporate lawyers make that decision; but we are going to be stuck with that, unfortunately, unless we can kill the bill.

What is even more abhorrent is that some of our trading partners, Malaysia—Malaysia has the worst human rights record on the face of the Earth. We know that. The State Department has always given them a very low grade. They have slave labor. We know that they do sex trafficking, and they just recently took the Prime Minister off on some kind of charges. There is no reason in the world that we would include them in a trade agreement. Then there is also Brunei, which practices sharia law. These two countries, under the investor-state dispute settlement, can make sure that our laws do not interfere with their making a profit.

We are better people than that, Mr. Speaker. We are going to be looking at this very closely. It is really not a trade deal. In my view, it is a race to the bottom.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New York for her comments and for being with us today as part of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to a Member who has been outspoken on behalf of working families and American workers, Mr. POCAN from Wisconsin.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am really glad to be here today with the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour, and I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for all her hard work on behalf of the Progressive Caucus and on behalf of this issue on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

As we know, over the weekend and all last week, the U.S. Trade Representative Office's cooks have been in the kitchen, and they have told us now the Trans-Pacific Partnership is done; but from everything that we can tell, it is not fully baked. In fact, at best, it is half-baked when it comes to labor, environmental, and consumer concerns.

Now that a final deal has been reached, we asked the administration to let the American public immediately see the full text of this agreement. This negotiating process has not been transparent up to this point, despite claims from the U.S. Trade Representative Office. We know that about 600 people, largely corporate CEOs, have been involved in the drafting of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but not Congress, and certainly not members of the public. The secretive nature of these negotiations is compounded by the pressure to throw together this deal based on the political timelines of our negotiating partners rather than with the regard of the U.S. worker in mind.

Reports throughout the course of the negotiating process have raised serious questions about the impact of this agreement on a number of areas ranging from workplace and environmental protections to food safety, but, most importantly, jobs and wages. We all know this economy has been rebounding. The stockmarket is significantly up from the 2008 crash. Corporate profits are up. CEO pay is up. Productivity is up. But wages for the American worker have, unfortunately, been dead flat, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership will lead to the loss of good-paying jobs right here in the U.S.

Through several decades of unfair trade rules, corporations have outsourced production and offshored jobs, and the TPP will only exacerbate this problem. In fact, on Tuesday, in its initial analysis, The Wall Street Journal has projected an increase in the manufacturing trade deficit of \$38.2 billion. That means jobs and wages right here in the United States.

□ 1700

Additional reports have also said that the labor standards will remain

subpar, that currency manipulation has not been adequately addressed, rules of origin for autos have been weakened, and human rights issues with countries like Malaysia and Brunei have not been dealt with properly.

Among these concerns, corporations still have the ability to supersede laws of our country through the investor-state dispute settlement process, something that Representative SLAUGHTER explained very aggressively in her comments.

This agreement has nothing to do to effectively address currency manipulation, which that alone has contributed to the loss of up to 5 million U.S. jobs.

Despite claims by the administration that this agreement is the most progressive high standard deal that we have ever negotiated, the labor environmental rules in our free trade agreements are rarely enforced in our partner nations.

In fact, 4 years ago, when we passed the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, to the letter of the law the Colombian Government has put the provisions within Colombian law and not one bit of that has actually been implemented and over 100 labor leaders in the last 4 years have been killed just in Colombia.

So these trade agreements haven't worked based on past practice, and without changes they are not going to work in future progress as well.

In addition, the administration has gone out of its way to help cover up human rights atrocities in order to conclude these negotiations.

Malaysia was demoted in the State Department's 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report due to its grossly inadequate response to the perverse tracking of minority groups throughout the country.

By downgrading them within the same year that mass graves were found of workers in Malaysia is an insult to human rights conditions, and to include them and countries like Brunei that still stone gays and lesbians and single mothers is a further evidence that this deal is not ready for the public or for Congress to accept for the public.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is neither free trade nor fair trade. In reality, it is a system of rules crafted by multi-national corporate interests and their lobbyists that work for a select group of powerful people at the expense of everyone else. This just isn't about jobs or wages. This is an agreement about corporate profits. Past trade deals have been a disaster for American workers. So it is imperative that Congress rigorously review this deal to ensure that the American people aren't yet taken for a ride again.

Again, I will renew my call and the Progressive Caucus' call to immediately release the text of the agree-

ment. Six hundred corporate CEOs know what is in the deal, but the 435 Members of this House and the American public don't. That is simply wrong.

If this deal is as good as they say it is, put the language on the table and let's review it with the public. My fear is that it is not. If it is going to cost American jobs and wages, it is the wrong thing to do, and we have to reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for taking the time to be with us to talk about what is such an important issue for us.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't often that we get a second bite at an apple in realtime, but this is one of those opportunities that we do have. There have been a number of issues that have been raised that I believe validate from our perspective that this is not a good deal.

It is not a good deal for American families. It is not a good deal for American workers. It is only a good deal for multi-national corporations.

We are engaging in a trade relationship with countries whose values we do not share and who, on occasions, we have actually had the opportunity to shame.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we, as Members of Congress, can find this as an opportunity to work together to do something collectively, which is better for the American family and the American worker. We can do that at the same time we have an opportunity to have fair trade agreements and just trade agreements.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a Member who has been as outspoken as any other Member in this House about the need to turn back from this flawed agreement, a leader on workers' rights and human rights and women's rights and building an economy that works for average Americans.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to my colleague and what an honor for me to join with you and to thank you for your steadfast efforts in fighting for working families, for the American workers, men and women, and not being afraid to stand up and say no to what would be injustice for our American workers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 days since the Trans-Pacific Partnership was announced. We have not yet been shown the text, but we have heard a chorus of spin about the supposed benefits of this secret agreement.

After more than 5 years of talks, the parties have announced a deal without having released a single word to the public. The negotiations took place under unprecedented secrecy.

Corporate special interests had a place at the table. Congress and American families were locked out. The

American people and their elected representatives in Congress are forced to rely on leaks to find out what is in this agreement.

But the truth is that, on vital issues like workers' rights, environment, and human rights, the standards are only valuable if they are enforced. If experience is any guide, we will do little to enforce those provisions.

I remember in 2007 when my Democratic colleagues in this Chamber forced the Bush administration to renegotiate a number of trade agreements to include enhanced labor standards.

In the 8 years since, neither the current administration nor its predecessor has taken meaningful action to enforce those provisions. So dozens of Colombian union organizers are being murdered despite labor provision in the U.S. Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Thousands of acres of Peruvian forests are being destroyed despite the environmental provisions in the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement.

Why would we assume that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will be any different when it comes to Brunei's persecution of LGBT people, Malaysia's human trafficking and forced labor, or Vietnam's abundant use of child labor?

In fact, the administration has already shown us how little regard it pays to these issues by upgrading Malaysia's classification on human trafficking in order to sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

Past experience tells us what to expect in other areas as well. The last big trade deal, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, cost this country 75,000 jobs in just 3 years, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

The TPP will be even worse. Not only is it far bigger, it will throw Americans into competition with Vietnamese workers who make less than 65 cents per hour. These provisions will offshore jobs, lower our wages, and increase income inequality. Americans workers have seen this happen to them year after year after year.

To compound these problems, it has been reported that the TPP will remove support from green jobs and American industry by outlawing buy American and buy local standards in government procurement contracts and potentially opening the door for Chinese state-owned enterprises to take those contracts.

In common with every previous trade agreement, the TPP does nothing to curb currency manipulation, which basically allows countries to keep their goods and the price of their goods at artificially low prices. That means, if they lower their prices and their currency, ours are more expensive.

This abuse, not in my words, but in the words of economists C. Fred Bergsten at the Peterson Institute, Jared Bernstein at the Center for

American Progress—they believe that currency manipulation and its practice by China, by Singapore, and Vietnam, who are all part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement—that currency manipulation has led to the loss of almost 5 million jobs in the United States of America.

One of the biggest historical manipulators, as I said, Japan, is a member of the TPP. The administration has even floated the idea of adding China, probably the worst currency manipulator in history.

China's recent devaluation just a few short weeks ago of the yuan cost up to 640,000 American jobs, according to the Economic Policy Institute. And after the administration decided to take no action against China, TPP partner Vietnam followed suit, and they devalued their own currency.

In other words, with this agreement, we are rewarding the cheats. No currency forum, as the administration has talked about, because currency and enforceable currency regulations are not in the legislation.

But they say there is going to be a forum, that we will have the opportunity to discuss this. Well, you can have a lot of forums, but unless you have an enforcement mechanism to say no, it is not going to be fixed. It has to be fixed in the agreement, and it is not. So the forum is meaningless.

The predictable calamities do not end there. Earlier this year, WTO trade agreements led to the dismantling of American food labeling laws, country of origin labeling, so that the American public will know where their food is coming from.

Again, the TPP goes even further by allowing multi-national corporations, as well as foreign governments, to challenge U.S. law. It will not be long before we start to see challenges to our food safety system, a system already strained to the breaking point by a flood of tainted contaminated seafood from the TPP countries like Malaysia and Vietnam.

Finally, we know that the TPP will establish rules that give Big Pharma different monopoly periods across partner nations. That makes no sense in a free trade agreement. Why would you do this? That is only to keep drug prices high.

One commonly used combination of HIV drugs cost \$10,000 per year when bought from a Big Pharma monopolist, from the big pharmaceutical company, but as a generic, it only costs \$250. What this agreement will do is to delay generics coming to the market.

And by locking in these corporate monopolies, the agreement compromises our access to medicines for the people who need it the most: your constituents, my colleague, and mine, and all of our colleagues.

President Obama said on Monday that the Trans-Pacific Partnership

agreement "reflects American values." But the administration's approach has been the opposite. It has put corporate special interests before the interests of the American people instead of learning from past experience. We are being railroaded into yet another trade agreement that risks our jobs, our wages, and the health of our family.

But, under the law, there is still time for Congress to reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, and that is what we need to do in a bipartisan way. There are people on both sides of the aisle in this institution that oppose this agreement.

We need to come together and we need to come together for the sake of the working men and women that we represent all over this country. That is what our job is to do right now. We have a moral responsibility. We have an obligation to the people who elect us and send us here to represent their best interests.

Everything that we know from past agreements and what limited amount of information we know from this agreement will put the economic security at risk for American families.

I want to say to my colleague, thank you for doing this. We need over the next several weeks to be doing this every single day because the word has got to go out to the American public of just what is at stake in this trade agreement, and they will be calling their representative and telling them to vote "no."

Thank you very, very much for the opportunity to participate tonight.

□ 1715

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for her eloquent and compelling words. Whenever she speaks up for the American people, she does so in such a convincing way and a way that is backed by empirical data, not just anecdotes and not just sort of dreams, but that which she already knows.

So I appreciate and feel particularly honored to represent the Congressional Progressive Caucus here this evening to speak out on issues that we know are very important, vitally important, to the well-being of the American worker and our American families.

I do pray that our congressional body can come together around an issue that affects all of us in any district that we might represent, in any corner of the United States of America, and at any economic strata that we might represent.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers who want to address this issue this evening. I thank you for your indulgence.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LIFTING BAN ON OIL EXPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership allowing me to visit with you about something that is near and dear to my heart. I hope we spend the better part of the next hour discussing a bill tomorrow that will be before this body, which is H.R. 702, which would lift the 40-year-old, decades-old ban on exporting a domestic product, a domestic commodity, called crude oil.

As you look at the things that America buys and sells around the world, the only commodity that we produce here in the United States that we cannot export is crude oil. It harkens back to 40 years ago, and I will talk about it in a second.

There are no restrictions on imports. You could import all the crude oil that you would like, but we have a restriction on exporting that crude oil.

Now, the administration recently signaled a bit of a change in that in that they licensed a swap of certain number of barrels of heavy crude from Mexico for light sweet crude coming to the United States. So there was at least one opportunity recently where the Department of Commerce authorized that swap and, in effect, began to export some of this crude that we produce every single day.

Forty years ago the Arab oil embargo and all the things that happened with that—most of the folks in this Chamber, except maybe you and I, don't necessarily recall the long lines at the gas station and the rationing and the way that even-numbered license plates were okay one day and odd-numbered license plates were okay the next day to buy gasoline.

I can remember living in Dallas at the time. I would have to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and go sit in line at a gas station in order to fill up the car so that I could make it downtown and back and forth. It was somewhat disruptive to our quiet lives.

The price of oil went from \$3 a barrel to \$12 a gallon, a fourfold increase. That shock hammered the economy with a lot of things that were going on.

As a part of that response, in addition to the response, just before the Arab oil embargo in the 1973-1974 timeframe, the United States had, through a secret study, determined that American crude oil production may have peaked in 1970 and that the wells in the United States that were then producing and the new ones that were going to be drilled and brought online—that the daily production in the United States would slowly decline from that point on and that that scarce resource of strategic value needed to stay here in the United States.

So while we were even a net importer at that point in time, the wisdom of this House, the Senate, and the President at the time was: Let's just don't export any U.S. crude. Let's use all of it here. And then we will buy from other folks the crude oil that we need to make up the difference in our refinery loads.

That held true for 35 years. Then something pretty stunning happened, and that was this incredible renaissance in the oil and gas business that has occurred over the last 5 years.

When history writes about this era of the oil and gas business, it will talk about these incredible breakthroughs in technology and the science associated with it and the risk taking of the private sector.

The current President likes to brag about the oil and increased production. Quite frankly, this has all come in the private sector, private lands, and private initiatives, where this has happened. Permitting on public property, public lands, has slowed down, and actual production off our Federal lands has shrunk from where it has been.

So for 35 years it was a policy that was out there. It was never an issue because we didn't produce enough every day to export.

Then about 5 years ago this process of increased production was driven by the shale oil play in the Bakken, the shale oil play in west Texas, and the shale oil play in the Eagle Ford shale in south Texas, big frac jobs, technologies that broke the rock up or allowed the oil to escape out of that rock in quantities heretofore not really contemplated or known.

The oil was in the rock. Everyone knew that. They just didn't know how to get it out of the rock. This wonderful renaissance began to occur, and U.S. production began to increase every day to the point now that the estimates, had the price not dropped, were that, by 2020, we would be the largest exporter and that we would have an excess.

So we already had a bit of an excess of crude oil in the United States because it had to go through U.S. refineries. U.S. refineries are set up to process heavy crude, which is not what is produced out of this oil shale. That is light, sweet crude. So, consequently, we had more light sweet. We are still importing crude every day from Venezuela and other countries that feed heavy crude into our refineries.

So it got on everybody's radar screen that we need to figure out a way to unlock this market and eliminate the inefficiencies associated with not being able to export U.S. crude.

As a result of that, there are two sets of prices in the world markets. There is a Brent price of crude, which is North Sea crude, and there is also a West Texas Intermediate price that is in the markets.

There has been for a long time now a differential between those two prices. The West Texas Intermediate price, which is what our local American producers get, was less than the Brent crude.

That differential was driven by the fact that we had no market for U.S. crude, other than U.S. refineries, given the laws and the restrictions that were in place. So the movement began to explore the opportunity for lifting this decades-long ban on crude oil.

Throughout the years that HARRY REID was in charge of the Senate, it was a nonstarter because it was not likely we could get a bill like we are going to vote on tomorrow in the House through the Senate. With the Republican victory last November and control in the Senate by Republicans, it then became an opportunity for us to examine this policy and see if it makes sense.

Just to set the record straight, even without the bad deal the President has foisted on us, we treat Iran better than we treat American producers. Because even before the sanctions are lifted in Iran, they can produce and export about a million barrels of crude oil a day. The U.S. is zero.

So as you step back to look at the big picture, we treat Iran—with all the mischief they do and the bad actor they are and the threat to world peace that they are, they get better treatment than domestic producers, and that makes no sense whatsoever when you look at the overall issue.

So we are at a point now where, with this drop in prices to almost half of what it was, we have begun to see that crude oil production will probably tail off here in the United States this quarter.

But the oil is there. We know how to get it. The science is available. It is just simply driven by the price. Recovering the drilling and completion costs is what is causing the current decline in production, but we know where it is and how to go get it.

When a well comes online, from day one, it will begin to produce less oil today than it did yesterday. That process, that decline, will move forward throughout the life of that well until it reaches its economic limit.

The economic limit of a producing well is driven by the price versus how much it costs you to get it out of the ground, the taxes associated with the barrel, the royalties associated with it. Those have got to be in positive circumstances or it doesn't make any sense to produce that crude oil.

In the drilling and the completion of a well, you have got to be able to recover that investment from the total number of barrels that you expect to produce out of that well. When you know those fixed costs going in, there are very few of those costs that are recoverable once you drill a well.

Your only return is to sell the crude oil. And given how much you think that each well will produce, it has got to be at a price where you can recover that investment as well as cover your incremental costs each day of producing that crude oil.

So there are some sound economic reasons why, at current prices of crude oil, there is less drilling going on and certainly less completions going on in the market.

That oil is not going anywhere. That shale is just the way it was when the prices were a lot higher. So if prices were to recover and it made sense, then our American domestic producers could go back to producing more and would then reset that decline on an upward slope so that we are, in fact, producing more oil each day than we did yesterday because we are bringing on more wells every single day to offset the natural decline that each well will experience. While we have got this window of opportunity, it is time now to lift this crude oil ban.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my neighbor, who represents the southern two-thirds of New Mexico. More importantly, he represents my three grandsons who live in Las Cruces, New Mexico. So I watch him like a hawk to make sure he is doing a good job representing my grandsons.

I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to attention that we are engaged in a very important activity here. We are talking about American jobs.

Now, some people dismiss jobs as being a four-letter word. Well, I mean it kind of is, but not that kind of four-letter word. It is an important piece.

When I was born, my father was a sharecropper. In 1947, the year I was born, he made \$200. The next year, the drought year, he made 50 bucks.

Mom said, "We are leaving the farm." She jumped in the pickup truck. Dad jumped in the back, along with us kids. There were three kids at that time, later to become six.

They headed to the West. I don't think they knew where they were going. I guess they would have stopped when they got to California. But they got 75 miles down the road and broke down 3 miles outside of Hobbs, New Mexico. They hitchhiked into Hobbs, and that is where I grew up.

Dad was able to find a job almost immediately in the oilfield. He got in at the lowest level, a roustabout, making \$2.62 an hour.

Now, to them, to my family who had made \$200 for a full year's work and \$50 for the next year's work, \$2.62 an hour was the absolute pinnacle.

They never moved from Hobbs. They stayed there and raised their six children on \$2.62 an hour. And, of course, it graduated through the years.

That is why I am passionate about this export ban. Because right now we have people in my home county who are being laid off because our oil is sitting in the pipelines. The pipelines going to Houston are filled up. And so companies are having to shut down wells. They are having to stop production.

Now, some of the countries in the Baltics have come to Eddy County, which is one of the counties I represent, and they have said, "We would buy your light, sweet oil. That crude oil is better than what we buy from Russia. We would stop buying from Russia and buy from you," except we have this ban in place. We can't ship oil out of this country.

Now, we have to understand that 95 percent of the world's consumers are outside the United States. So when we have this self-imposed problem, this self-imposed restriction on sending a product that is very needed out there, know that we are penalizing American jobs.

The President has been very, very ardent in his willingness to create Iranian jobs because he insists that Iran should be able to export their oil while all the time saying that he is opposed to the idea of this bill.

□ 1730

We are going to consider this bill tomorrow, and I think in my heart that we are doing things that would benefit people like my parents, people who did not have the option to move to New York and be on Wall Street. They didn't have the option to move to Albuquerque or Dallas. They were where they could get to, and they were able to find work and raise a family. That is the people that I am fighting for, the people that don't have other choices.

Now, the oilfield provides very good jobs. In this current energy revolution that is taking place in the country, this explosion of shale oil production, truck drivers in my hometown were receiving \$100,000 a year to drive a truck. If you wanted to work overtime, you could get up to \$120,000. That is the sort of job that is now available to people like my father. If he were still working, those jobs would be out there.

But it is not just the people in the oil and gas industry. It is the people who work in the convenience store at the corner. They are busy 24 hours a day, and the local convenience store operator may have to pay \$15 an hour just to attract people in. It benefits everyone, regardless if they are in oil and gas or not.

In New Mexico, oil and gas provides about 40 percent to our State's budget. I tell teachers on the other side of the State: With no oil and gas, you should be vitally interested in this export bill because, if we put people back to work in the oil industry, that money goes straight to the State government, and it helps pay your salary.

Up and down the spectrum, people are benefited when we have a vital energy economy.

If we are going to allow our light sweet crude to be exported, people wonder: Are we going to run out of energy? Absolutely not. It is not going to get more expensive.

Back when my father was working for Humble, which later became Exxon, they had a company philosophy. They were the largest energy company in the world. They simply said this area, the Permian Basin here in New Mexico, is going to run out of oil in the late 1980s, so they sold every producing well in that area. They simply moved out.

Just a couple of years ago, a discovery was made in southern New Mexico—keep in mind, some of the majors moved out, said there was no more future in this area; it is going to be out of oil—and a discovery was made that is going to produce more oil from that one field than has been produced in New Mexico through the whole of New Mexico in all of its history, from one field that was discovered recently.

We have this kind of thing where people are saying, well, we have got to worry and we have got to think about the future and save it for the future. No, there is as much oil out there unused as we have used in New Mexico. So let us have New Mexico jobs. Let us continue to export now instead of allowing the oil to fill up the pipelines and shut down jobs. That is the main reason that I am supporting this.

Obviously, I appreciate the fact that energy is national security. The low energy prices now are rebuilding the manufacturing economy. As we drive the price of oil down—and keep in mind that the consumers benefit from that. Gasoline had gotten to over \$4. Now, then, it is right down in the \$2 range. So it benefits the consumers.

It is also attracting back industries that manufacture. That is essential for that kind of business. If you are going to manufacture, you need affordable, reliable energy. Firms are moving back here in order to produce. That is creating even other jobs that don't even seem associated with the energy business.

So, again, you have many, many reasons for supporting this energy export bill, and I urge my colleagues to do that.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for his thoughts and comments. He and I are blessed to share a group of people who work across that State line between Texas and New Mexico—our districts are contiguous with each other—who live in one State, work in the other, vice versa, some of the hardest working, most dedicated, patriotic folks on the face of the Earth, like his dad and his mom who have built wealth, raised a family, protected that family, and produced a U.S. Congressman. It makes

them easy to talk about and easy to defend.

I want to flush out this idea of the geopolitical aspects of lifting the ban. I was recently in a Baltic country in conversations with one of the top two leaders, and I had the chance to ask a question of the Prime Minister. I said: Mr. Prime Minister, if you could buy crude oil directly from the United States, would it make your issues with Putin and all the mischief and things he is up to less difficult to deal with?

He lit up like a Christmas tree. He said: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. We would love to buy U.S. crude and not spend that money with Putin and Russia and help lift the boot—the Russian boot off their neck—that is driven by crude oil and natural gas.

If they could supply to these countries that can't supply themselves, then there is absolutely no reason whatsoever that they shouldn't be running our light sweet crude through their refineries at this point in time.

Steve talked about his dad. My dad was the same way in the sense that if rigs—he was a roughneck, and rough-necks are that hardy group of individuals who work on a drilling rig. It is dangerous. It is hard. It is 24 hours a day. They work 8-hour shifts.

My dad would pull doubles in order to get the extra time and a half so the cash flow to the family would be enough to feed my brother, sister, me, and my mom. He lost a part of a finger as a part of that experience. If the rigs were running in Borger, Texas—we lived in Borger, Texas, where I was born. If the rigs were running in Odessa, Texas, we moved to Odessa, Texas, because my dad thought it was more important to have a job than necessarily where we lived because that was key.

In the early 1990s, I was part of a group that did a needs assessment in Midland, Texas. And we sometimes lose sight of why jobs are important because we talk a lot about it. But that needs assessment did a scientifically sound, statistically sound survey of Midland, asking folks what are the issues within your home, what are the issues within your neighborhood, what are the issues within your community that have a problem, that create this problem? We then winnowed those down to the top 10.

If you looked at that list of top 10 needs of Midland, Texas, at the time, 9 of those would have been positively impacted by somebody having a job. Whatever that need was, it was less of a problem if a family had a job than if they didn't have a job.

The jobs that this will create, jobs that this will protect and maintain are important. The unemployment rate in Midland, Texas, is still in the 3, 2 range, and Odessa is the lower 4. That hides some other issues associated with this problem; and that is, before the

drop in the price of oil, not only were there a lot of jobs, but a lot of those jobs were providing some 10, 15, 20 hours of overtime each week to the people that were working. Overtime is a real boost because it is time and a half.

Now, then, these folks still have a job, and with the decreased activity, the decreased drilling and all the other activity associated with the crude oil business, that overtime has evaporated. These folks still have a job, but they built commitments and bought trucks and other things based on that overtime, and they are now not getting it. So while they still have a job, the cash flow to their families is impacted.

I had another opportunity to see the impact of that recently when I toured our local food bank and was discussing with them what was going on. They said that the elderly population coming to the food bank had dramatically increased over the last 4 or 5 months as a result of this drop in prices.

I asked, Well, why is that? They said that many of these adults, these elderly adults, their families had been helping them with their monthly bills. Because they had this extra overtime, they had extra money that they were able to help their families with, and now that that has evaporated, that trickle-down effect is impacting these elderly who are on fixed incomes and are having to now go to the food bank. Creating jobs, you just can't overstate how important that is.

I have now been joined by my fellow Texan from the Dallas area, PETE SESSIONS, current chairman of the Committee on Rules. I yield to my good friend.

Mr. SESSIONS. Chairman CONAWAY, I want to thank you for leading this effort tonight as we talk to the American people about what we are not only doing in Washington, D.C., but about what we began several years ago, a process of talking to our colleagues about how important it was that America have a strong energy policy. America is the only nation in the world that has a provision that does not allow the export of crude oil.

Crude oil is something that we have been told for a long, long time, since the mid-1970s, that we are running out of. It is a natural resource that America has an abundance of, but over the years that we are running out of oil, we are running out and depleting what we have.

Then a few years ago, some bit of reality took place because a change in technology, a change in technology that was called horizontal drilling, allowed those people who were in the oil patch actually drilling and doing the hard work necessary to extract this gift that we have in this country, developed a process that would allow them to get 60 percent more oil than what had previously been provided for through those existing processes.

Overnight, Americans saw that we also gained the advantage of getting more natural gas. The proven reserves of not only natural gas, but also crude oil shot up dramatically; and it became very apparent not only to the marketplace, because we have seen consumer prices fall over the last few years from over \$4.40 per gallon in lots of places to last week, in Dallas, Texas, 2 weeks ago, gasoline at \$1.97. It is true, last weekend that I was home, it was \$2.18. Mr. Speaker, I would sooner be paying between \$1.99 and \$2.18 for the gasoline that I use as opposed to the scare tactics of where we were just a few short years ago of over \$4.

What does this mean to the American consumer? What does this mean to families all over the United States? More importantly, what does it mean to America? It means that in testimony that was gathered yesterday at the Committee on Rules, on which I have a chance to serve as the chairman, that we heard that they are expecting at least 400,000 regular jobs that would be added to the economy. That would be all across the United States of America—New York, Illinois, Florida, North Carolina, all over this country—because it would encourage us to do more work, to be able, instead of taking these places and putting a stop on their production, we would now do more production, get it into the worldwide market, sell it overseas, and it becomes a product just like a farm product that can be sold around the world that would help America's exports.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to thank not only Chairman JOE BARTON, but also Chairman MICHAEL CONAWAY for the hard work that they have done to sell the ideas and the reality that America can have it both ways, and that is: we can produce our natural products; we can get more than 60 percent more out of the ground than we were getting before because of the technology; and we can help the American consumer, moms and dads who need to get to work, who need to go to softball and football practice, and also to work and back and church and back, all in a way that they can meet their budget.

I am pleased and proud to say, Chairman CONAWAY, you can count on me tomorrow, that I will be there to support this great piece of legislation. I want to thank you for allowing me to be with you to talk about the importance of this bill and to wish you good luck tomorrow.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Rules, PETE SESSIONS, for his kind words and also his support tomorrow.

I think the bill that went through the Committee on Energy and Commerce that started life as a Joe Barton bill will be the one that makes it to the floor tomorrow.

We are expecting to have a really solid, bipartisan vote, by the way. This is not a partisan issue, per se, but the White House might try to make it that. This is a bipartisan issue.

I yield to my colleague from Arkansas, FRENCH HILL. FRENCH.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this commonsense bill, which has been a long time in coming.

I want to thank Mr. CONAWAY for his leadership in bringing it to the floor tomorrow, and the process the committee used, which was a series of hearings through the process, supported by our chairman, supported by members on both sides of the aisle.

I want to thank JOE BARTON and Mr. CUELLAR of Texas for their leadership in recruiting cosponsors, a large bipartisan group of cosponsors, to bring this longstanding bill to the floor and the positive efforts it will have on our economy.

□ 1745

I would like to say to my friend, Mr. SESSIONS—and I invite him to come to Little Rock—that I filled up last week for \$1.82. So, perhaps Arkansas is a more competitive gas pricing market than even Texas. That may be the biggest economic news of the day here on the floor.

We have touched on the importance of American jobs. All of our American jobs in the oil patch right now are suffering due to low prices and low development budgets. I don't have any doubt that when reserves are revalued September 30 for our publicly traded companies, their oil and gas exploration lines of credit will be down because of pricing in the U.S.; and, therefore, this is a boost for the economic opportunity for jobs in the United States in development.

I want to touch on the national security aspects of this bill that I think are so important, Mr. Speaker. Early in the year, this House passed ways to improve liquefied natural gas to be developed and shipped overseas to international markets. We have an abundant amount of natural gas in this country. We are now the world's leading producer, and we have the opportunity to provide natural gas in liquefied form around the world to our allies in Asia and Europe. Likewise, eliminating the ban on crude oil, long outgrown by North American production and our economic success, will allow us to now, from a national security point of view, to have liquefied natural gas and crude oil as export potential and as economic job potential for the U.S.

But more importantly, to our NATO allies and to our Asian allies, we offer them North American gas and crude oil as an alternative to the Mid East and, most importantly, Europe to Russia. For too long, our allies in Europe have been held hostage by the politics of the Mid East or the politics of Russia. This

allows us to be a much better not only economic partner, but national security partner with our allies in Europe and our allies in Asia.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to come to the floor and speak in strong support of this bill to remove the export ban on crude oil in the United States. I urge my fellow Members, both Democrat and Republican, to provide a good, strong, bipartisan vote and send that message to the United States Senate to join us in passing this lifting of the ban, and to send a message to White House, Mr. Chairman, that a veto message here is not appropriate.

I invite the President and the OMB and the Department of Energy to reconsider that, in fact, this is a national security benefit to the United States and a jobs and economic benefit to the United States, and it is not the kind of thing that our President should issue a veto threat on.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his comments and opinions on this issue. I hope his support draws Members of the other side of the aisle to our arguments and to make this happen.

The gentleman mentioned the price he paid in Arkansas recently. I dare say, there is not another commodity in America that we don't check the price on more often than gasoline. You may not buy gas every day, but every time you drive by a gasoline station, you check the price because it is right there for everybody to see. We don't put the price of bread and milk up like that, but we do put the price of gasoline up.

I have got a district that has 29 counties and is 300 miles wide and 200-plus miles north to south. We do a lot of driving. My district director and I are always looking for that better gasoline price deal in the district as we are moving around, because hardwired into most all of us that drive very much is to check those prices.

This increased production in the United States will also help protect consumers from price shocks. I mentioned that in 1974, the price of crude oil went from \$3 a barrel to \$12 a barrel, a fourfold increase. The more production you have from a stable environment like the United States, the less whipsaw you will get in the market from disruptions in supplies from places and part of the world where it is not quite as stable, such as the Middle East and others.

So, this increased U.S. production will also help protect American consumers from being whipsawed by dramatic increases in the price of crude oil because we have got that supply.

I now yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), who is from another State benefitting from the shale play and someone that is probably more familiar with the Bakken Shale than anybody else.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, your leadership on this has been great.

As I think about what Mr. HILL from Arkansas was saying in expressing his appreciation for regular order and the committee process, this really is probably one of the greatest examples since I have been in Congress of a piece of legislation and a concept that has gone through the process the way it is supposed to go through the process. Because not only did the Energy and Commerce Committee have hearings on H.R. 702, which we are going to vote on tomorrow which lifts the ban, I know you had a bill that similarly lifts the ban. You had hearings in the Agriculture Committee, which I think, by the way, the hearing you had was probably the best hearing on the entire topic. You honed in on that impact on the consumer and the input costs for producing another important product: food.

And we are pretty good in the United States in places like Texas and North Dakota and lots of places in between at growing food—enough food to feed not just Americans, but a hungry world, and enhance our trade balance and enhance our economy in using the peaceful tool of food rather than weapons of war.

I think, similarly, the shale revolution presents the same opportunity that food does, and that is to use the peaceful tools of energy development in place of or to enhance weapons of war.

One doesn't need to be too creative to see that in the world today there is some chaos. When you have Vladimir Putin pushing further into Eastern Europe, when you have him now bombing in Syria, when you have him selling arms to Iran, you have Iran being able to get arms and now being able to sell their oil in the global marketplace, to have this stabilizing impact of U.S. production into the global marketplace, I think it can only benefit everybody. And that is true of not just stabilizing price, as we see the Brent global price much higher than the domestic WTI price. On average, over the last 5 years, that spread has been \$11—a spread that is not enjoyed by consumers, but certainly harms economic opportunity and job opportunity in the United States. Your hearing really honed in on that cost to consumers and the benefit to consumers. Also, the hearing in the Foreign Affairs Committee as well.

So we have had three committees of jurisdiction talking about this issue and this bill coming to the floor tomorrow, going through the Rules Committee, and the Rules Committee allowing a number of amendments to be debated and voted on tomorrow. Many amendments were introduced by Democratic Members as well as Republican Members. It has just been a rich experience. There are a number of issues related to it.

Coming from North Dakota, I can tell you firsthand that not that many years ago I was the economic development and finance director in the State of North Dakota at a time when we were just stabilizing out-migration. But part of the reason we were stabilizing it was because we lost so many of our young people. Our small towns were shrinking. While we were diversifying our economy a little bit here and there, the shale revolution that came along with the technology that combined fracking with horizontal drilling dramatically changed our State.

Probably my favorite anecdote of the whole situation—while there are many—is the fact that the little town of Killdeer hadn't had a football team for 20 years because they couldn't field enough young men, and now they have a football team. And that is just illustrative of what has happened in many of our small towns; because in the supply chain in the oil and gas industry, the jobs are not only numerous, they are really good. They pay, on average, 25 percent higher than the national average.

So it really is a grand opportunity that is somewhat being lost—certainly, its potential is being lost—because we are now sort of hemmed in with light sweet crude being produced more than we can use in our refineries in the United States, especially the light sweet crude which our refineries are not set up to take, for the most part, but refineries outside the United States are set up to take, for the most part. In fact, 92 percent of the oil refined outside of the United States is light sweet crude. Only about 25, 30 percent of the refining capacity in the United States is set up to take light sweet crude. So that distinction is important to understand when you see that we are now overproducing for the refinery capacity we have in our country.

I want to address, Mr. Speaker, some comments made earlier this week by Secretary of Energy Ernie Moniz, a man I have great respect for—clearly, an intellect. He made some comments in the Senate Commerce Committee that, while technically accurate, I suppose were certainly incomplete. He had said that now is not the time to lift the oil export ban; and he said that according to the EIA, somehow we weren't really hemmed in because we were still importing some oil.

It ignores so many things, not the least of which is that distinction between light sweet and heavy sour that I talked about just moments ago; the fact that our refineries, for the most part, in the United States are set up for the heavy sour that we aren't producing an excess of—and, by the way, about 30 percent of which are owned by vertically integrated companies outside of the United States who have more of an interest in buying their oil

than ours. But the world is really where the opportunity exists.

The other thing that he ignores in his statement saying that we are not yet hemmed in, he ignores just the natural order of things, that global markets, global demand being accessible to domestic producers, U.S. producers, will grow the production. You can't expect people to produce more of something than they can sell or than can be used in their limited market. If we have access to the global demand, of course we are going to produce more—that is the whole point—creating more jobs, more entrepreneurial opportunities.

The other thing that bothers me about what Secretary Moniz said about now not being the time is that it ignores so many things. It ignores the fact that we still have a very low workforce participation rate in this country. We need more jobs. We have many people that are either underemployed, unemployed, no longer looking for work, and these are good, high-paying jobs up and down the supply chain.

And lest we forget, they are not just jobs in the oil patch. It is not just in west Texas; it is not just in Houston; it is not just in North Dakota or Oklahoma or New Mexico. These jobs are in every State in the country.

In fact, according to the Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance, which did a vast study on this, the third leading recipient of new jobs, if this export ban is lifted, is the State of Illinois. And you might wonder, well, why is it? Well, because Illinois has a lot of manufacturing, especially a lot of large equipment manufacturing. Those manufacturing jobs are great for families. They are great for the economy. They are great for startup business opportunities. So it is every State in the country that benefits. Secretary Moniz certainly dismisses that, or at least ignores it, in his statements.

I want to wrap up with this point. I always like to say that America's national security and America's economic security are tied directly to America's energy security. I touched on it earlier, but there has never been a time certainly in my public service when the world was in a more fragile state, and certainly chaos is reigning.

I talked about Vladimir Putin's push into Eastern Europe, his bombing of Syria, his alliance with Iran.

Iran, by the way, is another major producer of oil, who, as per the Iran nuclear deal, now gets to sell their oil onto the global marketplace. But our President thinks it is a better idea for them than he does for United States producers. He ignores the opportunity that, again, the peaceful development of oil and gas and the production of it and then the marketing of it in the global marketplace, the opportunity that has to spread influence and create peace in places that desperately need it, especially for our allies.

It is interesting. I doubt that the folks that scheduled the floor time for tomorrow's bill had this in mind, because this was more of a process of regular order than it was the calendar; but we are, right now, in the middle of the 42-year recognition of the Yom Kippur War.

□ 1800

The Yom Kippur War was what sort of began, really started, the energy crisis that led to the 1973 embargoes. We are reliving, in many respects, some of the geopolitical aspects of that time and that situation.

Our friends in Israel are not sure whether we are with them or not as a country, whether we are going to be with them on big issues, dependent on Russian oil largely, a Russia that is playing bad in the neighborhood, and uncertainty as to who is going to fill the leadership vacuum in places like Syria, a very important player, 42, 43 years ago.

There is a lot adding up to this being a very, very important vote tomorrow on lifting the export ban on H.R. 702. There are things adding up that we didn't even contemplate at the time that the bill was introduced.

But it is a grand opportunity to secure America's economy, secure America's national security while at the same time spreading our influence of freedom and free enterprise around the world.

So I am looking forward to, hopefully, a lot of bipartisan votes tomorrow, a big vote, so that we can send that over to the United States Senate, who I know has a different standard than we have. But, hopefully, we can show them the way.

I thank the gentleman for yielding so much time to me.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman from North Dakota, clearly, a State that is a major player in this oil and gas renaissance that has occurred over the last 5 years.

I would also like to point out that the oil and gas business, per se, is an incredibly fertile ground for small business development. And my dad, I mentioned earlier, was a great example of this.

There are lots of narrow-focused aspects of the service side of the business. We all think of the drilling rigs and the big investments there, but there are various aspects, whether it is hauling things or mud or whatever is the deal, where entrepreneurs, men and women who want to take a little risk, can put a little capital together, put some tools together, and begin servicing an aspect of the business that is there.

So it is incredibly fertile in terms of setting up new businesses. I have got one group in Eastland, Texas, that, just as the renaissance was beginning to start, they thought it was a good idea

to get into some aspect of the fracking business and, over a very short period of time, built that business into a multi-billion-dollar deal and sold it.

So incredible wealth was created as a result of small businesses turning into a medium-sized business, turning into a big business, and then, ultimately, sold to another bigger business for an awful lot of money.

And every time that happens there are jobs created associated with that and wealth created with that that benefits not only those individual communities, but all of us that are involved.

We failed to mention that there is no ban on exporting product. Crude oil that is refined, turned into gasoline, turned into diesel, there is no ban on that.

So refiners today can take that heavy crude that they use and the little bit of light, sweet crude that they use, turn that into a product that they then can sell into the world market, and the same folks can sell it back into our communities for us to use in our cars and in our trucks.

That gasoline, in the main, particularly by folks, individuals, is bought with after-tax dollars. That means they have had to earn a buck, pay the taxes on it, and then take what is left out of that dollar to actually buy gasoline.

As we have seen over the last several months, these lower gasoline prices have been a big boon to folks in our country that have to drive a car to get to work or take their kids to school, whatever it might be.

So if you have got a \$1 or a \$2 drop in the price of gasoline and you are buying 15 gallons a week or 15 gallons every so often, that is \$15 to \$30 of after-tax dollars that you can then spend somewhere else to benefit you and your family.

Another aspect of what is happening is not related to what will go into the bill tomorrow, but it is something we have talked about on this floor ad nauseam, and that is the XL Pipeline. This pipeline is designed to haul Canadian oil sand oil, bitumen oil, that is, in effect, heavy crude south to the United States.

This is the kind of crude that could run our refineries and our refineries would desperately like to have rather than buying the heavy crude from Venezuela and other places where the recipients of our checks when we buy that crude oil aren't necessarily friends of ours, aren't necessarily on the same geopolitical page that we are on.

So having that pipeline would be another aspect of freeing up this market. The more efficient you can make markets, the less artificial restraints, the less goofy things you have got in there, then the better pricing mechanisms you get, the better and the more efficient those markets are, and then everybody up and down that chain benefits from that.

As I mentioned earlier, we have got this odd circumstance where the producers in the United States sell on the West Texas Intermediate number to a refinery. That refinery then turns it into gasoline, and they sell it based on the Brent crude.

So there is a differential being made by somebody, and shrinking that differential is what will keep the price of gasoline and diesel from increasing.

One of the arguments for folks who don't represent producing provinces is: Why would I be in favor of something that would increase the folks I represent gasoline and diesel prices?

Every study has shown that that will not happen. Now, the price of gasoline and diesel will go up by the world market. But as a result of lifting this export ban, it will, in fact, not increase the price of gasoline as we produce it.

This is a win on every level. It is a win for consumers, as I have mentioned, it is a win for taxpayers, and it is a win for taxing entities.

My colleagues from North Dakota and from Arkansas mentioned that reserves in the ground are valued for property tax purposes, and those property taxes that are generated from that then support our schools and other county, city, and State functions.

As that developed crude oil is explored and those producing wells come online, that creates a property tax base that benefits all of the taxpayers in those particular entities.

So it is a win across the world. It is a win for our allies and the geopolitical issues that we have talked about. So it is good for this country. It is good for jobs. And it is something that I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can thoroughly look at. They have had plenty of time to do it.

As was mentioned, it went through regular order, several hearings on the issue, actual legislation went through the subcommittee and the committee, the normal regular order, as we like to say around here, and everyone has had a chance to weigh in.

Tomorrow there will be some amendments made in order under the rule. Folks will be able to weigh in. Some of those I will support. Some of those I will be against. But they were all presented as a way to get someone else's idea about this issue to the floor to have us debate it. I think that is a healthy thing, that we will be able to do that tomorrow. Some of those will perhaps pass, and some of them won't.

But whatever happens, I have got great confidence that the bill that we will pass tomorrow with a big bipartisan vote can then go to the Senate and move the ball and move the initiative over there.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Texas, whose work on this issue started his career in this business and has just joined us and is the lead sponsor on the bill that we will be voting on tomorrow.

We have got probably 4 or 5 minutes left. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), my chairman emeritus of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Dean of the Texas delegation, for whatever thoughts he might care to share with us.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman from Midland, Texas, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and a stalwart original sponsor of the bill. I appreciate your leadership, and I appreciate you doing this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we are going to have a debate on H.R. 702. It is a bill to repeal the ban on crude oil exports. This is the last remnant of the 1970s era energy policy for America that said we were running out of energy and that the only way to use the energy we did have was to keep it in the United States.

As a consequence of the Arab oil embargo, we had price controls on oil. We had price controls on natural gas. We had limits on what natural gas could be used for. We had a very restrictive, defeatist, in my opinion, energy policy.

All that has been repealed except for one thing, and that is this ban on crude oil exports. There are a number of opinions about why that has not been repealed, but I think the primary reason is that, until the last 5 years, Mr. Speaker, we really didn't have a significant amount of oil that could be exported.

But a funny thing happened. Some engineers in Texas—I have to give my State credit—developed two technologies, one called hydraulic fracturing where you pressurize a formation, and another where you can turn the drill bit and drill horizontally.

The combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling has transformed what were considered to be uneconomic reserves, i.e., these tight shale formations in south Texas in the Eagle Ford, in North Dakota in the Bakken, in Louisiana, and up in through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, into economically producible oil and gas formations.

The consequence is, in the last 5 years, U.S. oil production has doubled. It got as high as almost \$10 million a barrel about a year ago. Because of the collapse in oil prices, that production level has declined some, but the capacity is still there.

So we have created a surplus in the domestic market of this light, sweet shale oil, but we can't export it. So what has developed is a two-tiered price market. You have a domestic price for oil in the United States that is anywhere from \$2 to as much as \$30 below the world price, which is set by North Sea oil called Brent.

That price differential is causing wells in the United States to shut in. It is preventing new wells from being driven.

If we can pass our bill tomorrow and the Senate pass it and the President

sign it, that price differential, Mr. Speaker, will go away, and we will be competitive to export oil into the world market.

If we are able to do that, good things happen. We create jobs in the United States. We put pressure on OPEC and Russia in the world market. We probably bring that world price down slightly, which will result in lower gasoline prices for United States consumers.

We will be competitive in the energy markets everywhere in this world. In Asia, in South America, in Western Europe, Central Europe, U.S. oil will be used as an economic product, but also as a strategic asset for the security of our country.

So, Mr. Speaker, we hope to have a big vote on that tomorrow, somewhere between noon and 1:00. We have, I think, 10 amendments the Rules Committee has made in order. Some of those we will accept. Some of them we will oppose.

But it has been an open process, hearings in a number of committees, including your committee, Mr. Chairman, the Agriculture Committee, open markup in subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, full committee, and amendments accepted from both sides of the aisle that will be on the floor tomorrow.

So H.R. 702 is good for America, good for the country. It is a job-creation bill, and we hope that we will get a big vote tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman.

I want to brag on the House for having conducted this business with respect to this bill the way it has.

If you go back to your grade school or your junior high civics classes, I'm a bill on Capitol Hill trying to become a law, this is exactly what happened with this deal. It went through the process the way it is supposed to, kind of the old-fashioned deal.

We hope to see tomorrow a big bipartisan vote so the American people can at least in this one glimmer look and say, hey, the House of Representatives functioned the way that the Founding Fathers intended it to and moved an important piece of legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a big vote tomorrow. I yield back the balance of time.

WATER PROBLEMS IN THE CITY OF FLINT, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I have 5 legislative days—and any other speaker

who may arrive—to revise and extend remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today just to take a few minutes to call attention to a problem that I have been trying to raise in this body and in my work before I came to Congress for some time, specifically, to describe the conditions in my own hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The subject that I am addressing is the unique and really difficult challenges facing America's older industrial cities, cities like my hometown of Flint, Michigan, a city that is the birthplace of General Motors. It is where the first UAW contract was created, was signed. But it is a city that has really struggled as it has made this transition from the old to the new economy.

It is a city that had 200,000 people just a couple of decades ago and now hovers right around 100,000 citizens, a poorer city than it once was, a city that has lost 90 percent of its manufacturing jobs.

□ 1815

I raise this because I believe that this Congress and the Federal Government have an obligation to reinvest in these communities, communities that helped build this country and that can have a significant effect on our future. These are the cities where innovation took place and where it can take place again.

But my own hometown right now is struggling, struggling with a problem, unfortunately, that is not entirely of its own making. My home of Flint, a city that was once really the center of the auto manufacturing universe, can't even guarantee to its citizens one of the most essential functions of government. It can't guarantee to citizens that it can deliver clean, drinkable water to their households.

We have elevated lead levels in the city of Flint in their water system. It has been known for some time, for about a year that there have been significant problems with water quality in Flint. And despite protests, really, at the State and Federal levels, public officials saying that there is no problem with the water, that it is completely safe to drink—in fact, one State official told city of Flint residents that they just needed to simply relax.

It has been revealed recently through independent studies, now confirmed by the State government, that we have lead levels far in excess of what is allowed under the Federal lead and copper rules. This is completely unacceptable.

In fact, what makes this even more troubling is that this is a tragic set of

circumstances that has public health implications for the citizens of my community that were completely avoidable, that are the result of decisions that were made by the State of Michigan when it took over control of this fiscally stressed city.

This is a city that is struggling in a lot of different ways. Twice in the last decade, it has been under the control of a receiver, of a State-appointed emergency manager that takes away the authority of local government officials to make decisions for themselves, takes away the authority of the Flint citizens to elect their own representatives to govern themselves, and places authority to control the city in the hands of a single master, an emergency manager.

Well, it was during the period of time that one of those emergency managers was in control that the State decided for the city of Flint that, for a temporary period of time, simply to save money, it would begin to draw water, rather than from the city of Detroit water system, which had a water source from Lake Huron, but it would begin to draw water from the Flint River, a small river that passes through our hometown, a river that is the namesake of our own community.

The sad thing is—and this tells you a little bit about how some folks in different levels of government at the Federal and State level think about these older cities. There was no robust review, no testing, no examination as to whether or not this river water would result in clean water being delivered to homes, drinkable water delivered to citizens. As a result, this water drawn from the Flint River is substantially more corrosive and has led to lead leaching from the pipes in the delivery system into the drinking water in Flint homes.

In fact, there was a study that was just done in the last day or two that shows that in Flint school district buildings, water being delivered to Flint schoolchildren has lead levels far above the actionable level under the EPA lead and copper rule.

Think about this. In the 21st century in the United States of America, we have a city, a great, old city that was a part of the industrial revolution, that can't even deliver clean and safe drinking water to its citizens, not only because of our failure to invest in infrastructure in this country, which is a big part of the problem, but largely because officials at the State government simply decided, well, that Flint River water, that will be good enough. There was no real scientific research that determined whether or not that water would be safe—"it will be fine." And even when evidence was presented indicating that that water might be unsafe, Flint citizens were told by the State government to just relax; don't worry about it.

Well, that is a complete failure of government. It is a failure of government, frankly, at the Federal level because, for almost a year now, I have been asking the EPA to intervene; to, first of all, help this old city of Flint rebuild itself and rebuild its water system by providing some relief through the clean drinking water revolving loan fund, some degree of loan forgiveness, which is allowable under Federal law; but in this case, a technicality has prevented the EPA from allowing the State of Michigan to grant that kind of relief. That could make a huge difference for the city and its ability to rebuild its own infrastructure. But so far, all we get from the EPA is “no,” and we asked for technical assistance from the EPA.

Now, recently we have had more attention; but, frankly, it is not enough. I mean, where is the urgency?

If the role of the U.S. EPA is to ensure adherence to this rule, this law that requires clean and safe drinking water to be available to its citizens, they ought to do more than sit back and offer opinion. They need to be engaged. So I call on the EPA to take a much more focused role in making sure that the citizens of Flint have clean drinking water.

I mentioned that this was not an accident. This decision to use this questionable water source was done when the city was under financial receivership, when an appointed emergency manager was making the decisions for the city of Flint. So here we had a situation where this emergency manager, this outside new management is appointed to come in and deal with the issue of fiscal insolvency and, by only looking at the short-term balance sheet, made a decision to get cheaper water that turned out to be dangerous for the residents of the city and, actually, potentially has handed the city a huge cost to fix what could be hundreds of millions of dollars of permanent damage to the water system as a result of that decision.

So an emergency manager comes in with the idea that somehow outside management is the only problem that this city faces, makes decisions that not only ruin the reputation of the city but also cause significant health risks, and then hands the city a bill, potentially to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, and at the same time, over the last decade, has continued to cut direct support to that very city. I mean, this just doesn't make sense.

The citizens of the city are not responsible for the fact that its infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate. They are not responsible for the fact that at the Federal level and at the State level we have not supported redevelopment in these places. In fact, through transportation policy, housing policy, tax policy, land use policy at the Federal and State levels, we have

actually, unfortunately, contributed to the hollowing out of these older cities, and now the citizens of this place have to pay the price.

The failure to reinvest in these older cities is not without victims; and right now, it is the people of the city of Flint that are the victims of a failure at the Federal, frankly, and at the State level. It is something that just cannot be tolerated.

So when we think about this question, when we think about this particular case of the city, my hometown of Flint, and the fact that these decisions have been made for them by people at the State capital, they are paying the price. And almost inexplicably, even though today in a complete reversal, an admission of failure by the State, the State has come in and said now they are going to help facilitate the reconnection temporarily to the Detroit water system until a permanent Lake Huron line can be established. Inexplicably, there they are actually asking the city government to empty out its remaining resources, financial resources, and put millions of dollars up to help contribute to pay for fixing a problem that the State government is actually responsible for making. The State broke the system, and now, yet again, it is the city residents who are being asked to contribute to pay for a problem that they did not create in the first place.

Sadly, while this may seem like an extreme case, it is a pretty consistent tale all across this country, but especially in the Northeast and Midwestern United States. But in the South and West as well, there are older cities that have, in the past, contributed greatly to economic growth in this country and have been allowed—in some ways, encouraged—to wither, to be hollowed out, and we can't let this continue.

So here when we see before our very eyes 30, 40, 50 American cities—as I said, including my own hometown—continue to fall farther and farther behind, have their infrastructure continue to deteriorate, what do we spend our time talking about here in the United States Congress? Petty fights between Democrats and Republicans and, frankly, more recently, petty fights between Republicans and other Republicans.

We haven't even touched the idea of a big infrastructure bill that could help places not just like my hometown of Flint, but other places across the Midwest and across the country that could be much more productive if we simply had 21st century infrastructure, a water system that can deliver clean water to its residents.

There is no excuse. There is no excuse at the Federal level for us not providing the kind of help that would make a place like Flint a far more productive place with decent roads, good schools, and a water system that deliv-

ers clean water. I mean, that seems pretty fundamental, and it is. Without that, these older communities, these older cities have no chance of connecting to the new economy, no chance of contributing the way they are capable of to the next economy of this country. It is shameful that we haven't seen the urgency that I think is required in order to deal with this enormous problem.

There are victims of this failure. There are victims, individuals who have been really left behind because of the failure at the Federal and at the State level.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know I have taken a few moments. I don't need to take the full half hour that has been allotted to me because we will continue this discussion. We will continue this conversation.

I just want to make sure that the folks who are listening, the people in this body, people across the country understand that unless we take time, unless we make the effort in this body to address the problems of these older cities, we will not have done our job. It is important that the American people know that this Congress is willing to stand up for them and stand up for America's cities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and October 9 on account of family reasons.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2162. An act to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on October 7, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2835. To actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 9, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2015, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO TIMOR-LESTE, INDONESIA, NEPAL, AND KOSOVO, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 11 AND AUG. 21, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Hon. David Price	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Hon. Adrian Smith	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Hon. Jim McDermott	8/14	8/15	Timor-Leste		191.63		(³)				191.63
Hon. Dina Titus	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Hon. Susan Davis	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Justin Wein	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Sean Brady	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste		383.26		(³)				383.26
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Hon. David Price	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Hon. Adrian Smith	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Hon. Jim McDermott	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Hon. Dina Titus	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Hon. Susan Davis	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Justin Wein	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Sean Brady	8/15	8/17	Indonesia		512.56		(³)				512.56
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Hon. David Price	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Hon. Adrian Smith	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Hon. Jim McDermott	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Hon. Dina Titus	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Hon. Susan Davis	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Justin Wein	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Sean Brady	8/17	8/19	Nepal		508.22		(³)				508.22
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		406.00		(³)				406.00
Hon. David Price	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		326.00		(³)				326.00
Hon. Adrian Smith	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		406.00		(³)				406.00
Hon. Jim McDermott	8/19	8/20	Kosovo		163.00		(³)				163.00
Hon. Dina Titus	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		406.00		(³)				406.00
Hon. Susan Davis	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		406.00		(³)				406.00
Justin Wein	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		326.00		(³)				326.00
Sean Brady	8/19	8/21	Kosovo		326.00		(³)				326.00
Committee total					13,805.69						13,805.69

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. VERN BUCHANAN, Sept. 20, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Frank Lucas	8/31	9/1	Switzerland	749.30	785.42		9,263.35				10,048.77
Hon. Frank Lucas	9/1	9/4	France	887.58	995.04						995.04
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	8/31	9/1	Switzerland	749.30	785.42		14,351.75				15,137.17
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	9/1	9/4	France	887.58	995.04						995.04
Tom Hammond	8/31	9/1	Switzerland	749.30	785.42		2,987.45				3,772.87
Tom Hammond	9/1	9/4	France	817.58	916.57						916.57
Adam Rosenberg	8/31	9/1	Switzerland	749.30	785.42		2,987.45				3,772.87
Adam Rosenberg	9/1	9/4	France	817.58	916.57						916.57
Committee total					6,964.90		29,590				36,554.90

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Oct. 1, 2015.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3107. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fee Increases for Overtime Services [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0047] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3108. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Golden Nematode; Removal of Regulated Areas in Orleans, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, New York [Docket No.: APHIS-2015-0040] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3109. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Tomato Plantlets in Approved Growing Media From Mexico [Docket No.: APHIS-2014-0099] (RIN: 0579-AE06) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3110. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Greene County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2015-0001] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8401] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3111. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Reportable Events and Certain Other Notification Requirements (RIN: 1212-AB06) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3112. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3113. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Multiemployer Plans; Electronic Filing Requirements (RIN: 1212-AB28) received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3114. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran", the twenty-third in a series of reports required by Sec. 1245(d)(4)(A) of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3115. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Mica-Based Pearlescent Pigments [Docket No.: FDA-2015-C-1154] received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3116. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to the Minor New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Portable Facilities [EPA-R06-OAR-2010-0283; FRL-9935-04-Region 6] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3117. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0185; FRL-9935-21-Region 4] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3118. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Butanedioic Acid, 2-Meth-

ylene-, Homopolymer, Sodium Salt; Inert Ingredient Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0395; FRL-9933-74] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3119. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Sulfur Content of Fuels [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0605; A-1-FRL-9935-31-Region 1] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3120. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2008 Lead, and 2010 NO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standards; North Dakota [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0974; FRL-9935-15-Region 8] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3121. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dimethyl sulfoxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0630; FRL-9934-17] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3122. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0443; FRL-9935-19-Region 4] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3123. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky: New Sources in or Impacting Nonattainment Areas [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0384; FRL-9935-22-Region 4] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3124. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0696; FRL-9935-24-Region 4] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3125. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Maine; General Permit Regulations for Non-metallic Mineral Processing Plants and Concrete Batch Plants [EPA-R01-OAR-2015-0527; A-1-FRL-9935-33-Region 1] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3126. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trans-1,3,3,3-tetrafluoroprop-1-ene; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0043; FRL-9934-74] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3127. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cellulose Carboxymethyl Ether, Potassium Salt; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0482; FRL-9934-45] received October 6, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3128. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; MI; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, 2010 SO₂, and 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0657; FRL-9935-18-Region 5] received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3129. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Infrastructure for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0205; FRL-9935-44-Region 6] received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3130. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oregon: Lane Regional Air Protection Agency Open Burning Rules and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Enforcement Procedures [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0562; FRL-9935-48-Region 10] received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3131. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Governmentwide Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards [FRL-9926-01-OARM] (RIN: 2030-AA99) received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3132. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: 2015 Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0831; FRL-9935-50-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS37) received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3133. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — NESHP for Brick and Structural Clay Products Manufacturing; and NESHP for Clay Ceramics Manufacturing [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0290 and EPA-HQ-

OAR-2013-0291; FRL-9933-13-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AP69) received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3134. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed item to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to Sec. 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-261), as amended by Sec. 146 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277), and the President's September 29, 2009 delegation of authority [74 Fed. Reg. 50,913 (Oct. 2, 2009)]; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3135. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3136. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3137. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule and technical amendment — Ocean Dumping: Expansion of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Offshore of Jacksonville, Florida [EPA-R04-OW-2014-0372; FRL-9934-57-Region 4] received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category [EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0819; FRL-9930-48-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF14) received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3140. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program (RIN: 3245-AG72) received October 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Small Business.

3141. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a letter respectfully urging Congress to take action as soon as possible and raise the debt limit well before Treasury exhausts its extraordinary measures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3142. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Annual Report on Continuing Disability Reviews for FY 2013, pursuant to Sec. 221(i) of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3143. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting draft legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. LEE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 3708. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide for an increase in the discretionary spending limit for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIQUIN (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 3709. A bill to make permanent the pilot program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding enhanced contract care authority for the health care needs of veterans located in highly rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. YOHIO):

H.R. 3710. A bill to amend the Plant Protection Act with respect to authorized uses of methyl bromide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 3711. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3712. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to

mental health services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. TROTT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. PIERLUISI):

H.R. 3713. A bill to reform sentencing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Ms. MENG, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 3714. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow the Small Business Administration to establish size standards for small agricultural enterprises using the same process for establishing size standards for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 3715. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends if requested for religious reasons; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 3716. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to provide to the Secretary of Health and Human Services certain information with respect to provider terminations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 3717. A bill to provide for the establishment of a grant program to support United States-Israel cooperation for neuroscience-related research and related technological innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 3718. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 3719. A bill to provide for the comprehensive approach to eradication of the heroin epidemic, to develop the best practices in law enforcement and prescription medication prescribing practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on

Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. NORTON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mrs. TORRES):

H.R. 3720. A bill to encourage water efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Armed Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 3721. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida):

H.R. 3722. A bill to strengthen our mental health system and improve public safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Veterans' Affairs, Appropriations, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 3723. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal appellate court proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NOEM (for herself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 3724. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 3725. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to guarantee principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the government of the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, including its public corporations and instrumentalities, on the condition that the government of the territory demonstrates meaningful improvement in the management of its public finances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 3726. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize States to issue special permits to allow the operation of vehicles of up to 95,000 pounds on Interstate System highways for the hauling of livestock; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs.

CAPPS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico):

H.R. 3727. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 3728. A bill to amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to modify the requirement to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of specialized financial messaging services to the Central Bank of Iran and other sanctioned Iranian financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 3729. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain research on human fetal tissue obtained pursuant to an abortion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3730. A bill to authorize unused visas numbers made available under section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to be made available to nationals of Ireland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.J. Res. 69. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHRAMMER, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H. Con. Res. 85. Concurrent resolution condemning the senseless murder and wounding of 18 people, sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, students, and teachers, in Roseburg, Oregon on October 1, 2015; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. PELOSI):

H. Res. 467. A resolution establishing the Select Committee on Gun Violence Prevention; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. DENT (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. ESTY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 468. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 8, 2015, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. RUSSELL, and Mr. BYRNE):

H. Res. 469. A resolution urging North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries to meet or exceed the two percent

gross domestic product commitment to spending on defense; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. JOYCE):

H. Res. 470. A resolution congratulating the National Institute of Nursing Research on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MENG, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. BASS):

H. Res. 471. A resolution recognizing Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. POLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KEATING, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FARR, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. TAKAI):

H. Res. 472. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of October 11, 2015, through October 17, 2015, as "Earth Science Week"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 473. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month and calling on Congress to address gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 3708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 3709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 "... To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 3710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 3711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, which states: The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or any particular State.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 3712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 3713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 3714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 3715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States—The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 3716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 3717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I Section

8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the United States Congress shall have power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes".

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 3718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 states The Congress shall have Power To provide ... for the ... general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 3719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VII, Claus XVIII: The Congress shall have Power ... To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the Government of the United States

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

Article I; Section 8; Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 3721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

General Welfare: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. MCSALLY:

H.R. 3722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution."

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 3723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 3724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 3725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution; to borrow money on the credit of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution; to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such powers, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution; and to make rules and regulations respecting the U.S. ter-

ritories, as enumerated in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 3726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes;

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 3727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 3728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.J. Res. 69.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 167: Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 288: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 304: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 546: Mr. ROHRBACHER.
H.R. 592: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 602: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 674: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 771: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 775: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 776: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 793: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 845: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 855: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 870: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 953: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 969: Mrs. TORRES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 985: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. SIREs.
H.R. 1142: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 1149: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1188: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1197: Mr. BERA, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1217: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr.

CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1233: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 1258: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1388: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 1401: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1427: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BASS, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 1453: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 1516: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1550: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 1559: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1603: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 1608: Mr. TURNER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 1627: Mr. PIERLUISI and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 1671: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 1686: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1786: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1853: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1854: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1877: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1986: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2017: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2077: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2217: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2237: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2248: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2266: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 2293: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2322: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2366: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 2368: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 2450: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2477: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WALBERG, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2493: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2494: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2513: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2597: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 2646: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 2657: Mr. TROTT.

H.R. 2667: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2698: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 2710: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 2713: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2716: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 2730: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2732: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2759: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2808: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2855: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2863: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 2880: Mr. HONDA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2894: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2896: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 2903: Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 2923: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 2994: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3024: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 3033: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. MESSER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 3036: Mr. REED.

H.R. 3151: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3221: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3222: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 3225: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 3229: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. REED, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 3299: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 3314: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 3351: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 3364: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3366: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3381: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 3384: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 3418: Mr. HIGGINS and Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 3423: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3463: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3468: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 3471: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3473: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 3480: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 3488: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUCK, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3513: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3518: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 3532: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3559: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3573: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 3580: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3628: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 3634: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3640: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3652: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3664: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 3666: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. LONG, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3696: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3707: Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MOORE.

H. Con. Res. 75: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Res. 112: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H. Res. 203: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 289: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Res. 348: Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. DESANTIS.

H. Res. 354: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 416: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 419: Mr. DEUTCH.

H. Res. 429: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 440: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H. Res. 445: Ms. ADAMS.

H. Res. 456: Ms. FUDGE.

SENATE—Thursday, October 8, 2015

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today the opening prayer will be offered by Reverend Dr. Charles R. Smith, pastor of the Madison Baptist Church in Madison, GA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, the One who created us in Your image and the One who values every person as uniquely as our fingerprints, we invoke Your guidance with the realization that we are nothing without You. Guide those in this Chamber to recognize that honorable governance seeks the best for all; that today's actions bear tomorrow's fruit; that integrity should be championed over winning. Offer them wisdom to weigh their decisions not propagating partisan policy but based on fair legislation for everyone. Grant them fortitude to exemplify selfless service even to those individuals on the other side of the aisle, recognizing that what they do has a ripple effect, much like tossing a pebble into a pond.

We thank You that You cherish every person as an individual. We thank You that You hear our prayer. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Senator from Georgia.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the presence of our guest Chaplain today, Charles Smith, and his lovely wife Jennifer and his family members who have traveled from Madison, GA, and around Georgia to be here today as he serves our country as our guest Chaplain for today.

Charles has a doctor of ministry degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife is a family and marriage counselor and an ordained minister. His niece Megan serves us in the Republican cloakroom and does so on a daily basis with great joy for all of us.

So we want to welcome Charles Smith, his family, and thank him so much for his ministry today, his witness today, but also thank him for all the leadership he has given to Megan, who does such a great job for us.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, ask most Americans to name two of the most basic duties of a Senator, and you are likely to hear some combination of the following: No. 1, protect the country. That means working with us to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. No. 2, fund the government. That means working with us to pass the 12 appropriations bills that fund it.

But some of our Democratic colleagues don't seem all that interested in these things. It is not just that their words tell us this story, their actions do as well. The Democratic leader has used the phrase "waste of time" to refer to a bill that protects our country. Passing that bill usually inspires bipartisan cooperation, but this year it required overcoming senseless resistance from the other side before we finally witnessed that cooperation yesterday with the bill's passage.

Democratic Senators have used phrases such as "kind of a waste of time," and "a huge waste of time," to refer to the bills that fund our government.

Passing these bills used to be routine, and the new majority has worked hard to ensure that it does again after 6 years of inaction. That is why we passed the budget. That is why we passed the 12 appropriations bills through committee in a bipartisan way. But now Democrats have decided as part of some arbitrary political strategy to indiscriminately filibuster every last funding bill.

Now Democrats may no longer be interested in passing these bipartisan bills, but it doesn't mean they aren't interested in taking credit for the same legislation they are now blocking. Take the bill that funds veterans. Democrats voted with us to support it in committee, then they issued press releases bragging about its contents, and then they filibustered it. Take the bill that funds defense. Democrats voted with us to support it in com-

mittee, then they issued press releases bragging about its content, and then they filibustered it, repeatedly.

Today we will consider the bill that funds America's energy security and its water infrastructure. Democrats voted with us to support this bill in committee, too. In fact, over 70 percent of the Democrats in committee supported the bill that is before us today. Democrats issued press releases with nice things to say about the bill's contents. One lauded the bill for funding important energy efficiency advances in our military and for low-income families. Another reminded us the bill provides "robust funding" for vital programs that deserve to be funded. Today we will see if Democrats are seriously prepared to filibuster this bill as well.

This bill would strengthen our national security. The bill would enhance our energy security. The bill would root out waste with smart targeted reductions so we can put that money to better use, funding more important infrastructure projects, more innovative energy research, and more critical safety improvements for our dams and waterways.

This bill is also critically important to our home States. Kentuckians would benefit from initiatives to protect the Ohio River shoreline, from cleanup work in Paducah, and from construction of the Olmstead Lock and Dam and other vital inland waterway projects.

Mr. President, this is a good bill. It deserves our support on the merits. It is good for our constituents and good for our country. That should be reason enough to support this funding bill. I would also remind my Democratic colleagues that 70 percent—70 percent—of the Democrats in committee did support the bill before us today.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me finally announce the schedule for today. At 12:45 p.m. there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Energy and Water appropriations bill. That will be the last rollcall vote of the week.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for the record, the Democratic leader, Senator

REID, is attending a funeral this morning and I am standing in his stead.

First, I will address the comments from the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. I have to disagree with his opening that Democrats are not interested in funding the government, that Democrats are not interested in funding the Department of Defense. I may remind my friend from Kentucky, the Senator who is the Republican leader, that it was the Republican side that initiated the government shutdown 2 years ago. For 16 days the government was shut down in a vain attempt to protest the Affordable Care Act. Now that threat is before us again.

It is unfortunate we are facing this, but I don't believe it is fair to blame our side of the aisle for delay. You see, Mr. President, as early as June, we started saying we are facing an October 1 deadline, and we need to have a budget compromise, a budget negotiation. Why? Because there is a fundamental disagreement about funding our government in this fiscal year that began October 1.

The Republicans have argued to use wartime funds—\$38 billion worth—to supplement the Department of Defense. The leaders at the Department of Defense say this is the wrong approach. They cannot build a strong national defense with an injection of wartime funds which may or may not exist at the end of the process—may or may not exist next year.

I might add, coincidentally, that the Republicans failed—failed—to put additional funds in for nondefense spending. Some of it is related to national security—the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and so many agencies that keep us safe here in the United States. The failure of the Republicans to provide funds for critical agencies that provide health and education services is the reason we have reached an impasse in the budget negotiations.

It is why 3 months ago we on the Democratic side said to the Republicans: You are in charge. You are in the majority. But if we are going to have a process that ultimately succeeds, you need to engage on a bipartisan basis in this negotiation. They refused. They refused and they came up with a short-term spending bill—we call it a continuing resolution or CR—which takes us to the first or second week of December. Beyond that there is no certainty about what is going to happen.

The Senator from Kentucky talks about the appropriations process, where so many Senators voted for a bill and now are against it. I have been on appropriations committees in the House and the Senate for a long time. In the Senate we have an upside-down approach, where you vote on the overall bill first, then vote on amendments. In each of the cases the Senator from

Kentucky refers to, many of us may have voted for the overall bill, hoping that amendments would solve the budget problems I have described. When those amendments failed to solve those budget problems, we said: This ultimate bill is not going to work, and we know it. That is the reality of the process in the Committee on Appropriations.

So in June we invited the Republicans to meet with the President and Democratic leaders to work out a budget compromise. There is an indication that some conversation is underway, but not enough.

Why have we reached this impasse? Frankly, it is because the Republican leadership—certainly in the House—is in disarray. Today there is going to be an election in the House of Representatives for a new Speaker. A group of ultraconservative Republican House Members were successful in ousting JOHN BOEHNER from the Speakership. Now they are going to try to replace him but with conditions. One of those conditions is, as printed in the paper this morning, that the new House Speaker has to pledge to the Freedom Caucus—the tea party Republicans—that he will never, never agree to any compromise that is a bipartisan bill coming out of the Senate.

Now, how is that for a standard when you are trying to govern in this country—when you have a President of one party and the Congress in control of the other party? The Freedom Caucus says: Don't negotiate; don't compromise. That is a recipe for a shutdown, a sequestration, and a continuing resolution. Let me tell you what that does. If we get into a continuing resolution for next year—this year we are in, I should say—it is going to mean dramatic cuts in many agencies.

Yesterday the National Institutes of Health were called by Senator BLUNT, who chairs the appropriations subcommittee for that agency. We sat before Dr. Collins and his leading researchers for the United States of America, and we asked them: What happens if our budget process breaks down, if we go into sequestration, which is an across-the-board cut, or we go into a continuing resolution, which is a continuation of this year's budget? What happens at the premier medical research facility in the world, the National Institutes of Health? Dr. Collins told us in very honest and somber tones: It would mean that we would suspend research in areas like precision medicine, destined I think to save lives across the world. We would suspend brain research in areas like Alzheimer's disease.

Once every 67 seconds in America—once every 67 seconds—an American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Last year, we spent \$226 billion as a Federal Government in Medicare and Medicaid on

Alzheimer's care. We estimate about the same number, over \$200 billion, was spent by families trying to care for those afflicted by dementia and Alzheimer's. There is a suggestion now that because our failure on budget negotiations will lead to the suspension of research, we would destroy any hope of finding a cure for this dreaded disease and scores of other diseases. That is how serious this conversation is. It is unfortunate that it has reached this point.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when I was young and going to grade school, we feared the bomb. We were in a cold war. We were given duck-and-cover drills to get under our desk just in case there might be a nuclear attack on the United States of America. That is imprinted in my mind to this day—the fear which we had about this threat to our safety.

I wish to read a commentary that is making the rounds with wide circulation by a mother who talks about a similar concern for her children. She writes:

Two weeks ago, my second and fourth grade daughters came home from school and told me they'd a "code red drill in case someone tries to kill us. We had to all hide in the bathroom together and be really quiet. It was really scary but the teacher said if there was a real man with a gun trying to find us, she'd cover us up and protect us from him. [Her little boy] started crying. I tried to be brave."

This mother goes on to write:

My 3-year-old nephew had the same drill at his preschool in Virginia. Three-year-old American babies and teachers—hiding in bathrooms, holding hands, preparing for death. We are saying to teachers: Arm yourselves and fight men with assault weapons because we are too cowardly to fight the gun lobby. We are saying to a terrified generation of American children—WE WILL NOT DO WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT YOU. WE WILL NOT EVEN TRY. So just be very quiet, hide and wait. Hold your breath. Shhh.

In the year 2013, the number of American police officers shot dead in the line of duty was 27—27, in 2013. In 2013, the number of preschoolers—that is, children under the age of 4—who were shot dead was 82; 27 American police officers, 82 children under the age of 4 were shot dead. We need to do better as a nation.

When I heard on the news this last Saturday that the monstrous tragedy in Oregon was the 45th—45th—school shooting this year in America, it broke my heart, and, more, it angered me.

In just a short while, in a few minutes, Members of the Senate Democratic caucus will come together outside of this building to talk about the need for America to take action to deal with gun violence. There are so many aspects of it.

I am honored to represent the city of Chicago, but having met with Mayor

Rahm Emanuel yesterday, we have seen a 20-percent increase in gun violence and deaths this year, and in Milwaukee, a 100-percent increase over last year. In scores of other cities, there is the same phenomenon. The city of Chicago and many others will be flooded with guns.

When I met with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Chicago on Monday, I asked them: Where are all these guns coming from? And they told me they have analyzed the crime guns seized in the most violent areas of Chicago, and they found that 40 percent of those guns came from gun shows in Lake County, IN, just across the border from Chicago—40 percent of guns. We also know that we have a phenomenon where girlfriends and friends and family will go buy guns, because the criminal—the felon who wants to use those guns to terrorize and rob and kill—couldn't pass the test for purchasing a gun. It is known as a straw purchase. The girlfriend buys the gun and hands it over to the boyfriend who goes out and kills somebody. Well, there are things we can do to change this. We need to close the gun show loophole. It makes no sense that we don't even check the backgrounds of people who fill their trunks and their cars with firearms and ammunition at these gun shows. And yet when it comes to Federal licensed dealers, there has to be a background check. This gap in coverage accounts for 40 percent of the crime guns in the most dangerous neighborhoods in Chicago. So the gun show loophole needs to be closed.

We also need to make it clear that if you are going to make a straw purchase of a gun and do so for the purpose of giving it to someone who is going to use it in the commission of a crime, you will pay a heavy price for that, too.

I grew up in a family with a lot of members of my family owning firearms in downstate Illinois. It was common for families to go hunting, to go out for target practice, and there was a gun cabinet in most homes. When a little boy, sometimes a young girl, reached a certain age, they were taken out in a rite of passage to go hunting for the first time. It is a part of the culture where I grew up, and it is an acceptable part of the culture when those guns are used responsibly and safely.

I don't know a member of my family who would object to the following statement: No one who is a convicted felon or mentally unstable should be allowed to buy a gun in the United States. I don't know of a member of my family who would object to the notion that if you are going to buy a gun so someone you know can use it to commit a crime and kill someone, you are going to be punished. Those are the two things that we should start with when it comes to reducing gun vio-

lence. Those two provisions are not going to hurt any legitimate, responsible, legal gun owner. But they are going to keep guns out of the hands of those who would misuse them.

We have to restore some sense of order in this country, and we have to realize that when we reach the point that 3- and 4-year-olds are being killed in larger numbers each year by guns than even those brave men and women who serve in our police departments—when it has reached that point—clearly, Congress has to act. For Congress to act, we need to hear from the American people. If they share these feelings—if they share the feeling—we need to move forward as a nation and stop this senseless tragedy.

I hope that after we gather today on the floor, Members of the Senate will come together and talk about this issue, and that across America people will join us in this effort.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:45 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during this period, any time in a quorum call be equally divided between both sides before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor as the ranking member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. In that capacity, I rise to oppose consideration of the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water appropriations bill.

Let me be clear, I do this reluctantly.

In my view, this is a very good bill. Senator ALEXANDER and I have put forth a well-balanced bill within the allocation levels we were provided, which was a good level.

It has been a great pleasure for me over the years to work with Senator ALEXANDER. I have the utmost respect for him. We have always worked things out, but this year I think we have a bigger issue, and I wish to address that in my remarks.

First, 6 of the 12 appropriations subcommittees received base allocations lower than last year.

Another four subcommittees received nominal increases but were still forced to make cuts due to rising costs beyond their control.

That leaves only two subcommittees—Energy and Water Development and Homeland Security—that received real funding increases.

That is why I believe considering the Energy and Water bill in isolation as we are now, rather than debating larger funding issues, is misleading. That is why I can't support the motion to proceed to the bill.

We all know the vote today is not just about Energy and Water. It is about the entire appropriations process, and that is the debate we should be having.

Instead of debating just this specific bill, the debate should be focused on eliminating sequestration, negotiating a budget agreement with the President and the House, and putting an end to the destructive cycle of continuing resolutions, omnibuses, and threats of government shutdown.

The Republican leader has already initiated budget negotiations. I am led to believe three meetings have been held. It can be done. It is what needs to be done. I fully support that effort. That is where we should focus our efforts.

Before I get into specifics of the Energy and Water funding issues, I want to take a step back and discuss two very disturbing issues I have seen from my seat on the Appropriations Committee, and I am not a newcomer.

I have been on that committee since I came to the Senate, which is more than 20 years ago. They are the negative effects of sequestration and the unravelling of the overall appropriations process.

The strict budget caps put in place by the 2011 Budget Control Act have been terrible for our country.

These spending caps, and the across-the-board cuts used to enforce them, were designed to be so devastating that Congress would do everything it could to avert them.

The problem is, the Supercommittee failed to reach the agreement in 2011, so those devastating cuts took effect.

These spending caps, which have essentially frozen spending levels for the last 3 years, do not account for the increasing requirements placed on the Federal Government.

The cost of veterans' health care is rising, insufficient, and has been roundly criticized. The cost of low-income housing is rising, the cost of educating our children is rising, and the cost of fighting natural disasters, such as drought and wildfires, is also rising. But the spending caps are not rising, meaning Congress is forced to make cuts to vital programs, and of course you get into the battle between the national security portfolio, such as defense, and the domestic portfolio.

My portfolio on Energy and Water is part national security, because of the nuclear weapons for our country, and the domestic part is the Office of Science, the Department of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers, which is the only infrastructure program we actually have functioning.

Having a static budget like this year after year, which does not even account for inflation, is no way to run a country.

I am also disappointed by the collapse of the appropriations process. At one time—and I hope this is interesting to the Presiding Officer since he is a newcomer—it was the norm to pass each spending bill as a stand-alone piece of legislation. All Members could offer amendments, and each of us took ownership of the outcome. We haven't done that in a decade.

It used to be that the entire Appropriations Committee, members of both sides, would support bills drafted by each subcommittee chairman and approved by the full committee. We haven't done that in 5 years. It was heresy for a bill to come out on the floor and not have members of the Appropriations Committee support it. That is all gone today.

Everything changed in 2011. My Republican colleagues decided to vote against every appropriations bill to protest funding levels.

The die was cast, and we have had to cope with the consequences ever since.

Since fiscal year 2010, we have passed 24 short-term continuing resolutions, which do nothing but keep the government going at the funding levels of the year we were in at the time we passed the continuing resolution. That is nine more than in the preceding 5-year period. It is a 60-percent increase.

When Congress can't agree on funding levels, we end up putting Federal spending on autopilot.

Mr. President, 2011 also marked the year when Congress turned over the power of the purse to the executive branch. By banning the use of congressional adds, we not only admitted that we know less about our States than executive agencies, we also removed a key reason many Members voted for the appropriations bills.

And contrary to conventional wisdom, congressional adds were not out of control.

In 2010, the last year they were allowed, they totaled just one-half of 1 percent of spending approved by the Appropriations Committee. One-half of 1 percent were adds made by Members of this body and the other body to do public projects in their districts.

I believe every Senator knows a great deal about his or her State—I really do—and projects that are important for the State's survival, and I believe they evaluate them based on the importance to the public. I believe they know what vital projects need to be funded. Removing that ability has removed individual Member's stake in an appropriations process that functions, and so it is nonfunctional today. It has damaged our ability to govern, and I deeply believe that.

That is a long way of saying we need to return the appropriations process to the way it was handled in years past, and today's political vote on this bill doesn't move us in that direction.

Even though I do believe the Energy and Water bill represents an acceptable compromise under the circumstances, there are still significant issues with the bill caused by low spending caps.

The bill provides—and this is important—\$35.4 billion. That is an increase over fiscal year 2015 funding of \$1.2 billion for defense and \$8 million for non-defense programs, and that is where you can see the problem. Those national security projects get an add of \$1.2 billion—and it is largely the nuclear weapons—and all of our domestic projects, such as the Office of Science, all of the energy projects, all of the innovations, the Energy Department, the Army Corps of Engineers, fixing rivers, fixing dams, dredging, and everything the Army Corps of Engineers does only get \$8 million as opposed to the \$1.2 billion that is added for defense. But even with that increase, there are significant shortfalls.

I will give a few examples. For the past 4 years, California and the West have been suffering from a historic drought. I just came from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee meeting. Senator BOXER and I have put together a drought bill. We have worked on it for 2 years, and we finally have a bill with some short-term fixes and some long-term projects which can increase water supply in California.

Our reservoirs are at historic lows, and the Sierra Nevada snowpack, our major source of water, is at the lowest it has been in 500 years.

We have millions of dead trees littering the State, increased lightning strikes, big wildfires that go up like explosions into the air because it is so dry, and the State's agriculture sector, which feeds the country, has been heavily affected. This is a \$43 billion industry that saw losses of \$2.2 billion last year, has lost 17,000 jobs, and on and on and on.

Here are some other ways the Energy and Water bill is weakened by low spending caps. I will talk for a moment more about the Office of Science. This is money used to expand research at our National Laboratories, and we are \$196 million below the President's budget request in this bill. Energy efficiency and renewable energy programs have seen an even bigger deficit with funding levels at \$773 million below the President's budget request. This delays the development of vital technologies to reduce energy consumption and slash consumer spending.

Defense programs are also underfunded. With higher spending caps, we could be putting into place strategies to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists. We just heard about a cesium sale to shady people that I can't remember ever happening before, and whether this opens the door to more, I don't know, but I do know it is a real weakness we have.

If we had some money, we could secure radiological resources at medical and industrial facilities, we could install mobile and fixed radiation detectors at ports and border crossings. We could also use additional funds to modernize the nuclear reactor infrastructure that supports the Navy. This includes developing more efficient reactor designs that can last 40 years without refueling.

These are weaknesses we see in the funding picture and in our bill. As I said, I actually believe it is a good bill when you know the circumstances under which we are functioning.

But this isn't just about Energy and Water, and we can't view it in isolation. As I said, Energy and Water had a decent allocation, even with the overall budget restrictions. But cuts made to other bills are far more dangerous, and we can't ignore these cuts.

I will highlight a few of them. The Subcommittee harmed by the current spending caps is responsible for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The subcommittee received an allocation of \$3.6 billion below last year. The Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education received cuts. These are draconian, and these programs affect our most vulnerable Americans. That is what the Presidential election is all about right now—the discontent over our inability to solve some of these problems.

There is a \$331 million cut to employment and training services for youth,

veterans, and the unemployed. There is an \$87.8 million cut to teen pregnancy prevention programs. There is a \$215 million cut to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—disease control. They are seeing diseases that I haven't seen since my childhood, such as measles, spring up all over the State of California, and we need to do these things to keep our people safe. Vaccinations are important.

There has been a \$198 million cut to shelter and services for unaccompanied immigrant children, a \$69 million cut to Federal student aid programs, and the elimination of a \$250 million program to expand access to preschool. Expanding access to preschool is something everybody wants for low- and moderate-income 4-year-olds.

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee, on the other hand, did receive an additional \$1.9 billion this year. However, the committee required a \$3.4 billion increase just to maintain current services.

As a result, the Subcommittee was forced to cut funding for mass transit projects by more than \$500 million below last year.

Affordable housing assistance is slashed by \$834 million, and the Community Development Block Grant Program that I used as the Mayor of San Francisco a long time ago, which could always be counted on, was reduced by \$100 million.

These cuts affected millions of Americans and hurt communities across the country. We should not have to choose between providing rental assistance to low-income families and providing transportation options so they can get to work.

I see the Presiding Officer is nodding. I have about 3 more minutes.

I ask unanimous consent to finish my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank my friend. I appreciate it.

The Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee also received a misleading increase in its allocation. While the Subcommittee received an extra \$965 million on paper, it actually needed \$1.1 billion just to account for last year's credit from the Toyota settlement that is no longer available this year. As a result, the subcommittee was forced to cut numerous important programs below last year's levels.

They include the U.S. Marshals Service, which was cut by \$141 million; legal representation for immigrant children, reduced by \$55 million; and Federal assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, cut by \$139 million.

Here is my conclusion. My good friend and colleague Senator ALEXANDER is rightly proud of the work he

and his staff have put into the Energy and Water bill, and, as I said, it is a good bill.

I sincerely wish the circumstance we find ourselves in today were different. Those of us on this side of the aisle should have a voice in what happens and how we can solve this problem.

So what I plead for is, in these negotiations that are starting, by Leader MCCONNELL, to move ahead, let's get it started and let's stop the CRS, let's stop the omnibuses, and let's stop the fights over the debt limit and shutting down the government. Let's go back to an appropriations process that this country did well by and that worked.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his forbearance, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, a previous President of the United States once wrote that if he could add one amendment to the Constitution, it would prohibit the Federal Government from incurring more debt. That President's name was neither Bush nor Reagan but Jefferson. The 217 years since then have proven three things: The national debt crisis is growing, it is dangerous, and only the Constitution can compel Congress to act. We must act before it is too late.

The national debt was 19 percent of gross domestic product when Thomas Jefferson called for a balanced budget amendment. President George Washington told the House of Representatives that the regular redemption of the public debt was the most urgent fiscal priority. In his first report on the public credit in 1790, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton warned that continuously accruing national debt interest would be a signal "either of inability, or of ill faith, and will not cease to have an evil influence on public credit."

The commitment to fiscal balance over the next 150 years was so strong that many referred to it as our unwritten fiscal constitution. Unfortunately, that commitment did not last. The national debt topped 40 percent of GDP for the first time in 1934, and 2 years later the first balanced budget amendment was introduced in Congress. Eighty years ago, Members of Congress began to realize that an unwritten constitution was no longer strong enough to limit the national debt. Good intentions are not enough to balance the Nation's checkbook.

Senator Millard Tydings, a Maryland Democrat, introduced the first balanced budget amendment to reach the Senate or House floor. The 1947 Appropriations Committee report on his proposal, S.J. Res. 61, opened with these words: "In no other way except by an amendment to the Constitution can

Congress be compelled to balance its budget in peacetime." The Judiciary Committee held its first balanced budget amendment hearing in 1956 on amendments introduced by Senator Harry Byrd, a Virginia Democrat, and Senator Carl Curtis, a Nebraska Republican. In current dollars, the national debt today is nearly five times what those distinguished Senators denounced as astronomical and staggering.

Here is where the national debt has gone as Congress has failed to propose a balanced budget amendment. Let me refer to this chart. As we can see, the national debt as a percentage of GDP is going up the charts today to the highest ever. The national debt was 32 percent of GDP when I first introduced a balanced budget amendment in 1979. It climbed to 34 percent of GDP in 1982 when the Senate—but not the House—passed a BBA; more than 62 percent of GDP in 1997 when we came within one vote of approving a BBA that I introduced; and 95 percent of GDP when the Senate voted on a BBA that I introduced in 2011. Today the national debt stands at 103 percent of GDP, literally swallowing the economy.

They say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. As the national debt continues to change in the wrong direction, BBA opponents make the same arguments they always have. First, they say the national debt is simply not a problem that needs a solution. The evidence, however, is all around us.

In a July 2010 policy paper, for example, the Congressional Budget Office outlined what it called the significantly negative consequences of our rising national debt and repeated those warnings in its latest budget outlook. Here are the consequences of a rising national debt—this is the Congressional Budget Office in 2015—reduced investment, resulting in lower national income and higher interest rates; Federal spending on interest payments would rise; less flexibility to address financial and economic crises; and increased likelihood of a fiscal crisis in the United States.

ADM Michael Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says this national debt crisis is a serious threat to national security—a conclusion echoed by experts from the Brookings Institution to the Heritage Foundation—or we can listen to the Government Accountability Office, which warned in 2009 that every year since that "the long-term fiscal outlook is unsustainable."

A recent study published in the Journal of Economic Perspectives looked at periods in different countries over the last two centuries when national debt exceeded 90 percent of GDP for more than 5 years. The authors found that these periods not only lead to "substantially slower" economic growth

but that “even if such episodes are originally caused by a traumatic event such as a war or financial crisis, they can take on a self-propelling character.”

These findings are very important for us today because the national debt has been more than 90 percent of GDP since the recession ended in 2009. In fact, we are entering the longest period in American history with the national debt above this toxic level. CBO projects exactly what this study predicts—that the national debt will remain above 100 percent of GDP and that GDP will grow at a rate “notably less” than in the past. Our own actual experience already proves the same thing. In the 6 years since the recession ended, debt has been twice as high and GDP has grown at half the rate as during the same period after previous recessions. This really does look like a self-propelling crisis.

The second argument by BBA opponents is that even if the national debt is a problem, Congress can solve it by willpower. That willpower once existed, but it is long gone. The Federal budget has been balanced in only 7 of the 80 years since a balanced budget amendment was first introduced in Congress and total deficits over those years dwarf total surpluses by 23 to 1.

The third argument by balanced budget amendment opponents is that even if Congress won't solve the national debt by willpower, it can do so by legislation. In 1985 we enacted the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 when the national debt was 42 percent of GDP. We have enacted one law after another as the national debt has continued to climb. Most recently, we enacted the Budget Control Act of 2011 when the national debt had swelled to 95 percent of GDP, but it failed, as did all the others. Willpower and legislation have both failed to tackle this crisis.

The national debt today stands at nearly \$18.2 trillion. In its most recent budget outlook, CBO projects that under current law the national debt will swell to more than \$25 trillion in the next decade. GAO issued its latest “Federal Fiscal Outlook” report in August. Without significant action by Congress, GAO says, Federal debt as a percentage of GDP could in the next 25 years climb to four times its historical average.

New data show that the deficit for fiscal year 2015 will likely be lower than expected. If the best thing to say about our current fiscal condition is that it could be worse, we are really in trouble. In its June long-term budget outlook, CBO says that after a few years at a more modest level, deficits will once again increase, especially when interest rates start to rise.

Since President Obama took office, we have seen both the greatest buildup of debt and the lowest interest rates in

history. This is the perfect fiscal storm. Even a small rise in interest rates will explode the cost of servicing this massive debt and contribute to higher deficits and greater debt. CBO projects that interest rates will indeed rise, and, as a result, “the government's net interest costs are projected to more than double relative to the size of the economy over the next decade.” Both CBO and the Concord Coalition anticipate that over the next decade, interest costs alone will approach \$1 trillion a year—that is with a “t”—\$1 trillion a year.

The fourth argument by BBA opponents really amounts to plain old scare tactics. They figure that Americans may want a balanced budget but only if their own favorite spending continues. So BBA opponents claim that a BBA will automatically cut this or that program. Not only is this a cynical approach to a very serious problem, but it is not true. A balanced budget amendment will require that Congress finally get serious about priorities and decide which spending is the most important and the most cost-effective. Long-term fiscal responsibility is more important than any one spending item in the budget.

I introduced my first balanced budget constitutional amendment in June 1979. I said then and I repeat today that a balanced budget amendment “requires that Congress think in order of budget priorities.” Nothing short of the Constitution will make that happen.

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. Neither willpower nor legislation can tackle the growing national debt crisis. It has been nearly 70 years and more than \$15 trillion of debt since the Appropriations Committee declared in 1947 that only a constitutional amendment can compel Congress to balance its budget. That is the only option left.

The last gasp of BBA opponents isn't really an argument at all. They say that adopting a balanced budget amendment will not by itself solve the debt crisis. I have introduced 7 and co-sponsored 20 balanced budget amendments since I was first elected. In all this time, during all the hearings and floor debates, I have never once heard anyone claim that adopting a balanced budget amendment will, by itself, magically make the debt disappear. Of course it won't. Neither did enacting all of those so called budget control acts. Congress will still have to make the decisions to determine whether we continue drowning in debt or chart a different course.

Congress cannot amend the Constitution by itself. Article V of the Constitution provides that constitutional amendments may be proposed by either two-thirds of Congress or by a convention called at the request of two-thirds

of the States. In either case, a proposed amendment does not become part of the Constitution until at least three-fourths or three-quarters of the States ratify it. Congress can do nothing more than propose a balanced budget amendment so that the American people may decide whether they want to add it to their Constitution.

Government does not get to set its own rules. The Constitution is the law that governs government, and it belongs to the American people. It is the primary way the American people set rules for how their government must operate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish these remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, Congress has proven, over decades of failure resulting in trillions of dollars of debt, that it will not exercise its fiscal authority properly. The American people must be given a chance to decide whether to make fiscal responsibility mandatory. It is the American people who ought to decide this. The only way they can is to propose a balanced budget amendment and send it to the States for consideration.

I have looked at dozens of national polls since I was first elected to the Senate conducted by major polling firms or national news organizations. Three-quarters of Americans supported a balanced budget amendment in 1976 and three-quarters supported it last year. Is it possible, however, that all of those polls over all those years are actually wrong? The American people might be content with the national debt swallowing the economy. They may not be bothered by being on an unsustainable fiscal path. Who knows, they might welcome soaring national debt interest payments crowding out other budget priorities. They might be OK with slower economic growth and a greater threat to national security. The American people might believe, with balanced budget amendment opponents here in Washington, that the national debt is no big deal or that Congress can solve it on its own. If so, then the American people will decline to ratify a balanced budget amendment, but the choice has to be theirs, not ours.

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation also does polling, each month compiling the Fiscal Confidence Index of Americans' opinions about the national debt. The results are both clear and consistent: 71 percent of Americans are concerned about national debt, as seen here—let me just define it a little bit—71 percent say their concerns about the national debt have increased; 63 percent say addressing the national debt is on the wrong track; 81 percent say addressing the national debt should be among Congress's top three priorities;

83 percent say Congress should spend more time addressing the national debt; 62 percent expect the national debt crisis to get worse in the next few years.

Some of my colleagues may believe we have no obligation to handle the American people's money responsibly. They might still claim that Congress can get its fiscal act together on its own or they may deny that the American people should be able to set the fiscal rules for the government they elect, using the Constitution that belongs to them.

Those colleagues should remember what the American people think about Congress. Disapproval of this institution is 83 percent today, higher than 98 percent of the time since the early 1970s. The percentage of Americans with very little or no confidence at all in Congress is the highest since Gallup started asking in May of 1973.

I am continually amazed at the wisdom and foresight of America's Founders. Thomas Jefferson was right in 1798 that one of the most effective ways of keeping the Federal Government within constitutional principles is to require a balanced budget. The Appropriations Committee was right in 1947 that Congress will not balance its budget unless the Constitution requires it. After seven more decades of attempting to tackle the debt by willpower or legislation, the crisis is worse than ever.

Continued failure is not an option, and there is only one solution. We must act before it is too late.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be controlled by the majority.

The Senator from West Virginia.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate came together in a bipartisan way to pass the National Defense Authorization Act conference re-

port. This important legislation authorizes vital resources for our Nation's troops, our wounded warriors, and their families.

This NDAA provides for our national security needs and will meet our commitments to our allies. The defense funding bill also includes programs that will directly benefit the West Virginia National Guard, including our partnership program with Peru and the Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Program to fight the wave of prescription drug abuse that is all over our States and our State in particular.

This bill provides funding for STARBASE—I visited STARBASE just recently—an innovative program that provides hands-on learning opportunities for students in science, technology, and mathematics, and helps spur their interest in STEM. They were really excited that day.

On Monday when I visited the 167th Air Lift Wing in Martinsburg, I enjoyed the opportunity to personally meet and thank our servicemembers and learn about the challenges they face. These brave men and women deserve our unified support and should not be subject to the gridlock that has been too common in Washington.

Unbelievably to me, though, the President has threatened to veto this bipartisan legislation, even though it authorizes the same amount of spending for national defense that he asked for in his budget submission. Just recently the administration authorized tens of billions of dollars for Iran through sanctions relief, including money that will be used admittedly to further destabilize the Middle East. Now the President is threatening to veto funding authorization for our own troops.

We face great and growing threats to our national security. ISIS continues to advance. Syria's ongoing civil war is creating a flood of refugees in Europe. Russia is increasing its influence in the Middle East, and Iran will gain strength due to the sanctions relief granted in the nuclear agreement. It would be a mistake for the President to veto this funding for our national defense.

As the Washington Post editorialized this weekend, "American presidents rarely veto national defense authorization bills, since they are, well, vital to national security."

The editorial continues, "Refusing to sign this bill would make history, but not in a good way."

This is not the legacy the President wants to leave behind. He should reconsider his position and follow the lead of the 70 Senators who voted yesterday—including 21 Democrats—to put our national security before politics.

The Senate is now considering another bipartisan bill that has important implications to our national security. The Energy and Water appropria-

tions bill funds programs that help us use our energy resources in the most efficient way possible.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee. I saw the bipartisan work that occurred between the chair and the ranking member. Continued innovation in our energy resources, whether it is coal, natural gas or oil, is absolutely a strategic asset to our national energy independence.

The benefit of innovation in our energy sector is reflected in the vast reserves of shale gas that are now being produced in West Virginia and elsewhere across the country. It was less than a decade ago, when I came to Congress, many of us were worried about a shortage of natural gas. Today, natural gas production is surging. In West Virginia alone, production has increased by over 500 percent in the last decade. It is exciting to watch. An energy economy is a jobs economy.

Not only does shale gas help us meet our domestic energy needs, we have an opportunity to expand our LNG exports, creating more jobs at home while helping to meet the energy and security needs of our allies in Europe and Japan.

Innovation and investment in clean coal technologies, not across-the-board regulation, should be our focus. The Energy and Water appropriations bill includes \$610 million in fossil fuel development. This is a necessary investment in entities such as the National Energy and Technology Lab in Morgantown, so that they can use these dollars to develop the technologies to make coal, oil, and natural gas production cleaner and more efficient.

I strongly disagree with EPA regulations that require the use of technology that is not commercially available. That is what we see in these regulations. They increase the cost of energy and they decrease the reliability of electricity grid. The best way to provide that energy and improve our environment is to invest in the technologies that will help us and use those coal reserves in the most efficient way possible.

This bill also provides important funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission. West Virginia is the only State that is completely within the boundaries of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the ARC plays an important role in helping West Virginians meet our economic challenges. The funding provided in this bill can help ARC promote rural broadband—something I talk a lot about on the floor of the Senate—and will expand rural health care services and offer opportunity to our State's workers.

Investments made in the Army Corps of Engineers through this bill will help provide the infrastructure we need to make sure American products can move to markets across the country and around the world.

The Energy and Water appropriations bill impacts every American. It was carefully crafted, robustly debated in committee, and passed the full Appropriations Committee with bipartisan support.

Mr. President and my fellow Members of the Senate, the Appropriations Committee did its part. We passed all 12 government funding bills for the first time since 2009. Nine of these bills had bipartisan support. So far Democrats have chosen twice to block debate on the Department of Defense appropriations. Last week, the Democrats blocked debate on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. That obstruction is the reason the government is continuing to operate on a continuing resolution.

Let's get the bills on the floor. Let's debate them, make changes, and then vote again. That is what we are supposed to be doing. None of us was sent here to pass short-term continuing resolutions and allow the government to operate on autopilot. Let's do our job. That is what we are sent here for. We are here to advocate for our State and national priorities, and this Energy and Water bill reflects those priorities. The full Senate should have an opportunity to debate this bill, offer amendments to improve it, and pass a bill that will lead to energy security and improve our infrastructure. By contrast, voting to filibuster this and other appropriations bills will make the threat of a government shutdown more likely.

Americans deserve a government that makes wise and strategic investments to best meet our needs. Endless continuing resolutions are not the most effective way to meet those needs and can prove wasteful in dollars and time. I ask my colleagues to allow debate on this important legislation to move forward and to support investments in our energy and infrastructure priorities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise reluctantly to acknowledge that I am going to vote in opposition to moving to cloture on this Energy and Water appropriations bill—reluctant because I have supported every single movement to go to the appropriations act because that is what the Senate should be doing. However, I will not reluctantly but will passionately object for the following reason: included in this energy and water report is language that was circuitously placed into the bill that would disadvantage my State of Georgia and show a preference to other States that surround it. It is not our job as Members of the Senate to circuitously write language into a bill that directs what policy this country may seek to follow.

My State, Florida, and Alabama have been in litigation for 30 years over what is called the water wars in the ACF and the ACT Basins. There has been litigation and cases have been dismissed from the courts. We have settled law in terms of the disposition and responsibility of the Corps of Engineers.

It is my responsibility, as a representative of my State, to do what is right, but it is also my responsibility to ask you the rhetorical question as follows: Should any Member of the Senate be able in any way possible to circuitously place language into a bill that would disadvantage one State or advantage another without debate or without direction? If we become that type of a body in the Senate, we are no longer the most liberating body in the world; we are the most punitive body in the world.

I appreciate the job the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee has done in writing this bill. I appreciate the appropriations that benefit the State of Georgia, but I do not appreciate the use of an appropriations bill to direct the actions of the Corps of Engineers to disadvantage my State and advantage another State without debate, without any degree of direction, and in total conflict with the courts' decisions in the past. So I reluctantly will vote no on moving forward on cloture until we remove this language from the underlying bill.

I yield to the Senator from Georgia, Mr. PERDUE.

Mr. PERDUE. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, the bill before us, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2015, is an important bill, and I appreciate Senator ISAKSON's leadership in this matter. I hope this bill can be considered again in the near future but under different circumstances.

This bill currently contains language that you just heard that would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from updating the Master Water Control Manual for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River system. By blocking updates to the water control manual, this bill would give Alabama the power to veto any plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to use Federal projects to accommodate both States' water supply needs.

When we look at what is really happening, it should concern every Member of this body as well as every person in the United States. For the last 30 years, as the Senator just mentioned, the States of Georgia and Alabama have been in litigation about the use of water in the ACT River system. In instances like this, the court system is the best way to resolve these issues between the States, not the body we are in today. Instead, the senior Senator from Alabama has chosen to insert specific language in this bill to litigate

this issue in the Senate instead of the courts. As anyone can imagine, with nearly 30 years of court cases and 60 years of water rights issues, the line between who is right and who is wrong can sometimes get blurry, but the fact is the Senate should not be intervening in a dispute between the States. This is an issue that should be decided by the courts, and the Senate certainly should not allow one Senator to invalidate progress on a multi-State water issue problem.

Several attempts have been made to get the Governors of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida to get together and once and for all solve this issue.

I want to applaud today Georgia's Governor, Nathan Deal, for his recent attempts to solve this issue and hope that one day we will reach a resolution to this problem that meets everybody's needs. But for now, it seems incredibly shortsighted to force any party in the negotiating process to give in and to tip the scales in one State's favor.

I have had my fair share of negotiations in my career, just as the senior Senator from Georgia has in his business career. I can tell you that forced negotiations never end well for anybody involved. I also know that the citizens of Georgia are not in favor of prolonging this issue any further. I know, Senator, that many of our colleagues in Georgia and many of our colleagues here don't like to be forced to decide issues between the States they don't represent.

With that, Senator, it appears that this bill incentivizes the State of Alabama not to negotiate, causing our colleagues to adjudicate this matter without all the facts.

I ask the Senator, can you give us your interpretation of this language one last time here? I appreciate the Senator's leadership on this.

Mr. ISAKSON. I thank the Senator for his leadership. Without reservation, the language benefits one State to the detriment of another. It is not the responsibility of the Senate to do so. It is inappropriate. I would ask this question of every Member of the Senate: If we became a body of equal representation, two Senators per State, that could secure that they write language into appropriations bills that disadvantages another State, would you want to be a part of that body or would you rather be a part of a body that debates, delegates, and then does what is right for the citizens of the United States of America and right for those they represent?

I appreciate very much the hard work of the Appropriations subcommittee. They have done a good job. We appreciate the priorities that Georgia has gotten. But I don't appreciate a body or the attempt to make this body a court of arbitration between somebody with seniority or somebody with cash versus somebody without, or

somebody with a preference versus somebody without. We need to get back to the business of debating and doing what is right for America, not disadvantaging our neighbors or advantaging ourselves over someone else, other than to negotiate what is right for the country and right for the people we represent.

I commend the Senator from Georgia and appreciate his wholehearted support in this. I am going to ask every Member of the Senate to vote no on moving forward on the Energy and Water appropriations bill until the language advantaging one State over another is removed.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM ACT OF 2015

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am deeply saddened by the terrible tragedy that occurred in Roseburg, OR, last week that resulted in the loss of nine lives and injured many more. My heart goes out to the victims and their families, who are struggling to understand this senseless act of violence and are shouldering incomprehensible grief. Roseburg, Newtown, Aurora, Virginia Tech, the Navy Yard—these mass shootings are examples of tragedies that our country has experienced far too often.

The common thread that runs through all of these acts of violence is untreated or undertreated severe mental illness. The shootings in Roseburg should serve as a wake-up call that it is time—indeed, it is past time—for a comprehensive overhaul of America's mental health system.

A serious flaw in our current system is that it is simply far too difficult for families to get help for their adult children who are suffering from severe mental illness. Over the past several months, it has been my privilege to get to know Joe Bruce from Caratunk, ME.

Motivated by his own family's tragic experience, Joe has become a powerful advocate for mental health reform.

Let me share with you and with my other colleagues Joe's tragic story. In 2006, Joe's 24-year old son Will, who had a history of severe and persistent mental illness, was discharged from a psychiatric hospital and returned home without the benefits of any medication. Will had been advised that without his consent, his parents had no right to participate in his treatment or to have access to his medical records.

Will believed that there was nothing wrong with him and that he was not mentally ill, which can be characteristic of some individuals with severe bipolar disorder or paranoid schizo-

phrenia. Will would not consent to his parents' involvement with his treatment, and because he was an adult, his father Joe and his wife Amy were barred from all access to his treatment or his medical records.

Tragically, the fears that Amy and Joe had voiced to Will's doctors that Will would hurt or kill someone came true. On June 20, 2006, Joe returned home to find the body of his wife Amy. His son Will was in a deep state of psychosis and, believing his mother to be involved with Al Qaeda, murdered her with a hatchet.

Because of that tragedy, Will was committed to the same psychiatric hospital, which had previously discharged him, by a criminal court. He is now doing well because he is getting the treatment and care he should have had before. As his father says: "Ironically and horribly, Will was only able to get treatment by killing his mother."

Joe also introduced me to a group of families from Maine, who are part of a group known as the Families of the 4%, a reference to the segment of our population that suffers from severe mental illness. All of them spoke of similar difficulties in getting needed treatment and care for their adult children suffering from severe mental illness.

This group of parents was distressed, exhausted, and so worried about their loved ones. One mother told me that she had made more than 60 calls seeking help for her son, whom she believed was dangerous.

Another mother described her son chasing her around the kitchen table with a butcher knife. A few of these families had more uplifting stories, because they had finally been able to get needed help for their children. One mother told me about her son who is currently receiving treatment and is in stable condition after being hospitalized more than 30 times in 10 years and spending time homeless and in jail.

Another father told me about his son who had been hospitalized more than a dozen times but is now living in an apartment and able to hold a part-time job because he too is finally receiving the care he needs.

While millions of Americans suffer from mental illness, only a very small number engage in unspeakable acts of violence against themselves or others. Yet many of the tragedies that we have witnessed in recent years—these mass shootings—might have been prevented had the proper resources been in place to support a timely diagnosis, early intervention, and effective treatment for those struggling with severe mental illness.

That is why I have joined with my colleagues, Senator and Dr. CASSIDY and Senator MURPHY, in sponsoring the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015. This bill is patterned on a bill that has been introduced by Congressman TIM MUR-

PHY, a clinical psychologist in the House of Representatives. It will make critical reforms to address a lack of resources, to enhance coordination, and to develop real solutions to improve outcomes for families dealing with mental illness.

My hope is that this most recent tragedy in Oregon will provide an impetus for the Senate to consider our bipartisan bill, which has been endorsed by so many mental health groups, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American Psychological Association, and the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems. Passage of this comprehensive, bipartisan legislation would help to jumpstart the much-needed conversation in this country about how to better care for people living with severe mental illness and to help their loved ones.

This bill addresses one facet, but a significant and ignored one, of the problem of mass shootings. I will continue to support other actions, such as the gun purchase background checks proposed by Senator MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY. I hope we can come together to pass both bills to help lessen the chance that other families will have to endure the loss of a loved one to a mass shooting.

I urge all of our colleagues to join Senator CASSIDY, Senator MURPHY, and me in cosponsoring this important legislation to strengthen our mental health system, to help ensure that others in this country do not suffer, as far too many families have done, because of adult children suffering from severe mental illness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I know the President is traveling to Oregon tomorrow. There is a lot of focus, and appropriately so, on the tragedy that occurred last Thursday afternoon in Oregon. I want to start out my remarks this morning by offering, again, our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to the families and friends who suffered so much in what seems like a senseless act of violence.

Perhaps stating the obvious, that it is terrible for our Nation to experience yet another tragedy like this, what I hope is that we don't become numb to hearing these reports so we end up being frozen into inaction or dysfunction but that we actually look for ways to try to work together to try to make some progress to deal with the root causes of incidents like this.

For the family and friends of those who lost loved ones last week—like so many others who have lost children, their friends, and siblings in one of these shootings—we know the emotions are still raw and real. So it is with great deference to those who have suffered this loss that I wish to discuss

what I believe to be one of the major contributing factors to these seemingly senseless acts of violence that have occurred across the country, and I will talk a little bit about some legislation which I have introduced which I think will actually help us address one of those root causes.

The legislation I have introduced is called the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act. I believe it would bring real change to our Nation and provide help to those struggling with mental illness. This bill would empower families with more options for their loved ones. I think about the mother of Adam Lanza, the shooter at Sandy Hook, and how she knew her son was suffering from mental illness, but basically she didn't have any options other than to let him continue to descend and become sicker and sicker or to go to court and seek an involuntary commitment for a temporary period of time.

So to make sure that families like Adam Lanza's and like the mother of the Oregon shooter—she said her son seemed to be doing fine as long as he took his medication, but when he quit taking his medication, he would become a real problem because he would get sicker and act out.

The legislation I have introduced attempts to strengthen the safety of our communities by providing families with more options when it comes to treating people with mental illness and treating them different from common criminals.

We know the majority of inmates at our jails in America are people with mental illness. They may have committed some petty crime because of their mental illness, and frequently, because of their attempts to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol, they get in trouble with the law. But rather than just lock them up, wouldn't it be so much better if we could get at the root causes of their mental illness and the reason they show up there in the first place? That is actually the goal of some very innovative programs I will mention in just a moment, but the goal of my bill that I introduced in August is to support families before it is too late and to provide a path to recovery and healing for the mentally ill.

Proactively treating those with mental problems is a vital component to reducing the risk of violence in towns and cities across the country. This bill would help the whole community, including families, as I mentioned, and schools. Certainly teachers and administrators at schools are privy to information and know things or suspect things that could be very helpful in providing assistance to families and those suffering from mental illness. It would also help law enforcement, providing them the training to spot the warning signs of individuals who could become a danger to themselves and others.

Many of the provisions of this legislation are based on policies that have been proven effective in State and local jurisdictions around the country.

Recently, I was in San Antonio—my hometown and where I served as a district judge. In August I had an opportunity to visit with those in the San Antonio area who have taken a leading role in coming up with new and innovative ways to approach this issue, including one of the leaders of that effort, Sheriff Susan Pamerleau. She championed those reforms, made our community safer, and provided families with alternatives to an endless cycle of incarceration for people with mental illness who don't actually get their symptoms and the cause of their problems treated.

The mental health program in Bexar County, which is the county where San Antonio is located, is now touted as the national standard for how to think strategically about those suffering from mental illness in our criminal justice system. The legislation I have introduced will help institute some of these best practices at the national level.

This legislation would empower families who struggle to find help for their mentally ill loved ones and encourage the development of mental health awareness programs in schools to help educators identify students with mental illness and provide them with the resources and treatment they need. It also includes specialized training for those on the frontlines, such as law enforcement. I heard in San Antonio recently that because of the training law enforcement receives, they have been able to reduce, if not almost completely eliminate, the violence that occurs when a police officer arrives at a call and encounters someone who is mentally ill. By providing the specialized training, you can deescalate the violence and allow the officer to direct the person to a place where they can actually get some help.

This legislation would also encourage State and local governments to create pretrial screening and assessment programs to identify mentally ill offenders, provide need-based treatment, and develop post-release supervision plans so they don't become a danger to themselves and others.

This bill also strengthens the current background check system by incentivizing information sharing among the States so that law enforcement has appropriate information regarding individuals with adjudicated mental illness in the criminal justice system. One example that is pretty close to Washington, DC, is the Virginia Tech shooter, who actually had been adjudicated mentally ill, but the State of Virginia had not uploaded that information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System maintained by the FBI. So when he purchased a fire-

arm, it did not show that he was disqualified, as he would have been if that information had been uploaded to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Trying to make it easier for the States to put information into the system is one of the goals of this legislation.

I hope my colleagues will view this as a commonsense attempt to try to make a significant step forward that will help not only those with mental illness get the help they need but also equip our Nation's law enforcement officers to perform their jobs.

Last week, more than 20 mental health organizations sent a letter to Members of the House advocating for mental health reform, calling the need "urgent" to "improve the lives of tens of millions of Americans, their families, and our communities." We need to listen to them, and we need to act.

I know from reports that some of our Democratic colleagues have said they are going to introduce some gun control legislation that we all know has been tried before and cannot pass this Chamber. What we need instead is a broad consensus to try to get something done that can bring people together, and I believe my legislation can do that by addressing the root cause of some of these horrific events—again, mental illness.

So instead of calling each other names, as the minority leader did on the floor last week, I would invite our colleagues across the aisle to do something constructive and to work together on this legislation.

The Mental Health and Safe Communities Act is a serious proposal and will take important steps toward preventing additional tragedies across the country. I think many of us understand that mental health reform, generally speaking, is long overdue, and this is an issue many groups in the mental health community support.

I should point out that there are many other organizations that support this legislation as well. Just to make my point about this being consensus legislation, I will mention some of the organizations that are supporting the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act: the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the National Association of Police Organizations, the American Correctional Association, the American Jail Association, the Council of State Governments, the Treatment Advocacy Center, the National Association of Social Workers, and the National Rifle Association. Madam President, I dare say that you won't find a group like that coming together on many issues, but on this legislation, on which we worked very closely with them, they have actually been able to settle some of their differences and meet each other on common ground in a way that I think gives us hope that we can actually get some legislation passed and

send it to the President. That will actually provide help to people like Adam Lanza's mother or the mother of the shooter in Oregon, who had nowhere else to turn, under the current state of the law, in order to get her son to comply with his doctor's orders to take his medication. Thanks to the miracle of modern medical science, there are miraculous medications that can help people suffering from mental illness lead productive and relatively normal lives.

I encourage my colleagues to consider how we can move this conversation forward in a way that results in real, positive change for our country—above the polarizing rhetoric and political gamesmanship that tends to characterize too much of what we do here in Washington and certainly on this topic.

Last week President Obama addressed the Nation after this horrific incident in Oregon. I believe his emotions were real, but unfortunately he didn't offer any concrete solutions to the problem. He said, among other things, that making our communities safer will require changing our laws. He went on to say that Congress needs to put forward such legislation, and that what is I have tried to do.

I am pleased that the President indicated his interest and concerns, but the real question is, Will the President work with us on legislation that actually offers solutions or will it just be a matter of grandstanding? Will our Senate colleagues offer legislation that previously has shown it cannot move in the Senate and render us dysfunctional or will they work together in a bipartisan way to try to find common ground and real solutions? I think that is the question.

I would ask our colleagues who are offering legislation—sort of relitigating some of these issues on which we haven't been able to find consensus—which of these proposals would have actually gone on to address the root causes of some of these incidents in the past? I think that is a very important question because if you are interested in demagoguing an issue, you can talk about that and offer purported solutions which can't pass and which actually would not have changed the outcome. What I have tried to do is figure a way that—OK, given our differences on this issue, how can we find that common ground and offer solutions?

Through this legislation, we would give families a way to help their mentally ill family members. We would help schools appropriately identify and respond to someone with mental illness. We would improve the response of law enforcement and the criminal justice system to make sure that mentally ill individuals do not become dangerous to themselves and others. We would work to help the States fix the

National Instant Criminal Background Check System. We would reduce the stigma associated with mental illness by protecting due process rights of the mentally ill.

I was somewhat taken aback and disturbed when I saw a story this morning in *Politico*: "Dems ready sweeping new guns bill." One of the statements in the article jumped out at me. It says: "Democratic leaders are wary that their rank and file could defect and begin supporting the Cornyn bill." So actually, according to this article, what is occurring is, rather than looking to find consensus or to join together to support legislation that might actually help solve the problem, some in the Democratic leadership are actively lobbying their own Members not to get on legislation or support legislation that might actually pass and might actually work. That strikes me as incredibly cynical and doesn't demonstrate an interest in actually solving the problem but, rather, political grandstanding.

I would encourage all of our colleagues, regardless of where you stand on this issue, let's try to figure out a way to move forward. We have a real opportunity to address the common element found in most of these mass shootings, and we don't have any time to waste. We can do better for the American people and get the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act done.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028 on Thursday, October 8, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 123, 266, 267, 300, 325 through 328, 330, 331, and 335; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that following disposition of the nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I have come to the floor to speak in support of the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water appropriations bill. I want to thank the senior Senator from Tennessee for his leadership in developing this bill, for doing his part to help the Senate return to a regular budgeting process, and I want to urge my colleagues not to filibuster when we vote on it.

The Appropriations Committee passed this bill with broad bipartisan approval in late May. The final vote in committee was 26-4, with all Republicans and 10 Democratic Senators supporting it. That means close to 90 percent of the Appropriations Committee voted to advance this bill—a very strong ratio that we should carry over here on the floor, instead of grounding it with demands for more and more spending.

There is a lot in here that the Senate should like. My colleague from Tennessee has developed a good, balanced bill that will provide funding and direction to the Department of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation. It will allow the Senate to advance our Nation's energy security, nuclear waste cleanup, flood control, and infrastructure development.

We hear a lot of talk about the importance of Federal energy policy around here. As the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I certainly agree that energy policy and stewardship of our public lands are worthy of our time and attention. And that is one of the reasons this bill should be allowed to go forward. It will support research and development for our conventional energy resources, for renewable resources, for nuclear energy, and for many other promising technologies.

It includes a pilot program for the consolidated storage of spent nuclear fuel, a step in the right direction after years of stalemate that have placed our Nation's nuclear future in limbo.

It focuses on the legacy wastes from the Manhattan Project and provides considerable funding for environmental cleanup at legacy sites around the country.

It will also uphold our Nation's nuclear security, providing funds for non-proliferation efforts and weapons activities.

But that is not all this bill will accomplish.

It will also fund the Army Corps of Engineers, whose construction projects and maintenance operations are critical not only for Alaska's harbors, but for every port in the country. Dozens of communities in my home State depend on the sea for their livelihoods—it is a source of food, jobs, and income. Without a viable port, many Alaskans cannot maintain their traditional subsistence way of life, so this is particularly vital to our Alaska Native communities.

I don't have time to tick through what this bill will do for all 50 States—but I can tell the Senate a little about what it will do for Alaska.

It will fund general investigations in Craig, Kotzebue, Perryville, and St. George.

It will provide construction funds for Port Lions and fund the Continuing

Authorities Program, which allows projects that are needed by small communities to take place far quicker than can occur through the usual congressional approval process.

Operations and maintenance funds will go towards dredging in Anchorage, Homer, Nome, and other cities to ensure their harbors are in good working order and able to handle maritime traffic.

This is a good bill. It spends a total of \$35.4 billion—which used to be a big number around here. It makes important choices and wise choices and funds our priorities.

So if you care about the national lab system or university research programs, you should support this bill.

If you care about energy innovation and nuclear safety and nonproliferation, you should support this bill.

If you care about ports, roads, harbors, and other infrastructure all around the country, you should support this bill.

And if you think the Senate should lead in the Federal budgeting process—if you are serious about getting that back on track, serious about us playing a role instead of being a bystander—you should support this bill.

Again, I thank the senior Senator from Tennessee for his hard work and encourage the Senate to move to full consideration of this important bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the Democratic-controlled time, Democratic speakers be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak on an issue that hits far too close to home for far too many families in Washington State and across the country—in Roseburg, OR; in Blacksburg, VA; in Newtown, CT; in Seattle, WA, where a student at Seattle Pacific University opened fire just over 1 year ago; in Marysville, WA, where a teenager killed four students in a high school cafeteria before turning the gun on himself; and in so many other communities, too many to list.

Madam President, in the hours and days and weeks after those shootings

in my State, the community showed incredible resilience and strength. But I can tell you that anyone who has been affected by gun violence understands all too well that all the strength in the world will never erase the pain of the parents who lost a child or the students who lost friends and teachers.

Today I echo the questions I have heard from so many people in Washington State: What will it take for this Congress to adopt simple, common-sense reforms? Why would this Congress hesitate at taking even the most basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals? Why do we fail to act when children at school and young adults on campus and women in abusive relationships and so many others are so vulnerable to the threat of gun violence?

I know this is a complex issue, but that doesn't mean we should do nothing. It is long past time for us to improve background checks. It is long past time for us to end the illegal pipeline of guns that contribute to crime.

I think it is also important to note that too often those who commit terrible acts of violence needed help and intervention they did not get. To be clear, they represent a very small minority of the many people in our country who struggle with mental illness. But when so many lives are truly on the line, we need a comprehensive approach, and that should include strengthening our mental health care system so that it is available to anyone who needs it.

Madam President, this issue isn't going to go away. I wish it would. I wish we never had to have this conversation again. I wish we had never had to hear about the latest child killed, the latest school upended. I know we all wish that. Wishing will not make it happen. It is time for Congress to listen to the American people and act.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, Congress has failed to protect the American people from the tragic gun violence that is plaguing our Nation. The mass shooting in Roseburg, OR, was the 297th in the United States this year alone. That is more than one mass shooting per day so far this year in our country.

In fact, every year more than 30,000 Americans are killed by guns. Yet the Republicans have blocked any legislation to prevent future tragedies. It is past time for us to act. It is time for us to listen to the American people, who overwhelmingly support commonsense legislation on guns. Ninety percent of Americans support background checks before someone can buy a gun. Ninety percent of Americans support background checks before someone can buy a gun—90 percent of Americans.

So let's close the loopholes that allow online gun sales and sales at gun shows without a background check. Ninety percent of Americans want background checks. Let's close the loophole that allows already proven domestic abusers to buy guns. That is overwhelmingly supported by the American people. Let's close the loophole that allows straw purchasers to buy guns and flood our streets with them. Overwhelmingly, Americans don't want these kinds of illicit sales with no background checks to be conducted across our country. Let's close the loophole that allows a gun sale before a background check is completed. At least let's complete it. Let's take our heads out of the sand on the causes of gun violence and how to prevent it.

We have the power here on the floor of the United States Senate to pass legislation that pretty much all of America expects us to pass. It is time to end the NRA's vise-like control of this Chamber. The NRA says it is the National Rifle Association. Well, our goal should be, on this floor, to say that the NRA stands for "Not Relevant Any-more" in American politics.

We should do this now. There is an epidemic of gun violence in our country. It is not preordained; it is preventable. I am proud to join with my colleagues in support of these commonsense gun safety measures.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. McCASKILL. Madam President, I was born in a small rural community where deer season was as much a part of fall as football and falling leaves. I was raised in a household where my dad taught us that hunting was part of our culture in Missouri. I don't know any of my dad's friends, but I certainly know that my father, were he still alive, would be shaking his head about the massacres, about school shootings—45 school shootings in one year—of innocent children, innocent college students being mowed down. It is horrific and it is tragic.

The American people want us to respect gun rights, but they want us to use common sense. They don't want terrorists to be able to buy a gun at a gun show. We should not be selling AK-47s to terrorists at gun shows. We should not be allowing someone who is convicted of stalking the ability to buy a gun.

That is the only thing we are talking about, the principles of common sense that run deep in my State. Close the gun show loophole. Make background checks more effective in order to keep guns out of those hands that should never hold them.

No one is trying to do anything other than protect the innocent. No one is trying to remove a gun from lawful citizens of the United States, but if we do nothing, if we shrug our shoulders

and do nothing when an overwhelming majority of our country want us to try to close these loopholes and make background checks more effective, then we are part of the problem. We really need to look in the mirror at the billions we are spending to fight terrorists who are not mowing down our citizens, our innocent children sitting in classrooms, and the billions of dollars we are spending to try to make sure illegal immigrants don't come in this country when, among us, we allow terrorists to buy guns at gun shows, and we allow convicted stalkers to get a weapon. Fifty percent of murder victims in domestic violence have been stalked.

I hope that Americans rise up and call their Congressman, call their Congresswoman, call their Senator, and get busy because we have to take action.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in calling for commonsense action to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people who should not have guns, including domestic abusers, and to close loopholes in existing laws that are now being exploited by criminals who are prohibited by law from possessing guns.

Like the Presiding Officer's State, my State is a big hunting State. We are proud of that tradition, so whenever I look at any of these proposals, I think: Would this somehow hurt my Uncle Dick in his deer stand? Would it do anything to take away the rights of those who hunt, the rights of legal gun owners? That is how I look at each proposal, and the proposals we are talking about today would not do that. I wouldn't be supporting them if I thought they did.

We know that no single policy can prevent every tragedy that has been caused by gun violence, but there is one area—what I call the silent victims—the women and the children who are killed in their homes every single day due to acts of domestic violence. According to domestic violence experts, more than three women per day lose their lives to their partners. More than half of those are killed—are shot—with a gun. This means that thousands of women—thousands and thousands of women in the United States—were murdered by an intimate partner using a gun between 2001 and 2012 alone. These crimes don't discriminate. They impact people across all backgrounds, ethnicities, and income levels. They are serious crimes, and the numbers tell the story of the work left to do.

I am a former prosecutor. Before I came to the Senate, I spent 8 years running an office of 400 people. We made prosecuting felons in possession of guns one of our major priorities, and

I am proud of the work we did. I will say that some of the disturbing cases that were murders, that were shootings, did not always involve felons, but they involved criminals. They involved people who, over a series of crimes, had racked up a number of convictions, maybe in the misdemeanor area, maybe for restraining orders and other things.

I remember one case where a woman was shot to death by her boyfriend. He killed her and then killed himself while both of their children were still in the house. It was ultimately his 12-year-old daughter who went to the neighbors for help. The worst part of the story: It could have been prevented. In the 2 years leading up to the murder-suicide, the police had been called at least five times to resolve domestic disputes. Yet somehow this man managed to have a gun in his hands that day and kill his girlfriend.

Consider the police officer who was called to a domestic scene. The guy there had mental health problems.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. The man there shot the police officer in the head—shot him in the head. I was at that scene, and what I will never forget are the three little kids, including the little girl with a blue dress with stars all over it, going down the aisle of that church after being in that church a week before for a nativity play with her father. That is what we are talking about, and we are very glad that this proposal will be in the package of proposals along with the background check.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I am very proud to stand up with my colleagues and say: It is time to act. Enough is enough. Close loopholes that are being used by people who are not following the law, unfortunately resulting in death and injury to children and families across the country.

Like a lot of my colleagues, I grew up in a small rural town in Northern Michigan. My family members are all hunters. We enjoy the outdoors and gun ownership. I purchase and own guns myself. That is not what this is about. My family goes through background checks. We don't want people being able to use loopholes and not to have to follow the law. So this is simply about making sure that the law makes sense and that we are enforcing it.

I also think it is very important to stress the fact that we know there are tremendous mental health needs in this country. In fact, Senator BLUNT

and I offered legislation—the Excellence in Mental Health Act—before this body that was passed as a pilot project to get started about 18 months ago. If we had the full support of our Republican colleagues in the House and the Senate, we could quickly make comprehensive quality mental health services available all across the country. Instead, because we have not yet—I hope we can get that support. I would love to see that support. If we had that support, we would have more than eight States that are going to have emergency mental health services available, 24-hour services available, so families or law enforcement or individuals have a place to take someone or someone can go in themselves and ask for help—24-hour psychiatric services available on an emergency basis.

That is what is in the Excellence in Mental Health Act. We have begun the process to make sure it is available in these States. It needs to be available in 50 States. We need to make sure comprehensive services are available in the community for behavioral health just as we have for federally qualified health centers.

We came together on a bipartisan basis to extend funding for federally qualified health centers. We now have a new category called federally qualified behavioral health clinics, and funding will be available to comprehensively provide those services in eight States under our pilot project. It needs to be in 50 States.

I welcome colleagues coming to the floor and talking about what we need to do in mental health. We have colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. STABENOW. If I may ask for 15 more seconds.

We have colleagues on both sides of the aisle on bipartisan proposals on a number of different issues. Let's get that done, too. Let's fully fund comprehensive community mental health services. Let's work together on the other issues. It is time to pass commonsense gun safety laws.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today Democrats, from the most moderate and conservative Members of our caucus to the most liberal, are united around a series of principles. They are principles that are overwhelmingly supported by over 90 percent of the American people—universal background checks. They are principles that are supported, according to Pew, a nonpolitical poll, by 85 percent of gun owners. They will save tens of thousands of lives without impinging on the rights of any legitimate gun owner.

The gun owners know it. That is why 85 percent of them support it. Gun owners don't want felons to get guns. Gun owners don't want people who have

been convicted of stalking and abuse to get guns. We know that. Yet our colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to move on anything. Senator CORNYN—I know Senator STABENOW and Senator MURPHY and others have done great work on mental health. Senator CORNYN came to the floor today and talked about mental health. First, we want to do things on mental health. We should. It is a huge problem. I would like to see my good friend from Texas support the money that is needed—not a pilot program, but the money that is needed.

The more important point is this: Doing things on mental health—which we should—is not a substitute for closing the gun show loophole. Some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are feeling the heat, but instead of taking the action they should, supporting closing the gun show loophole, they say let's focus on mental health without giving any good reason why we shouldn't close the gun show loophole. Let's do both.

Today we are calling on the American people to create a groundswell. President Obama was exactly correct. The gridlock in Congress on guns—which befuddles almost all American people in every State, purple, red, or blue—is because the overwhelming support of the American people is not translated into action here. We are calling on the American people to raise their voices in the next few months. We are calling on the American people to write. We are calling on the American people to call. We are calling on the American people to tweet. We are calling on the American people to post on Facebook. We are calling on the American people to march and tell Washington: Enough—enough of these terrible shootings that all of us grieve over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent for an additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Let's put the other side on notice. We will get a vote on this legislation. We will use all the procedural means in our ability. Once the groundswell occurs and people on both sides of the aisle have to study the issue, they will have to vote. We will do it either toward the end of this term or early in the next term of this Congress, and we believe we have a chance to win. The American people have said enough. A small group in the House and Senate, who are so unrepresentative of the views of their constituents, will not hold things up any longer. That is my belief. I hope and pray it becomes a reality.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, democracy doesn't work like this. De-

mocracy doesn't work such that 90 percent of the American public can support the pretty simple concept that you should not get a gun if you are a criminal and have Congress ignore its will. Democracy doesn't work like that.

As Senator SCHUMER said, this is really about making sure the American public are engaged at the highest level and are making it absolutely clear that silence in the face of these mass murders, silence in the face of young men and women—predominantly young men getting gunned down in the streets of our cities every day—isn't acceptable.

We are hopeful that over the course of the next several weeks and months Congress is going to hear loud and clear that our silence has effectively become an endorsement for these murders. I know that is hard to hear. But the reality is that when the Nation's most esteemed deliberative body does absolutely nothing in the face of this slaughter—we don't even hold one single public hearing—those whose minds are becoming unhinged start to think that those in charge have quietly endorsed it, because if they didn't, they would be doing something about it.

The outline that we have laid before our colleagues today is reasonable, commonsense, and exists side by side along with the protection of the Second Amendment, and we should adopt it as quickly as possible. But at the very least, we should get started on a conversation about how we can end our silence on this issue.

I live every day with the memory of standing before the parents of Sandy Hook Elementary School on that morning on which 20 first graders were gunned down. I live every day with the thought of a young man, disturbed in his mind, walking in with a military-style assault weapon, and in less than 5 minutes, killing every single little boy and girl that he shot. Twenty little boys and girls were shot in under 5 minutes. Every single one of them was dead because of the power of that gun, because it was being loaded by cartridges of 30 bullets at a time. It is something no hunter needs in order to enjoy his sport or his pastime.

I talked to my first grader this morning as he was heading off to school. I told him that I was coming to talk about keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. He looked at me with this vision of puzzlement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 3 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. He didn't understand why it was already the law of the land. A 7-year-old had enough common sense to know that criminals should not be able to own guns. As he went off to his first grade classroom—not unlike the

first grade classroom that those little boys and girls walked into in December of 2012—I was reminded of the fact that if little boys and girls in a quiet town in Connecticut or young men and women in a quiet town in Oregon are not safe, then my son is not safe either. In the face of political opposition, which is real, that is why we are coming together to say: Enough is enough. It is time for us to understand that without a change in the law, the reality on the ground for those who are being affected by this plague, this epidemic of gun violence, will not end either.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, we are saying today not only enough is enough but also: Rise up, America, and demand action from this Congress, which for too long has been complicit—in fact, an aider and abettor in the mass killings that have taken place at Virginia Tech, Columbine, Charleston, Sandy Hook, and now Roseburg.

If America rises up, Congress will hear and heed that message, just as it would in any public health crisis, and today we face a public health crisis as real and urgent as a contagion of flu or tuberculosis or, yes, Ebola. The same kind of urgency and immediacy in response is necessary—commonsense, sensible measures to fill gaps, close loopholes, and expand existing law to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. One of those principles should be this: no background check, no gun; no check, no sale.

Let us close the gap that permits countless criminals to buy guns because the background check isn't complete within the required 72 hours. One of the 15,729 ineligible purchasers over the last 5 years—people who were barred by law from buying guns—was Dylann Roof in Charleston. He used his gun to kill nine people in a church in Charleston. He was ineligible to buy a gun, but the background check was not completed within 72 hours.

We are igniting and activating a silent majority in America. More than 90 percent of the American people want background checks on every gun buyer, along with other commonsense measures, such as a ban on illegal trafficking and straw purchases and a mental health initiative in school safety. Let us give America its say, and this moment is one we should seize to say: Rise up, America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, it wasn't long ago that towns such as Columbine, Aurora, Blacksburg, Newtown, and now Roseburg were unknown outside their States. But today, these towns have witnessed the worst kind of

tragedy: mass shootings, bodies torn to pieces, families shattered. The common element in each has been an unstable individual who had easy access to deadly weapons.

I stood here 2½ years ago to argue for restrictions on the manufacture, transfer, and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. That vote failed.

I stood here to argue for universal background checks. It makes sense that there be a process to ensure a firearm isn't purchased by someone who can't legally possess it, such as a felon. Even that bill, supported by the overwhelming majority of the public, failed.

Here we are once again, standing on the Senate floor, demanding action in the wake of another deadly shooting. As frustrated as I may be, I have not lost hope that the American people will rise up and force their elected representatives to take real action to help stop these senseless murders. I hope they pick up their phones and call every Senator, every Representative, and every Presidential candidate and demand to know where they stand.

President Obama noted this week that the United States is the only country—the only country—that so frequently suffers these deadly attacks. Let me quote some figures. In 2013, we had 33,636 people killed by guns. In 2011, there were 146 gun deaths in the United Kingdom and 698 in Canada. In 2012, Australia saw 226 gun deaths. Last year, there were 6 gun deaths in Japan. Our number is 33,636.

We cannot let that continue. Gun laws work in other countries, and they can work here too. There are simple actions that Congress can take to make a difference. An individual should not be able to buy any weapon they want online or at a gun show with no background check. An individual should not be able to purchase weapons and then immediately resell them, without background checks, to criminals. An individual who has committed domestic violence should not be able to purchase firearms.

These are not drastic changes. In fact, all of these proposals are already law in some States. Congress simply must take some action. The longer we delay, the more innocent people, including children, will be killed in our schools, our office parks, our movie theaters, and our streets.

I wish to conclude with a story written by blog writer Glennon Doyle Melton. She offers up a powerful tale, and I would like to read a portion of it.

"Two weeks ago, my second and fourth grade daughters came home from school and told me that they'd had a code red drill."

She recalled her daughter saying:

[The drill was] in case someone tries to kill us. We had to all hide in the bathroom together and be really quiet. It was really

scary but the teacher said if there was a real man with a gun trying to find us, she'd cover us up and protect us from him. Tommy started crying. I tried to be brave.

Glennon continues:

My three-year-old nephew had the same drill in his preschool in Virginia. Three-year-old American babies and teachers—hiding in bathrooms, holding hands, preparing for death. We are saying to teachers: arm yourselves and fight men with assault weapons because we are too cowardly to fight the gun lobby.

We are saying to a terrified generation of American children—WE WILL NOT DO WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT YOU. WE WILL NOT EVEN TRY. So just be very quiet, hide and wait. Hold your breath. Shhh.

This is chilling. To hear what our children and grandchildren must endure, even in their earliest years. I wish to say to all of us that we must have the courage to stand up and do what it takes to provide some commonsense protection for our constituents and for our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise to talk about the topic of gun violence. Time and again we have heard calls in this Chamber for tougher gun safety laws. We have debated ideas that have ultimately fallen short of passage. These were basic reforms that would better protect all Americans, and every time these proposals have failed, more of our communities have fallen victim to gun violence. There are more and more vigils, more funerals, and more questions about how these tragedies keep happening.

Today lawmakers in Washington put forward a set of general principles to guide us as we work to stop the enormous amount of gun violence and gun deaths in our country. These principles include more thorough background checks, which the vast majority of Americans support. They include closing the various loopholes that make it so easy for criminals—not law-abiding citizens—to buy guns, and they include cracking down on gun trafficking and making it a Federal crime.

I have introduced a bipartisan bill with Senator KIRK. The bill called the Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryear-Yard Gun Trafficking and Crime Prevention Act of 2015. It was named after two young girls who lost their lives when stray bullets from gang violence killed them.

This bill is bipartisan. My main cosponsor is a Republican. Gun trafficking is recognized all around this country as a major source of fuel for

American gun violence. Our bill would finally make gun trafficking a Federal crime. It would give law enforcement the tools they need to get illegal guns—we are not talking about legal guns—off the streets and prosecute those who make money dealing in trafficked weapons.

Right now there is no Federal law that prevents someone from loading their truck in Georgia, driving up I-95, and reselling those guns to gang members in New York. These guns go to dangerous criminals. They are not going to our law-abiding citizens. They are not going to hunters in upstate New York. They are going to gang members in New York City, Chicago, and big cities across this country.

We need to make it possible for our law enforcement to do their jobs. I have said it over and over again, nothing ever happens in Washington until regular people stand up and demand action. They want this nonsense to stop. They want innocent lives not to be lost because of criminals and the mentally ill who can so easily get access to weapons. It is insane that we cannot do commonsense gun reform that the vast majority of Americans and gun owners actually support.

If you, God forbid, are a parent who has lost a child, we need to hear your voice. If you are a member of law enforcement, we need to hear from you about what has worked and what has not worked. What resources do you need for us to help you do your job? If you are a law-abiding gun owner, we need to hear your ideas about how to prevent criminals from getting their hands on guns. If your life has been affected by gun violence, we need to hear your ideas about how to prevent other people from having to live through the horror you have lived through.

The only way we are going to make our country safer from gun violence is through Federal action. Right now, we are stuck with a patch of State and local laws which make it very hard for law enforcement to do their jobs to keep us safe. We urgently need Federal gun safety reform. Month after month, year after year illegal guns tear apart communities in New York and across our country.

According to the last Federal data, there were 8,539 firearms recovered and traced in my home State in 2013 alone, and of those more than 8,500 guns, nearly 70 percent of them came from out of State.

I cannot say this more strongly: We have to make gun trafficking a Federal crime. Give law enforcement the tools they need to keep our communities safe. Stop handing guns over to criminals. We can do this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 338

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I come to the floor to urge my colleagues to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This has been a very important program for preserving our outdoor spaces and the beauty of our country. It is particularly important to my home State of New Hampshire, where this fund actually comes from leasing revenues from oil and gas, and so these are dollars that are supposed to be designated for this purpose since the law was passed in 1965. I am very disappointed that this body has allowed the LWCF authorization to expire.

We have a bipartisan bill, which is cosponsored by Senator BURR, Senator BENNET, and myself—the Burr-Bennet-Ayotte bill, which is one that I will seek unanimous consent on in a moment. It has a number of cosponsors. This is a very bipartisan bill. Senator TESTER, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator ALEXANDER, Senator COLLINS, and Senator KING have also cosponsored this bill. This bill would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We know from a previous vote in the Senate, we have 60 votes for permanent reauthorization. People on both sides of the aisle feel very strongly about preserving our great outdoors in this country.

In New Hampshire, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been used on 650 projects, from every aspect of our State—from Sunapee to Ossipee, to Berlin, to Seabrook, to my home city of Nashua, and the Mine Falls Park that I run in every day whenever I am home.

According to travel officials, 660,000 visitors are expected to travel to New Hampshire this weekend over the Columbus Day holiday. We welcome them, but they are coming to experience the beauty and iconic fall foliage of New Hampshire, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund has given them opportunities to enjoy our great outdoors, whether it is hiking, bicycling or hunting, whatever they like to do in the great outdoors.

Protecting our treasured outdoor spaces is not a partisan issue. We should work together on this issue and extend this important fund. I urge this body to immediately take up and pass the reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to continue to preserve our great outdoors, this beautiful country, and my beautiful State of New Hampshire. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to preserve our beauty not only in New Hampshire but across this country and our Nation.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 10, S. 338; I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and

passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEE. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I want to be very clear about what it is we are talking about today. We are discussing the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund's ability to accrue additional revenues to the fund and nothing more.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the Land and Water Conservation Fund currently has an unappropriated balance of around \$20 billion that can be appropriated in implementing LWCF projects. If you assume the current rate of appropriations is roughly \$300 million per year, it would take around 60 years before that fund is exhausted.

Meanwhile, we have both the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and its House counterpart, the House Natural Resources Committee, working on reforms to the LWCF to address some of the issues that are causing a lot of people to be concerned with the LWCF. These issues involve, for instance, the maintenance backlog that we have with regard to many of our national parks and public lands and also with regard to the manner in which the Federal Government acquires new land. This is of concern to many of us, especially those of us who come from a State like mine where the Federal Government owns nearly 70 percent of the land.

On that basis, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I am obviously disappointed that an objection has been rendered by my colleague from Utah, but I will say I appreciate his interest in making sure we maintain our public parks and lands, and this is certainly an interest that we all share together. It is my hope that we reauthorize this program—I know there are some very important projects that can go forward not only in New Hampshire but across the country—because you can't do anything new unless you reauthorize it.

I am disappointed that there is an objection, but I am hoping this is something we can overcome and make sure we can work together and get this reauthorized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, just to clarify. We have two committees, one in the Senate and one in the House, looking at the possibilities for reforming this program. I am confident we can find agreement on how this pro-

gram ought to be reformed. That is my goal, and I will continue to work toward that end. I want to make sure we have reforms put in place as we reauthorize this.

In the meantime, I want to be clear: This doesn't do anything to halt the program as a whole. This just deals with the accrual of revenue to a fund that has an accumulated unappropriated balance of \$20 billion. We certainly have time. This shouldn't be rushed through. We need to give the committees the time they need in order to work out the reforms needed.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I join the Senator from New Hampshire, Ms. AYOTTE. I thank her for her leadership on the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She has been out front on this, she cares about it, she is effective, and works well with other Members of the Senate. My bet is that she will succeed before very long.

In 1985 and 1986, at President Reagan's request, I was chairman of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. It was our job to look ahead for a generation and try to see what kind of recreational facilities Americans would need in the next generation. Our principal recommendation was that we fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It was created in the 1960s and has worked with States, as well as through the Federal Government, to create city parks and opportunities to enjoy one of those aspects of the American character that makes us exceptional; that is, the great American outdoors.

Senator BURR of North Carolina and Senator AYOTTE of New Hampshire have been among the most vigorous supporters of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I join with them, and I look forward to their success.

Now, on another subject, Madam President, in about 15 minutes, the full Senate will have an opportunity to vote on whether we want to consider the Energy and Water Appropriations bill this year. We are voting on the motion to proceed to the bill.

I will try to put that in plain English. That means our Appropriations Committee, which consists of 30 Members of the Senate, has finished its work on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. In fact, we finished it on May 21. We voted in a bipartisan way, 26 to 4, to send it to the floor of the Senate.

Senator FEINSTEIN, who is a wonderful partner to work with from California, is the ranking Democrat on the Energy and Water Subcommittee. She helped write the bill. I helped write the bill. Thirty other members of the Appropriations Committee helped write the bill. This will be an opportunity for

the other 70 Members of the Senate to get involved in our first responsibility, which is the Senate appropriations process.

So the question is that a "yes" vote means yes we want to debate the bill.

As a Member of the Senate, I would like to be involved in the Energy and Water appropriations process. I would like to have a say about where we put our nuclear waste. I would like to have a say about our National Laboratories and what they are doing to create new jobs for our country. I would like to have a say about whether we will be first or whether we will be in the middle of the pack on supercomputing. I would like to have a say about whether the harbors along our coasts are dredged and deepened so that the big ships from the Panama Canal, which is being widened, will come to the United States and bring cargo and jobs here instead of other places. I would like to have a say about nuclear weapons. I would like to have a say about whether to move ahead with a new class of submarines.

All of that is in this bill. All 30 Senators on the Appropriations Committee have had our say, but the other 70 Senators have not. The way the Senate works is this is the time for Senators to stand up and say yes or no. I want to have my say on behalf of my State about national defense and about growth, about jobs, about our country. Why wouldn't a Senator want to do that? It is hard for me to understand this.

The Democrats are saying: No, we don't even want to talk about it. They are saying: No, we don't want to debate it.

That is our job. It is our job to debate it. They say: Well, we have a difference of opinion over spending. Do my colleagues know how big our difference of opinion is? Three percent. This bill that we are about to vote on spends 97 percent as much money as the Democrats want to spend. They want to spend 3 percent more. I actually think this is a pretty good way to appropriate. That means we at least been able to squeeze 3 percent out. And if later on, in a few weeks, we have a way of negotiating an agreement that says we will spend 3 percent more, we can add that 3 percent in 24 hours. It would not take long at all. That would be the way to do it.

The way we are supposed to do an appropriation is to bring the bill to the floor and let all 100 Senators vote on it—not just the 30 who are on the Appropriations Committee—and have a conference with the House of Representatives. They have had their say. Then we send it to the President and he has his say.

Now, the President has said he will veto it because it needs to spend 3 percent more. That is his prerogative under the Constitution. It is the pre-

rogative of the minority Democrats in the Senate to say we will uphold the President's veto because we agree with him on spending. But we don't start the process at the beginning and not even allow the full Senate to do its appropriations job. We go through the whole process and let the President have his say and then we sit down and talk about what to do.

This is a very bad precedent that really insults the Senate. What this means is that if the Republicans are in the minority of the Senate in the next Congress and we have a difference of opinion with the Democrats over how much to spend, we won't have an appropriations process, some might say. They will say: We have a difference of opinion, and since we have 41 Senators, we will just stop the appropriations process at the beginning. We won't let the rest of the Senate have its say.

That is not the way we are supposed to do our job. We are sent here to have our say on behalf of the people.

Let me give an example or two, if I may. Senator FEINSTEIN and I worked very hard on this bill. It provides a total of \$35 billion; \$1.2 billion more than last year and \$668 million below the President's budget request. The bill is consistent with the Federal law that is called the Budget Control Act. We didn't just make up out of thin air how much to spend. The law tells us how much to spend. That is the law of the Senate, which the House and the Senate all voted for, passed, and signed, and which governs what we spend. Our friends on the other side would like to spend more. That is their prerogative and they can vote to spend more. But why would they stop us from having a discussion about spending more?

Half the bill is nondefense spending that supports scientific research and laboratories, harbors, locks, and dams. Half the bill is defense spending. It funds nuclear weapons, life extension programs. It maintains our nuclear weapons stockpile. As I said earlier, the Senate Appropriations Committee fully considered it and approved the work that Senator FEINSTEIN and I had done, 26 to 4, on a bipartisan basis. Defense spending is higher this year, primarily because of an agreement we made a few years ago when we enacted the START treaty to modernize our nuclear weapons program. It funds several other important agencies, including the Department of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Nuclear Administration. It reduces wasteful spending because of our oversight. Every year, Senator FEINSTEIN and I cut out of our budget at least one program that we consider low priority. We did that again this year. And if the Senate would allow us to have the bill on the floor and discuss it and vote on it and approve it, we could save \$150 million from the U.S. contributions to the International Ther-

monuclear Experimental Reactor in France. But, no, we are not going to discuss that, say our friends on the other side.

The bill helps our economy. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke wrote a good column in the Wall Street Journal earlier this week. He said: Don't count on the Fed alone to make the economy better. We have to do some other things.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thought I had until 12:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democrats have 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I am sorry. If I may have 30 more seconds to wind up—no one told me that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Chair.

So I would say to my friends on the other side, if you want to have a say about nuclear waste, about nuclear defense, about National Laboratories, about flood control, about waterways, and about locks and dams, then vote yes, because that will give you a say and you will be doing your job. Voting no sets a dangerous precedent for the Senate that says we are not interested in doing our job on appropriations.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise as the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee to urge my colleagues to vote no on the motion to proceed to the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

I wish to comment about the remarks of the Senator from Tennessee. First of all, I have such admiration for him and for his advocacy for Tennessee, the skilled legislator that he is. He has been an advocate for his State and for the United States of America. He is an outstanding chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. I know he and my colleague, the ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN, have worked very well together.

I don't dispute many of the things the Senator said in terms of what impact this would have on the economy. Certainly, if one is the Senator from Maryland, the Corps of Engineers is part of our economy, particularly because of the role it plays in helping to keep our waterways open and able for the Port of Baltimore to be viable and accept the new Panama Canal shipments. We could go through item after item.

We need a bipartisan budget agreement. While the Senator says he wants to have his say, which I appreciate, we have been trying to get budget negotiations going since May. In the committee I voted to move this bill forward because I wanted to move the

process forward. I was hoping that the leadership of both bodies would move to a new top line 302(b) allocation and lift the caps. We need leadership on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the dome. We wanted that five months ago, yet here we are for yet another parliamentary maneuver that just pits well intentioned, hard-working people against each other over process. We need a new top line so we can have a better bottom line for our national security and our economic security.

I am deeply worried that the trajectory we are on is hollowing out our America, that we are hollowing out the much-needed infrastructure that we need, part of which comes from the Army Corps of Engineers, which includes our waterways.

Look at the whole issue of dam safety. Our colleagues in South Carolina now are worried about the rivers. The Corps of Engineers is working 36-hour days with Governor Haley to really try to help South Carolina. But we need investments in our infrastructure, not only for crisis response. And by the way, of course we are going to stand with the people of South Carolina to help them. We need to be able to cancel sequester, and we need to be able to do it for defense and for nondefense.

In the Energy and Water bill that is before us, the increases are in the defense side. Some of the national security issues have been outlined by the Senator from Tennessee. But in the area of nondefense, it has just gone up a couple of hundred million dollars—excuse me, \$8 million. The bill is short on infrastructure and it is short on research funding.

Now, I believe we should have a sensible approach to spending. I know that we agree with the budget caps, but these budget caps are placing a cap on our national security. They are placing a cap also on our compelling infrastructure needs that every State is crying out for. The Senator from Tennessee knows the requests have come his way, along with Senator FEINSTEIN.

We are also capping innovation. We need to be able to have more breakthroughs, whether it is in life science—we had a wonderful hearing yesterday that we both attended regarding the breakthroughs at NIH, but we need breakthroughs in energy.

We need to maintain our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We need the Corps of Engineers to have the resources it needs for flood control, waterways, and harbors. My port depends upon it.

We also need adequate funding for the cleanup of uranium enrichment plants such as in Portsmouth, OH, where 500 workers will lose their jobs.

We need to stop talking and engaging in parliamentary dueling.

My hope is to encourage our leadership to come up with a new budget deal that lifts the caps so that the Senate

appropriations committees can get on with their job.

I have worked now with our colleague, the full committee chairman, Senator COCHRAN. The Senator from Mississippi, a gentleman of the old school, has done a good, solid job running the committee. As to the chairman that we have worked with, we feel we have good relations. But it is not how well we get along; it is how much we get done. And the way to get it done this year is to be able to lift the budget caps, come up with a sensible agreement with appropriate offices, and then let's let the appropriators do our job.

I wish to say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we do look forward to working with you, but when all is said and done, we want to get more done than we get said.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, we yield back any remaining time on our side.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, we yield back our remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, Richard Burr, Daniel Coats, Ben Sasse, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley, Susan M. Collins, Thad Cochran, James Lankford, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Ayotte	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Gardner	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Johnson	Sullivan
Collins	Kirk	Thune
Corker	Lankford	Tillis
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Cotton	Manchin	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	
Daines	Moran	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Perdue
Blumenthal	Heller	Peters
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Isakson	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—4

Graham	Rubio
Reid	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARIO CORDERO TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER

NOMINATION OF SARAH ELIZABETH MENDELSON TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF SARAH ELIZABETH MENDELSON TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF W. THOMAS REEDER, JR., TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

NOMINATION OF LUCY TAMLYN TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

NOMINATION OF DAVID R. GILMOUR TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC

NOMINATION OF EDWIN RICHARD NOLAN, JR., TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

NOMINATION OF CAROLYN PATRICIA ALSUP TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

NOMINATION OF DANIEL H. RUBINSTEIN TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

NOMINATION OF SUSAN COPPEDGE AMATO TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider en bloc the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2019; Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; W. Thomas Reeder, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Benin; Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic; David R. Gilmour, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Togolese Republic; Edwin Richard Nolan, Jr., of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Suriname; Carolyn Patricia Alsup, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia; Daniel H. Rubinstein, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia; and Susan Coppedge Amato, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2019; Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; W. Thomas Reeder, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Benin; Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic; David R. Gilmour, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Togolese Republic; Edwin Richard Nolan, Jr., of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Suriname; Carolyn Patricia Alsup, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia; Daniel H. Rubinstein, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia; and Susan Coppedge Amato, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator WYDEN and Senator MURRAY be added as cosponsors to S. 2165, a bill introduced earlier today to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2165

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2165, which is a permanent extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund; that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, this Land and Water Conservation Fund has been around for 40 years. It has \$20 billion built up in reserve. The authorization, as it is expired at this point, only changes the amount of money coming into it.

We are still doing the same projects. Literally, this fund has 65 years worth of reserve built into it.

What we are trying to find is some way to be able to help protect the lands that we already have. We are adding more lands. We are not doing maintenance on the lands. We have an \$11 billion maintenance backlog just in our national parks.

So I do have a concern that we are continuing to add more lands, and we are not taking care of what we have. There is not an immediate emergency need for this because the fund continues to operate. We are just not adding new dollars into it in the days ahead.

But, again, we have about 65 years of reserve currently in it. So we are not in a hurry. We do want to be able to get this right, though, on how we actually maintain our lands as well as actually do purchasing or State entities do—whatever it may be—so I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, if I could continue, because I am very disappointed that these objections are now proceeding. Just to be clear, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been around for 51 years, and this is the

first time in the history of the Land and Water Conservation Fund that it has expired. So I hope that sportsmen, I hope that fishermen, I hope that everybody who loves the outdoors and participates in the outdoor economy will call their Senators and make sure they understand that these are important bills to pass.

We don't want to become the holdup Senate where you cannot get the Export-Import Bank finally past the finish line, where you cannot get the Land and Water Conservation Fund—things that have worked for decades and decades, that are bipartisan, and that the majority of Members on both sides support—and it is about making sure they can get a vote.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported more than 6 million jobs nationwide as part of outdoor recreation, and it is credited with over \$900 million from, basically, Outer Continental Shelf drilling. So those gas receipts paid for this open space that then generates more to our economy by having outdoor recreation opportunities.

So every State, I am sure, will hear from cities, from counties, from organizations, and sportsmen who will say: Let's get this bipartisan legislation passed; let's continue our efforts as a conservation country to invest in the things that will help grow our outdoor economy.

I hope my colleague from the other side of the aisle will stop coming to the floor and objecting to this. I know there are Members on both sides of the aisle who have tried to get this passed. I hope that when we return in a week, we will find a path forward to say that this is a priority, that after 51 years of this legislation, we haven't lost our mind as it relates to how important outdoor recreation economies are to our country.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

TRAGEDY AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I am on the floor of the Senate with my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, to share a few thoughts about the tragedy that has occurred in our home State.

One week ago today, a madman turned a quiet fall day in Roseburg, OR, into a day of horror and terror. What occurred on the grounds of Umpqua Community College is an unspeakable, senseless innocent tragedy—nine innocent lives cut short.

Lucero Alcaraz was just 19 years old. She graduated from Roseburg High School this past year. She had received scholarships that would cover her entire college costs, and she had hopes of becoming a pediatric nurse working with children.

Quinn Cooper, 18 years old, also just graduated from Roseburg High School.

Quinn loved dancing and voice acting. He was just on the verge of taking his brown belt test in martial arts.

Lucas Eibel, 18 years old, was a third graduate of Roseburg High School. He was studying chemistry. When he wasn't in school, he played soccer and volunteered at Wildlife Safari animal park and a local animal shelter.

Treven Anspach was 20 years old. He was a talented athlete, and he worked with the Douglas County Fire District when he wasn't in class. His parents referred to him as the "perfect son."

Kim Dietz loved the outdoors, her 18-year-old daughter, her two Great Pyrenees dogs, and she worked as a caretaker at the Pyrenees Vineyard.

Jason Johnson was 33 years old. Jason recently turned his life around. After completing a 6-month drug rehab program with the Salvation Army, he decided to continue his education. As his mother said, he had "finally found his path."

Sarena Moore. Sarena was in her third semester at Umpqua Community College, studying business. She was an active member of the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church and the proud mother of two adult sons.

Lawrence Levine was the professor teaching the writing class that was assaulted by the gunman. He loved the blues. He loved fly fishing. Writing was his passion.

Rebecka Carnes. Rebecka graduated just last year from South Umpqua High School. In this picture she is holding a graduation cap, and the graduation cap says "the adventure begins." She was full of zest for the life to come.

These were nine upstanding citizens of the community, nine promising lives cut short. Yet even in tragedy we saw in Roseburg examples of resilience and heroism. The law enforcement officers, the first responders proceeded to act quickly and to act competently.

There were students like Chris Mintz, who was shot five to seven times seeking to stop the gunman. The sheriff, the county commissioners, the mayor, the city manager all made decisions in a flash to respond and to address the unfolding crisis, and they did an incredible job, but there is no job that can repair the damage done, the tear in the fabric of the community or the broken hearts of the families and the community and all Oregonians. This mass shooting will be seared into our memories.

The name Roseburg will be added to a list that includes Charleston, Newtown, Aurora, Oak Creek, Virginia Tech, and Columbine. This is a list of communities and schools that no community or school ever wants to be on.

I was born in Douglas County, in the town of Myrtle Creek. I spent my early childhood there and then in Roseburg. That area is an incredibly beautiful place. It is home to one of the most beautiful rivers in the world, the Umpqua River, and a town that is just the

right size, where everyone knows each other and everyone helps each other. I am shocked when I think of the community, that this could happen there.

If this can happen in Roseburg, it can happen anywhere in our country. That is something that becomes evident day after day, week after week. In the course of 2015, there have been 45 shootings in our schools across the country, 18 mass murders, or roughly 1 every 2 weeks. So we grieve the lives lost at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, and we grieve the lives lost in assaults across the country. We will search our souls to ask ourselves how we might diminish the odds of this occurring in another community, and that conversation will take place here in this Chamber in the weeks ahead.

I want to close with recognizing that if we can diminish the opportunity of a disturbed individual to get hold of a gun and we can increase the opportunity for them to get help, there will be fewer tragedies like this.

With that, I turn the floor over to my colleague, Senator WYDEN.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague, Senator MERKLEY, a son of Douglas County, and reflect for a few minutes on the horrendous events of the last week. My colleague has eloquently talked about this, and I am grateful for that.

Senator MERKLEY and I will be returning home tomorrow, but I want to talk a little bit about some of what was inspiring last Friday. My colleague and I and our colleague from the House, Congressman DEFAZIO, went to Mercy Medical Center, and we saw all of the staff. My own sense is that there is no way you can truly prepare for something like this. You can go through as many training programs, have as many drills, have as many handbooks as anybody can invent, but you are never truly prepared for it. When Senator MERKLEY and I and a colleague from the other body, Congressman DEFAZIO, walked into that mayhem, there were probably 150 staff there, and I said: This is the face of Douglas County. These are the people—the doctors and the nurses and the pharmacists and the volunteers—who were there in a time of extraordinary stress giving those individuals the very best of care and that little extra touch of Douglas County caring that my colleague knows much more about than anyone else here in the Senate.

I so appreciated what we saw at Mercy Medical Center because it told me that even at a time of such pain and after such carnage, we know Douglas County is going to come back. Roseburg is going to come back. The reason we know that is because of what we saw there at Mercy Medical Center—all of those committed, wonderful advocates who, against all odds, came through.

There is one other part of Douglas County I want to reflect on because it

says so much about the community. My colleague and I have townhall meetings around the State. We have both been in Douglas County. I was at a townhall meeting at UCC just a couple of months ago. As I was driving in, all of the log trucks were parked out front because it is a community that cares a great deal about sensible natural resources policy. We had a spirited town meeting, as most of the town meetings in Douglas County are, because people have strong views, but on that day I saw much of what I saw at the Mercy Medical Center when my colleague and I visited—people who care about their friends and neighbors, who care about a whole host of issues, from the economy to charity to what the Congress is doing, that might actually be relevant to them.

I bring this up by way of saying I am so grateful my colleague made the presentation he did so that we understand what a huge loss this has been, but I also wanted to touch on what I saw with my friend at Mercy Medical Center and what I saw at the Umpqua Community College townhall meeting just a couple of months ago. Because at a time of great loss, we can also be inspired by what we saw at that medical center and the friends and neighbors of goodwill coming together to deal with some of the biggest challenges the community and our country face.

I look forward to going home with my colleague tomorrow, to once again talk about the challenges that are ahead after Roseburg. We talked a little bit about that on the steps, but I mostly want to say that what we saw last Friday in the middle of tragedy and great stress ought to send the message to all concerned that Douglas County is going to be back. Douglas County is a special place, and as horrendous as these losses were, those are people who embody the best of our State and the best of our country.

I look forward to working with my colleague and, with his leadership, providing whatever solace we can in the short term and then moving on to tackle the community's bigger issues in the days ahead.

I thank my colleague, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, on September 11, 2001, 3,000 people were brutally killed in this country. The response of our Nation was overwhelming. We changed our laws, we increased our intelligence community's capacity dramatically, we fought two wars, and we imposed vigorous inspection regimes at airports and in connection with transportation. We made huge changes in order to see that such a thing did not happen again. Why? Because we love each other. We are a compassionate people, and when Amer-

ican lives are threatened, we react. In that case, we reacted in an overwhelming way.

In 2014, we lost one American to a potential Ebola epidemic. One life was lost. Even though it was only one life, millions of dollars were spent across the country, and our entire health system was mobilized, again, because we love each other and we want to protect each other.

Over the last 10 years we have had disasters in this country that have affected our neighbors, most recently in South Carolina. Of course, the two great disasters of the last decade are Katrina and Sandy. Again, we responded. In money, \$100 billion was allocated for relief from those two storms. Why? Because we love each other and we take care of each other.

When we see a problem in this country, particularly a problem that threatens fellow Americans, we act. We do something. When there is a risk to our colleagues and our friends and our families, we address it. Yet we have one epidemic in this country, one disaster that we are deliberately ignoring. It is an epidemic which takes over 30,000 lives a year, 30,000 American lives a year, and that is gun-related violence. The breakdown on that 30,000 figure is over 10,000 homicides committed with guns and 20,000 suicides committed with guns.

Maine is a gun-owning State. Of any State, I think my State has the second or third highest percentage of gun owners in the country. Yet we have one of the lowest levels of gun violence. Why is that? I think it is because of our deep tradition of respect and care for firearms and the idea that is passed down from generation to generation that firearms are to be treated responsibly and with respect and with an understanding of their destructive capacity.

Thinking about this issue has made me reflect upon what is the proper response from what level of government. I do not think all problems in this country need to be solved by the Federal Government. I think this is one of them. I think there is an important role to be played by States and localities because they can adjust their rules and laws according to the needs in their States. The needs, responsibility, and the importance of this issue in Maine may be different than it is in New Mexico or Texas or Illinois or New York. Therefore, under the genius of our system, the principle responsibility should rest at the State and local level. However, I do think there are minimum standards the Federal Government can impose that will enable the States then to work within those standards to meet the requirements that they see are most important for their citizens. This is a true role of federalism.

In our Federal Constitution we have the Second Amendment, and I respect

and support it. It is a basic part of our governing document, but the Second Amendment, to me, not only imparts rights but responsibilities. Guns are dangerous instrumentalities. Anybody who has ever used one knows that, and there are responsibilities which come with the right to keep and bear arms.

Justice Scalia in the *Heller* decision—where the Court struck down the District of Columbia's total ban essentially on handguns, saying it overreached and violated the Second Amendment—was very clear and explicit where he said: The Second Amendment, like all other amendments in the Constitution, has limits. Interestingly, specifically he mentioned in that opinion—and nobody ever accused Justice Scalia of being a liberal. Justice Scalia pointed out: Of course you can limit the ability of felons and the dangerously mentally ill to obtain handguns. The government can limit it. And also, the government can reasonably place limits on the commercial transaction, the sale and purchase of guns.

We are here today because of one more in a depressingly familiar series of mass shooting incidents: Columbine, Newtown, and now Oregon. All over the country this is happening in a repetitive way. It is important to use this occasion to reflect upon the dangers we are ignoring, the epidemic we are ignoring, but I think we also have to realize that mass shootings, as horrendous as they are, are not the bulk of the crimes committed with guns and the deaths dealt by guns in this country; that those are everyday criminals, abusive spouses, and, sadly, people taking their own lives. Don't forget that those 30,000 deaths a year of our fellow citizens are not all in mass shooting situations, but they involve many other circumstances.

So what is the solution? A friend of mine in Maine coined the term, which I think aptly applies—in fact, it probably applies in this case more than any other: There is no silver bullet. There may, however, be silver “buckshot”—a multiplicity of solutions, no single solution. Nothing we do today in the way of background checks or anything else is going to solve this problem entirely. We must recognize that. So we must move in a comprehensive way—not only on the Federal level but on the State level as well—not to compromise the Second Amendment, not to take guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens, not to make it inherently more difficult for law-abiding citizens to maintain them but to put into place commonsense solutions to deal with this epidemic of gun violence.

The first, of course—and I commend my colleague from Maine for emphasizing this today; that is, we have to deal with the failures of our mental health system. In all of these mass shooting incidents, it appears that the

perpetrators had some significant mental health issues. We have to deal with that. We have to have a better system that finds people in advance, before they act out their violent fantasies. We have to try to intervene and help those people before violence occurs.

So mental health has to be a part of this, but it is not the whole answer because people with those kinds of proclivities, whether they are violence-prone felons or people with dangerous mental health issues, we simply have to keep guns out of their hands.

That brings us to the second commonsense solution, which is background checks, which we already have. We have had them for 15 or 20 years. Some people say: Well, we are worried about background checks because it will lead to a Federal registry, and they will know who has the guns and then they will come and get them. We have had the background checks for a number of years. That hasn't happened. In the Manchin-Toomey bill that we voted on a few years ago, it was a felony for any Federal official to create a registry that would be available to the government.

The simple, basic, commonsense idea of a background check is to see whether someone is a convicted felon or has demonstrated a dangerous mental illness that should disqualify them from having a firearm. That is common sense. That has been supported—is supported—by a majority of gun owners and by the vast majority of the American people. It was even supported by some of the national gun organizations as recently as 10 or 15 years ago but no longer, for reasons I don't understand.

Another part of the package I think will be introduced in the next week or so is to add convicted spousal abusers to the list—which, again, is common sense. I mentioned in Maine we have a very low level of gun violence, but much of it involves spouse upon spouse. If we have a case where someone has been convicted of spousal abuse, to me, again it is common sense that they should not be able to obtain a gun.

Finally, if we are going to have a system of background checks that is nationwide—that, by the way, should be efficient—in this day and age, there is no reason it has to take any kind of long period to check, but if we have such a system, then it doesn't make sense to turn a blind eye to trafficking and straw purchases, which are essentially designed to get guns into the hands of people who otherwise couldn't buy them.

That is a modest package. To the express language of Justice Scalia, it doesn't violate the Second Amendment, and it will not solve the whole problem. Nothing is going to solve the whole problem. We are a human society, and humans, sadly, are often prone to violence, but it can make a difference. It can make a difference. Re-

member, we are talking about 30,000 people a year—30,000 people a year.

The American people send us to address issues, to address problems. On September 11, Congress acted. After Sandy and Katrina, Congress acted. During the Ebola crisis, Congress and the American health system acted. Why? Because we love each other and we value each other. It seems to me this is exactly the same case. We look out across the country, and one of the problems with this issue is it is slow motion and small. Every now and then we have one of these incidents, like we did last week, where a significant number of people are killed in 1 day, but the truth is, 10,000 people a year are murdered in the United States—10,000 people a year—not necessarily in a mass shooting. But 30,000 people a year altogether, if we include suicides, is a small American town disappearing every year. If all of these deaths occurred in one town or in Iowa or Illinois or Chicago or California, we would be on this. We would find the cause. We would be at least trying to prevent it, but because it happens in slow motion in small ways across the country, in small towns and large cities, we are ignoring it.

The incident in Oregon gives us an occasion to remind us once again of how serious this is and that we have an opportunity to do something about it, not by overreaching, not by violating the Second Amendment, not by impinging on the rights of law-abiding gun owners—of whom we have many in Maine—but simply by the commonsense imposition of a nationwide system to be sure that people who are felons or dangerously mentally ill can't get guns. I don't understand how anybody can object to that goal because I care about my fellow Americans, I love my fellow Americans, and I want to protect them from harm.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE EXCISE TAX

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to share my concerns with the devastating impact of the Cadillac tax, enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. The Cadillac tax is a 40-percent excise tax set to take effect in 2018 on employer-sponsored health care plans around the country. This is precisely why I have authored the only bipartisan piece of legislation that would fully repeal this onerous tax. The reason I did so is that in Nevada, 1.3 million workers who have employer-sponsored health insurance plans will be hit

by this Cadillac tax. These are public employees in Carson City. They are service industry workers on the Strip in Las Vegas, small business owners, and retirees all across the State. Hardly anyone in Nevada will be shielded from the devastating effects of this Cadillac tax.

What I am most proud of on this piece of legislation is the fact that we have 14 other cosponsors here in the Senate. It is also sponsored and supported by 75 other organizations across the country. Some of those organizations include unions, chambers of commerce, small business owners, State and local government employees, and retirees, and they are all saying the same thing: The Cadillac tax needs to be fully repealed or our employees will experience massive changes to their health care.

We are talking about reduced benefits. We are talking about increased premiums. We are talking about higher deductibles. Over 33 million Americans who use flexible spending accounts, FSAs, and 13.5 million Americans who use health savings accounts, HSAs, may see these accounts vanish in the coming years as companies scramble to avoid the law's 40-percent excise tax. HSAs and FSAs are used for things such as hospital and maternity services. They are used for dental care, physical therapy, and they are also used for mental health services—something we badly need today. Access to these lifesaving services could all be gone for tens of millions of Americans if the Cadillac tax is not fully repealed.

I have heard from employers—from big business, to unions, to small businesses from all over Nevada—who are saying that they will inevitably have to eliminate services their workers currently enjoy. They will have to cut certain health care providers out of their networks.

This goes to the heart of the broken promises of ObamaCare; that is, if you like your health care, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor.

Earlier this week, I held a telephone townhall meeting with thousands of Nevadans from all walks of life. During the meeting, I asked the participants on the call "Should the Cadillac tax be repealed?" One of the best parts about these tele-townhall meetings is that you can do these surveys. We do this weekly. The question this week was "Should the Cadillac tax be repealed?" Almost 70 percent of them said "Yes, the Cadillac tax should be fully repealed." Let me repeat that. Almost 70 percent of Nevadans supported the repealing of the Cadillac tax. They see this as a burdensome and costly tax that will hurt hard-working Nevadans, hard-working Americans.

The onerous tax targets Americans who already have high-quality health care. No one claims that our health

care system ever was or is perfect. The goal of health reform should be to help those who do not have health care coverage and lower costs for those who already have insurance. This tax does not achieve either one of these goals.

It is very rare these days to see this much agreement in Washington. Organized labor, the chamber of commerce, local and State governments, and small businesses have all come together with a bipartisan group of Senators putting forth a solution to fix a problem affecting so many hard-working Americans and their families.

Some Members on both sides of the aisle have tried to make this a partisan issue for different reasons, but this is not a partisan issue, which is evident by the fact that the companion legislation to my bill in the House enjoys more Democratic cosponsors than Republicans.

Fully repealing the Cadillac tax is an opportunity for Republicans and Democrats to join forces and work together to repeal a bad tax for one purpose; that is, to help 151 million workers keep the health care insurance that they like.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

GUN VIOLENCE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, for 20 years one of the biggest billboards in America was next to Fenway Park, facing the Massachusetts Turnpike. It had a giant number counter on it.

When I was running for the Senate in 2012, I would drive past that billboard sometimes three or four times a day. Each time, I would look up at the counter to see how it had changed since the last trip—up 2, up 6, up 12. The billboard was from Stop Handgun Violence, and it showed the number of children killed by guns in the United States.

When the tragedy happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School, my first thought was of the 20 little children who would be added to the count on that billboard. I thought about how we, the grownups, had failed to keep safe the thousands of children counted there.

There are mass shootings, everyday shootings, drive-by shootings, random shootings, sometimes with big headlines and mostly with no headlines at all.

The facts are simple: Eighty-eight Americans die every day from gun violence. Seven of those people are children or teens. That is seven a day, every day, young bodies piling up by the thousands year after year. What has happened to us? If seven children were dying every day from a mysterious virus, our country would pull out all the stops to figure out what had gone wrong and to fix it.

Gun violence is an epidemic—an epidemic that kills children, kills them in

schools, on playgrounds, and in our neighborhoods. But day after day, month after month, tragedy after tragedy, the Congress has done nothing—nothing. Republicans in the Senate have blocked even the smallest steps to protect our communities and keep our children safe.

This must stop now. Today, Senate Democrats are calling on Republicans to join us in supporting three measures to reduce gun violence. First, end the gun show loophole. Everyone gets a background check. Second, end straw purchases. The one who gets checked has to be the true owner. Third, close holes in the background check database and stop domestic abusers from purchasing guns, period.

Look, let's be frank. These three steps will not be enough to stop all handgun violence in our communities, but these are meaningful steps in the right direction—steps that huge majorities of Americans support, steps that are calm and sensible. These three steps are a test—a test for every single Member of Congress. These three steps put the question to everyone in Congress: Whom do you work for? Do you represent the people who have lost children or sisters or cousins to gun violence and who have stood at gravesides and sworn that we will make change? Do you represent the people who don't want their loved ones to be the next victims? Do you represent the people who want some sensible rules about gun safety? Or do you represent the NRA? It is time to make a choice right here in Congress—the American people or the NRA.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I withdraw the motion to proceed to H.R. 2028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

STOP SANCTUARY POLICIES AND PROTECT AMERICANS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 252, S. 2146.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 252, S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 252, S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, David Vitter, John Barrasso, Dan Sullivan, David Perdue, Bill Cassidy, Ron Johnson, Steve Daines, James Lankford, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Mike Lee, Richard C. Shelby, John Cornyn, Jeff Sessions, Johnny Isakson, Patrick J. Toomey.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived and that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote occur at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, October 20.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senators will soon travel to their home States for the State work period. I ask colleagues to consider some important questions as they meet with constituents and take time to reflect.

In a time of limited Federal resources and tough choices, is it fair to treat localities that cooperate with Federal law enforcement or work hard to follow Federal law no better than localities that refuse to help or actively flout the law? When a deputy sheriff puts her life on the line every day, is it fair to make her live in constant fear of being sued for simply trying to keep us safe? When felons enter our country illegally and repeatedly, is it fair to victims and families to not do what we can now to stop them? The answer to all of these questions is no. No, it isn't fair—not to citizens and governments that do the right thing, not to law enforcement officers who risk everything for our safety, not to victims and their families.

The proponents of so-called "sanctuary cities" seem to callously disregard how their policies can hurt other people. That is not right. The bill I just filed cloture on this afternoon aims to ensure more fairness on this issue.

The ideas underpinning the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act are supported by a great many Americans. The bill is supported by many law enforcement organizations as well. They have had some really positive things to say about it, such as this letter:

Thank you for introducing the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act which will empower Federal and local law enforcement officers' cooperative efforts to better protect our communities and our citizens. Your proposal will ensure we do not dishonor the memory of Kate Steinle and the immeasurable grief her family is enduring.

The letter went on to:

Ms. Steinle was killed in San Francisco by an illegal immigrant who had previously been deported from the United States five times, and had been convicted of seven felonies. The shooter chose to live in San Francisco because he knew it was a sanctuary city that would shield him from Federal immigration law. Tragically, his "sanctuary" gambit proved fatal for the Steinle family. Federal officials requested that San Francisco detain the shooter until immigration authorities could pick him up, but San Francisco officials refused to cooperate and released Sanchez three months before Kate's murder. We owe it to Kate and the American citizenry to fix this community safety issue now.

That is what the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association had to say about the bill that we will be voting on when we get back. Groups like the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Association of Police Organizations have sent letters in support as well.

I thank the sponsors of this legislation for all their hard work on this bill. I hope Senators will reflect on the questions I have raised over the State work period. The Senate will consider this bill when we reconvene.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRISPUS ATTUCKS CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, earlier this year I was incredibly fortunate to be part of the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, a moving and meaningful experience in Selma, AL. Fifty years ago, during the marches from Selma to Montgomery, civil rights leaders and everyday citizens of this country put their lives at risk in a passionate, nonviolent demonstration for a more equal and more just society. The passion and courage for equality reflected in the historic marches in Selma were the culmination of decades of struggle shown by men and women across this country.

In my home State of Indiana, a place that takes great pride in high school basketball, it is fitting that 60 years ago the civil rights movement played out on the hardwood of Indiana basketball courts. On March 19, 1955, at the Butler Fieldhouse, the Flying Tigers of Crispus Attucks High School became not only the first all-African-American high school team to win a State championship in Indiana but the first all-African-American high school athletic team to win a State championship in the United States. Led by future NBA Hall of Famer—and maybe the best basketball player of all time—Oscar Robertson, the Flying Tigers finished their 1955 season with a 30-and-1 record, capped with a 97-to-74 victory over Gary Roosevelt High School in the State final.

Before Crispus Attucks' historic 1955 season, no Indianapolis basketball team had won a State championship in the tournament's 45-year history. Attucks' win was a source of pride, particularly for the African-American community.

Crispus Attucks High School was founded in 1927 as a segregated high school for Black students. The Indiana High School Athletic Association initially refused to grant Crispus Attucks membership, and the school could not play in the State tournament until 1942. Even then, many of the all-White schools refused to play Crispus Attucks. The Crispus Attucks team would often have to travel dozens or even hundreds of miles to find teams willing to play against them. Because the school's gym was built too small for home games, every game was an away game for the Flying Tigers.

Despite the segregation and racism, Crispus Attucks thrived. African-American educators could not teach in White schools, so Crispus Attucks attracted an elite African-American community. Nearly every teacher had either a doctorate or master's degree. Teachers at Crispus Attucks included former Tuskegee Airmen and members of the Golden 13, the first African-American U.S. Naval officers.

One of those teachers was Ray Crowe. A native of Johnson County, IN, Crowe became head coach of the basketball team in 1950. He instituted a new fast-paced style of offense and was a coach who cared deeply about his players. Crowe's coaching style brought enormous success to the team.

Soon, the same White schools that refused to play Crispus Attucks wanted to schedule games with them. Lacking a home court, the team would frequently play at Butler Fieldhouse on the campus of Butler University. The Flying Tigers packed the house, regularly attracting 10,000 fans or more to a high school basketball game. Still the team was not treated fairly. When traveling for games, the players were unable to stay at hotels or to eat in

restaurants that only served White people.

That wasn't the only challenge the Flying Tigers confronted. They also had to contend with bias from the referees. Coach Crowe used to tell the team they had to play against seven people every game—the five players and the two refs. Yet the Flying Tigers kept winning. In 1954, the team made it all the way to the State semifinals, even with several key players missing from injuries. The stage was set for the 1955 season, when a junior forward named Oscar Robertson was ready to lead the team. He had some of the most amazing teammates you could ever find.

Coach Crowe and the Flying Tigers finished the regular season with one loss. They breezed through the first four games of the tournament, winning by an average of 28 points per game. Then they faced Muncie Central, another powerhouse basketball program, and the Flying Tigers won by a single point—but all you need to win by is one point. Over 15,000 fans came to the Butler Fieldhouse to watch Crispus Attucks beat New Albany in the State semifinal and then again to witness history as Crispus Attucks defeated another all-African-American team, Gary Roosevelt, 97-to-74 to become State champs.

The trailblazing players who made it possible included Johnny Mack Brown, Bill Brown, Willie Burnley, John Clemons, John Gipson, Bill Hampton, Willie Merriweather, Sam Milton, Sheddric Mitchell, Stanford Patton, Oscar Robertson, and Bill Scott.

It was a crowning achievement. The "Big O" Oscar Robertson said:

I remember that night. They called us Indianapolis Attucks, not Crispus Attucks. . . . To me, that sort of meant we arrived. They just wanted you to win; they didn't care what color you were.

There was a tradition in Indiana that after every State championship the winning team would climb onto a firetruck and then be taken around the city of Indianapolis for a victory parade. The parade route always included a stop at Monument Circle for pictures and celebration, followed by a tour of downtown Indianapolis, but as the firetruck carrying the Flying Tigers approached Monument Circle, it didn't stop, and it didn't continue through downtown. Instead, the firetruck brought the players and fans to a park in the city's African-American neighborhood.

Crispus Attucks, the team that had just made American history, didn't receive the celebration they deserved simply because of the color of their skin. When Attucks repeated in 1956 and again won the State championship, the firetruck took the same detour.

Change did not come overnight, but the Crispus Attucks basketball team inspired many schools to begin recruit-

ing African-American players along with starting to end their long-held policies of segregation. Oscar Robertson later said:

By us winning, it sped up the integration. I truly believe that us winning the state championship brought Indianapolis together.

In March, members of the Indianapolis-based Family Girls Youth Mentoring Program honored the seven living members of the 1955 championship team and the celebration included the traditional victory tour through the streets of Indianapolis, an honor that was denied to these players 60 years ago.

At this year's Indy 500, the 1955 Crispus Attucks basketball team served as the grand marshals of the Indy 500 Festival Parade. For the first time in the parade's history, there was a stop at Monument Circle, where the Flying Tigers got the celebration they had rightfully earned so long ago.

Today I am proud to join my friend Congressman ANDRÉ CARSON in honoring the legacy of the 1955 Crispus Attucks basketball team. As Indiana's Senator, on behalf of Hoosiers, I want to recognize the Crispus Attucks team not only for their amazing accomplishments on the court but for the powerful message they always sent throughout the State of Indiana and for the pride that is still present in Indianapolis today for them and for all their accomplishments and for all they mean to us.

The members of the 1955 State championship Crispus Attucks basketball team, their coaches, the teachers who taught them, the community that supported them, and the families who loved them—they were an inspiration in 1955 to all of us, and they are an inspiration today. God bless all of those young players, God bless Indiana, and God bless America.

Mr. HATCH. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DONNELLY. Yes.

Mr. HATCH. I graduated from high school in 1952. I was the captain of the high school basketball team. I followed this Crispus Attucks team. It was fantastic, almost every player.

Mr. DONNELLY. Extraordinary people.

Mr. HATCH. They were extraordinary, and they inspired all of us, especially in the way they conducted themselves and carried through. What a bunch of great athletes they were.

Mr. DONNELLY. To my colleague, the leader of the Senate, our President pro tempore, I am so honored for you to speak of our fine young men that way. Every citizen of Indiana is grateful. They were an extraordinary group. I met them when I was back home. As fine a people as they were when they were young, they are even more extraordinary citizens for our State and for our country.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you. They were all winners, I will tell you that.

Mr. DONNELLY. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from Utah.

DEFEND TRADE SECRETS ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an important form of intellectual property: trade secrets. I am pleased to be participating in this colloquy with my friend from Delaware, Senator CHRIS COONS.

Earlier this year, we introduced the Defend Trade Secrets Act, a bill that will create a harmonized Federal standard for protecting trade secrets. Trade secrets such as customer lists, formulas, and manufacturing processes are an essential form of intellectual property, yet trade secrets are the only form of U.S. intellectual property where misuse does not provide the owner with a Federal private right of action. Instead, trade secret owners must rely on State courts or Federal prosecutors to protect their rights. The multistate procedural and jurisdictional issues that arise from such cases are costly and complicated, and the Department of Justice lacks the resources to prosecute many trade secret cases. Those systemic issues put companies at a great disadvantage since the victims of the trade secret theft need to recover information quickly before it crosses State lines and leaves the country.

At a time when cyber theft of trade secrets is at an alltime high, particularly as it involves Chinese competitors, it is critically important that U.S. companies have the ability to protect their trade secrets in Federal court. Senator COONS, trade secret theft has hit some of the nation's best known companies, including Delaware-based DuPont and its popular Kevlar synthetic fiber products.

I would like to ask how trade secret theft has impacted DuPont.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator HATCH for his leadership on this important issue. As the Senator from Utah has mentioned, trade secrets are the only form of intellectual property not protected from theft under Federal civil law, which is particularly striking when one considers the value of trade secrets to the economy. According to some estimates, they are worth \$5 trillion for the U.S. economy, on par with IP protected by patent. The scope of the loss due to theft or misappropriation is huge, somewhere between \$160 and \$480 billion annually.

I submit that there is not a State in the country that has not been affected by this problem, and Delaware is no exception. In the 1960s, DuPont—one of our signature manufacturing chemistry-based companies—invented Kevlar, a para-aramid fiber with extraordinary strength that is also very lightweight. These properties make Kevlar versatile, but its best known use is in lifesaving body armor worn by our police officers and the brave men and

women in the American Armed Forces. It has saved thousands of lives, including more than 3,000 police officers here in the United States whose lives have been saved by Kevlar vests.

About 10 years ago, DuPont developed the next generation of Kevlar, which is even lighter and better able to withstand penetrating trauma from a broader range of rifle rounds and IED-generated shrapnel. It represented a real breakthrough in safety, but it cost millions of dollars to develop.

Chemically, para-aramid fibers are not that complicated, but the fabrication method, the manufacturing technique, which is what gives them their strength and flexibility, is actually incredibly difficult to develop and implement. So one day about 6 years ago, a rogue employee of DuPont took the know-how behind DuPont's creation of next-generation Kevlar and began to work with a rival manufacturing company in Korea, using DuPont trade secrets. The potential loss to DuPont alone from this one instance of trade secret theft or misappropriation approaches \$1 billion.

So I ask Senator HATCH, if you were a CEO and your employees were ripping off your trade secrets, your intellectual property, and taking it to another country at the cost of \$1 billion a pop, would that affect your willingness to invest the resources in future R&D here in the United States that are needed to make similar lifesaving technological breakthroughs?

Mr. HATCH. Well, of course it would. I thank Senator COONS. He has asked what really is the critical question. If I were a CEO responsible to my shareholders, I could not, according to my fiduciary duties, make those investments if rogue employees could just take off and render those investments worthless.

Trade secret theft does not just affect manufacturing. I read recently an interesting article in the New Republic titled "Corn Wars" that provides a detailed account of how China is stealing proprietary corn seeds from America's farms.

Most corn in China is used as a feed for livestock. That was not a problem until the country's middle class acquired an appetite for meat. Given this new demand, China is trying desperately to increase corn production amidst its water shortage and lack of arable land.

That is where our country's intellectual property comes in. Rather than spend the time and resources to develop a hybrid corn seed of its own, China would rather steal, literally right out of the ground, America's high-performing seeds. Experts from America's top seed producers confirmed that acquiring the technology behind a specially designed line of seed is equivalent to 5 to 8 years of research and at least \$40 million. You better be-

lieve the Chinese know the value of the seeds they steal and the numerous crimes they are committing while in our country.

Let me read an excerpt from the New Republic article that details an encounter a DuPont Pioneer field manager had with industrial spies from a Chinese agricultural company:

It was early May 2011 and Mo [Hailong] and Wang Lei, vice chairman of Kings Nower Seed at the time, were driving roads in Tama County, Iowa, allegedly searching for a DuPont Pioneer test field. But apparently uncertain if he was in the right place or unsure of what kind of seed DuPont Pioneer was testing, Mo had Wang pull to the edge of the field, so they could question a farmer in the midst of spring planting. . . . How had these two men chanced upon his field on the very day he happened to be planting an experimental and top-secret seed under development by DuPont Pioneer?

The next day, a DuPont Pioneer field manager spotted the same car. He watched Mo scramble up a ditch bank, and then kneel down in the dirt and begin digging corn seeds out of the ground. When confronted by the field manager, Mo grew flustered and red-faced. . . . But before the field manager could question him further, Mo fled.

There is no doubt that China and other foreign competitors are working furiously to steal American innovation not just from manufacturing and agriculture but from all sectors of the economy, including high-tech, life sciences, aeronautics, financial services, and the energy sector. That is why Congress must act now to pass the bipartisan, bicameral Defend Trade Secrets Act.

I ask Senator COONS, what exactly does this bill that you and I are co-sponsoring do?

Mr. COONS. I thank Senator HATCH for the opportunity to go into more detail about this terrific bipartisan, bicameral Defend Trade Secrets Act. It is actually relatively simple. It creates a Federal private right of action for misappropriation of trade secrets. It uses an existing Federal criminal law, the Economic Espionage Act, to define trade secrets. It draws heavily from the Uniform Trade Secrets Act which has been enacted by many States to define what is misappropriation.

Simply put, our bill harmonizes U.S. law. Each State has a different trade secret law, and they vary in a range of different ways. Not all of these differences are major, but they affect in small but real ways the definition of a trade secret, what an owner must do to keep a trade secret a secret, what constitutes misappropriation, and what damages are available.

So our Defend Trade Secrets Act creates a single, national baseline or a minimum level of protection and gives trade secret owners access to both a uniform national law and our excellent Federal courts, which provide nationwide service of process and execution of judgments. It is important to note that this bill does not preempt State

law because States are free to add further protections on top of what is in this bill. The proposed legislation does one more thing, and trade secret owners tell us this is a critical component of the law not available in States. It creates an ex parte seizure ability. Trade secrets are different from other forms of intellectual property because they are protected under the law only if they remain a secret. Once the public learns of a trade secret, even if it does so wrongfully, the trade secret loses its legal protection. So this bill provides a limited right of action for the owner of a trade secret to go to court ex parte and get it back before the misappropriator, the thief of the trade secret, has a chance to share it with a competitor or the world, thus exposing it.

This is a commonsense idea to help address a very serious problem, but when talking about Federal private rights of action and ex parte injunctive relief, we had to be very careful to avoid any unintended consequences. So, Senator HATCH, would you address how you took concerns about unintended consequences into account as we worked together to draft this bill?

Mr. HATCH. Sure. I want to thank Senator COONS for that helpful overview. As a Republican, I was initially cautious when he approached me about expanding Federal civil law to create a new private right of action for trade secret theft. After all, some have suggested that State law is sufficient, but after consulting with many in the business community, I was convinced that creating a Federal trade secrets law is the right approach.

Soon after its introduction, the Heritage Foundation confirmed the need for Federal legislation. Mr. Alden Abbott from the Heritage Foundation writes:

The lack of a federal civil remedy for victims of trade secret theft precludes owners of trade secrets from vindicating their rights under certain circumstances. Enjoining and sanctioning trade secret thieves who cross state lines is often difficult. . . . [A] federal civil statutory remedy would make Federal tribunals instantly available to aggrieved businesses that seek injunctions, which is particularly important when time is of the essence due to flight risks.

Another problem we faced was ensuring that the ex parte seizure authority could not be used abusively or for anti-competitive purposes.

When we began the drafting process last Congress, we started from scratch and asked for input from all interested stakeholders, especially in regard to the ex parte provision. We received many helpful suggestions and included them in the bill. That is correct, isn't it, Senator COONS?

Mr. COONS. Yes, it is, I say to Senator HATCH. After all that work together, all that consultation, when we introduced this bill last Congress, we wanted to make sure the ex parte provision couldn't be used for abuse, so we

required that the party seeking ex parte review must make a rigorous showing that they owned the trade secret, that the trade secret had been stolen, and that third parties would not be harmed if an ex parte order were granted. We also included damages for wrongful seizure, including attorneys' fees. And with that whole combination of important measures to ensure that the ex parte seizure capabilities under the statute are not misused, I think we achieved real consensus at that time. Isn't that right, Senator HATCH?

Mr. HATCH. That is right, I say to Senator COONS.

As we prepared to reintroduce our bill in this Congress, we were fortunate to join forces with Senator JEFF FLAKE of Arizona. He was invaluable in fine-tuning the ex parte seizure language.

Because of Senator FLAKE's good work, I believe the ex parte provisions are where they need to be—strong, fair, and not susceptible to abuse.

Would the Senator agree with that?

Mr. COONS. Yes, I would, thanks in no small part to you, I say to Senator HATCH, and to Senator FLAKE, who insisted both last Congress and this Congress that we put everything on the table and invite all stakeholders to come forward and share their concerns. We worked together, we did that, and we found an incredible consensus.

In addition to talking with industry, we have gone to think tanks and academic institutions about this bill. Some people with whom we have spoken raised concerns that our bill, as previously drafted, could harm employee mobility.

So, Senator HATCH, I don't want to restrict employee mobility, and I don't think you want to either; is that right?

Mr. HATCH. That is right, I say to Senator COONS. I never thought our bill harmed employee mobility. But when I heard these concerns, I wanted to make sure that we addressed this particular issue. So we included language in the bill this Congress that states explicitly that a person cannot be prevented from accepting an offer of employment because of his or her prior exposure to trade secrets.

I think we have struck the right balance with this bill. I am not aware of any stakeholder opposition to this bill. Those who operate businesses in the real world and have to protect their trade secrets on a regular basis are strong supporters of the Defend Trade Secrets Act.

The list of companies and associations that have endorsed the act is diverse and impressive. Let me read the names of some of the businesses and organizations that support this bill: Adobe, AdvaMed, American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law, American Intellectual Property Law Association, Association of Global Automakers, Biotechnology Industry Organization, Boeing Company,

Boston Scientific, BSA-The Software Alliance, Caterpillar, Corning, DuPont, Eli Lilly and Company, General Electric, Honda, IBM, Illinois Tool Works, Information Technology Industry Council, Intel, International Fragrance Association of North America, Johnson & Johnson, Medical Device Manufacturers Association, Medtronic, Michelin North America, Micron, Microsoft, National Alliance for Jobs and Innovation, National Association of Manufacturers, New England Council, Nike, Pfizer, Philips, Intellectual Property Owners Association, Procter & Gamble, Semiconductor Industry Association, SAS, Software & Information Industry Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and United Technologies Corporation. And let me mention just one more, but there are others: 3M.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters of support from these organizations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,

October 5, 2015.

Re S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: I write to express the views of the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law on S. 1890, the "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015." These views have not been submitted to or approved by the ABA House of Delegates or Board of Governors, and should not be considered to be views of the Association.

There is no generally applicable federal private cause of action whereby an owner of a trade secret can seek redress for misappropriation of a trade secret. Relief must be sought under state law, and most states and the District of Columbia have in effect some version of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (UTSA).

Congress recognized the need for federal protection of trade secrets when it enacted the Economic Espionage Act of 1996. That law authorizes criminal penalties of imprisonment for up to 15 years and a fine of not more than \$10,000,000 for the theft of trade secrets for the benefit of a foreign government or other foreign interest. Lesser penalties are provided for misappropriation not benefiting foreign interests but which relate to products in interstate or foreign commerce. The Attorney General of the United States has the authority to seek injunctive relief against the theft of trade secrets, but the Act does not contemplate a private cause of action by the owners of those trade secrets. The Section of Intellectual Property Law supports establishment of such a cause of action, and urges the enactment of S. 1890 for this purpose.

Currently in the United States, trade secrets are protected under an un-harmonized patchwork of trade secret laws that is ill-equipped to provide an effective civil remedy

for companies whose trade secrets are stolen. Not all states have adopted the UTSA, and many differ in the interpretation and implementation of existing laws. For instance, many states define protectable trade secrets differently and also have different requirements for the maintenance of claims for trade secret misappropriation. To give but two examples, some states have found a novelty requirement for information to be considered a trade secret, and some are more protective than others of customer lists.

States have differing statutes of limitations for trade secret claims, and there are also significant differences in the availability of monetary relief. Many states have not enacted Section 8 of the UTSA, which calls upon each state to construe and apply the law to achieve uniformity among states. Moreover, victims of trade secret theft can face lengthy and costly procedural obstacles in obtaining evidence when the misappropriator flees to another state or country or transfers evidence outside the state.

S. 1890 is the product of several years of congressional consideration and development. The Section of Intellectual Property Law has followed these developments and, in doing so, has identified essential components that should be included in a bill to establish a federal private cause of action for misappropriation of a trade secret. These components include:

a definition of trade secret that is clear and effective and not unduly restrictive or overly technical;

a clear delineation of the requirements for a federal cause of action;

the availability of remedies that are comparable to those available under the UTSA, including provisions providing for injunctive relief and monetary relief in the form of royalties, disgorgement of the proceeds of unjust enrichment, and exemplary damages;

provisions for seizure orders that adequately limit the circumstances in which they may be issued and executed and that provide for the custody, security, and access to seized property; and

confirmation that the bill's enactment will not preempt state trade secret laws.

Because S. 1890 contains these essential components, the Section of Intellectual Property Law supports its enactment.

Very truly yours,

THEODORE H. DAVIS JR.,

Section Chair, American Bar Association,
Section of Intellectual Property Law.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

RESOLVED, that IPO supports the enactment of legislation, such as the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015, to establish a federal civil cause of action for trade secret misappropriation to protect trade secrets from domestic and foreign theft, including an *ex parte* seizure provision, while providing adequate safeguards against improper use of such *ex parte* seizure provision.

July 29, 2015.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
U.S. Senator, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER COONS,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JEFF FLAKE,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH, SENATOR COONS, AND SENATOR FLAKE: The undersigned companies

and organizations write to express our support for the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015. We appreciate your leadership on this issue.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act will create a harmonized, uniform standard and system for companies to protect their trade secrets. Your bipartisan legislation will establish a strong standard for trade secret protection.

Trade secrets are an essential form of intellectual property. Trade secrets include information as broad-ranging as manufacturing processes, product development, industrial techniques, formulas, and customer lists. The protection of this form of intellectual property is critical to driving the innovation and creativity at the heart of the American economy. Companies in America, however, are increasingly the targets of sophisticated efforts to steal proprietary information, harming our global competitiveness.

Existing state trade secret laws are inadequate to address the interstate and international nature of trade secret theft today. Federal law protects trade secrets through the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 ("EEA"), which provides criminal sanctions for trade secret misappropriation. While the EEA is a critical tool for law enforcement to protect the clear theft of our intellectual property, U.S. trade secret owners also need access to a federal civil remedy and the full spectrum of legal options available to owners of other forms of intellectual property, such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act will create a federal remedy that will provide a consistent, harmonized legal framework and help avoid the commercial injury and loss of employment that can occur when trade secrets are stolen. We are proud to support it.

Sincerely,

Association of Global Automakers, Inc., Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), The Boeing Company, Boston Scientific, BSA/The Software Alliance (BSA), Caterpillar Inc., Corning Incorporated, Eli Lilly and Company, General Electric, Honda, IBM, Illinois Tool Works Inc., Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Intel, International Fragrance Association, North America.

Johnson & Johnson, Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA), Medtronic, Micron, Microsoft, National Alliance for Jobs and Innovation (NAJI), National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), The New England Council, NIKE, Pfizer, The Procter & Gamble Company, Siemens Corporation, Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, United Technologies Corporation, 3M.

SEMICONDUCTOR
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2015.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHRIS COONS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DOUG COLLINS,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY NADLER,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH, SENATOR COONS, CONGRESSMAN COLLINS, AND CONGRESSMAN NADLER: On behalf of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), I am writing to express our support for the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015 (S. 1890; H.R. 3326).

The U.S. semiconductor industry supports the strong protection of all forms of intellectual property, including trade secrets. Our industry invests 18 percent of revenue on average on research and development—the

highest of any U.S. industry. Protecting the valuable intellectual property that results from this significant investment is critical to our industry's continued success.

In the semiconductor industry, trade secrets include essential intellectual property such as manufacturing processes and techniques, circuit designs, software source code, and business strategies and customer lists. The ability to protect these types of trade secrets has contributed to advances in semiconductor design and manufacturing that have helped enable technological advancements in sectors throughout the economy.

Unfortunately, existing laws are inadequate to address the theft of trade secrets in today's environment. Federal law currently provides criminal sanctions for trade secret misappropriation, but owners of trade secrets currently lack a federal civil remedy for the theft of their trade secrets. State laws provide a civil remedy, but the state courts lack the authority to act effectively against trade secret theft that crosses state and national borders.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act would strengthen the protection of trade secrets by providing for a federal civil cause of action. The bills would provide a consistent, harmonized legal framework and help avoid the commercial injury, diminished competitiveness, and loss of employment that can occur when trade secrets are stolen.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation that will strengthen U.S. competitiveness and innovation.

Sincerely,

JOHN NEUFFER,
President & CEO.

Mr. HATCH. I ask Senator COONS, don't you think it is time that Congress acted on trade secret theft?

Mr. COONS. Absolutely, Senator HATCH, I do. I think when you talk about an important issue such as trade secret theft, which poses such a great threat to American innovation, economic growth, and competitiveness, it really is past time that we act on this issue.

This bill is truly bipartisan. I was the lead sponsor in the last Congress, and you are the lead sponsor in this Congress. Along the way we have worked closely together and undertaken an inclusive and iterative process to make sure we have heard from all stakeholder perspectives so that we have legislation that creates winners only, not winners and losers.

Senator HATCH, it has been an honor to work with you on this. You have been a big part of the reason we were able to undertake such a successful and constructive process.

I would ask, Senator HATCH, in your view, has this process now produced a bill that is ready to move in the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which we both serve?

Mr. HATCH. First, I thank you for your work on this bill, Senator COONS. You have been a great partner in advancing this bill.

I agree with you that the Defend Trade Secrets Act is ready to move—not just through the Senate Judiciary Committee but also on the Senate

floor. In fact, I think this is the type of bill that could move by unanimous consent.

At the same time, we are not closing the door or turning a deaf ear to anyone who has thoughts on this legislation. Let me say, if my or my colleagues have concerns or questions about the bill, come talk to me or Senator COONS. Now is the time to resolve your concerns, and we will resolve them.

If you talk to any of the companies that were initially on the fringes and that are now supporters of the bill, I think they will agree that you and I are willing to address all legitimate concerns. So work with us.

I am pleased with the momentum we have already seen on this bill through industry support and in the Senate. One way that is happening is that Senators on both sides of the aisle want to support this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators JAMES RISCH, MIKE CRAPO, and ROY BLUNT be added as cosponsors to the Defend Trade Secrets Act, S. 1890.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. I am pleased with the support we have already seen and encourage many more of my colleagues to support and help us pass this bill. Help us make this happen. It is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, over the past several months, law enforcement officers across our country have been shot, shot at, and killed without provocation, too often simply because they wear a badge. Violent crime and murders have increased across the country at almost alarming rates in some areas. Drug use and overdoses are occurring and dramatically increasing. It is against this backdrop that we are considering a bill, or will be, to cut prison sentences for drug traffickers and even other violent criminals, including those currently in Federal prisons.

So we need to be asking about this carefully and with real caution, because as a prosecutor for a number of years, I know there are reasons we have people in jail. One is that it is just desserts. When somebody assaults another person, breaks into their house and robs them, uses weapons to rob a person of a thing of value, steals their automobiles, murders, rapes, and those kinds of things, they have to have a certain punishment or there is no real justice in the world. Just desserts is a legitimate reason to have punishment. It is not all economics. It is not all about whether they might or might not commit another crime. If you do a serious crime, you should do some time for it.

Another one is incapacitation. This is too little appreciated, but when you take a person who is committing crimes—and many of them commit many crimes—a study in California of their State prison system showed there was a huge number of those criminals who admitted committing as many as 170 crimes a year. We say that is not possible, but people would break into two or three cars a night. They would break into businesses, break into Coke machines, break into other things and cause all kinds of issues, such as lost time from work, costs to repair, disrupting lives, making people change the very nature of their business affairs because they are afraid of being robbed or burglarized. So those are things that occur.

Rehabilitation is a factor. The original idea was that in prison—we called it a penitentiary—where people do penance and hopefully they try to change their lives.

So I would just point out that those are some of the things we need to be aware of when we are talking about sentencing and what is appropriate, particularly in a time of rising crime.

People want Congress to represent their best interests and to protect them—people who do the right thing. They want their children to be able to play in the streets, walk around the block, see their friends, and not be afraid of some drug dealer or some gang member. Too often that is not possible in America. It got better, but it is getting worse, and we need to be aware of that as we consider legislation to improve our criminal justice system.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the amount of heroin seized at the southwest border has increased nearly 300 percent from 2008 to 2013, and I suspect the numbers are still going up. Heroin overdose deaths have increased 45 percent. That is huge. We went through a period of decline in all of this. It took 20 years. I was there. I worked with the Coalition for a Drug-Free Mobile, the Partnership for Youth. They volunteered hours and hours—teachers, school systems, gave their time and effort. We went from a period when 50 percent of high school seniors in 1980, according to a University of Michigan study, admitted to using an illegal drug, to less than 25 percent. It was cut by half. How many young people's lives stayed on track? How many people's lives were not led astray and destroyed by drug addiction as a result of that significant decline in drug use?

I think it needs to be said that the President should never have said smoking marijuana is like smoking cigarettes. Oh, I wish I hadn't done it. That is the kind of message people hear. Now we have States legalizing it, and they are already talking about decriminalizing it. It is a mistake. We

have seen that experiment before. Lives are at stake.

The Drug Enforcement Administration called me recently and told me that 120 people a day are dying of a drug overdose in America. How many of them have serious brain injuries as a result of those overdoses? Our Presiding Officer, Dr. CASSIDY, has been around emergency rooms. How many people are taken to emergency rooms and at what great cost to our communities? How many lives are disrupted? How many children are in broken homes? How many people had to leave their home because one spouse or the other has spent all the family money on drugs to support a habit? How many children have been abandoned, went to bed without food because of addiction in their family?

These are serious matters. We made tremendous progress. The murder rate in America dropped by over 50 percent since the 1980s when Ronald Reagan said “just say no” and started a War on Drugs. He appointed me as the U.S. attorney in Alabama. I know what we did. And the Federal Government led the way with tough sentencing, eliminating parole, targeting dangerous drugs in effective ways, and States and local governments followed.

I am worried about it. It is just tragic to me that we are making the same mistakes we made in the 1960s and 1970s. According to new data, 4.3 million people abuse or are dependent on marijuana. Marijuana is stronger today—several times stronger—than the marijuana of the 1960s, and it does impact people adversely.

The American Medical Association has issued a report that is unequivocal about the danger and the ramifications of the use of marijuana. According to the 2014 “Monitoring the Future” study, since 2007, lifetime, past year, past month, and daily drug use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders combined have all increased.

Meanwhile, over the last several years, Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, and the U.S. Sentencing Commission all have taken steps to lessen punishment for, or altogether stop, the enforcement of laws that we passed over the years that led to this decline. They have been eliminated and weakened. I supported one of the big ones in Congress. I worked with Senator DURBIN and we passed a bill that I think was justified and would not have done anything other than make the system better, in my opinion, and fairer, but now we need to ask ourselves, what do we do next, if anything?

In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that the sentencing guidelines that were enacted by Congress were not mandatory. This was a huge thing. In the early 1980s we passed sentencing guidelines and, depending on the severity of the crime and what the aggravating factors were at work, a person got more time

or less time. It involved aggravating factors and mitigating factors, and it ended this idea that if you went to one judge, he would give you probation and if you went to another judge for the same crime, you would get 10 years, 15 years in jail.

So I think that is to be noted. This is a very significant reduction as a practical matter in the amount of time that a person would serve because of eliminating the mandatory requirement of the sentencing guidelines.

Then in 2010—this is a bill I worked on, the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduced the disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine and made other changes that in many ways reduced sentences overall. It reduced sentences. It was designed because minority groups, particularly the African-American community—the drug of choice too often was crack and that had much higher sentences and it seemed to be unfair, and we fixed that to a large degree. It eliminated the mandatory 5-year minimum sentence—the mandatory 5 years without parole for possession of crack cocaine. I didn't think that was legitimate, Congress agreed, and we eliminated that requirement. It was being gotten around, and not many times were people being sentenced for simple possession of a small amount of cocaine. That was changed, and the Sentencing Commission then implemented an amendment to the sentencing guidelines that applied this retroactively. So people who had been sentenced under the previous procedures had those procedures reversed and then they got out of jail early—and a lot of people did. It resulted in early release of thousands of offenders.

In August of 2013, in a dramatic event too little appreciated, Attorney General Eric Holder ordered Federal prosecutors not to charge certain drug offenders with mandatory minimums, regardless of the quantity of drugs involved. He directed the prosecutors not to follow the law. Under the law, if you have a certain amount of drug use, you are supposed to serve at least a minimum mandatory sentence. This is different from the guidelines. This is a statutory requirement. And Attorney General Holder reversed previous attorneys general memoranda which directed that prosecutors should charge the main offense and they should be subject to the main penalty. That further reduced the number of people convicted and the amount of time they served.

Then the administration has declined to enforce Federal drug laws regarding marijuana in Colorado, Washington, and Oregon. It is still a Federal offense to deal marijuana in the United States. So even though a State doesn't have that law, the Federal Government does. They said: Well, if you don't enforce it, we won't enforce it—another relaxation of Federal law.

Then, according to the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, prosecutions for drug trafficking—the number of people actually tried and prosecuted for drug trafficking under the primary drug law, 21 U.S. Code section 841, has declined over 16 percent since 2009, and since President Obama took office, prosecutions under 21 U.S. Code section 960, the Import-Export Act, have declined by 30 percent over that time period.

We haven't had those kinds of reductions in drugs that are imported into the United States. We don't have fewer drug distribution networks. We have more. Those prosecutions shouldn't be declining. We didn't reduce the number of prosecutors working in the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

Attorney General Holder ordered Federal prosecutors to refrain from objecting to defendants' requests in court for shorter sentences. He said: Don't object to their requests for shorter sentences. Less than a month later, the Sentencing Commission voted to reduce sentences for an estimated 70 percent of Federal drug trafficking offenders, including those who possessed a firearm, committed a violent crime or had a prior conviction, decreasing their sentence an average of 11 months—almost 1 year. An estimated 6,000 will be released from Federal prison beginning November 1, and about 40,000 will be eligible for early release in the coming years.

President Obama has commuted the sentences of 89 Federal drug offenders, including crack cocaine distributors—some convicted of dealing more than 10 pounds of crack, which is hundreds of thousands of dollars in value, while others were convicted of possession of a firearm in relation to a drug offense.

One of the things my office always did was it was sure to prosecute drug dealers who used guns while they were doing their nefarious crimes. I think it had an impact on the murder rate in America. Fewer dangerous drug dealers were carrying guns on a regular basis because they knew if they got caught, they would be taken to Federal court and be held another 5 years without parole for carrying a gun on top of their drug offense.

The President has announced that he plans to continue to grant clemency to Federal drug offenders through the end of his Presidency. Are we talking about thousands more?

All of this has led the Federal prison population to fall.

Now you have heard it said that we have this ever-growing number of people in the Federal prisons and that somehow it is wrong—there are about 200,000 people in Federal prisons.

We should talk about that. It is OK to talk about it, but we have to be careful. What I would say to you and what is too little appreciated, colleagues, is that we have already seen

dramatic reductions in sentences in the last several years, far unlike what we had done in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

So the prison population has now started dropping. It has reached the lowest levels since 2005, 10 years ago. According to the Bureau of Prisons, the prison population of 200,000 has decreased over the last 2 years—by 5,300 in fiscal year 2014, last year. They project the population to “further drop by 14,987 between FY2015 and FY2016”—another 15,000 decline—“particularly as a result of the retroactive sentencing guidelines change.” Admissions to Federal prisons have declined every year since 2011. The number of people being admitted to the Federal prisons is going down, driven, I suspect, by the prosecutorial policies set by Attorney General Holder. They will continue to decline given the President's policy of directing prosecutors not to charge certain criminal offenses.

This is a very serious matter. We need to be careful as we analyze the legislation today. Crime is already rising at an alarming rate, so much so that it has prompted an emergency meeting of the Major Cities Chiefs Association in August. The New York Times recently reported that murders have increased sharply in many cities across the country since 2014, including Atlanta, up 32 percent—these are murders—Baltimore, up 56 percent, nearby; Chicago, up 20 percent; Houston, up 44 percent; Los Angeles, up 11 percent; New York, up 9 percent; Milwaukee, up 76 percent; Minneapolis, up 50 percent; New Orleans, up 22 percent; Philadelphia, up 4 percent; Dallas, up 17 percent; and Washington, DC, where we are, up 47 percent—murders. This trend, in my opinion, will continue.

Property crimes have also risen sharply throughout the country and even in small cities such as Abilene, Carson City, Portland, Ithaca, and Binghamton, NY.

I am afraid we are watching a repeat of history. A couple of generations ago, when we had an indeterminate sentencing system with no guidelines or required minimum sentences, virtually identical defendants received totally different sentences depending on the judge, and many received little or no incarceration. A nationwide crime wave ensued. It was a revolving door. People were arrested. They were released on bail. They came to court, and the case got continued. It got continued again, it got continued again, and the witnesses disappeared. They had a plea bargain, they got a little bit of time, and they served less than a third of the time they got. That is what was happening.

People say: Prison makes them worse. Do you remember those arguments? Well, in 1980, one out of four households in the United States had suffered a rape, robbery, burglary, assault, larceny or auto theft in the pre-

vious year. Crime was increasing in double-digits per year in the 1960s and 1970s, and we did not respond to it.

So then the Congress passed legislation that imposed mandatory minimum sentences on criminals convicted of the most serious Federal crimes and drug crimes to ensure that these perpetrators served at least a fixed amount of time in prison. Every drug dealer knew it and came to know that if they were caught, they were going to serve real time and they were not going to talk their way out of it. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act was passed, and the Armed Career Criminal Act, which had mandatory 15-year penalties. Career criminals carrying guns and committing serious crimes were hampered. It targeted career criminals—the kind of people who kill people to carry out their crimes. Drug trafficking fell into that category. Congress also established sentencing guidelines that required judges to sentence within certain ranges and calculate factors and create objectivity, so that one poor person got the same sentence as some rich person with a highly paid lawyer. The rationale was and remains three-fold: to deter offenders from engaging in further criminal behavior, to ensure that a meaningful period of time elapsed for the offender to become rehabilitated, and to incapacitate the offender from harming law-abiding citizens.

How many people do you know that would rape someone? How many people do you know that would likely take a gun and murder somebody? The more of those that are in jail serving time, the less people are going to get murdered. It is mathematics, and that is really what happened since 1980 with the increasing number of people being incarcerated. This idea worked.

According to the FBI statistics, the rate of violent crimes—murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—was reduced by more than 50 percent from 1991 to 2013. That is when these sentences were beginning to be understood and were impactful. Property crimes, burglary, murder, larceny, and motor vehicle thefts dropped by a similar measure.

Over time, prison penalties fairly and systematically applied mean that less crime and fewer innocent people are burglarized, robbed, raped or murdered. Scholars have estimated that the increase in the size of our prison population has driven down crime rates by at least 25 percent.

Professor Matt DeLisi of Iowa State University testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that criminal justice research shows that “releasing 1 percent of the current [Federal prison] population would result in approximately 32,850 additional murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, thefts, auto thefts, and incidents of arson.”

Well, we have had more than a 1 percent increase already. The great criminologist and Professor James Q. Wilson said:

A high risk of punishment reduces crime. It just does.

If you are talking about the classroom or on the football field, if the flag is thrown every time somebody clips, they quit clipping. If it is not thrown, you will still see it.

In 2011 the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling in *Brown v. Plata*, that California was required to reduce its prison population to ease overcrowding. In dissent in that case, Justice Alito recalled a prisoner-release program in Philadelphia in the 1990s:

Although efforts were made to release only those prisoners who were least likely to commit violent crimes, that attempt was spectacularly unsuccessful. During an 18-month period, the Philadelphia police arrested thousands of these prisoners for committing 9,732 new crimes. Those defendants were charged with 79 murders, 90 rapes, 1,113 assaults, 959 robberies, 701 burglaries, 2,748 thefts, not to mention thousands of drug offenses.

I wish it weren't so. I wish we could have these programs. I have seen them since my time in law enforcement in 1975, as a young prosecutor. Year after year, people have come forward with plans that sound so good, and they have been tried before. But they never work out nearly as well as people promote. Trust me. If there was any quick fix, it would already have been done all over America. People don't—States don't want to spend money on prisons. But the truth is that people who tend to be criminals tend to continue to be criminals and commit crimes. We ignore too often the pain, the destruction and the damage it does to innocent people who are afraid to have their children experience the turmoil of crime.

Now is not the time to move too fast to further reduce penalties without careful thought. Before we rush to judgment about undoing Federal sentencing laws, we must consider the results of what has already happened—how much reduction we have already seen. We have a responsibility to the public to examine every aspect of the legislation that may be coming forward and be introduced in committee, which could greatly impact the everyday lives of Americans for years to come. To that end, we must have a good hearing on it. We need to study what experts have told us and what history tells us about crime.

It would be so wonderful if we could do a drug treatment program and people would not commit crimes again. It would be so wonderful if we could have an in-prison educational program that people could take and somehow have a significant reduction of crime rates. There are all kinds of ideas that have been tried over the years, and some of them may have a benefit. Some of

them have some benefit, but none of them have produced dramatic alterations in the rate of recidivism or repeat of criminal acts. One study a number of years ago concluded that when a person comes out of prison, they make a decision. It is an individual, personal decision about whether they are going to continue with criminal activity or not. Some of them make it because the prison was a bad place and they don't want to go back. Some of them make it because they have had a religious experience. Some of them make it because they took advantage of an online or education course and decided they are going to do something better for their lives. But it is an individual decision, and we have not found it possible to somehow impact the psyche of people in prison so that we can consistently reduce the likelihood that they will return to crime. We have to understand that.

If somebody has a plan that shows me that, I would like to see it.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for allowing me to share these thoughts. We are at a very important time in criminal justice, and we need to get it right.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

PENSION PROTECTION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to speak on the floor today about something that is incredibly important to families all across Michigan and all across the country—what we have talked about in terms of the importance of having a middle class in this country. Folks who are working all their lives, who get a good wage, and who pay into a pension and expect it to be there. Those fundamentals are falling apart for far too many people. Specifically, I want to speak about what is happening regarding pensions and pension protections in this country.

I think all of us would agree that a pension is a promise and it is earned. A pension is earned over a lifetime of hard work, and it is the foundation of retirement security for tens of millions of American workers who have a pension and for their families. There is no question that a number of pension funds in our country are suffering, due largely to factors that they cannot control, such as what happened with the Wall Street financial crisis, which took billions of dollars and wasn't the fault of any of the workers involved or of the businesses, for that matter, that found themselves going out of business because of what happened during that financial crisis.

This took a huge toll on middle-class families. We have focused on homes and the loss of homes, which was a disaster. But a second disaster is now beginning to be felt, and that is the question of pensions and the loss of pension

benefits. Workers are now at risk of losing their pensions because of cuts that are beginning to be announced. This already includes 30,000 workers in Michigan—30,000 workers in Michigan.

I understand the dilemma the pension funds are facing. Their funding is in critical status. They are becoming increasingly insolvent over time. I understand the tough decisions they are having to make, but they would not have to be making those decisions if protecting pensions were a priority for Congress. This is a matter of whether we are going to continue to have a middle class in this country.

Frankly, it is an issue of fairness for the people who have paid in their whole lives and expect, as they come to retirement age—or they are already retired—as a matter of fairness, that their funds are going to be available for them, and they should be.

One of the things that is so outrageous when we look at the lack of fairness around priorities in this country is that we see companies taking advantage of tax loopholes to move jobs overseas and avoid paying taxes. I have a bill called the Bring Jobs Home Act, which simply closes one of those loopholes and says: If you are going to move, at least you should not be able to write off the cost of the move, and the workers who are losing their jobs and taxpayers should not have to pay for the cost of the move.

We have not been able to close that loophole, so we see tens of millions of dollars, billions of dollars, going overseas sometimes because companies stay here, they just move overseas on paper. So they are still breathing the air and drinking the water and driving on roads, but on paper they have moved so they don't have to pay taxes, and we have another gigantic tax loophole.

On the one hand, while we see the system rigged over and over again for the wealthy and the well connected who pay less in taxes, we have hard-working citizens—whether they are truck drivers or teachers or police officers or men and women in uniform or people all across our country—who are paying into pension systems, and we have not been able to get the support to fully fund those systems, to fully fund the PBGC, the pension guarantee fund. So there is an issue around pensions and people knowing their pensions will be protected going forward.

I believe it is up to us in Congress to put in place the resources necessary to help protect the financial security of workers and retirees and their families. This is a matter of priorities. There are ways for us to do that—by closing tax loopholes for special interests, for the wealthy, for folks who want to avoid paying their taxes in a wide variety of ways. Take those dollars and make sure we shore up pension protection in this country. It is pretty basic. People

are counting on us to take action. We need to fully commit to make sure every worker gets the pension benefits they need, they deserve, and, most importantly, they have earned.

That is why I am cosponsoring important legislation that Senator SANDERS has put forward. There are a number of us who are cosponsoring this. Let me mention a few of the cosponsors. We have a number of different people: Senator BALDWIN, Senator BROWN, Senator FRANKEN, Senator JACK REED, and others. I know my colleague Senator PETERS cares deeply about this as well.

There are a number of us who are coming together on legislation that would prevent the proposed cuts to workers' earned pension benefits. This bill would set our priorities straight by closing the tax loopholes, many of which I have talked about, to make sure we have the resources to put back into protecting workers' pensions. It would also make sure workers and retirees in the Central State Pension Fund system, the largest pension fund facing severe and growing financial difficulties, would be able to receive the full benefits they have earned—again, the full benefits they have earned.

It is outrageous to me to think that a promise as basic as a pension, a lifetime of work paying into a pension—that that pension would not be there and that we would not as a Congress consider it a priority to do everything possible to protect pensions people have earned.

I am going to keep doing everything I can, looking for ways to stop these cuts to the earned pension benefits. It is a basic issue of financial security. We have legislation, if passed right away, that would make a big difference. We need to get that bill passed so we can put in place the pension protections and send a message to people across our country that we get it, that we understand what is at stake for so many families.

A pension is a promise that needs to be kept. We have a way to do that in legislation before this body. I hope the leadership—the Republican leadership—will view it as a priority and take it up so we can get this passed as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have come to the floor—I don't come to the floor every day, but every day that I come here you are presiding. Either I

am coming here more often than I thought or you are presiding more than most people do. Maybe you just drew the short straw, but at the end of the day, I enjoy having these conversations with you, even when most of our colleagues have packed up and headed for places near and far—mostly far.

I have a couple of charts here today I would like for us to go over. The first one is—I like these bar graphs. This is an interesting one. We have Great Britain on this axis right here. We have information about the relative amount of fuel taxes countries have. Great Britain is the world champ. They have the biggest fuel taxes of anybody, and they have had for quite a while.

All the way over here is the U.S.A. There is an outfit called the OECD, which I would say is the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It doesn't have 41 nations; maybe it has about 37 or 38. They are arrayed right here. There are Russia, India, and Brazil. This gives you some sense of how different nations pay for their transportation infrastructure.

A bunch of nations, like Great Britain, use their fuel taxes to help balance the budget. Great Britain is here, and then we have these other countries—Luxembourg, Spain, Argentina. You get all the way down here, and there is Brazil. They are like off the charts. They must not have any fuel taxes to pay for their transportation infrastructure at all. We are pretty close to them. We are right here, the United States. We are right between Canada and Mexico.

I wanted to show that to give people a sense of—people think: Boy, we charge a lot of money for a gasoline tax and diesel tax. Well, as it turns out, not so much.

Some people think we spend a lot of money in the Federal budget on foreign aid. A lot of time in my townhall meetings, people complain and say: Well, we spend way too much money on foreign aid.

I say: Well, what percentage of the budget do you think actually goes to foreign aid?

People say about 20, 25 percent. And the answer is 1 percent. So that is a misperception.

I think the perception here is that we charge very high fuel taxes compared to the rest of the world. No. We have among the very lowest fuel taxes when you combine State and local with all of the developed nations of the world.

Let's see what is next here. It says: How much do we pay in fuel taxes? This is the cost of regular gasoline right here, August 2015, about a month and a half ago. This right over here is diesel fuel in about August of this year, a month and a half ago. The retail price at that time, I guess on average across the country, was about \$2.64 for gasoline, and the retail price for diesel was about the same, \$2.60 a gallon.

It is interesting to see how much tax is collected in a \$2.64 gallon of gas. In our State, in Delaware, I pulled up for gas last week. I went to Wawa. I paid about \$2.11 for gas. There are a bunch of stations—probably 1,000 or more—several thousand stations across the country last week where people paid less than two bucks a gallon. But this was the average. We have a couple of big States where the prices are higher, California among them.

Anyway, what makes up the price of gas at \$2.64? This was back in August. About 40 percent of that was the cost of crude oil. About another 25 percent of that \$2.64 was attributable to refining costs. Another almost 20 percent—19 percent, actually—was for the cost of distribution, for distributing and marketing. Add that all up, and it adds up to about 82 percent, 83 percent of the cost of gasoline was crude oil, and refining, distribution, and taxes was about 17 percent.

Again, when you look at our taxes in this country, State and local, we have among the lowest in the developed world. We just saw that in our first chart.

The numbers on diesel are pretty much the same—40 percent of the cost of the diesel when you fill up tanks if you have a car or a truck that uses diesel. It is about 18 percent for refining and another 22 percent. So about 80 percent of the cost for a gallon of diesel fuel 1½ or 2 months ago was, again, crude oil, the cost of crude, the cost of refining, and the cost of distribution and marketing.

Let's see what is on our next chart. It strikes me that gasoline prices are going down nationwide. Well, are they or are they not? Let's look. The average price of gas on October 5, 2015—what is today? Today is October 8, my sister's birthday. Three days before that birthday—October 5—gas nationwide was about \$2.32 a gallon. Compared to last year, it is down by 98 cents again.

On the east coast, the price of gas where I come from in Delaware—I said I bought gas last week at Wawa for \$2.11. The average price up and down the east coast is about \$2.17 a gallon, and that is down by over \$1 from a year ago. In New England, the price is just about the same as the Northeast—\$2.23 a gallon. The Central Atlantic is pretty much Virginia, Maryland, and maybe North Carolina and South Carolina. In the Central Atlantic, it is \$2.22 a gallon. These are all down by over \$1 a gallon from last year. The Lower Atlantic is pretty much the same. The Midwest is a little bit more. Gulf Coast States—down very close to \$2 here. The gulf coast is down to \$2.03 a gallon. That is down by roughly \$1 from a year ago. Go out to the Rocky Mountain States—if you move farther to the West, prices go up a little bit. The Rocky Mountain States are \$2.47, \$2.48.

That is down by \$1. The west coast is about \$2.79. That is almost \$1. Finally, the Pacific Northeast is about \$2.50, again, down by \$1. So I would say prices are down by about a third across the country.

I like this poster. For folks who can't read it, there are a couple of guys who are sitting in a gas station. The passenger says to the driver, "I just found some loose change in the cup holder." And the driver says, "Awesome. Fill 'er up." Well, we are not quite at that point, but we are getting a lot more for the loose change we find in our cup holder than used to be the case. Now the question is, Is that going to continue?

Look at this next chart and see what it shows. It shows that the global price of oil continues to drop. Again, keep in mind that about 40 percent of the cost of gas—40 percent at the pump, 40 percent of the cost of diesel at the pump—is attributable to the price at the well-head. This is the price of crude oil over a few years—2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Here we are. This is starting at about the middle of 2014. There is a precipitous drop, some recovery, and then another precipitous drop.

This is even better. This is the price of crude oil over the past 6 months. There is a big drop starting about in June. You see what we have down here. It is about midforties per barrel.

That is history. The question is, Looking forward, what can we expect prices to look like?

I don't have a magic solar ball or anything like that, but I do know this: The world in which we live is awash in oil, and the United States has been a big contributor to that because of what we are bringing up out of the ground, on the land, and in the seas beside us, beside our country.

But there is another country that is, I think, No. 4 in the world in terms of their strategic reserves compared to the rest of the world. It is a country that has not been pumping a lot of late, but it is a country that has the ability to pump a lot of oil, and that country is Iran. Today, this month, next month, they can pump maybe 100,000 barrels a day, maybe 200,000 barrels a day. But if they abide by the agreement we struck with them, the Brits, the French, the Germans, the Russians, the Chinese, and us—if the Iranians keep their agreement, which is designed to ensure they don't end up with a nuclear weapon—if they keep that agreement and the sanctions are lifted, they will be able to, probably starting more next year than this, begin to pump more oil out of the ground. They have a lot of it to pump. They have a big reason to want to pump a lot of it because, as bad as our transportation and infrastructure is, theirs is a whole lot worse. They need to generate the money, and one of the ways they are going to do it is to pump a lot of oil.

Looking forward, can we say the price of gasoline is going to go down? Is it going to stay the same? I would just say this: One of the big factors for us to consider is that the fourth biggest oil reserve country in the world is going to start—all things being equal, they are going to start pumping a lot of oil, and that is going to come into a world market of oil where, frankly, we are awash in oil. It is not going to drive the price up. I can assure you. It may keep it steady. It could actually drive it down further.

All right. Let's take a look at the next chart. This is a chart that focuses on what we are investing as a nation in our transportation systems, our roads, our highways, our bridges. We are looking at, actually, some numbers provided by an outfit called the American Society of Civil Engineers. These are people who make a living by building infrastructure and helping design and figure out what we should build and how we should build it. It is not just transportation, it is all kinds of infrastructure, but it certainly includes transportation.

They actually grade how we are doing on transportation in this country on roads, highways, and bridges. I think the last time I saw, the grade they gave us was a D-plus. The only thing I can say was good about that is it was not a D-minus. But it hasn't been a C or even a C-minus for a long time. It certainly hasn't been a B for a lot longer. And one of the things that happens is when you have a transportation system—when our investments are at about a D-plus—"d" as in "dog"—we end up spending a lot of time in traffic just sitting there.

Every year, Texas A&M comes up with a study that says how much time we spend in traffic just pretty much sitting there, barely moving. The average across the country for the average driver is 42 hours a year. Think about that. That is pretty much almost 2 days that you just sitting there, maybe moving a little bit but not much.

For the bigger cities, such as Washington, DC; Houston, TX; Dallas; Denver; or L.A., the numbers are more like 82 hours per year. That is almost 4 days just sitting there in traffic in your car, truck, van, big truck, your diesel, rig, whatever, waiting to move.

The American Society of Civil Engineers says our investment needs are about \$228 billion. Is that per year? That is per year. That is a lot of money. If we were pumping that kind of money into roads, highways, and bridges in our transit system, we wouldn't have a D-plus anymore; we would have a B-plus—"b" as in "bravo" as opposed to "d" as in "dog." So that is what \$228 billion a year would get us. That would be new revenues on top of the current revenues we are already generating from roads, highways, and bridges.

Over at the U.S. Department of Transportation, they have said their magic number is \$171 billion per year. They are talking about \$171 billion per year. They say that is just enough to begin to improve our transportation system. Instead of seeing it continue to be degraded, if we put in about \$171 billion, we would see that is just enough to begin to improve our transportation system.

Over here, these are our civil engineers. These are smart people who help design roads. This is the U.S. Department of Transportation. One says we need to put in about \$228 billion a year and the U.S. Department of Transportation says about \$171 billion a year. Our current highway trust fund spending out of our trust fund is \$50 billion a year. It is not even 20 percent, maybe not even 25 percent of what the engineers who build these systems are telling us, and it is not even a third of what the Department of Transportation says we ought to be doing. We could begin—just begin to improve our transportation system.

What this chart says to me is we are going nowhere fast and we are woefully underfunding. If we want to get better; if we want to reduce the amount of time we are just sitting, going nowhere; if we want to reduce the amount of money we are spending to replace our tires or have our front ends aligned and other repairs on our vehicles—that adds up to about, on average, between \$350 to \$500 per driver. That is what we are spending now.

Let's see what this poster says:

The U.S. highway trust fund running out due to political gridlock.

Where the highway ends.

Let me just say that we have had over the last, I don't know, 5, 6, 7, 8 years any number of blue ribbon commissions that have been commissioned. We commissioned them in the Transportation bill we passed maybe 6 years ago. We said to all these smart people: We want you to go out and figure out how we ought to pay for transportation.

They came back and said: Well, here is why we think a big part of it ought to be user fees, some for tolling and some for figuring out how many miles are actually traveled, vehicle miles traveled, kind of migrating toward that of system, but for the most part it should be user fees.

A big piece of that, at least for now, should be user fees for the amount of gas we buy and for the amount of diesel fuel we buy because that generally ensures that the folks who are using our roads, highways, and bridges are actually paying for them.

So there has not really been a lot of question among people a lot smarter than I and even smarter than my colleagues—most of them, at least—the folks who are most knowledgeable about this say this is the way we ought

to pay for it, and it should be a user-fee approach.

The reason we are not doing that is because of political courage—not an overabundance of that; maybe a lack of it.

All right. Let's see what is next. The TRAFFIC Relief Act, which is the Tax Relief And #FixTheTrustFund For Infrastructure Certainty Act of 2015—that is a mouthful—was introduced by a fellow from Illinois named Senator DURBIN and a fellow from Delaware. That would be me.

DICK DURBIN and I came to Washington. I was a Navy guy for many years before I was treasurer of Delaware, Congressman for a while, Governor, and now in the Senate. DICK came to Washington in 1982. We both were elected to the House in 1982. We found out on the first day on the job—we were sworn in January 3, 1983—the Social Security trust fund was about to run out of money, I mean entirely. But in 1983 we were not going to be talking about reducing Social Security benefits by 5 percent, 10 percent, or 20 percent; by the end of 1983, we were going to run out of money and we wouldn't be able to pay anything for Social Security benefits.

Fortunately, in 1982 some very smart people got together. A blue ribbon commission was chaired by Alan Greenspan, who went on to become Federal Reserve Chairman. They said: Here is how we ought to pay for it.

DICK DURBIN and I—a lot of Democrats and a lot of Republicans—all of us together said: That makes sense. Let's do it.

It was a combination of reductions in benefits and additional revenues. We got the job done. Social Security is not set forever, but it has lasted for another 30 years, 40 years. We need to do some more to fix it, but that is the kind of bipartisan resolve we need.

The legislation Senator DURBIN and I introduced in this instance—maybe a little more than a month ago—raises about \$220 billion for the highway trust fund over 10 years, and that is on top of the amount of money we are already going to spend anyway over the next 10 years. I think that would be another maybe \$400 billion, roughly, \$450 billion, \$350 billion. Add that to \$220 billion, and that gives us \$570 billion.

Does this get us from D-plus to an A or A-minus or even a B-plus? No, it doesn't, but it moves us in the right direction. It moves the needle in the direction it needs to go. It provides for \$90 billion to fully fund the highways and transit programs and about \$130 billion for new investments in repairs and upgrades. We need to do those new investments, and we certainly need to do the repairs and upgrades.

Let me close by thanking Senator DURBIN for joining me in this effort. People vote for us to come to Congress and to make tough decisions. People

expect us to work together. People especially expect us to get things done. People especially expect us to do things that help strengthen the economic recovery, which is underway, to make it more robust going forward in the future. We can do that. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how.

A lot of smart people on these blue ribbon commissions have been telling us for years that the way to do it is move toward tolling, eventually move toward some kind of vehicle-miles-traveled system where based on the actual miles we travel we pay some find of fee. But they have also said for now, because those other two ideas are not fully realized—and especially for vehicle miles traveled, we are not going to be there for probably 10 years, 20 years. In the meantime, we have all this work that needs to be done and to be paid for, and they have said the best way to do it is to ensure that we pay—those of us who are using the roads, highways, and bridges pay for that, and we have been using gas taxes and diesel taxes to do that.

I will close with this. I am not a big coffee drinker, but I stopped by a carryout we have downstairs in the basement. They are open whenever we are in session, and you can go get a sandwich or some soup or yogurt or something, and they also sell coffee. Some days, especially when we are in session late at night—we have not been doing that much lately—but at night when we are in session late, they sell a lot of coffee. The coffee is anywhere from the smallest cup costing like 70 cents, and the middle-sized maybe \$2, \$2.50, and the largest cups are maybe \$3 or something like that. If you go to Starbucks you pay a lot more for a cup of coffee than that. You pay as much as \$5 at Starbucks, I am told by a friend of mine who buys his coffee there, but I bought a cup of coffee here today and it was a little more than \$2 for a middle-sized cup of coffee.

As it turns out, if we actually raised the user fee—the gas tax and the diesel tax—for 4 cents a year, which is what DICK DURBIN and I are calling for, 4 cents a year for 4 years, and the Federal gas tax has been 18 cents for 22 years. Since 1993 it has been 18 cents. It is not worth 18 cents anymore because of inflation. It is worth less than a dime. The diesel tax is about 23 cents. It is not worth 23 cents anymore. It has been that since 1993. It is worth less than 15 cents. In the meantime, the price of concrete is up, asphalt is up, steel is up, labor is up, and the major way, the principal way we pay for roads, highways, bridges, and transit frankly has greatly diminished in value.

If we were to actually raise, as Senator DURBIN and I are suggesting, the price of these user fees—gas tax, diesel tax—by 4 cents a year for 4 years, that

would add 16 cents to the price of gasoline. For the average driver, that turns out to be on a weekly basis just about the price of a cup of coffee. It works out to be just about the price of a cup of coffee.

Here is a question I would ask. I think if we asked most drivers in this country of ours today when they are sitting in traffic trying to get someplace—whether here in the Mid-Atlantic area, up in the Northeast, out on the West Coast or other places—would you be willing, 4 years from now, to be paying an amount of money equal to the price of a cup of coffee in order to spend a lot less time sitting in traffic going nowhere or running into potholes that destroy your tires and your front-end alignment? Would you be willing to pay on a weekly basis the amount of money you spend on a cup of coffee? My guess is most people would say that doesn't seem like a bad deal. You know what. They would be right because it is not a bad deal.

I will close with this. I am from Delaware. People here are from all over the country representing their States. Guess what 12 of the 50 States have done in the last 2 years—2013, 2014—and those States are mostly red States, with Republican Governors and Republican legislatures. One dozen of those States have raised their user fees. They have raised their user fees and not by a dollar all at once or even a half dollar or a quarter, but they have raised them in some places by pennies, a nickel or more over a couple of years.

Then last November in those 12 States they had elections. This is an interesting story. Guess what happened to the State legislators who voted to raise their user fees to actually pay for their roads, highways, and bridges. When they ran for reelection they got reelected. Amazing. They showed political courage. They did the hard thing. Ninety-five percent of them, Republicans, who were running for reelection last November, in those States where they raised the user fees—gas tax, diesel tax—they got reelected.

Do you know who didn't get reelected in some of those States? The legislators who voted against raising the user fees, who did not support making investments in transportation.

How about the Democrats in those States? Well, the Democrats in States where they raised the user fees to pay for their transportation investments, almost 90 percent of them won their primary last November, won the general election, and they got reelected too. They did better than the legislators who voted against those increases. Think about that.

I like to quote Thomas Jefferson from time to time, and Jefferson used to say: If people know the truth, they won't make a mistake. I would like to think the same thing is true here. If my colleagues and I know the truth, we

won't make a mistake either. People think it is political suicide to vote to raise these user fees and you can't get reelected by doing the right thing. But you know what. You can. You can, and there is a lot of evidence to show it can happen.

I will close not with the words of Jefferson but of Mark Twain, who said a lot of things—a lot of funny things—and one of the things he said that I think is especially appropriate is: In the end, tell the truth. You will confound your critics and amaze your friends.

The truth is we need to make these investments. The other truth is this is not political suicide. At the end of the day, we are actually going to get, I think more often than not, rewarded for doing the hard thing and the right thing. My hope is we will do that, and I will continue to make that case.

One last great quote, Mr. President. Wayne Gretzky—I don't know if you play much hockey down your way, we play some in Delaware—but Wayne Gretzky said a lot of memorable things in his life—a great hockey player, now retired—and when people would say to him: Mr. Gretzky, why are you such a good hockey player? He would say: I go where the puck will be, not where the puck is. Think about that. I go where the puck will be, not where the puck is.

One of the other things Wayne Gretzky said that I especially like is: I miss 100 percent of the shots—talking about taking a shot on the goal—he said: I miss 100 percent of the shots that I never take. Think about that. I miss 100 percent of the shots I never take.

I am convinced this is a shot worth taking. I am going to push very hard to make sure somebody is here, and DICK DURBIN and my guess is some others, too, will come along and will encourage folks to join us in this effort. This is a just cause.

I don't see anybody else waiting in line to speak, so with that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SIEGFRIED AND ROY

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to recognize two incredible entertainers

and individuals in the Las Vegas community, Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn, better known as Siegfried and Roy.

For more than 35 years, this duo shared their captivating magic show with visitors and residents of Las Vegas. Their stage presence and the participation of their trained white tigers kept audiences coming back for performances unlike any other. Siegfried and Roy's award-winning show at the Mirage Hotel and Casino was enjoyed by children and adults, and it opened the door to family entertainment on the Las Vegas Strip.

Through their celebrity and love of animals, Siegfried and Roy have been working to raise awareness for animal conservation and are educating others about endangered species. The white tiger, an animal that became an icon of Siegfried and Roy's performances, is among those listed as endangered and facing extinction. By establishing the Siegfried and Roy Masters of the Impossible Foundation, they are taking their efforts to educate, protect, and conserve animals that are endangered and threatened across the globe.

For the first time in 5 years, Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden at the Mirage is welcoming four tiger cubs, Hirah, Maharani, Liberty, and Justice. Siegfried and Roy are calling these cubs "ambassadors of conservation," as they hope these animals will help them share the important message that we must continue to work together to protect endangered species.

I appreciate Siegfried and Roy's dedication to the Las Vegas community and animal conservation. I wish them the best in their future endeavors.●

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, much of our international focus in recent months has understandably been on Iran and Syria. Both will require further attention as we make sure Iran complies with the nuclear agreement and try to bring an end to the catastrophic human suffering in Syria. And we must continue to insist that Russia abide by the Minsk agreement in territory it so brazenly seized in eastern Ukraine.

But amid these important foreign policy challenges, I would like to make sure we do not lose sight of smaller but also important battles for human rights occurring around the world.

First, let me start with a small nation straddling the lines of Europe and Asia, which many had hoped would strengthen its ties with the community of democracies—Azerbaijan. Since 2014, the government has arrested close to a hundred political prisoners representing some of the strongest voices for democracy and transparency in the country.

Many of those who currently sit in prison on trumped-up charges such as

tax evasion, fraud, and even treason include noted human rights defenders like Leyla and Arif Yunus, Rasul Jafarov, Intigam Aliyev, and Anar Mammadli. They worked tirelessly before their arrests on issues trying to strengthen the country's democratic institutions.

Just recently, the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe, or OSCE, announced that it is canceling its mission to monitor the upcoming parliamentary elections due to restrictions imposed by the government. Without the OSCE's mission, the likelihood for free and fair elections in November is obviously diminished.

The Azeri Government has been particularly aggressive in quashing freedom of the press, notably arresting in 2014 Khadija Ismayilova, one of the country's top investigative reporters. For years she exposed secret connections between President Aliyev's immediate family and business dealings, including the privatized state airline, the nation's biggest telecom provider, and massive construction projects.

As a result of her work, she faced repeated threats, hidden cameras in her home, and even attempted blackmail by crudely posted videos of private moments with her boyfriend; yet as the Washington Post recently reported on its front page, she pressed forward, believing that the Azeri public had a right to know about corruption at the highest levels of their government.

Two weeks later, Khadija's employer, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was raided and shut down. Its staff has faced repeated harassment and some have even left the country out of concern for their safety. Recently she was sentenced to 7.5 years in prison on what can only be seen as a blatant attempt to halt her work.

The U.S. State Department, the OSCE, and the European Union Parliament have all called on Azerbaijan to release its political prisoners. And in July, 15 of my Senate colleagues joined me in a letter to Azeri President Aliyev expressing concern that the space for civil society and the freedom of press within the country is diminishing. I call on Aliyev here today to not further jeopardize his ties to the West by continuing these authoritarian actions against his own people.

Next, let me turn to Latin America where we continue to see democratic backsliding in a number of countries.

First, Ecuador, where President Correa has seemingly no tolerance for criticism and a troubling habit of harassing the media and restricting freedom of association and the press. It is not clear why Correa, who has a large majority in the parliament, has to take such draconian and undemocratic measures.

For example, over the years, the police have raided the homes of journalists working to expose government corruption and shut down an environmental organization critical of the regime's extractive policies. Government thugs have harassed and intimidated Twitter users who criticize the government. And Correa recently seemed set to force the closure of Fundamedios, a respected NGO that promotes freedom of the press.

The NGO's crime? Tweeting links to two political editorials critical of the Ecuadoran government.

Facing strong international condemnation, it now appears Correa has decided to back off this ill-suited vendetta against Fundamedios.

And in Venezuela the other week, leading opposition figure Leopoldo Lopez, who had already been sitting in jail for 19 months on absurd political charges, was sentenced to almost 14 years.

Equally troubling is what the Venezuelan regime has done to Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, who tried to maintain a semblance of judicial independence. She was shamelessly jailed after releasing a defendant who had been detained for 3 years without charges and swiftly charged with corruption and abuse of authority. Afiuni sat in jail for 2 years next to violent prisoners she had once sentenced.

While in prison, she was brutally raped and became pregnant—her body terribly destroyed by the violence. She was granted house arrest to recover from emergency surgery. And today she must still report to the authorities every 15 days and cannot leave the country or speak to the news media. Incredibly, Venezuela's Attorney General denied in Geneva there was a complaint for sexual abuse and torture involving Afiuni.

I know U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power has taken on this case. I want to join that effort and call for her unconditional release and exoneration.

Venezuelan President Maduro is presiding over the near collapse of his once proud nation, manufacturing internal and external enemies to explain his own government's economic mismanagement.

Not only has his government sentenced Lopez to jail, but it has also started a border dispute with Colombia, embarrassingly trying to further deflect attention from its own disastrous policies.

Furthering more division and repression will only make things worse. I know this administration and others in the region have tried to offer paths forward for Maduro, but I fear he is heading in the opposite direction with Lopez's sentencing.

Now, some of you may remember the international outrage that occurred when writer and activist Raif Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 public lashes and

10 years in prison on blasphemy and apostasy charges in Saudi Arabia.

You may also recall his brother-in-law and lawyer, human rights activist Waleed Abu al-Khair, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison by Jeddah's specialized criminal court for inciting public opinion and undermining the state.

These imprisonments—and both their dubious charges and inhumane punishments—were denounced around the world by reputable human rights organizations, foreign governments, and many others.

Our State Department called for the release of both Raif and Waleed, and in Congress, I was joined by seven of my Senate colleagues in writing to the late King Abdullah urging their release. Sixty-seven of my colleagues in the House did the same months later when King Salman became the new leader of Saudi Arabia. And just the other day, Badawi was awarded the PEN Literary Award.

We have a longstanding friendship with the Saudi regime, and friends do at times disagree. But it is because of the nature of our friendship that I believe we have an obligation to encourage Saudi Arabia to do better—to uphold basic human rights for free speech, for women, for religious minorities, for foreign workers, and countless others.

I hope the new King, King Salman, will show compassion and bring an end to Saudi Arabia's troubling human rights record.

And last, let me mention some hopeful steps in Belarus, where recently the last candidate who ran in 2010 for President against strongman President Lukashenko, was finally released from jail.

Michael Statkevich was released after nearly 5 years and, coincidentally, just days after he had passed the deadline to be an eligible opposition candidate for the next Presidential election.

You see on the eve of the 2010 election—an election that could have brought an end to the distinction of being the last dictatorship in Europe—Lukashenko had seven candidates arrested and thrown in jail—not much of an incentive to be a candidate.

Sadly, such repression and election manipulation has been the norm in Belarus which incredibly still operates its own KGB to enforce political repression.

However, Belarus has another election coming up next week on October 11. I want President Lukashenko to know that the world is watching and hoping that this time it will be a free and legitimate election worthy of the Belarussian people.

REMEMBERING PAT JOHNS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, Illinois—and America—lost a

legend. Pat Johns passed away at the age of 66. Pat Johns was from my home State of Illinois. He was born in Aurora and raised in Plano. Known as the "Master of Disaster," Pat was employed with Catholic Relief Services, based in Baltimore, for 30 years. In that time he was on the ground in some of the world's most dangerous war zones and humanitarian emergency areas.

Pat Johns was a soldier, but not in the traditional sense—he didn't even carry a gun. He was a soldier of peace, armed only with the virtue of his mission. And his mission took him to places like the killing fields of Cambodia, the Ethiopian famine, the Rwandan genocide, Somalia, Kosovo, and Eritrea. And when natural disasters occurred like the Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, or the earthquake in Haiti, Pat Johns was there—with energy, hope, and solutions.

In 1974, Pat joined Catholic Relief Services and was posted in Cambodia. Two years later, he was managing a staff of 400 people. To say that Pat faced a challenge in Cambodia would be a gross understatement. The Khmer Rouge Army was storming its way toward the capitol of Phnom Penh and the Vietnam war was raging next door. Pat's job included working shifts of 50 hours or more and getting food and supplies to nearly 2 million refugees seeking safe haven from the Khmer Rouge's advances. He endured miserable tropical weather and survived malaria, all while keeping tens of thousands of refugees alive. When asked about the experience, he said, "The whole experience, in Cambodia really drove home my niche in life."

Many may have quit, but not Pat Johns. Instead, he dedicated his life to serving those in desperate need in the most dangerous parts of the planet. In doing so, Pat Johns saved millions of people from war-torn countries, fed the starving, and promoted peace and justice all over the world—what an inspiration.

Last spring, I gave the commencement address at my nephew's high school graduation. I asked the students to think about what they wanted people to say about their lives. I asked them, "What will you be remembered for? What service did you render to your community? Your nation? Your world?" The great thing about living in America is we can choose the answers to those questions.

Pat Johns will be remembered for many things: living through war, famine, natural disasters, incredible human suffering; and for bringing hope to victims everywhere he went. But Sean Callahan, chief operating officer for Catholic Relief Services, put it best. He said, "Perhaps the greatest thing about Pat was that he was a gentleman and a greatly caring person. He could work nonstop for 50 hours in terrible conditions, but still have the

heart to offer comfort and friendship to those around him." That's a legacy to be proud of.

Today, the best way we can honor Pat Johns is by continuing his life's work. We need this generation of Americans to live up to the example set by Pat Johns. We have big shoes to fill, but Pat showed us that, with the right commitment, we can get it done.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have all been deeply shaken by the horrific tragedies in Charleston and Roseburg and by all the mass killings that now occur with alarming regularity. The American people overwhelmingly support commonsense reforms that will keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and dangerous individuals; yet in response to mass shootings, too often Congress slips into a familiar cycle of shock, sorrow and, ultimately, inaction. Some in Congress pretend that there are no solutions; others claim that any restriction aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people represents an affront to the Second Amendment. They are wrong.

Many, many Americans have had enough. We will not be satisfied by those who only offer their sympathies. And we will not be lulled into inaction.

While I was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee last Congress, we addressed gun violence head-on. In the wake of the horrifying and senseless murder of 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT, I and all Democratic members on the committee resolved to pass sensible reforms to protect our communities. We were moved by the powerful words of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords calling on us to act, and we reported out legislation that would punish criminals who traffic in firearms and would close background check loopholes. This included my bipartisan legislation to prevent criminals from using straw purchasers who exploit weak background check laws in order to funnel firearms to criminals. Our efforts were strongly supported by the American public, but Senate Republicans blocked these commonsense reforms on the Senate floor.

It has been more than 3 months since Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee called for a hearing in the wake of the tragedy in Charleston, SC. I hope the majority will soon schedule this hearing so that we can have a constructive discussion on gun violence that has shaken too many communities and too many families. But if we truly want to make a difference, we must work together to build consensus around solutions to gun violence. I will work with anyone interested in preventing these tragedies, and I will soon reintroduce my legislation to strength-

en our straw purchasing and firearm trafficking laws.

Like many Vermonters, I grew up with firearms, and I have enormous respect for the freedoms the Second Amendment protects. None of the concepts put forward by the Democratic caucus threaten the Second Amendment rights of lawful gun owners. But American lives are threatened when our laws do not protect them. This need not be a partisan issue, and we must work together.

Our country desperately needs meaningful reform now. The toll that gun violence takes on our communities is too great. It is past time for Congress to act. The American people should not have to wait until the next tragedy.

JUSTICE FOR WAR CRIMES IN SRI LANKA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this week the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator CARDIN, spoke about the opportunity for the United States and Sri Lanka to expand economic and security cooperation and the need for accountability for war crimes and reconciliation between ethnic and religious factions in that country. I want to join him in expressing support for the aspirations of the Sri Lankan people for reconciliation, justice, and equitable economic development.

Last week the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution which, if faithfully implemented, could be the basis for a meaningful and long overdue international role in Sri Lanka to hold accountable those involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity during that country's brutal civil war.

After so many false starts, so many investigations and reports that documented widespread atrocities by both sides in the conflict, including rape, arbitrary detention, torture, the use of child soldiers, summary executions, shelling of civilians, and forced disappearances were ignored; and after recommendations to bring those responsible to justice were ignored, the U.N. resolution affirms that the Sri Lankan Government needs to put in place a judicial mechanism with international participation.

The resolution refers to the recent report by the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which documented horrific abuses by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and LTTE rebels and the government's failure over decades to punish those responsible. Among the report's key recommendations is the establishment of a special court "integrating international judges, prosecutors, lawyers and investigators" with an independent Sri Lankan investigative and prosecuting body. No other mechanism would have the credibility and independence to deliver real justice.

Let me repeat that because it is so important: No other mechanism would have the credibility and independence to deliver real justice. The refusal of past Sri Lankan Governments to accept this premise and to recognize that no one, including the armed forces, is above the law, is why so far no one has been held accountable.

To its credit, President Maithrapala Sirisena's government cosponsored the resolution, which was presented initially to the U.N. Human Rights Council by the United States, United Kingdom, Montenegro, and Macedonia. The resolution, regarding a "credible judicial process," "affirms the importance of participation in a Sri Lankan judicial mechanism, including the Special Counsel's office, of Commonwealth and other foreign judges, defense lawyers, and authorized prosecutors and investigators." Having cosponsored the resolution, the government should establish without delay a special tribunal that brings together international investigators, prosecutors, and judges with Sri Lankan counterparts who are protected from outside pressure and intimidation, as well as a program to protect witnesses. The United States could provide assistance for such an effort.

The government will also need to ensure that violations of international law, including war crimes, disappearances, torture, and the concept of command responsibility, are incorporated into Sri Lankan law, so that charges brought reflect the severity of the crimes and target those most responsible.

I have spoken previously about President Sirisena's initial accomplishments, including the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the constitution, which curtails the extensive powers enjoyed by the Executive and vests more power in the parliament, limits the Presidential term to 5 years instead of 6, and allows the President to hold office only for two terms instead of an unlimited number of terms.

Unlike the previous government, which persecuted its critics and locked up after sham trials journalists who exposed corruption, President Sirisena has taken steps to reaffirm freedom of the press. Under the previous government, Sri Lanka's judicial system was politicized and corrupted. The new government is taking steps to reestablish the independence of the judiciary, which is fundamental to any democracy. And, as has been reported, the Government of Sri Lanka has accepted many recommendations to improve the human rights situation, including a repeal of the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act and reforms to the Witness and Victim Protection Law, both long called for by victims' rights groups. The government has agreed to accelerate the return of lands confiscated by the security forces; to end

the military's involvement in civilian activities in the country's north and east; to investigate allegations of attacks on civil society, the media, and religious minorities; and to work toward devolution of authority from Colombo, consistent with the 13th amendment to the constitution.

President Sirisena has sought to erase the worst excesses and abuses of his predecessor and put his country on a path to reconciliation and prosperity. For this he deserves our support. The sooner the government makes good on these commitments, the better, as the Sri Lankan people have waited a very long time for a government that is serious about reconciliation, which means addressing the ethnic, religious, social, economic, and political divisions and inequalities that were at the root of the conflict.

The U.N. resolution is far from perfect. It has been pointed out that it lacks adequate provisions for international oversight of implementation of its terms. The resolution only calls for an oral update from the High Commissioner in June 2016 and a written implementation report in March 2017. The United States should not wait until next June to report to Congress on the government's progress in complying with the terms of the resolution. Despite its shortcomings, the U.N. resolution points the way forward. A great deal of work lies ahead. More than 6 years have passed since the war ended. Physical evidence has been lost or destroyed, people's memories fade, and witnesses die. But the Sri Lankan people, and particularly those who suffered grievous losses in the war, should take solace from the fact that the international community has not forgotten them and that their own government may be ready to take the necessary steps to restore accountability and the rule of law to Sri Lanka.

PALESTINIAN TERRORISM

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, my thoughts and prayers are with the Israeli people who are enduring a new escalation of Palestinian terrorism.

Last Thursday evening, a mother and father were murdered in front of their four children ages 9, 7, 4, and 4 months when Hamas terrorists opened fire on their car. A few days later, another Jewish family was walking in the Old City of Jerusalem after praying at the Western Wall when a Palestinian terrorist went on a stabbing attack. He murdered the father, along with another courageous man who rushed to the scene to the family's aid. Both men leave behind their wives and nine children. In addition to the four murdered, many more Israelis have been seriously wounded from car-ramming, rock-throwing, and brutal knife and screwdriver stabbing attacks in what appears to be a fresh horror—an epidemic

of low-tech, brutal attacks by militants who are acting on their own initiative.

These attacks have been incubated by the continued incitement and glorification of violence by the Palestinian leadership, most recently by President Mahmoud Abbas during his address at the United Nations General Assembly. He still has yet to categorically condemn these attacks. It is long past time for the United States and the international community to hold the Palestinians accountable for their incitement and support for terrorism, including through the financial payment to Palestinian terrorists who are jailed in Israel for committing acts of terrorism.

In yet another stark reminder of how closely our nations are connected in this fight, the father murdered last Thursday, Eitam Henkin, was a dual Israeli-American citizen. The terrorist who killed him did not care, as his sole intent was to kill Jews, not to engage in a political process. There is no moral equivalence between Palestinian terrorism and the obligation of Israel to act in defense of its people. To the Israeli people, especially those who are victims of terrorism and their families: I proudly stand in solidarity with you during this challenging time.

OBSERVING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to honor the many traditions and contributions of America's vibrant Hispanic community. This special time is celebrated from September 15 to October 15 and honors the many Americans whose ancestors originate from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. I am proud to recognize this month in honor of the many Hispanic Americans who contribute so much to communities across our state and country.

Hispanic Americans make up the largest ethnic minority throughout our Nation, as well as in Nevada. This community is an integral part of our State, helping shape our economy, trade, culture, and intrinsic Nevada footprint. I am thankful for the hard work and dedication of the many Hispanic Americans whose perseverance has greatly impacted the success of the Silver State. That is why I recently cosponsored a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and the fundamental role Hispanic Americans have in the accomplishments of the United States. I am proud to support legislative efforts that distinguish the immense efforts brought forth by this community.

Hispanic Americans play a critical role in our Nation's identity, especially in 2015. As of August 2015, Latino workers represented nearly 17 percent of the workforce and exhibited the largest

percentage of labor force participation of any ethnic group with nearly 63 percent. This community is made up of hard-working physicians, surgeons, chief business executives, lawyers, educators, and many other professionals crucial to the success of our country. Latinos represent one in four public school students and 19 percent of college students between the ages of 18 and 24. Hispanic Americans have served the United States in every war, helping bring freedom and democracy to our country. As of July 2015, 164,000 Active-Duty servicemembers from the Hispanic community served and continue to serve our country, maintaining these principal values. The vast influence this community has had on our great Nation warrants only the greatest gratitude.

I ask that today and throughout the rest of this time set aside for Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many contributions that the Hispanic community brings. I join citizens across the Silver State in thanking the many Hispanic Americans who have brought greater strength to our State and our Nation.

OBSERVING THE 104TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, TAIWAN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 104th National Day of the Republic of China, Taiwan, to take place on October 10, 2015.

As a longstanding supporter of Taiwan, I believe the occasion of its National Day is an appropriate time for us to consider our special relationship with Taiwan and the Taiwanese people.

The United States and Taiwan have fostered a mutually beneficial relationship over the years based on shared democratic values and common strategic interests. Taiwan is a fine example of democracy in the Asia-Pacific region and is a trusted friend and trading partner to the United States. Our relationship has realized far-reaching economic and cultural benefits, and I hope that our bonds continue to grow in the years to come.

It is a sincere privilege to offer my compliments to the people of Taiwan on this very special occasion.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I would like to take time to recognize that October 10, 2015, will be the 104th National Day of the Republic of China, Taiwan.

Over the years, the United States and Taiwan have maintained a strong relationship based on common values and global interests. I hope to see Taiwan remain a strong ally and trade partner for many years to come as we look towards a mutually prosperous future.

It is a great pleasure to extend my best wishes to the people of Taiwan on this special day.

OBSERVING INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE GIRL

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, Sunday, October 11, 2015, is the International Day of the Girl. Started 4 years ago, this day is an effort to raise awareness of issues of gender inequality around the world. This year the theme is "The Power of the Adolescent Girl." As the father of three daughters and two granddaughters, I am keenly aware of the power of our girls, as well as the challenges that they face.

For these reasons, I was proud to welcome a delegation of young women from Arkansas to my office in July. These ladies were attending a leadership summit here in Washington, D.C., and came to my office to advocate on issues related to human trafficking, gender-based violence, childhood education, and more. I am very proud of them and their efforts to fight the problems girls face around the world.

Across the globe, girls and young women face incredible odds and challenges. Over the last 15 years, work by the United States and our partners has resulted in real change. Girls are now more likely than ever to enroll in primary school and receive important vaccinations and are much less likely to suffer health and nutritional problems than ever before. It is important that we continue these efforts, along with our partners, to solidify the gains that we have made and reach for even greater successes.

I thank the young women from Arkansas and across the country who are making the crucial effort to advocate for those who do not have a voice. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that our children inherit a world of increased possibilities.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE WILLIAM
J. ZIMMERMAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating an extraordinary public servant, Detective William "Bill" Zimmerman, as he retires from the United States Capitol Police force, USCP.

For 32 years, Detective Zimmerman has served the USCP with great distinction, including 28 years with the threat assessment section, the division responsible for investigating threats made against Members of Congress and their families.

To every challenge, Detective Zimmerman brought unparalleled skill and dedication, ultimately helping to establish programs for threat assessment and management programs that are used by other law enforcement agencies across the United States and in Great Britain. Detective Zimmerman served as the first president of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals, and in 2004, he became the inaugural recipient of the association's

distinguished Meritorious Service Award.

Throughout his career, Detective Zimmerman consistently went above and beyond the call of duty to protect and serve. For my office, Detective Zimmerman was often our go-to person in an emergency, and he always handled any situation with professionalism, commitment, passion, and calm. Detective Zimmerman is not only the consummate professional, he is also a wonderful human being, and his well-deserved retirement is a huge loss for Congress.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "To know one life has breathed easier because you have lived, that is to have succeeded." By that and every other measure, Detective Zimmerman had a remarkably successful career, and I congratulate him, thank him, and wish him all the best as he begins the next exciting chapter.

JOINT EMPLOYER DECISION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions at the hearing titled, "Stealing the Dream of Business Ownership: The NLRB's Joint Employer decision."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOINT EMPLOYER DECISION

This morning we are having a hearing about the recent National Labor Relations Board decision that threatens to steal the American dream from owners of the nation's 780,000 franchise businesses and millions of contractors.

We will also discuss the legislation I have introduced to undo this decision.

Last week, I met a man named Aslam Khan. He is an immigrant from Pakistan who started out as a dishwasher at Church's Chicken and who today has become a very successful owner of Church's Chicken franchises.

He talked about achieving the American Dream. He said it was possible because of our nation's "free enterprise, entrepreneurial spirit."

But on August 27, the National Labor Relations Board released a decision that threatens to steal the American dream from owners of the nation's 780,000 franchise businesses and millions of contractors.

It threatens to destroy that free enterprise, entrepreneurial spirit.

The labor board's new "joint employer" standard will make big businesses bigger and make the middle class smaller by discouraging larger companies from franchising and contracting work to small businesses.

It is the biggest attack on the opportunity for small businessmen and women in this country to make their way into the middle class that we've seen in a long, long time—and I am committed to fighting it with legislation that already has 45 cosponsors in the Senate and bipartisan support in the House.

For three decades, federal labor policies have held that two separate employers are "joint employers" if both have direct and

immediate control over employment terms and working conditions.

That means two employers who are both responsible for tasks like hiring and firing, setting work hours, issuing direction to employees, determining compensation and handling day to day record keeping.

Under the new "joint employer" standard adopted in August in Browning Ferris Industries, a 3-2 NLRB majority said that merely indirect control or even unexercised potential to control working conditions could make a franchisee and franchisor joint employers.

That means that for all these franchisees and contractors who have worked so hard to build businesses in their communities, hire the right people, and spend 12 hours a day serving customers, meeting a payroll, dealing with government regulations, paying taxes, and trying to make a profit—they will no longer be considered their workers' sole employer. Rather, they are just one of their workers' employers.

And for the businesses that have franchised their brand or used subcontractors to haul their waste or clean their offices—and are now considered one of the employers of those companies' workers—there will be a huge incentive to retake control of those franchises, and retake control of those contracted tasks. Because if you're going to have all the liability of being the boss, you're much better off actually being the boss.

If those businesses stop using franchisees and subcontractors, their costs go up. The system of letting other businesses invest their capital in carrying forward your business goal evaporates.

When costs go up, these businesses lose their ability to grow and create more jobs.

As joint employers, business owners will be forced to engage in collective bargaining and share liability for labor law violations.

As this new standard is applied, we will learn just how much liability an employer will face for another employer's decisions. Will she be required to contribute to healthcare costs, workers compensation and pension funds? Will this scheme mean new "joint employers" will be on the hook for notoriously underfunded multi-employer pension plans?

As if facing legal liability for another employer's labor problems isn't bad enough, the Administration is about to make it even more costly.

The President and his Department of Labor are currently in the process of finalizing regulations that will increase the impact of having labor law violations on your record if you want to contract with the federal government.

Under the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces regulation, labor law violations will be counted against federal contractors when they bid for contracts.

This change also harms employees:

Millions of employees will lose the ability to negotiate things like pay, hours and leave time with their direct supervisor, because those decisions will now be made between the larger employer and the union.

As one employee put it in an interview with a local Denver news channel: "I would be just another number to a corporation. I'm a person to my employer now."

Franchising will be particularly impacted by this decision.

In my opinion, this is one of the biggest attacks on the opportunity for small businessmen and women in this country to make their way into the middle class that we've seen.

There are 780,000 franchise establishments across this country—and they create nearly 9 million jobs.

Last week I met with a Chattanooga, Tennessee, couple who started their own franchisee location of “Two Men and a Truck,” a moving company.

With hard work and commitment, they have been able to grow that first franchise into 6 locations. They would like to continue growing but this new NLRB decision is causing them to put those plans on hold.

The Two Men and a Truck franchisor is an excellent example of how franchising allow entry into business ownership and the middle class. It was started in Michigan by a mom who had two sons she was ready to put to work. Her first franchisee was her daughter.

It has now grown to 220 franchisees, who have created 8,000 jobs.

38 percent of their franchisees began by working on a truck.

75 percent of Two Men and Truck managers began by working on a truck.

Successfully operating a franchise business is today one of the most important ways to climb the ladder of success.

The International Franchise Association estimates that every \$1 million in lending to starting or growing franchisees creates 40 jobs.

Franchising has been a way for many women and minorities to jump into business ownership.

Women own or co-own nearly half of all franchise businesses.

Minorities own about 20 percent of all franchises.

Why would the NLRB want to cut off this business model, as well as the opportunity of millions of small, local subcontractors to work with larger companies?

The Protecting Local Business Opportunity Act (S. 2015) would roll back the NLRB ruling and reaffirm that an employer must exercise actual, direct and immediate control over essential terms and conditions of employment.

This is the commonsense standard that has been applied for decades.

We have 45 cosponsors on S. 2015 already, and 60 cosponsors on the House bill, including 3 House Democrats. I hope we will be able to add more.

This is an issue that is so important—I believe that Congress must act as soon as possible to stop this destructive policy change from damaging the middle class growth that has made this nation what it is today.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will agree.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING BOB WHEELER

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today we honor the life and service of Bob Wheeler, whose passing signifies a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to his wife, M.J., and all of Mr. Wheeler's family in this time of mourning. Mr. Wheeler was a man of great wisdom, committed to his family, his country, his State, and his community. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Wheeler joined the U.S. Air Force in November of 1962, serving in the pararescue career field. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Wheeler remained

dedicated and worked his way up to chief of pararescue. He was recognized as a true innovator in his leadership position, opening the door for free-fall parachuting and combat tactics. He led by example, working diligently and earnestly to help those around him and to protect our country.

Mr. Wheeler is credited with saving 28 lives throughout his career, including vulnerable aviators who had crashed and distressed seamen in the Vietnam war. He was distinguished in his military decorations, which included the Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor, the Airman's Medal, numerous commendation medals, 17 Air Medals, and SEA services ribbons. During the Cold War, Mr. Wheeler participated in a high-risk scuba jump mission to save civilian lives. His courage and success throughout the mission earned him not only Yugoslavia's “Nation's Life Saving Award” but also the admiration of the Government and people of Yugoslavia. Mr. Wheeler retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1982. His accolades are well deserved, and his bravery in achieving them will never be forgotten.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wheeler personally, as he served on my Northern Nevada Veterans Advisory Council. We worked as a team, along with the rest of the council, to help improve resources for Nevada's veteran community. Mr. Wheeler had a vast understanding of Nevada's tight-knit veteran community and was always there to take a stand for those who served. His firsthand knowledge of combat and veterans needs could never be replicated—he was one of a kind, and I am thankful to have had him as an ally in helping Nevada's veterans.

I extend my deepest sympathies to M.J. and all of Mr. Wheeler's family. We will always remember him for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. His legacy of unwavering bravery and genuine compassion will live on for years to come.

Throughout his life, Mr. Wheeler maintained a dedication to keeping this great Nation safe and to helping Nevada's veteran community. I am honored to commend his many contributions and achievements. His patriotism and drive will never be forgotten. Today, I join citizens across the Silver State in celebrating the life of an upstanding Nevadan, Bob Wheeler.●

REMEMBERING HAROLD CASKEY

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to honor Harold Caskey, a former Missouri State senator of Butler in Bates County, MO, with whom I had

the great pleasure of serving in the Missouri General Assembly. Harold was one of Missouri's most influential legislators. Harold was known by many as “the old lion”—a reference to his doggedness in debating. A dedicated public servant, Harold will be remembered for his love of family, his community in western and west central Missouri, and the State. Harold was blind, but he never let this prevent him from succeeding. Harold was a whip smart, strategic, loyal and hard-working man who conquered adversity. The State of Missouri has lost a special man, and he will be greatly missed and never duplicated.

Harold was born in Hume, MO, in 1938. During childhood, Harold became legally blind due to a genetic condition, but this did not prevent him from being a stellar student and becoming his high school's senior class valedictorian. He attended Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg, now the University of Central Missouri, where he graduated magna cum laude with dual majors in psychology and sociology. He then earned his law degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif.

After earning his law degree, Harold started practicing law in the office of former Missouri State Senator William Cason in Clinton. In 1965, Harold started his own law practice in Butler. He was elected prosecutor for Bates County in 1967 and served three terms, ending in 1973. Harold continued his public service by serving as the city attorney for the communities of Butler and Rich Hill from 1973 to 1976. Harold was also an assistant professor in law enforcement and business education at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, in Kirksville.

Harold began his tenure in the Missouri Senate after winning election in 1976 and served for 28 years before retiring in 2004 due to newly enacted term limits. He was chairman of the Senate Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and the Senate Ethics Committee and vice chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In the Missouri Senate, he was a tireless advocate for rural public education and sponsored influential public school laws, such as the 1993 Outstanding Schools Act, which significantly increased state public school funding and mandated higher school standards. As a member of the Missouri Commission on Performance, Harold advised the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on education reform and school finance. Harold had great influence over Missouri's criminal justice laws by increasing sentences for the most violent and, at the end of his term, sponsoring a sentencing reform bill that reduced some sentences for less serious offenders. He

was also a passionate leader and advocate for the visually impaired and disabled. Harold served as vice chairman of the Missouri State Capitol Commission until his passing.

Harold received numerous honors for his legislative accomplishments, including recognitions from the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Public Telecommunications Association of Missouri, the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Judicial Conference of Missouri, the Missouri Association of Counties, the Missouri Association of Pharmacists, the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Missouri Cable Television Association, the Missouri Crime Commission, the Missouri Police Chiefs' Association, the American Business Women's Association, and the Cooperating School Districts of Suburban Kansas City.

Outside his work as an elected official, Harold's dedication to his community was passionate and unselfish as he served in countless ways, including as a member of the Rotary Club of Butler, the Missouri Bar Association, the Crescent Hill Masonic Lodge No. 368 A.F. and A.M., the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry in the Valley of Orient in Kansas City, MO, and the Ararat Shrine. He was also an honorary fellow of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs, a member of the Bates County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, and a member of Butler First Baptist Church.

Harold is survived by his wife, Kay; son, Kyle; sister, Velma Elaine May; and brothers, Robert, Leon, and Ray Lee. I witnessed firsthand his strong leadership and tenacious commitment to issues he cared about. I am grateful for the wisdom, knowledge, and lessons Harold shared with me. He made me a better legislator and public servant. While one might have seen Harold as intimidating or stern, he was secretly a sweet softie—kind and gentle.

I am deeply saddened by his passing and join his family and friends in reflecting on his many life accomplishments. Harold touched the lives of many and will be remembered as an invaluable public servant to the State of Missouri and an inspiration to all.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring Harold Caskey.●

(At the request of Mr. LEE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

RECOGNIZING THE TAMPA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize and commend the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and its historic milestone in exceeding a 23-year goal by restoring more than 40,000 acres of sea grass in Tampa Bay. This outstanding accomplishment represents the great collaborative work to restore one of

the greatest treasures this Nation has to offer, Florida's Gulf Coast. The improved estuary will have an immeasurable impact on the future of the State's environment and economy.

Since its establishment in 1991, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program has partnered with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and other state and local municipalities and local businesses to restore and protect Florida's largest open water estuary. As the Tampa Bay region is home to a population of more than 2 million people, this valuable estuary serves as a diverse ecosystem for plant and wildlife and is an economic driver for the region.

After decades of voluntary effort, I am proud to learn how successful the Tampa Bay Estuary Program was in its environmental restoration by exceeding its original goal in recovering seagrass, to improve fish and wildlife populations, and to maintain the highest quality of water since the 1950s. From 2012 until 2014, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's efforts were able to restore 5,000 acres of life-sustaining underwater grasses in Tampa Bay, which now total 40,295 acres of seagrasses. This amount significantly surpasses its original goal set in 1995 of harboring 38,000 acres.

Although Tampa and its surrounding cities have seen an increase in population since 1950, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Nitrogen Management Consortium, which includes local governments and agencies supporting voluntary environmental recovery, has invested over \$500 million since the 1990s. The strategy developed by the Consortium continues to set standards that could serve as a model for and be implemented across the nation in other estuary recovery programs.

I am proud that the Tampa Bay Estuary Program aided in recovering sea grass in Florida's Tampa Bay. I wholeheartedly commend the Tampa Bay Estuary Program on its accomplishments over the past 23 years and wish it further success in its continued endeavors to protect our natural resources.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3192. An act to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146), the Minority Leader appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Care: Ms. Lucretia M. McClenney of Locust Grove, Virginia.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2165. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 2169. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 8, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1300. An act to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

S. 2078. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3085. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trans-1,3,3, 3-tetrafluoroprop-1-ene; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9934-74-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3086. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dimethyl sulfoxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No.

9934-17-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3087. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cellulose Carboxymethyl Ether, Potassium Salt; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9934-45-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3088. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Butanedioic Acid, 2-Methylene, Homopolymer, Sodium Salt; Inert Ingredient Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9933-74-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3089. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fee Increases for Overtime Services" (Docket No. APHIS-2009-0047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3090. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Tomato Plantlets in Approved Growing Media From Mexico" ((RIN0579-AE06) (Docket No. APHIS-2014-0099)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3091. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Golden Nematode; Removal of Regulated Areas in Orleans, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, New York" (Docket No. APHIS-2015-0040) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3092. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3093. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of NCUA Rules and Regulations" (RIN3133-AE45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3094. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment—Part 747" (RIN3133-AE56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3095. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3096. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3097. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3098. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3099. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9933-30)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3100. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Butte County Air Quality Management District, Feather River Air Quality Management District, and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District; Correcting Amendment" (FRL No. 9931-19-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3101. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9934-04-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3102. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Feather River Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 9933-52-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3103. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2020-AA47) (FRL No. 9930-70-OECA)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30,

2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3104. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2060-AQ92) (FRL No. 9934-16-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3105. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Limited Maintenance Plan for the St. Louis Non-classifiable Maintenance Area for the 8-Hour Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9934-98-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3106. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS" (FRL No. 9934-84-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3107. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Revisions to South Dakota Administrative Code" (FRL No. 9934-83-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3108. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9934-82-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3109. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Approval of Regulations Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides" (FRL No. 9932-12-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3110. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Metal Furniture Coatings and Miscellaneous Metal Parts Coatings" (FRL No. 9934-

92-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; 2011 Base Year Inventories for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for New Castle and Sussex Counties" (FRL No. 9934-81-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3112. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Approval of the Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard and Approval of Transportation Conformity Insignificance Findings for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9934-91-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3113. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition" (FRL No. 9934-11-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3114. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Mammoth Lakes; Redesignation; PM10 Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9935-05-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3115. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2008 Lead, and 2010 NO₂ Nation Ambient Air Quality Standards; North Dakota" (FRL No. 9935-15-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3116. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to the Minor New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Portable Facilities" (FRL No. 9935-04-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3117. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky: New Sources in or Impacting Nonattainment Areas" (FRL No. 9935-22-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3118. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS" (FRL No. 9935-19-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3119. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9935-24-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3120. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9935-21-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3121. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Sulfur Content of Fuels" (FRL No. 9935-31-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3122. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Maine; General Permit Regulations for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants and Concrete Batch Plants" (FRL No. 9935-33-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3123. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quality Assurance Program Description—Design Certification, Early Site Permit and New License Applicants" (NUREG-0800, Chapter 17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3124. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of Continuing Disability Reviews for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3125. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Definitions of Section 48 Property" (Notice 2015-70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3126. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015 Marginal Production Rates" (Notice 2015-65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3127. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment" (Notice 2015-64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3128. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions on Certain Categories of Archaeological Material From the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of Nicaragua" (RIN1515-AE05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3129. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Electronic Health Record Incentive Program—Stage 3 and Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 through 2017" (RIN0938-AS26 and RIN0938-AS58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3130. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-032); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3131. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought" (Notice 2015-69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3132. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reliance Standards for Making Good Faith Determinations" ((RIN1545-BL23) (TD 9740)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3133. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at Hooker Electrochemical Corporation in Niagara Falls, New York, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3134. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt from Certification; Mica-Based Pearlescent Pigments" (Docket No. FDA-2015-C-1154) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3135. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3136. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015 Edition Health Information Technology (Health IT) Certification Criteria, 2015 Edition Base Electronic Health Record (EHR) Definition, and ONC Health IT Certification Program Modifications" (RIN0991-AB93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3137. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3138. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Filings for Electronic Entry/Entry Summary (Cargo Release and Related Entry)" (RIN1515-AE03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3139. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3140. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3141. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technology Transitions, Policies and Rules Governing Retirement of Copper Loops by Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, AT and T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services" (RIN3060-AK32) (FCC 15-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3142. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and

South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish; July Through December Season" (RIN0648-XE004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3143. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; 2016 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs; and Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Size Limit" (RIN0648-XE164) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3144. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE203) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3145. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XE096) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3146. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XE095) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3147. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE183) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3148. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions No. 22 through No. 29" (RIN0648-XE121) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3149. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XE162) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3150. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE152) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3151. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XE126) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3152. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XE170) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3153. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0455)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3154. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0926)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3155. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0085)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3156. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0753)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3157. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0242)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3179. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0779)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President

of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3180. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0363)) received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3181. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshift Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0900)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3182. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1130)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3183. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class C Airspace; Burbank, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0690)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3184. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Aurora, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1070)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3185. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tracy, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1623)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3186. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tracy, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1623)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3187. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Douglas, WY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1089)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3188. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Portland, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1137)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3189. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Delta, CO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0343)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3190. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Iron Mountain, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1871)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3191. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Newberry, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1869)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3192. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (33); Amdt. No. 3657" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3193. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (73); Amdt. No. 3658" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3194. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard

Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (76); Amdt. No. 3659" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3195. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (120); Amdt. No. 3660" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3196. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 522" (RIN2120-AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3197. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Jet Route J-513; North Central United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3601)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3198. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3375)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-77. A communication from a citizen of the State of South Dakota memorializing the State of South Dakota's petition to the United States Congress calling for a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a federal balanced budget amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

S. 1864. A bill to improve national security by developing metrics to measure the effectiveness of security between ports of entry, at points of entry, and along the maritime border (Rept. No. 114-152).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 322. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office".

H.R. 323. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

H.R. 324. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

H.R. 558. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

H.R. 1442. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building".

H.R. 1884. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3059. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 148. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. Res. 274. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany.

S. Res. 278. A resolution welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, and for other purposes.

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with amendments:

S. 1811. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy.

S. 2126. A bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Julie Furuta-Toy, of Wyoming, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Nominee: Julie Furuta-Toy.

Post: Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by

them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Steven M. Toy: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Eliot C. Toy: None; Sarah C. Toy: None.

4. Parents: Emi K. Furuta: \$200, 2010, Democratic National Committee; \$200, 2011, Democratic National Committee; \$150, 2011, Barack Obama Presidential Campaign; \$200, 2012, Democratic National Committee; \$200, 2012, Barack Obama Presidential Campaign; \$200, 2012, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$200, 2013, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; None, 2014; Tokuji Furuta: Deceased.

5. Grandparents: Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Richard K. Furuta and Ellen Ratoosh: None; Kenneth R. Furuta: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Joy E. Furuta: None; Lucy J. Furuta: None, 2010; \$65.50, 2011, Barack Obama Presidential Campaign; \$100, 2012, Barack Obama Presidential Campaign; None, 2013; None, 2014.

*Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

Nominee: Dennis Bruce Hankins.

Post: Conakry, Republic of Guinea.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Danu Hankins (s): None.

4. Parents: Father—D. Bruce Hankins (deceased): None; Mother—Margie Gough (deceased): None; Step-Father—Rod Gough (deceased): None; Step-Father—Russell Sawdey (deceased): None; Step-Mother—Ini Hankins (no contact): Unknown.

5. Grandparents: None living.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Brother—Knut Hankins and Ann: None; Half-Brother—Tim Hankins (no contact): Unknown; Half-Brother—Damien Hankins (no contact): Unknown; Step Brother—Steve Sawdey and Deana: None; Step Brother—Stuart Sawdey: None; Step Brother—Stanton Sawdey and Mary: None; Step Brother—David Gough (no contact): Unknown.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Step Sister—Sharon Valdez and Gil: Less than \$100, 2010, Sen Patty Murray; Step Sister—Susan Whalen and Dan: None; Step Sister—Nancy Hayes (no contact): Unknown; Step Sister—MaryAnn Yamaguchi (no contact): Unknown; Step Sister—Linda Starkenburg (no contact): Unknown; Step sister—Patty Gough (no contact): Unknown.

*Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Nominee: Harry K. Thomas Jr.

Post: Harare.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I

have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$100, 10/2012, Obama Re-election.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Mithi I. Aquino-Thomas: None; Casey M.E. Thomas: None; Nathan Rowe: None; Emmanuel Ticzon: None; Zoe Ticzon: None.

4. Parents: Harry K. Thomas, Sr.—Deceased; Hildonia M. Thomas: None.

5. Grandparents: Frank Thomas—Deceased; Mary Thomas—Deceased; Charles McClary—Deceased; Merie McClary—Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: I do not have any brothers.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Nelda T. Canada: \$200, 3/2012, Obama Re-election; Daniel Canada, None.

*Robert Porter Jackson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

Nominee: Robert Porter Jackson.

Post: Republic of Ghana.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: none.

3. Children and Spouses Names: Babette Pollard Jackson (spouse): none.

4. Parents Names: Barbara Buchanan Jackson (deceased): none; Francis Marion Jackson, Jr. (deceased): none.

5. Grandparents Names: Francis Marion Jackson, Sr. (deceased): none; Nancy Melvina Winchester Jackson (deceased): none; Arthur Buchanan (deceased): none; Addie Vaughn Porter Buchanan (deceased): none.

6. Brothers and Spouses Names: Brother Francis Marion Jackson III: \$200, 09/28/2010, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; \$100, 11/16/2010, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; \$1,000, 09/21/2010, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$2,000, 10/15/2010, Maine Democratic State Committee; \$1,000, 03/11/2012, Obama VictoFund 2012; \$1,000, 11/02/2012, Obama VictoFund 2012; \$1,500, 09/06/2012, Obama for America; \$1,500, 10/17/2012, Obama for America; \$300, 09/21/2014, Troy Jackson for Congress. Sister-in-law Ellen Rogers Jackson: \$175, 04/29/10, Act Blue; \$8.75, 04/29/10, Act Blue; \$500, 06/10/2014, Shenna Bellows for Senate.

7. Sisters and Spouses Names: Nancy Vaughan Jackson Gronbeck (deceased): none; David Gronbeck: none.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Edward L. Gilmore, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2165. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund; read the first time.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2166. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2167. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the Buy American Act) and certain other laws with respect to certain waivers under those laws, to provide greater transparency regarding exceptions to domestic sourcing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2168. A bill to encourage greater community accountability of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2169. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund; read the first time.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2170. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans through the use of telemedicine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2171. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2172. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2173. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2174. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2175. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. KING):

S. 2176. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2177. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 2178. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain provisions of the Heartland, Habitat, Harvest, and Horticulture Act of 2008 relating to timber, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2179. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into certain agreements with non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers if the Secretary is not feasibly able to provide health care in facilities of the Department or through contracts or sharing agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2180. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. Res. 282. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HELLER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 283. A resolution designating October 2015 as "Filipino American History Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 284. A resolution recognizing the importance of mental health globally and highlighting the contributions and value of

mental health, psychosocial support, and human capacity, particularly in development contexts and humanitarian settings; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 285. A resolution commemorating the life and accomplishments of Robert Edward Simon, Jr.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 286. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 11, 2015, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 287. A resolution condemning the senseless murder and wounding of 18 individuals (sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, students, and teachers) in Roseburg, Oregon, on October 1, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 248

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coin-surance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 799, a bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1014

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

S. 1460

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1460, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program to cover recipients of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1617

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1617, a bill to prevent Hizballah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1641

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1641, a bill to improve the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, to improve patient advocacy by the Department, and to expand availability of complementary and integrative health, and for other purposes.

S. 1651

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1651, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and wind-fall elimination provisions.

S. 1676

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1676, a bill to increase the number of graduate medical education positions treating veterans, to improve the compensation of health care providers, medical directors, and directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1711, a bill to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1754

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to amend title

38, United States Code, to make permanent the temporary increase in number of judges presiding over the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1766

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1766, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1870

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1870, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program on issuing grants to eligible veterans to start or acquire qualifying businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 1913

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1913, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish programs to prevent prescription drug abuse under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into certain leases at the Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Campus in Los Angeles, California, and for other purposes.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant

for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2066, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2142

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2142, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally re-enter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

S. 2148

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent an increase in the Medicare part B premium and deductibles in 2016.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Arizona

(Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop and appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

S. 2161

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2161, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents and for other purposes.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 261

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 261, a resolution designating the week of October 11 through October 17, 2015, as "National Case Management Week" to recognize the role of case management in improving health care outcomes for patients.

S. RES. 274

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany.

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 2626

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2626 intended to be proposed to S. 754, an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2171. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senator RON JOHNSON, Senator TIM SCOTT, and Senator CORY BOOKER to introduce the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, bipartisan legislation to extend the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

I am a long-time supporter of this important program, which provides low-income students residing in the District of Columbia the opportunity to improve academically by attending a private school of their choice.

Without this platform, D.C.'s most disadvantaged students would not have access to a high-quality education, including smaller class sizes and effective curriculum. That is not right. All students should have the same opportunity to learn and thrive.

The Opportunity Scholarship is a successful and transformative program. It has shown promising results in raising student achievement. According to data released by the program administrator for the 2014-2015 school year, 90 percent of scholarship students graduated from high school and 88 percent of those graduates are enrolled in a 2- or 4-year college or university. The Opportunity Scholarship Program's graduation rate is more than 30 percentage points higher than D.C. Public Schools' rate, which stands at only 58 percent, well below the national average of 81 percent.

For the 2015-2016 school year, there were more than 8,500 names on waiting lists at D.C. charter schools, an 18 percent increase over last year. This shows the demand for high-quality education in this city and unfortunately, the shortage to meet that demand.

I have worked on this legislation with my House colleague, Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, for many years. I also had my staff visit schools and talk to administrators and parents about ways to improve the program so that it can fully meet the goal of providing a better education to low-income families in the District's lowest-performing schools.

I am pleased that this legislation strengthens the program by requiring participating schools to acquire and maintain accreditation, and by ensuring that an evaluation study truly assess the effectiveness of the scholarship, including how it affects academic achievement for scholarship recipients.

I am pleased that Senators JOHNSON, SCOTT and BOOKER have joined me as original cosponsors of this bill. I remain fully committed to the success of the program, and I believe this reauthorization bill makes critical improvements to ensure that scholarships continue to transform the lives of the District's most vulnerable students.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2172. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, great progress has been made in improving oversight of health insurance companies, holding them accountable for how premium dollars are spent, and increasing access to affordable health insurance. Even so, there is still work to be done to protect consumers from unreasonable and excessive health insurance rate increases.

Through the Affordable Care Act, health insurance rate increases greater than 10 percent must be publicly posted and include an explanation for the increase. The increases are reviewed by States, and the Federal Government steps in when States opt out from participating in the review process.

This is a good first step, which has helped reduce increases, but it isn't enough. The enforcement authority to block or modify unreasonable rate increases is key to providing strong consumer protection.

In 2011, 43 percent of requested rate increases for health insurance rates on the individual market were larger than 10 percent. In 2013, 25 percent of plans had an increase greater than 10 percent.

This shows progress, but not enough. Health insurance companies can still get away with putting profits before patients. Affordability of health insurance is vital in continuing to decrease the number of uninsured Americans, and to ensure that families can access coverage.

Currently, 13 States still have little or no authority to block or modify excessive rate increases in the individual and small group markets. Even when regulators in these States find an increase to be unreasonable and unjustified, they have no ability to block or modify the increase.

The Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Rates Act creates a Federal fallback option for States currently lacking this authority. This will protect consumers regardless of the State they live in, and improve accountability for insurance companies attempting to raise premium prices without adequate justification.

This solution is simple: in States where the insurance regulator does not have or use authority to block unreasonable rate increases, the Secretary of Health and Human Services can do so.

In some States, like California, companies are not required to get prior authorization for rate increases to go into effect. California insurance regulators with the Department of Insur-

ance and Department of Managed Care review rates, but when they find rate increases to be unjustified and unreasonable, they have no authority to stop or adjust the price increases.

Just a few months ago, Aetna raised rates for a small business plan that, on average, was an increase of 21 percent and affected approximately 13,000 people. The California Department of Managed Care had found the increase to be unreasonable, but couldn't stop it from going into effect.

In many States we can already see that this type of authority is working, and this bill doesn't interfere at all with what they are doing.

For example, in New York, insurers requested an average of a 13.5 percent increase for 2016 premiums. Regulators disagreed and reduced the increase by nearly half, so consumers in that State will see a 7.1 percent increase instead.

In Connecticut, a UnitedHealthcare plan wanted to raise rates by 12.4 percent for 2016. After regulators reviewed the request, they approved a 5.5 percent increase instead. For one plan in the State offered by ConnectiCare, a small increase was denied and consumers will actually see a reduction in their premiums for 2016.

Regulators in Vermont reduced the increase that 65,000 residents of the State would have faced in 2016—the proposed hike was 8.6 percent and the approved rate increase was 5.9 percent.

Any unreasonable rate increase that perpetuates year after year is unacceptable, and makes a big impact on a family's budget.

All consumers deserve to have fully effective health insurance rate review and enforcement. This bill closes the final gap in this process and ensures that these protections are available for the entire country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Rates Act.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Portman, and Mrs. Capito):

S. 2174. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, in today's increasingly competitive global economy, America's success will depend on the talent of its workforce. In cultivating the workforce necessary to succeed, we need to look at ways to expand opportunities for students, and refocus our Nation's education strategy to meet the demands of the industry in the 21st century. Career and technical education, CTE, programs play a vital role in increasing student engagement, continuing our nation's economic competitiveness, and build-

ing the skills of our country's workforce.

We are beginning to see a renaissance of student interest in career and technical education, but school districts across the Nation are facing critical shortages in high-quality CTE teachers. While the Higher Education and Opportunity Act of 2008 provides grants for teacher residency partnership programs to colleges and universities who work with high-needs school districts to train prospective teachers, no CTE-focused partnerships exist.

That is why I am introducing with my colleagues, Senator Baldwin, Senator Portman and Senator Capito the Creating Quality Technical Educators Act, which would create a CTE teacher-training grant partnership to give aspiring CTE teachers the experience necessary to mirror their success in the business world with that in the classroom. This legislation would foster teacher training partnerships between high-needs secondary schools and post-secondary institutions to create a 1-year residency initiative for teachers and includes teacher mentorship for a minimum of 2 years. When CTE teachers have work experience in a related industry before entering the classroom, students not only benefit from their hands-on knowledge, but also look to them as career models.

The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would amend the Higher Education and Opportunity Act to give aspiring CTE teachers real-world experience and develop credible skills to apply in the classroom. This bipartisan bill takes a proactive approach to recruiting and training more high-quality CTE teachers. In addition to mid-career professionals in related technical fields, CTE teacher residencies would target teacher candidates who are recent college graduates, veterans, and currently licensed teachers with a need for technical skills training who seek to become transition into CTE fields.

As co-chair of the Senate CTE Caucus, I am proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to recruit and train talented teachers to meet the rising need for CTE. The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act takes an important step to ensure students in communities of all sizes have access to high-quality CTE teachers and career-training programs.

By Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Franken, and Mr. King):

S. 2176. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Durbin. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2176

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Affordable College Textbook Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The high cost of college textbooks continues to be a barrier for many students in achieving higher education.

(2) According to the College Board, during the 2014-2015 academic year, the average student budget for college books and supplies at 4-year public institutions of higher education was \$1,225.

(3) The Government Accountability Office found that new textbook prices increased 82 percent between 2002 and 2012 and that although Federal efforts to increase price transparency have provided students and families with more and better information, more must be done to address rising costs.

(4) The growth of the Internet has enabled the creation and sharing of digital content, including open educational resources that can be freely used by students, teachers, and members of the public.

(5) Using open educational resources in place of traditional materials in large-enrollment college courses can reduce textbook costs by 80 to 100 percent.

(6) Federal investment in expanding the use of open educational resources could significantly lower college textbook costs and reduce financial barriers to higher education, while making efficient use of taxpayer funds.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.**—The term “educational resource” means an educational material that can be used in postsecondary instruction, including textbooks and other written or audiovisual works.

(2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(3) **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.**—The term “open educational resource” means an educational resource that either is in the public domain or is made available under a permanent copyright license to the public to freely adapt, distribute, and otherwise use the work with attribution to the author as designated.

(4) **OPEN TEXTBOOK.**—The term “open textbook” means an open educational resource or set of open educational resources that either is a textbook or can be used in place of a textbook for a postsecondary course at an institution of higher education.

(5) **RELEVANT FACULTY.**—The term “relevant faculty” means both tenure track and contingent faculty members who may be involved in the creation of open educational resources or the use of open educational resources created as part of the grant application.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (i), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to support pilot programs that expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students.

(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an institution

of higher education or group of institutions of higher education.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section, after consultation with relevant faculty, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the project to be completed with grant funds and—

(A) a plan for promoting and tracking the use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity, including an estimate of the projected savings that will be achieved for students;

(B) a plan for evaluating, before creating new open educational resources, whether existing open educational resources could be used or adapted for the same purpose;

(C) a plan for quality review and review of accuracy of any open educational resources to be created or adapted through the grant;

(D) a plan for disseminating information about the results of the project to institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity, including promoting the adoption of any open textbooks created or adapted through the grant; and

(E) a statement on consultation with relevant faculty, including those engaged in the creation of open educational resources, in the development of the application.

(d) **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to applications that demonstrate the greatest potential to—

(1) achieve the highest level of savings for students through sustainable expanded use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity;

(2) expand the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity; and

(3) produce—

(A) the highest quality open textbooks;

(B) open textbooks that can be most easily utilized and adapted by faculty members at institutions of higher education;

(C) open textbooks that correspond to the highest enrollment courses at institutions of higher education; and

(D) open textbooks created or adapted in partnership with entities, including campus bookstores, that will assist in marketing and distribution of the open textbook.

(e) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out any of the following activities to expand the use of open textbooks:

(1) Professional development for any faculty and staff members at institutions of higher education, including the search for and review of open textbooks.

(2) Creation or adaptation of open educational resources, especially open textbooks.

(3) Development or improvement of tools and informational resources that support the use of open textbooks.

(4) Research evaluating the efficacy of the use of open textbooks for achieving savings for students.

(5) Partnerships with other entities, including other institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations, or nonprofit organizations, to carry out any of the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

(f) **LICENSE.**—Educational resources created under subsection (e) shall be licensed

under a non-exclusive, permanent license to the public to exercise any of the rights under copyright conditioned only on the requirement that attribution be given as directed by the copyright owner.

(g) **ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION.**—The full and complete digital content of each educational resource created or adapted under subsection (e) shall be made available free of charge to the public—

(1) on an easily accessible and interoperable website, which shall be identified to the Secretary by the eligible entity; and

(2) in a machine readable, digital format that anyone can directly download, edit with attribution, and redistribute.

(h) **REPORT.**—Upon an eligible entity's completion of a project supported under this section, the eligible entity shall prepare and submit a report to the Secretary regarding—

(1) the effectiveness of the pilot program in expanding the use of open textbooks and in achieving savings for students;

(2) the impact of the pilot program on expanding the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity;

(3) educational resources created or adapted under the grant, including instructions on where the public can access each educational resource under the terms of subsection (g); and

(4) all project costs, including the value of any volunteer labor and institutional capital used for the project.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years after the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. PRICE INFORMATION.

Section 133(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (6); and

(2) in paragraph (9);

(A) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(B) by striking “a college textbook that—” and inserting “a college textbook that may include printed materials, computer disks, website access, and electronically distributed materials.”.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that institutions of higher education should encourage the consideration of open textbooks by faculty within the generally accepted principles of academic freedom that establishes the right and responsibility of faculty members, individually and collectively, to select course materials that are pedagogically most appropriate for their classes.

SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives detailing—

(1) the open textbooks created or adapted under this Act;

(2) the adoption of such open textbooks; and

(3) the savings generated for students, States, and the Federal Government through the use of open textbooks.

SEC. 8. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the

Workforce of the House of Representatives on the cost of textbooks to students at institutions of higher education. The report shall particularly examine—

- (1) the change of the cost of textbooks;
- (2) the factors that have contributed to the change of the cost of textbooks;
- (3) the extent to which open textbooks are used at institutions of higher education; and
- (4) the impact of open textbooks on the cost of textbooks.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 282—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 282

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”), in the United States—

(1) nearly 30,000,000 individuals have diabetes; and

(2) an estimated 86,000,000 individuals aged 20 years and older have prediabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects individuals of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer from the disease at rates that are much higher than the general population of the United States;

Whereas according to the CDC, an individual aged 20 years or older is diagnosed with diabetes every 19 seconds;

Whereas approximately 4,660 individuals in the United States aged 20 years or older are diagnosed with diabetes each day;

Whereas the CDC estimates that approximately 1,700,000 individuals in the United States aged 20 years and older were newly diagnosed with diabetes in 2012;

Whereas a joint study carried out by the National Institutes of Health and the CDC found that in the United States during 2008 and 2009, an estimated 18,436 youth were newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and 5,089 youth were newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes;

Whereas according to the CDC, the prevalence of diabetes in the United States increased by more than 300 percent between 1980 and 2010;

Whereas the CDC reports that 27.8 percent of individuals with diabetes in the United States have not been diagnosed with the disease;

Whereas in the United States, more than 12 percent of adults aged 20 years or older and 25.9 percent of individuals aged 65 years or older have diabetes;

Whereas as many as 1 in 3 adults in the United States will have diabetes in 2050 if the present trend continues;

Whereas after accounting for the difference of the average age of each population, data surveying individuals aged 20 years or older in the United States between 2010 and 2012 indicates that 7.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites, 13.2 percent of non-Hispanic blacks, 12.8 percent of Hispanics, and 9.0 percent of Asian Americans suffered from diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas after accounting for the difference of the average age of each population, data surveying Hispanic individuals aged 20 years or older in the United States between 2010 and 2012 indicates that 8.5 percent of individuals of Central and South American descent, 9.3 percent of individuals of Cuban descent, 13.9 percent of individuals of Mexican descent, and 14.8 percent of individuals of Puerto Rican descent suffered from diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas according to the American Diabetes Association, in 2012, the United States spent an estimated \$245,000,000,000 on cases of diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas the American Diabetes Association reports that 20 percent of the funds that the United States spent on health care in 2012 went towards caring for individuals with diabetes;

Whereas a study carried out by Mathematica Policy Research found that total expenditures for individuals with diabetes receiving benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) in fiscal year 2005 comprised 32.7 percent of the budget for the Medicare program in that fiscal year;

Whereas according to the CDC, in the United States in 2010, diabetes—

(1) was the seventh leading cause of death;

(2) contributed to the death of more than 234,051 individuals;

Whereas as of November 2015, a cure for diabetes does not exist;

Whereas there are successful means to reduce the incidence and delay the onset of type 2 diabetes;

Whereas with proper management and treatment, individuals with diabetes live healthy, productive lives; and

Whereas individuals in the United States celebrate American Diabetes Month in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging individuals in the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness of prevention and treatment options; and

(B) enhancing diabetes education;

(2) recognizes the importance of early detection, awareness of the symptoms, and understanding the risk factors of diabetes, including—

(A) being over the age of 45 years;

(B) having a specific racial and ethnic background;

(C) being overweight;

(D) having a low level of physical activity;

(E) having high blood pressure; and

(F) having a family history of diabetes or a history of diabetes during pregnancy; and

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through increased research, treatment, and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 283—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2015 AS “FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HELLER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 283

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the *Nuestra Senora de Esperanza*, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to United States history by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas, with a population of approximately 3,416,840 individuals, the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States;

Whereas from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipino American servicemen and servicewomen have a long-standing history of serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas Filipino Americans continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor;

Whereas 9 Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt, born in Claveria, Cagayan on the island of Luzon in the Philippines—

(1) moved with her family to Alaska in 1965;

(2) was elected to the House of Representatives of Alaska in 1974;

(3) was the first Filipino woman elected to a State legislature; and

(4) authored a comprehensive history book entitled “Filipinos in Alaska: 1788-1958”;

Whereas Filipino American farmworkers and labor leaders such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement alongside Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role in the United States healthcare system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;

Whereas Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the landscape of the United States;

Whereas, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of United States history;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in Filipino American youth—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino American legacy; and

Whereas Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2015 as “Filipino American History Month”;

(2) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month as—

(A) a study of the advancement of Filipino Americans;

(B) a time to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States; and

(C) a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States—

(i) to learn more about Filipino Americans; and

(ii) to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 284—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH GLOBALLY AND HIGHLIGHTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND VALUE OF MENTAL HEALTH, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, AND HUMAN CAPACITY, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPMENT CONTEXTS AND HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 284

Whereas on October 10, 2015, World Mental Health Day is observed;

Whereas mental health is essential to achieve the full potential of an individual and mental health disorders can affect the ability of an individual to carry out daily tasks, establish or maintain relationships, or pursue other fundamental endeavors;

Whereas mental health disorders and substance use disorders are the leading causes of disability globally;

Whereas depression is the third leading cause of disease burden globally, and by 2030, depression will be the highest cause of disease burden in low-income countries and the second highest cause of disease burden in middle-income countries;

Whereas depression has a particularly negative impact on women, for whom depression is the leading cause of disease burden independent of the income level of their countries of residence;

Whereas approximately 3,000 suicide deaths occur each day globally;

Whereas for each completed suicide, 20 more individuals attempt to commit suicide;

Whereas up to 90 percent of individuals who commit suicide have a diagnosable mental health disorder;

Whereas serious and persistent mental illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, affects up to 7 percent of the population of the world and is extremely debilitating;

Whereas the global cost of mental health disorders was \$2,500,000,000,000 in 2010, and is projected to increase to more than \$6,000,000,000,000 by 2030, but the total amount of development assistance for global mental health was only \$134,000,000 between 2007 and 2013, less than 1 percent of all development assistance;

Whereas in high-income countries, approximately ½ of individuals afflicted with mental health disorders do not receive appropriate mental health care;

Whereas in low-income countries, approximately 85 percent to 90 percent of individuals afflicted with mental health disorders do not receive appropriate mental health care;

Whereas traumatic events and losses are common experiences, especially among refugees and internally displaced individuals, and may—

(1) double the incidence of mental health disorders;

(2) result in intense suffering and dysfunction; and

(3) require mental health treatment;

Whereas integrating mental health and psychosocial support into health and social sectors improves the health, economic development, and political stability of the population, builds the capacity of staff and health facilities, and creates non-stigmatizing mental health services; and

Whereas there is an urgent need to create readily-accessible, high-quality mental health services in line with national and global guidelines by designing and implementing comprehensive programs that are culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate, building local human resource capacity, and strengthening health systems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of World Mental Health Day;

(2) affirms the continued support of the United States for making resources available to provide mental health services and build capacity across countries and income levels, in particular in countries affected by conflict and crisis;

(3) honors the importance of trained mental health workers as they enhance human well-being and mental health, restore functioning, and save lives by ensuring the availability of high-quality, context-relevant mental health and psychosocial support services;

(4) calls on the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other relevant agencies to integrate mental health and psychosocial support services into programs, funding opportunities, and budget allocations in order to improve the overall quality of life of individuals living with mental health disorders; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, professionals, and volunteers globally who work to improve the mental health of all individuals, and the important contributions and bravery of individuals globally who live with or have overcome mental health disorders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 285—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ROBERT EDWARD SIMON, JR.

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 285

Whereas in 1961, Robert Edward Simon, Jr. (referred to in this preamble as “Bob Simon”) purchased 6,750 acres of undeveloped land in Northern Virginia and in 1964, established on the land the town of Reston, Virginia;

Whereas the vision of Bob Simon for economic development—

(1) involved communities that integrate jobs, residential housing, commercial business, recreational resources, outdoor space, accessible transportation, and pedestrian-friendly geography; and

(2) was a vision that, in 2015, is known as “smart growth”;

Whereas the vision of Bob Simon for a community was a community that included residents of all income levels and racial backgrounds at a time during which, in Virginia, housing was segregated and interracial marriage was banned;

Whereas Bob Simon is credited with mainstreaming the idea of robust citizen participation in local development plans through community associations;

Whereas Bob Simon returned to live in Reston from 1993 until his passing on September 21, 2015, at 101 years of age; and

Whereas, as of September 2015, Reston, Virginia is a 62,000-citizen town in the Northern Virginia Dulles Corridor, which continues to develop along the lines that Bob Simon envisioned: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the contributions of Robert E. Simon, Jr.—

(1) in founding Reston, Virginia;

(2) in setting a trend of vibrant urban development in Virginia; and

(3) in inspiring and empowering citizens across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 11, 2015, AS “NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 286

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas, in 2015, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of lands and waters to conserve wildlife in the world, and has grown to approximately 150,000,000 acres, 563 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and these protected lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas, in 2015, 336 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 275 units of the National Wildlife

Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging approximately 2,500,000 hunting visits and nearly 7,000,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced nearly 30,000,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2014;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every \$1 appropriated, national wildlife refuges generate nearly \$5 in economic activity;

Whereas visitation to the National Wildlife Refuge System increased by nearly 27 percent from 2005 to 2014;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experiences over 47,000,000 visits each year, which generated more than \$2,400,000,000 and more than 35,000 jobs in local economies during fiscal year 2011;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including temperate, tropical and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that foster production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than \$850,000,000 in funds, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,700,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the recovery of 386 threatened and endangered species is supported on refuge lands;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government and State governments, private landowners, and organizations in their efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas nearly 36,000 volunteers and approximately 200 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations contribute more than 1,400,000 hours annually, the equivalent of nearly 700 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas, because there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and a refuge located within an hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, national wildlife refuges employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to seek stakeholder input on the implementation of "Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation", an update to the strategic plan of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the week beginning on October 11, 2015, has been designated as "National Wildlife Refuge Week" by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 11, 2015, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week";

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) pronounces that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

(6) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation and the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, as well as compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755, chapter 128);

(8) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(9) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 287—CONDEMNING THE SENSELESS MURDER AND WOUNDING OF 18 INDIVIDUALS (SONS, DAUGHTERS, FATHERS, MOTHERS, UNCLES, AUNTS, COUSINS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS) IN ROSEBURG, OREGON, ON OCTOBER 1, 2015

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 287

Whereas on October 1, 2015, an armed gunman opened fire on the Umpqua Community College campus in Roseburg, Oregon, killing 9 individuals and wounding 9 other individuals;

Whereas deceased and surviving victims demonstrated acts of heroism and sacrifice for the safety and sake of others;

Whereas the first responders were swift and professional in their response to the initial call, which avoided even more bloodshed; and

Whereas, local, State, and Federal law enforcement, firefighter, and medical service professionals performed their duties with utmost skill and coordination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers condolences to the families and friends of individuals who were murdered by

an armed gunman on the Umpqua Community College campus in Roseburg, Oregon, on October 1, 2015;

(2) expresses hope for the swift and complete recovery of individuals who were wounded by the gunman;

(3) applauds the swift response and professional conduct of—

(A) the first responders to the scene; and

(B) the investigating officers following the neutralization of the gunman, including local, State, and Federal officials and others who offered their support and assistance; and

(4) remains committed to reducing the likelihood of this kind of event happening again.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2711. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BOOKER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2711. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BOOKER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; as follows:

On page 1, lines 8 and 9, strike "July 8" and insert "December 8".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled "Consumer Product Safety and the Recall Process."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 9:45 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Securing a Prosperous and Democratic Future for Ukraine."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Threats to the Homeland."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in the President's Room of the Capitol.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Theft by Another Name: Eminent Domain Ten Years After Kelo v. City of New London."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS,
AND MINING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND
USAID MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS,
AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 8, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Ensuring an Efficient and Effective Diplomatic Security Training Facility for the Twenty-first Century."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sharon Haggett, a detailee in Senator ALEXANDER's office, have the privileges of the floor for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Mendenhall, a detailee to the Appropriations Committee have floor privileges for the remainder of the debate on the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dan Podair, a legal fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Tuesday, October 20, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 139; that the time until 11 a.m. be equally divided for debate on the nomination in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN C. HEDGER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 210, Stephen Hedger; that the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen C. Hedger, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the nomination, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stephen C. Hedger, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President shall be notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

AUTHORIZING USE OF
EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules and Administration Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 21 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Booker amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2711) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause to correct the date of the ceremony)

On page 1, lines 8 and 9, strike "July 8" and insert "December 8".

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21), as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 21

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on December 8, 2015, for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which abolished slavery in the United States.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ROBERT EDWARD SIMON, JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 285, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 285) commemorating the life and accomplishments of Robert Edward Simon, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 285) was agreed to.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, just over a year ago, I attended a dual celebration in the Town of Reston, VA—50 years since the town's founding and 100 years since the birth of its founder. That founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.,

whose initials were the basis for naming the town, passed away on September 21st at the age of 101.

Bob Simon was a visionary who recognized that all humans ought to be able to live together and be neighbors. His vision was of a community in which people could live, work, and play in the same general area. He believed that features like natural landscaping, open plazas, and public art were important to building a vibrant community and fostering a sense of place. Today we would call that "smart growth," but to Bob, it was simply commonsense. His vision was ahead of its time in another way. It was a vision of a community in which people of all races and income levels could coexist—a vision that was not yet shared by all in the segregated Virginia of the early 1960s.

The legacy of Bob Simon will live on in the community he created and loved. I and my Virginia colleague Senator MARK WARNER ask the Senate to formally commemorate Bob and the ideals he championed in his life's work of a better and more just America.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 286.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 286) designating the week beginning on October 11, 2015, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 286) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 278.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 278) welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 278) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 6, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2165 AND S. 2169

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2165) to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

A bill (S. 2169) to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015, THROUGH MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, October 9, for a pro forma session only with no business being conducted; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, October 9, it next convene for a pro forma session only with no business conducted on the following dates and times: Tuesday, October 13, at 10:30 a.m., and Friday, October 16, at 10 a.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, October 16, it next convene at 4 p.m. on Monday, October 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders

be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2146.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:49 p.m., adjourned until Friday, October 9, 2015, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DANA J. BOENTE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE NEIL H. MACBRIDE, RESIGNED.

ROBERT LLOYD CAPERS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE LORETTA E. LYNCH, RESIGNED.

JOHN P. FISHWICK, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE TIMOTHY J. HEAPHY, RESIGNED.

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RONALD C. MACHEN, JR., RESIGNED.

EMILY GRAY RICE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN P. KACAVAS, RESIGNED.

RANDOLPH J. SEILER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF

SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRENDAN V. JOHNSON, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TARNJIT S. SAINI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

TERRY A. PETROPOULOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

JESSICA L. MORERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

KARI J. TEREICK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMOS J. HOCHSTEIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ENERGY RESOURCES), VICE JOHN STERN WOLF.

DAVID MCKEAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LUXEMBOURG.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 8, 2015:

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MARIO CORDERO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

STEPHEN C. HEDGER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SARAH ELIZABETH MENDELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

UNITED NATIONS

SARAH ELIZABETH MENDELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

W. THOMAS REEDER, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LUCY TAMLIN, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN.

JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

DAVID R. GILMOUR, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC.

EDWIN RICHARD NOLAN, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

CAROLYN PATRICIA ALSUP, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA.

DANIEL H. RUBINSTEIN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA.

SUSAN COPPEDGE AMATO, OF GEORGIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFICKING, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH
MATSUMOTO AS 2015 NONPROFIT
LEADER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Matsumoto, who is honored by the Northern California Association of Nonprofits with the 2015 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Elizabeth's commitment to improving the lives of those in need in Humboldt County is noteworthy. Through her work with Housing Humboldt, she has touched numerous lives by increasing access to quality, safe, and affordable housing for lower and moderate-income individuals, families and seniors—a much-needed resource in this rural region.

While obtaining her Environment and Community Master's degree from Humboldt State University, Ms. Matsumoto joined Housing Humboldt in 2003, working on the development of the county's first community land trust homes. Since then she has been integral to the completion of 22 community land trust homes, which provide a unique opportunity for affordable home ownership. She continues to assist with resale and refinancing to keep these homes affordable. Elizabeth's technical expertise and leadership also made it possible for Housing Humboldt to continue to manage and improve 105 affordable apartments throughout the county.

During periods of organizational transition, Elizabeth Matsumoto stepped up to provide stability and guidance as interim executive director, development director, and now as co-executive director while seeing large-scale housing projects through to completion. Most recently, she led the development of the county's first permanent supportive housing complex, which opened in September to serve chronically homeless and extremely low income individuals, including supportive services such as case management to help keep people housed. She forged multiple partnerships and creatively leveraged millions of dollars in investments to bring this dream to fruition.

In addition to her work with Housing Humboldt, Elizabeth Matsumoto has shared her talents with the community through the Humboldt League of Women Voters Board of Directors, Humboldt Tri-Kids Triathlon Organizing Committee, and the Community Gifts Committee for the Alzheimer's Center. She balances her service with being a mom to two young children and enjoying activities such as running, mountain biking, and playing soccer.

Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth Matsumoto's commitment to improving access to safe and affordable housing is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2015, I was unable to vote on H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, introduced by Rep. FRENCH HILL. I would have voted in support of final passage of H.R. 3192, roll call No. 540, had I been present.

Additionally, I would have voted in support of H. Res. 461, roll call No. 538, to establish a select investigative panel on the Energy and Commerce Committee, introduced by Rep. FRED UPTON.

CONGRATULATING NEW HAVEN
HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR REC-
OGNITION AS A NATIONAL BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating New Haven High School on their recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2015 from the U.S. Department of Education.

This award is based on a school's overall academic excellence or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. As one of only 285 public schools receiving national recognition, New Haven High School's administration, teachers, and students have shown dedication and commitment to hard work that contributed to receiving this award. It is evident that New Haven High School represents excellence within the school and also with the surrounding community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing New Haven High School for a job well done.

CELEBRATING SENATOR AKAKA'S
91ST BIRTHDAY

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to address the House to say Happy Birthday to a selfless public servant, Senator Daniel K. Akaka. As we celebrate his 91st birthday, let us look back on a few of his numerous accomplishments as a soldier, teacher, and as a Member of Congress.

Born on September 11, 1924, in Honolulu, Hawaii, Senator Akaka has worked ever since

as a dedicated civil servant to Hawaii and the United States. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After his military service, he earned his bachelor's degree in education at the University of Hawaii.

As a school teacher and principal, he encouraged the use of the Native Hawaiian language and culture in schools and worked tirelessly to create some of the first Head Start programs in the State. The education of children, especially the Native Hawaiian children, was extremely important to him because he knew that increasing access to opportunity would improve educational outcomes among children.

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, he served there for 14 years until he was elected to the Senate, where he served until he retired in January 2013. Senator Akaka fought endlessly to advocate on behalf of Hawaii, particularly Native Hawaiians, and his work on the Veteran's Affairs Committee combating PTSD and unemployment among Soldiers has had a profound impact on our country.

His commitment to a lifetime of public service in the military, as a teacher and as a United States Senator should be an inspiration and motivation to us all.

We wish Senator Akaka the best for the coming year. Happy Birthday (Hau'oli lā hānau), Senator Akaka.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC
ACTIONS OF CHRIS MINTZ

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chris Mintz—an Army veteran who answered the call when our nation needed him and again when a heartless gunman threatened a community in Oregon.

As a high school football star from North Carolina and a 10-year army Veteran, Chris is known as a tough guy. According to those who know him best, he's always one to "cow-boy up."

And one week ago, on October 1, Chris did more than that. He didn't wake up planning to be a hero, but that's what he became.

When he heard gun shots at his school, he ran towards them, pulling fire alarms and fighting to save others. With dogged determination, he fought to block the shooter from entering a classroom and was shot seven times.

It's clear his incredible bravery and selfless actions saved lives and prevented a far worse tragedy. I applaud Chris for his integrity, self-sacrifice and valor in the face of such evil, and my wife Renee and I send our thoughts and prayers to him and his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues, as we continue to mourn the dead in Oregon,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

let's put politics aside and take heart in the heroic acts of this American hero. Chris Mintz deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. Let's give it to him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC
ACTS OF MR. SAMUEL SELL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Samuel Sell of Bainbridge Township, Ohio for his heroic actions on September 13, 2015. Samuel was fishing with his cousin at the LaDue Reservoir when he observed an occupied vehicle go into the water, trapping the driver inside. When no one got out of the car, Samuel swam 100 feet toward the car while he asked his cousin to call 911 immediately. He brought a fishing knife out with him to help free the passenger, which he then gave to the emergency responders when they reached the car. Due to his quick thinking and heroic bravery he helped save a man's life. Along with all of the residents of the 14th Congressional District, I commend him for his actions and wanted to record his feat so that it is enshrined for all future generations.

HONORING OCTOBER 8TH AS NA-
TIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL
CELL DAY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a House resolution expressing support for today, October 8th, as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

Although we are just now developing and implementing new applications for hydrogen fuel cells, this technology has a long and proud history that goes back to the Apollo space missions.

Fuel cells utilize hydrogen without combustion to generate electricity in a way that is clean, efficient, and quiet.

Today, mobile and stationary fuel cell systems produce clean power for vehicles, forklifts, utilities, businesses, and homes.

Stationary fuel cells provide resilient backup power sources for institutions that cannot afford to lose power, such as hospitals. They are increasingly being used as primary electrical sources as well.

Air Products and Chemicals, located in my district, is in the process of deploying 40 hydrogen fueling stations to support the recently announced rollout of hydrogen powered vehicles from several major auto manufacturers.

I have had the opportunity both to drive and fuel these vehicles, and I can say from experience that the process is safe, easy, and surprisingly unremarkable. It's just like driving a traditional car, except the only emission it produces is water.

In closing, I am proud to stand with the innovators of this growing industry as we rec-

ognize today as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID KEPLER

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Kepler, Chairman of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, upon receiving the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award.

A valued member of the community involved in many civic organizations, David Kepler joined the Dow Chemical Company in 1975. He went on to serve as Dow's Executive Vice President for Business Services, its Chief Information Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer. David is currently a board member of the Midland Baseball Foundation, Momentum Midland and chairman of the MidMichigan Innovation Center.

The Distinguished Citizens Award is given to an outstanding individual who shows consistent Scouting values and provides distinguished service to both youth and community. David lives in Sanford and has been a community leader who has had a positive impact throughout the region.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize David Kepler for his service to the Boy Scouts of America and his contributions to the Midland community.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR JOE BEN-
NETT OF THOMASVILLE, NORTH
CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Bennett, Mayor of the City of Thomasville, located in the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina. Mayor Bennett has been a tireless advocate for the people of Thomasville, and has fully earned the admiration and gratitude of his fellow North Carolinians.

A native of High Point, North Carolina, Mayor Bennett served the Duke Power Company for 36 years before retiring and pursuing a career in public service. After his retirement in 1998, Mayor Bennett ran for and was elected to the Thomasville City Council, where he served two terms before being elected Mayor of the City of Thomasville in 2003.

During his tenure, Mayor Bennett has made job creation and infrastructure development two of his highest priorities. After a period of rapid manufacturing and furniture building job loss in the area, Mayor Bennett was successfully able to bring jobs back to the city with the opening of a large manufacturing facility. Mayor Bennett also led a city-wide initiative, known as "Children at Play," designed to upgrade local playgrounds in order to combat

childhood obesity. I have also been told that if there was a celebration in the city of Thomasville, whether it is a large parade, a small church ceremony, or an individual's 100th birthday celebration, Mayor Bennett was there with a smile on his face.

In addition to his service as Mayor of Thomasville, Mayor Bennett has earned his title as a "civil servant" through his various charitable and volunteer roles. To highlight a few of these roles; he delivers "meals on wheels," serves on the Economic Development Commission of Davidson County, serves on the Community General Hospital Board, and is an active member in the Rotary Club of Thomasville.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mayor Joe Bennett for his esteemed service to the City of Thomasville and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted for H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, which will delay enforcement of the Mortgage Disclosure Rule until early next year. While I understand concerns about this legislation and delaying enforcement, even the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which drafted this regulation, has delayed the rule and acknowledged that further improvements need to be made. The Motion to Recommit would refine this legislation by ensuring that the path towards legal redress is not blocked for our most vulnerable homebuyers like veterans and seniors, which is why I voted for it as well as the underlying bill. Going forward, it's my hope that the Senate will continue to improve the Homebuyers Assistance Act. The underlying objective of securing a more transparent and consumer-friendly process for home ownership is deeply important. The rule would increase transparency for mortgage lenders and reduce confusion for homebuyers seeking a mortgage, strengthening critical consumer protections. That's why it is necessary to get this right, even it takes a few more months.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROTARY CLUB
OF HANFORD

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Hanford in honor of its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Hanford (RCH) was chartered on October 6, 1940 in order to serve the community of Hanford, California. Since its establishment, the RCH has been a pillar in its community and spearheaded many events. Specifically, the Chapter has helped acquire playground equipment for multiple parks, rebuilt the Babe Ruth Baseball Field, sponsored

numerous Little League teams, assisted with highway cleanup, conducted holiday food drives, sponsored foreign exchange students, and administered a Job Shadow Program. The RCH has also been active internationally and helped to establish two orphanages in Mexico, schools, health clinics, and clean water projects in Guatemala, and build Hope High School in Kenya.

Over the past seventy-five years, the RCH has helped Hanford and its residents thrive. We are fortunate to have such a committed Rotary Club in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Rotary Club of Hanford's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL HAYES

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Hayes, president and chief executive officer of the Midland Center for the Arts, in recognition of his five years of service to the Center and his many contributions to the community.

An influential member of the Midland community for more than forty years, Michael Hayes originally moved to Midland to work in the Midland County Courthouse. He went on to serve four terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, work as the vice-president of executive relations at the Dow Chemical Company, and founded Main Street Consulting. Before his selection as CEO of the Midland Center for the Arts, Michael Hayes served on the board of directors for the Center and on the Matrix:Midland advisory board.

During his tenure as president and CEO, Michael Hayes brought in exciting exhibits, enhanced the Operating Philosophy and Core Values of the Midland Center for the Arts and oversaw the highest earned revenue season in MCFTA history. In his five years at the helm of MCFTA, Michael truly helped to change lives through the arts, sciences and history.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Michael Hayes for his service to the Midland Center for the Arts and his contributions to the Midland community.

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Northern New Jersey's vibrant Korean American community. I would like to welcome the long awaited visit of South Korean President Park Geun-hye to the United States.

I want to express my deepest condolences to President Park and the people of South

Korea for the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak, which infected 186 people and tragically claimed 36 lives.

As we mourn this heartbreaking loss, I was encouraged to learn that the last South Korean patient previously diagnosed with MERS has tested negative for the virus and has showed a complete recovery from the disease.

It is my hope that this visit will provide a venue for our countries to find new areas of cooperation in protecting our environment, improving global responses to health crisis, and for continued engagement on regional security that will bolster our nation's relationship in the 21st century.

I am proud to represent one of the largest Korean American communities in Congress because they have made significant contributions to the success of our nation and have enriched our heritage through their unwavering patriotism, strong values and entrepreneurial spirit.

I look forward to President Park's visit and will continue to be a strong advocate for my constituents so we can make New Jersey and our nation a better place for all.

INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, International Plasma Awareness Week will occur October 11 to 17, 2015. Around the world, there will be observances to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are more than 450 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Aware-

ness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 540 on final passage of H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, I would have voted "Aye," which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM WEIDEMAN

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill Weideman, former Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Dow Chemical Company, upon his induction into this year's Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Central Michigan University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bill Weideman joined The Dow Chemical Company. During his thirty-nine-year tenure, Bill held many positions, including Controller for Dowbrands and Texas Operations, Global Business Finance Director for Specialty Chemicals, Performance Chemicals, Basic Chemicals and Basic Plastics, Vice President and Corporate Controller, Interim Chief Financial Officer and, finally, Chief Financial Officer in 2010. In 2012, he administered the Corporate Strategic Development and executive oversight for Dow AgroSciences. Bill served on Dow Chemical's Executive Committee and was a member of the Board of Directors at both Sadara Chemical Company and Dow Corning Corporation.

Bill Weideman remains very active in the community, serving on the Board of the Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union, Mid Michigan Medical Health Systems, the Midland Baseball Foundation and the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees, as well as volunteering for Midland Cancer Services and Family & Children Services.

In keeping with Junior Achievement's mission of a commitment to market-based economics, honesty, integrity and excellence as well as the belief in the potential of young people, Bill Weideman's career has reflected these values. Through his illustrious career at The Dow Chemical Company and his involvement in the Midland community, Bill has positively influenced the careers and lives of countless individuals.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to welcome Bill Weideman into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. LINDA
HATFIELD

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Linda Hatfield for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Mrs. Hatfield was born on December 24, 1935. She grew up in the Central Valley of California and attended Lemoore High School. After completing her education, Mrs. Hatfield became a teacher and taught in Central Valley schools until her retirement. A lifelong Central Valley resident, Mrs. Hatfield currently resides in Hanford, California with her husband, Bill Hatfield. Together they have three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

In 1982 while still teaching full-time, Mrs. Hatfield began volunteering for the ACS. Over the last three decades, she has dedicated her life to the organization, successfully recruited additional volunteers, and educated many on how to prevent and survive cancer. Mrs. Hatfield also served on the ACS Board of Directors and helped reopen the ACS office after it was shut down as an entirely volunteer-run location. A survivor herself, Mrs. Hatfield has gone above and beyond her duty as a volunteer and demonstrated her commitment to fighting cancer time and time again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Linda Hatfield on being honored with an American Cancer Society Lifetime Achievement Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act. I mistakenly voted "no" on roll call vote 540, final passage of the bill. I intended to vote "aye".

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASTIME CLUB

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pastime Club, located in the Borough of Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

The Pastime Club has been an integral part of Mendham's community life since its founding, on June 22, 1915, as a civic and fraternal organization.

The Pastime Club began its modern era after the Great Depression in 1938. At this point the club met monthly and hosted Pinochet and Quoits tournaments along with an annual children's Christmas party. During the Second World War club members restored a building at 3 Hilltop Road, which has been their home for over 75 years now. As a volunteer organization, members devoted their time to the restoration, and raised funds to cover the costs. In 1947 two apartments were built on the second-floor of 3 Hilltop Road. In March of 1953 construction started on "The Lanes," a bowling alley. Keeping with tradition, the bowling alley was built by The Pastime Club members on a volunteer basis. "The Lanes" was finished in October of the same year. Over the next 60 years "The Lanes" was a community asset, hosting birthday parties, and community leagues. Currently "The Lanes" is maintained by the club for the use of their members, along with bowling leagues being open to the public.

Today, the Pastime Club is the single largest supporter of youth athletic programs in the Mendhams, exemplified by its motto "Progress in Sports". They sponsor teams and leagues, provide equipment for fields, and provide scholarships to local student-athletes. The Pastime Club also supports a semi-professional baseball team that competes in the Morris County Major League. Along with supporting local sports, the Pastime Club hosts the largest community event in Mendham—the Labor Day Carnival. This tradition began in 1943 and has run every year since. Today the carnival includes rides, games, food, fireworks, and a 50/50 raffle. All members take shifts volunteering to ensure the event is the success that it has been. In addition to the Labor Day Carnival, the Pastime Club brings their own circus to town. The Pastime Club also hosts a number of member oriented events including golf outings, and a Christmas party.

For the Pastime Club's 100th Anniversary, I commend its Leadership, Board of Directors and members who have selflessly volunteered their time over the club's history to provide services to the residents of Mendham. It is clear that the Pastime Club has provided services to the community that have improved the lives of everyone living there.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Pastime Club, its Board of Directors in celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DAN KOZAKIEWICZ

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dan Kozakiewicz, Chairman of Three Rivers Corporation, upon receiving the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award.

An influential member of the Midland community for more than twenty-five years, Dan Kozakiewicz started his illustrious career with Three Rivers Corporation in 1986. He was appointed president in 2001, and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Three Rivers Corporation has thrived under Dan's leadership, fulfilling commitments to its customers and community. Of all company accomplishments, Dan remains most proud of Three Rivers Corporation's commitment to safety in the workplace.

The Distinguished Citizen Award is given to an outstanding individual who shows consistent Scouting values and provides distinguished service to both youth and community. A former Boy Scout in his hometown of Bay City and now a Cub Scout leader for his son's Pack in Midland, Dan has been an exemplary role model for youth in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Dan Kozakiewicz for his service to the Boy Scouts of America and his contributions to the Midland community.

HONORING THE LATE MS. ALMA BEATTY OF NEWARK

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Alma Beatty, the longtime Vice President of Community Affairs at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, who passed away earlier this year.

Ms. Beatty was born in Newark, New Jersey, and became one of the city's most beloved citizens through her 45 years of service at "The Beth."

Under Ms. Beatty's leadership, "The Beth" became a model of excellence in protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Thanks to her vision, "The Beth" instituted a number of community service programs that continue to this day, including Thanksgiving Giveaway Programs, the Adopt a Child Christmas Program, the Alma Beatty Health and Wellness Fair, and job readiness workshops.

Ms. Beatty truly was a voice for the voiceless. She dedicated her life to improving the lives of the people of Newark, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Words cannot express how much Ms. Beatty meant to me and my family throughout the years.

I had the pleasure of working with her while she was Vice President of Community Affairs for Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Together, we were able to secure funds to construct "The Beth's" Geriatric Emergency Department.

Ms. Beatty graciously dedicated her life to building a tremendous legacy here in Essex County; one committed to improving the quality of life for all residents regardless of their financial background.

She was a true role model for all that she did and accomplished for the City of Newark.

Last month, I had the honor of participating in a ceremony to change the name of Newark's Osborne Terrace to "Alma Beatty Way."

It is a fitting recognition of Ms. Beatty's contributions to the City of Newark and Essex County.

To Ms. Beatty's family, I extend my thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 538 on final passage H. Res. 461, Establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE CAMP

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Honorable Dave Camp, Senior Policy Advisor at PricewaterhouseCoopers, former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and former Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, upon his induction into this year's Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame.

Dave Camp was born and raised in Midland, Michigan, where he attended H.H. Dow High School. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts from Albion College and a Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego before coming back to his hometown to practice law at the firm of Riecker, George, Hartley, Van Dam and Camp.

It was with a passion for public service that Dave Camp ran and was elected State Representative for Michigan's 102nd District. He served one term in the state legislature before his election to the United States House of Representatives in 1990. During Camp's tenure, from 1991 to 2015, he served his constituents and country honorably. He cut through the red tape of bureaucracy to ensure his constituents received the services they needed and their voices were heard in Washington.

Legislatively, his list of accomplishments is innumerable. Dave Camp was a leading advocate in Congress for breaking down barriers to adoption and advancing efforts to harmonize varying state and national laws to make adoptions safer and more efficient. He introduced landmark adoption legislation, called the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This law streamlined the adoption process to quickly help move more children in foster care into permanent adoptive homes. He also worked hard to inject accountability into federal safety net programs, playing an integral role in enactment into law of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act—legislation that reformed our welfare system and helped move people out of poverty.

His hard work, intellect and leadership led to Camp's appointment as Ranking Member and later Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. In this role, Camp introduced policy on a wide range of important issues. To highlight just a few, he ushered into enactment three job creating trade deals that were the

most significant expansion of trade relations in nearly two decades. He also introduced the Tax Reform Act of 2014, deemed the most comprehensive tax reform proposal since the mid 1980s.

As Senior Policy Advisor at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Camp continues working to advance economic, tax, international trade and health care policy. His tremendous expertise and perspective on legislative and regulatory processes will enable his clients to make a positive impact in the global market.

In keeping with Junior Achievement's mission of a commitment to market-based economics, honesty, integrity and excellence as well as the belief in the potential of young people, Dave Camp's career has reflected these values. Whether working on landmark adoption reform during his early years in Congress, or mentoring junior staff to reach their full potential, Camp has positively influenced the careers and lives of countless individuals.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Dave Camp for his many contributions to our country and the great state of Michigan.

RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2015, H.R. 885, and urge Republican Leadership to bring it to the floor for consideration.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was born from the "Bloody Sunday" marches from Selma to Montgomery.

With its enactment over fifty years ago, it protected the ability of every American to make their voice heard at the voting booth.

In 2013, that changed. In the two years since the Supreme Court struck down one of the Voting Rights Act's most important provisions in *Shelby County v. Holder*,—the Justice Department's ability to prevent discriminatory rules—our democracy has been weakened.

Mr. Speaker, every American deserves unfettered access to exercising one of our most basic rights—the right to vote.

It is time for Congress to right the wrong created by the *Shelby* decision and pass H.R. 885, legislation that restores the full power of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 885, and I strongly urge Republican Leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote before October 31st.

GIRLS LIKE ME PROJECT INC

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Girls Like

Me Project Inc for their 4th Annual Chicago Day of the Girl, this organization has connected more than 500 Chicagoland girls with the global girl empowerment movement. Since 2011 this non-for-profit group has been mentoring urban African-American girls in hopes to help them make positive life choices and connect globally with their peers. International Day of the Girl was adopted by the United Nations in 2011, since then millions of girls and women around the globe have participated in this movement to help educate and shed light on social and political injustices impacting girls and women across the globe. I support the Girls Like Me Project and commend them for their continued efforts to help the disenfranchised young women in the Chicagoland area and for their continued work with the global initiative known as International Day of the Girl.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on October 6, 2015. I was delayed in arriving in Washington due to the current flooding crisis threatening families.

1) H.R. 1553—Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act—AYE

2) H.R. 1839—Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises—AYE

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 518 on final passage of H.R. 348, Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INFORMATION CENTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Information Center on their 40th anniversary. The accomplishments of this long-standing non-profit agency exemplify the importance and strength of public-private partnerships in our communities.

Founded in 1975 in Taylor, Michigan, The Information Center was created to inform citizens of the over 10,000 resources available to them, including both private sector assistance and public services offered by their local,

state, and federal governments. Since becoming the first organization in Michigan to be certified by the national Alliance for Information and Referral Services, the Information Center has become an indispensable tool for connecting people with the human service resources that fit their individual needs. Learning from their experience in our communities, The Information Center has expanded over the years and has initiated programs that address unemployment, health and wellness, housing, transportation, veterans services, financial and legal assistance, disability advocacy and other human services. In addition, The Information Center emphasizes support for our seniors by providing options for home care and caregiver training that respects the dignity and encourages the independence of older Americans.

For 40 years, The Information Center has held itself to the highest standards to ensure that our residents always have somewhere to turn. The most recent report from the Michigan Department of Community Health ranked The Information Center as best in the county and second best in the state for quality assurance in their work with seniors. Their tireless efforts have helped the citizens of Southeast Michigan with comprehensive, community-based programs that help control the cost of care for our elders and provide peace of mind to our families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in gratitude to honor The Information Center on their 40th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATION'S FIRST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding landmark to community health and welfare. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the nation's Community Health Center program. Community Health Centers (CHC) are the family doctor to over 23 million Americans and, as such, are the largest network of primary care providers in the country. The CHC model is distinguished by its comprehensive range of health services, recognizing the particular needs and characteristics of the communities they serve. Community Health Centers are located exclusively in medically-underserved areas, providing needed care for communities and populations that do not have adequate access to care. Community involvement in CHCs is guaranteed by the requirement that Federal Qualified Health Centers must have governing boards of directors that have patients of the center holding at least 51% of the board seats.

In the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts we are particularly proud because the nation's first community health center opened in December 1965 on Columbia Point in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Drs. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson of Tufts Medical School founded the Columbia Point Health Center in order to meet the needs of the residents of an

isolated public housing project, cut off from the City's health resources. Drs. Geiger and Gibson opened a rural center shortly thereafter in the Delta region of Mississippi. From that start, the community health center program expanded throughout the country. In 1985, Columbia Point Health Center joined with the Neponset Health Center to form Harbor Health Services, Inc. And in 1990, the Columbia Point Health Center moved into a new building and was renamed Geiger Gibson Community Health Center in honor of the founders of the national movement.

Mr. Speaker, there are now over 1,270 community health centers providing services at 9,000 sites across the country. CHCs have become the primary source of medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, social services and other community health services for neighborhoods and rural communities that would otherwise be inadequately served. And CHCs have also provided employment and career opportunities for thousands of local residents.

Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago it all began in Dorchester, Massachusetts. I am proud to rise today to recognize and honor what has become a national model for providing services to our country's underserved areas and urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the efforts of our Community Health Centers.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,557,110,995.00. We've added \$7,523,680,062,081.92 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate our nation's historic relationship with Taiwan on their 104th National Day. These occasions remind us to reflect on our past successes and look forward with renewed commitment to what we may accomplish together in the days and months ahead. Just last week, the United States House of Representatives expressed in a resounding and unified voice our support of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. In this Act, Congress declared its support of Taiwan through numerous policy provisions, including the new "South China Sea Initiative".

It is more important now than ever, for this Administration to declare with a resounding

voice that it joins with Congress in recognizing the importance of a vibrant bilateral relationship with Taiwan. We look forward with eager anticipation to Taiwan's exercise of democracy in their upcoming January elections. They are a model of freedom to a region plagued by instability and the heavy hand of government.

The Taiwan Strait is of critical importance to our national and global security and both the United States and Taiwan must continue to prioritize investment in defense capabilities that will secure its peace. I congratulate Taiwan on their 104th National Day and ask for their continued partnership with the United States.

CONGRATULATING MR. CHRIS SMITH

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Smith on his retirement and thank him for his many years of service to Clermont County and Ohio.

Chris Smith has a long and distinguished record of service to Clermont County, and is remembered for his invaluable commitment to the local economic development throughout his career.

With decades of business experience, including 20 years in the banking industry and 10 years in real estate, Chris' contributions in his many capacities of public service has been invaluable. Chris Smith served his community in numerous ways, including as the Director of the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Economic Development Director for Clermont County, and as an economic development staff member for Ohio Governor Bob Taft.

Due in part to his leadership, Clermont County has become a thriving hub of economic activity. The residential and economic growth of Clermont County is a testament to this hard work and success.

Also commendable is the positive and solutions-oriented attitude with which Chris has served. He has worked tirelessly to improve Clermont County over the years, always devoted to the big picture and listening to the people he serves, never asking or expecting anything in return.

Southwest Ohio is fortunate to have a local leader as committed to service and progress as Chris Smith is. Again, I congratulate Chris on his retirement, thank him for his public service, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER OF COACH DAVID CLARK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to congratulate Coach David Clark on his 1000th win

as coach of the volleyball team of Jacksonville High School, in Jacksonville, Alabama.

Clark attended Saks High School, graduating in 1986, and enrolled in Auburn University. While there, he studied architecture and received a degree in environmental design.

After a short time living in Oregon, he returned to Alabama to pursue an education degree at Jacksonville State University. After graduation, he worked for one year at his former high school before becoming part of the Jacksonville High School coaching staff.

In his 23 years of coaching, he has led the Jacksonville Golden Eagles volleyball team to three state championship wins with four state runner up positions, as well as eight county and 16 area championships.

Coach Clark's 1000th win came Saturday, October 3rd during the Calhoun County volleyball tournament. He is only the 10th coach in the history of the Alabama High School Athletic Association to reach this milestone.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach David Clark on his achievement.

IN HONOR OF FREDERICK
DOUGLASS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frederick Douglass, a Maryland native who made tremendous contributions to our country. This year marks the 170th anniversary of his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself* which gives us a first glimpse of his remarkable life.

Born into chattel slavery on February 14, 1818 on the Wye Plantation near Tuckahoe, Maryland, Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey became internationally known as Frederick Douglass, a champion in his own time for eliminating slavery and an impassioned voice demanding freedom for all.

In 1838, he married Anna Murray, a free born black woman who provided him with money to escape slavery. Together they settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts and raised four children.

After escaping slavery, Mr. Douglass began to work for the abolition of slavery in the United States. In 1845, Mr. Douglass wrote and published the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*. It is the first of a trilogy of autobiographical writings. The second, entitled *My Bondage and My Freedom*, was published in 1855, and the final work, titled *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, was published in 1881.

The first autobiography, like its successors, described the system of chattel slavery and Mr. Douglass' rejection of its premise that he, like other slaves, was not a human being. Stunningly direct in its portrayal of friends and foes, the autobiographies present the conflicts between freedom and slavery. This book recounts the honors of slavery, his courageous efforts to educate himself, and his harrowing but successful escape.

In 1847, Mr. Douglass published the *North Star*, a weekly abolitionist newspaper. It was the first of 4 newspapers he owned and wrote for as a journalist.

A strong supporter of women's rights, in 1848, Mr. Douglass attended the critical Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York for women's suffrage and supported women's right to vote.

In 1852, Mr. Douglass gave what is regarded as the greatest abolitionist speech, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" in Rochester, NY.

In 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, Mr. Douglass met with President Lincoln and successfully persuaded him to allow black men to fight for the Union. This led to the formation of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first all-black combat regiment.

In addition to his writings, Mr. Douglass served his country in a number of government positions. In 1871, he was appointed by President Grant as Assistant Secretary to the Santo Domingo Commission. In 1876, he was appointed by President Hayes as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia. In 1881, he accepted an appointment from President Garfield as Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. And in 1889, he was appointed by President Harrison as Minister and Consul General to Haiti.

In 1894, at the Metropolitan African Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., Mr. Douglass delivered "Lessons of the Hour," a searing critique of lynching.

A year later, at the age of 77, Mr. Douglass died of a heart attack at Cedar Hill, his home in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

Today, Cedar Hill is a national historic site where visitors from around the world can learn about the many contributions of Frederick Douglass, an American treasure who dedicated his life to winning freedom for all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC on October 7, 2015 due to a death in the family and thus missed the recorded votes on that day. On Roll Call Votes 536, 537, 538, and 540, I would have voted yea had I been present. On Roll Call Vote 539, I would have voted no had I been present.

IN HONOR OF RETIRED MAJOR
JESSE BALTAZAR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments and service of retired Major Jesse Baltazar on this, his ninety-fifth birthday.

Major Baltazar's service includes over forty years of dedication to the United States military through the Battle of Bataan in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Still recovering from wounds suffered at the hands of a Japanese attack on his camp in 1942, Major Baltazar managed to escape "the Bataan Death March" after more than three days of marching. His bravery earned him the honor of a Bronze Star, a POW Medal, and a Purple Heart, which was awarded to him this past January.

As the first Filipino native commissioned into the United States Air Force, Major Baltazar is a true trail-blazer and has helped pave the way for the many men and women who have since immigrated to the United States and joined our military.

The United States has been blessed by the sacrifices of outstanding people such as Major Baltazar who have adopted this country as their own. I am proud to represent Major Baltazar and all of the selfless men and woman who serve our nation in uniform. They are truly invaluable members of our society. The debt of gratitude owed to these men and women is impossible to repay, but today, we do our small part by recognizing one special man: Major Jesse Baltazar.

IN RECOGNITION OF WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY AND THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL
COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Winthrop University and the 50th anniversary of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Winthrop University is a coeducational, comprehensive university that teaches students to live, learn, and lead for a lifetime. Their Honors Program is designed to enrich the college experience for highly talented and motivated students and create a community of scholars that promote the pursuit of knowledge for intellectual and personal growth. The Honors Program was founded in 1960 and is one of the oldest in the nation. Over the years, the program has flourished by adapting when needed and now enrolls around 350 students from each of the academic colleges at the university. Winthrop University honors students who exemplify the kind of leadership, knowledge and experience we look for in future leaders of our global society.

I also want to recognize and express my gratitude to the National Collegiate Honors Council as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The National Collegiate Honors Council serves Winthrop and more than 800 other colleges and universities across the country. These institutions share a commitment to achieving excellence in diverse subject and curriculum areas to accomplish professional career goals.

With the help of universities like Winthrop and professional organizations like the National Collegiate Honors Council, I am confident our nation will continue to produce the

workforce necessary to lead us successfully through the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO ELAINE MATZNER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the incredible life of a dear friend, Elaine Matzner, who passed away on October 3, 2015 at her home in Palm Springs, California, surrounded by family. Elaine was a woman full of life and a pillar of the Palm Springs community; she will be deeply missed.

Elaine was born on October 6, 1933 in southern New Jersey to the owners of a fruit farm. Desiring a different life from her parents, she left the farm choosing to further her edu-

cation by attending Drexel University. It was there that she met her husband Eric. After the couple married, settled down and had spent a few years raising a young family in New Jersey, Elaine and Eric decided to move their family to Southern California. They moved to Hacienda Heights and then later to Palm Springs.

She was a woman of many passions, including business, travel, and family. Elaine opened the clothing store La Mariposa in Palm Springs with her daughter Lisa and daughter-in-law Diane. After years raising a family she wanted to find a new outlet and Elaine enjoyed being a small business owner and entrepreneur. La Mariposa imported luxury goods and clothing from all over South and Central America. The store became a fixture to the residents and tourists of the Palm Springs area.

Elaine pursued her passion of culture and travel by indulging in numerous family trips over the years that included seven African safaris, 49 states and over 50 countries. She

never let age slow her down on any trip. One of her favorite memories was climbing Huayna Picchu, in Peru, the cliff above Machu Picchu in the rain, when she was 65. Elaine took enjoyment from experiencing the new places she visited, their unique histories, and their people.

Elaine's biggest passion throughout her life was her family. She had a deep love of her family and involved them in every aspect of her life. Elaine took enormous pride in watching the growth and achievements of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren over the years.

Elaine is survived by her brother Reed Heritage of Sacramento, California; her four children, Bruce, Lisa, Jill and Evan; her five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the entire Matzner family and friends during this time; although Elaine may be gone—the life, energy, and wit that she brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

SENATE—Friday, October 9, 2015

The Senate met at 10 and 03 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF SESSIONS, a Senator from the State of Alabama.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 9, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF SESSIONS, a Senator from the State of Alabama, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SESSIONS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 13, 2015, AT 10:30 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 31 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, October 9, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 9, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GARRET GRAVES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

With many pressing issues, the House currently ponders the future leadership of this assembly. Though uncertainty might breed fear or confusion, dispel such dark spirits and enlighten the Members of the people's House with wisdom, patience, good will, and perseverance.

Often, when things seem to us to be out of control, perhaps You are calling us all to place our trust in You, as we claim to do. We thank You for continuing to call us to be true to our word.

We thank You as well for continuing to walk with us, always offering us the light of Your spirit.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make

the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ABRAHAM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING PILOTS FOR PATIENTS

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a group called Pilots for Patients, an organization founded by Philip Thomas back home in Monroe, Louisiana.

This group flies patients with debilitating conditions to specialty hospitals all over the Nation. My district is very rural, and some of my patients have to drive several hundred miles to see their doctor. And like Philip says, this could be like a trip to the Moon for some patients to drive that far.

Pilots for Patients has flown over 2,600 missions to date so far, 15 to 20 patients a week. They are part of a larger group of Air Core Alliance pilots that have flown over 20,000 missions a year. All the pilots are volunteer, and I am proud to be one of them.

Pilots for Patients is a shining example of what goodness of the human spirit and working together can accomplish. I wish them continued success in many years to come.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PERMANENTLY REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to our looming budget crisis and, in particular, the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

For over 50 years, this fund has been one of our most effective tools to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Nation.

In Hawaii's case, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to maintain and support some of our world-famous beaches and nature preserves. The fund expired on September 30 because of congressional inaction. With that, the American public has lost one of our greatest tools to ensure the protection of our public lands and waters.

We need to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities we have to enjoy our Nation's majestic natural beauty.

I call upon our colleagues to bring forward legislation to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

HONORING GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Georgia Military College on 136 years as an outstanding educational institution in Milledgeville, Georgia. On October 14, GMC will celebrate its anniversary, and I am honored to represent this outstanding institution.

I commend the hard work and dedication of the faculty members and friends who continue to make GMC exceptional.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Georgia Military College President Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, the educators, administrators, and alumni for their unyielding commitment to give students a superb education.

GMC is a scholastic institution that offers a world-class experience for students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Georgia Military College for its outstanding achievements and to wish them continued success.

WEATHER FORECASTING

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an example of the real-life consequences of underinvesting in scientific research and development.

Last week, with the development of Hurricane Joaquin, we were reminded that U.S. weather forecasting is not what it should be. Our system, GFS, predicted that Joaquin would hit the Mid-Atlantic States, while the European model correctly predicted that it would remain at sea, and nobody predicted the severity of the flooding that would hit South Carolina. This wasn't the first time that our predictions have missed the mark.

Three years ago we failed to predict the path of Hurricane Sandy, while the European model correctly identified that it would be a direct and devastating hit on New Jersey. After Sandy, we invested somewhat more money into the computing ability of the National Weather Service, but, as Joaquin has shown, it was too little, too late.

The economic costs of unnecessary evacuations are as real as missing evacuations. Scientific research requires a steady investment of time and talent to be successful. If we continue to underinvest in essential infrastructure like weather forecasting, we do it at our own peril.

I urge my colleagues to heed this warning and to start taking seriously the long-term investments that our R&D infrastructure requires.

ENERGY FLEXIBILITY FOR OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 702. This measure will amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 to repeal the President's authority to restrict the export of coal, petroleum products, natural gas, or other petrochemical feedstocks.

The bill specifically prohibits any Federal official from imposing or enforcing any restriction on the export of crude oil.

Why is this important? Because at a time when America's energy innovation is at an all-time high, we can be a helpful strategic partner to our partners overseas that need energy and

don't have to turn to unreliable partners like Russia, like the Middle East, and others to have their energy needs met.

America can be helpful in that regard and, therefore, have stronger allies that don't have to be beholden to those other sources. It will bring jobs back home to the United States in our ever-developing energy sources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House today to support H.R. 702, to strengthen U.S. options, U.S. jobs, and strengthen our allies in our ability to be able to serve them with our energy development that we have had in this country and, therefore, have a stronger bond with them.

CONGRATULATING BILL LEAVER

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I know we have very serious matters in front of us today and facing our country as well. But I would like to take just this 1 minute to mark the retirement of my former boss, a guy named Bill Leaver, who is now CEO of a health system called UnityPoint. It is one of the largest nonprofit nondenominational health systems in America.

I met him first more than 10, 15 years ago when I wrote a profile about him as a newspaper reporter. I knew from the very start that this is a guy who understood the needs of the community, the needs of those who needed to acquire health care and have access to quality health care.

He was my mentor, my friend, and my boss. I wish Bill Leaver all the best in his future. He and his wife, Jeannie, are more than deserving of having this next chapter of their life be one of their most successful.

MANUFACTURING MONTH

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate October as Manufacturing Month, established to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our Nation's economy and to draw attention to the many rewarding high-skilled manufacturing jobs across the Nation.

Each day roughly 1,600 American manufacturers open their doors and take up the important work of job creation, keeping the U.S. economy thriving and inspiring our young people to pursue careers in manufacturing and engineering.

Student tours like those in my home State of Florida also expose young adults to careers in the manufacturing industry like engineering, design, and robotics, tours led by the Florida Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to join me in celebrating Manufacturing Month and recognizing the many ways manufacturing is a cornerstone of our economy, both in my home State of Florida and also across the United States.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO RETURN TO THE REAL BUSINESS OF GOVERNING

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, if you look at the headlines, words like "dysfunction" are being thrown around and there is a whole lot of drama focused on the Capitol today. But people all around this country are not focused on that. They are focused on their families and their lives.

If they are focused on Congress, it probably has something to do with the expiring pieces of legislation that are so important, things like transportation, things like funding the government, all these critical questions in front of us, yet the distraction of this leadership fight seems to be capturing our attention, but it is not capturing the attention of the American people.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to return to the real business of governing. We work for the public trust of the American people, and this thing here is a useless distraction away from the real business. Let's pass the legislation we are sent here to pass, and let's refocus on what the bread and butter issues are for the American people.

RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL GRANT HANEVOLD OF SUNRISE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. HARDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize high school principal of the year for 2015, Grant Hanevold of Sunrise Mountain High School in Las Vegas.

I have always believed that providing the Nation's youth with a quality education is one of the best investments that we can make to ensure that this century is yet another American century.

Principal Hanevold represents the spirit of service that is often missed at too many of our Nation's schools. He understands that educators must invest time and effort in their communities which they serve.

By incorporating teachers, parents, and community members into the decisionmaking process, Principal Hanevold was able to get everyone to buy in on his vision and take pride in what they were accomplishing together. This established a culture of

success at Sunrise Mountain that ultimately led to a remarkable 13 percent increase in graduation rates.

Congratulations to Nevada's principal of the year, Grant Hanevold.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1002

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 10 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.

ADAPTATION TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKETS

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill, H.R. 702.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 466 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 702.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1003

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 702) to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, with Mr. HULTGREN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), a member of the committee.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 702, but, more importantly, I rise today in support of American jobs.

The U.S. daily production of oil has increased dramatically in the past 14

years. That number is projected to continue to increase due to advances in technology, but companies need a new market. At this point, the ban is not protecting the economy. Instead, the economy is being restricted, and Americans are being denied jobs.

My district and State rely on good-paying oil industry jobs. At a time when our economy can't afford to see unemployment numbers rise, oil companies are being forced to cut back their workforce. Lifting the ban on crude oil exports will mean new jobs for Mississippians that will allow them to support their families.

I urge my colleagues to support and vote for H.R. 702 and for American jobs.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 702, a poorly crafted bill that needlessly and recklessly sweeps away 40 years of critical energy protections for national security, our economy, consumers, and the environment.

H.R. 702 is a blunt object that doesn't just undermine current protective authorities related to crude oil; it also prohibits any Federal official from taking any action at any time if that action either restricts or enforces a restriction on the export of oil. The term "restriction" is undefined and potentially dangerous in scope.

The bill would also override any other law that would impose any restriction by any Federal official on exports. That means that the bill does nothing to preserve any environment or safety statutes or regulations, and it doesn't even preserve the Defense Production Act, one of the most important tools any President has to ensure our national energy security in the face of a threat.

Let's be clear, Mr. Chairman. The President has already stated that he will veto this bill. Further, any legislation of this nature is completely unnecessary since the President already has the authority to ease or even remove restrictions on crude oil exports, and the Obama administration has taken major steps to exercise that authority by approving crude oil swaps with Mexico and applications for the export of condensate.

The bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is that it is imperative for Congress to consider a host of factors before we lift the current restrictions and, certainly, if we are to completely dismantle our Nation's ability to restrict oil exports, as proposed by H.R. 702.

First, Mr. Chairman, there are consumer impacts, especially related to the price of crude oil and gasoline. A recent study found that changes to U.S. oil export policy will have little to no impact on the future price of oil.

What we do know is that changes in our crude oil policy will lead to a significant payday for oil producers, with increases in annual profits approaching \$30 billion by 2025.

Next, there are the impacts on our refinery capacity and associated jobs, well-paying middle class jobs that have grown over the past few years due to increased production. Unrestricted exports of crude oil put those jobs at jeopardy and could mean exporting those jobs and losing out on critical investments in future refining capacity.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, there are, of course, the environmental and climate impacts of lifting the export ban. Energy policy is fundamentally linked to environmental policy. Each is a facet of the other. Increasing crude oil exports means increasing domestic production and its impacts on climate change, public health, worker safety, property owners, and protection of our drinking water supplies.

As I have said before, this legislation eagerly embraces short-term profits and benefits without understanding or even considering the cost of such a major action. We simply can't afford to make that mistake. We should ensure we fully understand and consider the enduring consequences of our actions and choose the cleanest and most sustainable path forward.

I don't believe, Mr. Chairman, that the potential impacts of H.R. 702 on national security, on the economy, on consumers, and on the environment can be considered acceptable.

So, Mr. Chairman, increased crude exports certainly help oil companies. It is a bonanza for the oil companies, but without any guaranteed benefits for consumers. I urge my colleagues to join me and the President in saying "no" to this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BARTON. My understanding, in general debate, the majority, or proponents, have 30 minutes, and then the opponents have 30 minutes; is that correct?

The CHAIR. On this bill, yes, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce each control 30 minutes.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), the original Democrat sponsor, have 6 minutes of the proponent's time to control as he sees fit.

The CHAIR. The Chair cannot entertain a unanimous consent request to change the scheme for control of general debate.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an additional parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BARTON. Could the Chair educate the illiterate Member from Texas on how I could give Mr. CUELLAR time that he may control on his side? If I

can't yield it unanimously, how can I do that?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas may yield from his own time to engage in debate, and may yield to Members on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. BARTON. Continuing the parliamentary inquiry, if I do that, can he reserve part of that time, or does he have to use it all in one slot?

The CHAIR. The other gentleman from Texas would not control the time.

Mr. BARTON. He could not reserve any of it?

The CHAIR. Correct.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for the time to speak on this bill, which I wholeheartedly support, because ending this oil export ban will not only boost our economy, it will also improve our foreign policy.

I also rise with hesitation to a proposed amendment that would remove a provision of this bill boosting payments to the 60 ships of our maritime security fleet. These ships are essential in transporting cargo to the men and women of our Armed Forces who are serving overseas in harm's way. As evidence of this, 90 percent of all cargo moved to Iraq and Afghanistan has been transported on these privately owned ships.

As of right now, Mr. Chairman, the stipend provided by the government is too low to make this program viable to those who have stepped up to defend our Nation against foreign threats. Without this increase, it is likely that participants will drop out of the program. This, obviously, is a national security threat.

It is estimated that for the government to replicate this program, it would cost more than \$50 billion in taxpayer money. This program saves money while enhancing our security, and I encourage my colleagues to avoid supporting this amendment, but voting "yes" to lift this outdated oil export ban.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE).

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

I have been here in Congress for 21 years, and during that time, we always hear talk about we want to be energy-independent in the United States. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle always talk about the dream of energy independence, where we don't have to depend on any other country for our oil. It would change policy in the Middle East, and it would dramatically improve our national security. Well, the bad news is, Mr. Chairman, we are not energy-independent. We use 17 million barrels of oil a day, but we only

produce 9 million, which means we are still importing nearly half of all the oil we use.

Now, here is the good news, Mr. Chairman. Horizontal drilling and all this oil we are finding in the shale formations gives us a chance to be truly energy-independent. We could produce an additional 9 million barrels a day, and we wouldn't have to depend on any other country in the world for our oil. All we have to do is produce what we have in our own country and make sure that we have refinery capacity to take care of this light sweet crude, and we are energy-independent.

So the question is, Mr. Chairman, why aren't we investing in our own domestic refinery capacity to keep high-paying jobs here in the United States in the refinery industry, in the maritime trades, and in manufacturing, like steelmaking? Why aren't we doing that for America while enhancing America's security?

We had the former commander of the USS *Cole*, Kirk Lippold, testify before our committee. He highlighted "the significant national security risks associated with greater oil imports." He said that "too many times in recent history, the U.S. has made oil deals with hostile or unfriendly governments that actually threaten our foreign policy and our national security objectives."

"Lifting the export ban will undermine U.S. power projection capabilities by undermining the competitiveness of our U.S. refineries."

Do we really want to undermine the U.S. military?

And then we hear the story that, somehow, lifting this ban is going to help our European allies because it will reduce their dependence on Russian oil. Well, that is a myth, too.

As Commander Lippold testified before our committee, "the primary recipient of this U.S. exported oil is going to be Asia, specifically, China."

□ 1015

So we want to export U.S. oil to China and still have to import oil from countries that aren't necessarily friendly to us. Why would we do that?

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 702 is deeply flawed because it doesn't allow for any future oversight of oil exports under any circumstances. Even if there is an oil spike or a shortage, there is no "safety valve" to ensure that we have enough of this critical resource for our Armed Forces, our industries, and our constituents.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, this bill undermines our national security, and we are still importing an incredible amount of oil. This just defies common sense, and we should reject it.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS), a cosponsor of the bill.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 702, legislation that would lift the 40-year-old ban on U.S. oil exports.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed the ban into law in response to gasoline shortages and the Arab oil embargo.

While the ban served a purpose nearly 40 years ago, much has changed since that time. Today we need an energy policy that aligns with our current economic and political climate.

The United States is the largest petroleum and natural gas producer in the world. Our self-imposed export ban doesn't make sense and does nothing but hinder economic growth.

If the ban is lifted this year, over 57,000 new supply chain jobs would be created in my home State of California by 2018, and nationwide nearly 450,000 new jobs would be created.

Having the option to put U.S. crude oil on the world market would benefit Americans. Lifting the ban would create jobs, strengthen the U.S. economy, and help reduce our trade deficit. It would also provide the international marketplace with more options, in turn, limiting the ability of energy commodities to be used as political weapons.

It is important to note that this bill doesn't require the U.S. to export crude oil. It simply provides the option needed for barrels to be used in the areas where they are needed most.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time so the Republicans can have another speaker.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) at the request of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), who is my original Democrat sponsor.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support and as a cosponsor of H.R. 702, which lifts the ban on crude oil exports.

Modern advances in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have allowed the United States access to large deposits of crude oil and natural gas. Last year our country produced over 350 million barrels of crude oil, and that number is steadily increasing.

The crude oil in our deposits is lighter and sweeter than the traditional heavy crude oil our refineries process. The export ban hinders our access to international markets that need the sweeter type of crude and that have the refinement infrastructure for it.

I am convinced that lifting the outdated crude oil export ban will create jobs and economic opportunities for our communities as we strive for greater energy independence.

In the great State of Texas, lifting the export ban is estimated to increase the annual GDP by over \$7.1 billion and create over 40,000 new supply chain jobs.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BARTON. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. HINOJOSA. According to the Government Accountability Office, removing export restrictions will create employment opportunities, expand trade, and lower gasoline prices.

The economic and political landscape has evolved since the ban's inception in the 1970s. I am confident that now is the time to repeal the ban on the export of crude oil to increase our economic and energy competitiveness.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 702.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 702.

In the past 10 years, the United States has undergone an energy revolution. Our production of oil and gas has far exceeded all analysis or prediction. The success in the field has materialized into jobs in our district in the Houston area, both in the chemical and the refining industries.

The price of oil dropped from \$100 a barrel to \$45 a barrel. Gasoline prices have fallen from \$4 per gallon to less than \$2 in Houston.

I have represented our refinery complexes for many years. All of these benefited our economy and the consumer.

Unfortunately, the success has brought hardship upon the upstream producers. The energy sector, which led our country out of the recession, has now laid off approximately 150,000 folks. Bloomberg estimated that 40 percent of those layoffs were in Texas.

I know the oil patch is facing a tough and difficult time, and I want to help. That is why it is very difficult for me to oppose this bill today.

I support crude oil exports while protecting our domestic manufacturing jobs, including refining. We have the resource. We should use as much as possible here at home and sell what is left.

I am a legislator who would like to solve this problem, and I like working across the party lines to get results. In fact, I worked with my good friend from Texas, JOE BARTON, on many issues during our years in Congress. In fact, JOE and I sat together for years at the Texas A&M football games until we realized A&M would lose when we sat next to each other. So last Saturday, when they beat Mississippi State, we sat a ways apart so we didn't jinx them.

For months, I talked with Representative BARTON about the crude export issue. The crude oil export ban has been in place since 1975. In the seventies, the United States was in a tough

spot, and we put the ban in place to protect our national interests.

That is more than 40 years of legislative history. Before we throw all of that away, we should make sure we have a policy that will make sense for the next 40 years.

I am hoping we can craft a bill that would create a process at the Bureau of Industry and Security within the Department of Commerce that would establish an authorization and reporting requirements for crude oil.

Crude oil is a valuable national resource, and the government should have some oversight as to where and when we send it overseas.

We export liquefied natural gas through a process developed at the Department of Energy. I have not been a fan of that process, but we have worked to improve it. We should have some basic requirements at the Department of Commerce to oversee crude.

Unlike LNG, crude is a raw commodity. Unlike refined products, raw crude oil doesn't have value added. Our refiners add value to that, and we export that refined product. So those are jobs created in our community.

Building LNG terminals and exporting refined product creates good-paying jobs and lots of capital expenditure. If exporting crude is the right policy, then let's do it correctly. Let's maximize the benefits for the United States.

Let's make sure U.S. crude doesn't end up in the hands of North Korea or any of our other foes. We need to know where this resource is going, how much of it is being sent, and how often it is being sent there.

We need to ensure that, if at any time, a potential bad actor enters the marketplace; the Department of Commerce has the ability to enforce the law.

The Department of Commerce is not an obstacle to exports.

In fact, I have struggled to find a more industry-friendly government agency.

The Department of Commerce has approved every application to export oil in the last five years.

That's 138 permits.

What's more impressive is Commerce approves 99 percent of all export applications, regardless of product.

Now, I agree that the Department could approve permits more efficiently but that's something we can legislate.

That's a "fix" I can support and believe would help our upstream producers.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find that compromise.

I did not want to oppose this bill but without changes it is not in the best interest of our country.

The time to address exports is now but we cannot just open the tap and hope for the best.

I do not want the United States to become a resource nation and I certainly do not want to go back to the days of the 1970s.

I look forward to working on this issue again and hope that a reasonable, commonsense approach can be reached.

I want folks in all sectors to get back to work.

For these reasons, I am forced to oppose H.R. 702 and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds to respond to what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) just said.

The whole concept of this bill is to let willing buyers interact with willing sellers in a free market, transparent fashion.

If you subject the bill to some sort of a discretionary permitting requirement, as one of Mr. GENE GREEN's amendments would have done, you gut the bill. You destroy the entire purpose of the bill.

So as much as I respect my good friend from Houston, Texas, I respectfully have to object to that amendment.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the committee.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I commend Chairman Emeritus Barton's tremendous leadership on this issue.

I rise today in strong support of the bill, bipartisan in nature, which will create thousands of American jobs, generate billions of dollars in revenues to States and locals, and use our Nation's natural resources as a counterbalance to the rogue actors currently dominating world oil markets.

American energy brings security and independence to the world and jobs and economic development to the United States.

It makes no sense that Iranian oil will soon be permitted to flow, but American-made energy is left untapped.

It is time to end the outdated restrictions on the export of U.S. oil and, instead, work to create and protect tens of thousands of U.S. jobs, enhance our national security, and help keep prices at the pump affordable for all consumers across the country.

American energy brings growth, prosperity, security, and independence to the United States and our allies. Our Nation should counter Iran and create thousands of U.S. jobs in the process.

Please vote for H.R. 702.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time there is on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 20½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 24 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great State of New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), one of our original cosponsors and a strong proponent of this bill.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate his work on this important proposition.

Mr. Chairman, for almost my entire life, the Nation has worked under prevailing science that said we have reached peak energy, we are out, that we have to plan for the future because we have no more oil.

Two years ago a discovery was found in New Mexico that will provide more oil from that one find than has been produced in our State from its entire history through the entire geographic part of New Mexico.

The science was a lie. We are finding oil.

What is happening right now is that the refineries use a heavy sour crude. The new finds in shale are producing light sweet, which is more valuable. It is easier to refine.

Yet, that light sweet oil is sitting in the pipelines in New Mexico, trying to get to Houston. It is selling at \$17 below the market cost because there is no destination.

The Baltics have said they would use our oil, they would put our workers back to work. But this law prevents it. The law in place, H.R. 702, simply says: Open that door and put Americans back to work, Americans driving trucks, Americans at the convenient stores. Americans everywhere get the jobs.

The idea that this somehow undercuts jobs is absolutely a frivolous idea to present on this House floor.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, over the past couple of months, I have worked tirelessly to find a reasonable compromise with the sponsor of H.R. 702, my friend and colleague from Texas (Mr. BARTON), that would allow me and others with similarly situated constituencies to support this bill.

Although I share the concerns of many of my Democratic colleagues on how this bill might impact the environment and climate change, I have always stated that I believe in the all-of-the-above energy approach that balances environmental concerns and economic opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday in the Rules Committee I advocated for an open rule process that would have allowed Democrats to offer amendments that would reflect priorities and concerns of the minority party.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I myself submitted an amendment that would have expanded access for minority- and women-owned firms to more fully participate in the energy supply chain, which we know will be greatly enhanced if the export ban is lifted.

Mr. Chairman, although my friends in the environmental community wouldn't agree, in my district, we say: Oil is not just a commodity. Oil is indeed an economic opportunity.

□ 1030

Mr. Chairman, my most pressing concern is making sure up front and from the beginning that minority firms would be part of the pipeline economy and would directly benefit from vendor and contracting opportunities that lifting this ban would create. Instead, Mr. Chairman, despite positive rhetoric from members of the majority party, a closed rule was adopted.

While my comprehensive amendment was not allowed, Members are asked to vote now on Trojan horse amendments that would do nothing to actually benefit minorities and women as my far-reaching amendment was designed to do. Rather than shielding the majority party from charges of creating a multi-billion-dollar boondoggle for the energy industry, today there is not much in this bill as currently drafted that I can point to as really benefiting all segments of the American population.

As I have said time and time and time again, cut us in or cut it out. Cut us in or cut it out. Cut women in or cut it out. Cut the minorities in or cut it out.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, we will put the gentleman from Illinois down as undecided on the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES), who is the chairman of the Republican Study Committee and a member of the committee. He is from the home of the Fightin' Texas Aggies.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 702.

H.R. 702 results in five key benefits:

Number one, it benefits the American consumer with resulting overall lower energy prices. This particularly benefits lower-income and lower-middle-income Americans, providing greater financial security for these hardworking families.

Number two, it benefits the American producer and allows them to further reinvest in our domestic energy infrastructure, furthering our energy security and American jobs.

Number three, it benefits our geopolitical standing and strengthens ties with our global friends and allies, and it hurts those countries like Russia, Iran, and Venezuela who are opposed to American interests around the world.

Number four, it benefits the downstream refining community, as lower prices will stimulate volume demand for refined products. This volume gives them more financial capital to hire skilled American workers and to reinvest in their operation.

Number five, it strengthens our national defense by enhancing the Maritime Security Program, which supports a robust Merchant Marine for use by our military during times of international crisis.

These are five critical reasons why everybody wins after we lift the ban.

The President has threatened to veto this commonsense bill, and hard-

working American families all over this country should ask: Mr. President, why are you putting the interests of Iranian terrorists ahead of the interests of hardworking American families?

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge my colleagues to reject the Amash amendment and to support H.R. 702.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I thank our ranking member.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this legislation for several reasons. First, except in very narrow circumstances, the bill does not allow any limits—not any limits—on exports of domestic oil regardless of potential threats to our national security, and that is our top responsibility as Members—our national security.

For decades there has been a bipartisan commitment in Congress and several administrations to energy independence and reducing our reliance on foreign oil. Given the continued dependence of our economy and our military on oil, energy independence remains critical to our national defense. But with little consideration of any national security implications, this bill allows unlimited exports of a critical strategic resource.

Mr. Chairman, the United States still imports 26 percent of the oil we consume and remains the world's top importer. Every barrel exported under this bill would have to be replaced by a barrel imported from elsewhere, leaving us more reliant on foreign countries.

The bill allows the President to limit exports only if he declares an emergency under the National Emergencies Act or the International Emergency Economic Powers Act or if he is directed by the International Energy Agency to respond to an international supply crisis. Outside of these narrow circumstances, the bill permits no restrictions on exports of crude oil. This means strategic considerations such as decreasing our reliance on imports from unfriendly regimes can play no part in deciding whether to allow exports. I don't think that is a good deal at all.

The bill also will have drastic impacts on the U.S. shipbuilding industry, tanker fleet, and refineries, all of which are critical to our national defense. Congress has recognized for nearly 100 years that it benefits our national security to maintain a robust domestic shipbuilding industry and commercial shipping fleet. For example, crude exports from Alaska which were legalized in 1995 must be carried on U.S.-flagged vessels crewed by Americans. This bill contains no requirement that exports be carried on U.S.-flagged tankers.

Under current law, the President can allow exports of crude oil if he finds

they are in the national interest. This bill would allow unlimited exports regardless of whether they are in the national security interests of the United States or not. I think that this is a slippery slope.

Commander Kirk Lippold, the retired Navy Captain of the USS *Cole*, testified before Congress earlier this year.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Ms. ESHOO. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, the retired Navy Captain of the USS *Cole* said the following: "The national security implications of changing the existing policy regulating the export of crude oil are rife with unknown and probably unintended consequences that must be fully considered and addressed."

I agree with Commander Lippold. This bill largely ignores those important national security concerns, and it is why I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), from the energy capital of the world, Houston, Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, the administration has worked very hard to make sure the export ban on crude oil from Iran is lifted. But the administration has threatened to veto this bill that would lift the crude oil sanction ban on American oil. That doesn't make any sense to me—help the Iranians sell their excess crude oil abroad, but prevent America from selling our excess crude oil abroad. That is nutty.

Why does the President prefer the Iranians over Americans? It doesn't make any sense. The President should at least give us the same deal that he gave the Iranians: lift sanctions on them, lift the sanctions on American oil. We have a surplus. We need to sell it. "Use all we can and sell the rest." That is the motto.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I believe we are lopsided on the time a little again, so I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Could we ask what the time differential is, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 20½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I am very honored to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON). Chairman UPTON is the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee from the great State of Michigan and my good friend.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I really thank Chairman Emeritus BARTON for

doing a really significant, good job on getting this bill bipartisan support and working so hard over the last 18 months or so, and both in the last Congress and this Congress, to get this bill ready for the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, much has changed since the ban on crude oil was put in place in 1975. At that time, Congress and President Ford were responding to the Arab oil embargo crisis in an effort to protect this country from the unwanted impacts of the unstable global crude oil market. But we got good news today. Times have changed, and one of the biggest threats to the American energy boom today is not an international actor but, rather, our own ban on oil exports.

Lifting the crude oil export ban is a win for our economy, yes, it is. Study after study has shown that lifting the ban would actually lower prices at the pump, create thousands of jobs, generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits, and strengthen our geopolitical influence across the globe. It will actually also reduce the deficit by more than \$1 billion with additional oil royalties. These are real benefits that will be felt not only in southwest Michigan, my district, but across the country; yet, somehow, this administration does not support this thoughtful solution.

Let's look at the benefits. According to the nonpartisan GAO, lifting the ban could lower prices by 1.5 to 13 cents a gallon, real savings that add up for every family's budget. Some estimates suggest that it could support the creation of an average of 394,000 jobs. Additionally, the bill before us would boost royalty payments, as I indicated, from Federal oil and gas leases. Collectively, all of these gains provide the making of a success story that would greatly benefit our economy at a time of great uncertainty.

This administration often likes to say that they are for an all-of-the-above energy policy, but the rhetoric, indeed, falls well short of reality. It doesn't make much sense that the White House is gung ho to lift the export ban in Iran, but when it comes to this country, the answer is "no."

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, this bipartisan bill would strengthen our hand in foreign diplomacy at a time when America has lost its standing on the global stage. By exporting our excess crude oil, we can help our allies seeking a safe and secure supply of energy. Instead of being beholden to OPEC and Russia for their energy needs, they can instead rely on their friends, the United States of America.

Creating jobs, keeping energy affordable, boosting energy production, and

improving our energy security—that is what this bill does. I would urge my colleagues to support the Barton bill in a vote later on this morning.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 702. Not only does this bill incentivize more oil development while ignoring its impact on our climate, it also essentially guarantees billions more in profits for oil companies while doing virtually nothing to help consumers.

There are many more important issues that we should be spending our time on to actually help American families, like raising the minimum wage and making college more affordable, but instead we are passing a bill to help oil companies make more money.

Additionally, section 3 of the bill prohibits any Federal official from taking any action that could potentially restrict the export of oil. This broad language could seriously undermine critical health and safety responsibilities of the Federal Government.

For example, under current law, the Secretary of Transportation has the authority to shut down a crude oil pipeline if it poses a threat to life, property, or the environment. But what if an oil pipeline leading to an export terminal were in imminent danger of rupturing? Would the Secretary still have the authority to shut down that line, or would that action be considered a restriction on exporting crude oil under this bill?

Mr. Chairman, these are not hypothetical questions. This authority was recently used in my district to shut down line 901 of the Plains All American Pipeline when it ruptured last May. Since line 901 is the only way for the nearby offshore oil platforms to transport their oil to refineries, these platforms have had to shut down production entirely. Nearly 5 months after the spill, line 901 remains shut down, and there is no indication that it will be restarted in the near future.

It is not hard to imagine a similar event happening again, and the Secretary's authority to protect public health, property, and the environment during such an event must not be undermined.

□ 1045

Yet, if this bill were law, the Secretary's authority could be preempted entirely by section 3 of this bill. In other words, the bill could create a scenario in which the perceived right of oil companies to export their oil supersedes our very real responsibility to protect public health and safety.

The American people deserve better. This is a fatally flawed bill and sets the wrong priorities.

I urge its defeat.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), from District One of the great Pelican State, the distinguished Republican whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend from Texas for yielding, but also for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor and building a strong bipartisan coalition to finally lift the ban on oil exports.

Mr. Chairman, this is a relic of the 1970s that doesn't fit with today's world economy, but it also doesn't fit with the revolution that has happened in American energy because of American technology.

We have an abundance of natural resources now and an abundance of oil. We literally could be the Saudi Arabia of energy. Yet, there is a law that is on the books that bans the ability of the United States to export its own oil. There is no other nation in the world that has that limitation on their ability to sell that natural resource.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when the President is actually supporting this horrible deal with Iran that, among other things, allows Iran to export their oil to the world markets, the President at the same time is saying he opposes this bill that allows America to export its oil.

What is at stake, Mr. Chairman? What is at stake under this bill, if this bill passes, is it will create over 800,000 American jobs, good American jobs, here at home.

If this bill passes, Mr. Chairman, we can actually create over \$800 million to reduce the deficit, deficit reduction, just by passing this bill.

What is also at stake, Mr. Chairman, if we pass this bill? We can help our allies around the world who don't want to have to get their oil from countries like Russia, where Vladimir Putin is using energy as a weapon against our friends. They can now get that energy from us.

Creating American jobs along the way, everything about this says yes. It is time to lift this relic of the 1970s. Let's finally allow American oil to be exported on world markets when we have such an abundance and we have the ability to create hundreds of thousands of new American jobs along the way.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for yielding the time.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 702. The bill is an irresponsible giveaway to Big Oil at the expense of America's national security, at the expense of American consumers, and our longstanding policy of working towards energy independence.

Now, our current policy is not a ban. You can call it a ban, but it is not a ban. It allows and promotes oil exports to strategically important allies, to places in the national interest. It is a smart policy.

But now Big Oil wants free rein to ship America's natural resources to countries not in our national interest. This bill will eviscerate our thoughtful policy.

Despite assertions that the oil will go to allies in Europe and elsewhere, that is not supported by the facts. Who is most likely to benefit? Experts say China. The Energy Information Administration projects that China's oil consumption will double over the next 2 decades.

China has been very aggressive all across the globe in exploiting and locking down natural resources. They have gone to Africa. They have gone to South America. While we have been fighting battles in Afghanistan, they have been locking down contracts for natural resources in Afghanistan.

At the same time that America is dealing with Chinese cyber espionage and their geopolitical confrontations with our allies and the U.S., why would we help China gain a strategic foothold on America's natural resources? I would think that America's national security interests would compel you to defeat this bill.

You should also vote this bill down and side with American consumers instead and American jobs. America is still heavily dependent on imports of crude oil. We still import 25 percent today.

Any claims that sending American oil overseas would help consumers in America is entirely unsupported, no matter how many times they say it. Instead, what the studies show is that exporting American oil would feed the uncertainty of oil markets and likely increase costs to American consumers.

Back home in Tampa right now you can go to the gas station and fill up your tank at about \$1.99 per gallon. So it defies logic to say that changing this policy that is working for America right now would really lower the price. I don't think so.

American jobs are also very likely to take a hit if this bill becomes law. Why? Because of the important jobs in the refining industry, the shipping industry. Those are American jobs. Side with the American jobs.

This bill is very poor public policy. Exports will be determined only by Big Oil to serve the interests of Big Oil, ceding complete control of this strategic national asset.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Just to close, Mr. Chairman, the cost to U.S. consumers, our policy of energy inde-

pendence, our national security interests compel a "no" vote on this bill.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Cincinnati, the Buckeye State of Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I have the honor of leading the House Small Business Committee. A few months back we held a hearing on this very topic. We heard from small businesses about how this ban is holding them back. That is the untold story of this. This ban is hurting small businesses all across this country.

America is now the largest producer of oil and gas in the world. Lifting this decades-old ban is an opportunity to jump-start the economy. It would help 1 million Americans find work. It would increase the GDP. It would narrow the trade deficit, attract new capital to the U.S., and stabilize the global energy supply.

If America is going to lead the world in the 21st century, let's not keep one hand tied behind our back. Let's replace outdated energy policies with ones that are forward-thinking, ones that will create new jobs in a new American century.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman, this bill is about two things. It is about jobs and it is about national security. It will give us an opportunity to get Congress to join in with my good friend from North Dakota, KEVIN CRAMER, and BRAD ASHFORD from Nebraska, because this is about jobs and nobody needs jobs more than African Americans.

The hardest hit on unemployment is African American males. This allows us to be a part of being able to get language in that will help African American males get the kind of apprenticeship training with the Teamsters, with the AFL-CIO, with the operating engineers, all of those unions and contractors who are rebuilding this infrastructure for this oil.

Now, on national security, make no mistake about it, ladies and gentlemen. What do you think Russia is doing over in the Middle East? They want dominance over energy in the world, and he who controls the energy in the world controls the world. That is why they want to prop up Syria, because that is the seaport to get it out of the Middle East.

Stand up for jobs for the American people and protect the world from Russia. Vote to lift the ban on the oil exports.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say "amen" to what the gentleman from Georgia just said.

Mr. Chairman, what time is remaining on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 15 minutes remaining. The

gentleman from New Jersey has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the entire delegation from the great State of North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the original cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman.

I have often said I don't know why it takes 36 Texans to do one person's job.

I have to tell you, I was prepared to give a great speech and then I listened to my friend from Georgia and, quite honestly, I feel inadequate to the task.

Because you stated it so eloquently and so beautifully, and I am committed to exactly what you talked about.

So maybe what I will try to do instead in my remaining seconds is remind us of the context that it was 72 years ago this week that the Yom Kippur War broke out that led to U.S. aid to Israel, which led to a 5 percent reduction out of OPEC of oil, which led to the very issue we are talking about today, that this historical context in a national security context is not irrelevant.

Let's not, I would say, let history repeat itself, but let's use the peaceful tools of energy development while creating jobs in America replace the weapons of war in Europe and in the Middle East. Let's use our influence for good by selling this American-made product that is produced by American workers, and let's do it in a bipartisan fashion today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman. I am normally on the opposite side of the gentleman on the congressional baseball team and normally with Congressman DOYLE. So I hope we can win this one against Congressman MIKE DOYLE. So I thank the gentleman for the opportunity.

Two or three points I would like to make, Mr. Chairman.

One, in Ohio, lifting this ban means 16,000 jobs in Ohio, almost \$3 billion in investment. Our friends, the operating engineers and the laborers who are going to do that work, are supportive of this bill.

I know we have some issues with the refineries, and I think we need to continue to work on that and see if we can fix that issue.

We have a number of studies that say the savings to the American consumer will be anywhere from 2 cents a gallon all the way up to 12 cents a gallon. Columbia University, Brookings, Aspen, Resources for the Future, all are saying this is going to reduce the cost of gas, which is a direct benefit for our consumers and our constituents who

need it as we see this huge economic squeeze for the middle class.

Lastly, I have been sitting on the Defense Appropriations Committee now for a number of years, and this issue here can directly benefit our ability to deal with what is happening in the Middle East.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BARTON. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio on the understanding that he will not play his best game against us next summer.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I yield back. No. I am just kidding.

I also would also like to say, sitting on the Defense Appropriations Committee, we sit in these classified briefings and we see what is happening with Russia, we see what Putin is doing, we see what is happening in the Middle East, the Ukraine.

We need to export this oil. We need to export our natural gas. We need to have a bigger footprint in the world so that we can make sure that our allies have access to consistent energy flows coming here from the United States and creating jobs here in the United States.

Michele Flournoy, CEO and Founder of the Center for New American Security, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy under President Obama says:

By lifting the ban on U.S. exports of crude oil, U.S. policymakers have an extraordinary opportunity to enhance not only our economic vitality, but also our national security.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

I support removing restrictions on the export of crude oil from the United States. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 702.

Current export laws are outdated, as we have heard. Since these laws were last visited nearly 40 years ago, U.S. oil production has increased significantly and the United States is now the largest producer of oil and gas.

Studies have shown that lifting the current ban on crude oil exports would create jobs, many in the rural areas. We in our part of the world have seen the benefits that domestic drilling can provide by looking at our neighboring State of North Dakota.

We need to do everything we can to support the use and production of domestic energy. H.R. 702 is an important part of that.

Following this bill's approval, I hope all Members of Congress will continue to support an all-of-the-above domestic energy production strategy by considering the national security and the economic development benefits of not just oil production, but of biofuel production and related products.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support H.R. 702.

□ 1100

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Sugar Land, Texas (Mr. OLSON), a member of the committee and a sponsor of the bill.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chair, this picture shows why we have to end this ban on crude exports.

In October 1973, OPEC cut us off. We were getting 1.2 million barrels per day from OPEC, and that dropped down to a scant 19,000. Gas prices doubled. If you had to gas your lawn mower, you had to get in line behind cars.

Because of American innovation, that world is gone. We are now awash in American crude oil. OPEC's days of dominance are over; but we can't deliver a knockout blow until we end the ban on American crude exports, which we will do in a few short minutes. When that happens, American families will have lower prices at the pump. Thug oil nations like Venezuela, Russia, and Iran will lose bite.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BARTON. I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chair, we will create thousands and thousands and thousands of good-paying American jobs.

I ask my colleagues vote today to end the ban on crude oil exports.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great Buckeye State of Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his extraordinary work on this bill.

This bill is important for our national security. It is important for jobs. We need to end the oil export ban so that we can export oil that has been generated as part of this energy revolution in this country that is going to be great for jobs and help our national security partners around the world.

Let's make the world safer. Let's give America more jobs. Let's end the oil export ban. Please support this bill today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, this is ill-advised legislation.

My friends on the other side of the aisle claim 800,000 jobs, a million jobs. They don't have any real defined ability to provide such an estimate. Actually, this is a number that is made up because, as some of the speakers have acknowledged, there will be offsetting job losses as a result of what is going to happen, for example, in the refining industry or what is going to happen in terms of some of the transport.

But that is beside the point. We actually have a policy that is working. There will come a time, perhaps, when it makes sense in a strategic matter to make an adjustment.

Right now, the President has the latitude to be able to help some of our strategic partners. He has that flexibility. We are awash in oil in this country, and to expect that somehow exporting more of it is going to make a dramatic impact at the pump here is a pipe dream. It won't. It might make a modest impact.

What we could do is provide a benefit to the large oil companies as part of a larger package that would help everybody. We have expiring tax provisions, for instance, dealing with the production tax credit, dealing with wind and solar that actually create far more jobs than will be found in the refining and in the oil production. And these are good, family-wage jobs all across the country.

Let's put together a package that speaks to alternative energy continuity, that speaks to conservation, that speaks to a long-term strategy that is a win-win. I am absolutely confident that Mr. PALLONE and Mr. BARTON could sit down and deal with a package that would have far more benefit for America.

If you are going to hand out another goodie to the oil companies, let's have a more comprehensive approach that meets our comprehensive energy needs. This bill doesn't do it.

Mr. BARTON. May I ask how much time remains, Mr. Chair?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New Jersey has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chair, as some of my colleagues have mentioned, the ban on crude oil exports is an outdated policy. It was 1975 that it was enacted. A lot has changed since 1975.

I believe this bipartisan, common-sense solution is needed to develop a comprehensive effort to deal with our energy policy in America that deals with both our short-term and our long-term needs. I think we have to use all the tools in our energy toolbox, and I think this is part of that effort.

New technologies have provided the United States with an abundance of crude oil that is only continuing in nature, combined with our renewables and our other energy sources.

We need to understand that this is about stimulating our economy and creating jobs, and it also has a very important geopolitical influence on bad actors, like Russia and Iran, who use energy as a political weapon.

I understand there are concerns by my colleagues about eliminating this

ban and the negative impacts it will have. I have some concerns with small and midsized domestic refineries, which I have represented.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chair, this is a work in progress. We obviously need to address a number of other issues with the Senate.

I remind my colleagues, this is important. It is about jobs, the economy, and providing alternatives of energy to Russia and Iran, and that is why I support this legislation as we continue to work together in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the Golden Gate State of California (Mr. HUNTER), a distinguished subcommittee chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I am voting for this bill overall.

In California, we don't drill anymore, and we are cutting down on our refineries even, but this is important for the Nation.

One big part of this bill is the Maritime Security Program. If you don't know it, over 90 percent of all the stuff that we transfer to Iraq, Afghanistan, anywhere where there are American troops—all of their gear, their tanks, their weapons, their ammo, everything, for the most part—is shipped on American-flag commercial vessels.

Of the 50,000 cargo ships that travel the ocean every day, 79 of those are American-flag. That is it, 79 out of 50,000. Sixty of those are on call when America needs them to transfer our gear to our troops overseas.

When I was a lieutenant in the Marine Corps, on my second tour in 2004, I drove down to the San Diego Port with my Marine battery, and we loaded up all the equipment that we would then fall in on in Iraq 2 months later.

Without the Maritime Security Program plus-up that is in this bill, we would not be able to go fight wars. We would not be able to move our equipment. We would not be able to support our troops.

This is a national security bill. It is not only national security because it is energy security, but it is national security because that is how we support our troops overseas is with the Maritime Security Program, which this bill pluses up.

I just want to say thank you to the chairman and everybody who supports this.

I would urge my colleagues to not just support energy security, but support national security.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I had planned to support this bill, as a matter of fact, as a cosponsor; but since I have been unable to remove myself from the cosponsorship, I wish to speak on the record regarding my opposition to this particular bill.

While I believe that Congress should consider the potential for all energy sources to meet our Nation's current and future needs, I believe that this legislation lacks the proper safeguards and oversight for such a major change in our Nation's energy policy. The bill does not appropriately consider the implications of our national security, the economy, consumers, and, especially, the environment.

Exporting crude oil does not increase demand for oil or definitively increase the number of U.S. jobs in the energy sector. On the contrary, many U.S. jobs that are downstream in the domestic refining process may be threatened.

In addition, exporting oil to foreign countries for refining purposes would likely increase overall CO₂ emissions.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, the bottom line is that we must consider many factors related to our energy portfolio before we lift any current restrictions.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 702. Since I am unable to remove myself as a cosponsor of the legislation, I would like to speak on the record regarding my opposition to this particular bill.

While I believe that Congress should consider the potential for all energy sources to meet our nation's current and future needs, I believe that this legislation lacks the proper safeguards and oversight for such a major change in our nation's energy policy. The bill does not appropriately consider the implications for our national security, the economy, consumers, and especially the environment. Exporting crude oil does not increase demand for oil or definitively increase the number of U.S. jobs in the energy sector. On the contrary, many U.S. jobs that are downstream in the domestic refining process may be threatened.

In addition, exporting oil to foreign countries for refining purposes will likely increase overall CO₂ emissions, thus amplifying the impacts of climate change. Facing the challenge of climate change requires us to be responsible and accountable for our own natural resources. This bill does not provide any recourse to mitigate or even examine these potential impacts, and thus ignores this responsibility entirely.

It should be noted that the Obama Administration has made every effort to compromise by easing export restrictions where appropriate after careful review. The Commerce Department recently approved limited crude oil exchanges with Mexico. However, the President believes that unilaterally lifting the export

ban is excessive, and I join him in his opposition. Lifting the crude oil ban for short-term gains with no accounting of the costs that will be incurred is ill-advised and short-sighted.

The bottom line is that we must consider many factors related to our energy portfolio before we lift any current restrictions. Without serious deliberation and oversight of the potential environmental and economic impacts of such a significant shift in our national energy policy, I must urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Peach State of Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I come to the floor today to express my support of H.R. 702, much-needed legislation which will lift the arbitrary ban on the export of one of our country's most abundant natural resources: crude oil.

The current ban on exports is a relic of a different time before we as a nation knew just how much crude oil we have stored in the earth across this country. We are entirely too dependent on foreign oil sources, particularly from countries who have no regard for the American economy.

Today is different. In fact, from the period between 2000 and 2013, U.S. production of crude oil increased by nearly fourteenfold, from 250,000 barrels per day to 3.5 million. With this large amount of excess capacity, we can sell our oil to the global markets, which will bring U.S. crude prices in line with global prices, and global prices will go down because of the increased supply. No less than 68 percent of consumers' cost of gasoline—and 57 percent for diesel fuel—come from the price of the source: crude oil.

Numerous studies have shown that the increased global supply will lead to lower prices at the pump. Not only will consumers have more money to spend on school supplies, food, clothing, and other household staples, but the prices of these goods will go down because the cost to transport them from manufacturer to store will decrease.

Possibly, more importantly, we have to consider the security implications of allowing the export of crude.

We are in the position of showing the world that we can provide a stable source of energy to friendly countries around the globe. Our supplies will dilute the market share of unfriendly countries and weaken their grip on our democratic ally nations who have to depend on some of our unfriendly countries for their oil supplies. We can provide an alternative source to those who don't want to support our adversaries and their adversaries.

So I thank my colleagues Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. BARTON for bringing forth this critically important legislation.

I urge my colleagues in the House to vote "yes" on H.R. 702.

Mr. PALLONE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I only have two speakers, myself and Mr. CUELLAR. I believe I have the right to close, so I would ask my friend from New Jersey how many speakers he still has.

Mr. PALLONE. Just myself and Mr. GARAMENDI remain.

Mr. BARTON. Well, at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time remains on my side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 3¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, we have before us a very, very important issue. It is a national security issue. My good friend from San Diego spoke to one part of our Nation's security, and that is the ability of this Nation to move its interests around the world not just with airplanes, but with ships.

Unfortunately, this is a very narrowly constructed piece of legislation that speaks to the interests of the petroleum industry and the many thousands of people who work there. We concede that. But this bill could also be a boon to another part of our Nation's security, and that is our maritime industry. Unfortunately, the bill does not do that.

While it does deal with the Maritime Security Program—and that is good—it does not deal in full potential with what we can do, and that is to require that this strategic asset, oil, be shipped on American-built ships with American mariners. That is not in the bill. It should be. It could be.

If it were, our shipyards and our mariners all around this Nation would have tens of thousands of jobs, and we would secure yet not only the interest of our petroleum industry but, also, the interest of our maritime industry as well as the shipyards upon which this Nation's national defense depends. Put it in the bill. Then let's see how many votes you can get.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), my chief sponsor, the gentleman that represents south Texas and the Eagle Ford Shale.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. BARTON for the leadership he has provided on this bill.

I rise in support of H.R. 702 that repeals the ban on crude oil. This ban reflects an America of yesterday. It is our job, as Members of Congress, that our laws reflect the America of tomorrow.

If you look at why this is important, this ban hurts the economy and prevents the creation of jobs. This ban im-

poses an estimated \$200 to \$300 billion cost to the economy and discourages domestic, made-in-America crude oil production.

By lifting the ban now, we will create 359,000 new jobs. How do I know? Because I represent the Eagle Ford and I have seen small-business people, men and women, that work very hard every single day to have this type of job. And I think we owe it to them and across the Nation.

This ban also reduces the Federal direct spending by \$1.4 billion, according to the CBO. So it also helps our deficit. This ban is something that we need to change, and we need to make sure that we lift this ban.

What about gasoline prices? You heard Mr. RYAN. You heard other folks. According to the General Accounting Office, this will bring prices down from 1.5 cents to 13 cents. The CBO says the same thing: 5 cents to 10 cents. The administration's own agency, the Energy Information Administration, says it will bring it down one penny or remain. It doesn't go up. It goes down.

This ban also doesn't allow us to use our powers in foreign policy. Why are we allowing Russia or Iran to dictate what happens in this world? This is why we need to make sure that we support the repealing of this ban.

Now, who supports this? Mr. BARTON, you know it is a bipartisan bill. Democrats and Republicans support this bill, but it is also supported by business, small-business owners, and by some of the labor organizations. We have talked to those labor organizations.

Mr. Chairman, support H.R. 702, a bipartisan bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Chairman, let me point out that the administration, the President, has issued a SAP saying that he would veto this bill. This bill is going nowhere because of that veto and the potential for a veto.

All this legislation does is to give a windfall of \$30 billion in profits to the oil industry, no strings attached, no sacrifices required.

The legislation is opposed by over 40 environmental groups: the United Steelworkers, the IBEW, the BlueGreen Alliance, and the Industrial Energy Consumers of America.

Most importantly, Mr. Chairman, it is supported by the American public who, regardless of party, support investing in refineries at home rather than lifting crude export restrictions. In fact, around 70 percent of voters oppose allowing oil companies to export more U.S. oil.

The Republican majority has spent the whole week doing little more than attacking women's health and assisting Big Oil for their big profits. It is time to come together in the name of energy and national security. In the name of common sense and economic

good sense, I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a very enlightening debate for the last hour. I would say 30 Members of Congress have stood up and spoken either in favor or opposition to the bill.

I want it to be noted that a large number of my friends on the Democratic side have risen in support of the bill. I want to compliment Mr. CUELLAR for his strong leadership in that area. This is a bipartisan bill.

When we do our town hall meetings, Mr. Chairman, person after person stands up and says: Why can't you folks in Congress get along? Why don't you try to be positive? Why don't you try to do what is right for America? Why don't you work together on a bipartisan basis?

Mr. Chairman, that is what this bill does. This is a bipartisan bill.

We have a large number of Democratic cosponsors and a large number of Republicans. This bill will help all 50 States. As Mr. BISHOP and Mr. SCOTT have stated on the Democratic side, it helps low income, it helps minorities, it helps women. It helps every sector of the economy, not just the oil industry, not just the roughnecks, not just the drillers. It helps truck drivers. It helps steelworkers. It helps refinery workers. It even helps computer programmers. You name it, it helps it.

Some estimates are this bill, if enacted, would create as many as a million jobs. We know, for a fact, that the collapse in oil prices in the last year and a half has cost the U.S. economy over 500,000 jobs, 750,000 jobs. Those are real people.

That is not Big Oil, Mr. Chairman. That is people that get up every morning and kiss their wives, hop in their car, go to work and work hard 8, 10, 12 hours a day, get the bills at the end of the month and hope they have enough money to pay the bills. It is blue-collar America. It is not Big Oil. It is everybody in this country, Mr. Chairman.

This bill is a market-based bill: willing buyer, willing seller. The U.S. has the largest oil reserves in the world. We have the capability to be number one in the world. Why on God's green Earth don't we use it? Why are we the only nation in the world that is restricted in one of the blessings that God has endowed our great Nation with?

We could produce, if we wanted to, up to 20 million barrels a day. We are producing right now 9 million barrels a day. U.S. oil can go anywhere in the

world if we allow it to. That is an economic asset. It is a military strategic asset. All we have to do is repeal an archaic law that was passed in 1975 when we couldn't export a barrel of oil if we wanted to. We were importing two-thirds of our oil.

We have a bipartisan bill that helps everybody in America, that is in the economic interests of America, that is in the environmental interests of America, that is in the military strategic interests of America.

Mr. Chairman, let's work together. Let's send this bill to the Senate with strong bipartisan support. God bless America. God bless this great country. Pass H.R. 702.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee on H.R. 702, a bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, which was referred to us on February 4, 2015.

I agreed that the Foreign Affairs Committee might be discharged from further action on this bill so that it could proceed expeditiously to the Floor, subject to the understanding that this waiver does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I respectfully ask that you place our letters on H.R. 702 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Energy and Commerce as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2015.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: Thank you for your assistance regarding H.R. 702, a bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, which was referred to our respective committees on February 4, 2015.

I appreciate your willingness to agree that the Foreign Affairs Committee might be discharged from further action on H.R. 702 so that it can proceed expeditiously to the floor, and I agree that this waiver does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, I would support your request for the appointment of Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will place our letters on H.R. 702 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this legislation.

Increased U.S. energy exports benefit our national security and foreign policy. The Administration has created an absurd situation. While they are lifting sanctions on Iranian crude oil, they are fighting to keep sanctions on American crude oil. It makes no sense.

I am, however, concerned by language that would increase subsidy payments to U.S. shipping companies participating in the “Maritime Security Program.” By increasing our oil exports, as this legislation does, that's already a boon to U.S. shipping. So why the government subsidy?

So I will support an amendment that is to be offered to strike this provision of the bill.

But Mr. Chair, if this maritime subsidy is ultimately part of this legislation, the door is then open to offset it by eliminating yet another damaging subsidy: U.S. cargo preference for international food aid.

Over the past three years, the Foreign Affairs Committee has led efforts to reform U.S. international food aid programs so we could reach more starving people in less time, and for less money.

A stumbling block to this effort has been a requirement in U.S. law that U.S. food aid be shipped on U.S. vessels—even though many of them are foreign-owned. This requirement remains year-after-year despite the fact that the Defense Department has concluded that relieving a portion of our food aid budget from U.S. purchase and shipping requirements would have no effect on U.S. maritime security.

If maintained in this bill, the proposed increase for “Maritime Security Program” payments literally “sinks” the arguments against food aid reform. One wasteful corporate subsidy is bad enough; a second that kills our ability to reform food aid and save lives would be beyond conscience, and something I am confident this body would wisely reject.

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 702, a bipartisan bill to lift the 40-year old, self-imposed, crude oil export ban.

The United States is now among the top oil producing nations in the world. Lifting this export ban will bring us roaring back into the global oil markets at a time when market conditions are particularly competitive.

Contrary to what some of my friends across the aisle may say, this bill would actually lower gas prices here at home. We live in a global economy, and participation in a global market leads to competitive pricing. The non-partisan Government Accountability Office—in addition to the world-renowned analytics firm, HIS—have both determined that enacting this bill will lower gas prices, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and provide a much-needed boost our economy.

With all these benefits, why would we continue to hold onto this export ban? The only reason it was imposed in the first place was in response to the Arab oil embargo. That was over 40 years ago. It is prudent to move past

these decades-old issues, and instead focus on the issues we face today.

Today, we are facing a dangerous nuclear deal with Iran—a deal of President Obama's making. And one component of this terrible deal is that sanctions will be lifted on Iran so that they will be able to access a much larger portion of the world oil market, yielding billions of dollars to their coffers. Why would we make a deal with Iran—a deal that allows them to export their oil so they can fund terrorism around the world—but still hold onto this self-imposed ban?

Without this bill, the U.S. would be missing out on billions in direct revenue to the Treasury, not to mention the secondary revenue streams from improved economic conditions.

Let's pass this bill to unleash economic growth. Let's pass this bill to create hundreds of thousands of much-needed jobs. Let's pass this bill to counterbalance the exports of Iran, Russia, and the OPEC nations.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bipartisan bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss H.R. 702, a bill to "Adapt to Changing Crude Oil Market Conditions."

H.R. 702 repeals the law prohibiting the exports of crude oil that has been on the books for more than 40 years, a response to the Arab Oil Embargo led by OPEC in 1973 that sent oil prices soaring and inflicted substantial damage on the American economy.

Let me express my appreciation to Chairman Emeritus BARTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for their leadership and commitment to American energy independence, economic growth, national security, and expanding opportunities and diversifying the energy sector workforce.

I support H.R. 702 because it holds the promise of moving our country towards energy independence, create good-paying jobs, lowering gasoline prices, promoting our geopolitical interests, and strengthening our defense capabilities.

But I strongly am "pro-jobs," "pro-growing economy," "pro-sustainable environment and development," and for homeland and national security.

That is why I carefully consider each energy legislative proposal brought to the floor on its individual merits and support them when they are sound, balanced, fair, and promote the national interest.

As the Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the nation, I have always been mindful of the importance and have strongly advocated for national energy policies that will make our nation more energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our nation's economy strong.

The Eighteenth Congressional District, which I represent and is home to Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Chevron Phillips, BP Corporation of North America, Marathon Oil, Enterprise Products Partners (Oil and Gas Pipelines), and Halliburton (Oilfield Services), and many others.

My constituents have a strong interest in policies that maintain or enhance the competitiveness of American petroleum energy business in the world oil markets.

Mr. Chair, the world is very different than it was in 1973 when the ban on crude oil exports was adopted.

And much of the change we see today is attributable to America's unconventional oil boom.

U.S. crude production is now more than 11 million barrels per day according to the U.S. DOE's Energy Information Administration, up from 7 million barrel per day in 2008.

And it is estimated that U.S. output will exceed 18 million barrels a day by 2040.

Crude inventories are at an 80-year high, and imports have declined nearly 30 percent between 2005 and 2013.

Mr. Chair, paradoxically, continuation of the crude oil export ban may pose one of the biggest threats to this U.S. production boom and to the economy.

This is because increased production has led to a substantial decline in oil prices over the past year and the resulting decrease in revenues has forced U.S. producers in my district and elsewhere to slash investment and cancel projects.

Since last autumn the industry has cut more than 125,000 jobs, including many in my district.

I have met and know many of the employers and workers affected by industry job reductions.

Lifting the crude oil export ban would offer American crude oil producers new markets for their product and would mean fewer layoffs.

Studies by the highly respected Brookings Institution and other organizations suggest that the economic benefits to the nation of repealing the ban on crude oil exports would be substantial.

Specifically, it is predicted that repeal of the crude oil export ban will: 1. generate over \$1.4 billion in revenue to the federal treasury over the next 10 years from oil and gas leases, according to the Congressional Budget Office; 2. lower gasoline prices by 13 cents per gallon according to the Government Accountability Office; 3. support up to 964,000 additional American jobs; 4. allow the United States to help its allies, enhance its energy security, and weaken the influence and market power of OPEC and Russia; and 5. strengthen the 60-ship Maritime Security Fleet, assuring that United States flag ships and crews will be available to provide support to the military in defense of our national interests and our allies.

The economic benefits projected to be derived from a repeal of the crude oil export ban are stunning in their magnitude: 1. 300,000 additional jobs by 2020; 2. \$5.8 billion savings in fuel costs each year between 2015 and 2035; 3. \$70 billion in additional investment in U.S. exploration, development, and production of crude oil between 2015 and 2020; 4. 500,000 barrels per day increase in domestic crude oil production in 2020; 5. \$38 billion in additional economic activity in 2020; 6. \$13.5 billion in additional federal, state, and local revenue in 2020; and a 7. \$22 billion reduction in the U.S. trade deficit in 2020.

It is estimated that in my own congressional district, lifting the ban would generate an additional 500 jobs and inject an additional \$275 million into the local economy, resulting in an increase in government revenues in the amount of \$227.7 million.

Another positive impact of repealing the crude oil export ban is that the U.S. crude oil

production would increase 1.2 million barrels per day average between 2016 and 2030.

Additionally, manufacturing jobs are expected to increase by an average of 37,000 per year through 2025 and analysts predict that construction jobs will increase 217,000 in the peak year 2017, while related professional services jobs would grow by an average of 148,000 per year.

Repeal of the crude oil export ban is expected to spur capital investment in machinery, exploration, and development by \$7 billion in 2020.

The gross domestic product would increase by nearly \$73 billion in 2016 and by at least \$134 billion in 2018.

Total government revenues would increase by a combined \$1.3 trillion between 2016 and 2030.

The revenue generated translates to an expected average annual increase of \$2,500 in disposable income per household, additional jobs for American workers, and lower gasoline prices for American consumers.

As it relates to our geopolitical stance, Mr. Chair, lifting the crude export ban will enhance our national influence in international affairs because we will be stronger economically and more energy independent.

This will enhance our ability to achieve our geopolitical objectives of maintaining peace and security across the globe which in turn furthers our national security interests.

For all of these reasons, I support H.R. 702 and urge my colleagues to join me and also support Jackson Lee Amendments 9 and 10.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 702, legislation by my friend and Texas colleague Congressman JOE BARTON to lift the ban on American exports of crude oil.

Lifting this outdated and unnecessary ban on crude oil exports is a win for Texas and America. It opens up billions of dollars of new economic opportunity for American companies, which will create thousands of good paying jobs. It will help to stabilize the price of energy on the world market, making sure that gasoline and electricity remains abundant and affordable for hardworking families across America. And South East Texas is uniquely positioned to be at the center of it all, with the Port of Houston and other facilities in our area uniquely suited to lead America into this new market.

Unfortunately, and predictably, the Obama Administration has threatened to veto this bipartisan bill once it passes the House and the Senate. This is the same Administration that just led the way on a deal to lift the crude export ban that has been in place on the Islamic Republic of Iran, a terrorist sponsoring regime that will use the proceeds from selling crude oil to finance terror and mayhem throughout the world. Americans deserve better treatment from their President than he is giving to terrorists in Iran, and I believe that if he vetoes this bill, we will override that veto.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, printed in the bill, it shall be in

order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-29. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of the substitute is as follows:

H.R. 702

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States has enjoyed a renaissance in energy production, establishing the United States as the world's leading oil producer.

(2) By authorizing crude oil exports, the Congress can spur domestic energy production, create and preserve jobs, help maintain and strengthen our independent shipping fleet that is essential to national defense, and generate State and Federal revenues.

(3) An energy-secure United States that is a net exporter of energy has the potential to transform the security environment around the world, notably in Europe and the Middle East.

(4) For our European allies and Israel, the presence of more United States oil in the market will offer more secure supply options, which will strengthen United States strategic alliances and help curtail the use of energy as a political weapon.

(5) The 60-ship Maritime Security Fleet is a vital element of our military's strategic sealift and global response capability. It assures United States-flag ships and United States crews will be available to support the United States military when it needs to mobilize to protect our allies, and is the most prudent and economical solution to meet current and projected sealift requirements for the United States.

(6) The Maritime Security Fleet program provides a labor base of skilled American mariners who are available to crew the United States Government-owned strategic sealift fleet, as well as the United States commercial fleet, in both peace and war.

SEC. 2. REPEAL.

Section 103 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6212) and the item relating thereto in the table of contents of that Act are repealed.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL POLICY ON OIL EXPORT RESTRICTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, to promote the efficient exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of energy resources, including fossil fuels, no official of the Federal Government shall impose or enforce any restriction on the export of crude oil.

SEC. 4. STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall conduct a study and transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate recommendations on the appropriate size, composition, and purpose of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

SEC. 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act limits the authority of the President under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), or part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.) to prohibit exports.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT ENHANCEMENT.

(a) PAYMENTS.—Section 53106(a)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking the comma before “for each”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2016, 2017, and 2018;” and inserting “and 2016”;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (G); and

(4) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) \$4,999,950 for fiscal year 2017;

“(E) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020;

“(F) \$5,233,463 for fiscal year 2021; and”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 53111 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “2016, 2017, and 2018;” and inserting “and 2016”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) \$299,997,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(5) \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020;

“(6) \$314,007,780 for fiscal year 2021; and”.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 114-290. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. AMASH

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, lines 3 through 15, strike paragraphs (5) and (6).

Page 3, line 18, through page 4, line 21, strike section 6.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, my amendment removes a new section of the bill added by the Committee on Rules that increases funding for the Maritime Security Program by \$500 million. My amendment does not eliminate the program. It simply keeps it at its current authorization level.

Just last week the House passed the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act. This defense policy bill, negotiated at length between House and Senate conferees, increases the annual subsidy for Maritime Security Program participants

from \$3.1 million per vessel to \$3.5 million per vessel, a 12.9 percent increase. The provision, added quietly by the Committee on Rules, circumvents regular order and increases funding even more.

As amended, H.R. 702 boosts per-vessel payments to \$5 million per year, increasing the subsidy by a whopping 42 percent. The proper place for a discussion on funding for the Maritime Security Program is in a defense bill like the NDAA, not as part of a bill that lifts a ban on crude oil exports.

This spending increase is all the more reckless, given our more than \$18 trillion national debt. According to the Congressional Budget Office, lifting the export ban will increase receipts from Federal oil and gas leases by \$1.4 billion over the next 10 years. We should use those receipts to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Chairman, there are two ways we should amend bills. The first way is to go through the normal committee process, by introducing amendments during a markup. Members have the opportunity to debate and vote on amendments in the committee of jurisdiction. We should respect the work committees do by not altering the bills they report before we even consider the legislation on the House floor.

The second way is to offer an amendment when the bill comes up for debate on the House floor. This gives all Representatives the opportunity to participate in the debate and represent their constituents by voting on the measure. Unfortunately, the Committee on Rules changed this bill behind closed doors late last week.

The Maritime Security Program is a defense-related program that has nothing to do with oil exports or energy production. This provision has no place in H.R. 702, and its eleventh-hour addition by the Committee on Rules is the latest example of our broken legislative process.

Mr. Chairman, we must protect this institution and the legislative process. Adding an unrelated provision to this bill behind closed doors is no way to legislate.

I urge all Members to vote “yes” on my amendment to remove this unrelated \$500 million spending increase so we can consider H.R. 702 as reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I seek time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DOLD). The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support H.R. 702 but, more importantly, to oppose this amendment.

First of all, I would tell the gentleman, this amendment was considered and this provision was considered

in the NDAA, and we actually did mark it up.

The second thing is this is vital to the national security of this country to maintain the private sector sealift capacity. Our top military commanders have called MSP a vital element of our military strategic sealift and global response capability, and it is worth noting that 90 percent of all U.S. military cargo moved from Iraq and Afghanistan has been by American-flagged, American-crewed commercial vessels enrolled in the MSP program.

□ 1130

If we were to adopt this amendment, it would basically cost us \$13 billion to re-create this. The U.S. Transportation Command has estimated it would cost \$52 billion. In other words, Mr. Chairman, it would take us between 42 years and 168 years to recoup our costs.

Let's defeat this amendment and protect the Maritime Security Program.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is about process. I recognize the concerns of my colleague. This should be handled in the NDAA or in a defense bill.

I urge all Members to support my amendment eliminating this \$500 million increase in spending and reject the Rules Committee's eleventh-hour revision that has nothing to do with crude oil exports.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I join my friend, Mr. FORBES, in opposition to this amendment.

This amendment would harm America's national security. Under the program that it seeks to eliminate, the Pentagon reserves capacity on roughly 60 U.S.-flagged commercial ships to ensure the supply and transport of American troops. It is a program that supports our private sector as well, requiring the Defense Department to contract private commercial ships rather than building their own. So there was not redundancy, but complementary ability.

It is a program that enhances America's national security by ensuring that our military can depend on U.S.-flagged and crewed vessels instead of foreign ones. It is a program that supports important domestic maritime jobs.

In my view, we ought to reject this amendment. This legislation is, obviously, controversial. I hope this amendment is not controversial and that it receives overwhelming bipartisan opposition.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

I represent the Port of Houston, and maritime transportation is vital to our success. Last year, the United States imported \$2.4 trillion and exported \$1.6 trillion in cargo and goods. Much of that cargo came to the United States on foreign-built ships, under foreign flags, and without U.S. citizens on board.

Our maritime industry has been the bedrock of our economy since our founding. More cargo moves through our waterways than any other mode of transportation. We need to protect our domestic maritime industry, and that includes men and women that work on these ships.

I have worked with the maritime unions, including the Seafarers and the Marine Engineers, since my first days in Congress. I want to thank my colleagues for supporting our U.S.-flagged maritime unions. I oppose this amendment because I support any effort to keep these folks working.

I would like to take a minute and acknowledge a recent incident in the Atlantic Ocean. The disappearance of the *El Faro* resulted in the loss of life. I want to extend my prayers to the families. Working on these ships is tough and can be hazardous, as we learned last week.

It is my hope that we can defeat this amendment and ensure our economic viability and national security by putting U.S. crews and U.S. flags on more ships.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, to the gentleman from Michigan's point, this is the process.

I chair the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee. I am also the vice chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee in the Armed Services Committee. Mr. FORBES is the chairman of the subcommittee that handles this stuff. This went through the process. This is the process. This is how it is supposed to work.

There are only—I will say again—79 U.S.-flagged commercial vessels on the ocean today. That is 79 out of about 50,000; 60 of those are used in times of war. It would cost us billions of dollars to create a fleet that sits there mothballing until we go to war and then we get to use it.

This is how the system works. This is the process, and this is how we keep national security strong. Republicans and Democrats realize this is the process. It is the right way to do it, and it shores up the Maritime Security Program for a decade. That is 10 years that we don't have to worry about this, and it is paid for. The gentleman from Michigan would have a point if this were not paid for. It is totally paid for.

This is the right vehicle for it, and I would urge all my colleagues to vote

against the gentleman's amendment and support maritime security and national security.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to Amash amendment that would undermine our domestic maritime industry and its workers.

The Pacific Northwest has a proud maritime tradition that supports quality jobs and keeps our economy moving.

The Maritime Security Program ensures that we have the ships and mariners to support our local, regional, and national economy—to keep folks employed and get goods to market.

Having worked in economic development for a decade I believe the MSP is the kind of program we ought to back, not completely scrap.

Let's not turn our back on the hard-working men and women that are out on the sea.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DELANEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, after line 15, insert the following:

(7) The United States has reduced its oil consumption over the past decade, and increasing investment in clean energy technology and energy efficiency will lower energy prices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase national security.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, recent data suggests that climate change is accelerating. As a result, the destabilizing effect it has on our environment is worsening. To my mind, this is a clear threat to American prosperity and global stability.

Mr. Chairman, consider the fact that the Governor of the Bank of England in a speech recently said that he is very concerned that unless we respond to climate change, there will be a dramatic reduction in value of carbon assets, which will cause a financial crisis. As a country with the largest financial

markets in the world, we should be concerned about that.

Mr. Chairman, consider the fact that Citigroup recently put out a research report that said unless we deal with climate change, the effect on global GDP will be \$44 trillion to the negative by 2050. That is twice the size of the U.S. economy.

Mr. Chairman, consider the fact that the U.N. has estimated that unless we deal with climate change, 150 million people will be forced to be relocated by 2050; 20 million, alone, in Bangladesh. Put that in the context of the fact that in Syria we are seeing the effects of 7 million people being forced to be relocated.

Again, Mr. Chairman, this is a clear threat to American prosperity, and the bad news is that our environment is worse.

The good news is the technology is better for dealing with this problem. Consider the fact that, as we have doubled the installed base of solar energy in this country, we have reduced the cost of energy by 23 percent. It has happened over the last several cycles of doubling solar, and people expect it to continue. This is occurring because of good old-fashioned American innovation.

And while I believe there should be policy prescriptions from the government that effectively cost and price carbon, at a minimum, Mr. Chairman, we should agree that by investing in clean energy technology, we will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we will lower energy costs for the American public, and we will increase national security. That is what the amendment that I have here today is designed to do.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but only in order to control the time.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON. Chairman UPTON and I are prepared to accept the gentleman's amendment, but we do have some Republican speakers who would like to speak in favor of it.

I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO).

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First, Mr. Chairman, let me offer my support for the underlying bill, H.R. 702.

Over the August district work period, I had the opportunity to visit an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico and see firsthand the safety regulations and enhancements that have been put in place by the industry in recent years. Two of the primary topics of discussion during our visit were safety and the environ-

ment. I was glad to learn the industry has put a lot of contingencies in place to make sure we can continue drilling for oil in a manner that is safe and responsible.

I have joined my colleagues Mr. DELANEY and Mr. GIBSON in offering this simple amendment that would recognize our country is making progress in becoming more energy efficient; and that is better for the economy and the environment.

It is also very important to note the other forms of energy that are benefiting our country's economy and its national security. Wind, solar, natural gas, and nuclear energy are all contributing greatly to our energy independence, and this amendment before us today acknowledges that we should continue to promote an all-of-the-above energy strategy for this 21st century.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. DELANEY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great city of Kinderhook, New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. I am honored to be working with my colleagues JOHN DELANEY and CARLOS CURBELO to offer this bipartisan amendment.

This amendment adds another strategic dimension to this bill: support for clean energy and energy efficiencies. On our way to energy independence, it is critical that we support research and development for clean energy technologies.

In New York, we are doing a lot of this work supporting important programs like the SunShot program, with the ambitious goal of driving down the total cost of photovoltaics to 9 cents per kilowatt hour, which would allow it to compete with any other energy source and democratize energy, transforming the way we produce, convey, and consume energy.

With improved technologies, we will also see more proliferation of wind power, hydroelectric power, and biomass energy complementing all other traditional energy sources, including crude oil, adding up to a stronger America.

Mr. Chairman, this is a country that can do hard things. We have proven that time and again. With the proper focus and investment, we will dominate the clean energy world market. And when we do, we will drive down energy costs; we will grow our economy, strengthen our national security, and conserve our environment.

I urge support of this amendment. Let's take a robust and holistic approach to energy independence.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague and my friend

from Texas for accepting this amendment. I want to thank my colleague from New York and my colleague from Florida for their support of their amendment and their insight into this issue.

Again, I urge all my colleagues to support the amendment. It is very simple. It simply says that investing in basic research and investing in American innovation will, in fact, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which it has been proven to do; will, in fact, lower energy costs, which it has been proven to do; and will, in fact, increase national security in this great country.

So, again, I want to thank my colleagues for their support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 4, insert "(a) STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE" before "Not later than".

Page 3, after line 10, insert the following:

(b) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall conduct, and transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate the results of, a study on the net greenhouse gas emissions that will result from the repeal of the crude oil export ban under section 2.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment to H.R. 702. This is the only amendment that the majority would allow in order to help us understand the impacts of lifting the crude oil export ban on greenhouse gas emissions.

Before the Rules Committee, Ranking Member PALLONE and I offered two other amendments that would have more proactively studied the increase in greenhouse gas emissions caused by this bill. Instead, the majority only allowed this amendment, which requires that the Department of Energy do a report on the increasing greenhouse gas emissions caused by the lifting of the crude oil export ban, but still allows the ban to be lifted.

□ 1145

This is what the legislative process has come to, unfortunately, in this Chamber. Instead of analyzing full impacts before voting, the majority has adopted a “pollute first, ask questions later” approach. Repeal the restrictions on fossil fuel extraction and production, and then we will figure out the environmental impact later.

Now, lifting this 40-year-old ban on exports could increase oil production by as much as 500,000 barrels a day. That is a significant increase that risks expanding production into sensitive areas off our coasts and our public lands.

According to the Center for American Progress, this surge in production would result in an additional 515 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year. That is the equivalent of an additional 108 million passenger cars on the road or 135 coal-fired power plants put online. That is what this bill could do. That is why over 40 environmental groups are opposing it.

Now, my Republican colleagues might dispute this study. It is the Center for American Progress. And so, when we hear studies from any group that is not funded by the fossil fuel industry, we typically hear them accused of being biased, left-leaning sources, and certainly they are welcome to make that argument.

But doesn't that support the need for an established, nonpartisan source of assessments on the impacts to our environment for bills that this Congress considers?

That is why today, Mr. Chairman, I am also introducing the Carbon Pollution Transparency Act of 2015. This is a bill that would require the CBO to estimate and report on the projected carbon footprint of each bill Congress considers. That way, we know before we vote how a bill would impact our climate and our environment.

Members of Congress already rely on the fiscal impact estimates produced by the nonpartisan CBO to help us make good decisions, make up our minds. But we need to also take into account the environmental consequences of our votes.

The American public has the right to know whether their Representatives in Washington are voting to help harm the environment, to worsen climate change, or whatever the impact may be. That is why my bill ensures that we have a fair judge, the CBO, for each bill that we consider on its environmental impact.

But today we at least have an opportunity to require such a study as part of H.R. 702. It is not enough, but it is a step forward to fully understand the impacts of lifting the crude oil export ban and, potentially, the harm that would result to our environment.

So I urge a “yes” vote on my amendment and a “no” vote on the underlying legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in mild opposition, and I may change my mind, depending on what the gentleman says.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON. I want to make a deal with the gentleman. We want to be open and transparent. We are the open, transparent Congress.

We will accept your amendment if you voice vote it and at least consider voting for the bill. But if you are going to rollcall vote it and vote against the bill, then I will oppose it, and we will defeat you on the rollcall vote.

So I am going to make you a deal. I am not saying you have to vote for the bill. I am just saying I want you to think nice thoughts about the bill and consider voting for the bill, and then we will accept it on a voice vote, but we don't want any rollcall votes.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is advised to direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BARTON. Well, I hope the Chair was listening.

I yield to my friend from California, if I have time to yield, to see what his thoughts are.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Through the Chair, I would say to my friend, I appreciate the offer, but I don't think there could be anything more transparent than going on record and voting on these.

Mr. BARTON. So the gentleman is going to ask for a rollcall vote?

Mr. HUFFMAN. I am going to ask for a rollcall vote.

Mr. BARTON. Then, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the gentleman's amendment and ask every Member to vote against the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, we are not violently opposed to this. It is a study. I am confident that this bill will on a net basis reduce greenhouse gases because the oil that would must probably be exported is produced under the strictest environmental regulations in the world.

It also happens to be the easiest oil to refine because it is light sweet, which means it doesn't have a high sulfur content. When you run it through the cracking process, because it is lighter, it tends to separate into the various refined products more easily.

So the gentleman's amendment is benign in nature in the sense that, if we were to conduct the study, I think the results from the study would be positive.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARTON. I will be happy yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUFFMAN. To my esteemed colleague and coach of the baseball team, in the spirit of thinking good thoughts, if you will think good thoughts about considering the impacts to our environment and our climate, I will accept

your previous offer to voice vote this amendment, and maybe all of this great good thought stuff will get us home faster.

Mr. BARTON. Reclaiming my time, I commend the gentleman for his thoughtful understanding from Mr. PALLONE. And, with that, we accept the gentleman's amendment. I'm going to ask everybody to vote for it on a voice vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 4, insert “(a) STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE STUDY.” before “Not later than”.

Page 3, after line 10, insert the following:

(b) CRUDE OIL EXPORT STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of Energy, and other departments as appropriate, shall conduct a study of the State and national implications of lifting the crude oil export ban with respect to consumers and the economy.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of—

(A) the economic impact that exporting crude oil will have on the economy of the United States;

(B) the economic impact that exporting crude oil will have on consumers, taking into account impacts on energy prices;

(C) the economic impact that exporting crude oil will have on domestic manufacturing, taking into account impacts on employment; and

(D) the economic impact that exporting crude oil will have on the refining sector, taking into account impacts on employment.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Industry and Security shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that would direct the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of Energy and other departments, as needed, to conduct a study.

This study would measure the impact of exporting millions of barrels of domestically produced crude oil on Americans and our economy.

Let's be clear. Lifting the crude oil export ban benefits very few. Let's also

be clear about who does not benefit: American consumers and the American economy.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will make the case for lifting the ban on crude oil exports. They will cite reports by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, and various other organizations to support their claims.

Some of the benefits they will list include claims of an increase in crude oil production, additional investment in crude oil production, and an increase in employment along the energy supply chain.

But there is a problem with these claims, that the U.S. crude oil is already at peak production. According to a report by the EIA, production reached 9.7 million barrels 1 day in April of 2015, the highest levels since 1971.

In 2015, production is expected to average 9.2 million barrels a day. We still import 7 million barrels of oil a day. Let's find a way to keep domestically produced crude oil within our borders, which benefits our consumers and the economy in the U.S.

For example, the domestic gas prices are at record low levels due to the surplus of crude oil.

According to the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Americans drove nearly 2 trillion miles during the first 7 months of 2015, contributing to the high gas consumption and setting a record level.

Lifting the ban now on U.S. crude oil benefits will undoubtedly raise prices. For consumers, these increases will result in higher gas prices at the pump and higher heating costs for families in the winter.

As all of you know, the manufacturing industry is the backbone of Michigan's economy. While the U.S. manufacturing industry has struggled in the past, it has been one of the bright spots in our economy since the recession and remains a vital part of America's economy, as well as our Nation's economy.

Since 2010, over 700,000 manufacturing jobs that were lost during the recession have been recovered. One major reason for this resurgence of the manufacturing sector is low energy prices. Up to one-third of all energy used in the United States goes into the manufacturing sector.

Rushing to lift the ban on crude oil now would only hurt the manufacturing industry and dent its growth. Let us find a way to keep domestically produced crude oil within our own boundaries and allow the consumers and the economy to reap the benefits of lower energy prices.

Let us put together a comprehensive study of the impact of lifting the U.S. crude oil export ban on the consumers and our economy first, before we rush

to export millions of barrels of domestically produced crude oil.

For the benefit of all Americans, for the benefit of our economy, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in mild opposition, but I could become a supporter of the amendment under certain conditions.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman from Michigan is willing to accept the same deal that the gentleman from California just accepted, we will accept the amendment. We will vote for it on a voice vote, and we will move on down the road to catch my plane at 1:40 from Reagan National Airport.

Does the gentlewoman agree to voice vote it?

Mrs. LAWRENCE. To the Chair, considering all that is happening here, I really need good thoughts, and I want to be part of the process of expanding good thoughts in Congress.

So I will accept, sir.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in enthusiastic support of the gentlewoman's amendment and ask that it be voted for on a voice vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MESSER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 15, strike "or".

Page 3, line 17, after "(42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.)" insert the following: ", the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1 et seq.), or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government (including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts United States persons from engaging in a transaction with a sanctioned person or government), including a foreign government that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism,".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my colleague and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) for his leadership on this important bill, and I am hoping today to join the voice vote kumbaya, if possible.

H.R. 702 is a commonsense legislation that repeals the outdated ban on crude

oil exports. This ban was originally implemented when America was going through an energy crisis. I was very young then, but certainly remember the gas lines in the early 1970s.

The truth is things are different today. America is one of the largest oil exporters, thanks to a boom in production all across our country. Gas prices are at historic lows, and refineries are near capacity.

Yet, our laws do not reflect this new reality. Producers are still held captive to the domestic marketplace. It is long past time to modernize.

This bill will pave the way for a new age of energy innovation in America. It will support and create thousands of U.S. jobs, good-paying jobs, and encourage the investment of millions of dollars into our economy.

America now has opportunities that would have seemed unimaginable even a generation ago, potentially even a few years ago.

We could now become a net exporter of energy. Think about that. And when we do, it will jump-start our economy, create thousands of good-paying jobs, and improve our national security and economic security as well.

Now, Mr. Chair, I am offering a bipartisan amendment today that clarifies language in the bill to avoid creating any unintended consequences regarding terrorist enemies of our country.

I want to thank my colleague from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) for cosponsoring this amendment and Chairman ROYCE for working with us in crafting the amendment as well.

While we should all want to see crude oil exports expanded, we do not want this bill to inadvertently help our enemies. My amendment very simply clarifies the bill's language to allow the administration to retain its ability to prohibit the export of crude oil to state sponsors of terrorism.

I believe this amendment is consistent with the underlying goals of the bill. I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

□ 1200

Mr. BARTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MESSER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON. Chairman UPTON and I strongly support the gentleman from Indiana's amendment. We commend him for offering it. We think it adds to the bill.

Mr. MESSER. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in mild opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. I support the amendment but would note that the best way to prevent our Nation's oil resources

from falling into the hands of bad actors is to maintain the reasonable, time-tested controls on exports that are currently in place.

If you are concerned about our oil falling into the wrong hands, then you should vote “no” on final passage of H.R. 702.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MESSER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL, REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, AND PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the export of crude oil, refined petroleum products, and petrochemical products by or through any entity or person, wherever located, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to any entity or person located in, subject to the jurisdiction of, or sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chair, again, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) for his leadership on this important bill and reiterate my support for H.R. 702. This is common-sense legislation that repeals the outdated ban on crude oil exports.

The U.S. is producing more oil today than ever before, and we could literally become a net exporter of energy, something that would have been unimaginable a generation ago and would have incredible results for our economy. The fact that we are the only advanced nation that prohibits the export of domestically produced oil holds us back.

I believe very strongly that we should not empower our enemies unin-

tionally through this legislation, and this includes the Islamic Republic of Iran. My amendment today prohibits the export of crude oil, refined petroleum products, and petrochemical products to Iran.

Obviously, Iran has oil. It has no need to import it from the United States. But my amendment goes beyond just crude oil. It ensures Iran will not inadvertently have access to other petroleum-based products produced in the U.S.

Refined petroleum and petrochemical products are used to manufacture thousands of goods that we use every day. Things like plastics, asphalt, paints, and cell phones are manufactured in this way.

It was only a few weeks ago in this very Chamber that we discussed the dangers of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also known as the Iran nuclear deal. Despite being able to enrich uranium and self-police its nuclear facilities, Iran will receive sanctions relief to the tune of \$150 billion. That is \$150 billion pumped into a \$400-billion-a-year national economy. \$150 billion of that will, no doubt, be used by Iran to bankroll terrorist organizations, further destabilize the Middle East, and continue their work to wipe Israel off the map.

Things should not be made easier for them. The intent of the underlying bill is not to aid and support Iran. It is to open up the U.S. energy sector, export oil, grow our economy, and create thousands of jobs.

My amendment ensures that the intention of this bill is clear. I believe the amendment is consistent with the underlying goals of the bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

Mr. BARTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MESSER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), and myself support your amendment and ask that it be accepted.

Mr. MESSER. I thank the gentleman. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, again, I rise in mild opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana. However, I would point out that Iran has the fourth largest number of proven oil reserves in the world. In fact, supporters of this bill often state concern over the market impact of increased Iranian exports on domestic producers.

So while it is hard to understand why we need to worry about our crude oil going to a country that is a major net

exporter of oil, I have no objection to adopting this amendment and making really sure Iran doesn't get any of our oil and petroleum products.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. MESSER. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CUELLAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 7. PARTNERSHIPS WITH MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Energy shall continue to develop and broaden partnerships with minority serving institutions, including Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the areas of oil and gas exploration, production, midstream, and refining.

(b) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Department of Energy shall encourage public Private partnerships between the energy sector and minority serving institutions, including Hispanic Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I am here, of course, to talk about an amendment to H.R. 702, this important legislation before us that will lift this outdated ban on the export of oil, modernize the U.S. energy economy, and create U.S. jobs. The amendment that I bring forward is to help Minority-Serving Institutions grow the leaders of the future in the oil and gas industry.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that Hispanics will account for 74 percent of the growth in the Nation's labor force from 2010 to 2020. This amendment ensures that our Minority-Serving Institutions, such as Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, can create a competitive and able workforce in our oil and gas industry. This

will ensure that our Nation can continue to compete in the global market far into the future. Hispanic-Serving Institutions are about 12 percent of the nonprofit colleges and universities, yet they enroll 59 percent of all Hispanic students.

The other part of this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is that it also calls for the Department of Energy to encourage public-private partnerships between the energy sector and Minority-Serving Institutions.

This is an amendment that I think will be good for all workers across the Nation. I ask all Members to vote in favor of this amendment and to support the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I do support the gentleman's amendment. I want to commend him for his leadership on this issue. I hope we will accept it on a voice vote.

I see Mr. RUSH. I am willing to yield to my good friend from Chicago (Mr. RUSH) if he wishes to speak on it. I was told he might.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the bill.

Mr. BARTON. I yield for the 1-minute prayer, not the 5-minute sermon.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully decline the time the gentleman was gracious to give. I really want my own time on the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The time has already been claimed.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), which couldn't exceed 5 minutes because that is all I have.

Mr. RUSH. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that I did not come here to Congress to shadow-box with the majority party over jobs and economic opportunities for the intergenerationally and chronically unemployed citizens of my district and similarly situated districts across the country.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment, which was not allowed by the majority party, would have provided real solutions to real problems. My amendment would have put dollars in the pocket-books of the unemployed minorities, the unemployed women, and the unemployed veterans of this Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I must say, this amendment before us is like pouring perfume on an overused pigsty. It provides DOE—and I quote from the amendment, Mr. Chairman—it provides DOE with the authority to continue its

ongoing work. In other words, it tells the Department of Energy: Do what you are already doing.

Mr. Chairman, unlike the amendment I offered in the Rules Committee that was drafted with input and collaboration from the various stakeholders who would benefit most had it been adopted, there is no specific initiative, no program, and no objections in the Cuellar amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the Rush amendment would have established—not encouraged, but established—partnerships between DOE, Commerce, the Small Business Administration, Minority Business Development Agency, industry, the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council, the Women's Business Enterprise Network Council, and minority chambers of commerce chapters across the Nation.

The Rush amendment would have established programmatic commitments for diversity hiring for vendor and contracting opportunities within the supply chain through contractual obligations, incentives, and other means with a goal of no less than 10 percent participation by minority-owned firms by the year 2020.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would have created regional diversity supply chain specialty centers to develop strategies for minority business contracting and vendor opportunities, and to hold business development sessions in strategic locations where energy development exists or is expanding.

The Rush amendment would have helped minority- and women-owned firms form consortiums and partnerships in order to better meet qualifications and capacities that industry is seeking.

Mr. Chairman, the Rush amendment would have established a program to provide access to capital for loans, financing, and insurance assistance for minority- and women-owned businesses.

Mr. Chairman, the Rush amendment would have established—not just encouraged, but established—public-private partnerships between minority-owned banks and private investors as well as provided grants to Minority-Serving Institutions to help recruit businesses for energy-related supply chain sector activity.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I am not here to criticize my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR). I am here to just bring out the differences between what an imaginary amendment would do and what a real amendment would do.

Mr. BARTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman from Illinois.

I understand the amendment that he was trying to get in. Actually, I was trying to help try to get his amend-

ment accepted, but it is up to the Rules Committee and the democracy there.

This amendment is very simple. It is something that we have added in the appropriation bill on different agencies. We all have voted for this in the appropriation bills time after time after time, and it is to help the Minority-Serving Institutions.

I ask the gentleman from Texas and Members to please accept this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 8 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 7. REPORT.

Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly transmit to Congress a report that reviews the impact of lifting the oil export ban under this Act as it relates to promoting United States energy and national security.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank Mr. PALLONE and Mr. BARTON for their courtesies and as well the Rules Committee. Let me first of all say there has been a lot of discussion on the floor of the House regarding this bill and different opinions. Might I add that this is an important and vigorous discussion. I think this is the best of what this Congress is all about.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take note of H.R. 702, which many of us know came about because of the gas prices in the 1970s. This bill simply repeals that portion of the legislation that responded to that crisis.

What I like in the bill is, of course, we have in the bill that we, as a Congress, will get a report some 120 days after dealing with the maintenance and the strength of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. That is a very important national security item.

A savings clause indicates, of course, that the President has all of his powers

in the light of crisis and other issues to implement any necessary changes or any necessary restrictions on this legislation.

My amendment tracks giving more information. Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this act, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly transmit to Congress a report that reviews the impact of lifting the oil import ban under this act as relates to promoting, supporting, and providing for the United States energy and national security policy.

Our number one responsibility is the American people—I understand that—both environmentally, which reflects to their own energy resources, and certainly with national security. This amendment allows for that report to be on the front side of 10 years. It could be 2 years from now, 3 years from now, and the Congress can dictate that.

U.S. crude production bottomed in 2008 at about 7 million barrels a day. It is now more than 11 million barrels a day, and it is now possible to go up to 18 million barrels a day in 2040 under the strictest environmental concerns.

But right now in my district—right now in my district—they are laying off thousands of people because there is no work. So I would argue to my colleagues that this amendment provides the insight on what is going on.

This bill could provide the GDP would rise by 550 billion to 1.8 trillion between 2015 and 2039. It is estimated in my own congressional job lifting the ban would generate an additional 500 hundred jobs, an additional 270 million in the local economy, and increase government revenues in 227 million.

This 10-year period under that—by the way, it is up to 10 years—is giving long enough time to provide a probative, intelligent assessment of whether there is irreversible damage.

Amendment No. 9 operates as a safety valve and reassures that those who may be skeptical of lifting the export ban get reasonable opportunities to oppose it or get the right information. The same thing with those who may support it. It gives us a basis of empirical data rigorously analyzed.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment can be summed up as follows: For those who are confident in the future, my amendment offers vindication. For those who are skeptical of the new change, my amendment will provide the evidence they need to prove their case.

I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I would rise in mild opposition, which could turn to support.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Houston for offering it.

Is she willing to do this on a voice vote and consider voting for the bill if we accept it?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARTON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Is the gentleman rising to support the gentlewoman's amendment with great enthusiasm?

Mr. BARTON. I will if you rise to voice vote on your amendment. I will make it a package deal. I will give you this amendment and the next amendment double enthusiasm if they are both voice votes and you actually really do vote for the bill or at least start thinking about it strongly.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARTON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman surmise that amendments that are passed by voice vote are still strong amendments?

Mr. BARTON. Oh, they are.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And included in the bill?

Mr. BARTON. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As opposed to being susceptible to being gotten rid of?

Mr. BARTON. No. You have got my word. I will be on the conference committee if we have one. Your amendments will be in the conference report that goes to the President if we get that far.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I am always eager to work with my friends on this side of aisle, Mr. PALLONE. I am always eager to work when we are moving forward. And so I would offer my amendment and offer it for a voice vote.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in, as I just said I would, double enthusiastic support of her amendment, but I am going to be looking on that board when it comes time to vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me just simply say my amendment answers many of the concerns that have been expressed on the floor of the House by giving empirical data, not 10 years and beyond, but in a period up to 10 years, to let us make further informative decisions to provide for the energy resources of the American people, the national resources, and, of course, being able to provide for the national security.

With that, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chair, let me express my appreciation to Chairman Emeritus BARTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for their leadership and commitment to American energy independence and economic growth and security.

I also wish to thank Chairman SESSIONS, Ranking Member SLAUGHTER, and the mem-

bers of the Rules Committee for making in order Jackson Lee Amendment Number 9.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which provides:

Sec. 7. Report. Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly transmit to Congress a report that reviews the impact of lifting the oil export ban under this Act as it relates to promoting United States energy and national security.

As the Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the nation, I have always been mindful of the importance and have strongly advocated for national energy policies that will make our nation more energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our nation's economy strong.

The Eighteenth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent is home to Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Chevron Phillips, BP Corporation of North America, Marathon Oil, Enterprise Products Partners (Oil and Gas Pipelines), and Halliburton (Oilfield Services), and many others.

I am strongly "pro-jobs," "pro-growing economy," "pro-sustainable environment and development," and for homeland and national security.

Volatile energy prices threaten economic security for millions of middle class Americans and hits consumers hard; rising gas prices strain budgets for millions of American families.

It is a familiar story, but in order to restore lasting security for middle class families we need a smart and reasonable plan for American energy, not false promises or quick fixes.

That is why I carefully consider each energy legislative proposal brought to the floor on its individual merits and support them when they are sound, balanced, fair, and promote the national interest.

So my constituents have a strong interest in policies that maintain or enhance the competitiveness of American petroleum energy business in the world oil markets.

Where they fall short, I believe in working across the aisle to improve them by offering constructive amendments.

H.R. 702 repeals the law prohibiting the exports of crude oil that has been on the books for more than 40 years, a response to the Arab Oil Embargo led by OPEC in 1973 that sent oil prices soaring and inflicted substantial damage on the American economy.

But much has changed since 1973; America's unconventional oil boom changed everything.

U.S. crude production bottomed in 2008 at about 7 million barrels per day; now it is now more than 11 million barrels per day and according to the U.S. DOE's Energy Information Administration, U.S. output is estimated to top 18 million barrels a day by 2040.

Crude inventories are at an 80-year high, and imports have declined nearly 30% between 2005 and 2013.

Mr. Chair, paradoxically, continuation of the crude oil export ban may pose one of the biggest threats to this U.S. production boom and to the economy.

This is because increased production has led to a substantial decline in oil prices over the past year and the resulting decrease in

revenues has forced U.S. producers in my district and elsewhere to slash investment and cancel projects.

Since last autumn the industry has cut more than 125,000 jobs, including many in my district.

I have met and know many of the employers and workers affected by industry job reductions.

Mr. Chair, lifting the crude oil export ban would offer American crude oil producers new markets for their product and would mean fewer layoffs.

Studies by the highly respected Brookings Institution and other organizations suggest that the economic benefits to the nation of repealing the ban on crude oil exports would be substantial: 1. GDP could rise by \$550 billion to \$1.8 trillion between 2015 and 2039; 2. U.S. oil production could rise by 1.3 million to 2.9 million barrels per day in 2020; 3. 300,000 additional jobs created by 2020; 4. \$5.8 billion in estimated reduced consumer fuel costs each year between 2015 and 2035; 5. up to \$70 billion in additional investment in U.S. exploration, development, and production of crude oil between 2015 and 2020; 6. \$13.5 billion in additional federal, state, and local revenue in 2020; 7. \$22 billion reduction in the U.S. trade deficit in 2020; and 8. 100,000 barrels per day increase in refinery throughput between 2015 and 2035.

It is estimated that in my own congressional district, lifting the ban would generate an additional 500 jobs and inject an additional \$275 million into the local economy, resulting in an increase in government revenues in the amount of \$227.7 million.

Admittedly, these are predictions, projections, and forecasts made on the basis of the best information currently available.

We hope they are accurate but candor requires that we acknowledge that no one can say with certainty they will come to pass.

That is why it is essential that at an appropriate juncture we review and assess the impact on the American petroleum industry, the national economy, and consumers.

And that is the purpose of Jackson Lee Amendment #9, which mandates a comprehensive review of the impact of crude oil export ban repeal after a 10 year period.

This 10 year time period is long enough to accumulate data sufficient and probative enough to assess the impact of H.R. 702, but not so long as to prevent irreversible damage if the evaluation does not approximate the expected benefits reveals unintended adverse consequences.

In sum, Jackson Lee Amendment Number 9 will help ensure that the brave new world of unrestricted crude oil exports by American producers is more than a leap of faith.

Rather, Jackson Lee Amendment Number 9 operates as a safety valve and reassures those who may be skeptical of lifting the export ban that reasonable opportunities will exist to make an informed evaluation of the effect of the ban's repeal on our economy and national security.

And it is important to emphasize Mr. Chair, that this evaluation will be based on empirical data rigorously analyzed.

In short, Mr. Chair, my amendment can be summed up as follows: for those who are con-

fident of the future, my amendment offers vindication.

For those who are skeptical that the new change will work, my amendment will provide the evidence they need to prove their case.

And for those who believe that maintaining the status quo is intolerable, my amendment offers a way forward.

I urge all members to support Jackson Lee Amendment Number 9.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 114-290.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly transmit to Congress a report analyzing how lifting the ban on crude oil exports will help create opportunities for veterans and women in the United States, while promoting energy and national security.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 466, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I ask that my amendment be considered by my colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment requires within 180 days of enactment the Secretaries of Energy and Commerce submit a report to Congress analyzing how lifting the ban on crude oil, in particular, on exports, will create opportunities for veterans and women.

Mr. Chairman, just a few days ago I went to an initiative called Stand Down. I have gone a number of years. Most military persons will understand it is where you come and stand down from battle.

In this instance, they were veterans, many of them homeless, many of them in great need. Obviously, social services, substance abuse services, and others were offered there. What I heard from these men who wore the uniform in dignity is they want jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this legislation will provide a strong pro-jobs agenda growing the economy. As my previous amendment said, I do not take lightly the impact of lifting the ban; therefore, my previous amendment would provide the insight on whether or not this is a positive impact.

I can tell you that there is a great need, as has been discussed earlier, about collaborating with historically Black colleges and Hispanic-serving colleges.

I have worked on those issues and have certainly seen the leadership of Mr. RUSH and Mr. CUELLAR. But I will tell you that it is indicated that State shale development supports American jobs.

Mr. Chairman, \$107,000 is the average salary that is provided by the energy company in energy jobs, 1.7 million employment attributed to upstream, unconventional oil and natural gas. Women fill 40 percent of the vacancies in oil and gas.

Mr. Chairman, I will insert this into the RECORD.

[Apr. 23, 2014]

THE ENERGY REVOLUTION IS CREATING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES

(By Cheryl Jackson)

Minorities are projected to fill an unprecedented number of jobs in the oil, natural gas and petrochemical industries—increasing from one-quarter of total jobs in 2010 to one-third by 2030—according to a new IHS report sponsored by API.

“The oil and natural gas industry pays wages significantly higher than the national average and can provide tremendous career opportunities for women and minorities,” said Jack Gerard, API President and CEO. “To lower unemployment and shrink the income inequality gap without spending a dime of taxpayer money, we encourage President Obama to embrace this pro-development energy opportunity.”

Of up to 1.3 million new job opportunities in the oil, natural gas and petrochemical industries predicted by 2030, almost 408,000 positions—32 percent of the total—are projected to be held by African American and Hispanic workers, according to the report. Women are estimated to fill 185,000 of those jobs, and 63 percent of new job opportunities will be in blue collar professions.

“We have the natural resources and the technology to be a global energy superpower with all the economic and national security benefits that entails,” Gerard said. “Smart energy policy will create tremendous opportunity for hundreds of thousands of workers—from those with just a high school diploma and some post-secondary training to those with post-graduate degrees.”

“As the study highlights job opportunities, it signals the tremendous need to prepare African Americans, Hispanics and Women to be ready to fill the workforce gap,” said Paula Jackson, president and CEO of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. “These jobs in the oil and natural gas industry don’t just put people to work, they help to transform communities.”

“This powerful and important report is a road map for workforce development stakeholders to align the content of their training with a sense of urgency to adequately prepare people for energy jobs,” said José L. Pérez, chairman and CEO of Hispanics In Energy. “Energy job replacement and growth is a clear pathway for diverse communities to rise from poverty to middle-class, what a rare opportunity.”

Ms. JACKSON LEE. The government and the administration are working to

pair up and find jobs for veterans. The unemployment rate for veterans we have seen has been a constant issue, and it is going down. But we need to provide them with other opportunities. They were higher unemployment, as we can see, than the regular workforce.

So my amendment wants to ensure that, if we lift this ban, women and veterans will benefit. We know, of course, that we have been pushing our educational facilities to engage in STEM, but what we need now is a pipeline for qualified veterans and women looking for jobs right now.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleagues to support this Jackson Lee amendment. It causes us to focus on these vulnerable populations—women and veterans—to direct them into the industry.

Might I say to my constituents, the energy companies that I represent, a long list of names that I will not name at this time, that we hope that they are focused as well on expanding opportunities in the energy industry for veterans, returning soldiers, if you will, women, and, of course, across-the-board minorities. This is an industry that is moving and growing, and the opportunities should move and grow as well.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I only would like to say we support the amendment and we will honor the deal we just made on the prior amendment. I ask for a “yes” vote on a voice vote on the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. PALLONE. I hope that our colleagues have heard us to emphasize the creation of jobs along with the environment, national security, and the energy resources of America.

Mr. Chair, again, let me express my appreciation to Chairman Emeritus BARTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for their leadership and commitment to American energy independence, economic growth, national security, and expanding opportunities and diversifying the energy sector workforce.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which provides:

Sec. 7. Report. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly transmit to Congress

a report analyzing how lifting the ban on crude oil exports will help create opportunities for veterans and women in the United States, while promoting energy and national security.

I also wish to thank Chairman SESSIONS, Ranking Member SLAUGHTER, and the members of the Rules Committee for making in order Jackson Lee Amendment Number 10.

As the Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the nation, I have always been mindful of the importance and have strongly advocated for national energy policies that will make our nation more energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our nation's economy strong.

I strongly am “pro-jobs,” “pro-growing economy,” and “pro-expanding economic opportunities for women, veterans, minorities, and small business!”

That is why I carefully consider each energy legislative proposal brought to the floor on its individual merits and support them when they are sound, balanced, promote the national interest, and expand economic opportunities for everyone, particularly for women, veterans, and members of underrepresented communities.

My constituents have a strong interest in policies that maintain or enhance the competitiveness of American petroleum energy business in the world oil markets.

Where they fall short, I believe in working across the aisle to improve them by offering constructive amendments.

That is why I have offered Jackson Lee Amendment Number 10, which recognizes the fact that veterans, minorities, small businesses and women currently are significantly underrepresented in the oil and gas industries at all levels and severely underrepresented in the senior managerial, professional, board and ownership ranks.

Jackson Lee Amendment Number 10 directs the Secretaries of Commerce and Energy to submit a report to Congress within 180 days assessing the beneficial impact, if any, that lifting the crude oil export ban holds for veterans and women.

This report should shed light on any additional measures that should be taken to increase the participation of women and veterans in the petroleum industry as workers, executives, and entrepreneurs.

Nationally, there were 1.2 million people employed in the oil and gas industry in 2010, only 17% of which are women.

Our booming energy sector has been one of the great American success stories over the last decade, and remains a bright spot in our economy as it continues to fuel job creation.

To continue this success and to ensure that opportunities and benefits are shared equitably, it is critical that we have a diverse energy workforce equipped with the skills, knowledge, and experiences needed to compete and win in the global economy.

And there is no better place to look than from our pool of talented veterans and women?

Women make up half our population and are increasing their presence in the STEM fields vital to success in the petroleum energy sector.

Veterans not only have proved their mettle and leadership skills in defense of our country

but also are among the most resourceful and resilient members of our society, possessing the mission-critical ethic necessary for success in the workplace.

A pipeline of qualified veterans and women looking for employment could play a key role as the energy industry seeks qualified, motivated, and skilled workers and entrepreneurs.

As a nation, we must remain committed to utilizing the talents of women and veterans if our nation is to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities offered by a dynamic global energy market.

Jackson Lee Amendment Number 10 helps us meet this challenge by providing critical information regarding the impact of lifting the crude oil export ban will have on creating opportunities for veterans and women.

I urge all members to support Jackson Lee Amendment Number 10.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 114-290 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. AMASH of Michigan.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. MESSER of Indiana.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. MESSER of Indiana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. AMASH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 109, noes 306, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 545]

AYES—109

Allen	Brooks (AL)	Conaway
Amash	Buck	Culberson
Amodei	Bucshon	DeSantis
Barr	Burgess	DesJarlais
Bilirakis	Carter (GA)	Duffy
Black	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	Emmer (MN)
Blumenauer	Coffman	Farenthold
Brat	Collins (GA)	Fortenberry

Foxx
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grothman
Guthrie
Harris
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt (VA)
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Labrador
LaHood
Lamborn
Loudermilk
Love

Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Massie
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Norhouse
Palmer
Paulsen
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Ratcliffe
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rohrabacher

Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Salmon
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Tipton
Wagner
Walker
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)

Meeks
Meng
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarell
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell

Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai

Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westerman
Whitfield
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—306

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishhek
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings

Curbelo (FL)
Davis (GA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Graham
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guinta
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda

Hoyer
Huffman
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Loftgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
McSally
Meehan

NOT VOTING—19

Bishop (UT)
Blum
Clyburn
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dingell
Foster

Frankel (FL)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hudson
Kaptur
Kind
Knight

Payne
Sanford
Sinema
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

□ 1251

Messrs. GUINTA, WITTMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Messrs. NADLER and GOODLATTE changed their vote from “aye” to “no.” Messrs. BUCSHON, LAMBORN, GOWDY, and DUNCAN of South Carolina changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 545, the Amash Amendment to H.R. 702, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 545, I was unavoidably delayed and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, on rollcall vote 545, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HUNTER was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED ON THE “EL FARO”

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, last Thursday was a tragic day for the American maritime community and America. *El Faro*, an American flagship en route to Puerto Rico, was lost in Hurricane Joaquin and, with it, its 33 crew, including 28 Americans.

In the hours after we learned *El Faro* was in trouble, the Coast Guard, DOD, and other government and private sector partners mobilized assets with search crews battling treacherous weather conditions in an attempt to find survivors; and we appreciate their efforts.

Mr. Chair, today our thoughts and prayers are with the crewmembers' families and loved ones. I ask that the House observe a moment of silence to honor the brave men and women who served on the *El Faro*.

The Acting CHAIR. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MESSER

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2 minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 414, noes 1, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 546]

AYES—414

Abraham	Buck	Cramer
Adams	Bucshon	Crawford
Aderholt	Burgess	Crenshaw
Aguilar	Bustos	Crowley
Allen	Butterfield	Cuellar
Amash	Byrne	Culberson
Amodel	Calvert	Cummings
Ashford	Capps	Curbelo (FL)
Babin	Capuano	Davis (CA)
Barletta	Cárdenas	Davis, Danny
Barr	Carney	Davis, Rodney
Barton	Carson (IN)	DeGette
Bass	Carter (GA)	Delaney
Beatty	Carter (TX)	DelBene
Becerra	Cartwright	Denham
Benishhek	Castor (FL)	Dent
Bera	Castro (TX)	DeSantis
Beyer	Chabot	DeSaulnier
Billirakis	Chaffetz	DesJarlais
Bishop (GA)	Chu, Judy	Deutch
Bishop (MI)	Cicilline	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (UT)	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Black	Clarke (NY)	Dold
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	Donovan
Blum	Clay	Doyle, Michael
Blumenauer	Cleaver	F.
Bonamici	Coffman	Duckworth
Bost	Cohen	Duffy
Boustany	Cole	Duncan (SC)
Boyle, Brendan	Collins (GA)	Duncan (TN)
F.	Collins (NY)	Edwards
Brady (PA)	Comstock	Ellison
Brady (TX)	Conaway	Ellmers (NC)
Brat	Connolly	Emmer (MN)
Bridenstine	Conyers	Engel
Brooks (AL)	Cook	Eshoo
Brooks (IN)	Cooper	Esty
Brown (FL)	Costa	Farenthold
Brownley (CA)	Costello (PA)	Farr
Buchanan	Courtney	Fattah

Fincher	Larson (CT)	Ribble	Whitfield	Yarmuth	Young (IN)	Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Neal
Fitzpatrick	Latta	Rice (NY)	Williams	Yoder	Zeldin	Davis (CA)	Jackson Lee	Neugebauer
Fleischmann	Lawrence	Rice (SC)	Wittman	Yoho	Zinke	Davis, Danny	Jeffries	Newhouse
Fleming	Lee	Richmond	Womack	Young (AK)		Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (KS)	Noem
Flores	Levin	Rigell	Woodall	Young (IA)		DeGette	Jenkins (WV)	Nolan
Forbes	Lewis	Roby				Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Norcross
Fortenberry	Lieu, Ted	Roe (TN)		NOES—1		DelBene	Johnson (OH)	Nugent
Foster	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)		Speier		Denham	Johnson, E. B.	Nunes
Fox	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)				Dent	Johnson, Sam	O'Rourke
Frankel (FL)	Loebach	Rohrabacher		NOT VOTING—19		DeSantis	Jolly	Olson
Franks (AZ)	Lofgren	Rokita	Clyburn	Issa	Payne	DeSaulnier	Jones	Palazzo
Frelinghuysen	Long	Rooney (FL)	DeFazio	Kind	Sanford	DesJarlais	Jordan	Pallone
Fudge	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen	DeLauro	Knight	Sinema	Deutch	Joyce	Palmer
Gabbard	Love	Roskam	Dingell	Lujan, Ben Ray	Smith (NJ)	Diaz-Balart	Kaptur	Pascarell
Galleo	Lowenthal	Ross	Grijalva	(NM)	Wilson (FL)	Doggett	Katko	Paulsen
Garamendi	Lowey	Rothfus	Hudson	Marchant	Wilson (SC)	Dold	Keating	Pearce
Garrett	Lucas	Rouzer	Hurt (VA)	Nunes		Donovan	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Royal-Allard				Doyle, Michael	Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter
Gibson	Lujan Grisham	Royce		ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR		F.	Kelly (PA)	Perry
Gohmert	(NM)	Ruiz		The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).		Duckworth	Kennedy	Peters
Goodlatte	Lummis	Ruppersberger		There is 1 minute remaining.		Duffy	Kildee	Peterson
Gosar	Lynch	Rush				Duncan (SC)	Kilmer	Pingree
Gowdy	MacArthur	Russell				Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Pittenger
Graham	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)		□ 1257		Edwards	King (NY)	Pitts
Granger	Carolyn	Ryan (WI)				Ellison	Kinzing (IL)	Pocan
Graves (GA)	Maloney, Sean	Salmon		So the amendment was agreed to.		Ellmers (NC)	Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)
Graves (LA)	Marino	Sánchez, Linda		The result of the vote was announced		Emmer (MN)	Kline	Poliquin
Graves (MO)	Massie	T.		as above recorded.		Engel	Kuster	Polis
Grayson	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta		Stated for:		Eshoo	Labrador	Pompeo
Green, Al	McCarthy	Sarbanes		Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I was not		Esty	LaHood	Price (NC)
Green, Gene	McCaul	Scalise		present for rollcall vote No. 546 on the Messer		Farenthold	Lamborn	Price, Tom
Griffith	McClintock	Schakowsky		of Indiana Part B Amendment No. 5 on H.R.		Farr	Lance	Quigley
Grothman	McCollum	Schiff		702. Had I been present, I would have voted		Fattah	Langevin	Rangel
Guinta	McDermott	Schrader		“yes.”		Fincher	Larsen (WA)	Ratcliffe
Guthrie	McGovern	Schweikert				Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)	Reed
Gutiérrez	McHenry	Scott (VA)		AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MESSER		Fleischmann	Latta	Reichert
Hahn	McKinley	Scott, Austin		The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished		Fleming	Lawrence	Renacci
Hanna	McMorris	Scott, David		business is the demand for a recorded		Flores	Lee	Ribble
Hardy	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner		vote on the amendment offered by the		Forbes	Levin	Rice (NY)
Harper	McNerney	Serrano		gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER)		Fortenberry	Lewis	Rice (SC)
Harris	McSally	Sessions		on which further proceedings were		Foster	Lieu, Ted	Richmond
Hartzler	Meadows	Sewell (AL)		postponed and on which the ayes pre-		Fox	Lipinski	Rigell
Hastings	Meehan	Sherman		vailed by voice vote.		Frankel (FL)	LoBiondo	Roby
Heck (NV)	Meeks	Shimkus		The Clerk will redesignate the		Franks (AZ)	Loebach	Roe (TN)
Heck (WA)	Meng	Shuster		amendment.		Frelinghuysen	Lofgren	Rogers (AL)
Hensarling	Messer	Simpson		The Clerk redesignated the amend-		Fudge	Long	Rogers (KY)
Herrera Beutler	Mica	Sires		ment.		Gabbard	Loudermilk	Rohrabacher
Hice, Jody B.	Miller (FL)	Slaughter				Galleo	Love	Rokita
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Smith (MO)		RECORDED VOTE		Garamendi	Lowenthal	Rooney (FL)
Hill	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)		The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote		Garrett	Lowey	Ros-Lehtinen
Himes	Mooney (WV)	Smith (TX)		has been demanded.		Gibbs	Lucas	Roskam
Hinojosa	Moore	Smith (WA)		A recorded vote was ordered.		Gibson	Luetkemeyer	Ross
Holding	Moulton	Stefanik		The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-		Gohmert	Lujan Grisham	Rothfus
Honda	Mullin	Stewart		minute vote.		Goodlatte	(NM)	Rouzer
Hoyer	Mulvaney	Stivers		The vote was taken by electronic de-		Gosar	Lujan, Ben Ray	Royal-Allard
Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)	Stutzman		vice, and there were—ayes 419, noes 0,		Gowdy	(NM)	Royce
Huffman	Murphy (PA)	Swalwell (CA)		not voting 15, as follows:		Graham	Lummis	Ruiz
Huizenga (MI)	Nadler	Takai		[Roll No. 547]		Granger	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Hultgren	Napolitano	Takano		AYES—419		Graves (GA)	MacArthur	Rush
Hunter	Neal	Thompson (CA)		Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Graves (LA)	Maloney,	Russell
Hurd (TX)	Neugebauer	Thompson (MS)		Boyle, Brendan	Chaffetz	Graves (MO)	Carolyn	Ryan (OH)
Israel	Newhouse	Thompson (PA)		Chaffetz	Chu, Judy	Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Ryan (WI)
Jackson Lee	Noem	Thornberry		Chu, Judy	Cicilline	Green, Al	Marchant	Salmon
Jeffries	Nolan	Tiberi		Cicilline	Clark (MA)	Green, Gene	Marino	Sánchez, Linda
Jenkins (KS)	Norcross	Tipton		Clark (MA)	Clarke (NY)	Griffith	Massie	T.
Jenkins (WV)	Nugent	Titus		Clarke (NY)	Clawson (FL)	Grothman	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke	Tonko		Clawson (FL)	Clay	Guinta	McCarthy	Sarbanes
Johnson (OH)	Olson	Torres		Cleaver	Coffman	Guthrie	McCaul	Scalise
Johnson, E. B.	Palazzo	Trott		Coffman	Cohen	Gutiérrez	McClintock	Schakowsky
Johnson, Sam	Pallone	Tsongas		Cohen	Cole	Hahn	McCollum	Schiff
Jolly	Palmer	Turner		Cole	Collins (GA)	Hanna	McDermott	Schrader
Jones	Pascarell	Upton		Collins (NY)	Comstock	Hardy	McGovern	Schweikert
Jordan	Paulsen	Valadao		Comstock	Conaway	Harper	McHenry	Scott (VA)
Joyce	Pearce	Van Hollen		Connelly	Conyers	Harris	McKinley	Scott, Austin
Kaptur	Pelosi	Vargas		Cooper	Cook	Hartzler	McMorris	Scott, David
Katko	Perlmutter	Veasey		Cooper	Costa	Hastings	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Keating	Perry	Vela		Costa	Costello (PA)	Heck (NV)	McNerney	Serrano
Kelly (IL)	Peters	Velázquez		Costello (PA)	Courtney	Heck (WA)	McSally	Sessions
Kelly (MS)	Peterson	Visclosky		Courtney	Cramer	Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Sewell (AL)
Kelly (PA)	Pingree	Wagner		Cramer	Crawford	Hice, Jody B.	Meehan	Sherman
Kennedy	Pittenger	Walberg		Crawford	Crenshaw	Higgins	Meeks	Shimkus
Kildee	Pitts	Walsh		Crenshaw	Crowley	Hill	Meng	Shuster
Kilmer	Pocan	Walsh		Crowley	Cuellar	Hinojosa	Messer	Simpson
King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Walorski		Cuellar	Culberson	Himes	Mica	Sires
King (NY)	Poliquin	Walters, Mimi		Culberson	Chabot	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)	Slaughter
Kinzing (IL)	Polis	Walz		Chabot		Holding	Miller (MI)	Smith (MO)
Kirkpatrick	Pompeo	Wasserman				Honda	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)
Kline	Posey	Schultz				Hoyer	Mooney (WV)	Smith (NJ)
Kuster	Price (NC)	Watson Coleman				Huelskamp	Moore	Smith (TX)
Labrador	Price, Tom	Weber (TX)				Huffman	Moulton	Smith (WA)
LaHood	Quigley	Webster (FL)				Huizenga (MI)	Mullin	Speier
LaMalfa	Rangel	Welch				Hultgren	Mulvaney	Stefanik
Lamborn	Ratcliffe	Westerman				Hunter	Murphy (FL)	Stewart
Lance	Reed	Westerman				Hurd (TX)	Murphy (PA)	Stivers
Langevin	Reichert	Westmoreland				Hurt (VA)	Nadler	Stutzman
Larsen (WA)	Renacci					Israel	Napolitano	Swalwell (CA)

Takai	Veasey	Wenstrup
Takano	Vela	Westerman
Thompson (CA)	Velázquez	Westmoreland
Thompson (MS)	Visclosky	Whitfield
Thompson (PA)	Wagner	Williams
Thornberry	Walberg	Wittman
Tiberi	Walden	Womack
Tipton	Walker	Woodall
Titus	Walorski	Yarmuth
Tonko	Walters, Mimi	Yoder
Torres	Walz	Yoho
Trott	Wasserman	Young (AK)
Tsongas	Schultz	Young (IA)
Turner	Waters, Maxine	Young (IN)
Upton	Watson Coleman	Zeldin
Valadao	Weber (TX)	Zinke
Van Hollen	Webster (FL)	
Vargas	Welch	

NOT VOTING—15

Clyburn	Hudson	Posey
DeFazio	Kind	Sanford
DeLauro	Knight	Sinema
Dingell	LaMalfa	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Payne	Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1301

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 702) to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, and, pursuant to House Resolution 466, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. HUFFMAN. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Huffman moves to recommit the bill H.R. 702 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 3, line 17, insert "Nothing in this Act prevents the President or any other Federal official from enforcing Federal laws or regulations necessary to protect human health, the environment, or public safety, including the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.), the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96-129), the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-355), the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-468), or the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Pub. L. 112-90)." after "prohibit exports."

Mr. BARTON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to make a point of order against the bill that it is not germane.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Mr. HUFFMAN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we suspend the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BARTON. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BARTON. If I make a point of order that the motion to recommit is not germane and it, in fact, is not germane, there is no vote. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not respond to a hypothetical. A point of order has been reserved.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order that the motion to recommit is not germane. Oh, it is germane. I withdraw the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order and the reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, let me begin with the usual stipulations. This is the final amendment to the bill. It won't kill the bill or send it back to committee. When this is adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended, so there is no procedural reason to oppose this motion to recommit.

Let's talk about the substance. Now, we have heard a lot of debate this morning about the need to give Big Oil—the most profitable industry in the history of the world—yet another advantage. For years, Americans have been told that we have to "drill, baby, drill." The theory that we always hear is that we need to extract every barrel of oil from every acre of American soil

to keep gas prices low and to provide "energy security."

But as soon as American gas prices started to drop, the curtain was raised, and the truth was revealed. The real reason for "drill, baby, drill," surprise, surprise, was to give Big Oil the chance to maximize their profits on the world market.

It is not enough that they have been able to game the Tax Code for a century with billions of dollars of tax breaks not available to other taxpayers or businesses. It is not enough that they continue to enjoy access to our public lands and waters for oil drilling, even though they are no longer paying into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the longstanding law that expired at the beginning of this month.

As a reminder, for the past 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was an agreement, a compact between the American people and Big Oil. It said that when we let oil and gas companies drill and profit from drilling in Federal waters, they have to dedicate a fraction of the profits, just a fraction, to protect our great outdoors for future generations. The deal is that they have to dedicate a fraction of those profits to protecting our great outdoors for future generations so that our grandchildren will be able to hike and hunt and fish in our parks and wildlife refuges.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was shamefully allowed to lapse at the beginning of this month, and the majority hasn't scheduled a single vote—or even a hearing—to get it back on the books. No, all of these concessions to the oil and gas industry are not enough for this House.

With today's bill, the House majority is saying that American oil and gas companies can drill more, export more, and realize even greater profits, no matter the environmental consequences, no matter the consequences to health and safety. As presently written, the underlying bill, H.R. 702, would permanently ensure that no export restrictions for any reason could be implemented or enforced in the future. That is what this bill says. That is breathtaking in its devotion to the oil and gas industry's agenda.

Now, my motion to recommit would ensure that the President and Federal Government agencies charged with protecting human health, the environment, and public safety can continue to do their job that constituents rely on them to do. Specifically, with this amendment, we will ensure that bedrock health and safety laws, like the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act, that laws like that will not be cast aside in favor of Big Oil's desire to sell more crude overseas.

Now, if you think about it, this is a very straightforward motion.

I just want to ask my colleagues a question: Should crude oil exports trump the Safe Drinking Water Act?

Should Big Oil profits trump the need for pipeline safety and pipeline inspection?

Of course not. We need to protect safe drinking water. We need to ensure pipeline safety. So, my colleagues, I urge you to vote “yes” on this MTR to improve this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON. First of all, I want to thank the minority for giving us a one-page motion to recommit that I can actually read and understand. I have read it. I don't like it. It is not necessary. It is redundant. I oppose it. Please vote against it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 242, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 548]

AYES—179

Adams	Cleaver	Gabbard
Aguilar	Cohen	Gallego
Bass	Connolly	Garamendi
Beatty	Conyers	Graham
Becerra	Costa	Grayson
Bera	Courtney	Green, Al
Beyer	Crowley	Green, Gene
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Gutiérrez
Blumenauer	Cummings	Hahn
Bonamici	Davis (CA)	Hastings
Boyle, Brendan	Davis, Danny	Heck (WA)
F.	DeGette	Higgins
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Himes
Brown (FL)	DelBene	Hinojosa
Brownley (CA)	DeSaulnier	Honda
Bustos	Deutch	Hoyer
Butterfield	Doggett	Huffman
Capps	Doyle, Michael	Israel
Capuano	F.	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Duckworth	Jeffries
Carney	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Carson (IN)	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Cartwright	Engel	Johnson
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Esty	Keating
Chu, Judy	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Cicilline	Fattah	Kennedy
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kildee
Clarke (NY)	Frankel (FL)	Kilmer
Clay	Fudge	Kirkpatrick

Kuster	Nadler	Scott (VA)
Langevin	Napolitano	Scott, David
Larsen (WA)	Neal	Serrano
Larson (CT)	Nolan	Sewell (AL)
Lawrence	Norcross	Sherman
Lee	O'Rourke	Sires
Levin	Pallone	Slaughter
Lewis	Pascrell	Smith (WA)
Lieu, Ted	Pelosi	Speier
Lipinski	Perlmutter	Swalwell (CA)
Loebsock	Peters	Takai
Loftgren	Peterson	Takano
Lowenthal	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
Lowe	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Lujan Grisham	Polis	Titus
(NM)	Price (NC)	Tonko
Lujan, Ben Ray	Quigley	Torres
(NM)	Rangel	Tsongas
Lynch	Rice (NY)	Van Hollen
Maloney,	Richmond	Vargas
Carolyn	Roybal-Allard	Veasey
Maloney, Sean	Ruiz	Vela
Matsui	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
McCollum	Rush	Visclosky
McDermott	Ryan (OH)	Walz
McGovern	Sánchez, Linda	Wasserman
McNeerney	T.	Schultz
Meeks	Sanchez, Loretta	Waters, Maxine
Meng	Sarbanes	Watson Coleman
Moore	Schakowsky	Welch
Moulton	Schiff	Wilson (FL)
Murphy (FL)	Schrader	Yarmuth

NOES—242

Abraham	Emmer (MN)	LaMalfa
Aderholt	Farenthold	Lamborn
Allen	Fincher	Lance
Amash	Fitzpatrick	Latta
Amodei	Fleischmann	LoBiondo
Ashford	Fleming	Long
Babin	Flores	Loudermilk
Barletta	Forbes	Love
Barr	Fortenberry	Lucas
Barton	Fox	Luetkemeyer
Benishek	Franks (AZ)	Lummis
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	MacArthur
Bishop (MI)	Garrett	Marchant
Bishop (UT)	Gibbs	Marino
Black	Gibson	Massie
Blackburn	Gohmert	McCarthy
Blum	Goodlatte	McCaul
Bost	Gosar	McClintock
Boustany	Gowdy	McHenry
Brady (TX)	Granger	McKinley
Brat	Graves (GA)	McMorris
Bridenstine	Graves (LA)	Rodgers
Brooks (AL)	Graves (MO)	McSally
Brooks (IN)	Griffith	Meadows
Buchanan	Grothman	Meehan
Buck	Guinta	Messer
Bucshon	Guthrie	Mica
Burgess	Hanna	Miller (FL)
Byrne	Hardy	Miller (MI)
Calvert	Harper	Moolenaar
Carter (GA)	Harris	Mooney (WV)
Carter (TX)	Hartzler	Mullin
Chabot	Heck (NV)	Mulvaney
Chaffetz	Hensarling	Murphy (PA)
Clawson (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Neugebauer
Coffman	Hice, Jody B.	Newhouse
Cole	Hill	Noem
Collins (GA)	Holding	Nugent
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Nunes
Comstock	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Conaway	Hultgren	Palazzo
Cook	Hunter	Palmer
Cooper	Hurd (TX)	Paulsen
Costello (PA)	Hurt (VA)	Pearce
Cramer	Issa	Perry
Crawford	Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger
Crenshaw	Jenkins (WV)	Pitts
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Poliquin
Davis, Rodney	Jolly	Pompeo
Denham	Jordan	Posey
Dent	Joyce	Price, Tom
DeSantis	Katko	Ratcliffe
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Reed
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Reichert
Dold	King (IA)	Renacci
Donovan	King (NY)	Ribble
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Rigell
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Roby
Ellmers (NC)	LaHood	Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)	Simpson	Walker
Rogers (KY)	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Rohrabacher	Smith (NE)	Walters, Mimi
Rokita	Smith (NJ)	Weber (TX)
Rooney (FL)	Smith (TX)	Webster (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Roskam	Stewart	Westerman
Ross	Stivers	Westmoreland
Rothfus	Stutzman	Whitfield
Rouzer	Thompson (PA)	Williams
Royce	Thornberry	Wittman
Russell	Tiberi	Womack
Ryan (WI)	Tipton	Woodall
Salmon	Trott	Yoder
Scalise	Turner	Yoho
Schweikert	Upton	Young (AK)
Scott, Austin	Valadao	Young (IA)
Sensenbrenner	Wagner	Young (IN)
Sessions	Walberg	Zeldin
Shimkus	Walden	Zinke

NOT VOTING—13

Clyburn	Hudson	Shuster
DeFazio	Kind	Sinema
DeLauro	Knight	Wilson (SC)
Dingell	Payne	
Grijalva	Sanford	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1317

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 261, noes 159, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 549]

AYES—261

Abraham	Chabot	Fleischmann
Aderholt	Chaffetz	Fleming
Allen	Clawson (FL)	Flores
Amash	Clay	Forbes
Amodei	Coffman	Fortenberry
Ashford	Cole	Fox
Babin	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Barletta	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Barr	Comstock	Garrett
Barton	Conaway	Gibbs
Benishek	Cook	Gibson
Bilirakis	Cooper	Gohmert
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Goodlatte
Bishop (MI)	Costello (PA)	Gosar
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gowdy
Black	Crawford	Graham
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Granger
Blum	Cuellar	Graves (GA)
Bost	Culberson	Graves (LA)
Boustany	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (MO)
Brady (TX)	Davis, Rodney	Griffith
Brat	Denham	Grothman
Bridenstine	Dent	Guinta
Brooks (AL)	DeSantis	Guthrie
Brooks (IN)	DesJarlais	Hanna
Buchanan	Dold	Hardy
Buck	Donovan	Harper
Bucshon	Duffy	Harris
Burgess	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Byrne	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)
Calvert	Ellmers (NC)	Hensarling
Cárdenas	Emmer (MN)	Herrera Beutler
Carter (GA)	Farenthold	Hice, Jody B.
Carter (TX)	Fincher	Hill

Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lipinski
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally

Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)

Salmon
Scalise
Schader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—159

Adams
Aguilar
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clever
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
DeSaulnier

Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy

Kildee
Kilmer
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
Pallone
Pascarell

Pelosi
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.

Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)

Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Bass
Clyburn
DeFazio
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart

Dingell
Grijalva
Hudson
Kind
Knight

Payne
Sanford
Sinema
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1324

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 545 regarding "Amash of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 1" (H.R. 702). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I missed rollcall vote No. 546 regarding "Messer of Indiana Part B Amendment No. 5" (H.R. 702). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed rollcall vote No. 547 regarding "Messer of Indiana Part B Amendment No. 6" (H.R. 702). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed rollcall vote No. 548 regarding "On Motion to Recommit with Instructions" (H.R. 702). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I missed rollcall vote No. 549 regarding "On Passage" (H.R. 702). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, 2015, I returned to Oregon to attend to various matters in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following:

On agreeing to the Amash amendment to H.R. 702, I would have voted "no."

On agreeing to the Messer/Lowenthal amendment to H.R. 702, I would have voted "aye."

On agreeing to the Messer amendment Number 2 to H.R. 702, I would have voted "aye."

On passage of the Democratic Motion to Recommit to H.R. 702, I would have voted "aye."

On final passage of H.R. 702, I would have voted "no."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Budget may, at any time before 6 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2015, file a privileged report to accompany a message to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE
60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base and the surrounding communities for their 60 years of dedicated service and sacrifice to the defense of our Nation.

In its long history, it has had many important missions, including reconnaissance and bombing missions, and it is now known as the C-130 capital of the world.

Little Rock Air Force Base is one of the most technologically advanced and well-run military installations in the entire country. It is the tactical airlift "Center of Excellence." The base builds the foundation of America's combat airlift capability and trains the world's best airlifters to "fly, fight, and win."

From providing lifesaving humanitarian aid to the Yazidis in Sinjar to delivering our men and women and their supplies, Little Rock Air Force Base defends freedom.

□ 1330

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
CREW OF THE "EL FARO"

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I am here today to honor the memory of the crew of *El Faro*, lost in a hurricane in the Bahamas last week.

Four people from my State, the State of Maine, were aboard the *El Faro*: Michael Holland, of North Wilton; Dylan Meklin, of Rockland; Danielle Randolph, of Rockland; and the captain, a

man of great experience, Mike Davidson, of Windham.

In Maine, we have a strong connection to those who make their living on the water, and we know the risks they take every time they go to sea, but in no way does that make a tragedy any less painful.

It is difficult for me to know what the families of the crew are going through and have been going through, but they are in my thoughts and the thoughts of everyone in our State.

I also want to thank the Coast Guard, the Navy, and the Air Force for their round-the-clock efforts during what were very dangerous conditions. And although I wish the results had been very, very different, we owe those men, as well, men and women, a debt of gratitude for risking their lives to try to find the crew of *El Faro*.

HONORING RON GIFFORD OF SCILL

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Gifford for his dedication to creating and nurturing a trained workforce for the growing industrial base of Starke County.

Ron is the director of the Starke County Initiative for Lifelong Learning, known as SCILL, a 2-year school for juniors and seniors. SCILL also trains industrial employees, offers several continuing ed courses, computer classes, and an automotive tech program.

The importance of SCILL and Ron's work cannot be understated. A highly trained workforce is the backbone of a strong, diverse economy. Many of the skills needed to compete in the global market of the 21st century are technically demanding.

Currently, the demand for qualified workers is increasing at a pace far greater than existing communities can produce. Thanks to Ron's dedication, SCILL has focused on developing and training more workers to meet this demand, building a strong workforce to ensure the growth of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ron Gifford for elevating the contributions skilled workers make to ensure that our economy is stronger than ever.

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks before I was sworn into office, a deranged gunman entered Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and murdered 20 young children and 6 school employees.

What was the response of this Congress to make sure that never hap-

pened again? Nothing. Despite an overwhelming amount of support across the country for universal background checks, and bipartisan legislation to implement them, this Congress did nothing.

Across my district in San Diego, moms, dads, college students, seniors have all been calling on us to take action that will keep our children and our community safe. They are angry at our inability to act, and I share their anger.

We should pass the bipartisan Thompson-King bill on background checks, and we should do it today. That would be a good start to addressing this devastating problem. It is time to do something.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE CREW OF THE "EL FARO"

(Mr. POLIQUIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, Maine is home to the greatest mariners in the world, and Maine Maritime Academy in midcoast Castine is one of the finest schools in the world to train our ship captains, engineers, and navigators.

Last week, the cargo ship *El Faro* succumbed to Hurricane Joaquin en route from Florida to Puerto Rico. During this horrible tragedy, 33 individuals likely perished, including five graduates of Maine Maritime Academy.

Captain Michael Davidson was 53, Second Mate Danielle Randolph was 34, Michael Holland was 25, Mitchell Kuflik was 26, and Dylan Meklin was 23.

Mr. Speaker, some were married, some had kids. One was engaged, and one was on his maiden voyage. All of these individuals were children of moms and dads.

The great State of Maine and our country is so proud of our brave mariners and grateful for them helping us live better lives. I know I speak, Mr. Speaker, for the entire Congress in extending our thoughts and prayers for their families.

May God rest their souls and let them remain mariners forever.

LA FAMILIA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate La Familia Counseling Service on its 40th anniversary.

La Familia is based out of Hayward, in my district, and also out of Oakland, California, as well as Livermore. It is an inclusive Latino community-based, multicultural organization committed to strengthening the emotional values of individuals and the preservation of families.

Their services help build strong families and communities, fight cycles of poverty, and bridge education and health disparities. For example, they offer important healthcare services, job training, education, and leadership development opportunities for disenfranchised youth living in our neighborhoods.

I enjoy working with them. I worked with them when I was a prosecutor in Alameda, and our office works with them today.

Appropriately named, the board, volunteers, and staff at La Familia truly view the people they serve as family, and every day they make a difference in someone's life.

Their CEO, Aaron Ortiz, and board members Gabriel Arteaga, Rene Macias, Dr. Claudia Aguilar, Mary Mele, Eleanor Dwyer, and Yvette Flores are working very hard. I congratulate them on their 40 years and what is to come to help the families in the East Bay.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE CREW OF THE "EL FARO"

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 33 sailors of the *El Faro* cargo ship which disappeared Thursday, October 1, during Hurricane Joaquin. The *El Faro*, an American-flagged ship, had just left Jacksonville, Florida, for San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The 790-foot ship is believed to have sunk after its engines failed in the face of 130 mile-an-hour winds. This week, rescuers found two large debris fields, and officials called this the worst American maritime disaster in over 30 years as, tragically, the entire crew is presumed lost.

Thirteen of these brave souls were from our State in Florida. But regardless of where they came from, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the crew on the *El Faro*, and with the brave men and women serving in our Coast Guard attempting the rescue.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE CREW OF THE "EL FARO"

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, my heart and prayers go out to the family and loved ones of the 33 members onboard the cargo ship *El Faro*—*El Faro* means bright star, shining star—which disappeared Thursday evening during the hurricane en route to Puerto Rico.

I held prayer vigils with the families and with several ministers all day

Monday, and we are keeping the families in our prayers.

I want to commend the Coast Guard for everything they do for our Nation in the area of maritime security and environmental protection, and I have worked closely with the agency for many years. I want to commend the Merchant Marines who played a key role in our Nation's economy and several of the vital missions during peace and wartimes.

I am going to submit the names of all of the crew members; 17 of them were from Jacksonville, Florida.

LIST OF "EL FARO" CREW MEMBERS

Louis Champa Jr. (Daytona Beach, Florida); Roosevelt Clark (Jacksonville, Florida); Sylvester Crawford Jr. (Lawrenceville, Georgia); Michael Davidson (Windham, Maine); Brookie Davis (Jacksonville, Florida); Keith Griffin (Fort Myers, Florida); Frank Hamm (Jacksonville, Florida); Joe Hargrove (Orange Park, Florida); Carey Hatch (Jacksonville, Florida); Michael Holland (North Wilton, Maine); Jack Jackson (Jacksonville, Florida); Jackie Jones Jr. (Jacksonville, Florida); Lonnie Jordan (Jacksonville, Florida); Piotr Krause (Poland); Mitchell Kuflik (Brooklyn, New York); Roan Lightfoot (Jacksonville Beach, Florida); Jeffrey Mathias (Kingston, Massachusetts); Dylan Meklin (Rockland, Maine); Marcin Nita (Poland); Jan Podgorski (Poland).

James Porter (Jacksonville, Florida); Richard Pusatere (Virginia Beach, Virginia); Theodore Quammie (Jacksonville, Florida); Danielle Randolph (Rockland, Maine); Jeremie Riehm (Camden, Delaware); Lashawn Rivera (Jacksonville, Florida); Howard Schoenly (Cape Coral, Florida); Steven Shultz (Roan Mountain, Tennessee); German Solar-Cortes (Orlando, Florida); Anthony Thomas (Jacksonville, Florida); Andrzej Truszkowski (Poland); Mariette Wright (St. Augustine, Florida); Rafal Zdobych (Poland).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. When I was leaving church Sunday, in closing, one young person, Jackie Jones, had a daycare, and the kid came up to me and asked, Congresswoman, where is Papa?

I can tell you, I am going to do all I can to make sure that this tragedy doesn't happen again.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to pay tribute to an important Hispanic leader and public servant from my district, the late Governor Raul Castro.

Born in Cananea, Mexico, and growing up outside of Douglas, Arizona, Governor Castro overcame many obstacles in his early life and attended the Arizona State Teachers College.

He earned a law degree from the University of Arizona, later serving as Pima County attorney, a superior

court judge, and the first Mexican-American to serve as the Governor of the State of Arizona. He has also served as U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Bolivia, and Argentina.

Next week, I will join officials from around Arizona for a ceremony renaming the Douglas port of entry after Governor Castro. I can think of no more fitting tribute for a man who served as a role model and bridge to a generation of young Hispanics looking to enter public life.

We are a stronger and more diverse Nation thanks to the influence and hard work of Hispanic Americans like Governor Castro, and I am proud to join in recognizing their invaluable contributions this month.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today we were talking about jobs and H.R. 702, and I supported the legislation to create jobs for my district and for America, and to provide opportunities to ensure the national security and protect the environment.

We also have to realize our seniors that helped build this country. Today I joined in legislation, Seniors Deserve a Raise, to be able to connect these seniors to a cost-of-living increase related to the Consumer Price Index.

But there is a gross problem that is coming up, and that is the doubling of the cost of Medicare part B. For 30 percent of beneficiaries in 2016, their cost is projected to increase by 52 percent, from \$154 to \$159. This increase will be accompanied by an increase in the part B deductible, from \$147 to \$223. Congress must act to protect the approximately 6 million Medicare beneficiaries who will see a significant increase in their Medicare premiums and deductible.

It is very important to realize that my State of Texas would have a \$159 million increase. It is my intention to introduce legislation, a sense of Congress, that indicates that Congress must act to protect our seniors. They helped build this Nation. What are we doing to help them?

Give them a raise and protect their Medicare.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015, TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, and that the order of the House of January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition. I appreciate you staying on the floor with me today.

It has been a week of inside-the-beltway activity. I can't find a single Member of Congress on this floor—and I have been talking to a lot of them—who ran for Congress because they thought the most important job we were going to have was picking our House leadership.

It is an important responsibility. It is an important job, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell you how difficult it is to lead 435 leaders. It is not a shortage of leaders we have here. Sometimes it is a shortage of good followers we have here.

But nobody ran for Congress for that. You ran for Congress because we had serious business that the American people asked us to be about, and most of that business is not inside leadership conversations. It is about the American economy. It is about feeding one's family. It is about having a predictable future for one's children. It is about opportunity.

I want to begin, Mr. Speaker, with three of the challenges that are out in front of us. The reason good leadership in this institution is important is because we have serious challenges.

When I got here in 2011, we elected JOHN BOEHNER Speaker of the House because JOHN BOEHNER said we can do amazing things in divided government. We don't have to sit back and wait until we control all branches of government as Republicans. The Democrats don't have to sit back and wait until they control everything, Mr. Speaker. We can do amazing things together, and that is exactly what he did.

□ 1345

And we did it around finding those things on which Americans agree.

I have up here the looming insolvencies for our major social safety net programs, Mr. Speaker. Social Security Disability Insurance reaches insolvency next year, next year. It is not 20 years from now, not 10 years from now. It is next year.

If you are an American and you are counting on Social Security Disability Insurance to provide for you and your family because you have paid into it faithfully your entire career—forbid the thought something has happened to you, now you must rely on it—we have a cash flow situation next year leading to insolvency. That is the smallest of our concerns, Mr. Speaker.

We go next to Medicare, insolvent in 2030. Medicare. Social Security, insolvent in 2035.

Social Security and Medicare, as you know, Mr. Speaker, are funded by payroll taxes. Payroll taxes are that FICA line on our pay stubs. It is the largest tax, at 15.3 percent of every worker's paycheck in this country. It is the largest tax that most American families pay.

I want you to think about that. Here we are talking about earning the American people's trust. Here we are talking about delivering for the American people on their priorities. The largest tax that most Americans pay goes to fund two programs that we know with certainty, as we sit here today, aren't going to survive in their current configuration. The cash flow just won't allow it.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am not here to preach doom and gloom. I am here to preach opportunity. I am preaching opportunity because I work with 434 other people here who also believe that, if we work together, we can do amazing things for the American people.

I have got a chart here, Mr. Speaker. You can't see it from your perch. But it is the projected economic growth rates in this country. Again, I am trying to distinguish what is happening in terms of a leadership discussion here from what is happening in a broader leadership discussion about America.

And what I show here is that year after year after year for the past—I have 3 years represented here on the screen, Mr. Speaker, but it goes back 5 years. Every year the Congressional Budget Office—that group of economists that help us to craft the numbers in a bipartisan way—every year the Congressional Budget Office reports that their anticipated economic growth for America is lower in this year than it was the year before. And it was lower last year than the year before that. And it was lower that year than the year before that.

When we fail to succeed together, Mr. Speaker, it is not an academic conversation. When we succeed in the wrong way, it is not an oops moment. It has a real impact on economic growth in this country.

These may be colors on a chart, Mr. Speaker, but what they represent are jobs for families. What they represent are manufacturers who decided to stay in America or leave America. What they represent are entrepreneurs who either succeeded in their business or who were crushed by regulatory burdens. These decisions we make have consequences, Mr. Speaker.

I have an interest rate chart here. You can't tell, but what you would see if you could see it, Mr. Speaker, is that we are borrowing money today at the lowest interest rate in American history. It is virtually free. It is virtually

free today because we have the best of all the worst economies on the planet.

Folks are interested in buying our debt. Right now there are stories in *The Wall Street Journal* about the Germans dumping our debt, about the Chinese dumping our debt. But because markets are frightened around the globe, there is more demand than there are folks selling.

I put the interest rates up, Mr. Speaker, because I am talking about solving big problems today. We are going to talk about big problems. We are going to talk about solutions that we have come to here in this body. But too often, when we talk about balancing the budget, it sounds like it is a numbers game.

The only numbers game balancing the budget is the numbers game 320 million because that is how many Americans live in this country and are counting on us to succeed for them.

When we borrow money, we end up paying interest on that money.

I am so weary of the political echamber, Mr. Speaker, that tells the story of the folks on the left who say, "I want every program in America to succeed, and, in fact, I want to spend even more on it" or the folks on the right who say, "I will never ever raise your taxes. You don't have to pay for those programs that you want." Because both sides are wrong.

What I have here, Mr. Speaker, is a chart of the interest that we are paying on our national debt today. Now, we will talk about the interest we are going to be paying 10 years from now if we don't solve the problem. But this red line represents the interest we are paying on our national debt today: \$229 billion this year.

Balancing the budget is not an academic conversation. Balancing the budget is the difference between spending \$229 billion on interest on the debt versus other American priorities.

You can't see it, Mr. Speaker, but education is represented by this blue line. I want you to see that. The Federal Government spends more money in interest on our national debt. Even though we borrowed that money at the lowest interest rates in American history, teaser rates, we spend more in interest on our national debt than we spend on education for our children.

We are trying to pass a transportation bill right now, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to put people back to work in America building roads so that we will have the best infrastructure in the world, so that we will move goods and services to market better than any other nation in the world, so that we can have our people moving from place to place, creating jobs and economic activity better than anyplace else in the world.

We spend half. Half of what we spend on interest payments this year we will spend on transportation, Mr. Speaker.

We spend the same amount on interest payments in 2015 that we will spend on education and transportation combined.

I want you to think about that, Mr. Speaker. We could double the spending on education in this country, as my friends on the left propose to do. We could double spending on transportation in this country, as my friends on the left propose to do, if we would balance the budget and get out of the interest payment business, as my friends on the right propose to do.

This is a common goal. This is a shared focus. This is not something that divides us. This is something that unites us.

Environment and natural resources: \$41 billion is being spent by the Federal Government this year. We spend five times more than that on interest payments.

Science, space, and technology, Mr. Speaker: Who is going to have that next manned mission to space? Who is going to be the first to have a human being on Mars? What are we going to learn out beyond the stars? We spend one-tenth the amount of our interest payments on that priority.

Energy policy: How many times have we heard the refrain "an all-of-the-above energy policy. Let's find next-generation energy solutions. Let's focus on wind and solar and fuel cells"? I don't dispute any of that. I dispute the commitment that we have to it when we spend 23 times more on interest payments than we spend on all energy policy combined.

When I am talking about balancing the budget, Mr. Speaker, when I am talking about making tough choices, I am not talking about an academic conversation about making the numbers balance. I am talking about a reordering of American priorities, where we would rather spend money on our children, on our roads, on our environment, on exploration, on next-generation energy, than we would paying back debts of the past.

We are going to make good on our debts. But we can control whether or not we are paying those debts down or whether we are running those debts up. Interest that we pay on our national debt isn't a number on a ledger. It is a category that pushes out so many other American priorities.

That is this year, Mr. Speaker. This chart represents this year.

If you fast-forward 10 years, under current law, we will be spending more on our national debt than we spend on national security. I don't mean paying back our debt, Mr. Speaker. I mean we will be spending more in interest payments on our national debt than we will be spending protecting the national security of the United States of America.

That is why the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral

Mullen, said the largest threat to America's national security is rising debt, because our debt and the accompanying interest payments are squeezing out so many other American priorities.

Mr. Speaker, folks don't understand how the American budget works. I put a pie chart up here that captures that. We are going to get into some pretty serious debates here on the floor of this House in the next couple of months, primarily about something that we call discretionary spending.

Discretionary spending I have represented up here, Mr. Speaker, by blue pie slices on the pie chart. Defense and nondefense spending are the two big categories, which means defense and almost everything else you think of as the Federal Government. Those are the decisions—these in blue, Mr. Speaker—that you and I have to make every year. That distinguishes it from these decisions in red.

Social Security spending, Medicare spending, Medicaid spending, interest on the national debt, other mandatory programs. These programs in red, Mr. Speaker, as you know, we won't revisit those this year.

Yes. The Constitution requires that every dollar appropriated from the Treasury be appropriated from the House. But the House, in 1935, decided that some of these dollars needed to go out the door, and they are still going out the door today. We can't change it without passing a new bill in the House, a new bill in the Senate, and a new bill that the President signs.

We spend all of our time in this body, Mr. Speaker, arguing about nibbling around the edges on the blue categories of the chart, which is the small third of the pie. The real challenge in balancing the budget lies in these red slices of the pie, and I am going to tell you why.

What I have charted here is a look at revenues in this country as a percent of GDP. So often we measure our success against the size of the economy. What are we spending relative to the size of the economy? Because if our population grows, if the economy grows, of course our tax base will grow. And so, too, in many cases will our expenses grow. So we chart these things against the size of the economy.

This red line represents our historic revenues going back to 1965: all of the taxes through the Nixon administration, into the Ford administration, Carter administration, Reagan administration, all the way through to today. In fact, we chart it out into 2045. When you see this line go flat on revenues, Mr. Speaker, it is because we are just predicting they are level as a percent of the economy.

But what I have also charted are the spending priorities that were in the red slice of the pie shown earlier, the mandatory spending slices of the pie.

This blue line represents Medicaid and other Federal healthcare expendi-

tures, like the President's Affordable Care Act.

This green line represents Medicare, created in 1965. It used to be nonexistent. Now it is a very large slice of the pie. Again, it represents some of the largest taxes that the American people pay.

This light section here represents Social Security, Mr. Speaker, and this blue line represents net interest.

Mr. Speaker, if you could see it out on the end of this chart, what you would see is Medicaid spending is growing quickly, but on a predictable line. Medicare spending is growing quickly, but on a predictable line. Social Security spending is almost flat, Mr. Speaker, even though it is a big part of the pie.

What is growing is interest payments. And when the blue line crosses the red line, that is where these four programs—interest on the national debt, Social Security payments, Medicare payments, and Medicaid payments—where those programs alone consume every single penny in any tax paid by any American. This is out about 10 years from now, Mr. Speaker.

About 10 years from now every single penny that every single American pays in taxes will be consumed by these four programs. These programs will be insolvent because there is no more money.

Every other priority will have been squeezed out of the budget. And “by every other priority,” Mr. Speaker, I mean we are cutting transportation to zero, we are putting education to zero, we are cutting national parks to zero, we are cutting national security to zero.

□ 1400

This is not an academic conversation about balancing the budget. It is a national security conversation because we need to fund that priority. It is an education conversation because we need to fund that priority. It is an environment and parks conversation because we need to fund that priority. These mandatory spending programs threaten to consume every single penny of Federal revenue.

Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, in case there is any confusion, some folks say: Well, ROB, why don't you just raise more revenue? Let's just raise taxes on the American people, then we will have enough money to make that happen.

Mr. Speaker, what I am showing you in this chart is, no, that won't solve the problem. This green line, I go from 2006 out to 2044 here, Mr. Speaker, and this green line represents historical revenue. When we hit this big economic downturn over the past 5 years, Mr. Speaker, revenues collapsed. It turns out if the American people can't find a job, the American people can't pay any taxes. That is pretty common sense.

I say to my friends on the left, Mr. Speaker, if you want more taxes in the

tax base, create more jobs. If folks have jobs, they can pay. When we ran out of jobs, we ran out of money, yet we spent even more because American families were hurting in that period of time.

Well, I graphed this out to 2044, Mr. Speaker, and what you see is, under current law—this red line represents current law—if we add no new programs, if we don't spend any additional dollars, we just follow the current law, make no new promises to the American people, the spending required by current law more than doubles current revenues.

So we are not talking about raising somebody's taxes a percent or two. We are talking about doubling everyone's taxes all across this country in every category. And when we do that, Mr. Speaker, that will solve the problem until about 2030, and then that won't be enough to fund it either.

Taxes are not the problem. Our problem is that we are not raising enough money. Our problem is that current law is spending too much money, and we have got to come together to fix it.

Well, now I get to the good news part of the presentation, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about bad news and the debt is squeezing out every other funding priority in America. I am talking about bad news that the major social programs of this Nation are fiscally insolvent. I am talking about bad news because there is just no way to tax the American people at a high enough rate to fund those priorities. The good news is we have come together in this body to work on the spending side together.

Look at this, Mr. Speaker. It is unbelievable. Folks sometimes ask me back home, Mr. Speaker, they say: ROB, why do you take so many charts down to the House floor? Why are you down there talking about this? Do you know what my answer is? Because no one believes me. No one believes me.

If you go home, Mr. Speaker—and I challenge you to do this. Go home and tell your constituents that when the big class of 2010 got here, when Republicans took over the House in 2011 and so we had divided government—again, as JOHN BOEHNER always says, you can do big things in divided government. When Republicans took over the House, President Obama was leading the White House, we were spending \$3.6 trillion as a nation—3.6 trillion.

Now, the baby boomers began to retire in this window, so 10,000, Mr. Speaker, 10,000 men and women every day who had been paying Medicare and Social Security taxes their entire lives began applying for the benefits that they had earned through that lifetime of work. So we have Social Security and Medicare spending, two of the biggest categories of Federal spending, growing exponentially because of all these new applicants to the program, all these folks coming to cash in on their benefits.

And what happened in divided government? We came together in this body in what is the best vote I have taken in 4½ years with a voting card, and we passed the Budget Control Act. I didn't get everything I wanted. My Republican colleagues didn't get everything they wanted; my Democratic friends didn't get everything they wanted; and the President didn't get everything he wanted; but we made a step forward for America, and we cut total Federal spending.

We changed our priorities, Mr. Speaker. We began to look and see what was essential Federal spending and what was just kind of nice to do? What did we have to do to meet the promises we made to America, and where were those dollars that we weren't getting as much utility out of? So total Federal spending—not funny, Washington, D.C., math with inflation-adjusted dollars—total dollar bills going out the door from the Federal Government dropped from 2011 to 2012.

I had never seen it before in my lifetime, Mr. Speaker, never seen it before in my lifetime. But we weren't done, because when you put 435 minds together in here, you really can do some neat things, Mr. Speaker. In divided government where we all have skin in the game, where we are all trying to accomplish a goal, you can do some amazing things. So from 2012 to 2013, still with 10,000 men and women a day applying for new Social Security and Medicare benefits that they had earned, we cut total Federal spending again—again, not funny Washington, D.C., math, but reprioritizing what those goals were the American people sent us here to achieve and trying to achieve those goals, not because it is a mathematical exercise, but because if we don't, interest on our national debt is going to squeeze out all of the other priorities that we share as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years in a row, while the population was growing, while the economy was struggling, and while seniors were retiring at a record pace, we came together and reprioritized Federal spending to unburden the next generation. Mr. Speaker, we couldn't do that alone as Republicans, and we couldn't have done that alone as Democrats. We could only do that working together, and we did, 2 years in a row, first time, Mr. Speaker, in anybody's lifetime on this floor.

I have charted it a different way, Mr. Speaker, because we spend so much time beating up on each other as if we are failures. I tell folks back home that Congress has about a 12 percent approval rating, and we seem to use that entire 12 percent approval rating to tell everybody how awful we are: Oh, it is just terrible; folks can't get along; they all hate each other; everybody is on the take; and Washington is a giant cesspool. Please send me back for 2 more years.

Where does that come from? What kind of sense does that make.

We have had a lot of conscientious people on the floor of the House, Mr. Speaker, who leave their families and who leave their communities to come here on a mission that their constituents sent them to do, and in every category—I have charted three things here, Mr. Speaker. I have charted what we call discretionary spending, that is what most people think of as government: parks, courts, environment, transportation, and national security. All of those things that you think of as government, if you are on the green line in discretionary spending.

This red line is the mandatory spending. That is the interest on the national debt: Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Those mandatory programs, dollars go out the door every year.

This blue line is total spending across the whole government, Mr. Speaker. What I have shown here—and again, these are not inflation-adjusted dollars; these are actual dollar bills going out the door—this dotted line in each category represents where the spending was going, where the Congressional Budget Office—again, it is a non-partisan group of economists here—predicted the Federal Government was going to go when JOHN BOEHNER took over as Speaker in 2011, before we had divided government, before we were able to come together and do big things.

The solid line represents what is actually happening with Federal spending, what is actually happening. What you see, Mr. Speaker, is that even on the mandatory spending programs, we are getting reductions over what was anticipated. Certainly on the discretionary spending programs we are getting reductions over what was anticipated. In total Federal spending, we are getting reductions. Folks think nothing is happening here. They say: ROB, for Pete's sake, you have to go and you have to balance the budget. You have to make these things happen.

I can't make everybody agree with me on everything. Put me and two or three other Members together, Mr. Speaker, give us all the powers of government, and we could probably solve this in a week or two. But there are 435 of us, and that is not all of us. That is just here. We have another 100 folks across the way in the Senate.

Do you know what they say about the Senate, Mr. Speaker? They say the difference between a Senator and God is that God knows He is not a Senator. You have heard that one, haven't you?

The power that is on the other side of the Hill has to be reckoned with, too, not to mention folks down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But we all got together, 100 of them, 435 of us, and 1 President at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and we bent the lines on spending.

Now, is spending still going up, Mr. Speaker? It is. What you see here is that we have curtailed it inside our current window. It is the outyears where the rise really begins.

Why is it rising? Look here. Discretionary spending, these are all of those priorities we talked about earlier, that is going down in kind of a flat line going out over the 10-year horizon. It is mandatory spending that is still going up. Even with the changes we have made, it is still going up.

When we talk about what the problem is with spending in this country and we talk about what the challenge is with balancing the budget, it is not that we are spending a little money here or a little money there on education or transportation or the courts or the parks or even national defense. The problem is that you have promised me—I am in my forties, Mr. Speaker. You have promised me Social Security and Medicare benefits that you can't possibly live up to. There is no cash flow model that leaves enough money in the trust funds for me to access it when I retire, and you need to be honest with me and tell me that today while I have another 30 years to prepare for it.

They did a survey of young people, Mr. Speaker. More young people in America, more millennials believe that they would see a UFO in their lifetime than see a Social Security check in their lifetime.

Now, I have just told you this is the largest tax that most Americans pay, and we have so broken the trust with the American people as a spending body here in government that young people who are paying that giant FICA tax, the largest FICA tax in American history, they don't believe they will ever see a penny from it.

We have made these changes together, Mr. Speaker. We can do better. We can make more. But the arguments that the American people are going to hear—and this is critically important. The arguments that the American people are going to hear over the next 4 months are going to be about \$1 billion here and \$1 billion there when we have a \$100 trillion problem.

The arguments that folks are going to hear over the next 4 months, Mr. Speaker, are all going to be focused on this sliver down here in the green area. This body is going to become consumed with nibbling around the edges on discretionary spending on which we have already succeeded. We have already begun the process of redefining those priorities. Where we haven't done enough is on mandatory spending.

I have got to find a way, Mr. Speaker, we have got to find a way to come together to do the heavy lifting that is mandatory spending. No one is going to go to any senior in America and tell them that we are going to pull the rug out from under them now that they

have already retired. Nobody is going to do that. Nobody is proposing that. Nobody is talking about that. And if you are a senior citizen in America, Mr. Speaker, rest assured that the only thing anyone is working on here is making sure the trust funds survive to pay you those benefits that have been promised.

When we are talking about making changes, we are talking about making changes to my generation and younger folks to connect the reality, which is we can't afford those promises with the reality that I am still paying those taxes and redefining that relationship, Mr. Speaker, in a way that America can keep the promises.

I don't mind delivering bad news to folks. You have to pay for what you want in this country. If you want more benefits, we will have to raise your taxes. If you want fewer benefits, we can cut your taxes. Right now, we are providing more benefits without raising taxes. We won't raise taxes on each other. We will raise taxes on our children and grandchildren instead. We won't cut benefits for each other. We cut benefits for our children and grandchildren instead. There is a better way forward, but we are going to find it together.

Again, I put the charts up, Mr. Speaker, because folks won't believe it. These are actual dollars, not inflation-adjusted dollars. This chart represents the dollars that we have control over in this body, the dollars that we have to get together and decide on every year. Again, two-thirds of the budget goes out the door whether this body shows up for work or not. It is on autopilot.

The dollars that go out the door because we show up for work we have been reprioritizing, reallocating, and refocusing every single year. The result of that is a more effective and more efficient Federal Government to accomplish the priorities the American people have sent us here to accomplish, and we are borrowing less from our children and our grandchildren.

It is a morality issue, Mr. Speaker. These are our Federal deficits. This is the money that we are borrowing from our children and our grandchildren.

When George Bush was leaving office, and if he were here on the floor of the House today, Mr. Speaker, he would tell you, it was no source of pride for him as he was leaving office that he ran up the single largest deficit in American history. It was a Republican in the White House, it was Democrats running Capitol Hill, but together, in divided government, they came together and ran up the single largest annual deficit in American history.

This one, Mr. Speaker, you can't see it, this little bitty one that is almost too small to read on the chart, this was once the largest deficit in American history.

□ 1415

Then we left divided government. We went to unified government where one party controlled everything, and we went to this deficit for 1 year and this deficit for the next year and this deficit for the next year, deficits, Mr. Speaker, two and three times larger than the deficit that George Bush set as the highest annual deficit in American history.

Mr. Speaker, those were dark economic times for the country. Everybody has hindsight that is 20/20. No, I wouldn't have supported that spending had I been here at that time. I wasn't in Congress at that time. But those deficits are a reality. Those dollars have been borrowed.

That money is now being repaid with interest every day of the week. I take that back. No, it is not. We don't repay a penny of our debt. I don't know if we have ever had that conversation. We don't repay a penny.

Let's be clear. We pay interest on our national debt. We just keep borrowing. When a principal payment comes due, we borrow more money from someone else to pay back the interest and principal that we borrowed from somebody years ago. We don't pay back a penny. We just borrow more and more and more. These represent increasing borrowing amounts.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the first budget that that class of 2010 got to work on together. This is the second. This is the third. This is the fourth. This is where we are right now.

We are making progress together. We are doing this together not as a mathematical exercise, but as a moral imperative not to borrow and mortgage the future of our children and our grandchildren. We are headed in the right direction, but we have to do more.

I don't want to look like I am patting us on the back, Mr. Speaker. The challenge is enormous. And, yes, we are grappling with it. But, look, this chart represents historical deficits back again as a percent of GDP. These other charts I showed you were in actual dollars going out the door.

We use percent of GDP so we can kind of compare apples to apples because a dollar going out the door in 1942 would have been more money going out the door today. So we do it as a percent of the economy to try to make it be comparable.

We go back here to 1965, Mr. Speaker. We borrow, borrow, borrow, borrow. Throughout all the 1980s we borrowed. Do you remember those conversations in the 1980s, Mr. Speaker, where folks thought Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill and Congress were going to borrow us into oblivion? We thought the 1980s were the dark days of Federal spending because we were running up deficits that were so large.

Here those are, Mr. Speaker, these, what looked like high points then, but

turned out to be low points by more recent history standards. These are those 1980 deficits. These are the early Clinton deficits. These surpluses are the successes that Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton had together, again, divided government producing results. We went back to unified government here with not-so-good results. We went to divided government. Now we are getting back on track.

But if you look at—and I project it another 10 years out, Mr. Speaker. If we do nothing, deficits begin to rise again. Under current law, if we do nothing, deficits begin to rise again.

Yes, we have come together on the Budget Control Act and we have done amazing things. We have come together to end what was called the sustainable growth rate. They call it the doc fix. I don't know why they call it that. It was a patient fix. It was this gimmick in law that was undermining healthcare security for all seniors. We came together and we fixed that.

We made changes to the Medicare program that both solved a current problem and prevented future problems. Reinvesting more money in the trust fund, putting off those deficits, we can do those things together.

But we have got to start now, Mr. Speaker. Again, we are going to talk over the next 4 months about \$1 billion here and \$1 billion there. I want to talk about \$1 trillion here and \$1 trillion there. This chart, Mr. Speaker, represents the nature of our challenge.

If we want to get back to what I would call Federal debt levels that are historically normal, if it is okay to confess that, yes, we have a chart that says: As America, let's not have debt that is incredibly high. Let's just have debt that is kind of an average high.

That is what we are going to define as success, just an average high debt, average dangerous debt. We are going to define that as success.

And to get to that point, Mr. Speaker, if we start today, we are going to have to deal with about 1.1 percent of GDP. That is going to be the size of the change. We are going to have to deal with about 1 percent of the size of the entire economy.

What is that going to be? A 1 percent increase in taxes? A 1 percent reduction in spending? No. It is much larger than that. GDP is the entire American economy. Federal spending and Federal taxes are just a very small part of that.

When we talk about moving the needle on 1 percent of GDP, we are talking about big, big dollars. It is a huge challenge, huge challenge, if we started today.

The tale I am telling, Mr. Speaker, is, if we wait 5 years, the challenge gets 30 percent harder. It is a huge challenge today. Some would argue it is an insurmountable challenge today.

If we fail to address it today, Mr. Speaker, it will be 30 percent harder just 5 years down the road. Mr. Speaker, wait 10 years down the road and it is almost twice as hard. It is almost twice as hard to conquer 10 years down the road.

We don't talk about Social Security going bankrupt in 2035 because we are trying to be alarmists. We talk about it going bankrupt in 2035 because the time to solve that is today. We talk about Medicare going bankrupt in 2030 not to be alarmists, but because the time to solve that is today.

These funding challenges that we have are hard today. They are twice as hard tomorrow. We have got to find the courage today to come together and make these changes.

Now, that is to keep things as they are. If what you want to do is to make things better, you see, the challenge is even harder. If what you want to do is begin to pay some debt back, the challenges are even larger.

I am not setting my sights on the big line, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to focus on the little line because success begets success.

When we came together and solved the Budget Control Act, we were then able to come together and solve the Medicare challenge. When we came together and solved the Medicare challenge, we were then able to come together and solve our defense challenge. One time and one time and one time and one time. When you wake up 365 days later, you find out you have really gotten some work done.

There are a lot of numbers on this chart, Mr. Speaker, and I will send you a copy of it. But we are talking about a 14 percent revenue increase or a 13 percent spending increase today, today, to begin this process.

The size of our challenge today, the challenge that I said was easy, the challenge that I said we could achieve together, the challenge that I said divided government gave us an opportunity to be successful at, that is a 14 percent revenue increase, 14 percent tax hike today, or a 13 percent spending cut today. And then we are going to need to do it again next year and again next year and again the year after that.

This is the easy challenge, Mr. Speaker. We have come together to create the largest deficit reduction package in the history of the country. Republicans, Democrats, Congress, the White House, we did it. We have time to do it again.

I know there is an election year coming. I know folks want to focus on who is going to win in November. I know folks want Democrats to try to take over Congress or Republicans to try to take over the White House. I know that is the national conversation.

But whichever side of that battle you pick, wouldn't your candidate be ad-

vantaged if Republicans and Democrats had been successful for the American people on yet another big challenge?

There is only one way forward, and it is hard. There is only one way forward, and it is together. Please let us not burn bridges quibbling over \$1 billion here and \$1 billion there over the next 4 months. One billion dollars is a lot of money, a lot of money. But our problems are trillion-dollar problems, and I want us to join together to solve them because I know that we can.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a medical procedure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at 2 p.m.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE A COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 9, 2015.

To the CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XV, I, STEPHEN LEE FINCHER, moved to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 450) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 597) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes, which was referred to said Committee September 30, 2015, in support of which motion the undersigned Members of the House of Representatives affix their signatures, to wit:

1. Stephen Lee Fincher.
2. Frank D. Lucas.
3. Markwayne Mullin.
4. E. Scott Rigell.
5. Raul M. Grijalva.
6. Billy Long.
7. Thomas MacArthur.
8. Chris Collins.
9. Richard L. Hanna.
10. Gregg Harper.
11. Mike Bost.
12. David W. Jolly.
13. Carlos Curbelo.
14. Larry Bucshon.
15. Charles W. Boustany.
16. James B. Renacci.
17. Mark E. Amodei.
18. Bill Johnson.
19. Renee L. Ellmers.
20. Ryan A. Costello.

21. Dan Newhouse.
22. James E. Clyburn.
23. Michael K. Simpson.
24. Mike Quigley.
25. Denny Heck.
26. Tom Reed.
27. Adam Kinzinger.
28. John R. Moolenaar.
29. Lou Barletta.
30. Tom Marino.
31. Mike Kelly.
32. David G. Reichert.
33. Elise M. Stefanik.
34. Robert J. Dold.
35. Duncan Hunter.
36. John L. Mica.
37. Stephen Knight.
38. Charles W. Dent.
39. Andre Carson.
40. Steve Stivers.
41. Glenn Thompson.
42. Joyce Beatty.
43. Bill Foster.
44. Keith Ellison.
45. Gene Green.
46. David Scott.
47. Zoe Lofgren.
48. Nita M. Lowey.
49. Mark Takai.
50. John Lewis.
51. Nancy Pelosi.
52. Steny H. Hoyer.
53. Jose E. Serrano.
54. Sheila Jackson Lee.
55. John K. Delaney.
56. Timothy J. Walz.
57. Mike Rogers.
58. Carolyn B. Maloney.
59. Patrick J. Tiberi.
60. Jerry McNerney.
61. Suzan K. DelBene.
62. Kurt Schrader.
63. Anna G. Eshoo.
64. Brad Ashford.
65. Derek Kilmer.
66. Ron Kind.
67. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter.
68. Kevin Cramer.
69. Lois Frankel.
70. John C. Carney.
71. Mark Pocan.
72. Gwen Moore.
73. John Katko.
74. Karen Bass.
75. Joaquin Castro.
76. Ann Kirkpatrick.
77. Julia Brownley.
78. David Loebsack.
79. Steve Israel.
80. Brian Higgins.
81. Kathleen M. Rice.
82. Eric Swalwell.
83. Janice Hahn.
84. Joseph Crowley.
85. Tony Cardenas.
86. Louise McIntosh Slaughter.
87. Eddie Bernice Johnson.
88. Brendan F. Boyle.
89. Frank Pallone.
90. Bonnie Watson Coleman.
91. Michael F. Doyle.
92. Michael E. Capuano.
93. Doris O. Matsui.
94. Beto O'Rourke.
95. Joe Courtney.

96. Ruben Hinojosa.
 97. Paul Tonko.
 98. Robin L. Kelly.
 99. Linda T. Sanchez.
 100. Jim Cooper.
 101. Michelle Lujan Grisham.
 102. Sean Patrick Maloney.
 103. Jared Polis.
 104. Ben Ray Lujan.
 105. Alma S. Adams.
 106. Pete Aguilar.
 107. Barbara Lee.
 108. Henry Cuellar.
 109. Marcia L. Fudge.
 110. Brenda L. Lawrence.
 111. Mike Thompson.
 112. Lois Capps.
 113. Hakeem S. Jeffries.
 114. David E. Price.
 115. Albio Sires.
 116. Kathy Castor.
 117. Jim McDermott.
 118. Bill Pascrell.
 119. Tim Ryan.
 120. Debbie Dingell.
 121. David N. Cicilline.
 122. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott.
 123. Rosa L. DeLauro.
 124. Janice D. Schakowsky.
 125. G.K. Butterfield.
 126. Theodore E. Deutch.
 127. Ted Lieu.
 128. Raul Ruiz.
 129. Ann M. Kuster.
 130. Terri A. Sewell.
 131. Ed Perlmutter.
 132. Patrick Murphy.
 133. C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger.
 134. Jim Costa.
 135. Elijah E. Cummings.
 136. Suzanne Bonamici.
 137. Richard M. Nolan.
 138. Collin C. Peterson.
 139. John Garamendi.
 140. Jared Huffman.
 141. Scott H. Peters.
 142. Sam Farr.
 143. Earl Blumenauer.
 144. Lucille Roybal-Allard.
 145. Gwen Graham.
 146. Katherine M. Clark.
 147. Jerrold Nadler.
 148. Rick Larsen.
 149. Matt Cartwright.
 150. Robert A. Brady.
 151. John B. Larson.
 152. Bobby L. Rush.
 153. James A. Himes.
 154. Susan A. Davis.
 155. Sanford D. Bishop.
 156. Marc A. Veasey.
 157. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson.
 158. Ed Whitfield.
 159. Elizabeth H. Esty.
 160. Daniel T. Kildee.
 161. Emanuel Cleaver.
 162. John P. Sarbanes.
 163. Donna F. Edwards.
 164. Yvette D. Clarke.
 165. Nydia M. Velázquez.
 166. Joseph P. Kennedy, III.
 167. John A. Yarmuth.
 168. Betty McCollum.
 169. William R. Keating.
 170. Cedric L. Richmond.

171. Jackie Speier.
 172. Mark Takano.
 173. Sander M. Levin.
 174. Daniel Lipinski.
 175. James P. McGovern.
 176. Stephen F. Lynch.
 177. Adam B. Schiff.
 178. Judy Chu.
 179. Steve Cohen.
 180. Ruben Gallego.
 181. John Conyers.
 182. Adam Smith.
 183. Danny K. Davis.
 184. Chellie Pingree.
 185. Juan Vargas.
 186. Diana DeGette.
 187. Wm. Lacy Clay.
 188. Mark DeSaulnier.
 189. Grace Meng.
 190. Bennie G. Thompson.
 191. Alan S. Lowenthal.
 192. Norma J. Torres.
 193. Niki Tsongas.
 194. Seth Moulton.
 195. Charles B. Rangel.
 196. Donald Norcross.
 197. Chaka Fattah.
 198. Eliot L. Engel.
 199. Ami Bera.
 200. Donald S. Beyer.
 201. Gregory W. Meeks.
 202. Cheri Bustos.
 203. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.
 204. Richard E. Neal.
 205. Filemon Vela.
 206. Gerald E. Connolly.
 207. Tammy Duckworth.
 208. Alcee L. Hastings.
 209. Corrine Brown.
 210. Lloyd Doggett.
 211. Chris Van Hollen.
 212. Xavier Becerra.
 213. Grace F. Napolitano.
 214. Luis V. Gutiérrez.
 215. Tulsi Gabbard.
 216. Loretta Sanchez.
 217. Dina Titus.
 218. Maxine Waters.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3144. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's correcting amendments — Apprenticeship Programs; Corrections (RIN: 3046-AA72) received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3145. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Auctions and Spectrum Access Division, Wireline Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Procedures for Competitive Bidding in Auction 1000, Including Initial Clearing Target Determination, Qualifying to Bid, and Bidding in Auctions 1001 (Reverse) and 1002 (Forward) [AU Docket No.: 14-252] [GN Docket No.: 12-268] [WT Docket No.: 12-269] [MB Docket No.: 15-146] received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-

121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3146. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment to the Commission's Rules Concerning Market Modification; Implementation of Section 102 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 [MB Docket No.: 15-71] received October 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3147. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter reporting the FY 2015 expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for projects, activities, and facilities that support the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, pursuant to Public Law 102-86, Sec. 403(d)(6)(C); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3148. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report to Congress on the Defense Environmental Programs for FY 2014, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2711; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 3731. A bill to establish a Rare Disease Therapeutics Corporation to encourage the development of high-risk, high-return therapies for rare diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. PAULSEN):

H.R. 3732. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 3733. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain provisions of the renewable energy credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HARDY (for himself and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 3734. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide support to mining schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WALKER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr.

PITTENGER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 3735. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Town Run Lane in Winston Salem, North Carolina, as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3736. A bill to provide for the restoration of Federal recognition to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3737. A bill to responsibly pay our Nation's bills on time by temporarily extending the public debt limit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 3738. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to improve the transparency, accountability, governance, and operations of the Office of Financial Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WOODALL (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 3739. A bill to provide for qualified physicians to perform a medical certification for an operator of a commercial motor vehicle who is a veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Ms. LEE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 3740. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to add a national goal and performance measure to improve road conditions in economically distressed urban communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BERA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CICILLINE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 3741. A bill to establish the Commission to Verify Iranian Nuclear Compliance; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 3742. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to allow for certain third party payments; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 3743. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of an executive department from maintaining a private email server for conducting official Government business; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 3744. A bill to adjust the immigration status of certain Venezuelan nationals who are in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3745. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow chiropractors to

provide items and services through private contracts under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 3746. A bill to make the Controlled Substances Act inapplicable with respect to marijuana in States that have legalized marijuana and have in effect a statewide regulatory regime to protect certain Federal interests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3747. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to adjust for inflation the amount that is exempt from administrative offsets by the Department of Education for defaulted student loans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 3748. A bill to require the Director of the Congressional Budget Office to calculate a carbon score for each bill or resolution; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 3749. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interference with communication frequencies used by emergency response providers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 3750. A bill to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 3751. A bill to allow certain student loan borrowers to refinance Federal student loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 3752. A bill to simplify and improve the Federal student loan program through income-contingent repayment to provide stronger protections for borrowers, encourage responsible borrowing, and save money for taxpayers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 3753. A bill to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the

debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached, to require the sale of Federal assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 3754. A bill to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to facilitate recovering the costs of litigation and agency adjudications for prevailing parties in an action against the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.R. 3755. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the disregard of certain resident slots that include Department of Veterans Affairs training in determining payments for direct graduate medical education costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H. Res. 474. A resolution recognizing the important contribution and added value of mental health and psychosocial support services and the importance of building such capacity in humanitarian and development contexts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GRAHAM (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. ASHFORD, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H. Res. 475. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide for the consideration of continuing resolutions to fund the Government at the current rate of operations if offered not more than 24 hours before funding for the Government expires; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 476. A resolution supporting the establishment of a national Children's Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. HAHN:

H. Res. 477. A resolution recommending the designation of a Presidential Special Envoy to the Balkans to evaluate the successes and shortcomings of the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to provide policy recommendations, and to report back to Congress within one year; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H. Res. 478. A resolution commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KIND, Mr.

LOBIONDO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. WALZ, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 479. A resolution encouraging observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 3731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution;

(2) To borrow money on the credit of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution;

(3) To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution;

(4) To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution;

(5) to make all laws necessary and proper for executing powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 3733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. HARDY:

H.R. 3734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution. and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 3735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof..

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 3738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (The Congress shall have Power “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes”) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”).

By Mr. WOODALL:

H.R. 3739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States and establish Post Offices and post Roads.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 3740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution and

Article 1, Section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 3741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 3742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 3743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 3744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4: The Congress shall have Power To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on

the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 3746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 3748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 3749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 3750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 3751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 3752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 3753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 3754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Amendment XVI, of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under Clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 239: Mr. CUMMINGS and Ms. KUSTER.

- H.R. 292: Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 304: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 532: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 590: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 670: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 674: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 711: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 745: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 752: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 757: Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 768: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 793: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 820: Ms. EDWARDS and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 842: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 870: Mr. HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ISRAEL, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 920: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 953: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 969: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 985: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 987: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 1122: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1130: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 1151: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1174: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1209: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1217: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 1221: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 1288: Mr. DENT and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1302: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 1309: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1312: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1342: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BERA, and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1343: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1399: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 1441: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1475: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HILL, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1567: Mr. KIND and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1600: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1603: Mr. UPTON and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1635: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1650: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1655: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1743: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 1763: Mr. WALZ and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1786: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1814: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1877: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1902: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 1941: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 2013: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2082: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2123: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2132: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2156: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 2169: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2216: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2307: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 2380: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 2400: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2404: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 2406: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2430: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2461: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 2467: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 2566: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 2597: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2612: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2654: Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 2657: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2661: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2699: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2710: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2752: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2769: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2775: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2799: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2844: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2855: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2858: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2873: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2886: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 2901: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 2903: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2917: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BASS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 2944: Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3041: Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 3047: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3065: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3092: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BLUM, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3094: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 3099: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 3119: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PAULSEN, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3220: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3221: Ms. LEE and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3229: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3286: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3294: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3309: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3326: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 3339: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 3340: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 3355: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3381: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3420: Mr. TAKAI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 3455: Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3459: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARR, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3463: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 3478: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 3484: Mrs. TORRES and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3488: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 3516: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3532: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 3541: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3546: Mr. ROSS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3556: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3568: Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 3573: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 3640: Ms. MCSALLY.
H.R. 3651: Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3652: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 3655: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 3656: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3665: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 3666: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 3679: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 3696: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3707: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3710: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 3713: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. BASS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 3720: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3727: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. FOSTER.
H.J. Res. 48: Mr. TAKANO.
H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. PETERS.
H. Con. Res. 75: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. CROWLEY.
H. Con. Res. 77: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BASS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HONDA.
H. Res. 12: Mr. VALADAO.
H. Res. 112: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. WITTMAN.
H. Res. 130: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H. Res. 276: Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 293: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. MICA.
H. Res. 346: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 348: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H. Res. 354: Mr. KEATING and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 392: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H. Res. 416: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H. Res. 428: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Res. 445: Mr. ASHFORD.
H. Res. 451: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H. Res. 467: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. TONKO.
H. Res. 469: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H. Res. 472: Mr. SCHRADER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEBORAH ANN
HUBSMITH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Deborah "Deb" Ann Hubsmith, who lost her battle with cancer on August 18, 2015 in Fairfax, CA, at the young age of 46. A Marin resident for over 20 years, Ms. Hubsmith will be remembered as a local and national advocate for safe pedestrian and biking routes for all.

Ms. Hubsmith grew up in New Jersey. Upon graduation from Lehigh University, she established a vibrant life in Marin County. Though always committed to sustainability and biodiversity, after suffering a tragic accident nearly 15 years ago, Ms. Hubsmith turned her focus towards safe alternative modes of transportation.

Ms. Hubsmith was a vigorous advocate for alternate modes of transportation, co-creating the national and award winning The Safe Routes to School National Program, in addition to founding the Marin County Bicycle Coalition. Among her many accomplishments across the nation and in Marin County, Ms. Hubsmith played a significant role in the creation of SMART, a commuter train linking Marin and Sonoma County, and bike and pedestrian pathway.

Ms. Hubsmith's advocacy on the local, state, and federal level has ensured generations of America's children will have a safe walkable or bikeable route to school. Her legacy will benefit many individuals and communities for years to come. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her husband, Andy; her parents, Mary Lou, Jack and Jack's wife Elly; her sister, Christine; as well as Ms. Hubsmith's large network of family and friends.

HONORING RICK GESWELL UPON
HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 10
YEARS OF WORK WITH THE
CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDATION
OF AMERICA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Richard Geswell, for his tireless efforts and dedication to patients with inflammatory bowel disease. After 10 years with the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Mr. Geswell is retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America is one of the best-run, well-funded disease organizations in the country. Since its founding in 1967, CCFA has awarded more than 1,300 IBD grants totaling approximately \$164 million of funding invested in research related to Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The bonds forged by CCFA between donors, researchers, and doctors have put us closer than ever to finding a cure.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease, are chronic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract. IBD is one of the five most prevalent gastrointestinal disease burdens in the United States. This chronic condition is without a medical cure and commonly requires a lifetime of care.

In order to bring more awareness to this disease, Mr. Geswell and I worked together to establish the Congressional Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, a caucus that has grown steadily for three consecutive congresses and boasts 57 bipartisan members. The caucus works to promote awareness of IBD, the need for expanded research at the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the importance of accessible insurance and disability coverage for this vulnerable patient population.

I commend Mr. Geswell for his remarkable vision and drive to improve the lives of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Mr. Geswell spent nearly 10 years with CCFA and during his tenure he significantly expanded the CCFA medical research portfolio as well as services to support and educate patients managing IBD. I believe it is no coincidence that the last 10 years have seen innovative new medicines hit the market for IBD. He was also instrumental in his work in the procurement of federal dollars from the Centers for Disease Control for a critical epidemiology study of Crohn's and Colitis, work that has yielded an important view into the origins of the disease.

Mr. Geswell retires with nearly 40 years of experience with non-profits seeking to find cures and improve the lives of patients. I applaud and commend Mr. Geswell for his service to the nation and for his accomplishments for the IBD community. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Geswell for his tremendous leadership and exemplary efforts as President and CEO of CCFA, and wish him success in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JUDGE RICHARD D. CUDAHY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Richard D. Cudahy. A Wis-

consin native and member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Judge Cudahy passed away on September 22, 2015.

Judge Cudahy was born in Milwaukee in 1926 and spent his childhood in Cudahy, Wisconsin. He attended college at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, earning his degree in 1948. He served in the military until 1951 before attending Yale Law School, where he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1955.

In 1956, Judge Cudahy went to work for the U.S. State Department Office of Legal Adviser in Washington, DC, and then moved into private practice in Chicago in 1957. After serving as the head of his family's meat packing company, he ran for Attorney General of Wisconsin. He served as the Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairman from 1967 to 1968. In 1979, under the recommendation of Senators William Proxmire and Gaylord Nelson, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Cudahy to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

During Judge Cudahy's long legal career he was also a professor at many prominent law schools, including DePaul University College of Law, George Washington University Law School, Marquette University School of Law, and University of Wisconsin Law School. Judge Cudahy was well known for his writings on environmental law and public energy law, two issues about which he was extremely passionate.

From being the head of a large meat packing company that provided many jobs to the citizens of Wisconsin, to teaching future lawyers at Wisconsin and Marquette, to being a highly respected judge that presided over many cases involving citizens of Wisconsin, Judge Cudahy was a model Wisconsinite. Judge Cudahy was exceptionally well regarded by his peers for being knowledgeable, kind-hearted, and humane. The state of Wisconsin will miss him and all of the wonderful things he did to benefit its citizens.

HONORING ALEA WILLIAMS FOR
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Alea Williams, an outstanding young woman from the 6th District of Illinois who was recently honored with the prestigious Gold Award from the Girl Scouts of America. The Gold Award honors young women who are leaders in their community and represents the highest achievement a Girl Scout can reach.

Alea, a resident from my hometown of Wheaton, has a passion for helping those in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

need. She has acted on this passion by working with the Ronald McDonald House in Hines, Illinois, where she helped renovate bedrooms for families who stay at the non for profit while their children are receiving medical care. During her time with the Ronald McDonald House, Alea spent more than 80 hours and raised more than \$3,000 to complete the project for her Gold Award.

According to the Girl Scouts of America, only 5.4% of eligible Scouts achieve the Gold Award. It is rare to see the level of commitment and determination Alea has exemplified through her volunteer efforts. Along with her studies and extracurricular activities, Alea maintained her involvement in Girl Scouts achieving the Bronze and Silver award before reaching the final capstone, the Gold Award and graduating from Girl Scouts.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Alea Williams on her outstanding accomplishments and wishing her the very best of luck as she continues to strive to be a leader and a role model in her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW JERSEY
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council for their 50th anniversary this year. The NCHC represents 800 colleges and universities and is composed of 325,000 students dedicated to achieving educational excellence in diverse subject curriculum areas in order to achieve professional career goals.

In my district, the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Albert Dorman Honors College challenges its brightest and most motivated students by intellectually stimulating them with a well-balanced education that includes special activities, lectures, and colloquium series that feature prestigious speakers. The program accomplishes its overarching missions of fostering leadership skills and ensuring academic excellence through rigorous learner-centered education by providing undergraduate research opportunities, innovative learning seminars, community service engagement, and study abroad programs. Students prepare for competition for highly desirable jobs in the modern economy by participating in technology based education and internship programs that provide professional work experiences and opportunities to network with real-world business leaders. The College also offers accelerated pre-law, pre-med, and entrepreneurial programs that enable students to quickly move on to graduate or professional schools by allowing them to earn their undergraduate degrees in just three years. Indeed, Albert Dorman graduates leave the New Jersey Institute of Technology well prepared to find jobs in prominent corporations or to pursue graduate education in our nation's best academic institutions.

The National Collegiate Honors Program, after decades of growth and experience, continues to dedicate itself to promoting educational excellence within our nation's colleges and universities while preparing students for successful professional careers.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending NJIT's outstanding contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities and honoring its 50th anniversary of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

RIDDING CENTRAL AFRICA OF JOSEPH KONY: CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, has killed, raped, kidnapped, enslaved or robbed thousands of people in the Great Lakes region of Africa and beyond. In October 2011, the Obama administration deployed about 100 military advisers to help Ugandan and other military forces in the region to seek out and capture or kill the members of a terrorist force that has now dwindled from thousands of fighters in the late 1990s and early 2000s to fewer than 200 today, but remains a very real danger to people in the east and central regions of Africa. A hearing I held last week looked at why the effort to end the LRA is so critical for the international community and how the U.S. counter-LRA program has worked thus far.

Last week's hearing was held even in the absence of the Department of Defense or the State Department (whose relevant officials are unavailable for a few weeks) because it will serve as acknowledgement of the importance of countering the LRA prior to the administration's decision on whether to continue the program. The decision on renewing the American deployment will come in the next few weeks. We trust the administration will decide to continue this worthy effort. We hope to cover U.S. counter-LRA policy with administration witnesses in a future hearing on Africa's Great Lakes region.

One can use a number of metaphors to describe the LRA today. It is like a wounded animal, less capable but still very dangerous. It is like a vulture, feeding off the existing misery it finds in countries otherwise troubled by conflict. The LRA is like a fire that is tamped down but not extinguished and can re-ignite at any time. However, the danger posed by the LRA is not metaphorical; it is very real to those who still live in fear in eastern and central Africa.

The LRA is a vivid example of how ethnic strife can provide a cover for wanton viciousness. In the name of protecting the rights of northern Uganda's Acholi tribe, LRA founder Joseph Kony has brought only wretchedness to his people and their neighbors, as well as to people living in surrounding countries. Efforts to come to a negotiated settlement have all come to naught because Kony apparently

has no coherent demands. His terrorist group seems to want nothing more than chaos and destruction.

The international community has been much too quick to abandon humanitarian activities, largely because the number of victims has been reduced significantly. In confirmation hearing testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee last year, General David Rodriguez referred to the counter-LRA effort as "a good success story," citing the group's decline and American determination to support African efforts to finish off the LRA.

Unfortunately, this is where the metaphors about the group must be kept in mind. Whenever the LRA has had a setback due to international efforts to eliminate it, the group's retaliation has been ruthless. Ongoing conflict in Central African Republic, South Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has provided a welcoming environment in which the LRA can hide and resume its deadly activities with less fear of regional government action against it. When we take our eyes off the LRA, they have enhanced maneuverability and opportunity to regroup.

Thanks to the #Kony2012 campaign by the advocacy group Invisible Children, the LRA became notorious worldwide and garnered international support, especially among the young, on behalf of a robust counter-LRA effort. Yet the staying power of social media is fleeting. There are always new causes, also legitimate, to draw attention away. Remember #BringBackOurGirls on behalf of the Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram?

Our caring has to extend to the victims of LRA and other such groups, which not only include those whom they attack, but also those whom they cruelly use in their destructive campaigns. We had one such victim with us, who described the ongoing desolation the LRA brings to so many young lives. We also had witnesses familiar with the LRA and its terrorist activities who described the ongoing threat this group poses, however diminished their ranks may be.

Countering terrorist groups cannot depend on Twitter campaigns. The United States and other members of the international community must retain our resolve to capture or remove the leaders of the LRA and any terrorist group that threaten the lives and well-being of innocent people worldwide. Whether such groups pose a direct, confirmable threat to the homeland or not, by terrorizing those whom we help, they oppose U.S. interests and must be dealt with.

HONORING JIM JOHNSTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Johnston of Grain Valley, MO. This October, Jim will be completing his eighth term and fourth decade as the President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), an organization that formed to give owner-operators and drivers a voice where they previously had

none. Jim is widely considered to be a national leader on all issues affecting small business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers.

It is hard to believe that OOIDA began in an office trailer chained to a light pole at a truck stop in Grain Valley. Under Jim's leadership, it is now the largest organization of small business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers in the country, with more than 155,000 members nationwide. OOIDA has members in every state across every Congressional district.

There is no question that Jim and his organization strive daily to represent the best interests of truck drivers around the country. In fact, Jim leads a 22 member Board of Directors that has more than 800 years of truck driving experience collectively, and a staff of 320 OOIDA employees, many of whom were truck drivers themselves. Needless to say, Jim is an invaluable resource on trucking and transportation issues to those fortunate enough to work with him.

Representing the interests of truck drivers has been Jim's life's work, and I can confidently say there is no one more dedicated to the cause. Throughout his career, he has worked with legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, law enforcement agencies and other trucking and transportation organizations, all while serving on numerous commissions and advisory boards. His mission is simple: fight for the rights of all professional truck drivers. While some of his colleagues might say that he is a fierce adversary, I think most would agree that the integrity and professionalism with which he conducts himself has endeared Jim to all of his colleagues and competitors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to work with Jim and his team at OOIDA. I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Jim Johnston for his lifelong dedication to the members of OOIDA and the trucking industry, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE CREW OF "EL FARO"

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the crew of the *El Faro*, the 790-foot container ship that recently perished in the Atlantic during Hurricane Joaquin. We cannot know the heartache that their families and friends are facing in the midst of the unanswered questions surrounding this maritime disaster. In their time of need, we send them strong prayers of support to help ease their pain.

The 33 crew members aboard the vessel, 18 from Florida, 12 from my hometown of Jacksonville, 10 others from cities and towns across America, and five Polish nationals, all faced the toughest of odds from a Category 4 hurricane. These brave men and women include: Jacksonville residents Roosevelt Clark, Brookie Davis, Frank Hamm, Carey Hatch,

Jack Jackson, Jackie Jones, Jr., Lonnie Jordan, Roan Lightfoot, James Porter, Theodore Quammie, Lashawn Rivera and Anthony Thomas. Florida residents Louis Champa of Palm Coast, Keith Griffin of Fort Myers, Joe Hargrove of Orange Park, Howard Schoenly of Cape Coral, German Solar-Cortes of Orlando and Mariette Wright of St. Augustine were also aboard.

Sylvester Crawford Jr. of Lawrenceville, Georgia; Michael Davidson of Windham, Maine; Michael Holland of North Wilton, Maine; Mitchell Kuflik of Brooklyn, New York; Jeffrey Mathias of Kingston, Massachusetts; Dylan Meklin of Rockland, Maine; Richard Pusatere of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Danielle Randolph of Rockland, Massachusetts; Jeremie Riehm of Camden, Delaware; and Steven Shultz of Roan Mountain, Tennessee are also mourned as are Piotr Krause, Marcin Nita, Jan Podgorski, Andrzej Truszkowski and Rafal Zdobyh of Poland.

As we learn more about their lives we see the experience and professionalism they brought to their careers, their love of family and the hope they had for the future. May those closest to them take comfort from this diverse collection of stories.

We also take time to recognize the United States Coast Guard, United States Navy, United States Air Force and other maritime assets who combined forces in the search for the stricken ship and its members. They are to be commended for their full commitment and dedication to that mission.

As we move ahead, investigations are underway by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Coast Guard to determine what happened and how to prevent another such disaster from happening in the future. I have no doubt that those answers will come. In the meantime, America's maritime community is a tight one and will rally around those who need it the most right now—the loved ones of the *El Faro* crew. We stand with them, ready to meet their needs in whatever way we can, today and in all of the tomorrows.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF COACH MICKEY LINDSEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM PACE HIGH SCHOOL, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Coach Mickey Lindsey on the occasion of his retirement from Pace High School, located in Northwest Florida. For nearly four decades, Coach Lindsey has dedicated his life to serving his students and local communities throughout the Gulf Coast and Southeastern United States, and I am pleased to honor his outstanding achievements.

Born and raised in Alabama, Coach Lindsey graduated high school from Grove Hill Academy in Grove Hill and received his Bachelor of Science and Masters in Physical Education degree from the University of West Alabama in 1976 and Valdosta State College in 1984,

respectively. At the collegiate level, Coach Lindsey was a member of the Livingston University Football team from 1972 to 1975, where he was part of a Division II semi-final run, and his love of the game and athletics would continue to play an integral role in his successful coaching career.

Coach Lindsey began his coaching career as assistant football coach and head track coach at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida in 1977. After stops at various other schools—including Dodge County High School, Central High School, Escambia High School, and Century High School—Coach Lindsey became the Head Football Coach at Pace High School, where he has remained for the last 25 years. His numerous awards and accolades include four-time Pensacola News Journal Football Coach of the Year, two-time WEAR-TV Football Coach of the Year, and two-time State Weightlifting Coach of the Year. Under his leadership, Coach Lindsey's teams have captured four state weightlifting titles, 10 district football championships, four undefeated football seasons, and three regional football championships. Over the course of his career, Coach Lindsey has compiled a career record of 205–91, and, perhaps most importantly, his leadership on and off the field has impacted the lives of countless students in Northwest Florida.

His inspiration and dedication to improving the lives of those around him, however, is not limited to the playing field, track, or in the weight room, but rather extends far beyond into the larger Northwest Florida community. Coach Lindsey has sponsored the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for 30 years and serves as a deacon at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. Additionally, in 1993, Coach Lindsey initiated the Patriot Pal program, a mentoring program that continues to exist today and pairs football players with elementary school students.

As evidenced by his tremendous success, Coach Lindsey has much to be proud of and can look back on a well accomplished career. His strong leadership and passion for coaching may have led him to achieve what many coaches can only hope to throughout their coaching careers, and though his accomplishments are many, Coach Lindsey's greatest accomplishment is his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Coach Mickey Lindsey on his well-earned retirement after 39 years of dedicated service to public education and thank him for his commitment to service and inspiration to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki and I wish him, his wife, Gayle, daughter Jessica and son-in-law Matt, son Jay and daughter-in-law Carrie, as well as his grandchildren Jayden and Avery, all the best for continued success.

HONORING BENTWORTH HIGH
SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NA-
TIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS
PROGRAM RECOGNITION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bentworth High School for receiving the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognition.

Since 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has celebrated schools that have either made significant improvements or achieved an outstanding level of school-wide performance. This year, only 335 schools in the United States were honored with this distinction, including the 9th District's Bentworth High School. In order to achieve this distinction, schools must earn test scores that illustrate advanced or strongly improving academic achievement.

Supporting a hard working student population of about 400, fewer than 50 dedicated teachers and personnel have worked together to increase overall academic achievement at Bentworth. Using strategies to help identify economically disadvantaged students and embracing its relatively small size, Bentworth High School and its surrounding community have provided students with a uniquely personalized educational experience. Furthermore, this involved approach has enabled Bentworth High to provide its students with a challenging curriculum, specialized support services, and valuable extracurricular programs.

Today it is my privilege to congratulate Bentworth High School for its National Blue Ribbon Schools recognition. I'm also proud to highlight the dedicated effort of all those who helped earn this award as it illustrates the spirit of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I convened a hearing on the topic of food security and nutrition programs in Africa. I am the sponsor of the Global Food Security Act of 2015, a bill which in its prior iteration passed the House of Representatives. The Global Food Security Act, H.R. 1567, will help provide a long-term strategy to combat global hunger by authorizing the existing national food security initiative coordinated by USAID commonly known as Feed the Future. It is a bill with broad bipartisan support, including the original co-sponsorship of my friend and colleague KAREN BASS as well as Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL.

Investing in global food security is a policy that is both penny wise and pound wise.

This program strengthens nutrition, especially for children during that critical first 1000-day window, from conception to the child's second birthday.

Indeed, there is perhaps no wiser investment that we could make in the human person than to concentrate on ensuring that sufficient nutrition and health assistance is given during the first one thousand days of life: A thousand days that begins with conception, continues throughout pregnancy, includes the milestone of birth and then finishes at roughly the second birthday of the child.

Children who do not receive adequate nutrition in utero are more likely to experience life-long cognitive and physical deficiencies, such as stunting. UNICEF estimates that one in four children worldwide is stunted due to lack of adequate nutrition.

By addressing nutrition during the first 1000 days of life, we help lay the groundwork that the next 25,000 days—or whatever the number is that our Creator has allotted—are filled with good health.

As the three witnesses at the hearing attested, enhancing food security is also transformational in the lives of millions of small-holder farmers throughout the world, particularly women. Feed the Future teaches small-scale farmers techniques to increase agricultural yield, thereby helping nations achieve food security, something that is in the national security interest of the United States as well.

It is also economical in the long run, and should lead to a reduction in the need for emergency food aid. The approach we have taken in the Global Food Security Act is fiscally disciplined, authorizing an amount for 2016 which is less than what we appropriated for food security programs in 2014. USAID is nevertheless able to do more with less by leveraging our aid with that of other countries, the private sector, NGOs and, especially faith-based organizations, whose great work on the ground in so many different countries impacts so many lives, and who were ably represented at the hearing by Carolyn Woo of Catholic Relief Services.

By statutorily authorizing this existing program, which had its roots in the Bush administration and was formalized by President Obama, we are also increasing our oversight by requiring the administration to report to Congress.

Political will is absolutely essential to enacting a global food security policy that will continue. Such interventions in the lives of so many people in Africa, particularly in the first 1000 days of life, are not only cost-effective but morally imperative.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO'S
NURSE PRACTITIONER PRO-
GRAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of the University of Colorado's Nurse Practitioner program. In 1965, CU College of Nursing professor Loretta Ford

and CU School of Medicine professor Henry Silver came together to create the nation's first nurse practitioner training program. Motivated by a desire to increase access to pediatric care in underserved rural and urban communities, they sought to expand and empower the role of nurses on the front lines of health care. Their efforts led to the establishment of the nation's modern advanced practice nursing workforce.

Their idea caught fire in 1966 when Time Magazine profiled one of the programs first graduates, Sue Stearly, who was successfully practicing in the small town of Trinidad, Colorado. Time called CU students "a new breed of nurse." By 1973, sixty-five nurse practitioner training programs existed across the country. Today there are more than 205,000 nurse practitioners in the United States making more than 916 million patient visits per year according to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Today's nurse practitioners diagnose and treat patients in a variety of primary, acute, and specialty care settings. They are essential to meeting this country's healthcare workforce needs. According to Colorado Health Careers, within the next decade, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists will be among the nation's ten fastest-growing occupations. Nurse practitioners from the CU College of Nursing are at work across America. The College of Nursing's Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program continues to be one of the strongest in the country, and today the college leads the way with a variety of specialized nurse practitioner programs in fields such as psychiatric mental health and women's health.

On October 2nd, the CU College of Nursing, along with the CU School of Medicine, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their groundbreaking Nurse Practitioner Program. I invite you to join me in honoring the efforts of pioneering educators Loretta Ford and Henry Silver, who helped to spark this remarkable change in American medical care.

HONORING TYRONE AREA HIGH
SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NA-
TIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS
PROGRAM RECOGNITION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tyrone Area High School for receiving the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognition.

Since 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has celebrated schools that have either made significant improvements or achieved an outstanding level of school-wide performance. This year, only 335 schools in the United States were honored with this distinction, including the 9th District's Tyrone Area High School. In order to achieve this distinction, schools must earn test scores that illustrate advanced or strongly improving academic achievement.

As the Tyrone Area High School mission statement explains, there is an expectation

that all students will achieve high levels of personal and academic success. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated students and the support of not only highly organized administrators and teachers but also the community, Tyrone Area High School has attained this extraordinary honor. Furthermore, this involved and no-nonsense approach has enabled Tyrone students to achieve this recognition despite lacking the same resources as some of the state's wealthiest districts.

A true mark of its high expectations, Tyrone High exposes all of its students to college-level coursework, and the results speak for themselves. Tyrone students led a state of 541 districts in both writing achievement and growth in 2012, and placed first in the state in 2013 for literature growth. In 2014, Tyrone had the highest School Performance Profile in the 35-district Intermediate Unit.

It is my privilege to congratulate Tyrone Area High School for its National Blue Ribbon Schools recognition. I'm also proud to highlight the dedicated and involved effort of all those who made this award possible as it represents the spirit of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
JOSEPH YOUNG

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Joseph Young who made his heavenly transition on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Joseph was the fifth of eight children born to the union of the late Willie Frank Young and Margaret Elizabeth Lindly.

Joseph relocated to New Orleans in 1965, where he would meet his future wife Perry, while she was matriculating at Dillard University. Upon returning to Chicago, Joseph answered the call to serve his country in the United States Army, where he would serve a tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam before being discharged with the rank of Sergeant in 1970. Joseph and Perry were united in holy matrimony on July 18, 1970 and to this union, one son, Damon Avery, was born and their second son, Jimmy Myu, was adopted.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Mr. Young served in positions of leadership. Whether serving as President of the Foster Park Community Council, organizing two separate little league baseball teams, or serving in a political capacity as Field Director for former Congressman Harold Washington's mayoral campaign in 1983 and Illinois State Director for the 1992 Clinton Campaign, Mr. Young set so many examples of leadership and courage. A feat that was recognized in his becoming the first African American Illinois State Director for the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Young will surely be missed. I join his devoted and loving wife, Perry; two sons, Damon Avery and Jimmy Myu (Nikkie); daughter, Lavitia (Rev. Larry) Arnold; brother, Supt. James Young (Betty

Jean); sisters, Rev. Rhoda Barnes and Judy Young; sister-in-law Gert; grandchildren; nephews; nieces; and many friends and colleagues in mourning his passing. I am honored to pay tribute to this dedicated community and political leader.

HOUSTON DYNAMOS HONOR SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JOHN
"SPIKE" GARCIA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Houston Dynamos have brought a new energy to Houston. The soccer team has drawn fans from across the country and given Houstonians another reason to embrace the color orange—besides the Houston Astros. Houston's Major League soccer team will celebrate its 10 year anniversary this month on October 18th at BBVA Compass Stadium against the Seattle Sounders. During this game the team will honor its past and present players and they will recognize our local veterans. Included in the team's recognition is one particular veteran who has given so much of his energy and all of his heart to helping our local veterans transition back home: John "Spike" Garcia. Spike will call in the flyover and be honored by the Dynamos during half-time.

If there is any area veteran that embodies the best of our nation, state and community it is Spike Garcia. Spike began his military career with the U.S. Army in 1983 and later served for 27 years with the Texas Air National Guard, retiring at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. He volunteered for two combat tours to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Each day, after performing his military duties, he volunteered at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad.

He previously served as the Airfield Manager for the 147th Reconnaissance Wing Joint Reserve Base at Ellington, and for his service, he has received numerous honors, including the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Commander's Award and an Air Force One support presentation by President George W. Bush.

Not only is Spike an honorable defender of liberty and freedom, he has a heart for supporting others, which is why the Dynamos' recognition of him is even more fitting. He is a dedicated father of two who spends his free time helping out his fellow man. He is a member of the Lone Star Veterans Association, the Armed Forces Appreciation Committee for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Houston Military Affairs Committee and he serves on my Service Academy Nomination Board for the Second Congressional District—just to name a few. The Houston Dynamos have selected a very deserving member of our community to be recognized. As Spike humbly put it, they could have selected anyone and they chose him.

Spike has helped out the Dynamos' program since the beginning, and they consider him family. The name dynamo describes

someone of great energy, a tenacious individual who never gives up. I can't think of anyone who exemplifies this more than Spike Garcia.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN AND PHYLLIS
MOORE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alan and Phyllis Moore of Red Oak, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Alan and Phyllis were married in 1965.

Alan and Phyllis' lifelong commitment to each other and their children truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE NATIONAL
COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council for their 50th anniversary this year. The National Collegiate Honors Council represents 800 colleges and universities and is composed of 325,000 students dedicated to achieving educational excellence in diverse subject curriculum areas in order to achieve professional career goals.

In my district, the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College in the University of Mississippi has given thousands of our most gifted students the chance to expand their learning experience far beyond the traditional classroom setting. The Honors College admits about 400 freshmen with an average 3.95 high school GPA every fall and currently has a total of 1,250 students who challenge themselves at the highest level so that they can fulfill their potential. Once enrolled in the Honors College, these exceptional students enjoy the benefits of priority registration that ensures access to optimal class schedules, fellowship and study abroad programs that provide valuable work experiences and enrich global perspectives, and specialized staff that offer counseling on career goals, academic courses, and scholarship opportunities.

Students engage in active learning both inside and outside of the classroom by taking more challenging courses and participating in community action events. By providing all of these exciting learning opportunities to thousands of bright young students through decades of dedicated hard work, the Sally

McDonnell Barksdale Honors College has become a cornerstone of the University of Mississippi, ensuring its standing as one of the great American public Universities.

The National Collegiate Honors Council, after decades of growth and experience, continues to dedicate itself to promoting educational excellence within our nation's colleges and universities while preparing students for successful professional careers. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the program's contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities honoring its 50th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY CORNER SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liberty Corner School of Liberty Corner, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. Liberty Corner was cited as an "Exemplary High Performing" school, as measured by state assessments and national tests. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding work and dedication of the faculty and staff, as well as the efforts and successes of the students in creating a safe and welcoming school where students master challenging content.

The curriculum at Liberty Corner School has prepared students to attend some of the finest universities in the Nation and the extracurricular activities, electives, leadership training and guest speakers offer students a wide array of academic experiences. Liberty Corner School's athletic program continues to grow as well, both in scope and success.

This is a prestigious award to receive and Liberty Corner School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

HONORING ARTHUR WHELOCK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Arthur Wheelock of Vernon, Connecticut on his outstanding four decades of teaching and coaching at Rockville High School.

A lifelong Ram, Art graduated from Rockville High School in 1968. After attending college at West Virginia Wesleyan, he returned to Rockville to teach physical education, a position he

would hold for the next 42 years. Shortly after launching his teaching career, Art began coaching baseball, followed by football and basketball. His skills as a coach quickly gained notice in Vernon, and soon spread both across Connecticut and the nation. Scholastic sports in Vernon have a rich tradition, with numerous state titles and a passionate fan base. At the state level, Art was recognized as the Connecticut High School Baseball Coaches Association's "Coach of the Year" in 2006, and nationally, received the "Take Pride in America" award for his work in starting Pee Wee Sports with the Vernon Junior Women's Club. And in 2003, Art won the American Baseball Coaches Association's Regional Coach-of-the-Year Award.

Art has devoted his life to working with the community, leaving a significant and positive impact on thousands of Connecticut students. He has coached 758 baseball games, winning 433, including 11 conference championships. In his over 41 years at Rockville High School, Art has coached more games than any other individual in the school's history. Under his leadership, his students also reached three state championship games, and captured the 2000 Class "L" title. A tireless teacher, coach, and mentor to Connecticut students, Art has demonstrated a passion for helping youth through sports that is unmatched. Without exaggeration, Art touched the lives of thousands of youngsters, transforming their lives as a positive role model. The Vernon community is very fortunate to have benefited from his experience and dedication for so many years.

Please join me in congratulating Art on a lifetime of service to his community, and wishing him a rewarding, and well-deserved, retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES PAUL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate James Paul of Hastings, Iowa, for being inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Inductees to the Hall of Fame have demonstrated dedication, encouragement, commitment, and guidance to Iowa's 4-H students through the years.

James has been providing guidance and encouragement for youth for the past 30 years. He has organized workshops and challenges that motivate the youth to experiment in growing a variety of crops and produce. James has assisted over 1,000 youth and adults in developing skills in gardening. He is a farmer in Mills County with his wife, Harva. They have three children who were all active 4-H members.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate James Paul for earning this award. He is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can have a positive impact on the future of our youth. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating James for his accomplishments within the 4-H community. I wish

him nothing but continued success moving forward.

HONORING MR. KENNETH R. JOSEPH

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated community service of Mr. Kenneth R. Joseph as he marks his 20th anniversary as a Trustee for Southwestern Illinois College.

Mr. Joseph was elected to then Belleville Area College's Board of Trustees in 1995 and has been continuously re-elected since that time. His fellow Board members chose him to serve as the Board's Chair in 1999 and subsequently chose him to serve as the Board's Vice Chair for 15 years. In addition to his many duties as Board Vice Chair, Mr. Joseph works enthusiastically with the administration, faculty, and staff on the Planning and Policy Committee. He has also served on the Board's Facilities and Finance, and Personnel, Programs and Services committees during his time on the Board. Also, he has served as a member of the Illinois Community College Trustee Association Board of Representatives.

Mr. Joseph is a retired Sheriff's Deputy, having served 22 years with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department. He was a member of the first graduating class of the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy at the former BAC and earned his Associate in Applied Science Degree in Administration of Justice from the college as well. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from McKendree University in Lebanon.

As a Belleville, Illinois resident, retired peace officer, taxpayer, husband, father of three, and grandfather, Mr. Joseph chose to pursue a seat on the Southwestern Illinois College Board because he believed he could help ensure access to quality education for area residents, contribute to the success of the community college, and contribute to the success and growth of the Southwestern Illinois region.

Mr. Joseph has consistently and actively helped SWIC maintain its longstanding accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, and achieve model-institution recognition from the HLC for its Academic Quality Improvement Program initiatives and achievements by insisting on the highest academic standards and state-of-the-art classroom technology.

During his longstanding service to the Board of Trustees, Mr. Joseph has been a proponent of capital development projects, including the construction of the Information Sciences Building, Liberal Arts Complex, and Schmidt Art Center at the Belleville Campus, and extensive expansions and renovations at the Red Bud and Sam Wolf Granite City campuses.

Mr. Joseph is a member of the Turkey Hill Grange, St. Paul United Church of Christ in Freeburg, Freeburg Masonic Lodge, and the Fraternal Order of Police—St. Clair County Lodge 148.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Kenneth R. Joseph for his 20 years of service as a Trustee of Southwestern Illinois College and to wish him the very best in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLOOMFIELD FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bloomfield Friends of the Library, located in Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey, as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary.

In 1902, the first library in Bloomfield was founded by a man named James Newbegin Jarvie. A wealthy business man, he founded the Jarvie Memorial Library in memory of his parents. At this time, the library was located in the Westminster Presbyterian Church. It remained here until 1923, when he sold the library, complete with its collections and equipment, to the Township of Bloomfield for \$60,000. Over the course of the next four years, the library moved to several different places, until finally the Board of Trustees purchased land at 90 Broad Street for \$23,000, where it remains to this day.

As the years passed, the library's collections grew, and as the collections grew so did the need for more space. In 1963, the library began planning and fundraising, and soon started construction. On September 5, 1967, the library finally reopened. The main floor of the original building was now refurbished as the Children's Library. The adult library had moved into the new addition, and the lower levels were now to be used as a meeting room and for the staff area. In 1969, the meeting room was redesigned into a theater, which is still used today for musicals, films, lectures and even children's programs.

Presently, the Bloomfield Public Library offers a wide array of services for children, teens, and adults. Here, one can research the Township's history, look up the High School's summer reading program, or look up Driving Permit Practice Tests. The Library also provides accommodations for the physically and visually impaired and for those with reading disabilities, among its many other services.

Behind the scenes, keeping all of this running over the last 80 years, has been the Bloomfield Friends of the Library. As a matter of fact, in 1935, the Bloomfield Friends of the Library was the first in a public library in the East to be established, and they are the oldest Friends of the Library east of the Mississippi. The Library's public relation's director, Helen Scherrf Taylor, presented the idea as she thought it would inspire more library services to the community. She was right, and the idea spread to the Bloomfield Chapter of the American Association of University Women and to the Women's Club of Bloomfield who decided to sponsor the Friends of the Library. Less than a year later, the organization had their first meeting.

Today, the Bloomfield Friends of the Library continually works to assist the library to provide and improve its facilities and services to the residents of Bloomfield. Some of their recent accomplishments include donations for the purchase of books for both the Adult and Children's Libraries, donations for the Audiovisual Department for the purchase of tapes and DVDs, and donations for equipment such as computers, appliances, and copiers. It is also thanks to these donations that the library is open on Sundays.

It is through the tireless work of the Bloomfield Friends of the Library that the Township of Bloomfield and its residents continue to enjoy the Bloomfield Public Library.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bloomfield Friends of the Public Library as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF WASCO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wasco Union High School District in honor of its centennial.

In 1915, people from the Cleveland, Maple, Poplar, Wildwood, and Semitropic, and Wasco Elementary School Districts voted to form the Wasco Union High School District in their community. Wasco High School operated out of a rented auditorium-like building known as Wasco Hall and enrolled twenty-eight students during its first year. In December 2015, the district purchased a fifteen acre school site at Trogon's Corner. Construction began at this site in August 1916 and was completed in March 1917. Since the construction of the "Main Building" several new buildings have been added to the campus and the student body has grown tremendously.

Wasco Union High School District is now one of the largest high school districts in Kern County and covers approximately seven hundred and fifty square miles. The curriculum is heavily focused on vocational and agricultural skills and boasts a one hundred and ten acre school farm where students can take classes in welding, agriculture mechanics, plant science, and animal care.

Over the past century, the Wasco Union High School District has helped Central Valley children reach their full potential and become active and prosperous members of their communities. The city of Wasco and Kern County as a whole are fortunate to have such a committed and successful academic institution at their disposal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Wasco Union High School District's centennial.

THE SELECTION OF DR. PAUL L. MODRICH AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Paul L. Modrich, James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry at Duke University, on winning the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

As a young man growing up in a small town in northern New Mexico, Dr. Modrich was instilled with a curiosity and love of the natural world. When he was a junior in high school, Dr. Modrich's father who taught high school biology, sparked his curiosity in science by suggesting that he learn more about DNA.

Dr. Modrich went on to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he received his undergraduate degree in 1968. It was at MIT while working in a lab that studied the genetics of viruses that infect bacteria, that he became interested in molecular genetics. After MIT, Dr. Modrich matriculated at Stanford University where he obtained a Ph.D. in 1973.

Since then, Dr. Modrich has spent his career studying how organisms prevent the occurrence of mutations in their genetic material. This research has led to discovering crucial insights into how a living cell functions, about the molecular causes of several hereditary diseases, and about mechanisms behind cancer development. This research has also contributed to better understanding exactly how DNA is damaged and has led to advancements in cancer treatments.

The 114-year-old Nobel award, regarded as the most prestigious prize for chemistry research, is given to recipients whose discoveries have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind. In his current post as a Professor of Biochemistry and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, Dr. Modrich continues a life of service through research that has improved the lives of individuals.

Dr. Modrich believes in and is a testament to the importance of curiosity-based research. He has demonstrated time and again that basic research leads to unanticipated results which have value for saving and improving the quality of lives.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Modrich has spent his career on the forefront of groundbreaking research that will surely continue to benefit health outcomes for all people. I am so pleased that he is being recognized for his truly amazing work. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Paul L. Modrich for winning the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

TRIBUTE TO MERRILL AND
JOYCE KRUSE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Merrill and Joyce Kruse of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Merrill and Joyce were married in 1965.

Merrill and Joyce's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I congratulate this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF
FLAT ROCK

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Flat Rock, Michigan on its 50th anniversary of incorporation. The City of Flat Rock embodies so much of what makes Michigan and the 12th Congressional District great; it is a privilege to represent the city and its people.

Flat Rock began as a Wyandot Native American settlement, and later was designated as a reservation for the Wyandot, functioning in that way until 1830. In 1818, Solomon Sibley purchased 330 acres of land in the area, and in 1824 the Vreeland family purchased nearly 800 acres, including the 330 acres belonging to Mr. Sibley. The land was plotted as the villages of Vreelandt and Smooth Rock. In 1838, the village of Flat Rock was platted and recorded by the Gibraltar and Flat Rock Land Company, who purchased a large portion of the land. At that time, the company was attempting to build a canal to connect Lake Erie with Lake Michigan. While that effort did not succeed, it was a larger indication of the fact that many people from the east coast, and especially New York state, were traveling to the fertile farmlands in what is now Southeast Michigan. The area was officially incorporated as a village in 1923 and later as a city in 1965, the occasion which we celebrate today.

In the 20th century, the village and city of Flat Rock has enjoyed tremendous growth through thoughtful and capable leadership, including the work of the current Mayor, City Council, and staff. The City's booming growth in the past ten years has significantly increased property values and population, a trend that is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Henry Ford recognized the special nature of Flat Rock and established the Ford Motor Company Lamp Factory on the

banks of the Huron River in 1925. This relationship with Ford Motor Company has been a successful one, and today, Flat Rock is the proud home of the Flat Rock Assembly Plant which produces the iconic Ford Mustang and the Ford Fusion. The City of Flat Rock has captured the best aspects of industry and production, while at the same time, maintaining a unique identity with a small town feel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the City of Flat Rock and to wish the city many more years of success.

HONORING JIM PALMER

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer, who turns 70 years old on October 15, 2015.

Jim was one of the greatest pitchers while playing with the Baltimore Orioles. Jim joined the team in 1963 after graduating from Scottsdale High School, made his major league debut in 1965, and continued to play for the Orioles until his retirement in 1984. He won the American League Cy Young award three times, the Gold Glove Awards four times, was named to the American League All-Star Team six times, and was a key part of three World Series winning teams. Jim was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1990 in his first year of eligibility, and his number, 22, was retired by the Orioles following his retirement.

Jim is truly an exceptional man, not only on the field but off the field. Over the years, he has devoted his time to numerous charities including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Baseball Assistance Team. He has two daughters, Jamie and Kelly.

I join with his friends and family in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I wish him good health and continued success in the coming years.

REGARDING INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE GIRL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the International Day of the Girl and to advocate for robust funding for programs that benefit the education of refugee children in general and refugee girls in particular.

Today, there are more forcibly displaced people roaming the earth than at any other time since World War II. 60 million men, women and children currently qualify as refugees. One in every two is under the age of 18 and about 50% of them are girls. While the U.S. is a generous supporter of global aid programs, less than 10% of that aid goes to edu-

cation and less than 2% goes to educate children trapped in emergencies.

Many refugee children have no schools nearby to attend and in those cases where education is an option, refugee children face significant challenges such as overcrowding, language barriers and the lack of learning materials. As a consequence, many refugee children around the world do not receive the quality education they need to survive as adults. Access to education is especially vital for young girls who are six times more likely to marry as children if access to secondary education is unavailable to them. Those who fall between the cracks often become victims of human trafficking and child labor.

The average refugee is displaced from their home for 17 years. Without an adequate education, refugee children can become economically handicapped for life. They grow up without the skills to earn a living or support a family. According to the Girl Up organization, every additional year of secondary education completed by refugees results in a 10% increase in earnings. Every bit of the support we provide can help break the cycle of poverty that threatens the majority of refugees.

That is why I rise on this International Day of the Girl to commend groups like Girl Up and organizations like UNICEF and UNHCR for all they do to support refugees and especially for their support of childhood education.

CONGRATULATING VOORHEES
HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Voorhees High School of Hunterdon County, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. Voorhees was cited as an "Exemplary High Performing" school, as measured by state assessments and national tests. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding work and dedication of the faculty and staff, as well as the efforts and successes of the students in creating a safe and welcoming school where students master challenging content.

The curriculum at Voorhees High School has prepared students to attend some of the finest universities in the Nation and the extra-curricular activities, electives, leadership training and guest speakers offer students a wide array of academic experiences. Voorhees High School's athletic program continues to grow as well, both in scope and success.

This is a prestigious award to receive and Voorhees High School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER AND
BETTY KUBIK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Roger and Betty Kubik of Avoca, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Roger and Betty were married at the First Lutheran Church in Avoca on August 22, 1965.

Roger and Betty's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Kerri and Angela, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best moving forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSOR
DELORES STEPHENS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations to my former college professor, Dr. Delores Stephens of Morehouse College, upon her receipt of the Vulcan Materials Company's Teaching Excellence Award for the 2015–2016 academic year. Professor Stephens has served Morehouse College faithfully as a Professor of English since 1964.

Presaging her future success in academia, Professor Stephens graduated as valedictorian from Spelman College, where she earned a B.A. in English. She went on to earn an M.A. in English and American Literature from Atlanta University, and a Ph.D. in English at the prestigious Emory University. In fact, her academic accomplishments are not limited to the United States. She has also received a certificate of completion from the University of London and a Testamur from the University of Exeter. Prior to teaching at Morehouse, she was a member of the faculty at the Atlanta School of Business, as well as Norfolk State University and Dillard University.

Professor Stephens arrived at Morehouse College in 1964, and has since played an integral role throughout the campus. She served as chair of the English department for seven years, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of English. Professor Stephens also served as an associate editor of the *Journal of Negro History* for many years.

Professor Stephens' dedication to students extends beyond the classroom. She is a charter member of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, organized at Morehouse in 1976. She has been recognized by the national office as the Upsilon Nu Chapter's sponsor for twenty years. In addition, Pro-

fessor Stephens has served as a reader for the Educational Testing Services (ETS) for AP examinations and for testing and validation of the SAT Writing Examination. Her advice and tutelage is highly sought after, and she assists by mentoring numerous current and former students.

On a personal note, I was fortunate enough to be a student of Professor Stephens and also to serve as a student assistant in her office during my freshman and sophomore years at Morehouse. I greatly benefited from her wise counsel and sage advice, which I carried with me through law school and my career, as well as throughout my time in the state legislature and now, in the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring an outstanding educator and dear mentor, Professor Delores Stephens. I firmly believe that Professor Stephens helped lead me on the path that has brought me to where I am today, and she has charitably provided the same level of astute guidance to many who have come before and after me. We should all aspire to build such a prolific and inspirational legacy as Professor Delores Stephens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CABLE
INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO
DIVERSITY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the cable industry's decades-long commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Last week, cable operators, program networks, and business career development experts gathered in New York City for "Diversity Week" to discuss ways to increase the representation of women, people of color, and other underrepresented groups at all levels of their organizations. At this annual meeting, leaders in the industry measure the industry's progress, share effective diversity strategies and best practices, honor the industry's diversity heroes, and raise substantial financial support for industry diversity initiatives like the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications and Women in Cable Telecommunications.

A recent industry workforce diversity survey revealed that 39 percent of full-time cable employees are people of color, which is higher than the national average. The same survey found that thirty two percent of women are industry executives compared to just 20 percent in other industries. These promising results, among other encouraging metrics, demonstrate the cable industry's commitment to greater diversity.

The cable industry fully understands that diversity spurs innovation. It is committed to promoting an inclusive culture that will lend itself to fully engaged and more productive workplaces across the country. Indeed, infusing diversity and inclusion into various layers of the industry will best reflect the customers and communities it serves.

Mr. Speaker, the steps taken by this industry to promote and boost the contributions of women and multi-ethnic professionals are earnest and effective. These efforts not only outline a moral infrastructure for the manner in which companies should conduct business, but reaffirm the industry's commitment to producing meaningful and lasting change in employment diversity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF LANA AND HENRY POLLACK

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lana and Henry Pollack for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. The Pollacks both have long, distinguished careers in public service and environmental advocacy. If you live in Michigan and care about conservation or environmental protection you have likely crossed paths with the Pollacks because they are both tireless workers and experts in the field. Michigan and the nation owe both Lana and Henry a tremendous debt of gratitude for all of their efforts and accomplishments over the years.

A founding member of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Lana Pollack has a distinguished record of public service and is one of the most consistent and powerful environmental advocates in the country. First elected to the Michigan State Senate in 1983 where she served for 11 years, Lana quickly made her mark on environmental policy in the state by authoring the landmark "Polluter Pays" statute that required polluters to pay the cleanup costs of their contamination. This ultimately saved Michigan taxpayers over \$100 million while improving our environment at the same time. Her legacy as an environmental champion continued as president of the Michigan Environmental Council where she served from 1996–2008. In 2010, President Obama appointed her as the U.S. Chair of the International Joint Commission, where she continues to work to protect the Great Lakes in partnership with Canadian officials.

Henry Pollack is one of our nation's pre-eminent experts on climate change, a field that he has studied for a majority of his life. He is currently a professor of geophysics at the University of Michigan where he has served for over 40 years. Henry's contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were numerous and he was one of the scientific leaders of the group. The capstone of his career was when the IPCC was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with Vice President Al Gore for their incredible work. Henry's work on climate change research and policy continues as an adviser to Vice President Gore's Climate Project.

What stands out the most to me about Lana and Henry is their unique appreciation of the urgent need to protect our natural resources that is paired with unmatched expertise in the field. This rare combination of talent has made Michigan a better place to live, work and raise

a family. There is no couple more deserving of this tremendous honor than Lana and Henry Pollack. You continue to inspire all of us with your unparalleled work, and we know there are still more chapters to be written in your already incredible story. Congratulations once again for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters—a fitting tribute to a lifetime of service.

HONORING TAIWAN
INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday the people of Taiwan will celebrate the National Day of the Republic of China.

For millions of Taiwanese and Taiwanese-Americans, Double Ten Day recognizes the start of the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911 which ultimately led to the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912. Throughout the nation, this day marks an important moment of its history and a celebration of a free, democratic Taiwan.

In the 104 years since its establishment, the Republic of China has become a strong economic and strategic partner of the United States. Their advancements in scientific development and environmental protection are commendable, and their steadfast commitment to human rights remains an example for nations around the globe. Certainly, there is much to celebrate.

From the Presidential Building in Taipei, to this Capitol in Washington, D.C., let us join together in celebrating this important day and recognizing the bonds shared between the United States and the Republic of China.

I wish the people of Taiwan, and all those celebrating abroad, a happy Double Ten Day and many more years of an independent Republic of China.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,150,545,316,215.04. We've added \$7,523,668,267,301.96 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO BOB AND
BERNADETTE STANBROUGH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob and Bernadette Stanbrough of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Bob and Bernadette married in 1965.

Bob and Bernadette's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING CAPTAIN JULES TRAUT

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Jules Traut, of Libertyville, Illinois, for his service to our country and unwavering support for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Captain Traut currently serves as a member of the 10th Congressional District Military Academy Nominations Committee. This year marks the 54th year that Jules Traut has served as an Admissions Liaison responsible for interviewing and nominating students for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

As a Liaison Officer, Captain Traut has met with hundreds of students and continues to demonstrate his dedication to helping young men and women achieve their goals of receiving an education from the Academy.

Captain Traut also volunteers his services as Chief Engineering Officer with the Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago where he helps maintain and restore their signature 386-foot ship and club headquarters, the Abegweit.

I am grateful to Captain Traut for his contributions to our community and his selfless service to others.

RECOGNIZING SUNDAY OCTOBER
11TH AS THE INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF THE GIRL

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunday, October 11 as the International Day of the Girl. This day celebrates the accomplishments of young women throughout the country and throughout the world and empowers future generations of young leaders. This day also promotes discus-

sion on issues that affect girls and women everywhere.

From Sojourner Truth who fought for the abolishment of slavery and the importance of women's rights to Elizabeth Cady Stanton who fought for women's right to vote, throughout our history, women have led and empowered change in our country and around the world.

As husband to a loving wife and father of three girls, I believe that we must foster a climate filled with freedom and opportunity for young women everywhere to learn, lead, and achieve their dreams.

Therefore, let us join in the celebration of the International Day of the Girl.

HONORING SHARON PALMER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank an outstanding public servant from the State of Connecticut on the occasion of her retirement. Sharon Palmer has served for the past three years as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and as a lifelong advocate for our state's workers.

During her time as Commissioner, Sharon has left a lasting mark on the state's economy by improving workforce training programs, strengthening jobs initiatives and working relentlessly to remove fraud from state programs. Sharon has simultaneously worked to advance opportunity for Connecticut's workers, to preserve the state's valuable resources, and to advocate for federal grants that have allowed innovation to flourish in our home state.

Sharon's involvement with workforce issues dates far before her time as Commissioner. She worked as the former Vice President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and president of the state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, serving as an ally and liaison for workers. Her previous experience as an educator instilled in her a deep understanding of the connection between education, opportunity, and a workforce prepared to power a growing economy.

Sharon never shies from speaking her mind or sticking up for policies that Connecticut workers need and deserve. If you are at odds with Sharon, you can expect a firm, but fair discussion. She would never back down when the well-being of Connecticut families is at stake. Sharon hails from Waterford, CT, in the southeastern part of the state. Somehow she always found time to participate at the local level of town government and was an active member of the Democratic Town Committee. Sharon was and is a staunch supporter of mine who helped me win a victory to Congress in 2006 in a hard fought race that was decided by the smallest of margins—83 votes.

Sharon also was a devoted wife to her departed husband George and the mother of four children, Kerry, Cory, Greg, and Chris.

Although her advice, hard work, and experience will surely be missed by the State of Connecticut, I ask my colleagues to please join in wishing my friend Sharon Palmer a restful and enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 85TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LEAH SIMS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, Friday, October 9, 2015, to ask my fellow colleagues of the 114th United States Congress to join me in celebrating the 85th birthday of Mrs. Leah Sims. I rise not only to celebrate her 85 years, but to also ask that we honor Mrs. Sims for the good work that she has done throughout her life.

Mrs. Sims was a distinguished and beloved educator in my hometown of Murphysboro, IL for nearly 20 years. She taught chorus to elementary, middle, and high school students throughout her career and volunteered as the choir director of the First Baptist Church. She deeply loved her job and students. That love and admiration was returned in kind as some of her former students even joined her church choir to continue on under her direction and tutelage.

Mrs. Sims has been a fixture in her community as both an educator and leader. As a former student of Mrs. Sims, I can say with confidence that there is not a person that has met her who hasn't been positively affected by her compassion, thoughtfulness, and humility.

Her life-long impact on the students lucky enough to call her their teacher is something worth honoring. Once again, I ask that you join me in celebrating the birthday of Mrs. Leah Sims and the long-lasting, positive influence that she has left on Southern Illinois.

CONGRATULATING "THE MONETT
TIMES" AND "THE CASSVILLE
DEMOCRAT" ON THEIR MISSOURI
PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two publications in Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, which were honored with top awards at the Missouri Press Association's (MPA) annual convention this September.

"The Monett Times" was distinguished with the State-Wide General Excellence Award, while "The Cassville Democrat" brought home the MPA's Gold Cup—the association's highest honor. For both "The Monett Times" and "The Cassville Democrat"—who have been in circulation 116 and 144 years respectively—these top awards are believed to be the first that each community publication has won.

In addition to these top honors, these prestigious small-town newspapers' staffs and reporters took home a plethora of more than forty other awards, including a total of 13 first place honors, at the September 5th ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, this is a huge accomplishment all around for the Monett and Cassville communities in Southwest Missouri—whose citizens have been humbly and amply thanked by

both "The Monett Times" and "The Cassville Democrat" for their support leading to their honors. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to these publications and their teams on their work, which makes me proud to serve the people in Missouri's Seventh Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE BROWNLEE
FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Brownlee Family of Macksburg, Iowa, for being selected to receive the Iowa Farm Environmental Leaders Award. Receiving this award was Glenda, Dan, Megan, Kevin, and Alex Brownlee.

Presented by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, this prestigious Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award is a joint effort to recognize the exceptional voluntary efforts of Iowa farmers to preserve and protect the environment of our state.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by the Brownlee Family is a commendable one. Their willingness to dedicate themselves to great stewardship of their land is an example that should be followed by all Iowans. I am proud to represent them and Iowans like them in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Brownlee's for their achievements and wish them nothing but continued success.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BERKLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Berkley School District as it celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. The Berkley School District serves the cities of Berkley, Huntington Woods and the northern portion of Oak Park, all of which I have had the privilege of representing during my tenure in the House of Representatives.

The Berkley School District had its beginnings in 1840, only 3 years after Michigan attained statehood, in the Blackmon School, a one-room schoolhouse that was part of the Royal Oak Township School District #7. Berkley, like our nation, has changed dramatically in the last 175 years. What began as a one room school house in the area of Catalpa and Coolidge (Blackmon School) is now a comprehensive PreK-12 district including nine buildings and a commitment to personal excellence for all students. This commitment is evident in the achievement of Berkley School District students, whose high school gradua-

tion rate is 98%, with nearly 100% of graduates continuing their education at colleges and universities.

It is no surprise that Berkley School District students are so well-prepared for future success, as nearly 60% of its teachers have Masters degrees or higher, its high school students are offered more Advanced Placement courses than any other traditional high school campus in Oakland County, and the district is home to Norup Academy, the only K-8 International Baccalaureate program in the country which is housed on a single campus. Just a few weeks ago, Pattengill Elementary School was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2015, which helps to illustrate the district's commitment to excellence for the earliest learners as well as those preparing to graduate from high school.

As important as strong academics are to student success, the Berkley School District has helped students excel in music, the arts, and other extracurricular activities. Its orchestra, marching band and concert band have won numerous state honors, as has its a cappella, bell tone and concert choirs. Its students have had their artwork shown at national, state and local competitions. And students in the Berkley School District's co-curricular programs, including marketing, communications, literacy and poetry, and robotics have won honors at the state, local, and national levels.

The Berkley School District has long benefited from strong community support, which I know firsthand. My beloved late wife Vicki and I raised our children in Berkley, and all four of them attended the Berkley Schools. Indeed, it is fair to say that the roots of my career in public service were planted in our involvement in the district. Vicki joined the Berkley Council for Better Schools in 1959, an organization committed to maintaining excellence in the schools. We hosted Council meetings in our house and made many lifelong friends through our involvement.

This community involvement, which has been so meaningful to me personally, continues today. Parents frequently volunteer for school activities, voters support millages to improve students' learning environment and to upgrade technology, and residents contribute to the Berkley Education Foundation, which supports classroom needs as well as the arts programs. In its 175th year, the district's success is rooted in support from the community; it is shepherded by the committed leadership of the Berkley School Board, Superintendent Dennis McDavid and his administrative team; and most importantly it has as its cornerstone the teachers and other education professionals who every day demonstrate their commitment to helping children achieve their fullest potential.

As the Berkley School District celebrates this significant milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, staff, alumni and the entire community as they celebrate their rich history and continue their success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LONG-
MEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, Massachusetts as they kick off a yearlong celebration for their 300th anniversary. The establishment of this Congregational church was pivotal in the founding of the town of Longmeadow in 1783 and the great community that flourishes to this day.

The origins of the First Church of Christ come from the Pilgrims and Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony fleeing England to escape religious persecution. After the settlement of Springfield, Massachusetts was founded in the 1630s on the banks of the Connecticut River, a group of families came together and created the neighborhood of "longmeddowe," as it was called at the time. At the time, the only church they could go to was First Church in Springfield, miles away from their homes. There were also a series of attacks on the settlers by local Native American tribes. Due to the hazardous journey, the families of Longmeadow decided in 1713 that they should have the right to build their own church in the safety of their neighborhood. During that period, the Massachusetts General Court needed to grant approval to form a parish. After Longmeadow's fourth appeal to the Massachusetts' colonial General Court, they were granted permission to create their own congregation. Since the church was the center of not only religious life, but also political life, Longmeadow was set on the path to become their own town.

The first meeting house was completed in March of 1716, where the town's Green is located today. Meetings and services were held there despite the walls taking 13 years to be plastered and without a stove or heating for 50 years. These meetings were a chance for people to have a voice in their community and local politics, a form of direct democracy that would be the cornerstone of American independence from the monarchy in Great Britain. Even today, Longmeadow elects selectmen, just as they did when the community was founded. The founders and parishioners of the First Church of Christ left a fine blueprint on how democracy at its most fundamental roots, can have a lasting effect on a community and on a nation.

Mr. Speaker, The First Church of Christ still has much to offer to its parishioners and is still the cornerstone of Longmeadow even after the original meeting house has long been replaced. As they continue to celebrate their 300th anniversary year, I wish them all the best in their endeavors to preserve their rich history and community involvement that has been the legacy of the First Church of Christ.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF A PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE BALKANS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a resolution to recommend the designation of a Presidential Special Envoy for the Balkans.

In November of 1995 the United States government spearheaded a series of peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, that ended more than three years of warfare and ethnic cleansing that plagued much of the Balkans region. Ultimately, from those talks stemmed the Dayton Peace Accords, which essentially established the new-nation state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, as time has evolved since Dayton, the U.S. has made uneven attempts to continue this important dialogue and revisit the many weaknesses in the original Dayton Agreement. As many have said over the years, the Dayton Accords solved the war of the 1990s but did not fully resolve the Constitutional and governmental needs for this new nation state.

The time has come to lend our services in aid to this important region and help Bosnia thaw her "frozen conflict," as it has been referred regarding the present situation. This new nation must continue to move forward toward full integration into our important western alliances. Bosnia and Herzegovina must further develop active and free capital markets in order to help secure governmental structures that fully protect the economic, political, and religious rights for her three recognized constituent peoples—the Croat Bosnians, the Bosniak Muslims, and the Serb Bosnians.

Croat Bosnians have had over the years trouble consistently electing a truly representative Croatian to the tri-partite Presidency in Sarajevo. In addition, many Croats in Bosnia still do not have full ownership of their pre-war properties and are unable to return to their homesteads. A country is respected for how it treats its smallest constituencies, and in reality the future success of the Croats in Bosnia is the glue that will hold Bosnia and Herzegovina together in the future.

While the U.S. has urged the Bosnian government to initiate needed revisions themselves, we have witnessed this relatively new nation state, which maintains great political and economic potential, actually fall back into occasional violent patterns as witnessed in February 2014.

As the Representative of the 44th district of California, an area steeped in Balkans culture with a very active Croatian American community, I have heard firsthand the concerns arising from growing general instability and the economic and political difficulties experienced by the Croatian Bosnians, the smallest of the three Dayton recognized constituent peoples of Bosnia.

As I have stated before, this region is integral to the future success of our interdependent international community and a Europe that is whole and prosperous. We have

an obligation to support the democratic and free market progress that has been hard won over the last two decades in the Balkans. The United States and Europe cannot be distracted by other regions dominating the news.

My Resolution will establish a much needed independent Special Envoy for the Secretary of State. This Envoy shall fully investigate the current state of affairs and provide a comprehensive report to the Congress and the Administration. This report will recommend additional and alternative methods for assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in developing a fully functional and stable system of government—a system that her people so adamantly desire and fully deserve.

Therefore, I call upon this 114th Congress to designate a special Presidential Envoy to evaluate the successes and shortcomings of the Dayton Peace Accords, and to provide tangible policy recommendations so that we may assist this region to fully establish the security and prosperity that its citizens demand for themselves. It is my greatest hope that the United States can remain a catalyst for change and success in the Balkans, as it illustrated earlier during the era of the Dayton Accords.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN PAULINE
LUND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evelyn Lund of Lenox, Iowa, for being inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Inductees to the Hall of Fame have demonstrated dedication, encouragement, commitment, and guidance to Iowa's 4-H students through the years.

Evelyn was born and raised in Adams County, Iowa and has served on the Adams County Youth and 4-H committee. Her encouraging smile and positive attitude with all 4-H members made her a great fit for her role as a youth leader. Evelyn and her husband Paul are the parents of three children, Nancy, Laurie, and Charles. Each of their children were active in 4-H programs growing up. Today, Evelyn encourages a third generation of 4-H members in Adams County to develop skills and confidence through various 4-H programs.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Evelyn for earning this award. She is a shining example of how encouragement and a positive influence can have a lasting impact on our youth. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Evelyn for this accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DON EDWARDS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I note the passing of our former colleague, Don Edwards, on October 1. While Don retired from his seat representing his district in Northern California in 1994, he left a lasting legacy after his 32-year career in the House.

Taking office in 1963, Don came to Congress at a time when our country was in dire need of men of conscience and the courage to lead on issues concerning civil rights, civil liberties, and the proper limits of government power. Don answered the call, quickly registering his support for landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a Member of the Judiciary Committee, he became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, a position he used for decades to protect the fundamental rights of all Americans.

He fought particularly hard, in reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, to preserve the Section 5 preclearance requirements for states that had a legacy of voting rights abuses. He realized how critical this law is to the foundational aspirations of America, and said, "If you can't vote, you are not a real citizen."

Another area where Don focused his energies concerned the uncovering and elimination of abusive government surveillance. Having been an FBI agent for a brief period prior to his military service in World War II, Don brought to Congress an understanding of the need for government to enforce the laws while not violating the civil liberties of those it is designed to serve. His work on the Judiciary Committee included actions to reign in government surveillance, and he was also instrumental in shutting down the House Un-American Activities Committee, whose sad legacy continues to caution Congress not to abuse its considerable powers.

In matters of foreign affairs and the use of U.S. military power, he showed wise judgment in opposing the Vietnam War and also opposed the use of military force in other instances, such as the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991.

I knew Don Edwards as a principled man who never stopped believing that the government's coercive powers should be subject to the highest levels of scrutiny, and that we should never forget that our government exists through the consent of the governed, with the purpose of preserving and not eroding our rights. We are grateful for his service to Congress and this country. He will be missed, but we will continue the work he devoted himself to in the Judiciary Committee and in Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEGAN ELIZABETH BARRON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Megan Elizabeth Barron, who recently passed away on September 10, 2015, at the age of 24. Megan was an extraordinary person, and she will always be remembered as a young woman who lived her life with purpose and great dedication to her family, community, and strangers via her writing and advocacy for dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa.

Megan passed away surrounded by her loving family at the University of Miami Hospital. She was born on January 26, 1991, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Richard E. Barron and Elizabeth Ward. Megan was born with dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, an extremely severe skin condition that led her to write about her life experiences and further inspire others. She was an extremely talented young woman who was admired by many and always asserted her right for respect.

Regardless of the obstacles Megan encountered she remained positive and was a scholar who focused on her studies. Megan graduated salutatorian of Coral Springs High School in 2009. She went on to graduate from Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke University in 2013. While at Duke, Megan was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta history honor society and she founded the Duke Disability Alliance.

Among her many accomplishments Megan was a National Merit Commended Scholar, a National Advanced Placement Scholar of Distinction and a Florida International University book award winner. She received the Miami Herald Silver Knight Award in general scholarship and the annual Spirit Award from the Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa Research Association (DeBRA) of America. Megan also interned with the White House, Senator BILL NELSON of Florida's legislative office and the Library of Congress. During her last two years Megan served as the Social Media Coordinator for the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD).

Megan was a model of comportment in the face of daunting adversity. Despite her illness, she never seemed to let it get in her way. She enjoyed history, food, flowers, travel, poetry, writing, the Pittsburgh Steelers, ballet, sailing, French culture, politics, and the arts. Megan is survived by her father Richard E. Barron, mother Elizabeth Ward, stepfather James Patrick Ward, and brother Jason R. Barron.

The poem below titled *The Butterfly Child* written by Megan back in 2003 perfectly depicts her inspiring persona and the way in which she served as a role model and inspiration to those that she met.

A fragile little butterfly
Whose been cursed but doesn't know why
Who sees the world through different eyes
And soars with the wings for the butterflies
For the precious little butterfly
Is different and she knows
That crying doesn't ever help

But sometimes her struggling shows
To be a butterfly in such a world
Where people are so vain
She tries to keep her chin up
She knows she can't complain.

Although her physical differences
Make life become a fight
She has been blessed in different ways
And sheds the world with light.

Though people are judgmental
To the precious butterfly
Her mind is one in a million
Her mind is her tool to fly

The curse has been put on the butterfly
Yes, she knows it's true
But she won't let it stop her
From soaring to the sky

The Miraculous little butterfly
Puts up a mighty fight
But that won't stand in this Butterflies way
From spreading her inspiring light

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saying farewell to a young woman who embodied passion and inspiration, Ms. Megan Elizabeth Barron. Her genuine character and loving commitment to life will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION'S "BELIEVE IN BLACK YOUTH" PROGRAMMING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Twin Cities Public Television's efforts through the American Graduate initiative to provide Minnesota's African American youth with a platform to share their educational journeys, challenges, and success stories with our community.

American Graduate is a multi-year public media initiative through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that aids local communities across America in finding solutions to the high school dropout crisis that plagues our nation.

I am proud that in Minnesota, Twin Cities Public Television's contribution to this national effort has been to explore not only the state's achievement gap in our African American community, but also the belief gap that fuels it. There is often a significant division in belief between what children and families of traditionally marginalized groups believe they can accomplish and what others in positions of power believe these youth are capable of. TPT's effort is aimed at exposing these barriers to success and providing youth with an opportunity to share their stories.

TPT's American Graduate supported programming is called "Believe in Black Youth," which includes segments on "Almanac", TPT's weekly public affairs program, online spots and much more. The cornerstone of TPT's efforts is a thirty minute documentary titled "Black Brilliance" which chronicles the journeys of five African American high school students to graduation and their dreams for the future. It is through stories like those told in "Black Brilliance" that TPT seeks to help

change the narrative of a belief system about Minnesota's marginalized African American youth from one of inadequacy and disadvantage to one of value and worth.

Every student in America deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education, and ensuring that all of our nation's children have the best chance for success in life is the most important job we have as leaders, teachers, parents, and Americans. I am truly pleased to see Twin Cities Public Television address these critical issues and advancing the voices of those in our community who have found it so difficult to have their voices heard.

HONORING ALBERT CHEN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Chen on the occasion of his retirement. For 30 years Albert has served as Telamon Corporation's leader. He and his wife, Margaret, founded Telamon Corporation in 1985 and since then have turned it into a multi-million dollar company that employs hundreds of people and provides opportunities for people to do meaningful work. The Hoosier community is forever grateful for Albert's dedication to making Indiana a better place.

Albert, a Taiwan native, has been an innovator and successful business leader in Indiana for decades. After receiving his degree from National Cheng-Chi University in Taiwan, Albert came to America to pursue a career in business. He received his master's degree in Mathematical Sciences from Portland State University and started his business career with GTE on the west coast. He later relocated to Indiana to fill the role of Manager of the Midwest region for GTE. Albert and Margaret decided to lay roots and build their business in Carmel, Indiana.

Albert is the founder, Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of Telamon Corporation, a company based in Carmel, Indiana. Telamon, a company whose mission is to simplify business for their clients, specializes in simplified solutions for telecommunication networks, business process outsourcing, energy management, industrial assembly, and telehealth services. Since its founding in 1985, Telamon has developed into one of the largest private companies in Indiana and is consistently ranked as one of the 500 fastest growing companies in the United States. The company employs over 1,400 people, has ten domestic locations and three international facilities, two of which are in China. Additionally, the company is involved with improving the local communities. They launched the Telamon Foundation, which places special emphasis on non-profit organizations that focus on arts and education.

Promoting diversity in employment and throughout business operations is an important priority to Telamon, and Albert is proud that his company is a certified Minority Busi-

ness Enterprise. Albert, who is also a graduate of the Executive Minority Business Program at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, takes pride in his heritage and has a passion for teaching Asians and Americans about each other, their diverse cultures and how to work together to build trust, share knowledge and create opportunities on U.S. soil and abroad. He established the America China Society of Indiana, which he created as a foundation to foster networking, cooperation, and trust between Indiana and Chinese businesses. Albert also started the Asian American Alliance, which aims to inspire Asian Americans to mobilize and be leaders in the community, and provided funding for the Asian Learning Center of Indiana, which aims to educate, connect, and engage Hoosiers about the history, cultures, and emerging business opportunities of Asia through public, private, community and business partnership in Indiana.

Albert is a champion in fostering economic growth and enhancing relationships between Indiana and Chinese businesses. Although Albert is retiring, his commitment to Telamon Corporation and the Hoosier community will live on through his continued mentorship. Albert is proud that his legacy will live on through his children Stanley and Stephanie. Stanley will be taking over as Chief Executive Officer and Stephanie as Chief Operating Officer. He is an inspiration, both as a businessman and a community leader, and for that we extend a huge thank you. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I'd like to congratulate Albert on his success and wish him and Margaret the best as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BERNIE AND CONNIE PETTINGER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bernie and Connie Pettinger of Anita, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Bernie and Connie married in 1965.

Bernie and Connie's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Paul, Dave, Mark, Kathy, Kim and Amy, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTH- DAY OF EMILY LUCILLE JONES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a hardworking and enduring woman, my aunt, Emily Lucille Jones. Emily was born on October 16, 1925 in Cooper, Texas, to Alfred and Cordie Jones.

Emily was born the third of eight children, all whom were active at a young age in day to day operations of the family farm. This taught Emily the importance of hard work and earning a living early on. After graduating from Gober High School in 1943 she moved to Bonham, Texas, to work for the county clerk's office. While there, she started attending the First Baptist Church. Becoming involved in the church led her to meet Dan Carver, the man she would eventually marry in 1947 and with whom she would move to Lubbock, Texas.

As Dan attended Texas Tech University, Emily was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone. After Dan earned his degree they had three beautiful children, Jeffrey, Judy, and Mary. In 1967 Emily received her Associates degree in elementary education from Trinidad Jr. State College and went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in elementary education in 1972 from Texas Tech University. Working with children was always a great passion of hers and she has always been a strong role model.

Emily was always an active teacher in various church organizations including Sunday school, Girls Auxiliary, and Bible School, to name a few. She worked as a teacher as well as managed finances for various companies. Even in her retirement Emily remains active in several senior groups within the church. Travel was her leisurely passion, as Emily has travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United States. She is an avid quilter and enjoys crossword puzzles, cooking, working in her yard, and spending quality family time with her only grandson, Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the birthday of such a fulfilled and jubilant person, my aunt, Emily Lucille Jones. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating her ninety years.

RECOGNIZING THE MINDEN-SOUTH WEBSTER CHAMBER OF COM- MERCE FOR 2015 LOUISIANA SMALL CHAMBER AWARD

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce for being presented the 2015 Louisiana Small Chamber of the Year Award. Since its inception in 1942, the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce has worked towards the economic development of its members and the establishment of strong business relationships within

the community. They are also actively engaged in strengthening and recognizing the contributions of all South Webster Parish residents. Recently the Chamber of Commerce hosted an inaugural First Responders Lunch, where they honored the self-sacrifice and dedication of all emergency first responders in the community. Through projects such as the Webster Education Endowment Fund, the Webster Youth Leadership Program, and 15 Under 40 Awards, students are poised for success and Webster schools are widely recognized as among the best in Louisiana. Furthermore the Chamber has achieved a rare combination of preserving the beautiful history of the community while incentivizing new urban development. They have the security interests of the entire nation at heart, as they coordinate closely with the National Guard in the economic development surrounding Camp Minden. All members of the chamber should feel confident that because of their dedication to initiative, our community will continue to prosper. I applaud the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce for receiving this award, and I thank them for the exceptional work they provide in support of their community.

CONGRATULATING THE JEFFREY MODELL FOUNDATION ON THEIR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt congratulations that I rise today to recognize the Jeffrey Modell Foundation on the dedication of its newest Diagnostic and Research Center here in Washington, DC. Home to diagnostic and clinical care as well as an additional research facility, this new center will undoubtedly be a beacon of hope for families with children suffering from Primary Immunodeficiency both here in the metro-Washington area and across the country.

In 1986, Vicki and Fred Modell lost their only son, Jeffrey, to Primary Immunodeficiency, a genetic disorder that leaves the body unable to fight off infections. Not long after their son passed away, the Modell's created the Jeffrey Modell Foundation—not to commemorate Jeffrey's death, but rather to celebrate his life by giving life to others who suffer from the same illness.

Today, the Foundation is a global organization devoted to early and precise diagnosis, meaningful treatments, and research toward a cure. A thriving force in the field, it achieves its aims through basic and clinical research, physician education, patient support, advocacy, public awareness, and newborn screenings. The Jeffrey Modell Centers Network now includes 600 expert physicians and 250 research, diagnostic, and referral centers. It has a presence in 206 cities, in 80 countries, on six continents.

On Tuesday, September 29th, Vicki and Fred came to Washington, DC to celebrate the

dedication of the newest Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic and Research Center for Primary Immunodeficiency at Children's National Medical Center. This world-class facility will help sick children and their parents deal with the trauma of serious illness. Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Keller, this new Center will be a national center of excellence in patient diagnosis, clinical care, and research.

This great step forward for children suffering from serious illness throughout the Washington region came about because of the dedication, commitment and support shown by Vicki and Fred Modell and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation. I could not be more proud to congratulate and thank both the Jeffrey Modell Foundation and Children's National Hospital for all that they do to save so many precious lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANTHONY D. BRUNO, RECIPIENT OF 2015 ITALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony D. Bruno II, M.D., who will be awarded the Italian-American Association's Person of the Year Award on Sunday, October 11, 2015. Anthony is a native of Pittston and is the son of Dr. Anthony Bruno and Pauline Bruno.

Anthony attended Wyoming Area High School and graduated from the University of Scranton with a bachelor's degree in biology, magna cum laude. Following college, Anthony earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. During his time there, he received the Most Outstanding Student in Surgery Award. Following medical school, Anthony trained in general surgery at Westchester Medical Center in New York and at Creighton University Medical Center. Anthony completed an additional three years of training in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. Today, Anthony is certified by both the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Plastic Surgery and is a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

In 2007, Anthony returned to the Wyoming Valley to raise a family and serve the community of Northeast Pennsylvania. He started the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department at Geisinger Wyoming Medical Center. He was recognized for his leadership and professionalism by the Times Leader and was awarded the paper's 40 Under 40 Award.

It is an honor to recognize Anthony for all of his accomplishments, and I extend my congratulations on his award. I wish him the best in all future endeavors and thank him for the contributions he has made serving his fellow Pennsylvanians.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Day of the Republic of China, commonly known as Double Ten Day, on October 10.

The United States and Taiwan maintain strong economic and cultural ties as evidenced by the fact that Taiwan is now our 10th largest trading partner.

In Connecticut, we are particularly close with the people of Taiwan. Connecticut is the proud home to thousands of people born in Taiwan and countless children and grandchildren of immigrants from Taiwan.

I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the people of Taiwan and all Connecticut residents of Taiwanese descent. Happy Double Ten Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to the congregation of my church home, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia, as we celebrate a remarkable 150 years. A celebration in honor of this very significant anniversary will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at the church. This celebration will also serve as an opportunity to honor Pastor Daniel Simmons for his 24 years of faithful leadership to the church.

Tracing its roots back to the Civil War era, the church was founded in 1865, the same year that the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery was passed by Congress and ratified by the States. In the beginning years, the members of the church met at Jerry Walter's Blacksmith Shop at the corner of Highland Avenue and Jackson Street. The church had purchased land and was constructing a new building at Washington Street and Highland Avenue but the structure was destroyed by a storm before it was completed.

The church next purchased land at Whitney Avenue and Jefferson Street. A Yankee colonel donated a house that was brought to Albany from nearby Leesburg. The house served as the first church structure at that site until years later when it was torn down and a church of brick was built. This brick structure is known as the Old Mount Zion building.

Mr. Speaker, this ardent community of believers, whose ancestors had finally been freed from the bonds of slavery, were subjected to continuous oppression and injustice, ultimately resulting in the Civil Rights Movement. They attempted to register to vote, they rallied, they marched, and they were thrown in jail. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

came to Albany to mobilize the African-American community and was himself incarcerated. Yet, the spirit of the congregation of Mount Zion was not broken, and their faith in God grew stronger than ever before as they prevailed.

Many of the rallies during the Albany phase of the Civil Rights Movement were held at Mount Zion and to commemorate those struggles, the church donated the building to the Albany Civil Rights Museum which is currently housed there. In 1972, the church moved to a new location at 1905 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue.

In 1994, Mount Zion again faced adversity when floods inundated the church with eight feet of water. The congregation took the old adage, "come Hell or high water," to heart and continued to worship at the local Jewish Temple B'nai Israel until the church building was reconstructed a little over a year later.

In its 150 years, Mount Zion has seen only nine pastors but each has left a lasting mark on the church. The founding pastor, Rev. R.R. Watson faithfully served the church during its first 15 years of existence until he was called to his heavenly reward. In 1944, Rev. Dr. E. James Grant began leading the flock. During his 47 years of service, the church grew and flourished tremendously.

In 1991, Pastor Daniel Simmons took leadership of Mount Zion and this year, he celebrates 24 years of service to Mount Zion. A charismatic evangelical innovator, Pastor Simmons' spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious. Under his leadership, Mount Zion expanded its ministry services, increased its membership tremendously to the point where a second worship service was added, and moved into its new state-of-the-art facility on 109 acres of land at 901 South Westover Boulevard in 2010.

With a congregation of over 3,000 members and 54 ministries, including both radio and television ministries, Mount Zion is truly "reaching the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

On a personal note, I am proud that Mount Zion is my church home and that I am an ordained Deacon and Trustee. My wife, Vivian, and I have been blessed by Pastor Simmons' wise counsel and sage advice. Over the 19 years I have been a member of the church, I have known some of the most kind, loving, and generous Christians who truly have a heart for Jesus. To God be the glory, for He is doing amazing things through Mount Zion.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in honoring and commending Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia for its enduring commitment, despite adversity, to each other and to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May Mount Zion continue to inspire the community in courage, in dedication, and in faith for many more years to come.

HONORING DR. CHARLES V. SHANK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Charles V. Shank.

Known by many for his seminal development of ultrafast lasers and his visionary leadership as Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory from 1989 through 2004, Dr. Shank made the Advanced Light Source a world-leading center for soft X-ray science. As a recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy's Enrico Fermi Award on October 20, 2015—presented to outstanding scientists for distinguished achievement—we honor Dr. Shank's life work and lasting legacy.

Graduating summa cum laude in 1965 from UC Berkeley, Dr. Shank went on to receive an M.S. and PhD in Electrical Engineering. These early academic achievements were the catalyst for a distinguished twenty year career at AT&T Bell Laboratories, where Dr. Shank made his mark as a pioneer in femtosecond laser spectroscopy and the study of ultrafast events.

In 1989, following his meteoric rise at AT&T, Dr. Shank was appointed Director of Berkeley Lab. Here, Dr. Shank would more than double the annual budget and grow the Lab's workforce to nearly 4,000 personnel. Under his watch the stage was set to attract the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC) and the creation of the Joint Genome Institute (JGI) to settle at Berkeley. Not long after, he championed the Supernova Cosmology Project, which led to the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of "dark energy", a phenomenon partly responsible for the expansion of the universe.

These extraordinary advancements brought further discoveries, including the top quark and neutrino mass, the Time Projection Chamber for the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, the front-end system for the Spallation Neutron Source, and the reclamation of valuable land occupied by the long-defunct Bevatron.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the life and work of an outstanding individual and pioneer, Dr. Charles V. Shank. His contributions have truly impacted the Berkeley community, the field of energy and applied science, as well as the lives of his family, friends, and patrons. I join all of Dr. Shank's loved ones in celebrating his incredible accomplishments and offer my highest gratitude for the distinction he has brought upon the 13th Congressional District.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHIES TO
THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
OF DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter to Dr. Joanne Liu, International President of Doctors Without Borders, extending my deepest sympathies to the victims of the U.S. airstrike in Kunduz that killed 22 patients and staff within a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2015.

Dr. JOANNE LIU,
International President,
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans
Frontières.

DEAR DR. LIU: It is with an extremely heavy heart that I extend my deepest sympathies to the victims of the U.S. airstrike in Kunduz that killed 22 patients and staff within a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders. Doctors who volunteer their skills in some of the most dangerous regions of the world make sacrifices as brave and selfless as the sacrifices made by our U.S. service members when they are sent into harm's way. My heart goes out to all who were affected by this tragic incident.

I have always admired the work of Doctors Without Borders. The organization led the international response to last year's deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and it continues to treat patients in numerous isolated and dangerous parts of the world, including areas of violent conflict like Afghanistan. The courage and compassion of Doctors Without Borders' staff and volunteers are beyond compare.

With this tragedy, we are once again reminded of the very real costs of war and recall our collective responsibility to promote international peace and security and protect civilians. It is my sincere hope that there will be a thorough and impartial investigation of the incident and that we work hard to ensure that such an incident never happens again.

Once again, my thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this tragedy and I pray that their families may find peace and comfort in the memories of their loved ones and the sympathies of the international community.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Member of Congress.

CONGRATULATING WARDEN LINDA SANDERS ON HER RECOGNITION BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS' AGENCY FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRISON MANAGEMENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Warden Linda Sanders, head of Springfield Missouri's U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (USMCFP), on her recent national recognition by the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) Agency for Excellence in Prison Management.

This distinguished honor highlights outstanding wardens for overall management of staff, inmates, and efficient operations. In earning this award, Warden Sanders was evaluated on the impact of her innovative ideas on the institutional programs she oversees, her steadfast efforts to improve the USMCFP, and extraordinary leadership as the head of her team.

Additionally, this honor is a testament to Warden Sanders' impressive career in our justice system. In 1987, she got her start as a correctional officer in a low-security facility in

Sandstone, Minnesota. After proving her exemplary work ethic, she was eventually named Warden of Lompoc U.S. Penitentiary in California, where she was the first female warden and first African American warden. Ultimately, after vying for the opportunity to lead the USMCFP, she was assigned as the medical center's warden in 2012.

Overseeing the USMCFP, Warden Sanders is responsible for upholding a renowned institution with a rich American history dating back to the Great Depression. At that time, Springfield residents gave 620 acres to the federal government for the construction of a hospital complex, of which the first buildings were completed in 1933. Since, the center has cared for the physical and mental ailments of federal prisoners from across the nation. The prison even hosted a handful of prisoners with infamous names in American justice lore, like John Gotti, Robert Stroud (the Birdman of Alcatraz), and Larry Flynt—just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, Warden Linda Sanders deserves this body's utmost respect for her dedication to our justice system, and I extend her my deepest appreciation for her impressive leadership. Her efforts have not only made Springfield a better community, but have made me ever-prouder to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 543 and 544, I would have voted as follows: Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) motion to Recommit on H.R. 538 with instructions—NAY, and Passage of H.R. 538—Native American Energy Act—YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council for their 50th anniversary this year. The National Collegiate Honors Council represents 800 colleges and universities and is composed of 325,000 students dedicated to achieving educational excellence in diverse subject curriculum areas in order to achieve professional career goals.

In my district, the National Collegiate Honors Council includes the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Robert Morris University, and Point Park University.

For instance, Point Park's Honors Program welcomes students from all disciplines who desire an enriched college experience. The program builds a community of scholars who have opportunities in three important areas: academics, community services, and leader-

ship. Students participate in a learning process that encourages engagement, creativity, and imagination through honors sections of courses that include additional assignments and a rigorous curriculum. At the end of their degree programs, undergraduate honors students must submit thesis papers and special honors projects capping off their academic careers. Many of these gifted young people participate in Pittsburgh-oriented community projects and the annual Storytelling and Human Rights Symposium, providing their city with invaluable public service. The program also encourages membership in the Honors Student Organization, one of the most active clubs on campus, where members can hold prestigious leadership positions. Honors students also benefit from special housing opportunities, on-campus job opportunities, and enriching study abroad programs that include destinations like London and Rome. Point Park University deserves our recognition for giving its most motivated and gifted students the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

The National Collegiate Honors Program, after decades of growth and experience, continues to dedicate itself to promoting educational excellence within our nation's colleges and universities while preparing students for successful professional careers. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the program's outstanding contributions to our nation's educational and professional communities honoring its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT WILLIAM LYBARGER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate William Lybarger of Boy Scout Troop 17 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, William chose to undertake a major mulching project at Jones Park in Cedar Rapids. He led a large group of volunteers from his community by laying mulch around the entire park, protecting the trees from damage, and beautifying the park in the process. The work ethic William has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I know that all of my colleagues in

the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout and wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-KOREA ALLIANCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to the President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye, who will visit Washington, D.C. for the second time as President next week, on October 13, 2015.

President Park Geun-hye has a long and distinguished career in government prior to her election as President and she has proven a most capable leader for the Korean people.

The alliance between the United States and Korea is founded, first and foremost, on our shared values of democracy and our belief in the rule of law. The U.S.-Korea alliance is a critical aspect of the security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region and continues to grow and expand. Our partnership is critical in defending against the threat of an increasingly belligerent and unpredictable North Korean regime. North Korea continues to threaten stability on the Peninsula through its rogue nuclear program and dangerous conventional and cyber capabilities. The Republic of Korea, however, has been our close friend and ally in this most sensitive and serious endeavor, and we should strive to take our security partnership to new levels in the coming years.

Korea and the United States have also cooperated closely in the development of our civilian nuclear programs for more than 50 years, and over the last several years our countries have been negotiating a new Nuclear Cooperation Agreement to upgrade and replace the previous accord. Today, the Korea 123 Agreement is under review in the U.S. Congress. I look forward to its passage and our continued work in this important area.

A robust economic relationship between the U.S. and Korea remains an important aspect of our cooperation. The Republic of Korea is the United States' sixth largest trading partner, and during President Park's tenure, we saw the entry-into-force of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

The U.S.-Korea alliance and the multifaceted ties between our two peoples will surely grow deeper as we continue to work together on myriad issues of common concern. I once again welcome President Park to Washington with my best wishes for a successful visit.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH
BORDER SURVEY ANNIVERSARY
OF PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP,
MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Border Survey Anniversary of Pittsfield Township, Michigan. This day commemorates the survey which established the borders of this significant municipality.

Pittsfield Township is a vibrant community with a rich history. The area now known as Pittsfield Township was a common crossroads for Native Americans to travel across the country for more than 10,000 years. The land was surveyed on a cold day in 1815 by Alexander Holmes. His work continues to mark the municipality's border with Lodi, Scio, and Ann Arbor Townships. In 1824, Geo. W. Noyes made the purchase of federal land for the township. Originally established as the "Township of Pitt" by the Sixth Legislative Council in 1834, it was named in honor of British statesmen William Pitt the Elder who was a passionate advocate for American interests in Parliament prior to the War of Independence. Settlers of European and African heritage settled this area, cleared the land, erected the first school house in Washtenaw County, and created the foundation of this community.

Although the present territory of this township might be unrecognizable to figures of the past, it continues to grow because of engaged citizens and steady leadership. Pittsfield has strategically built a municipality which successfully balances economic growth, recreational activities, agricultural viability, and preserving green spaces. This township has grown into the third largest municipality in Washtenaw County because of policies that encourage talented residents to foster eco-

nomie growth. Residents of their community are proud of it and continually make meaningful contributions to their community and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate Pittsfield Township's 200th Border Survey Anniversary. Its history is an important piece of Michigan's heritage and the anniversary provides an occasion to celebrate and remember it.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
STAFF SERGEANT JONATHAN
LEWIS

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Representative BOB GOODLATTE, and Representative ROB WITTMAN, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lewis of Warrenton, Virginia, who passed away September 2, 2015 at age 31.

On the evening of September 2, 2015 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, a terrible tragedy occurred during training for the Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team. Several Marines were injured, and Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lewis, a 31-year-old Fauquier native based at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, was killed. According to Colonel Jeffrey Kenney, the officer in charge of the Expeditionary Operations Training Group, training for the Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Teams requires "the highest-caliber Marine, with the dedication and courage to take on the challenge." This, according to Colonel Kenney, was the exact makeup of Sergeant Jonathan Lewis. Sergeant Lewis' uncle, Keith Lewis would like his nephew to be remembered as, "foremost a Marine and just one heck of a human being."

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lewis family and the Marines with whom he served. Staff Sergeant Lewis selflessly sacrificed so much to preserve our freedoms and our American way of life. It is because of soldiers like him that we may continue to live in the freest nation on Earth. We will remember his tremendous sacrifice and remain forever grateful.

I ask that the members of this House of Representatives join with me, Congressman GOODLATTE, Congressman WITTMAN, and the community of Warrenton, Virginia in honoring the memory of a great American hero.

TRIBUTE TO GREG RASMUSSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Greg Rasmussen of Adair, Iowa. Greg has been awarded the Honorary Warren Coleman Award, the highest honor given by the Iowa Lions Foundation.

Greg has embodied the Lions slogan of "We Serve" by serving as Adair Lions club president and club secretary, along with chairing countless times for pancake breakfasts and soup suppers. He has also been a part of numerous community projects, including improving park playground equipment, city ball park renovations, and a fundraiser for the emergency services department.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Greg for receiving this award and for providing leadership to the Lions Foundation and the city of Adair. I am proud to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Greg and wishing him nothing but continued success in the future.

SENATE—Tuesday, October 13, 2015

The Senate met at 10:34 and 17 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

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**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 13, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUNT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

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**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 16, 2015, AT 10 A.M.**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Friday, October 16, 2015.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:34 and 47 seconds a.m., adjourned until Friday, October 16, 2015, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, October 13, 2015

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 13, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Meg Saunders, Anglican Church of North America, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You this afternoon with praise on our lips. We thank You that You are a God of redemption and hope.

From the prophet Isaiah You tell us that You have good news for the poor. You comfort those of us with broken hearts. You release us from our despair and addictions, and most strikingly, You give us a crown of beauty for the ashes in our lives.

Today, Lord, as this House meets, guide and direct our leaders. Anoint their minds with Your hope so that they will approach the problems of our Nation with Your vision of redemption, knowing that all things are possible with You.

Loving God, we dedicate this day to You, for the honor and glory of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 462, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 13, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 13, 2015 at 10:40 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con Res. 21.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 21. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; to the Committee on House Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 462, the House stands adjourned until 1:15 p.m., on Friday, October 16, 2015.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, October 16, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1258: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 1475: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 1482: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1675: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1854: Mr. ROYCE and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2010: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2494: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2515: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2516: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2858: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2880: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2917: Mr. COHEN and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 3067: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3180: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 3221: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3255: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 3268: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BERA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3326: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3403: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3687: Mr. FINCHER and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 3740: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H. Res. 265: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H. Res. 479: Ms. LEE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CREW OF EL FARO

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the crew of the *El Faro*, the 790-foot container ship that recently perished in the Atlantic during Hurricane Joaquin. We cannot know the heartache that their families and friends are facing in the midst of the unanswered questions surrounding this maritime disaster. In their time of need, we send them strong prayers of support to help ease their pain.

The 33 crew members aboard the vessel, 18 from Florida, 12 from my hometown of Jacksonville, 10 others from cities and towns across America, and five Polish nationals, all faced the toughest of odds from a Category 4 hurricane. These brave men and women include: Jacksonville residents Roosevelt Clark, Brookie Davis, Frank Hamm, Carey Hatch, Jack Jackson, Jackie Jones, Jr., Lonnie Jordan, Roan Lightfoot, James Porter, Theodore Quammie, Lashawn Rivera and Anthony Thomas. Florida residents Louis Champa of Palm Coast, Keith Griffin of Fort Myers, Joe Hargrove of Orange Park, Howard Schoenly of Cape Coral, German Solar-Cortes of Orlando and Mariette Wright of St. Augustine were also aboard.

Sylvester Crawford Jr. of Lawrenceville, Georgia; Michael Davidson of Windham, Maine; Michael Holland of North Wilton, Maine; Mitchell Kuflik of Brooklyn, New York; Jeffrey Mathias of Kingston, Massachusetts; Dylan Meklin of Rockland, Maine; Richard Pusatere of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Danielle Randolph of Rockland, Maine; Jeremie Riehm of Camden, Delaware; and Steven Shultz of Roan Mountain, Tennessee are also mourned as are Piotr Krause, Marcin Nita, Jan Podgorski, Andrzej Truskowski and Rafal Zdobych of Poland.

As we learn more about their lives we see the experience and professionalism they brought to their careers, their love of family and the hope they had for the future. May those closest to them take comfort from this diverse collection of stories.

We also take time to recognize the United States Coast Guard, United States Navy, United States Air Force and other maritime assets who combined forces in the search for the stricken ship and its members. They are to be commended for their full commitment and dedication to that mission.

As we move ahead, investigations are underway by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Coast Guard to determine what happened and how to prevent another such disaster from happening in the future. I have no doubt that those answers will come. In the meantime, America's maritime community is a

tight one and will rally around those who need it the most right now—the loved ones of the *El Faro* crew. We stand with them, ready to meet their needs in whatever way we can, today and in all of the tomorrows.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHINESE NATIONAL DAY AND THE UNITED STATES-TAIWAN FRIENDSHIP

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere congratulations to the Republic of China which recently celebrated its National Day and the anniversary of the Xinhai Revolution, referred to as the "Double Tenth" for October 10th.

Taiwan is a close ally and dear friend of the United States. We share critical and common values, values that include liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and equality, and over time, we have developed our friendship into trade agreements, tourism, national security agreements, and cultural and educational exchanges.

Let me say today, from the halls of Washington, D.C., that the friendship between the United States and Taiwan is enduring and deep. Our bonds will continue to grow stronger and the world will be a better place because of it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, Friday, October 9, 2015, I am in Charleston, South Carolina, accompanying Secretary Jeh Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security and attending to matters related to the historic storm and flooding in my district and as a consequence, I will not be present for votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call 545—Amash Amendment to H.R. 702: YEA.

Roll Call 546—Messer Amendment to H.R. 702: YEA.

Roll Call 547—Messer Amendment to H.R. 702: YEA.

Roll Call 548—Motion to Recommit H.R. 702: NAY.

Roll Call 549—Final Passage of H.R. 702: NAY.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Friday, October 9, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted against H.R. 702 (Roll no. 549) because I believe the crude oil export ban should only be lifted if it includes opportunities for increased alternative renewable energy tax credits.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE P. OLIVEIRA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. DAVID VALADAO to pay tribute to the life of our good friend, Joe P. Oliveira, Sr., of Lemoore, California who recently passed away at the age of 89. He leaves behind his loving family including his daughters, Marlene Jeung and husband Don, Patty Silva and husband Denny, Debbie Etchebehere and husband Jean, Cheryl Silva and husband Russ; daughter in law, Pam Oliveira, son-in-law Darryl Ray, Brothers Jon, Frank, Westley, Leonard, Manuel, Edward, Louie and sister Mary, along with 16 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

Joe P. Oliveira, Sr., was born in Hanford, CA on January 28, 1926 to John P. and Eliza Leal Oliveira. He was the fourth born of 12 children. Joe P., as he liked to be called, was a man who dedicated himself to his family and the dairy industry in the San Joaquin Valley and California. He returned to the family dairy after his honorable discharge from the US Army-Air Force in 1947. He bought his own dairy in 1953 and throughout his working years he dedicated his time and efforts to his love of dairy.

He served on the Kings County Creamery Association Board for over 20 years and Challenge Cream and Butter Association Board for fifteen years. This experience and his involvement with the Western Dairymen's Association prompted then Governor Reagan to appoint Joe P. to the Milk Pooling Formulation Committee which resulted in a program that helped all dairymen.

After selling his dairy, he worked full time for Western Dairymen's from 1973 to 1987 and upon his retirement he was presented with a Resolution from the California State Legislature recognizing his contributions to the dairy industry.

Joe P. married the love of his life Adeline Paulo; they were blessed with one son, and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

five daughters. He was actively involved in the Lemoore Trinity Association for over 50 years. He led the efforts of many, placing calves on dairy farms where his many friends raised them. They were then sold with the donations going towards building a new hall at Lemoore Trinity Association. He also served on the Kings County Grand Jury.

It goes without saying that Joe P. Oliveira, Sr., was an honorable man with a commitment to his family and friends and the agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley that will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. His passion for family, education, and his community will be remembered by all who knew him. He was my friend and I will miss him a great deal. He conducted his life with reverence for humanity. It is with great pride that I honor him for all he did on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley and for California.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. VALADAO and I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in honoring the life of Joe P. Oliveira, Sr., a remarkable Californian. We are honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present I would have voted aye on roll call number 534, aye on roll call number 535, nay on roll call number 536, aye on roll call number 537, aye on roll call number 538, aye on roll call number 539, aye on roll call number

540, nay on roll call number 541, aye on roll call number 542, aye on roll call number 543, aye on roll call number 544, nay on roll call number 545, aye on roll call number 546, aye on roll call number 547, aye on roll call number 548, and aye on roll call number 549.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 545 through 549, I was absent due to obligations in the district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on no. 545, AYE on no. 546, AYE on no. 547, NAY on no. 548, and AYE on no. 549.

SENATE—Friday, October 16, 2015

The Senate met at 10:00 and 03 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 16, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CAPITO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2015, AT 4 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 4 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:00 and 35 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, October 19, 2015, at 4 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, October 16, 2015

The House met at 1:15 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 16, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Michael Wilker, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Spirit of truth and reconciliation, You created us in Your image to care for one another and the common good. Our Nation's democracy intends to be one where we respect every resident and attend to those most vulnerable.

But too often our political discourse divides us from our best selves. Too often we use religion to divide and justify one group's triumph over another. Save us from the tyranny of hate, greed, and the fear of our enemies.

Renew our political engagement and cultivate generosity, patience, civility, and collegiality. Guide us to discern and honestly articulate our own deeply held values. Open our hearts to listen to and equally value our partners.

Restore our commitment to democratic values and strengthen us to practice them skillfully. Help us contend and wrestle with the issues and not each other.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 462, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 462, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3149. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Revisions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0184; FRL-9931-81] (RIN: 2070-AJ22) received October 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3150. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Major final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Implementation of Risk-based Capital Surcharges for Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies [Regulations H and Q; Docket No.: R-1505] (RIN: 7100 AE-26) received October 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3151. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Amendments Relating to Small Creditors and Rural or Underserved Areas Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2015-0004] (RIN: 3170-AA43) received October 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3152. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans; Arizona, Phoenix-Mesa; 2008 Ozone Standard Requirements [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0240; FRL-9935-56-Region 9] received October 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3153. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Minnesota; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, 2010 SO₂, and 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0503; FRL-9935-17-Region 5] received October 9, 2015,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3154. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Low Emission Vehicle Program [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0479; FRL-9935-58-Region 3] received October 9, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3155. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Agency, transmitting the Agency's letter endorsing industry guidance — Endorsement of Electric Power Research Institute Final Draft Report 3002004396, "High Frequency Program: Application Guidance for Functional Confirmation and Fragility" received October 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3156. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter informing the Congress that U.S. Armed Forces personnel began deploying to Cameroon, with the consent of the Government of Cameroon, to conduct airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations in the region, pursuant to Public Law 93-148; (H. Doc. No. 114—67); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

3157. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Late Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0064; FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA67) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3158. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0064; FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA67) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3159. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2015-16 Late Season [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0064; FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA67) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3160. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2015-16 Early Season [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0064; FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA67) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3161. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Early Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds in the Contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0064] [FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA67) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3162. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Early-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0064; FF09M21200-156-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA67) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3163. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Honduran Emerald Hummingbird (*Amazilia luciae*) [Docket No.: FWS-R9-ES-2009-0094] (RIN: 1018-AY64) received October 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3164. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XE186) received October 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3165. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's modification of fishing seasons — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #30 Through #36 [Docket No.: 150316270-5270-01] (RIN: 0648-XE187) received October 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3166. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery and Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of Massachusetts [Docket No.: 140214138-4482-02] (RIN: 0648-XE189) received October 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3167. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 150105004-5355-01] (RIN: 0648-XE155) received October 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3168. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reapportionment of the 2015 Gulf of Alaska Pacific Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limits for the Trawl Deep-Water and Shallow-Water Fishery Categories [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE180) received October 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 10. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-292). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia: Committee on the Budget. H.R. 3762. A bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 2002 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016 (Rept. 114-293). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 3756. A bill to amend the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 to remove a financial assistance limitation for certain water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 3757. A bill to provide that Members of Congress shall be paid last whenever the Treasury is unable to satisfy the obligations of the United States Government in a timely manner because the public debt limit has been reached; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 3758. A bill to prohibit the payment of death gratuities to the surviving heirs of deceased Members of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3759. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to withhold highway funds from States that do not have in effect laws requiring the use of ignition interlock devices to prevent repeat intoxicated driving, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 3760. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny certain tax benefits to persons responsible for the discharge of oil or other hazardous substances into navigable waters of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON (for himself, Mr.

McGOVERN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BASS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LEE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 3761. A bill to increase Social Security and military retirement benefits by 2.9 percent, and base future cost-of-living increase adjustments to the Consumer Price Index for the elderly; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. PITTS):

H. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution welcoming Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on his official visit to the United States in October 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 3756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 3757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sections 8 and 9 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 3758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6 and Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under the following provisions of the United States Constitution:

Article I, Section 1;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 69: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 353: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 664: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 842: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SHUSTER, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1093: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 1248: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 1301: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1399: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 1425: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1441: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1453: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 1457: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1475: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MEEKS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1608: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 1688: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 1726: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1818: Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 1859: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1882: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2096: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2114: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2470: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 2515: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2646: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2716: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 2902: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 2917: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2957: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3119: Mr. BARR and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3164: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 3268: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. NEAL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. REED, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ZELDIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 3290: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3351: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3381: Ms. LEE, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3384: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3395: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3427: Mr. POLIS, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 3520: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3640: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New

Mexico, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 3658: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3664: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3665: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 3696: Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BERA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KILMER, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 3706: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 3712: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3739: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 3746: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H. Con. Res. 77: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. MOORE, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H. Res. 220: Mr. KEATING and Mr. KIND.

H. Res. 265: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H. Res. 318: Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 343: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H. Res. 346: Mr. PETERS.

H. Res. 393: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. KEATING.

H. Res. 428: Mr. ISRAEL and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TOMIO MORIGUCHI

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tomio Moriguchi, a native of Tacoma and longtime Seattle resident and community icon, for his latest honor: the Dr. Samuel E. Kelly Award from the University of Washington's Multicultural Alumni Partnership (MAP). This is a fitting recognition for Tomio's extensive leadership and service in the community over the course of decades.

Tomio's father, Fujimatsu Moriguchi, made a living selling rice to workers at logging and fishing camps in the Seattle area. The business—named Uwajimaya after the fishing village where Fujimatsu learned his trade—grew steadily until World War II, when Tomio and his family were placed in internment camps along with many Japanese-Americans.

After the war, the Moriguchi family went back to work. Uwajimaya reopened and Tomio attended Garfield High School and the University of Washington. Following his time in college, Tomio enjoyed a brief stint at the Boeing Company as an engineer before joining the family business. Under his careful leadership for 30 years as CEO and in partnership with the many family members involved in the business, Uwajimaya experienced meteoric growth. Tomio guided the company through its massive expansion in the International District while adding locations in the Greater Seattle Area. Today, thanks to the careful guidance of Tomio and other family members, the company now employs 500 people and is engrained in the social fabric of life in the Pacific Northwest.

Outside of his business endeavors, Tomio has also made a life-long commitment to the betterment of his community. Tomio led the way for the development of the Keiro Nursing Home, a culturally-sensitive facility to serve the Japanese community in Seattle. He has served as President of the Hokebui Hochi Foundation, which organizes educational and cultural activities to preserve Japanese culture. He also serves as publisher of the region's largest Japanese newspaper, the North American Post. Other highlights include his service on many non-profit boards and the creation of the International District Improvement Association. Throughout his life, Tomio has demonstrated a unique ability to serve as a unifying force and advocate for Asian American communities in the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Tomio Moriguchi for his years of service and the impact he has made within the Asian American community and countless others in the greater Seattle area.

HONORING MS. MAKANI THEMBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Makani Themba for her extraordinary life work empowering historically marginalized communities.

Ms. Themba's activism spans numerous roles and she has a strong history of advocating and organizing in grassroots engagement alongside underserved people of color.

For the past 14 years, Ms. Themba has served as the Executive Director for The Praxis Project, a nonprofit organization based in Washington D.C., which helps communities use media and policy advocacy to advance health justice. Under her leadership, The Praxis Project has raised more than \$24 million dollars for advocacy organizations nationwide. These initiatives include Communities Creating Healthy Environments (CCHE), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), which sets out to prevent childhood obesity by increasing access to healthy foods and safe places to play in communities of color. The program will advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by supporting diverse, community-based organizations and federally chartered tribal nations in the development and implementation of effective, culturally responsive policy initiatives to address the root causes of childhood obesity.

Prior to her tenure at The Praxis Project, Ms. Themba directed the Grass Roots Innovative Policy Program (GRIPP) a national project where she effectively engaged in media and policy advocacy to address institutional racism in welfare and public education.

Ms. Themba has published numerous articles and case studies on race, class, media, policy advocacy and public health. She is the author of Making Policy, Making Change, and co-author of Media Advocacy and Public Health: Power for Prevention, a contributor to the volumes Community Based Participatory Research for Health, Prevention Is Primary: Strategies for Community Well Being, We the Media along with many other editorial projects. Her publications have helped set the standard for policy advocacy work and contributed significantly to the field's current emphasis on media and policy advocacy to address health problems. Her latest book is a collaboration with The Praxis Project and includes contributions from Malkia Cyril and others. It is titled, Fair Game: A Strategy Guide for Racial Justice Communications in the Obama Era.

Additionally, Ms. Themba has worked on international projects that build capacity among advocates to more effectively address structural racism. At Transnational Racial Justice Initiative (TRJI), she leveraged tools and

best practices from around the world and co-authored and edited a shadow report on institutional racism and white privilege—the first of its kind.

Ms. Themba has also helped initiate numerous programs which have positively impacted communities facing national disasters. Through the Katrina Information Network, she connected more than 200,000 people displaced by the Katrina Hurricane to their families and friends through the use of informational technology.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I salute Ms. Makani Themba, and thank her for a lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING THE FRIENDS OF
INDIA MISSION 2015

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2015

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming Friends of India 2015 Mission. The Friends of India Mission focuses on fostering women's business exchanges, economic empowerment, and gender parity while promoting meaningful, long-term dialogue among business and professional women in both India and the United States. For a decade, these missions have spurred the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and best practices and continue to lay the foundation for women's economic and political empowerment initiatives in both societies.

Mr. Speaker, this year's delegation is quite unique. Twenty-two women, representing nine business sectors are committing themselves to expanding initiatives that promote gender impact investing, economic exchanges, and empowerment opportunities; all while spurring trade between India and the United States.

Since 2005, Daryl Rand, the Friends of India Mission Chair, has been leading these missions, providing unique opportunities for women to expand their professional relationships and represent American businesses abroad. To date, approximately 90 women have traveled as part of this group of Friends of India.

I am proud that businesswomen from New Jersey's 8th District continue to lead important missions from the United States to India. I am confident that this year's mission will continue to promote strong business and personal relationships between influential women in the Garden State and our friends in Mumbai.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING HEROES DAY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Southern Arizona's annual Heroes Day celebration, an occasion where we pause to reflect on the brave law enforcement and first responders who serve our state and put their lives at risk every day. For the seventh year, we recognize Southern Arizona's heroes for their extraordinary responses to traumatic crises.

Today, in the United States, more than 900,000 law enforcement officers put their lives on the line for the safety and protection of others. They serve with valor and distinction—and with great success. Every day, countless lives are saved and touched by first responder units.

As a native of Tucson, Arizona, I am privileged to know personally these incredibly courageous and compassionate men and women. I have learned that being a first responder is not about what you do, it's who you are. From Firefighter Adam Kroger, who worked with bystanders to lift the driver of a semi-tractor trailer with lacerations and a compounded fracture out of his vehicle to safety, to Deputies Adrian Gallo and Joe Serrano, who risked their own safety to save a woman with life-threatening injuries after a head-on collision, today's honorees are joined by an innate sense of service and duty.

I wish to congratulate Heroes Day Winners Firefighter Adam Kroger from the Golder Ranch Fire District, Deputy Adrian Gallo and Deputy Joe Serrano from the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Officer Robert "Bobby"

Kelly and Stephanie Kelly, RN, from the Tucson Police Department, and Aaron Romero, Alexander Stewart, and Andrew Miles on this prestigious honor. I also congratulate Honorable Mentions Jose Madrigal from CBP Tucson Sector Border Patrol, Deputy Don Molchan from the Pima County Sheriff's Department, and Firefighter Ryan Szach from the Golder Ranch Fire District. And finally, thank you to the local businesses and people of Arizona who take their time and energy to make this special day of recognition possible.

The commemoration ceremony on October 15, 2015 will be a day in which we acknowledge the history, achievements, contributions that first responders have made for Southern Arizona, and we are eternally grateful for their service to our community.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
SUE ANN WUEST**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Sue Ann Wuest; a friend, an intellectual, and a valued member of our Toledo community.

Sue was born in Oregon, Ohio on July 31, 1956 to Joan and Howard Wuest. She was a graduate of Cardinal Stritch High School and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo.

Sue went on to serve as the assistant director of the Urban Affairs Center at the University of Toledo for many years, where she worked to address challenges and find solutions in urban and regional development.

Her interest in her community led her to serve as a Member of the Toledo Planning Commission, where she helped to guide land-use decisions to create a better community life and economic opportunity for Toledo residents. During her time on the Toledo Planning Commission, the Commission voted unanimously to allow the Toledo Museum of Art to begin construction of its \$25 million Center for Glass museum building, of which she had said: "We have to demonstrate courage to build buildings that make a statement for our time."

Sue was an active resident of the historic Old West End neighborhood, where she often threw parties to celebrate the Old West End Festival. Her commitment to her community did not end there; she thrived on mentoring public officials and young professionals.

In her spare time, she was an artist, drawing, making beaded jewelry and hand painted silk scarves, among other things. Sue also enjoyed cooking for others.

It seems as if Sue's hallmark was to bring people together: among her family and friends, bring them together to celebrate a holiday or just to enjoy a dinner; at her work, where she sought out solutions with others to address the needs of the region; and in her community, where she dedicated her life to making the Toledo area a better place for all of us to live.

Sue will be remembered lovingly by her parents, Joan and Howard Wuest and her sisters, Ann Simpkins and Amy Roman; and her brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, and her many friends. We offer them our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of our dear friend, Sue, who will be remembered with affection and gratitude for her probing intellect, kind heart, and utter dedication to advancing Toledo as a community, its people and its institutions.

SENATE—Monday, October 19, 2015

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the foundation of goodness, You have done more than we can imagine to draw us to You. Draw our Senators nearer to You, prompting them to find joy in Your presence and inspiring them to obey Your commands. As they remember how You have sustained them in the past, deliver them from the fear of failing at their difficult tasks. Lord, help them to focus on being productive, striving to please You with a harvest of substantive legislation. When they encounter disappointments, encourage them to remember that You can transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. May Your grace, mercy, and peace sustain them now and always.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 19, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. ERNST thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DEADLINES FACING CONGRESS AND SANCTUARY CITIES BILL

Mr. REID. Madam President, in the coming days and weeks, we as a Congress face a series of real and important deadlines. First, we must address the debt ceiling. Last week, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew let the American people know that in 2 weeks—November 3—the United States faces the threat of being unable to pay its bills. Unless we act, the Federal Government will default on its accrued debt—default on its accrued debt. A huge percentage of this debt is the result of unpaid tax cuts for the wealthy and two unpaid wars during the last Bush Presidential administration. If we allow the United States to default on this debt, the consequences to world markets would be catastrophic, but that is not all. It is not all this leadership has ignored.

Congress must reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which has basically gone out of business, causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the United States and hurting our economy in more ways than one. It is also important that we pass a long-term surface transportation bill and again avert another potential Republican shutdown of our government by December 11.

Yet as the Senate reconvenes today, we are considering none of those vitally important matters. Instead—just as he did as the shutdown loomed last month—the Republican leader is spending the Senate's time on a partisan, ideological bill to placate the radicals within his own party.

The senior Senator from Louisiana is the architect of this bill before the Senate, which targets the so-called sanctuary cities. Senator VITTER's legislation fails to match the family values rhetoric he so frequently touts. This vile legislation might as well be called "The Donald Trump Act." Similar to the disgusting and outrageous language championed by Donald Trump, this legislation paints all immigrants as criminals and rapists. At its core, Senator VITTER's bill undermines the ability of local law enforcement officials to police their own communities and ensure public safety. It is then no surprise that the Fraternal Order of Police and Major Cities Chiefs Police Association do not support the Vitter sanctuary cities legislation, and that is an understatement. If implemented, this bill would punish local jurisdictions by withholding Federal community grants that police departments use to enhance public safety and build community trust. Imagine that,

holding hostage public safety funding for police as a result of this misguided, farfetched legislation that everyone knows will not pass.

Senator VITTER's legislation would also withhold community development block grants that ensure affordable housing and provides services to the most vulnerable in our communities. The Donald Trump Act would establish new mandatory minimum sentences for those who enter the country illegally. Initial estimates show that new mandatory minimums in this bill would result in the need for nearly 20,000 new prison beds—20,000—requiring the construction of 12 or more huge new Federal prisons, costing billions and billions in taxpayer dollars.

It seems Republicans don't care about the cost to public safety. They don't care about the cost of building new prisons. A few billion here, a few billion there of taxpayer dollars, that is OK. After all, Republicans are not proposing this bill to solve any problem within our immigration system; this Donald Trump Act was designed to demonize immigrants and spread the myth that they are criminals and threats to the public. It promotes discrimination and bias.

Decades—decades—of research demonstrate that immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes or be jailed than native-born individuals, and high rates of immigration are associated with lower rates of violent crime, not higher. So the notion that The Donald Trump Act is necessary to protect Americans from violent criminals is preposterous.

Violent gun murders are a tragedy our Nation faces far too often. Every year—and it is getting worse, not better—32,000 people are killed by guns in this country. That is how many were killed last year. That is how many are going to be killed this year, but the number is going up. More Americans have been killed by guns since 1968 than in all the wars of our Nation's history—all the wars in our Nation's history. Republicans should direct their energy toward saving the lives of thousands through safer, smarter gun safety legislation instead of capitalizing on hateful political rhetoric to advance their radical agenda, even though almost 90 percent of the American public think there should be a background check for someone who is a criminal or has mental problems, even though over 50 percent of members of the National Rifle Association believe there should be background checks—but not congressional Republicans. No; they know better than 90 percent of the American people.

Democrats believe local communities and local law enforcement are better judges of what will keep their communities safe than Donald Trump or Bill O'Reilly. The safety of our neighborhoods and local communities should not be a pawn for Republicans' latest gambit to hide their failure to act on comprehensive immigration reform. Local law enforcement officials, domestic violence groups, immigrants' rights groups, mayors, faith leaders, and labor groups all oppose The Donald Trump Act. This bill does nothing to keep Americans safe, and it certainly does nothing to address our broken immigration system.

America is and always has been a nation of immigrants, and we are all the better for having hard-working immigrants as contributing members of our communities. This Nation deserves a commonsense immigration process that works, one that is tough on lawbreakers, fair to taxpayers, and practical to implement, but instead of joining Democrats in passing comprehensive immigration reform that unites families, strengthens communities, and boosts our economy, Republicans remain committed to their only approach to immigration policy: mass deportation. We all know this extreme rightwing approach would hurt our country and simply cannot work. The Donald Trump Act would shatter the trust between law enforcement and communities that keep our Nation safe. Republicans should abandon this shameless attempt to appease the base elements of their party. They should work with Democrats to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which is years overdue.

Sadly, though, until Republicans get serious about immigration reform, the Republican leader shouldn't waste the Senate's time on legislation that he knows will not pass. This legislation is not going to pass. He knows it. We all know it. Instead, he is just treading water, waiting for time to go by. The Republican leader should focus the Senate's time and all of our efforts on the pressing matters we face—such as avoiding a catastrophic default and keeping our government open so we can do the people's business.

Madam President, would the Chair announce the business before the Senate.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

STOP SANCTUARY POLICIES AND PROTECT AMERICANS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of

the motion to proceed to S. 2146, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 252, S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRAGEDY OF THE LOST CARGO SHIP "EL FARO"

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, on September 29, an almost 800-foot cargo container vessel, the *El Faro*, a cargo ship carrying 33 men and women from Florida, left port in Jacksonville, FL, bound for Puerto Rico. There is a regular trade route between San Juan and Jacksonville, and a lot of the goods the Puerto Rican Commonwealth receives are shipped by cargo container from the Port of Jacksonville.

Three hours before it left port, the tropical storm that had been brewing had changed its status from a tropical storm to a hurricane, and over the course of the next 2 days, with communications from the ship, that hurricane started to intensify, starting out as a category 1, category 2, and later a category 3.

On the morning of the third day, October 1, at 7 a.m., there was a communication from the captain of the ship, first left on a voice mail and then he immediately called back the person in the communications department of the shipping company who talked to the captain. The captain, in a very calm voice on both the telephone message voice mail and his communication with the person, said they had taken a position where the ship was leaning 15 degrees. They were in rough seas, and they had lost power. Apparently in that communication, his voice was very calm and had some degree of confidence that he was going to be able to get the ship back underway, under power.

It is not good to have a ship that is tilting 15 degrees in the middle of a storm, much less an oncoming hurricane, and with no power because that does not allow you to keep it directly into the waves or going away from the waves. Instead, the ship is going to turn broadside, with the full force of the waves hitting the side of the ship, and the ship was already listing 15 degrees to one side.

Well, that was the last communication. The hurricane had turned in a southwesterly direction, and eventually, according to the forecast, it finally made that turn to the right to start taking it north, and as a result it did not hit the continental east coast of the United States. It was out to the east of the Bahama Islands.

The hurricane was still in the vicinity, so it was another 2 days before the hurricane subsided enough that the U.S. Coast Guard could get in there, supplemented by the U.S. Navy, to start looking for survivors.

Let me say something about the Coast Guard. We have the Coast Guard in our jurisdiction in the Commerce Committee. It is an extremely professional military operation. I spent time this past summer with the Coast Guard up in Alaska. They are so good at what they do that the U.S. Navy can take its resources and use them elsewhere on the Alaska coast, which includes the Bering Sea and the Bering Strait, which we share with Russia, and the Coast Guard does an extraordinary job. Of course, throughout the Caribbean and all around my State of Florida, the Coast Guard stands tall. They rescue folks.

It took them some time before they could get their C-130s flying in—and some of those may well have been Air Force. Until the Coast Guard could get their C-130s and H-60 helicopters with the swimmers who propel down from the helicopter to rescue survivors—it took them that long, and they started seeing debris.

I have seen a picture of the lifeboat. It is an old lifeboat, an open lifeboat. If you saw the movie "Captain Phillips," Captain Phillips and the people who had taken over the ship went in that covered orange lifeboat. They propelled it off the back of the ship, and it dove into the water. These were just plain lifeboats. They found a life preserver floating. Indeed, they found a life preserver suit, which is a body suit that inflates when in the water. When the helicopter finally got there and checked it, they found no survivor in it. They saw remains. They were still actively searching for any survivors. In this particular case, when the swimmer went into the water, there were only remains left in the body suit, partially decomposed and so forth. This Senator cannot say enough about the Coast Guard.

Those who were on that ship were from the State of Florida. Maritime work is a part of our culture, and we know the extreme importance of these jobs and the very real risk mariners face in their tough jobs. They are taken away from home for weeks and months to do hard work. Without our maritime efforts, we could not survive. That is where the biggest part of our shipping from other places is, on the sea, and our mariners provide this critical service. They move products and

cargo that drive our economy. Look at the economic engines of the seaports.

This has been a tremendous loss for us—not the loss of the cargo, which was certainly an economic loss, but the loss of 33 lives. It is especially a loss for the families and friends who knew and loved the crew of the *El Faro*. We share their grief.

The loss of this ship raised many questions, so over the recess I went to Jacksonville. I went to the port. I talked to the National Transportation Safety Board. I talked to the Coast Guard. They have opened an investigation. I am giving these remarks to the Senate at this time because tomorrow we expect a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board.

In dock is the sister ship, the *El Yunque*. One ship would be in one port and the other ship in the other port, and they would cross. In fact, those two ships crossed in the Caribbean within sight of each other before the *El Faro*, heading southeast, got into trouble. So I wanted to go there because it is our Commerce Committee that has the job of seeing that these agencies are doing as thorough a job as possible.

We expectantly await that report. I know we want all of the answers right now. It is important that a thorough examination is conducted to find out exactly what happened. For the families and friends of those lost on the *El Faro*, and for the safety of all mariners, we are going to make sure that we get the answers.

What would I speculate? Well, I certainly do not have the expertise in the sea. But if you get a call and the captain's voice is calm, and he says that we are listing 15 degrees, then there has been some breach of the ship. Likely, there is water inside of the ship. If in that same phone call that you get he is saying that we have lost power, then we know that there is the making of a disaster. Why didn't the captain and the crew know that the hurricane had become a hurricane that was announced by the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center 3 hours before they left the Port of Jacksonville? What caused the captain to think he could sail, and sail in the direction of an oncoming hurricane, and that he would not get into its effects? Why did the engines cut off so that he lost power? All of these things we don't know, but we expectantly look forward to getting some answers maybe in this preliminary report tomorrow.

So, in honor of those lost on board the *El Faro*, I would simply conclude my remarks by asking for a moment of silence.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I can still remember the day in June a few years ago, June 27, 2013—2½ years ago. The Senate gathered and voted on comprehensive immigration reform. The vote was 68 to 22. The bill meant a lot to many of us. Eight of us—four Democrats and four Republicans—had literally worked for months trying to craft a bill to address the massive immigration system in America, a system that is terribly broken.

I think it surprised a lot of people, but we did it. Democrats and Republicans agreeing on something—there is a headliner. Who sat across the table? Not an easy jury to decide any issue when it came to Senate business. On our side of the table were CHUCK SCHUMER of New York, chair of the Senate immigration subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee at that point; myself; BOB MENENDEZ, Hispanic American Senator from the State of New Jersey; and MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado—four of us.

On the opposite side of the table, JOHN MCCAIN led the effort on the Republican side, along with LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina, who had a background in law enforcement in the military and is currently running for President. Next to him, MARCO RUBIO from the State of Florida, Cuban American, came to this undertaking. He, too, is running for President of the United States; and JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, a conservative Republican.

We worked for months. We went through every provision and came to a bipartisan agreement to move the bill forward. We passed it 68 to 22. I think it would have been a dramatic improvement over the current laws or lack of laws in America.

The House of Representatives refused to call it up, wouldn't even bring the matter before its committees, and never had a debate on any immigration issue in the 2½ years since. They missed an opportunity, an opportunity to do something important and a rare opportunity where Democrats and Republicans happened to agree on a solution. That is hard to come by in this place.

This bill would have strengthened border security, cracked down on illegal immigration, protected American workers, and established a tough but fair path for 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country who are currently living here, and it gave them a path to legal status. They would pay their taxes, pay their fines, go through a criminal background check, and then they would be eligible—not before then.

Democrats were in the majority of the Senate at that moment. We reached across the aisle to work with Republicans, so the bill was truly bipartisan. Well, it is a shame that the Republican-controlled House of Representatives would not even consider the bill. We asked them: Just call the bill. If it is going to be defeated, call it.

No, we are not going to consider any immigration reform—and they have not.

We are in a new Senate now, a new Senate under control of the other party, and what has been the approach to immigration? Unfortunately, little time has been spent trying to find common ground. First, some Senate Republicans threatened to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. This is the Department that not only has us take our shoes off at the airport, they are literally trying to protect us from another act of terrorism in the United States. For months, the Senate Republicans refused to pass an appropriations bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security until the Democrats would accept anti-immigrant amendments. After we repeatedly rejected this approach, they finally relented and passed a clean appropriations bill for this important Department for America's security.

Now here we go again. Some Senate Republicans have brought partisan legislation to the floor—and understand this—to defund, remove the funding from law enforcement efforts in this country. I don't know what is happening in many places, but I do know what is happening in the Midwest. We have seen violent crime, gun-related crime, go up dramatically, a 20-percent increase in gun-related deaths this year in Chicago over the previous year. In the city of Milwaukee, there is a 100-percent increase in gun-related crime this year.

So why would we even consider a bill that is before us on the floor of the Senate, offered by the Senator from Louisiana, to reduce funding for law enforcement and police departments? Senator VITTER has offered a bill that would block important police, disaster relief, and other funding from communities that do not share immigration information with the Federal Government or don't hold a detainee at the behest of Federal immigration authorities. My Republican colleagues know this bill has no chance to become law. They have made no effort to engage the Democrats in a bipartisan conversation. It may pass the Senate—but I doubt it—and if it does, the President would veto it. This is done for reasons other than passing a bill and creating a new law.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim they were responding to the tragic—and, yes, it was tragic—death of Kate Steinle, a young woman who was allegedly shot and

killed by Francisco Sanchez, an undocumented immigrant with a long criminal history. Mr. Sanchez had several drug convictions. He illegally reentered the United States several times after he was deported. Earlier this year, he finished his third prison sentence for illegal reentry.

The Bureau of Prisons should have turned Mr. Sanchez over to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Department to be deported, but instead they sent him to San Francisco to face a 20-year-old marijuana charge. Not surprisingly, local authorities decided not to prosecute this old charge, so sadly, unfortunately, tragically he was released. This never ever should have happened. Federal and local authorities must do a better job of communicating and coordinating so undocumented immigrants with serious criminal records are detained and deported, period.

The bill before us doesn't solve the problem which I have just described. It wouldn't have prevented the tragic death of this young woman. In fact, this legislation would actually make us less safe by threatening communities with the loss of millions of dollars in critical Federal funding for local law enforcement, as well as discouraging immigrants from cooperating with local police.

The Chicago Tribune—not known as any liberal publication—published an editorial opposing the bill that is coming before us. They said: “Threatening to take money away from local police is a sound bite, not a solution.”

Republican Congressman BOB DOLD, from my home State of Illinois, was one of five Republicans who voted against the House version of the bill. He said: “Cutting funding for local law enforcement would not have prevented this horrible crime.”

What would the consequences be of passing the Vitter bill that is pending before the Senate? At risk are tens of millions of dollars in funding from several programs. The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, also known as SCAAP, helps cover the costs for States and localities to detain undocumented immigrants with serious criminal records; the Community Oriented Policing Services Grant Program—which we all know about from serving in the Senate because our local police departments benefit from COPS funding; and the community development block grants provide critical funding for local communities for disaster relief and other priorities.

I wish to give some examples from Illinois of the impact of the Vitter bill. In fiscal year 2014, Cook County—our largest county—received \$1,381,552 in SCAAP funding, and in fiscal year 2015, Chicago received \$72,477,673 in CDBG funding, and \$3,125,000 in funding through the COPS Hiring Program to address gun violence.

The Fraternal Order of Police sent a letter opposing the Vitter bill—which is before the Senate—on behalf of its 330,000 police members who belong to that fraternity. This is what it said: “It is wrong and a gross unfairness to punish these brave men and women, or the citizens they serve, because Congress disagrees with their enforcement priorities with respect to our nation's immigration laws.”

This bill is supposedly an effort to punish so-called sanctuary cities—including some in my own home State—that have policies limiting dealings between Federal immigration authorities and local law enforcement, but the goal of these policies is to promote effective community policing by encouraging immigrant communities to trust local police. Many of these policies were established in response to Secure Communities, a program created by the Bush administration and a program which badly damaged the relationship between immigrant communities and local law enforcement around the country.

My State police signed a memorandum of agreement with immigration authorities to participate in Secure Communities. The agreement said the goal of the program was to “identify, detain, and remove from the United States aliens who have been convicted of serious criminal offenses.”

However, it turned out more than 30 percent of those deported from Illinois in the program had no criminal record. Less than 20 percent had been convicted of a serious crime. Illinois law enforcement officials say the program eroded trust in law enforcement in the Hispanic community. Their conclusion is backed up by polling data. A 2013 University of Illinois study found that 44 percent of Latinos report being less likely to contact the police if they are a victim of crime out of fear that police will inquire about their immigration status or people they know.

The Vitter bill makes this problem even worse by forcing local law enforcement to become enforcers of immigration laws. I received a letter opposing the Vitter bill from the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force, a group of more than 30 law enforcement officials, including Republican Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran, a local law enforcement official from my home State whom I have worked with in the past. These officials are very concerned that this bill will make our communities less safe by discouraging immigrants from cooperating with law enforcement.

This is what the local law enforcement in Illinois said:

When state and local law enforcement agencies are required to enforce federal immigration laws, undocumented residents may fear that they, or people they know or depend upon, risk deportation by working with law enforcement. This fear undermines trust between law enforcement and the com-

munities we serve, creating too much room for dangerous criminals and violent crime.

The Vitter bill also dramatically increases penalties for illegal entry, including two new mandatory minimum criminal sentences. Estimates are that these new penalties created by the Vitter bill would require approximately 18,600 new prison beds and up to 12 new Federal prisons. New Federal prisons cost several hundred million dollars to construct, tens of millions of dollars to operate. In sum, these new mandatory minimums will cost taxpayers billions of dollars. There is no suggestion in this bill of how we would pay for that.

The real solution to this problem is smart and targeted immigration enforcement that encourages cooperation with local law enforcement. The Homeland Security Department only has enough funding to deport a small fraction of the undocumented immigrants in our country. President Obama has wisely said we should focus on those who could do us harm. In fact, 85 percent of those deported from the interior of our country in fiscal year 2014 had a criminal conviction—and they should have been deported—compared to only 38 percent in 2008 under the previous President. This President's policies has focused our limited resources on deporting dangerous people, deporting felons, not families; criminals, not children.

As part of the effort to target immigration enforcement, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson has established the Priority Enforcement Program, also known as PEP, to replace security communities. PEP is designed to protect our safety while improving trust between local police and communities they serve. The program enables DHS to work with State and local law enforcement to take custody of individuals who pose a danger to public safety before they are released. PEP has only been operational for a short time. We need to give it a chance to work before we rush in to pass this legislation which could only make the problem worse.

The best way to fix our broken immigration system, incidentally, and make our communities safer is to pass comprehensive immigration reform once and for all. The bill the Senate passed in 2013 would have made unprecedented investments in border security, would have cracked down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants, and ramped up interior enforcement of immigration laws.

The bill would have invested \$46 billion in new resources in border security, including no fewer than 38,405 U.S. Border Patrol agents along the southern border, enhanced penalties for increased immigration violations with sentences of up to 20 years for those with criminal histories, and increased penalties for passport and immigration document trafficking and fraud.

Most important, this bill would bring millions of people out of the shadows and require them to prove their identity, pass a criminal background check, and pay all fines and taxes. This would allow immigration enforcement to focus on the people who are truly a public safety threat.

So instead of this Senate taking up a bipartisan bill for true immigration reform, we have this bill, a bill not likely to go much further than this procedural motion which we will face tomorrow.

This bill on the floor would not have prevented Kate Steinle's tragic death. Here is the reality: The vast majority of immigrants are hard-working, law-abiding individuals with strong family values. I work with them, I know them, I trust them, and I believe they have an important role to play when it comes to this country's future.

Many studies have shown that immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes than native-born individuals. This bill unfortunately focuses on the violent acts of the few to scapegoat an entire community. This is dangerous and irresponsible. This bill continues down a dangerous path by promoting the myths that immigrants pose a threat to our Nation's safety.

I urge my colleagues to reject this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, both of my parents spent their final days in hospice care. My father passed away a decade and a half ago at the age of 89. My mother was in hospice care for a few weeks—seemed to be long weeks, but a few weeks—and died at 88 6½ years ago.

I saw firsthand how home care workers and hospice workers make a difference in someone's final days and the comfort they bring to families. During the last moments of my mom's life, people who didn't even know her showed incredible care and kindness, and helped to bring peace to her, comfort to her, and to our family.

Last week I visited in my home city of Cleveland. Only a few miles away is the hospice Western Reserve, one of the best not-for-profit hospices in the entire Midwest. I held a roundtable with a number of employees who have made a career of caring for Ohioans reaching the end of their lives.

Western Reserve's core values are: compassion, excellence, quality, integrity, service, and stewardship. Each worker there—from social workers to

cooks to maintenance workers to nurses—embodies these traits. They work in what some might assume to be a sad environment. Many of the patients they care for die in a matter of days or weeks. Each day they encounter not only Ohioans who are near the end of life but they spend time with family members who are preparing to grieve for a loved one.

Yet Hospice of the Western Reserve is far from being a depressing workplace. The staff is committed to caring for parents and families, and they imbue their work—and their patients and their workplace—with a fascinating joy of serving others.

Hospice nursing assistant Audrey Boylan said to me: "It's an honor to be here." Laquita Bradford, a dietary server, talked about the sense of "togetherness" among the staff. She compared it to an extended family.

Workers spoke about other jobs they had elsewhere and all echoed the same sentiment: "It's different here" at the Hospice of the Western Reserve. As I said, it is one of the best not-for-profit hospices in the Midwest. Their compassion and commitment has a deep impact on their patients and their families and, frankly, on me in my visit.

One of the social workers, Jennifer Stevens, spoke about how she helps families and patients understand where they are in their journey. A volunteer, Roz Fabrotta, a longtime teacher and now a volunteer for Hospice of the Western Reserve, spoke with passion about her work in the bereavement camp that the hospice runs for 6- to 12-year-olds who have lost loved ones. There is not any real revenue for that bereavement camp. That is what not-for-profit hospices often do.

Western Reserve's Elisabeth Severance Bereavement Center is funded by raising money and is dedicated to helping families through these heart-wrenching situations. Its staff, for instance, provided counseling to families after the senseless shooting at Chardon High School in February of 2012, where several students were killed, and their practices were used as a model by counselors after the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook.

Through all this work, these men and women maintain a positive atmosphere for each other and for those they serve.

Keli Keyes is a nurse at the hospice. Her coworker and pet, Linus the therapy dog, who was with us at our roundtable, is a beautiful golden retriever who accompanies her to work each day. All he has to do to bring a smile to patients and family members is to snuggle up to them or put his nose up to their hands.

Western Reserve has more than 3,000 volunteers. I think that tells you all you need to know about this place—that so many Ohioans are willing to take time out of their busy lives to be part of their community and to care for their fellow citizens.

Alvin Fomby, who used to work at Quicken Loans Arena and used to know LeBron James, decided he would rather work at the hospice, where he could make a real difference in preparing food for families and people in hospice care.

Janet Bildstein, who works at the Hospice of Western Reserve, grew up only a few blocks from there and has spent many years working at the hospice.

Joe Tyler, who makes things work, reminded me of my father-in-law, who was a maintenance worker at Electric Utility Company in Ashtabula, OH, and he could fix anything. He carried a 12-foot wrench around with him at the powerplant and he could fix anything. Joe Tyler reminded me of that. He said he works under more pressure, which he loves, to fix something in a room immediately. If the air-conditioning or the heating or the electricity goes out or if something happens to a lamp, he needs to take care of these families right away.

The men and women at this hospice are an inspiration to all of us, but they are not alone.

RECOGNIZING MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Mr. President, last year President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper challenge to expand opportunities for a group that is far too often left behind in this country—African-American boys and young men.

The President reached out to cities across the country to find people committed to ensuring all Americans have access to the opportunities they deserve. One of the cities that rose to the occasion is Dayton, OH.

I had the privilege last week of visiting one of America's great cities—Dayton—with its mayor, Nan Whaley, a young bright mayor. I also visited with Broderick Johnson, who is the chair of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force, and works in the White House with the President. We held a roundtable with policymakers and activists and citizens who had heeded this call to action.

Dayton already, with Mayor Whaley and others, has a number of successful programs in place: Learn to Earn, City of Learners, and several mentorship programs. I heard the stories of mentors and their mentees, who make a real difference in the lives of so many.

I met Belmont High School senior Miles Tidd. Miles grew up with a single mother and had a tough time early in high school. He wanted to drop out. Miles was matched with mentor Quinn Howard. Quinn wouldn't let Miles drop out. He was the stable figure in Miles' life, who clearly loves him and cares about him, and he pushes him to do better. Miles is close to graduating. After 3 years of Junior ROTC, he wants to join the Air Force Reserves and to go to the Citadel.

I met Miles and Quinn at our roundtable at the Dayton Boys Preparatory

Academy. Miles said that “the best way to make yourself feel better is to look outside yourself, and go out of your way to help others.”

That seemed to be the theme of these young men, ages 15 to 20, who had been helped by a mentor. Their goal in life is to now turn around and help somebody younger than they are.

Also at the roundtable was Alexander Worthy, who wore a Dayton “Live With Honor” T-shirt, referring to the campaign launched by the Dayton Community Police Council. The campaign asks Dayton residents to come together to combat a culture of violence and rethink what it means to live with honor.

Alexander learned discipline and work ethic from his mentor, Bishop Mark McGuire. Bishop McGuire worked with Alexander to help him keep his summer job at their church, and Alexander now participates in the church’s Young Life youth group.

We also heard from mentor Terry Purdue. Terry is a Dayton native. He grew up with a lot of good folks around him, a strong father and mother, but still made plenty of mistakes. He now serves as a mentor and a police officer on Dayton’s West Side. He formed a group called the Unit. The Unit holds free work-out classes 3 days a week downtown. Thousands have joined the Unit for a class, and at each one he asks participants to volunteer to help the Dayton community. The Unit takes on a new project each month.

At one roundtable the mentors and mentees told their stories. One middle schooler, James Carr, was, at first, too shy to speak. Finally, after seeing other boys speak up, James raised his hand and talked about how he picks up trash around his school to keep it clean and helps special ed students at school. There is a boy in his class who is blind, and he helps him walk to lunch and to the bathroom. James talked about wanting to make good grades and most of all, he said, he just wants to “stay normal.”

Think about that. This child wasn’t even in high school yet, and for him it is a struggle to stay normal. That is why the work of My Brother’s Keeper is so important. Mentors can provide a steady influence in the lives of children for whom living a stable life—one that those of us privileged enough to serve in this body would consider “normal”—is a daily struggle.

Frederick Douglass said that it is “easier to build strong children than repair broken men.” We need a strategy to allow our children to reach their full potential, not one that accepts that an entire segment of our citizens will grow up with limited options. It means ending disparities in our education system. It means continuing to work to reform our criminal justice system. It means working to rebuild the broken relationship between police

departments in far too many cities and the communities they serve. It means taking steps to address the employment gap that exists between young men of color and other Americans. It means working to end the scourge of gun violence in our communities. It means providing those in our society who have made mistakes a second chance.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the work My Brother’s Keeper is doing. We also have one in Columbus. We hope to see more of those in Ohio. It is up to all of us to ensure that all of our children, regardless of their ZIP code or the color of their skin, have the opportunity to succeed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of an important piece of legislation that I have introduced that would bring an end to the dangerous existence of sanctuary cities—the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 included language that specifically prohibits State and local governments from enacting sanctuary policies. Despite this, cities continually violate that provision by having sanctuary policies in place. If these cities and localities want to continue to blatantly disregard Federal law, they should no longer receive certain Federal funds.

Now, the sanctuary policies that we are talking about fall into two categories: one, ordinances that bar city employees from asking about a person’s immigration status under any circumstances; and two, policies that prevent them from reporting a suspected illegal alien to Federal immigration law enforcement authorities. These sanctuary policies and sanctuary cities that enact them are dangerous and counterproductive to both law enforcement efforts and reducing illegal immigration.

We know there are many instances in which an illegal alien is released by local authorities and then commits a very serious crime—sometimes a murder or a fatal crime. By now we all know of the tragic event that renewed our focus on this issue back in July—the murder of a 32-year-old woman named Kate Steinle in San Francisco.

Kate’s suspected murderer was an illegal immigrant who had been deported 5 times previously and was released this past April by local law enforcement, specifically citing San Francisco’s sanctuary city laws, defying a request by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials to hold him for deportation proceedings. If this illegal immigrant had been held for deportation proceedings instead of being set free, Kate Steinle would be alive today—period, end of story.

Unfortunately, San Francisco is far from the only city in the country carrying out this dangerous policy, and Kate Steinle is far from being the only victim of a serious crime committed by an illegal immigrant under these sorts of circumstances.

On July 24, 2015, Marilyn Pharis was brutally raped, tortured, and murdered in her home in Santa Maria, CA, by an illegal immigrant who was released from custody because the county sheriff does not honor detainment. Again, this is a clear instance that would be stopped but for sanctuary policies.

On July 27, 2015, an illegal immigrant was arrested and accused of killing 60-year-old Margaret Kostelnik in Ravenna Road, OH. Before murdering Ms. Kostelnik, the man allegedly attempted to rape a 14-year-old girl and shoot a woman in a nearby park. The suspect also was previously in the custody of law enforcement but was released because the Department of Homeland Security refused to issue a detainer and take custody of the suspect—a related problem.

On July 30, a 2-year-old girl was brutally beaten by an illegal immigrant in San Luis Obispo County, CA. He was released from local custody despite a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer and extensive criminal history.

Other cases include last year, when a Virginia man who killed a Catholic nun in a drunk-driving crash was revealed to be an illegal alien who had been previously arrested.

An illegal alien committed a shocking execution-style murder of three college students in the sanctuary city of Newark, NJ, several years ago. He had been arrested twice before this grizzly crime. In the aftermath of the murders, the attorney general of New Jersey effectively eliminated Newark’s sanctuary city policy.

Now, according to documents uncovered by a Freedom of Information Act request by the Center for Immigration Studies, ICE lists at least 340 cities defying Federal law, providing safe haven to illegal immigrants, including my original hometown of New Orleans. These policies, again, are a direct infringement of Federal law, and it is simply unacceptable.

Worse still, these cities are actively releasing criminal illegal immigrants back into our communities instead of working cooperatively with Federal officials to deport them or lock them up. I firmly believe it is time to reverse these illegal policies, to bar them once and for good. That is why I have joined on this crucial piece of legislation with Senators TOOMEY, GRASSLEY, CRUZ, JOHNSON, CORNYN, SULLIVAN, PERDUE, ISAKSON, RUBIO, BARRASSO, and THUNE. We are introducing this legislation and we are getting a vote tomorrow to end the practice of sanctuary cities violating existing Federal immigration law.

This legislation takes a common-sense approach to this problem, and there are three key parts to the bill.

First, this bill changes the incentives for cities by creating penalties for States, local governments, and law enforcement entities that choose to have these policies in place. These penalties come in the form of the removal of certain streams of Federal funding for sanctuary jurisdictions, and the penalties apply to whatever government entity is actually making that bad decision.

In cases where a law enforcement entity, such as a jail or a police department, has a policy or practice that refuses to comply with Federal immigration law, it will be prevented from receiving community-oriented policing services grants or State Criminal Alien Assistance Program grants. So that entity directly will be penalized; it is making the bad decision. On the other hand, if a State or city council or executive passes a resolution or implements a policy or practice that refuses to comply with Federal immigration law, then that city or entity will no longer be available for community development block grant funds.

Again, we penalize the specific entity or public official involved. It is important that Federal funds are withheld from the entity that makes the dangerous decision to allow dangerous illegal immigrants to walk free rather than turning them over to the Department of Homeland Security.

Second, we have seen the willingness of jurisdictions to comply with immigration detainers decrease in recent years due to litigation pursued by the ACLU. We know dozens of jurisdictions that want to cooperate and were cooperating but became sanctuary cities in reaction to these lawsuits. Our legislation deals with this threat head-on and grants local law enforcement the clear authority to always comply with ICE detainers. However, it is important to note that we have been very careful to protect individual rights and have preserved an individual's right to sue for a violation of their civil or constitutional rights. But if the problem was with the detainer, then individuals sue ICE and not the local law enforcement officials.

The third and final part of this legislation deals directly with those who continue to cross our border illegally, and it establishes Kate's Law—appropriately named after Kathryn Steinle, whom I mentioned earlier. Kate's Law increases mandatory minimum sentence requirements for people who continue to cross the border illegally. Kate's Law will increase the maximum penalty for illegal reentry from 2 years to 5 years. It also creates a maximum penalty of 10 years for illegal immigrants who have been denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed three or more times and then illegally reenter the country.

In order to ensure appropriate treatment of criminal illegal immigrants, Kate's Law creates a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years for any illegal immigrant who illegally reenters the country and has been convicted of an aggravated felony prior to removal or has been previously convicted twice of illegal reentry. Right now, there are nearly 170,000 convicted criminal aliens who have been ordered deported but remain at large in our country. This is a direct result of nonenforcement policies and failed leadership.

Last year, ICE responded to a request, disclosing that it released 169 convicted illegals from over 130 ZIP Codes in 2013. At least two of the ZIP Codes mentioned are in Louisiana—Kenner and Baton Rouge—and dangerous criminals were released through the South Louisiana Detention Center. This year alone, ICE reported releasing 30,558 unique criminal illegal immigrants from their custody. Some of the crimes committed by these criminal aliens include arson, assault, burglary, kidnapping, larceny, robbery, sexual assault, drunk driving, weapons offenses, and 20 other serious crimes. Why would we ever want to provide safe harbor to these people? That is what sanctuary cities are doing.

This legislation is supported by a wide range of organizations to crack down on this problem: the Remembrance Project, NumbersUSA, Federation for American Immigration Reform, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Sheriffs' Association, America First Latinos, and letters from the McCann, Rosenberg, Ronnebeck, Oliver, and Wilkerson families, all of whom tragically had family members murdered by illegal aliens.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters of support.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NUMBERSUSA

Arlington, VA, October 14, 2015.

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VITTER: As President of NumbersUSA, a non-partisan activist network of more than 3 million citizens, I am writing to express our support for the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act.

Following the murder of Kate Steinle, the American people became acutely aware that while many States and localities blatantly violate Federal law and release criminal aliens onto their streets, the Federal government does absolutely nothing to stop them. Kate's death was far from the first instance of a murder by a criminal alien that could have been prevented, and more lives will be lost until Congress finally acts. We believe that this piece of legislation, S. 2146, is an appropriate and much needed first step.

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), there are currently 340 "sanctuary jurisdictions" in the United States. Over a 9-month period last year, these jurisdictions released 9,295 aliens that ICE was seeking to deport. It is unconscionable that Congress would continue to provide taxpayer money to these jurisdictions and subsidize their willful disregard of the law and public safety.

The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act first restricts funding from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), from Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for sanctuary jurisdictions. It reallocates those funds to jurisdictions that cooperate with ICE. The bill also requires the Department of Homeland Security (OHS) to publicly post a list of sanctuary jurisdictions online, including the number of ICE detainers ignored by each jurisdiction. These provisions would appropriately punish sanctuary jurisdictions, encourage further compliance with the law, reward those jurisdictions already in compliance, and ensure that the public knows where their local governments stand.

Another critical element of this legislation is that it protects local officers while they carry out ICE detainers, clarifying that they are acting as agents of ICE with all of the necessary authority and protection from liability granted to a Federal law enforcement officer. No law enforcement officer should fear retribution for following the law.

Finally, this bill increases the maximum penalties for aliens who illegally reenter the country following denial of admission, exclusion, deportation, or removal, and creates a mandatory minimum sentence for those who are convicted of an aggravated felony or two instances of illegal reentry, all of which would help protect the public from criminal aliens.

NumbersUSA applauds your leadership on this issue and stands eager to assist you in advancing the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act.

Sincerely,

ROY BECK,
President and Founder, NumbersUSA.

FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION REFORM,
October 19, 2015.

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VITTER: I am writing to thank you for your efforts as a United States Senator to end "sanctuary cities"—State and local jurisdictions with policies that obstruct immigration enforcement and compromise public safety.

Your bill, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act (S. 2146), is a commonsense measure that denies certain federal grants to jurisdictions that obstruct efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to identify and remove illegal aliens, including criminal aliens. Jurisdictions that interfere with immigration enforcement should not benefit from federal funds. Additionally, your bill increases penalties for illegal reentry and sends a message that we take the enforcement of the nation's immigration laws seriously.

The tragic death of Kate Steinle over the summer in the sanctuary city of San Francisco illustrates the necessity of your bill. As you know, the suspect, Francisco Sanchez, was in San Francisco law enforcement custody but was released him back onto the

streets—ignoring an ICE detainer request in the process—because of the sanctuary policy. Ms. Steinle's death was preventable and the public expects the U.S. Congress to hold these jurisdictions accountable.

Tuesday's vote on your bill is straightforward. A vote for S. 2146 shows that Senators want to protect law-abiding citizens. A vote against S. 2146 means they want to protect criminal aliens—individuals who not only violate our immigration laws but our criminal laws as well. I trust that the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act will enjoy broad bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

DAN STEIN,
President.

[From the Federation for American Immigration Reform Press Release, Oct. 15, 2015]
FAIR URGES SENATE TO PASS THE STOP SANCTUARY POLICIES AND PROTECT AMERICANS ACT (S. 2146)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) is urging the U.S. Senate to act swiftly to pass S. 2146, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act. The bill would cutoff certain federal grants to jurisdictions that defy federal immigration laws and refuse to honor requests to detain illegal aliens who are sought by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There are currently some 300 jurisdictions that harbor illegal aliens.

"Policies that protect people who are breaking U.S. immigration laws, including criminal aliens who have been arrested for other offenses, jeopardize the lives and safety of Americans. They also violate federal law. It is essential that Congress act immediately to end these policies," declared Dan Stein, president of FAIR.

The House of Representatives already passed legislation in July to cut off federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions. While the Senate has delayed action, Americans continue to be victimized by state and local policies that result in deportable criminals being returned to our streets.

S. 2146 would take concrete steps to rein in local jurisdictions that impede immigration enforcement. The bill:

- Creates a uniform national definition of what constitutes a "sanctuary jurisdiction."

- Denies SCAAP, COPS and HUD grants to sanctuary jurisdictions and redirects those funds to compliant jurisdictions.

- Increases penalties against illegal aliens who reenter the country after deportation.

- Protects individuals who are victims of crimes, or who provide information to police. Such individuals cannot be asked about immigration status or have their immigration status investigated.

"The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act is commonsense legislation designed to deter local government officials that actively shield illegal aliens from being removed from the United States," Stein said. "Jurisdictions that thwart even the minimal immigration law enforcement being carried out by the Obama administration should not expect to be the beneficiaries of federal law enforcement grants.

"FAIR urges the Senate to act responsibly to protect the safety of the American public by approving S. 2146 and to work with the House to send a final bill to the president's desk. If President Obama decides to veto the bill it is up to him to explain to the American people why he is refusing to act against reckless policies that have resulted in needless deaths of innocent citizens," concluded Stein.

ABOUT FAIR

Founded in 1979, FAIR is the country's largest immigration reform group. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, FAIR fights for immigration policies that serve national interests, not special interests. FAIR believes that immigration reform must enhance national security, improve the economy, protect jobs, preserve our environment, and establish a rule of law that is recognized and enforced.

[October 16, 2015]

ANALYSIS OF SENATE ANTI-SANCTUARY BILL
BILL SEEKS TO BRING SAFETY TO COMMUNITIES
AND ENCOURAGE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL
LAW

WASHINGTON, DC.—The Center for Immigration Studies has published an analysis of Senate Bill 2146, the "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect American Act" introduced by Senator David Vitter. This sanctuary legislation is designed to block state or local governments from enacting or continuing sanctuary laws or policies that protect aliens from the reach of federal immigration authorities, most especially with regard to aliens arrested and convicted for criminal offenses.

Recent data reveals an estimated 1,000 criminal aliens a month are being released due to sanctuary policies, making congressional action imperative. The bill seeks to incentivize state and local governments to cooperate with federal authorities by continuing existing grants to those which exchange information and comply with detainers; cutting federal funding to sanctuary governments which refuse to cooperate, that is then distributed to jurisdictions that do cooperate; and by providing immunity to officers when engaging in cooperative efforts, including complying with detainers or providing information.

View the entire report at: <http://cis.org/Analysis-of-S2146-the-Stop-Sanctuary-Policies-and-Protect-Americans-Act>

"The Obama administration refuses to deal with the sanctuary problem, which has led to crimes such as the murder of Kate Steinle by a five-times-deported illegal-alien felon," said Dan Cadman, a Center fellow and author of the report. "This bill addresses the sanctuary policies which result in thousands of criminal aliens being released into our communities to reoffend. Unfortunately, it is not as comprehensive as the Davis-Oliver Act, which would deal with the sanctuary policies and the administration's deliberate suppression of enforcement."

OCTOBER 16, 2015.

Re Support of "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act"

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. RON JOHNSON,
Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. TED CRUZ,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: My name is Brian McCann and I testified at the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of the McCann family and all Americans on July 21, 2015. You will recall the tragic death of my brother Dennis was outlined in my remarks and official witness document. I have read the measure you

are sponsoring and I offer my complete support. I have tried to amend the cruel and unsafe ordinance passed in Cook County without success due to the peculiar nature of Illinois and Cook County politics. I remain convinced that your approach to limit grants to sanctuary jurisdictions to include SCAAP, CDBG and COPS will be an effective lever to improve safety to these over 300 sanctuary jurisdictions. Moreover, your language relative to Kate's law also has our support.

I will listen to the debates next Tuesday and will begin my day with a prayer for the thousands of family victims suffering daily because of these sanctuary jurisdictions. I remain ready and willing to help in these matters and please do not hesitate to call or write.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MCCANN.

OCTOBER 15, 2015.

Subject: Support of "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act"

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. RON JOHNSON,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. TED CRUZ,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of my son killed by an illegal alien in San Francisco almost 5 years ago I want to thank you for introducing and advancing the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act. This legislation that will address the reentry of illegal aliens, restrict federal funding of cities that operate as "sanctuary cities", and also support and protect our law enforcement officers is long overdue.

Quite frankly it is hard to believe that in a nation founded on the rule of law this legislation is even necessary. Since my son's death at least 25,000 people have been killed by illegal aliens. Many have been killed by illegal aliens who have been deported multiple times. Many have been killed by illegal aliens who are actually living and being protected by sanctuary cities.

There are over 135,000 convicted illegal alien criminals currently roaming our streets. That number is growing by 1,000 every week as so many of our cities are refusing to honor detainers resulting in convicted illegal alien felons first to be released into the general population and then being protected by sanctuary cities. How many more Americans have to die before our "leaders" put the safety of our citizens above votes and cheap labor?

Nothing I can do will bring my son back to life. But I ask you to do all that is possible to make sure no other American family has to suffer the real separation of families and the never ending nightmare of losing a loved one. I wonder every day why our government has betrayed us and cares more about illegal aliens than law abiding American citizens.

Sincerely,

DON ROSENBERG,
Victim.

OCTOBER 16, 2015.

Subject: Support of "Stop Sanctuary Cities and Protect Americans Act"

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. RON JOHNSON,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. TED CRUZ,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On Behalf of the Ronnebeck Family, in memory of our beloved family member Grant Ronnebeck, I thank you for introducing and advancing the Stop Sanctuary Cities and Protect Americans Act. We support this legislation that will address the reentry of illegal aliens, restrict federal funding of cities that operate as "Sanctuary Cities", and that also supports and protects our law enforcement officers.

You might remember my testimony before the Judicial Committee in July 2015, relating how my nephew Grant was killed. He was working at his job when an illegal alien shot him in the face, killing him, seemingly doing nothing more than counting his change too slowly. You also heard the compelling stories of Susan Oliver, Jim Steinle, Laura Wilkerson, and Dennis McCann. We have all lost family members due to illegal aliens.

Unfortunately, since that hearing, several more Americans have been murdered at the hands of illegal aliens drawn to sanctuary cities. Those include Margaret Kostelnik of Lake County Ohio, and Marilyn Pharias of Santa Maria, California. In fact, the Government Accountability Office data shows that illegal aliens are committing murders of Americans at the rate of over 5,000 per year. Sanctuary cities can only create an incentive for illegal aliens to enter our Country, and stay with impunity from deportation. The Stop Sanctuary Cities and Protect Americans Act will help save American Lives, and send a message to all Americans that we are your priority.

I ask each of you to do everything in your power to pass this important legislation, for Grant, Kate, Josh, Brian, Margaret, Maria, and the thousands of others who have lost their lives due to this issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL RONNEBECK.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS: The legislation addressing sanctuary cities and Kate's law are of paramount interest to me because I am a widow of a law enforcement officer killed by an illegal immigrant previously deported several times for other felonious acts. This issue has directly affected my life and the lives of my children.

I am primarily concerned about violent illegal immigrants being allowed to return to our country with little consequence. Every single day, law officers are forced to release criminal aliens who pose a threat to community safety—in violation of current laws that require deportation. Additionally ICE released back onto the streets 76,000 convicted criminal aliens in the last few years. Currently there are over 150,000 criminal aliens at large in the United States who have criminal convictions and were formally and

lawfully ordered to be deported. The Administration's tolerance of sanctuary cities has also resulted in more arrested aliens being released by local law agencies. And, more than 120 of the criminal aliens who've been ordered deported in the last few years were released by ICE have now been charged with additional homicide offenses. The man that killed my husband, Deputy Danny Oliver, was deported several times for various felonies. However, due to the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, his killer was allowed back into this country.

I have read reports of various positions on these matters, and I realize that not all fully support the changes. Therefore, I am asking for only one thing. I do not want your sympathy, I want change so others will not have to endure the grief we have in our lives every day.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation passed to ensure felons are not allowed to continue to commit serious felonies such as homicide.

Sincerely,

SUSAN T. OLIVER,
Widow of Deputy Danny P. Oliver.

OCTOBER 18, 2015.

Re Support of "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act"

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.
Hon. RON JOHNSON,
Washington, DC.
Hon. TED CRUZ,
Washington, DC.
Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of Joshua Wilkerson, I want to send my support of "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act."

On November 16th, 2010, Joshua was brutally murdered and then his body was set on fire. Per the Medical Examiner it was torture. He was murdered by an Illegal Alien, Hermilo Morales, brought to this country by his Illegal Alien Parents, when he was 10 years old. He came to America from Belize. Our Family has been crushed, overwhelmed, lost, and irretrievably broken. As a mother I assure you there is nothing like the pain of what I have been through.

This is just "my" story. There are so many families in every state in America that have suffered loss of life just as we have. Sanctuary City Policies invite the criminal element of Illegals to that City.

I want to say Thank you for bringing this key legislation, that will be beneficial to all American Families.

Sincerely,

LAURA WILKERSON.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in closing, I refuse to simply stand by and reward jurisdictions around the country with Federal funding, with taxpayer funds, when they are in clear violation of the law and are actively making our communities more dangerous rather than safer. I have offered similar versions of this legislation many times in the past. We cannot wait any longer to tackle this problem head-on.

While President Obama continues to let the world know he will not be en-

forcing the current immigration laws or taking action against these jurisdictions, we here in Congress have an absolute duty to act otherwise. I believe this legislation will absolutely benefit all Americans by keeping us safe here at home. I strongly urge all of our colleagues to support it in votes tomorrow on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, tomorrow we are going to be voting on a very important bill. We will have the opportunity to vote to proceed to a bill that deals with sanctuary cities and immigration policies that are a serious threat to the public safety. We will move to take up the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act—a bill that should put an end to sanctuary jurisdictions, give law enforcement important tools they need to detain criminals, and increase penalties for dangerous and repeat offenders of our immigration laws.

Some of these sanctuary policies are created when a local government unit, such as a city or county executive body, passes an ordinance prohibiting their officers from communicating with Federal immigration and law enforcement officials. Now, there is another way: Some sanctuary policies come about simply because local law enforcement initiates its own policies of providing safe harbor for undocumented immigrants. And then another way: Some sanctuary policies develop because law enforcement officers are afraid they will be sued if they enforce immigration laws and detain an individual for their unlawful immigration status.

In summation, these policies and practices have allowed thousands of dangerous criminals to be released back into the community, and the effects have been disastrous. I am going to speak about those effects. America saw these policies play out in July when Kate Steinle was innocently killed while walking along a San Francisco pier with her father. The murderer, who was illegally in the country and actually deported five times prior to that day, was released into the community by a sanctuary jurisdiction that did not honor the detainer issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The suspect in Kate's death admitted he was in San Francisco because of its sanctuary policies. That sums up the problem our bill addresses.

Here is Kate—no longer with us—as one example. I have several other examples because people tried to tell us

you should not change policy based upon one murder. Maybe so, maybe not, but 5 years of statistics shows about 121 people killed by people that have been deported for criminal activities in this country and then come back in. I want to tell you what our bill does about that, but I want to first tell you about some examples.

In July, our Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing called "Oversight of the Administration's Misdirected Immigration Enforcement Policies: Examining the Impact on Public Safety and Honoring the Victims." That is the committee's hearing title. This hearing was an opportunity to hear the voices of Americans who have been impacted by these very indefensible policies while also conducting oversight of the administration's policies and tolerance toward sanctuary jurisdictions.

Jim Steinle, Kate's father, expressed his family's desire to see legislation enacted to take undocumented felons off our streets. The committee was very moved by his presence and testimony—obviously something that wasn't very easy for him. He talked about how Kate "had a special soul, a kind and giving heart, the most contagious laugh, and a smile that would light up a room." He told us how she died in his arms that day, despite her plea in her dying words of "Help me, Dad." The suspect in Kate Steinle's murder had seven prior felony convictions and had been deported five times. Yet he was shielded—protected, in other words—by San Francisco's sanctuary policy.

The Kate Steinle story is not a singular case. Too many Americans have lost their lives, and too many families have had to feel the real and devastating impact caused by sanctuary cities and lax enforcement policies.

Our committee heard powerful testimony from families other than Kate Steinle's father. We heard from Mrs. Susan Oliver. She is the widow of Deputy Danny Oliver. This is the family. He was a police officer in Sacramento, CA. Danny was killed while on duty by an illegal immigrant who was previously arrested on two separate occasions for drug-related charges and twice deported. Mrs. Oliver spoke of the daily loss she experiences without her husband in everything from raising her children to the milestones he will miss, including their daughter's upcoming wedding.

We also heard from Michael Ronnebeck, the uncle of Grant Ronnebeck. You are seeing Grant's picture here. Grant was a 21-year-old convenience store clerk who was gunned down earlier this year by an undocumented immigrant. The Obama administration released Grant's alleged murderer, who was in removal proceedings. Grant was born in my State of Iowa but resided in Arizona. He had two brothers and a sis-

ter. Mr. Ronnebeck expressed his family's desire to see Grant's legacy be a force for change, imploring us as lawmakers to "rise above political differences, to set aside personal interests, and to use your resources to make sensible immigration reform a reality in the coming months, with the safety and security of American citizens first and foremost in mind." Think of that tomorrow and think of the Ronnebeck family losing their son. They are asking us to keep the safety and security of American citizens first and foremost in our minds.

We also heard from Brian McCann. Mr. McCann's brother, Dennis McCann, was killed in 2011 by a drunk driver who was in the country illegally and driving without a license. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had placed a detainer on the drunk driver, but he was released under Cook County, IL, sanctuary city policies. Mr. McCann expressed his anger at the sanctuary city policies of Cook County, which allowed his brother's killer to be free, and at a system that failed to communicate with him and his family when the suspect was released by the locals.

We also heard from Laura Wilkerson of Pearland, TX, the mother of Josh Wilkerson. Josh was 18 years old when he was murdered by his high school classmate, an undocumented immigrant, after Josh offered him a ride home from school. Josh's murderer was sentenced to life in prison and will be eligible for parole in 30 years. Mrs. Wilkerson spoke of the gentle soul of her son, the brutal torture that he endured, and actually watching an unapologetic 19-year-old brag about his killing skills during trial and talking about how things were done in his country.

These stories are heartbreaking, but nothing has changed. I want to talk about what has happened since Kate's murder. We have seen more fall victim to sanctuary jurisdiction policies.

Shortly after Kate's death, Marilyn Pharis was brutally raped, tortured, and murdered in her home in Santa Maria, CA, by an undocumented immigrant who was released from custody because the county sheriff does not honor Federal enforcement detainers.

A 2-year-old girl was brutally beaten by an undocumented immigrant in San Luis Obispo County, CA. He was released from local custody despite a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer and an extensive criminal history, and he is still at large.

Margaret Kostelnik was killed by an undocumented immigrant who allegedly attempted to rape a 14-year-old girl and shoot a woman in a nearby park. He was released because Immigration and Customs Enforcement refused to issue a detainer and take custody of that suspect.

These are a very few of the stories that could be told on this Senate floor. There are many more families who are hurting today because of lax immigration policies and the lack of willingness by President Obama's administration to do something about sanctuary cities.

But don't take it from just me. Even the Secretary of Homeland Security acknowledges that sanctuary cities are "counterproductive to public safety." He said these policies were "unacceptable." Yet this administration has not taken demonstrable action to address the unwillingness of sanctuary jurisdictions to work with Federal immigration authorities. More than 12,000 Federal detainer requests were ignored by State and local jurisdictions in 2014.

Moreover, in June of this year, the administration rolled out a new program that reduces the enforcement priorities and announced it would not seek the custody of many criminals who are in the country illegally. This is called the Priority Enforcement Program, PEP for short. That program actually gives sanctuary jurisdictions permission to continue ignoring Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers. PEP even discourages compliant jurisdictions from further cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement because it now only issues detainers for individuals who are already convicted of certain crimes deemed priorities by the Department of Homeland Security.

Many local jurisdictions want to work with the Federal Government and protect their communities but are frustrated when the administration refuses to work with them. Think of Arizona trying to protect its own citizens from the crimes committed by undocumented immigrants in that State. The State legislature passes laws. The administration goes to court and gets those laws declared contrary to the Constitution or our only immigration laws. Why? Because under the Constitution, one of the 18 powers of Congress happens to be the enforcement or the writing of the immigration laws so they are uniform. So when this administration will not enforce immigration laws in Arizona, and Arizona decides under the Tenth Amendment, under the police powers of the State, to do it for the Federal Government, then it is wrong for that State to do it. But this administration will not take action against the sanctuary cities that are violating the same immigration laws.

I want to continue with some examples where the administration refuses to work with local officials. Sheriff Cummings in Cape Cod, MA, recently explained his frustration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement when an immigrant who had overstayed his visa was arrested for battery with a dangerous weapon and child pornography. Sheriff Cummings said that

when he learned that this individual who had a long criminal history was in the country illegally, he asked Immigration and Customs Enforcement for a Federal immigration detainer “so that if someone came up with a bail we could then turn him over to ICE and we wouldn’t release him back into the community.” So then what happened? ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—never issued the detainer.

Sheriff Cummings noted that before PEP, immigration authorities would issue a detainer pretty quickly but not anymore. He commented:

It just shows how they’ve relaxed their policy so there are more criminal illegal aliens in our communities right now. Those are the ones I’m concerned with. I’m concerned with the individuals that have committed crimes. They are here illegally to begin with and they’ve committed crimes while they’re here. To me it makes no sense to allow these people to stay in our communities.

I very much agree. It makes no sense that people who do not belong here and commit crimes are allowed to return to our communities and cause further harm.

Getting back to the bill we will be voting on tomorrow, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect America Act addresses the problem of sanctuary jurisdictions in a very commonsense and balanced way. There seems to be consensus that sanctuary jurisdictions should be held accountable, and we do that with the power of the purse. And now I am beginning to explain our bill.

This bill limits the availability of certain Federal grants to cities and States that have sanctuary policies. We limit funding through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. This is a grant program run by the Department of Justice that is designed to reimburse part of the cost incurred by local jurisdictions that detain undocumented criminal aliens. Sanctuary cities receive these funds despite their refusal to detain suspects who are wanted by immigration authorities.

In this year alone, California received a total of \$44 million in these State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funds even though the State has a sanctuary law. New York City, a sanctuary city, received \$11.6 million in taxpayer funding. To fund sanctuary cities with State Criminal Alien Assistance Program money essentially subsidizes these jurisdictions for their lack of cooperation.

As Former Assistant Secretary Morton stated in a letter to Cook County, a well-known sanctuary city, “It is fundamentally inconsistent for Cook County to request federal reimbursement for the cost of detaining aliens who commit or are charged with crimes while at the same time thwarting ICE’s efforts to remove those very same aliens from the United States.”

The bill that will be before us tomorrow morning when we vote responds to this hypocrisy by making sanctuary ju-

risdictions ineligible for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. Another grant program limited to sanctuary jurisdictions is the community-oriented policing services or, as it is known around this town and locally, the COPS Program. These grant dollars help fund community-oriented policing programs for local law enforcement agencies. Our bill makes sanctuary jurisdictions ineligible for these taxpayer dollars if they have a policy or practice in place despite the lack of any statute, ordinance, or policy directive from their unit of local government. Finally, the bill limits taxpayer dollars through the community development block grant for sanctuary jurisdictions when a county, city, or State has in effect a statute that clearly defies information sharing as required by Federal law or has a statute that prohibits any government official from complying with a detainer request issued by the Department of Homeland Security. Those are the funding parts of our bill.

In acknowledgement of the bill’s fairness in targeting certain grants, the National Sheriffs’ Association writes:

The grant penalties you would impose also acknowledge that our public safety entities should not be punished for the actions of a state or local subdivision over which they may not have control. I appreciate the careful consideration you clearly gave that issue.

The second part of the bill deals with lawsuits that local law enforcement people might be faced with, so the second thing our bill does is provide protection for law enforcement officers who do want to cooperate and comply with detainer requests from the Federal Government. It would address the liability issue created by recent court decisions by providing liability protection to local law enforcement who honor Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association explains in a letter of support for the bill:

Unfortunately, at least four courts have ruled that local law enforcement officers may be sued for violating the Fourth Amendment if they comply with an immigration detainer, even if the detainer was lawfully issued and the detention would have been legal if carried out by DHS. This means that our local counterparts are exposed to potential civil liability and it disables their ability to detain dangerous criminals scheduled for release. The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act solves this problem by explicitly stating that local law enforcement officers have legal authority to comply with immigration detainers.

While preventing restrictive liability to law enforcement, the bill also ensures the protection of civil liberties and the rights of individuals. The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association noted that “the bill protects civil liberties, ensuring that someone who has had their constitutional rights violated may sue.”

Finally, the bill addresses criminals attempting to reenter the United

States and habitual offenders of our immigration laws. The bill creates a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years for any alien who is an aggravated felon or has been twice convicted of illegal reentry. Thanks to many people, including TV’s Bill O’Reilly, for keeping this issue constantly before the people of this country. This part of the bill—named by Bill O’Reilly and commonly referred to as Kate’s law—has become so important to many Americans. You can only imagine how important it is to the families of those who were killed by these murderers, the people whose pictures I had up here. This bill is very important to those families. Kate’s Law is necessary in order to take those who are dangerous to our communities and have no respect for our law off our streets.

This bill has broad support from law enforcement groups. It also has the support of groups who want enforcement of our immigration laws. It has the support of the Remembrance Project, a group devoted to honoring and remembering Americans who have been killed by undocumented immigrants.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE REMEMBRANCE PROJECT,
Houston, TX, October 14, 2015.

Subject: Support of “Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act”

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RON JOHNSON,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TED CRUZ,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of Americans killed by illegal aliens, and their surviving families, I thank you for introducing and advancing the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act. We support this legislation that will address the reentry of illegal aliens, restrict federal funding of cities that operate as “sanctuary cities”, and that also supports and protects our law enforcement officers.

It is now known that approximately 1,000 criminal illegal aliens are released back into our communities from our prisons each month, of which over 60% have “significant prior criminal histories . . .”, most of which include serious felonies! Add this to the rampant crime perpetrated by other illegal aliens in our country, and we have a matter of national urgency.

Violent illegal alien crimes resulting in the deaths of American citizens, are unlike other killings. In every case, Americans were killed by those persons who should never

have been in our country. This legislation will send a powerful message that the safety of Americans is the priority. Most importantly, this legislation will save American lives!

I ask that each of you do all humanly possible to end these deliberate and unsafe community law enforcement practices wherein the killings of Americans is not only enabled but is also well-known and documented.

Sincerely,

MARIA ESPINOZA,
Co-founder and National Director.

AMERICA FIRST LATINOS,
Houston, TX, October 16, 2015.

Subject: Support of "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act"

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RON JOHNSON,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TED CRUZ,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of Latino voices in America, I write this letter in support of legislation that will address the reentry of illegal aliens, restrict federal finds to cities that refuse to enforce laws that creates "sanctuary city policies", and that also supports and protects law enforcement officers.

America First Latinos are proud to be Americans and proud to live in this great country. We are activating nationwide to remind public servants that the safety and well-being of Americans must be the priority in America. Enforcing laws is not racist, in fact, it is offensive for anyone to think that Latinos approve of illegal immigration. Illegal immigration is wrong. Sanctuary city policies condone lawless behaviors and encourages more of the same behaviors, which reaches deeper into our communities.

Each day Americans are being killed and harmed by individuals who should not be in our country. It is up to you to stop this epidemic of killings and crimes against the citizenry. I ask that each of you do all humanly possible to end these dangerous sanctuary practices. Americans must be the priority in America!

Sincerely,

PEDRO RIVERA,
Texas State Coordinator.

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, October 6, 2015.

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RON JOHNSON,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK TOOMEY,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TED CRUZ,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VITTER, SENATOR TOOMEY, SENATOR GRASSLEY, SENATOR CRUZ, AND SEN-

ATOR JOHNSON: On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the more than 3,000 sheriffs nationwide, I write today in support of legislation you intend to introduce, the "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect American Act." This bill takes an important step in clarifying the definition of sanctuary jurisdictions while also offering additional protections for state and local officers.

As you all know, state and local law enforcement agencies are critical partners in immigration and border security efforts all across this country. For too long, however, those officers had little to no liability protections when lawfully enforcing Federal immigration detainers on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security. Your bill takes the important step of clarifying those protections so that deputies acting within the bounds of the law will not be held personally liable in future court actions. The grant penalties you would impose also acknowledge that our public safety entities should not be punished for the actions of a state or local subdivision over which they may not have control. I appreciate the careful consideration you clearly gave that issue.

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association, I applaud your efforts on this important issue and look forward to working with you on passage. If the National Sheriffs' Association can be of assistance this or any other issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Thompson.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2015.

Hon. DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. RON JOHNSON,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAT TOOMEY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. TED CRUZ,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS VITTER, TOOMEY, GRASSLEY, CRUZ, AND JOHNSON: On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), I thank you for introducing the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, which will empower federal and local law enforcement officers' cooperative efforts to better protect our communities and our citizenry. Your proposal will ensure we do not dishonor the memory of Kate Steinle and the immeasurable grief her family is enduring. It is critically important that all our law enforcement assets are synchronized in pursuing our shared responsibility of policing violent illegal aliens.

Federal law enforcement officers rely on their state and local counterparts to assist in keeping America's borders secure and keeping criminal illegal immigrants off of the streets. It's one team, one fight, as we all took the same sacred oath to protect and defend the Constitution and the American citizenry. We've been relying upon immigration detainers—requests from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for local law enforcement to hold an illegal immigrant temporarily, to give federal law enforcement an opportunity to take the individual into custody.

Unfortunately, at least four courts have ruled that local law enforcement officers may be sued for violating the Fourth Amendment if they comply with an immigration detainer, even if the detainer was lawfully

issued and the detention would have been legal if carried out by DHS. This means that our local counterparts are exposed to potential civil liability and it disables their ability to detain dangerous criminals scheduled for release. The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act solves this problem by explicitly stating that local law enforcement officers have legal authority to comply with immigration detainers. The bill protects civil liberties, ensuring that someone who has had their constitutional rights violated may sue.

The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act takes crucial steps to eliminating sanctuary jurisdictions, which serve to shelter illegal aliens while posing real threats to the American people. We must reassess our priorities and remain committed to the unwavering premise of the safety of the American citizenry is our top priority. The proper response to Kate's tragic death is not to point fingers at each other. Ms. Steinle was killed in San Francisco by an illegal immigrant who had previously been deported from the United States five times, and had been convicted of seven felonies. The shooter chose to live in San Francisco because he knew it was a sanctuary city that would shield him from federal immigration law. Tragically, his "sanctuary" gambit proved fatal for the Steinle family. Federal officials requested that San Francisco detain the shooter until immigration authorities could pick him up, but San Francisco officials refused to cooperate and released Sanchez three months before Kate's murder. We owe it to Kate and the American citizenry to fix this critical community safety issue now.

We commend you for preserving flexibility for law enforcement, so that victims of crime and witnesses to crime who are in the U.S. illegally may come forward and cooperate with police. FLEOA especially recognizes and appreciates Senator Toomey's leadership and unwavering support for all law enforcement officers. Both Senator Toomey and Vitter understand that in America, the safety of Americans comes first!

FLEOA strongly supports the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, and we look forward to working with your offices to have this important legislation enacted into law.

Respectfully yours,

JON ADLER,
FLEOA National President.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE
ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO,
October 8, 2015.

Hon. PATRICK TOOMEY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR TOOMEY: The International Union of Police Associations is proud to add our name to the list of supporters of the bill addressing "Sanctuary Cities" titled Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act. As it now stands, our officers can be held liable for sharing relevant information and honoring immigration detainers, even when they are from federal immigration officials. This legislation remedies that.

Additionally, the bill provides a financial disincentive for cities to become or remain "sanctuary cities" by removing State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funds which were originally designated to provide financial assistance to those counties and cities housing unlawful entrants. It also restricts Community Block Grants. COPS grants are restricted only if the law enforcement agency is the source of, and has the power to

change sanctuary city policy. It makes sense to us that a political entity cannot expect finding from the federal government when that city or county has made a decision to ignore federal laws involving the very issues for which these funds were prescribed.

Finally, this legislation will provide a five year mandatory minimum sentence for those illegal aliens who have aggravated felony convictions and at least two prior convictions for unlawful reentry. It is long past time to end the revolving door of criminal aliens, who, even though convicted of felony criminal activity and deported, unlawfully return to prey upon our citizens.

We both thank and applaud you for this thoughtful and timely piece of legislation and we look forward to working with you and your staff to see it signed into law.

Very Respectfully,

SAM A. CABRAL,
International President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.,
Alexandria, Virginia, October 7, 2015.

Senator DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Senator RON JOHNSON,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Senator PAT TOOMEY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Senator TED CRUZ,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS VITTER, TOOMEY, GRASSLEY, CRUZ, AND JOHNSON: On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support for the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, which will enable federal and local law enforcement officers to work together to protect our communities.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

The system relies on local law enforcement complying with immigration detainers—requests from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for local law enforcement to hold an illegal immigrant temporarily, to give federal law enforcement an opportunity to take the individual into custody.

Unfortunately, several courts have ruled that local law enforcement officers may be sued for violating the Fourth Amendment if they comply with an immigration detainer, even if the detainer was lawfully issued and the detention would have been legal if carried out by DHS. This means that dangerous criminals cannot be held and must be released. The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act solves this problem by explicitly stating that local law enforcement officers have legal authority to comply with immigration detainers. The bill also protects civil liberties, ensuring that someone who has had their constitutional rights violated may sue.

Furthermore, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act takes crucial steps to eliminating sanctuary jurisdictions, which pose real threats to the American people, and increases penalties for criminals who re-enter the United States illegally, pro-

viding federal, state and local law enforcement vital tools to help keep our communities safe.

NAPO also commends you for preserving flexibility for law enforcement, so that victims of crime and witnesses to crime who are in the U.S. illegally may come forward and cooperate with police.

We look forward to working with your offices to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON,
Executive Director.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Some on the other side of the aisle are criticizing us for politicizing these recent attacks by criminal aliens and releases by sanctuary jurisdictions. We are being accused of attacking immigrants. However, I just want to note that the Democrats take no shame in politicizing the recent gun violence and promoting legislation that would not have stopped some of the shootings, from Newtown, CT, to Roseburg, OR.

This is not a partisan issue. This bill protects law-abiding people and improves our public safety. Had it been enacted before July 1, individuals like Kate Steinle might still be with us.

I would think we should all be able to agree that people who are in the country illegally and committing crimes should not be released back into the community. There has to be accountability and a commitment to uphold the rule of law. For too long we sat by while sanctuary jurisdictions released dangerous criminals into the community to harm our citizens. It is finally time that we put an end to it, and tomorrow we will have that opportunity. It is time we work toward protecting our communities rather than continue to put them in danger.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this bill and vote to proceed to it tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the first time in more than 2 years, the Senate is turning its attention to an issue related to our broken immigration system. But in stark contrast to the comprehensive, hopeful legislation last reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, the majority is simply scheduling a show vote today on a divisive, partisan proposal that has not even been considered in the Judiciary Committee. What a difference a change in leadership makes.

There are few topics more fundamental to who we are as a Nation than immigration. A consistent thread through our history is the arrival of new people to this country seeking a better life. Immigration has been an ongoing source of renewal for America—a renewal of our spirit, our creativity, and our economic strength.

Two years ago, the Senate reaffirmed its commitment to these ideals when we approved S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immi-

gration Modernization Act. That legislation, which was supported by 68 Senators from both parties, would have meaningfully improved our great country by making our communities safer, strengthening our economy, improving border security, and keeping families together. It was a remarkable, bipartisan effort that was made better through the extensive amendment process in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was an example of all that we can accomplish when we actually focus on the hard job of legislating.

The bill we are considering today could not be more different. This legislation is not bipartisan. It does not reflect a desire to meaningfully improve what we all agree is a broken immigration system. Instead, this bill is, as the New York Times editorialized on Saturday, “a class-action slander against an immigrant population that has been scapegoated for the crimes of a few, and left stranded by the failure of legislative reform that would open a path for them to live fully within the law.”

Those who support this bill point to a tragedy that captured our attention this summer. Any time an innocent person is killed, we have an obligation to understand what happened and try to prevent similar tragedies in the future. We all feel that way about the senseless and terribly cruel death of Kate Steinle. Her death was avoidable. Our system failed, period. And it is heart-wrenching that such a beautiful, young life was taken by a man who should never have been free on our streets.

We are motivated to do something in the wake of her death. Just as we are motivated to act in the wake of the senseless killings of nine men and women attending a Bible study class in Charleston, SC. Or the nine innocent people brutally murdered at an Oregon community college. These are moments that demand leadership. We should roll up our sleeves and start to address the problems that led us here. We should address gun violence and the criminals who threaten our safety instead of characterizing entire immigrant communities as criminals.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that we will be given that chance. Rather than marking this legislation up in Committee with input and amendments from both sides, the bill before us was yanked off of the Judiciary Committee agenda once the majority leader decided to bring it straight to the floor. Others can speculate about what motivated the timing of today's vote. What we know for sure is that this action goes against precisely what the majority leader promised last year when he said that “[b]ills should go through Committee. And if Republicans are fortunate enough to gain the majority next year, they would.” It is disappointing that he has broken his promise on legislation of such importance.

If this bill were to become law, it would create two new mandatory minimums and cost us millions of dollars that we do not have. This would deny funding for critical services in local communities and do nothing to fix the broken immigration system we have today. At a time when the Judiciary Committee is engaged in a thoughtful, bipartisan effort to reform our criminal justice system and save taxpayers money in the process, it makes no sense to forgo that process for considering this immigration bill.

If we are really trying to make our communities safer, we should listen to the police officers and law enforcement officials who dedicate their lives to that very mission. We should listen to domestic violence advocates who say the approach in this partisan bill will have a dangerous effect on the lives of women and children at risk. They are telling us this bill will make our communities less safe. It will undermine the trust and cooperation between police officers and immigrant communities. It will damage efforts to prevent crime and weaken their ability to apprehend those who prey on the public. That is why the National Fraternal Order of Police is opposed to policies that would be implemented by this bill. It is why the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women opposes this bill. It is why the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that letters from the National Fraternal Order of Police and the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women be printed in the RECORD.

I agree with Senator HELLER, who noted: "For two years we haven't had a discussion and so all the sudden we're going to bring up an immigration issue and not talk about the bigger issue." The problems plaguing our immigration system demand that we respond thoughtfully and responsibly. We can do better. We owe it to the American public to do better. I urge Senators to vote against cloture on this partisan bill that will not make us safer.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY M. REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY P. PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL, MR. SPEAKER, SENATOR REID AND REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: I am writing on behalf of the members of the

Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong opposition to any amendment or piece of legislation that would penalize law enforcement agencies by withholding Federal funding or resources from law enforcement assistance programs in an effort to coerce a policy change in so-called "sanctuary cities." This is not meant to be construed as a position on "sanctuary cities," but rather on the use of Federal programs as an enforcement mechanism.

Local police departments answer to local civilian government and it is the local government which enacts statutes and ordinances in their communities. Law enforcement officers have no more say in these matters than any other citizen and, with laws like the Hatch Act in place, it can be argued they have less. Law enforcement officers do not get to pick and choose which laws to enforce and must carry out lawful orders at the direction of their commanders and the civilian government that employs them. It is wrong and a gross unfairness to punish these brave men and women, or the citizens they serve, because Congress disagrees with their enforcement priorities with respect to our nation's immigration laws.

The FOP believes very strongly that local police departments should at all times endeavor to cooperate with their Federal law enforcement colleagues but they also must follow the laws and policies of the government that employs them. It is critical to public safety and national security that local, State, Federal and tribal law enforcement work together and rely on the expertise and resources that each agency brings to the mission. This cannot be achieved if the Federal government is reducing the resources available to local law enforcement nor will it aid in cooperative efforts to address threats to public safety.

For these reasons, the FOP will vigorously oppose any amendment, bill or other legislative effort which would reduce or withhold funding or resources from any Federal program for local and State law enforcement. If Congress wishes to effect policy changes in these cities, it must find another way to do so.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for your consideration of our view on this issue. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END SEXUAL
AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN,

October 14, 2015.

DEAR SENATOR: As the Steering Committee of the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTFV), comprising national leadership organizations advocating on behalf of sexual and domestic violence victims and women's rights, we represent hundreds of organizations across the country dedicated to ensuring all survivors of violence receive the protections they deserve. For this reason, we write to express our deep concerns about the impact that S. 2146, the "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act," will have on communities with "sanctuary" policies. Such legislation will be dangerous for all victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking, and in particular, for immigrant victims, and communities at large.

S. 2146 undermines policies that local jurisdictions have determined are Constitutionally sound and appropriate for their respective communities, and it decreases the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to violent crimes and assist all victims of crime, U.S. Citizens, and immigrants alike. As recognized in the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), law enforcement plays a critical role in our coordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence. Law enforcement funds support critical training, equipment, and agency staffing that assists domestic and sexual violence victims. Provisions in S. 2146 that reduce funding for law enforcement agencies will allow violent crimes to go uninvestigated and leave victims without redress.

In addition, provisions in S. 2146 seek to reduce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to communities with "sanctuary" policies, which will harm communities by reducing access to critical housing and community services that are accessed by all victims, including both U.S. Citizens and immigrants.

Community trust policies are critical tools for increasing community safety. We recently celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of VAWA, which has, since it was first enacted, included critical protections for immigrant victims of domestic and sexual violence. Laws that seek to intertwine the immigration and law enforcement systems will undermine the Congressional purpose of protections enacted under VAWA and will have the chilling effect of pushing immigrant victims into the shadows and allow criminals to walk on our streets. As VAWA recognizes, immigrant victims of violent crimes often do not contact law enforcement due to fear that they will be deported. According to a study conducted by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the National Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza, 45% of the foreign-born callers expressed fear of calling and/or seeking help from the police or courts. Furthermore, 12% of US-Born callers expressed fear of seeking help due to the current wave of anti-immigrant policies. Immigrants are already afraid of contacting the police and these policies will only exacerbate this fear.

Perpetrators use fear of deportation as abuse. Local policies that minimize intertwining of local law enforcement with ICE help bring the most vulnerable victims out of the shadows by creating trust between law enforcement and the immigrant community, which in turn help protect entire communities. Abusers and traffickers use the fear of deportation of their victims as a tool to silence and trap them. Not only are the individual victims harmed, but their fear of law enforcement leads many to abstain from reporting violent perpetrators or coming forward, and, as a result, dangerous criminals are not identified and go unpunished. These criminals remain on the streets and continue to be a danger to our communities.

S. 2146's harsh criminal penalties will harm victims of trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Immigrant victims are vulnerable to being arrested and prosecuted for crimes directly connected to their victimization. For example, victims of domestic violence are arrested and convicted of domestic violence related crimes, even when they are not the primary perpetrator of violence in the relationship, due to language and cultural barriers. In addition, victims of sex trafficking are often arrested and convicted of prostitution-related offenses. Often, victims are desperate to be released, and in some cases, reunited with their children

upon arrest and/or during trial. These factors—combined with poor legal counsel, particularly about the immigration consequences of criminal pleas and convictions—have in the past and will likely continue to lead to the deportation of wrongly accused victims who may have pled to or been unfairly convicted of domestic violence charges.

For these reasons, we urge you to affirm the intent and spirit of VAWA and oppose S. 2146 and other similar legislative proposals that may be introduced. Thank you very much for taking this important step to protect and support immigrant survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, and sexual assault.

For more information, please contact Grace Huang, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence or Andrea Carcamo, Nacional Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza.

Sincerely,

THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE
TO END SEXUAL AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TOM BRENNAN

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Tom Brennan—a longtime reporter and editor at my hometown paper, the Mansfield News Journal. This week, Tom will retire from the News Journal after a 43-year career in journalism.

Tom and I are both natives of Richland County, OH. He has been with the News Journal since 1972 in various roles, so we have known each other for pretty much our entire careers.

I have always had a bit of a soft spot for journalists—after all, I married one.

And as with any journalist, Tom and I haven't always seen eye-to-eye on every issue, but I have always respected his integrity and the important service he provides to the Mansfield community.

He has always been fair and civic minded and has taken seriously one of his most important jobs: holding politicians like me accountable.

Through his leadership in the newsroom, Tom has not only demonstrated a deep passion for serving our community, he has also been a coach and mentor to so many men and women who have worked at the News Journal for the last 40 years. He has helped them to become accomplished writers and reporters and has helped ensure that the News Journal will continue his legacy of thoughtful, quality journalism.

Over the past four decades, Tom has faced a changing news industry, and he has always responded with the best interest of his writers and the community in mind. The evolution of this business has put too many local papers out of business.

But Tom and his team have been able to keep the News Journal in print, while reaching new audiences online, and that is a great accomplishment.

Tom's impressive career in journalism isn't the only way he has served the Mansfield community. He has been active in many local organizations, including the Mansfield Children's Theater Foundation, the local chamber of commerce, the Richland County Economic Development Corporation, the North Central State College Foundation, and the Mansfield Military Affairs Committee.

While he will be missed by many, I have little doubt that the end of his career will not be the end of his community engagement.

I join his readers and newsroom staff in wishing him the best for a fulfilling retirement worthy of his honorable career.●

REMEMBERING LEON GORMAN

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today we solemnly remember a dear friend of Maine, the late Leon Gorman. Leon was president of L.L. Bean and a committed environmentalist, but more than that, he was a wonderful man and gifted leader. On September 3, 2015, Leon passed away at the age of 80. Throughout his life, he devoted endless attention and time to the betterment of Maine, and he will be greatly missed.

Leon graduated cum laude from Bowdoin College before serving in the Navy for 3 years. When he stepped in to fill his grandfather's shoes as president of L.L. Bean in 1967, Leon took the company from a \$4.75 million corporation to \$1 billion global label. In his memoir, Leon writes that his proudest accomplishment was growing his grandfather's company from less than 100 workers into one that has employed tens of thousands of Mainers over several decades. Even with this impressive growth, Leon remained committed to the company's values and stayed true to the traditions and spirit of the State he loved. He was a true man of Maine in every way.

Leon was an extremely successful businessman, but also an active philanthropist. He donated generously to the National Park Foundation and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, as well as to numerous other environmental groups and State parks. He was also a very active Bowdoin alumnus, giving generously to the college and serving as both an overseer and trustee.

During his time as chairman of L.L. Bean, Leon focused the company's charitable giving program on outdoor

recreation and conservation. Not only did Leon personally donate to environmental groups, but under his leadership, L.L. Bean, Inc., has contributed millions to conservation groups and has provided funding for education, health and human services, and the arts throughout Maine. Leon will be fondly remembered for his unmatched generosity of heart, unwavering commitment to the people of our State, and his deep and abiding love for all that is Maine.

Through his tireless efforts, Leon affected countless lives and contributed greatly to the betterment of Maine. He will be remembered for his firm devotion to protecting and enjoying nature and his dedication to the communities of our State. The State of Maine has lost a man of true integrity, and he will be greatly missed. I would like to join the people of Maine in remembering Leon Gorman and thanking him for his immeasurable contributions to our State and the Nation.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 538. An act to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 702. An act to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913 and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mrs. BLACK of Tennessee.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Lt. Colonel Daniel M. Gade, Ph.D. of New Windsor, New York.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 538. An act to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 702. An act to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2165. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 2169. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2181. A bill to provide guidance and priorities for Federal Government obligations in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 2182. A bill to cut, cap, and balance the Federal budget.

S. 2183. A bill to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1203. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-153).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1573. A bill to establish regional weather forecast offices, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-154).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1808. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-155).

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2181. A bill to provide guidance and priorities for Federal Government obligations in the event that the debt limit is reached; read the first time.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2182. A bill to cut, cap, and balance the Federal budget; read the first time.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2183. A bill to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 288. A resolution commemorating October 22, 2015, as the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 289. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 18, 2015, as "National Chemistry Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 579, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 885

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 885, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 960

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and to provide for Social Security benefit protection.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 1407

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1407, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1651

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1651, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1784

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 1822

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1822, a bill to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.

HIRONO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1876

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1876, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1882

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1882, a bill to support the sustainable recovery and rebuilding of Nepal following the recent, devastating earthquakes near Kathmandu.

S. 1893

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, a bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, *supra*.

S. 2002

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2002, a bill to strengthen our mental health system and improve public safety.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2119, a bill to provide for greater congressional oversight of Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 2134

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2134, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally re-enter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

S. 2148

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent an increase in the Medicare part B premium and deductible in 2016.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 288—COMMEMORATING OCTOBER 22, 2015, AS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT OF 1965

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 288

Whereas, on October 22, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-285; 79 Stat. 1028), also known as ‘Lady Bird’s Bill’, ‘to protect the public investment in [public] highways, to promote the safety and recreational value of public travel, and to preserve natural beauty’;

Whereas, earlier in 1965, President Johnson convened a White House Conference on Natural Beauty that recommended, among other things, certain highway beautification actions;

Whereas, at the signing of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-285; 79 Stat. 1028), President Johnson stated: ‘This bill does not represent everything that we wanted. It does not represent what we need. It does not represent what the national interest requires. But it is a first step, and there will be other steps. For though we must crawl before we walk, we are going to walk.’;

Whereas, since inception, the National Highway System has expanded to, as of October 2015, over 220,000 miles stretching across the United States; and

Whereas the national vision led by President Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson for a

more beautiful highway system should be remembered and renewed; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the legacy and vision of President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson on the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-285; 79 Stat. 1028);

(2) commends the organizations, volunteers, and businesses that work to support the vision of a more beautiful United States;

(3) recognizes that beautiful highways and scenic byways—

(A) promote—

(i) economic development; and

(ii) national and international tourism; and

(B) reflect the best of the United States; and

(4) renews the previous commitment of the Senate to—

(A) protect the public investment in public highways;

(B) promote the safety and recreational value of public travel; and

(C) preserve the natural beauty of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 289—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 18, 2015, AS ‘NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK’

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 289

Whereas chemistry is the science of basic units of matter and, consequently, plays a role in every aspect of human life;

Whereas chemistry has broad applications, including food science, paints and coatings, water quality, energy, sustainability, medicine, and electronics;

Whereas the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges;

Whereas innovations in chemistry continue to spur economic growth and job creation and have applications for a wide range of industries;

Whereas National Chemistry Week is part of a broader vision to improve human life through chemistry and to advance the chemistry enterprise and the practitioners of that enterprise for the benefit of communities and the environment;

Whereas the purpose of National Chemistry Week is to reach the public with educational messages about chemistry in order to foster greater understanding of and appreciation for the applications and benefits of chemistry;

Whereas National Chemistry Week strives to stimulate the interest of young people, including women and underrepresented groups, in enthusiastically studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and in pursuing science-related careers that lead to innovations and major scientific breakthroughs;

Whereas National Chemistry Week highlights many of the everyday uses of chemistry, including in food, dyes and pigments, plastics, soaps and detergents, health products, and energy technologies; and

Whereas students who participate in National Chemistry Week deserve recognition and support for their efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 18, 2015, as “National Chemistry Week”;

(2) supports the goals of and welcomes the participants in the 28th annual National Chemistry Week;

(3) recognizes the need to promote the fields of science, including chemistry, technology, engineering, and mathematics and encourage youth to pursue careers in these fields; and

(4) commends the American Chemical Society and the partners of that society for organizing and convening events and activities surrounding National Chemistry Week each year.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2712. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 754, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2712. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 754, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ FEDERAL COMPUTER SECURITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means an agency that operates a Federal computer system that provides access to classified information or personally identifiable information.

(2) LOGICAL ACCESS CONTROL.—The term “logical access control” means a process of granting or denying specific requests to obtain and use information and related information processing services.

(3) MULTI-FACTOR LOGICAL ACCESS CONTROLS.—The term “multi-factor logical access controls” means a set of not less than 2 of the following logical access controls:

(A) Information that is known to the user, such as a password or personal identification number.

(B) An access device that is provided to the user, such as a cryptographic identification device or token.

(C) A unique biometric characteristic of the user.

(4) PRIVILEGED USER.—The term “privileged user” means a user who, by virtue of function or seniority, has been allocated powers within a Federal computer system, which are significantly greater than those available to the majority of users.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT ON FEDERAL COMPUTER SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of each covered agency shall each submit to the Comptroller General of the United States and the appropriate committees of jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives a report, which shall include information collected from the covered agency for the contents described in

paragraph (2) regarding the Federal computer systems of the covered agency.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted by each Inspector General of a covered agency under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the covered agency, the following:

(A) A description of the logical access standards used by the covered agency to access a Federal computer system that provides access to classified or personally identifiable information, including—

(i) in aggregate, a list and description of logical access controls used to access such a Federal computer system; and

(ii) whether the covered agency is using multi-factor logical access controls to access such a Federal computer system.

(B) A description of the logical access controls used by the covered agency to govern access to Federal computer systems by privileged users.

(C) If the covered agency does not use logical access controls or multi-factor logical access controls to access a Federal computer system that provides access to classified or personally identifiable information, a description of the reasons for not using such logical access controls or multi-factor logical access controls.

(D) A description of the following data security management practices used by the covered agency:

(i) The policies and procedures followed to conduct inventories of the software present on the Federal computer systems of the covered agency and the licenses associated with such software.

(ii) Whether the covered agency has entered into a licensing agreement for the use of software security controls to monitor and detect exfiltration and other threats, including—

(I) data loss prevention software; or

(II) digital rights management software.

(iii) A description of how the covered agency is using software described in clause (ii).

(iv) If the covered agency has not entered into a licensing agreement for the use of, or is otherwise not using, software described in clause (ii), a description of the reasons for not entering into such a licensing agreement or using such software.

(E) A description of the policies and procedures of the covered agency with respect to ensuring that entities, including contractors, that provide services to the covered agency are implementing the data security management practices described in subparagraph (D).

(3) EXISTING REVIEW.—The report required under this subsection may be based in whole or in part on an audit, evaluation, or report relating to programs or practices of the covered agency, and may be submitted as part of another report, including the report required under section 3555 of title 44, United States Code.

(4) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—A report submitted under this subsection shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(5) AVAILABILITY TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A report submitted under this subsection shall be made available upon request by any Member of Congress.

(c) GAO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND REPORT ON FEDERAL COMPUTER SYSTEMS.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report examining, including an economic analysis of, any impediments to agency use of effective security software and security devices.

(2) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—A report submitted under this subsection shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 19, 2015, at 3 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “S. 2123, Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2015 third quarter Mass Mailing report is Monday, October 26, 2015. An electronic option is now available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable pdf document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports can be submitted electronically or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 289, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 289) designating the week beginning on October 18, 2015, as “National Chemistry Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 289) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 2165 AND S. 2169

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2165) to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

A bill (S. 2169) to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. FLAKE. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 2181, S. 2182, AND S. 2183

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2181) to provide guidance and priorities for Federal Government obligations in the event that the debt limit is reached.

A bill (S. 2182) to cut, cap, and balance the Federal budget.

A bill (S. 2183) to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. FLAKE. I now ask for a second reading and object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER
20, 2015

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed

expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that following the disposition of the Donnelly nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2146; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the future of defense reform.

SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ongoing migration from Central America, focusing on fiscal year 2015 apprehensions.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine agriculture biotechnology, focusing on Federal regulation and stakeholder perspectives.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine a review of rural development in 21st century America.

SD-192

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold an oversight hearing to examine regulatory impact analyses for Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gary Richard Brown, to be

United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, Leonard Terry Strand, of South Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, and Mark A. Young, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine reforming the Federal budget process, focusing on the need for action.

SD-608

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine three case studies on Russian violations of the rule of law, focusing on how the United States should respond.

RHOB-2255

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1419, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1443, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on Indian energy development.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine when computer tech support becomes a scam.

SD-562

OCTOBER 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine global challenges, United States national security strategy, and defense organization.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine improving pay flexibility in the Federal workforce.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine Puerto Rico, focusing on the economy, debt, and options for Congress.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and the nominations of Brian R. Martinotti, and Julien Xavier Neals, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Robert F. Rossiter, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, and Edward L. Stanton III, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

OCTOBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States military strategy in the Middle East.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the Administration's response to the Syrian conflict.

SVC-217

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications.

HVC-210

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.